

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City Bar Justice Center Gala to Celebrate Pro Bono**

New York, April 1, 2019 – On April 3, the City Bar Justice Center’s 14th Annual Gala will honor the global insurance company AIG and the global law firm DLA Piper with the 2019 City Bar Justice Awards, for their leadership and dedication to pro bono and public service.

This year’s gala will support the Justice Center’s work protecting the rights of over 26,000 low income New Yorkers annually through pro bono legal assistance, community outreach and education, and the largest free civil legal hotline in New York. The Justice Center leverages over $16 million worth of pro bono legal services each year.

**Supporting Communities through Pro Bono and Good Corporate Citizenship**

AIG has partnered with the Justice Center on numerous projects, including the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law, Veterans’ Assistance, WTC Victims Compensation Fund, Refugee Assistance, and NY Civil Court Pro Bono Brief Services Projects. Through other partnerships, AIG has also been involved in many other initiatives, including: assisting refugees; serving as guardian ad litem for children in foster care/state custody; representing low-income women and victims of domestic violence; helping children with special needs; providing estate planning documents for first responders; and teaching students from low-income backgrounds about the law and career opportunities in the legal profession.

DLA Piper has been extensively involved in pro bono work with both the Justice Center and AIG for many years. Their involvement with the Justice Center has included working with immigrants, assisting veterans, advising micro-entrepreneurs, representing clients with cancer seeking advance directive assistance, working a legal hotline, and much more. DLA Piper and AIG have worked together on several pro bono projects teaming with the Justice Center on disability benefit cases, and assisting local entrepreneurs with their legal issues.

**Recognizing Exemplary Leadership in Public Service**

“We are proud to recognize AIG and DLA Piper for their commitment to supporting communities, both locally and abroad, and for working to strengthen the culture of pro bono service,” said Lynn M. Kelly, Executive Director of the City Bar Justice Center.

Roger Juan Maldonado, President of the New York City Bar Association, and Robert F. Cusumano, Chair of the City Bar Fund Board, will present the awards. Lucy Fato, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, and Stasia Kelly, Managing Partner (Americas), will accept the awards on behalf of AIG and DLA Piper, respectively.

Over fifty leading law firms and corporate legal departments are expected to attend and celebrate the City Bar Justice Center on Wednesday evening.

**About the City Bar Justice Center**

*The City Bar Justice Center, the pro bono affiliate of the New York City Bar Association, increases access to justice by leveraging the resources of the New York City legal community. The Justice Center operates the city’s busiest legal hotline and annually provides direct legal representation, information and advocacy to over 20,000 New Yorkers in areas including immigration, homelessness, veterans assistance, elderlaw, cancer advocacy and micro-entrepreneurship.*