FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NLS Marks 60 Years of Equal Justice at Landmark Pittsburgh Celebration

Kenneth R. Feinberg to headline October 6 event, bringing together more than 500 leaders from the judiciary, legal, business and civic communities.

PITTSBURGH, PA — Nearly 600 leaders from across Western Pennsylvania's legal, judicial, business, government and civic communities will gather Tuesday, October 6, at Acrisure Stadium as Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) celebrates 60 years of providing civil legal aid to people who otherwise could not afford an attorney.

The 60th Anniversary Celebration will feature nationally recognized attorney, mediator and author Kenneth R. Feinberg, whose four-decade career has placed him at the center of some of the nation's most consequential efforts to compensate victims of tragedy and resolve complex disputes. Feinberg served as Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and has administered or overseen compensation programs arising from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, the Virginia Tech shootings, the Boston Marathon bombing and other national crises.

His appearance comes during the 25th anniversary year of the September 11 attacks and will offer a timely reflection on justice, public service and how society responds when individuals and families face extraordinary loss.

The evening will also recognize leaders whose careers have strengthened the promise of equal justice.

Ken Gormley, Chancellor and Professor of Law at Duquesne University, and Mark A. Nordenberg, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh, will jointly receive NLS's inaugural Founders Award. Created for NLS's 60th anniversary, the award honors the 14 Pittsburgh leaders who founded the organization in 1966 and recognizes those who carry their vision forward through leadership, public service and an enduring commitment to equal justice.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Maureen P. Kelly will receive the Honorable R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. Legacy of Justice Award, recognizing a career that has advanced equal justice, strengthened the legal profession and inspired future generations to public service. The award is named in honor of Judge Wettick, a former Executive Director of Neighborhood Legal Services and distinguished jurist whose career reflected a deep commitment to equal access to justice.

NLS will also pay special tribute to Robert V. Racunas, Esq., who served as Executive Director for 42 years -

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and whose career with NLS began as a law student before he joined the organization as a staff attorney. The tribute recognizes a lifetime of leadership advancing equal justice and more than four decades guiding NLS.

The Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership will receive the Pillar of Justice Award, recognizing 25 years of collaboration among law firms, corporate legal departments, court administration and legal advocates that has helped shape the region's pro bono infrastructure and expand access to legal assistance.

Among the distinguished guests participating in the program will be The Honorable Justice Debra Todd, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Attorney General Dave Sunday. The gathering will also include members of the federal and state judiciary and leaders from the region's legal, corporate, higher education and nonprofit communities.

Founded in 1966, NLS today serves Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties. During its most recent fiscal year, NLS handled 11,656 cases and served 20,037 people, including 2,604 Protection From Abuse matters, while helping clients obtain more than $3 million in awards and benefits.

"For 60 years, Neighborhood Legal Services has been there when civil legal help can mean the difference between stability and crisis," said Kristine Bergstrom, Executive Director of Neighborhood Legal Services. "This anniversary honors the extraordinary people who built and sustained that legacy, but it is also about what comes next. The need for civil legal aid remains great, and our commitment is to ensure that justice remains within reach for people in our community, regardless of their ability to pay."

The celebration begins with a reception and silent auction at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. at the UPMC Club at Acrisure Stadium.

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About Neighborhood Legal Services

Founded in 1966, Neighborhood Legal Services is a nonprofit civil legal aid organization serving low-income individuals and families throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. NLS provides free legal representation, advocacy, and education in civil matters involving housing, family safety, domestic violence, public benefits, consumer protection, elder law, and other essential legal needs, ensuring that justice is accessible regardless of one's ability to pay. Civil legal aid provided by NLS helps people protect their homes, safety, families, income and access to essential benefits through legal information, advice, representation and community education.

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