



philadelphia  
LAWWORKS

A project of Philadelphia VIP

# Annual Report for 2007

*Philadelphia VIP promotes equal justice for the poor by providing civil legal services not otherwise available, collaborating with other legal services organizations, and promoting a culture of volunteerism by educating and exposing attorneys and law students to issues of poverty.*

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**[www.phillyvip.org](http://www.phillyvip.org)**

**United Way Donor Option #7763**

***Philadelphia VIP Staff***



*Top row: Tanya Rambert, Ourania Papademetriou, Terri Jett, Christina Ortiz, Kate Jadin, Sara Woods, Stefanie F. Seldin. Bottom row: Martin Costello, Kelly Gastley, Dana Barnett, Janine LaBletta and Julia Solomon.*

## **The Mission of Philadelphia VIP**

*Philadelphia VIP promotes equal justice for the poor by providing civil legal services not otherwise available, collaborating with other legal services organizations, and promoting a culture of volunteerism by educating and exposing attorneys and law students to issues of poverty.*

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JOHN B. WRIGHT, II



Kimberly M. Dolan,  
Philadelphia VIP Board President

Dear Friends of VIP:

VIP serves hundreds of clients every year who would otherwise have no one in their corner by recruiting volunteer lawyers to represent them in the civil justice system. For me, that's the most satisfying part of pro bono service: giving your all with no expectation of reward, but simply because someone has a legal problem and needs your special expertise. Pro bono elevates the practice of law from being just a business into a bona fide profession.

This annual report details the work of the many volunteers—true professionals—who contribute their time and energy to VIP's clients. It's because of these volunteers that VIP is able to continue to serve the justice system well, to provide services to those who cannot afford them, and to help our community understand the reasons for ensuring everyone has accessible courts, regardless of one's ability to pay.

No volunteer organization of this size can flourish without an excellent staff. To that end, VIP is extremely fortunate to have its talented and dedicated staff to keep everyone organized, focused and on track.

- *To our volunteers:* thank you for your hard work and dedication to our clients and to the ethic of pro bono service;
- *To our donors:* thank you for generously supporting VIP and ensuring that we are able to continue the important work of our agency;
- *To our community:* thank you for standing in tandem with VIP as we work together to achieve access to justice for all.

Please enjoy this annual report. I hope it inspires you to take a case!

Sincerely yours,

Kim Dolan

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that we present this annual review of VIP's important work. Through the efforts of our terrific staff, committed board, and loyal volunteers, Philadelphia VIP works to increase access to justice for the poor by recruiting and training volunteers to handle pro bono cases for those most in need in our community.



After a smooth transition from the inspiring leadership of Sharon Browning, VIP focused its efforts in 2007 on ensuring the organization's financial stability and increasing our volunteer capacity. I am pleased to say we achieved in both areas - the successful results of those initiatives are detailed further in this report.

However, 2007 was a particularly difficult year for our clients. The housing crisis, cost increases in basic goods, and growing unemployment pushed our caseload to new heights. VIP met this challenge on several fronts:

- *VIP reached more clients in 2007.* Through the growth of poverty law practice groups, local law firms have developed in-house expertise in homeownership and other areas of desperate need for our clients. As a result, we are able to place more of our cases and ultimately, help more clients.
- *VIP recruited more volunteers in 2007.* After many conversations with key stakeholders, we launched new initiatives to increase our volunteer rosters. VIP now circulates a calendar with monthly CLE-approved training sessions. Our new website provides training materials and online access to case listings. Our signature recruitment event, Pro Bono Opportunities Day, trained more than 60 new attorneys to handle pro bono cases for VIP, the highest number participating in the past three years.
- *VIP volunteers achieved access to justice for low-income Philadelphians.* Once again, our volunteers are making a difference in the lives of our clients. Inside this report, you will read the inspiring story of one client whose life was changed as a result of a VIP volunteer's advocacy.

### Staff List

Sharon Browning, Executive Director (2002-2007)

Dana Barnett, Paralegal

Javius Cain, Paralegal

Martin Costello, Staff Attorney

Sakeenah El-Amin, Paralegal (2007)

Kelly Gastley, Staff Attorney

Miriam N. Jacobson, Staff Attorney

Kate Jadin, Jesuit Volunteer

Terri Jett, Executive Assistant

Janine LaBletta, Paralegal

Christina J. Ortiz, Secretary

Ourania Papademetriou, Managing Attorney

Tanya Rambert, Director of Administration

Stefanie F. Seldin, Managing Attorney

Stefanie C. Whorton, Jesuit Volunteer (2006-2007)

Sara L. Woods, Executive Director

With your help, in 2008 Philadelphia VIP will do more to achieve access to justice for low-income Philadelphians. Our mission is critical to the lives of our clients and to the success of our community. We can - and will - truly make a difference.

Sincerely,

Sara Woods, Executive Director

## Philadelphia VIP: Serving Philadelphia Since 1981

Founded in 1981 by the Philadelphia Bar Association and Community Legal Services, Inc., Philadelphia VIP provides legal services for low-income residents and families facing civil legal problems that threaten their basic human needs – shelter, employment, financial stability, education and health.

Through its volunteers and staff, VIP serves more than 1,000 individuals and families yearly who could not otherwise afford attorneys and whose cases could or would not be handled by other public interest organizations.

Our clients are among the poorest in the city and region and their numbers are growing. To be eligible for our services, a client's income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Thus, our most financially secure clients earn \$19,600 while a family of four lives on \$40,000.

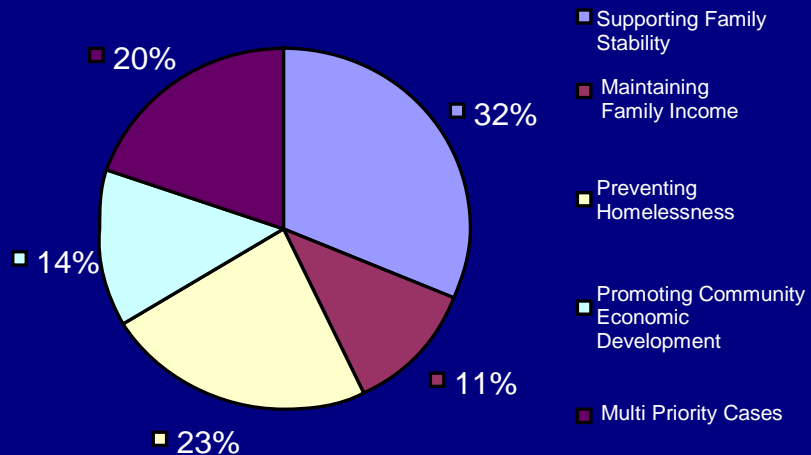
VIP serves a multi-lingual population. As in previous years, Spanish continues to be the most prevalent second language among our clients. Now, however, we increasingly see clients who speak Russian, Creole (Haitian), Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian - a reflection of the changing immigration

VIP staff was "incredible! They left no stone unturned. I greatly appreciate their dedication, professionalism, and diligence."

VIP Client

VIP makes an impact by focusing its efforts on four priority areas:

- Supporting family stability (child custody, adoption, guardianship, name change);
- Maintaining family income (child support, employment/wage claims, tax issues, disability);
- Preventing homelessness (landlord/tenant appeals, public housing evictions, probate, tangled title, mortgage foreclosure, consumer debt, litigation defense);
- Promoting community economic development (non-profit and small business legal assistance).



patterns of the Greater Philadelphia area.

VIP handles any civil matter that is non-fee generating and for which there is no right to counsel. Our caseload includes a variety of civil legal issues from adoption to zoning.

The majority of VIP's cases are referred to us from our sister organizations, Community Legal Services and Philadelphia Legal Assistance; an additional number come from specialized legal services organizations throughout Philadelphia.

In stark terms, VIP is the agency of last resort for many low-income individuals and families who face critical legal problems that affect their basic needs.

## Name Change Results in Changed Life

Pam reached VIP seeking assistance with a Name Change case. She sought the change not for herself but for her grandson, whom she had raised since infancy. He needed the change

"Helpful above and beyond what I expected. The service was incomparable to the attorneys I've dealt with in the past. Great team!"

VIP Client

in order to enter the Job Corps program in Philadelphia, which offers youths an opportunity to receive the training necessary to direct them toward their career of choice, including receipt of a high school diploma or GED and specific training for their job path. His Social Security card and other records stated the preferred name, but his birth certificate differed. With the help of Volunteer Attorney Richard S. Seidel, Pam was able to revise the birth certificate, therefore permitting her grandson to apply for the Job Corps program. Pam's grandson then had the ability to embark on a career path that will help ensure stability in his family and his

own future. Both the volunteer and the client had positive reviews of the pro bono process. Seidel was enthusiastic about helping and very satisfied with the result. Pam believed that the process passed quickly and that the

"[[It went] fast . . . They worked as if we were paying them! They treated me with dignity and respect, as if they knew me for years."

VIP Client

VIP staff and volunteer attorney worked as if being financially compensated, while treating her with dignity and respect. The desire for respect and dignity is overwhelming for all people, but especially those facing hardship. The ability of the VIP staff to not only uphold these standards, and also to recruit attorneys who do the same in itself shows the strength and importance of the organization. Ultimately, the case of a name change was in fact the case of a life change, which is why VIP exists: to change and better the lives of its clients and the Philadelphia community.

## Corporate Pro Bono Day: Strengthening Philadelphia through Small Businesses

Philadelphia LawWorks, a project of Philadelphia VIP, has sponsored the popular small business legal clinic named Corporate Pro Bono Day (CPBD) for the past four years. CPBD provides microentrepreneurs the opportunity to discuss immediate and ongoing legal matters with corporate counsel from various Philadelphia-area businesses.

"The program is a much needed source for small businesses. I am so thankful for the LawWorks Project."

VIP Client

Past volunteers include counsel from PECO Energy, Comcast Cable Communications, Pep Boys, GlaxoSmithKline,

Johnson & Johnson, Drexel University, and many others.

Prior to the counseling sessions, attorneys from Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, provided a continuing legal education seminar

on the essential legal needs of small businesses to the corporate counsel volunteers.



Corporate Pro Bono Day at The Enterprise Center, September 07

*Continued next page*

*Corporate Pro Bono Day, Cont'd*

In 2007, CPBD was hosted by The Enterprise Center, a minority business development center located in the historic American Bandstand Building in West Philadelphia.

CPBD '07 was Philadelphia LawWorks' most successful clinic to date, providing service to **twenty-one** microentrepreneurs, including **thirteen** minority owned and operated businesses. Many of our clients are former welfare recipients who are operating minority-owned and/or women-owned businesses along newly revitalized commercial corridors.

Small business participants included a clothing company, a wireless phone store, a clothing designer, a caterer, a photographer, and a handbag designer, just to name a few.

CPBD provides local businesses with invaluable legal assistance and gives local corporate counsel the opportunity to directly impact the community.

Mark your calendars for the Fifth Annual Corporate Pro Bono Day on September 23, 2008. For more information, check out our website or call VIP at 215-523-9550.

**Homeownership Practice Groups Keep Families In Their Homes**

VIP was thrilled to participate in the formation and continuing success of homeownership practice groups in several Philadelphia law firms. Each practice group meets on a monthly basis, providing an opportunity for attorneys and paralegals from various private practice areas to pool their knowledge and expertise in serving

"VIP was incredibly helpful in a terrible situation that we weathered for five years plus. They helped us with great integrity and allowed us dignity to solve our housing dilemma where no one else did."

VIP Client

clients with probate and real estate issues. Attorneys and paralegals discuss their active cases, and the group members provide feedback and advice to assist in solving complex

legal issues as well as more practical problems that arise in representing low-income homeownership clients.

In using this model, the firms have been able to increase their efficiency in dealing with multi-faceted homeownership cases. In turn, this efficiency, combined with the pooling of knowledge of group members, provides a unique opportunity for attorneys and paralegals to assist clients with many problems that are ancillary to their title case, such as preventing utility shut-offs, negotiating with third-party lienholders, and providing clients with resources to improve their homes.

Started just two years ago, the practice group at Pepper Hamilton LLP continued to thrive in 2007. Attorneys accepted 10 new homeownership cases in 2007 - adding to the 26 cases that were ongoing at the beginning of the year. White and Williams LLP also established a regular monthly meeting time for its practice group. White and Williams practice group members handled 12 homeownership cases this year, with more than half of those cases being opened in 2007. Reed Smith LLP launched its practice group in June by hosting a probate training, and then began meeting regularly to



*Kelly Gastley, Sara Woods, Hon. Anne Lazarus, Miriam Jacobson and Karen Buck*

discuss the 12 homeownership cases that were already being handled by firm attorneys and paralegals. The group got a swift start, with attorneys accepting an additional four cases before the end of the year.



## Summer Associates Day

Summer Associates Day, held on June 8, 2007 at the PBI Center in Philadelphia, was attended by 158 summer associates from 16 firms. Summer Associates Day provides summer law students interning at area law firms with information about pro bono service in Philadelphia, and substantive training on legal issues affecting our clients.

The day began with inspirational remarks from Kim Dolan, VIP Board President, and Kathleen Wilkinson, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors. Sue Tripp and Tom Burke from Philadelphia Legal Assistance gave an informative and practical introduction to intake interviewing.

Legal training in non-profit formation, homeownership, will drafting and issues related to homeless advocacy followed. The day

concluded with an informal lunch for the students attended by judges from the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.



*Registration for Summer Associates Day, June 2007*

Feedback from the day was strongly positive, with students learning more about the practice of pro bono as well as substantive information on topics that impact our clients on a daily basis.

## Legal Clinics

### **Summer Clinics**

Participants from Summer Associates Day assisted clients at five legal clinics throughout the summer.

*Non-Profit Clinic:* 11 summer associates attended the clinic held at the Free Library of Philadelphia on June 19. 10 organizations were provided with legal assistance.

*Homeownership Clinics:* 38 summer associates participated in two homeownership clinics; one at Congreso and one at the People's Emergency Center. A total of 33 clients were assisted at both clinics.



*Staff and Volunteers at a homeownership clinic at the People's Emergency Center, July 2007*

*Wills Clinics:* 36 summer associates assisted 19 clients at the two wills clinics; one at Shiloh Baptist Church and one at the North Broad Senior Center. VIP has developed a strong relationship with Shiloh (facilitated by VIP's Director of Administration, Tanya Rambert) that has resulted in many clients being helped throughout the year.

*Homeless Advocacy Clinics:* The remaining students who registered for clinics assisted the Homeless Advocacy Project at several clinics held throughout the city.

### **Low Income Tax Clinic**

The Low Income Tax Clinic, held in collaboration with Philadelphia Legal Assistance and with support from the IRS, finished its annual session in the spring. The program served 58 clients from January to mid-April on Saturdays in Kennett Square. 84 volunteers participated, including 31 attorneys, 50 law students, and three other volunteers.

## Pro Bono Opportunities Day

Philadelphia VIP's signature recruitment program, Pro Bono Opportunities Day, was held on Thursday October 25, 2007. At this event, our organization trains attorneys new to the practice of law or new to pro bono on how to handle VIP cases.

Generously hosted by Montgomery McCracken Walker and Rhoads, PBOD '07 inspired and educated more than sixty lawyers who were new to pro bono work. Trainers from Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, Community Legal Services, Cozen O'Connor, Fox Rothschild, and the Law Offices of Michael E. Fingerman



*VIP Custody Training at Pro Bono Opportunities Day*

shared their expertise in the areas of child custody, nonprofit issues, public housing and quiet title/fraudulent conveyances.

The event commenced in the Justice Roberts Room with an introduction and welcome from Sara Woods, Executive Director of Philadelphia VIP, followed by inspiring remarks by A. Michael Pratt, Chancellor-Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and Rhasheda Douglas, former Pro Bono coordinator at Montgomery McCracken Walker and Rhoads. Professor Louis Rulli from the University of



*A. Michael Pratt, Sara Woods, Rhasheda Douglas and Louis Rulli  
Pro Bono Opportunities Day, October 2007*

Pennsylvania Law School then spoke about the significant need for pro bono attorneys and the benefits of such work in Philadelphia.

Pro Bono Opportunities Day was an opportunity for participants to gain the tools and knowledge necessary to assist low income Philadelphians. One attendee stated, "It was really helpful to hear from

"This organization treated me with such kindness and concern. I'll never forget what you did for me. I am at a loss for words—from the bottom of my heart—I appreciate you."

VIP Client

participants already working on VIP cases so I could learn from their experience." After her training, this participant felt prepared to take

on her own pro bono case and is currently working on a public housing case. Each attendee who accepts a pro bono case from Philadelphia VIP earns two CLE credits.

Our fantastic volunteers and sponsors greatly contributed to the success of the event. Special thanks to our Silver Sponsor, James DeCrescenzo Reporting and Bronze Sponsor, Lexis Nexis, and to Reliable Copy Service for printing the training materials.

## VIP Program Highlights

### Strategic Planning

VIP received generous support in December, 2007 from the Philadelphia Foundation to begin a strategic planning process. The VIP Board hired Dorel Shanon, an experienced consultant for non-profits, to assist with the strategic planning. A committee of board and staff has met to begin the process and we look forward to sharing the results.



*Janine LaBletta, Elaine Smith and Sakeenah El-Amin at VIP Open House, October 2007*

### Website Redesign



With support from the Samuel S. Fels Fund, VIP contracted with Verve Internet Solutions to redesign the VIP website. A team of staff members worked tirelessly on the new design to ensure ease of use for clients, volunteers and donors. The new website includes

- Updated training materials
- Secure online giving
- 24/7 access to available cases

....and many other features that showcase VIP's mission in action. The new website debuted in February, 2008.

### Open House

VIP opened the doors and hosted its first Open House on Thursday, October 11. Over 80 people attended, mingling with staff and board members as well as learning about the exciting things happening at VIP. A critical number of those in attendance were new to VIP, as well as old friends reconnecting with the organization.



*Steve Grumm, Sharon Browning and Thomas Zemaitis at VIP Open House, October 2007*

## A to Z: A Look At Our Volunteer Hours

VIP's volunteers provided more than 13,000 hours of volunteer service in 2007, in substantive areas from **Adoption** to **Zoning**. If billed out at a rate of \$200 per hour, a low estimate in today's for-profit legal market, these pro bono services would be valued at more than \$2.7 million.

<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Adoption.....	525
Auto Accident.....	536
Choice of Entity.....	6
Child Abuse Expungement.....	245
Civil Forfeiture.....	446
Collections.....	356
Community Groups.....	252
Consumer Finance.....	184
Contracts/Warranties.....	127
Custody/Visitation.....	883.5
Divorce.....	843.1
Employment/Wage Claims/Worker's Comp.....	120
Other Family Law.....	25
General Counsel.....	65
Guardianship.....	388
Homeownership/Real Property.....	2676.5
Housing.....	105
Immigration.....	1482.5
Incorporation.....	1080
Intellectual Property.....	35
Landlord/Tenant.....	95.25
Licenses.....	184
Loans/Installment Purchase.....	20
Name Change.....	354
Probate.....	634.5
Public Housing.....	223
Social Security/SSI.....	20
Support.....	150
Tax.....	555
Torts.....	670
Wills and Estates.....	255
Zoning.....	65

<b>Case Work Total</b> (Total hours [13606.35] x \$200.00).....	<b>\$2,721,270</b>
<b>Board Work Total</b> (Board members [36] x 15 hours x \$200.00).....	<b>\$ 108,000</b>
<b>Legal Clinics Hours Total</b> (Total hours [1212] x \$200.00).....	<b>\$ 242,400</b>
<b>Training Work Total</b> (Total hours [76] hours x \$200.00)\$.....	<b>\$ 15,200</b>

**Total Contributed Services.....\$3,086,870**

## VIP Honors Outstanding Volunteers from 2006 and 2007

### **Brennan Awards**

Dechert LLP  
Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner,  
Weinstock & Dodig  
Gay Chacker & Mitten  
Pepper Hamilton LLP  
Dean E. Weisgold  
Julia R. Solomon

### **Chancellor's Awards**

#### *Firms*

Abrahams, Loewenstein & Bushman, P.C.  
Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel, LLP  
Berner & Klaw  
Blank Rome LLP  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler, Eisenberg & Jeck, P.C.  
Feldman & Pinto  
Haines & Associates  
Kovler & Rush, P.C.  
Law Offices of Michael E. Fingerman  
McCann & Geschke, P.C.  
McCarter & English, LLP  
McEldrew & Fullam, P.C.  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP  
Reed Smith LLP  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP  
Smith & Horowitz  
Teeters Harvey & Gilboy LLP  
Weinstein Schleifer & Kupersmith P.C.  
Zajac & Arias  
Zarwin, Baum, Devito, Kaplan, Schaer & Toddy, P.C.

#### *Corporate (In-house Counsel)*

GlaxoSmithKline

#### *Individuals*

David C. Berman  
Edward Blumstein  
David R. Dearden  
Kimberly E. Dolan  
Leslie Love Engle  
Shanese I. Johnson  
Jennifer Field Kelley  
Elinore Kolodner  
John A. MacEvoy  
Jay Meyers  
Riki R. Redente  
Howard M. Soloman  
Larrick Stapleton  
Deborah Stewart  
Samuel E. Stretton  
Heather C. Winett

### **Pro Bono Program Award**

Villanova Lawyering Together Program  
Villanova Civil Justice Clinic  
Penn Legal Assistance Office  
Family Law Section Mentoring Program  
Temple University Beasley School of Law,  
Office of Public Interest Programs  
Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association

### **Business Recognition Award**

Aracor Search and Abstract Services, Inc.  
Cartographic Modeling Lab, University of Pennsylvania  
Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation  
The Legal Intelligencer  
Robert Phillips  
Pitney Bowes Management Services  
Reliable Copy Service  
Royal Court Reporting  
Warren Levicoff, PI

### **Legal Services Recognition Award**

Community Legal Services Energy Unit  
Philadelphia Legal Assistance Intake Unit



*Community Legal Services Energy Unit Staff*

### **VIPeople's Choice Award**

Claire Fawcett  
Heather A. Ritch  
Carole A. Sheffield  
Thomas E. Zemaitis  
Craig R. Gottlieb  
Suzanne E. Root

### **Government Recognition Award**

Office of Housing and Community Development  
Charles A. Mapp, Sr., Court of Common Pleas  
Department of Records, City of Philadelphia

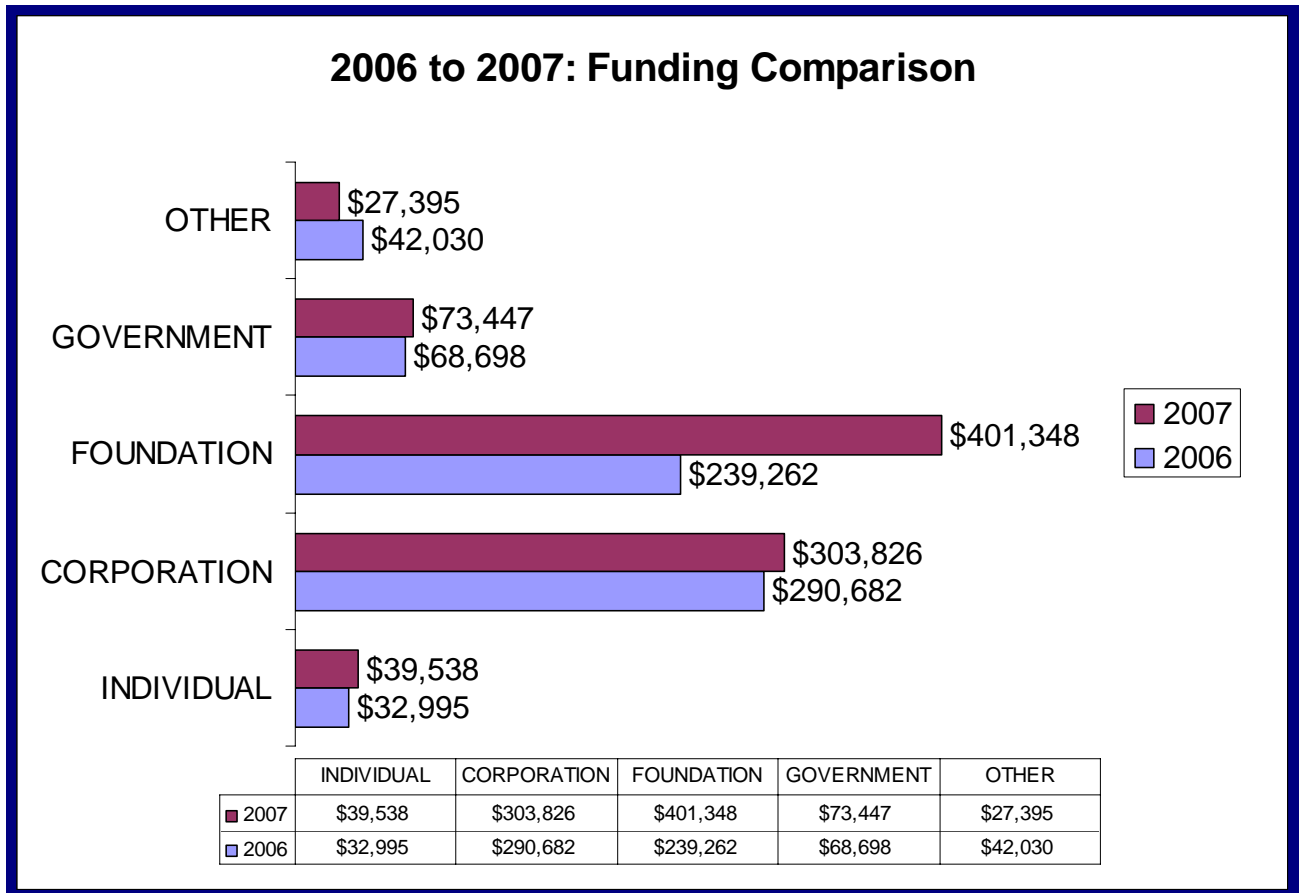
## Ensuring VIP's Financial Stability

VIP has grown and thrived in the last five years. The operating budget has increased from \$477,000 in 2004 to an anticipated \$759,000 for 2008. Grant funds received from Pennsylvania IOLTA have more than doubled from \$60,000 in 2004 to \$135,000 in 2007. Also this year, VIP received substantial grants from The Philadelphia Foundation for a professionally facilitated strategic planning process involving board and staff, and the Samuel S. Fels Fund for design and execution of a strategic marketing/communications plan.

Individual contributions also increased during 2007. VIP's annual United Way appeal was very successful, thanks to the leadership of Board member Stephen Kastenber. A year-end individual campaign kicked off in November to all volunteers and prior supporters, surpassing our goal by 25%.

VIP's annual firm campaign ended with more than \$150,000 raised from local firms to support our work. Board contributions were received from 100% of members and surpassed our goal by 75%. By the end of 2007, VIP's fundraising efforts yielded outstanding results in almost every category.

While the 2007 results of VIP's fundraising were very positive, the discouraging economic outlook for 2008 is a reminder that ensuring the financial stability of the organization requires an ongoing investment from VIP's partners.



## Contact Firms

**Philadelphia VIP relies on volunteers who serve as the point person for VIP cases at their firms. This includes distributing our caselist, encouraging colleagues to volunteer, and acting as a liaison between firm volunteers and VIP staff. In many cases, our "contact people" are serving in this role in addition to handling their own VIP cases and managing their private practice. We are truly grateful for their extraordinary service!**

**Abrahams Loewenstein & Bushman, P.C.**  
Sayde Ladov  
Laura McDonald

**Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP**  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Lisa Whiteley

**Blank Rome, LLP**  
Kathy Ochroch

**Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C.**  
Samantha Southall  
Thomas M. Tammany

**Conrad O'Brien Gellman & Rohn, PC**  
P. Connell McNulty  
Leigh Woodruff Marquardt

**Cozen O'Connor**  
Douglas Fox  
Cecilia O'Connor

**Dechert LLP**  
Ethan D. Fogel  
Sarah Schlossberg

**Dilworth Paxson LLP**  
Lisa Stockwicz Vasudevan

**DLA Piper LLP**  
Richard Gruenberger

**Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP**  
David Abernethy  
Maresa Torregrossa

**Duane Morris, LLP**  
A. Nicole Friant

**Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLP**  
Brya Keilson

**Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Schleifer, Weinstein & Winkler, P.C.**  
Brian C. Hall

**Fox Rothschild LLP**  
Jacqueline M. Carolan

**Galfand Berger, LLP**  
Marc S. Jacobs

**Gibbons, P.C.**  
Carl H. Delacato

**Hangley, Aronchick, Segal & Pudlin**  
Alan C. Promer

**Jacoby Donner P.C.**  
Henry J. Donner

**Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Eilers, LLP**  
Randi L. Rubin

**Marvin, Larsson, Henkin & Scheuritzel**  
C. Paul Scheuritzel

**McCarter & English, LLP**  
Peter J. Boyer

**Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP**  
Jessica Birk  
Michael Hayes

**Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP**  
Matthew J.D. Hogan

**Obermayer, Redman, Maxwell & Hippel, LLP**  
Joseph Centeno  
Peggy Rubin

**Pepper Hamilton LLP**  
Joseph Sullivan  
Christopher W. Wasson

**Reed Smith LLP**  
Ira S. Lefton  
Christopher Walters

**Saul Ewing, LLP**  
Karen Forman

**Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, LLP**  
Joanne Noble

**Spector, Gadon & Rosen, P.C.**  
Suzanne I. Schiller

**Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP**  
Steven B. Davis

**White and Williams, LLP**  
Kathy O'Neill  
Robyn Walcoff

**Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen, LLP**  
Aliza Karetnick

### Volunteer of the Month

In 2007, Philadelphia VIP announced a new initiative: the Volunteer of the Month. Every month VIP chooses an attorney that has captured the heart of pro bono service. Philadelphia VIP seeks to recognize attorneys who have gone above and beyond to help our clients resolve their legal matters.

Philadelphia VIP understands the everyday demands and time constraints facing our volunteer attorneys. We value all volunteers and recognize with this honor those who handle multiple VIP cases, dedicate numerous hours to complex matters and take on cases outside of their general practice area. Philadelphia VIP Volunteers of the Month serve our clients with compassion and offer hope to those without. Philadelphia VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are truly helping achieve access to justice for all.

September 2007:  
**Lise Fisher, The Law Offices of Michael E. Fingerman**

October 2007:  
**Matthew Whitehorn, Dilworth Paxson LLP**

November 2007:  
**Sharon Gagliardi, Dechert LLP**

December 2007:  
**Dave Dearden, Kalogredis, Sansweet, Dearden & Burke**

## Thank You To Our Incredible Volunteers!

Dennis Abramson  
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people and the work  
you do for the  
people who can’t  
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