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Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Announces Inaugural Ulster Partners in Justice Reception Honorees

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY, October 25, 2017...Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (“LSHV”) will hold its 1st Ulster Partners in Justice Reception, honoring Eli B. Basch, Esq., and his firm, Basch & Keegan, as “Champion of Justice” and Rondout Savings Bank as “Advocate for Justice,” on Thursday, November 9, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Over 100 people are expected to attend the event which will take place at the Belltower, 398 Main Street, Rosendale, NY. A networking reception catered by Stone Soup Food Company will be followed by brief remarks about the organization’s programs and services by LSHV staff and Board, a short video highlighting the organization’s work with one client, and comments by the honorees.

Celebrating its 50th year, LSHV is the only provider in the Hudson Valley of free, comprehensive, legal services in civil matters (noncriminal) for individuals and families who cannot afford an attorney when their basic human needs are at stake. This includes urgent legal needs such as: domestic violence (orders of protection, child custody, etc.), housing emergencies (eviction and foreclosure prevention), healthcare, children's law and advocacy, disability and benefits, elder law, consumer fraud and more. In 2016, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley handled 1,037 cases for 931 clients out of its Ulster County office (located at 550 Aaron Court, Kingston), impacting 2,359 household members, including 786 children. 89 of those clients are domestic violence survivors and 40 are veterans.

LSHV’s CEO, Barbara Finkelstein explained why this awareness-raising event deserves support, saying “Since 1967, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has been assuring fairness in the justice system – regardless of income – to hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. The work we do each day provides free civil legal services to those who can’t afford an attorney. Our dedicated staff takes on urgent legal cases in numerous practice areas including child advocacy, protection from domestic violence, elder abuse, housing, predatory lending, access to nutrition assistance and benefits, advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ individuals, and support of veterans and military families. We handled more than 15,000 cases last year, impacting over 36,000 household members. With enough funding to meet demand, we could serve thousands more and close the ‘Justice Gap’ here in our community.”

About the Honorees:

Eli B. Basch, Esq., and his firm, Basch & Keegan

Kingston native Eli B. Basch has been helping Ulster County injury victims for over forty years. He has dedicated his career to helping injury victims and the families of individuals who were injured or killed in Ulster County car accidents, tractor-trailer accidents, falls, fires, explosions, recreational accidents, boating accidents, plane crashes, falls, construction accidents, defective product accidents, and medical negligence.

Mr. Basch is widely regarded as one of the most experienced and successful personal injury attorneys in Upstate New York. With over 250 trial verdicts and more than 5,000 settlements to his credit, Mr. Basch has handled more trials than any other personal injury lawyer currently practicing in Ulster County. In fact, he has represented more injury victims than any other lawyer in the history of Ulster County.

A graduate of SUNY Albany and Western New England School of Law, where he received his J.D., he has been named a Super Lawyer of Upstate New York by Super Lawyers magazine for the years 2011 - 2017, and he has been recognized among the Top 100 Trial Lawyers of New York State since 2007. His reputation has earned him a position on the Governor's Screening Committee for Judicial Appointments, and he previously served on the Committee for Professional Standards in the Third Judicial Department from 1998 to 2004. He has been admitted to practice law in New York State (since 1977), in the United States Supreme Court (since 1984), in the United States District Court, Northern District of New York, and in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. His appointments include: Judicial Law Clerk for the Hon. Aaron E. Klein (J.S.C., Ulster County), 1978-1983; Governor's Screening Committee for Judicial Appointments, Current; Committee on Professional Standards Third Judicial Department, 1998-2004; New Paltz College Council; New Paltz College Foundation (Trustee & Former President); and Temple Emmanuel, Trustee. Additionally, he is a member of the following professional associations: American Association for Justice; National College of Advocacy; New York State Bar Association; New York State Trial Lawyers Association; New York Trial Academy; Super Lawyers, Upstate New York; Capital District Trial Lawyers Association; and the Ulster County Bar Association, of which he is a Past President.

Mr. Basch resides in Kingston – just two miles from his office – with his wife Susan, who is a native of Kerhonkson. He is a veteran of the United States Navy and the Vietnam War.

Regarding why he accepted Legal Services of the Hudson Valley invitation to be honored at the 1st Ulster Partners in Justice Reception, he said “I believe strongly in the availability of free legal assistance for those in need. Legal Services of the Hudson Valley provides dedicated, competent and essential help to low income individuals and families in the community who are facing a range of civil legal issues and crises.”

Basch & Keegan

Basch & Keegan was voted “Best Law Firm in the Hudson Valley” three times by Daily Freeman readers. It handles only personal injury and accident cases, and only represents injury victims. Basch & Keegan does not represent insurance companies and it does not engage in defense work. There are no other firms in Ulster County that focus their practice solely on personal injury and accident claims. Attorneys represent clients with a wide range of traumatic injuries, including brain injuries, spinal injuries, fractures, scars, burns, torn ligaments and tendons, orthopedic injuries, nerve damage, psychological injuries, and wrongful death. They handle all types of automobile accidents, pedestrian injuries, slip and fall accidents, construction accidents, dog bites, product liability, boating injuries and more. They also offer representation in cases involving medical malpractice and nursing home neglect. Additionally, Basch & Keegan brings lawsuits directly against insurance companies for wrongfully denying claims for fire losses, property damage and no fault issues. With more than 85 years of combined experience, the lawyers at Basch & Keegan have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to effectively represent people who are injured as a result of negligence, carelessness or recklessness. The firm's attorneys have earned a formidable reputation among defense attorneys and insurance adjusters as being well-prepared, dedicated to their clients and ready to go to trial on every case. Also, they enjoy their work of helping injury victims.

Rondout Savings Bank

Rondout Savings Bank first opened its doors on May 1, 1868. The bank was founded by Thomas Cornell and other business leaders who felt the Village of Rondout needed its own savings bank. Rondout Savings Bank has been successful since its founding. It has weathered the financial panics in the 1800s, the Depression of the 1930s and the financial turmoil that followed.

From the beginning, Rondout Savings Bank's core values have always been about strengthening its relationship with people just like you. While some like the idea of supporting a local bank that gives back to their community, others appreciate the refreshing personal attention they receive when seeking a loan, opening an account, applying for a credit card or launching our convenient mobile banking app.

Rondout Savings Bank is a true community bank leader, having achieved the Best of Bauer Award of Excellence for attaining a 25 year consecutive five star rating. This honorable accomplishment is earned by only 4.2% of the banks in the nation.

Rondout is dedicated to supporting and enriching our communities. Their success is attributed to the fact that they are truly a community bank. Their employees, management and trustees volunteer countless hours to local organizations and civic groups throughout the area. The bank contributes 10% of their annual earnings each year back to the communities they serve through their "Dividends to the Community" program.

As the bank approaches its 150th Anniversary, with 5 local offices, Thomas Cornell would approve of how the it has grown over the years – keeping with the original pledge to be "a bank for the people", with absolute safety for all the bank's customers.

The bank says "It's an honor to be recognized by the Ulster Partners in Justice and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, whose core mission is to protect the rights of and promote justice for the individuals and families within our community."

This year's **sponsors** are: Gold – Basch & Keegan; Silver – Rondout Savings Bank; Bronze – Mainetti, Mainetti & O'Connor, P.C., and Justin M. Sher, Esq. and his firm, Sher Tremonte LLP; Giving Tree –an anonymous individual; Floral – Green Cottage, High Falls.

Honorary Event Committee:

23 community leaders have lent their support to LSHV and this inaugural program by serving on the Honorary Event Committee. (*The list of members is attached.*)

For more information about the event, or to purchase tickets, call LSHV's Director of Development, Mid-Hudson Valley, Loretta Spence at (845) 471-0058, x. 423 or e-mail LSpence@lshv.org.

Information on LSHV's programs is available online at www.lshv.org. To obtain assistance, call 1-877-574-8529 (877-LSHV-LAW).

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