

Access Justice Brooklyn

2025 Gala

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 Brooklyn Museum

About Access Justice Brooklyn

Founded in 1990, the mission of Access Justice Brooklyn is to provide high-quality, pro bono legal services and community education to our neighbors in need. Using the collective talents of our dedicated staff and volunteers, we help ensure a more accessible legal system and equitable Brooklyn.

Access Justice Brooklyn partners with compassionate pro bono attorneys and cross industry professionals to provide free, high-quality civil legal services which address a range of basic needs that are essential to the well-being of our Brooklyn neighbors. Our direct services, education, and outreach are not only essential to improving access to the legal system for individuals but are also crucial to dismantling systemic barriers to justice that affect the larger Brooklyn community.



ACCESS JUSTICE BROOKLYN YEAR IN REVIEW: OUR MODEL IN ACTION



264
VOLUNTEERS TRAINED AND SUPERVISED



4,223
HOURS DONATED BY
COMPASSIONATE
VOLUNTEERS



14,900
NEW YORKERS BENEFITED



\$2.2M

of DONATED SERVICES



ACCESS JUSTICE BROOKLYN YEAR IN REVIEW: ECONOMIC JUSTICE



OF OUR CLIENTS SEEK ASSISTANCE DEBT AND FINANCIAL INSTABILITY



\$ debt collection and bankruptcy matters



10,370 BROOKLYN RESIDENTS BENEFITED



\$2.8 M OF DEBT SAVED OR RECOVERED



Simpson Thacher

Simpson Thacher Proudly Supports the

Access Justice Brooklyn 2025 Gala

We are Honored to Receive the

Champion of Justice Award

and Congratulate Fellow Honorees

Hon. John Gleeson and

Hon. Robert S. Smith







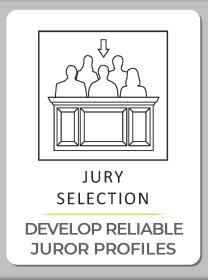
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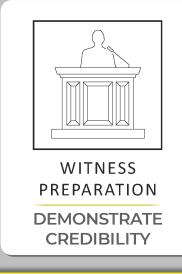
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Access Justice Brooklyn

and congratulates this year's honorees

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THE HON. ROBERT S. SMITH

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Champion of Justice Award Recipient

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The Honorable Robert S. Smith

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Honorable John Gleeson

Tradition of Excellence Award

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Access Justice Brooklyn

and celebrates

Hon. John Gleeson, Hon. Robert S. Smith, and Simpson Thacher

for their unwavering commitment to justice.

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We are proud to support **Access Justice Brooklyn** in its mission to bring equal access to justice for all.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees,

Hon. John Gleeson and Hon. Robert S. Smith.

We celebrate their dedication to serving the public good and advancing justice, and we're honored to stand with them in this important work. We are proud to support Access Justice Brooklyn' Annual Gala.

Congratulations to tonight's extraordinary honorees:

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD
RECIPIENT
Hon. John Gleeson

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT
Hon. Robert S. Smith

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Simpson Thacher

Lynn Judell and Steven Wolf

The Board of Directors offers a heartfelt thanks to the extraordinary staff of Access Justice Brooklyn for your advocacy, mentorship, and dedication to our neighbors in need.

Your unwavering and tireless commitment to ensuring a more equitable Brooklyn inspires us all.

We welcome incoming President & CEO Lilia Toson, and look forward to working together to improve our Brooklyn community, for years to come.

Davis Polk

We join in celebration of Access Justice Brooklyn and this year's honorees, Hon. John Gleeson, Hon. Robert S. Smith and Simpson Thacher.

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We proudly support Access Justice Brooklyn

and join in congratulating the 2025 honorees

Hon. John Gleeson

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Tradition of Excellence Award Recipient

Hon. Robert S. Smith

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Champion of Justice Award



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We support its mission to ensure equal access to the legal system and congratulate this year's award recipients on their inspiring achievements.

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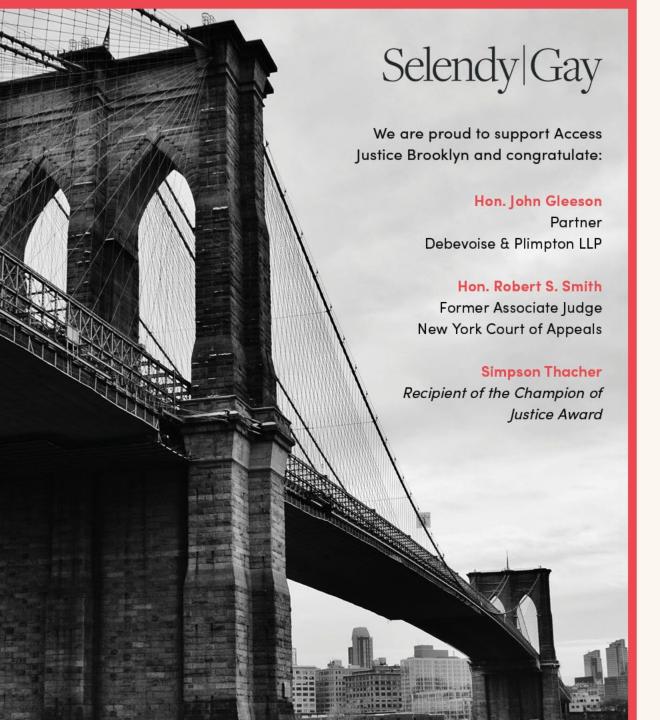


Hecker Fink LLP proudly supports the important work of Access Justice Brooklyn and congratulates 2025 honorees

HON. JOHN GLEESON
HON. ROBERT S. SMITH
and
SIMPSON THACHER

for their unwavering commitment to serving the public good and equal justice.





I am proud to support Access Justice Brooklyn's Annual Gala.

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RECIPIENT
Hon. John Gleeson

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT
Hon. Robert S. Smith

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Simpson Thacher

Thank you to our wonderful staff.

Stephen Z. Williamson

Supporting Justice for All

We are proud to recognize the honorees for their unwavering commitment to equal justice and serving the public good.



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Michael de Leeuw Cozen O'Connor mdeleeuw@cozen.com



We proudly support Access
Justice Brooklyn 2025 Gala and
Congratulate This Year's Honorees

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Hon. John Gleeson, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Hon. Robert S. Smith

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AND ITS 2025 GALA

HONOREES

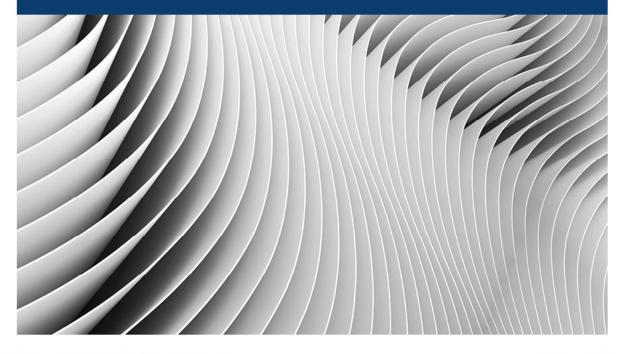


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We Are Proud to Support Access Justice Brooklyn

Congratulations to honorees Hon. John Gleeson and Hon. Robert S. Smith







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Bracewell proudly supports the Access Justice Brooklyn 2025 Gala and applauds this year's honorees on their service to the community.

The Honorable John Gleeson
Tradition of Excellence Award Recipient

The Honorable Robert S. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

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We congratulate this year's honorees

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THE HON. JOHN GLEESON

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&

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Lifetime Achievement Award
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THE HON. JOHN GLEESON

Partner Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

THE HON. ROBERT S. SMITH

Congratulations to the Honorable
Robert S. Smith for a distinguished
career and for recognition of such by
Access Justice Brooklyn's Lifetime
Achievement Award.

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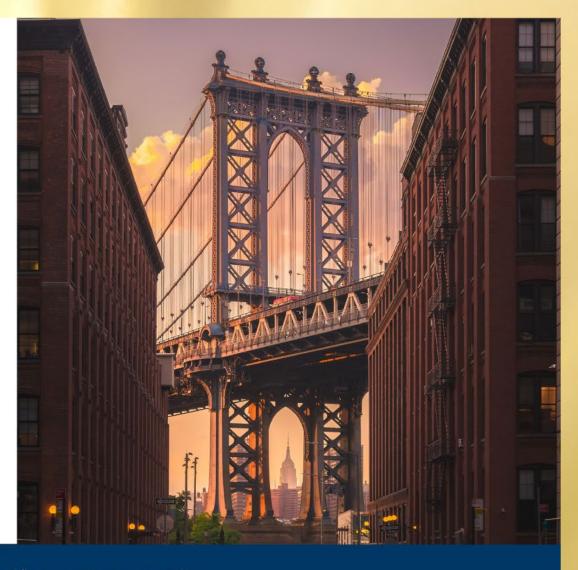
Access Justice Brooklyn

and its commitment to serving the public good and equal justice.

Congratulations to this year's distinguished honorees,

Honorable John Gleeson and

Honorable Robert S. Smith.



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WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Adam Shepherd

Managing Director
Macquarie Group
Member, AJB Board of Directors

Lynn Judell

Of Counsel Rukab Brash PLLC Chair, AJB Board of Directors

Introduction of AJB Incoming President & CEO Lilia Toson

ACCESS JUSTICE BROOKLYN VIDEO

A CALL TO ACTION

Jack Aldrich

Director of Geopolitical Research and Strategy, BlackRock Member, AJB Board of Directors



Access Justice Brooklyn | 2025 Gala Tuesday, December 9, 2025 | Brooklyn Museum

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Christopher Slattery Young Professional Award Recipient **Alison Paige** Associate Counsel, AHCV

Champion of Justice Award Recipient

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Received by: Harlene Katzman & Nadine

Mompremier

Adam Shepherd
Managing Director, Macquarie Group
Member, AJB Board of Directors

Presented by: **Caroline Conway** *Member, AJB Board of Directors*



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Tradition of Excellence Award Recipient

Hon. John Gleeson

Partner

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Hon. Robert S. Smith

Former Associate Judge

New York Court of Appeals

Presented by:

Anthony L. Ricco

Founder

The Law Office of Anthony L. Ricco

Presented by:

Hon. James M. McGuire

Partner

Holwell Shuster & Goldberg LLP

CLOSING REMARKS



Christopher Slattery Young Professional Award Recipient

Alison Paige is the recipient of this year's Christopher Slattery Young Professional Award, in recognition of her extraordinary commitment and service as a volunteer with Access Justice Brooklyn's economic justice program.

The award, now in its seventeenth year, honors the son of James P. Slattery, former President of AJB's Board of Directors, and his wife Linda Slattery. Christopher Slattery was killed in the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center in September 2001. The award is intended to honor Chris, who was lost just as his career was beginning, and his father in his ongoing commitment to pro bono assistance and long-standing service to AJB.

Each year, Access Justice Brooklyn presents the Young Professional Award to a young lawyer who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community service as a pro bono attorney. By honoring Christopher Slattery, the Young Professional Award seeks to acknowledge the significant contribution of an individual volunteer, and to encourage all new professionals to take an active role in their community.

Alison began volunteering with AJB in the fall of 2024, and since then she has been a dedicated, passionate volunteer with both of AJB's consumer advocacy programs in Kings County Civil Court — providing legal consultations as well as limited-scope representation to unrepresented individuals, multiple days per week. Alison's legal expertise, as well as deep compassion for AJB clients and commitment to economic justice, has made her an invaluable resource to AJB over the last year.

While AJB's model relies on pro bono support, this is particularly true in consumer law, where the need for legal help far exceeds the resources available. To this end, Alison has been an indispensable part of AJB's ability to assist unrepresented consumer litigants in court each week. Her impact has been deeply felt by AJB staff as well as our interns, who benefit from her knowledge and high standard of service to clients.

Alison recently assumed the role of Associate Counsel at Adelanto Healthcare Ventures and has previously held regulatory and compliance roles at Citibank as well as positions in marketing and corporate strategy at Nike and American Express.

Champion of Justice Award Recipient



Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP is an international law firm with 32 major practice areas, 13 offices, and 2,000 lawyers worldwide. Since its founding in 1884, Simpson Thacher has maintained its core values of collegiality, respect, creativity, and collaboration – reflected in the firm's commitment to public service.

Pro bono work is engrained in Simpson Thacher's professional ethos, and Simpson Thacher attorneys believe in using their skills and passions to serve all communities, fight against injustice, and preserve access to the courts.

Each year, the firm devotes tens of thousands of hours to pro bono projects that include advocating on behalf of low-income clients, small businesses and the nonprofits that serve them. The firm also pursues projects to advance civil and human rights, adequate education, protection of the First Amendment, and the preservation of the environment. Simpson Thacher's pro bono work is often cited by its attorneys as among their proudest moments and most important accomplishments.

Access Justice Brooklyn and Simpson Thacher began our pro bono partnership in 2024, after realizing the alignment between Simpson Thacher's Urban Education Initiative and AJB's financial literacy curricula for young adults. Exemplifying both the purpose of AJB's pro bono model and Simpson Thacher's commitment to community service, this partnership has positioned AJB's financial literacy program for further growth while engaging a range of community and educational partners across Brooklyn, made possible with the generosity of Simpson Thacher's pro bono team and associates.

Under the leadership of Harlene Katzman and Nadine Mompremier, Simpson Thacher has worked with AJB over the past year to deliver presentations to high school audiences, refine financial literacy materials, and engage new partners for this initiative. Thus far, the program has resulted in workshops for over 225 students as part of the firm's Urban Education Initiative, the Brooklyn District Attorney Office's Annual Youth Summit, and a growing partnership with YWCA Brooklyn to benefit not only high school students, but also residents of YWCA's downtown Brooklyn location – providing essential, practical financial education that benefits people at all stages of life.

Tradition of Excellence Award Recipient



The Honorable John Gleeson was a federal district judge in Brooklyn for 22 years before joining Debevoise & Plimpton in 2016 as a litigation partner in the White Collar & Regulatory Defense and Commercial Litigation Groups. He is an active lawyer in federal and state trial and appellate courts in both practice areas, and has also conducted investigations,

advised boards of directors, served as an expert witness, and acted as a mediator and arbitrator in various disputes. Judge Gleeson is Co-Chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

Before his appointment to the bench in 1994, Judge Gleeson was a federal prosecutor in the same courthouse for 10 years. He served as Chief of the Criminal Division, Chief of Appeals, Chief of Special Prosecutions, and Chief of Organized Crime. Judge Gleeson received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his role as lead prosecutor in *United States v. John Gotti*. His decade-long efforts to dismantle the mafia are set forth in his book, *The Gotti Wars: Taking Down America's Most Notorious Mobster* (2022).

Judge Gleeson has taught law for more than 35 years. He currently teaches Sentencing at New York University School of Law and has taught Complex Federal Investigations at New York University and at Harvard Law School, as well as Sentencing at Yale Law School. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Law Institute. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Federal Defenders of New York and Getting Out Staying Out. From August 2022 until January 2025, Judge Gleeson was a Commissioner on the United States Sentencing Commission.

Judge Gleeson's numerous other publications include *Federal Criminal Practice: A Second Circuit Handbook*. In her Foreword to the Tenth Edition, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg described the treatise as "a gift for judges in the Second Circuit," a "labor of love" that she was pleased is "available to all who compose the bar and bench of 'my' circuit."

Judge Gleeson earned his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and went to college at Georgetown University.

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Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



The Honorable Robert S. Smith began his extraordinary legal career at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, where he was a partner for 27 of his 35 years with the firm, from 1968 to 2003. While at Paul Weiss, Judge Smith tried dozens of cases and argued a comparable number of appeals, including two

successful appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court, establishing a reputation as a skillful litigator.

He then worked in private practice and as Special Counsel to the firm of Kornstein Veisz Wexler & Pollard until his appointment to the Court of Appeals by Governor George Pataki. Judge Smith was nominated in November 2003 and confirmed by the New York State Senate in January 2004. During his time on the bench, he wrote scores of opinions and became well known for his independence, judicial scholarship, and intellectual rigor. Judge Smith held the position of Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, from 2004 until 2014.

After retiring from the court, Judge Smith practiced law for a decade with Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman & Robbins, where he was active in trial-level commercial litigation, alternate dispute resolution, expert witness testimony, and appeals. During his time at Friedman Kaplan, Judge Smith served as an expert witness in U.S. arbitration tribunals and courts and in the courts of nine other countries. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Judge Smith began teaching the State Constitutional Law course at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 2006. Previously, he served as Visiting Professor from Practice at Columbia Law School from 1980 to 1981, and as a Lecturer in Law from 1981 until 1990.

Judge Smith graduated with distinction from Stanford University and *magna cum laude* from Columbia Law School, where he was editorin-chief of the Columbia Law Review.

Judge Smith retired from the practice of law in 2024.

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We are proud to serve Brooklyn seniors as part of our National Grid Foundation Senior Legal Education and Assistance Program (NGF Senior LEAP), made possible through the sustained generosity of the National Grid Foundation.

While Brooklyn is home to a growing, increasingly diverse senior population, rising costs of living and fixed incomes have made it challenging for many seniors to meet basic expenses such as housing, food, and medical needs — making other costs, such as legal support, impossible to afford. Through NGF Senior LEAP, Access Justice Brooklyn provides free legal education and individual legal assistance to older adults throughout Brooklyn, ensuring seniors know their rights, have economic security, and can safely age in place.

We are deeply grateful for the National Grid Foundation's long-standing support for Senior LEAP, which allows us to reach hundreds of Brooklyn seniors each year.



Pro Bono Partners

Pro Bono Partnerships with private law firms and companies enable Access Justice Brooklyn to provide high-quality, comprehensive services to far more individuals and families than we could alone.

We are grateful to the following corporate pro bono partners for their generosity of time, expertise, and commitment to our mission:

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Thank You!

To learn more about Access Justice Brooklyn, visit:

ACCESSJUSTICEBROOKLYN.ORG

