

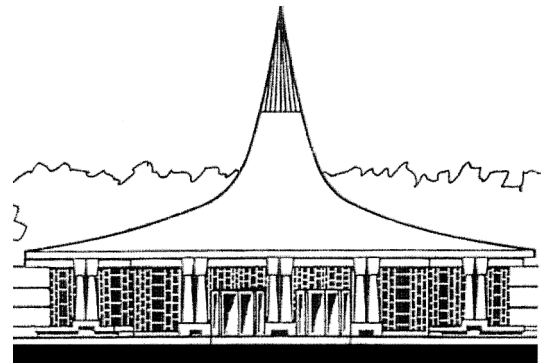
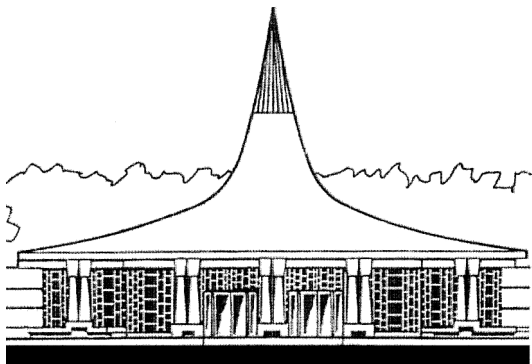
2016

**The Ethical Society
of
St. Louis**

Ethics in Action Award

Honoring

ArchCity Defenders, Inc.



Ethical Society of St. Louis

October 20, 2016

Ethical Society of St. Louis

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St. Louis, MO 63117
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Flower Arrangement

Mary Wittry and Juliette Smith

Hospitality

Welcome, visitors! Hearing Assistance Units are available in the foyer before Platform. Please see one of our members if you would like the use of one today.



For forty years, the Ethical Society of St. Louis' Ethics in Action Award has been given to those in the local community who have provided courageous and dedicated service to others. We salute those who work to maintain the rights and dignity of their fellow human beings. We are proud that we can honor the groundbreaking work of ArchCity Defenders, Inc. with our society's 2016 award.

Founded in 2009 by attorneys Michael-John Voss, Thomas B. Harvey and John McAnnar, ArchCity Defenders is dedicated to providing free legal counsel to the poor and homeless, especially to those whose civil rights have been abused in St. Louis municipal courts. As the ArchCity Defenders' website points out "Gaining an attorney's assistance is frequently not a problem for people with adequate means, but civil rights are compromised for those without funds". In some municipal courts, an inability to pay a minor traffic fine can result in multiple court appearances, arrest and jail time for defendants. In addition to its legal services, ArchCity Defenders also provides civil representation and social service coordination to help with the underlying causes of the clients' legal matters.

To fight one of the root causes of violation of rights of local citizens, ArchCity Defenders has pursued "court watching" and litigation. The 2014 ArchCity Defenders Municipal Courts White Paper reported on three local municipal courts, identifying malpractices which had disproportional impacts on people of color and the indigent. ArchCity Defenders' participation in a successful suit in the

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri established that the practice of jailing people for unpaid fines and fees was unconstitutional and unjustly targeted African Americans and the poor. This suit resulted in a 2016 settlement granting 4.7 million dollars in compensation to those who had been jailed by the City of Jennings. This settlement was the largest of its kind.

In August 2016, ArchCity Defenders collaborated with a Washington, D.C.-based firm to file suit in the U.S. District Court against 13 local municipalities. This suit maintains that police departments, municipal court systems, and prosecuting attorneys have terrorized plaintiffs through a deliberate plan to extort money and fill municipal coffers. These practices have created a modern-day police state and a *de facto* debtors' prison system that disproportionately impacts African-American people in the St. Louis region.

The work of ArchCity Defenders is linked with the national debate about racial justice sparked by the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson in August 2014. ArchCity Defenders has succeeded in protecting peaceful protesters from excessively forceful methods used by local and state police. In collaboration with Advancement Project and St. Louis University Law Clinic, ArchCity Defenders filed suit against police use of chemical agents against demonstrators. The suit resulted in agreements with police departments to give clear warnings and a means of exit when they are about to use tear gas or other chemical agents to disperse crowds. In response to this change of police procedure, Thomas Harvey of ArchCity Defenders was quoted in an article released by Advancement Project in March 2015 as follows: "This victory rests on the shoulders of the courageous protesters who are tirelessly demonstrating in the streets of Ferguson, and it's a testament to the powerful movement they have fostered."

ArchCity Defenders' work against local injustice has been attested in nomination letters for the Ethics in Action Award. Missouri State Representative Deb Lavender pointed out, "Long before August 2014, ArchCity Defenders were in North County documenting the injustice by the courts to the citizens of St. Louis County. Long before August 2014, ArchCity Defenders knew we had debtors' prisons in St. Louis County where a broken taillight could land you in jail. Long before

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

1997	Arthur and Marian Wirth
1998	Jeanette Mott Oxford
1999	William Ramsey
2000	Ann Carter Stith
2001	David A Lander
2002	Eddie Mae Binion
2003	Chris Krehmeyer
2004	Ted and Linda Schroeder
2005	Suzsanne Singer, Ph.D.
2006	Fred Rottnek, M.D., MAHCM
2007	Joan Lipkin
2008	Judge Richard B. Teitelman
2009	Kingdom House
2010	Leon "Bud" Deraps
2011	Joan Suarez
2012	Dr. L. Lewis Wall
2013	Criminal Justice Ministry
2014	Dr. Patricia Wolff, Meds & Food for Kids
2015	Arlene Zarembka

And Special Thanks To:

Jesse Easley
Laurie Fields
Nancy Jelinek
Cathy Spalding

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

1976	James F. Hornback
1977	Frank Susman
1978	Frank E. Nutt
1979	Harriet Woods
1980	Deverne and Ernest Calloway
1981	Eldora Spiegelberg
1982	Paul Dewald, M.D.
1983	Kay and Leo Drey
1984	International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis
1985	Marion Jenkins Brooks
1986	Thomas Engelhardt
1987	Bertha Gilkey
1988	Hedy Epstein
1989	ACLU/Eastern Missouri
1990/91	Julia Goldstein
1992	B. J. Issacson-Jones
1993	Janet Becker
1994	Blanche M. Touhill
1995	Peter DeSimone
1996	Richard and Kaye Parvis

Ethics in Action Award Committee

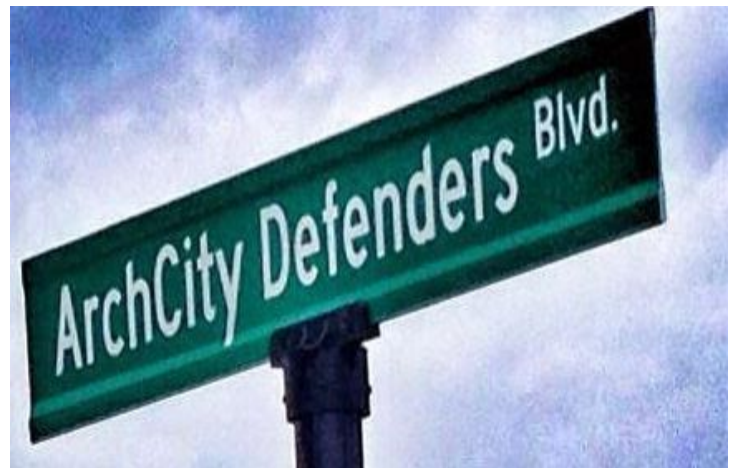
Alan Easton, chair
Carol Bartell
Brent Feeney
Stephanie Sigala
Mary Wittry
Kelly O'Donnell

August 2014, ArchCity Defenders were invested with their hearts and souls to bring justice where there was none.”

Former Missouri State Representative Rick Stream wrote, “I also want to commend ArchCity Defenders for working on a *pro bono* basis to help the poor work through a very difficult municipal system in our county. They have spent thousands of hours helping people stay out of jail so that they can keep their jobs and maintain their family situations.”

Local attorney Bernard Reinert remarked, “There are many who talk about these unjust and oppressive practices. ArchCity Defenders has done, and is doing, something about them, precipitating the conversation, and representing the oppressed, largely poor people, on a *pro bono* basis in order to extricate them for the difficulties inflicted upon them by the malfunctioning justice systems.”

ArchCity Defenders has compelled those of us who live in this area to critically examine our region’s governance. It has brought in the power of federal courts to correct and remedy widespread injustice. ArchCity Defenders, Inc. is most deserving of the 2016 Ethical Society of St. Louis Ethics in Action Award.



Program

Welcome

Kate Lovelady, Leader
Ethical Society of St. Louis

Music Selection AndroBeat

Britt Baker-Soleil
Laura Muren
Amber Johnson-Soleil
Elena Pahl

Tributes

Bernard Reinert

Founder and Principal
Reinert Weishaar & Associates, P.C.

Brendan Roediger

Professor Law Clinics
St. Louis University School of Law

Kayla Reed

Movement for Black Lives -
Activist and Organizer
Leader, St. Louis Action Council

Award Presentation

Cathy Pickard
President, Board of Trustees
Ethical Society of St. Louis

Remarks

Michael-John Voss
Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer
ArchCity Defenders, Inc.

ArchCity Defenders, Inc.

2016 Ethics in Action Award Recipient

Music Selection AndroBeat

Closing Words

Kate Lovelady, Leader

Following the ceremony, you are invited to meet ArchCity Defenders members at a reception to be held downstairs in the Becker Room.

