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HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARDS DINNER

Thursday, June 15
The Depot Minneapolis



*Celebrating 40 Years of
Defending Human Rights*

THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS DINNER PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thank you to the members of the 2023 Human Rights Awards Dinner planning committee who provided inspiration, ideas, and imagination throughout the process. We envisioned a virtually connected, global, and forward-looking event for our 40th anniversary celebration. You delivered at every step of the way. Thank you!

Ali McElroy
Aviva Breen
Bridget Chivimbiso Chigunwe
Karen Evans
Kathy Lenzmeier
Kelly McLain
Loan Huynh
Mary Kariuki Ries
X. Kevin Zhao

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Tom Bird	Refugee & Immigrant Program Associate
Kim Boche	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
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Madeline Lohman	Associate Director, Training & Technical Assistance
Nathan Madson	International Justice Program Staff Attorney
Elizabeth Montgomery	Women's Human Rights Program Staff Attorney
Melody Ng	AmeriCorps Legal Services Navigator
Emily Olinger	Executive Administrative Associate
Peter Olson	Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Rosalyn Park	Women's Human Rights Program Director
Robin Phillips	Executive Director
Jennifer Prestholdt	Deputy Director
Thekla Rura-Polley	Development Director
Hanne Sandison	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director
Casey Schultz Bruning	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Katherine Veldhuizen	Refugee & Immigrant Program Coordinator

WELCOME

Welcome to our 40th Anniversary Human Rights Awards Dinner.

We are thrilled to be celebrating 40 years of human rights advocacy this evening. The original values upon which the organization was built have stood the test of time. As Don Fraser, former Congressman and Mayor, and one of the founders of The Advocates said, “human rights should be the organizing principle for the planet.” These values include recognition of the inherent dignity of every person and the principle that we all have a part to play in making human rights a reality. We believe that together, we can move the world toward our vision of all people living with dignity, justice, and equality.

Tonight, as part of our celebration, we recognize the amazing work of our volunteers. They are the lifeblood of the organization, and they inspire us every day. Last year, we had approximately 1,400 volunteers working with us on a wide variety of projects, from observing proceedings in immigration court here in Minnesota to advocating for government accountability at the United Nations.

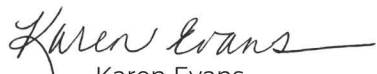
We also celebrate the impact of the work we do together, both big and small. We continue to represent victims of human rights violations and work to change the systems that allow those human rights to occur in the first place. We save lives by representing asylum seekers and victims of trafficking in their individual cases and we improve conditions in which people are living through changed laws and policies.

For 40 years we have been building the human rights movement. We will not be deterred by attacks on human rights or the backlash to past human rights victories. Because of your ongoing support, we are stronger than ever and ready to take on the challenges of the future.

Thank you for being an advocate for human rights.



Robin Phillips
Executive Director



Karen Evans
Chair, Board of Directors

EVENT PROGRAM & AUCTION BIDDING

Event Program

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Reception
6:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Silent auction closes
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Program (virtual livestream available)
	Coffee and dessert will be served following the program

Auction Bidding

To participate in the auction, go to www.fundraiser.bid/hrad23 or scan the QR code.



You will find exceptional experiences, delicious dinners, international items, and more. All proceeds support the mission of The Advocates. The auction closes on Thursday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. CDT.

Register on the auction website to start bidding. You will receive a text message when another guest outbids you. Happy bidding!

Claiming Your Auction Winnings

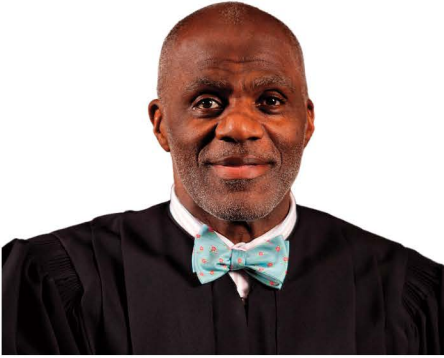
You will receive a text message notifying you of any items won. Make sure to claim your items as you leave the event tonight. For virtual attendees, we will contact you to arrange pick-up or delivery of any items won.

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION



Tonight's Keynote Conversation will be moderated by **Fred de Sam Lazaro**. He is executive director of the Under-Told Stories Project, a program that combines international journalism and teaching at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He has served with The NewsHour since 1985 and was a regular contributor and substitute anchor for PBS' Religion and Ethics Newsweekly.

DON & ARVONNE FRASER HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD



JUSTICE ALAN PAGE

We are presenting **Justice Alan Page** with the 2023 Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award for his life-long commitment to human rights.

Justice Page has actively advocated for human rights, equality, and social justice throughout his career as a Supreme Court Justice, attorney, and professional athlete.

As an attorney and later as a judge on the Minnesota Supreme Court, he was known for his strong leadership on criminal justice issues, such as the need to reduce racial disparities in sentencing and address systemic inequalities in the legal system. He has long recognized the right to education, and he worked to include the right to education in the Minnesota Constitution.

Through the Page Education Foundation, Justice Page and his wife Diane have helped thousands of students of color in Minnesota pursue their dreams of higher education, providing not just financial aid, but also guidance and support. In 2018, Justice Page received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, for his work in civil rights and education.

DON & ARVONNE FRASER HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Don and Arvonne Fraser inspired The Advocates for Human Rights from the very beginning. In their honor, this award is presented to an individual or organization with sustained dedication and unwavering commitment to promoting human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AWARD



GREATER CARIBBEAN FOR LIFE

The Advocates is honored to present this year's Human Rights Defender Award to **Greater Caribbean for Life** (GCL). Since 2013, GCL and its 49 members have been working to achieve the permanent abolition of the death penalty in every country in the Greater Caribbean Region. GCL advocates nationally, regionally, and internationally to change hearts and minds to eliminate the death penalty in law and in practice.

In a region that retains strong opposition to abolition, GCL is a beacon for human rights.

As fellow members of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, The Advocates has partnered with GCL for several years and collaborated on international advocacy relating to eight countries in the region. Last year, GCL members and The Advocates joined forces at the UN in Geneva to advocate for recommendations relating to Barbados and the Bahamas and to inform the international community about the status of the death penalty in the region. We also expanded our collaborations to include UN submissions highlighting issues for women on death row.

We thank GCL for its partnership and its work advocating for human rights and join GCL in celebrating its 10th anniversary!

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDER
AWARD**

For leadership in the movement to abolish the death penalty in the Caribbean region

VOLUNTEER AWARDS



CHRISTIN EATON & LINDA SVITAK

Delicious food brings people together and connects us to our loved ones near and far. Volunteers **Linda Svitak** and **Christin Eaton** are inviting new people to the table with their work on a cookbook that tells stories of resilience, hope, and celebration through recipes shared by clients and members of our immigrant communities in Minnesota. Through their work, Linda and Christin are building communities and understanding, one meal at a time.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Volunteers are the driving force of The Advocates for Human Rights. Each year, we honor individuals who have made an extraordinary difference in advancing our mission.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS



AMY FITERMAN

Before dawn on February 24, 2022, Russia attacked cities across Ukraine, beginning an invasion that continues to cause destruction, displacement, and death. Shortly thereafter, **Amy Fiterman** answered the call to volunteer and conducted dozens of interviews with Ukrainian human rights defenders to record what they had seen and heard that would fall within the scope of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. These first-hand accounts informed our report to the Prosecutor to the International Criminal Court for the investigation into the situation in Ukraine. Amy's expertise as a litigator was invaluable in documenting these experiences and in advocacy to the UN to magnify Ukrainian voices.



BRITTANY KNUTSON

For more than three years, **Brittany Knutson** has interned and volunteered with the WATCH court observation project. Brittany initially connected with The Advocates in early 2020, and the first part of her internship did not turn out as expected. Minnesota courts switched to remote hearings, creating changes and challenges for everyone. Yet Brittany was still there, monitoring proceedings for access to justice for victims of gender-based violence. Despite now living on the West Coast, Brittany continues to volunteer, consistently creating court calendars for WATCH.

LAW FIRM PRO BONO AWARDS

AFGHAN EVACUATION RESPONSE



After the fall of Kabul in August 2021, thousands of individuals were evacuated from Afghanistan. Of these, 1,400 resettled in Minnesota and North Dakota. With only temporary status, however, they fear return to a Taliban-controlled country. Congress has failed to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, leaving asylum as the best pathway to safety for many evacuees. In response to this unanticipated and unprecedented legal need, hundreds of attorneys and legal professionals have volunteered to provide pro bono legal representation. We appreciate every volunteer who has contributed to this effort.

Volunteers at our law firm partners **Faegre Drinker** and **Lathrop GPM** have represented asylum seekers for decades. Their responses to the legal needs of our Afghan neighbors were extraordinary: collectively representing 36 families seeking asylum. Their representation not only benefits clients in Minnesota and North Dakota, but also family members abroad who were not able to participate in the evacuation. Overall, these two firms will impact more than 110 lives. We are grateful for their exceptional contributions.

**LAW FIRM PRO
BONO AWARDS**

For extraordinary efforts to ensure
legal representation of Afghan
evacuees

LAW FIRM PRO BONO AWARDS

INNOVATIVE ENGAGEMENT OF PARALEGALS

Fredrikson



We celebrate **Fredrikson's** commitment to pro bono and involving all professionals in pro bono opportunities. Specifically, we recognize Fredrikson's paralegals and other professionals who have worked on immigration cases and helped The Advocates for Human Rights respond to increasing legal needs and an ever-changing landscape of laws and regulations. Most recently, these team members have made essential contributions on asylum cases, helped us increase rural access to legal services, and assisted with emergency legal screenings for labor trafficking victims. We are inspired by Fredrikson's outstanding contributions.

**LAW FIRM PRO
BONO AWARDS**

For mobilizing paralegals to
respond to urgent immigration
legal needs

IN MEMORIAM



TOM KAYSER

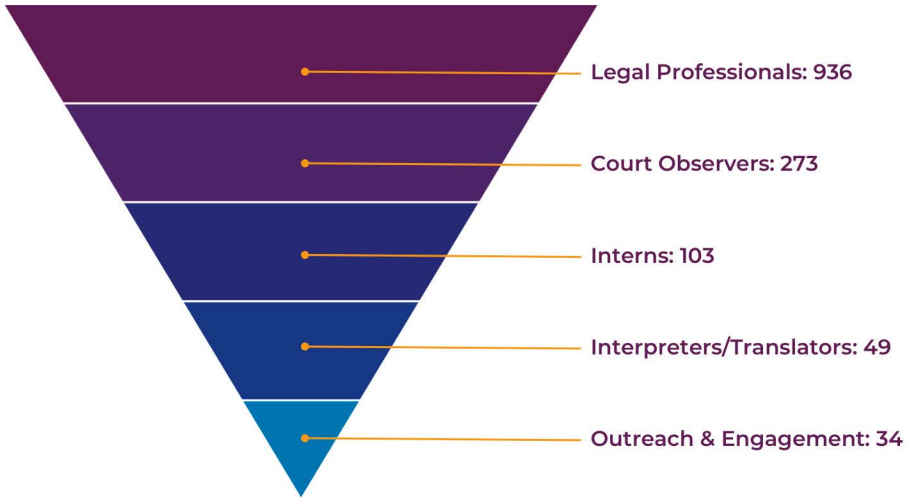
Tom Kayser was a longtime supporter and friend of The Advocates. He was a leader in the legal community, championing LGBTQI+ rights, women's rights, and racial justice. He was committed to diversity in the legal community and led efforts to provide opportunities to under-represented communities. He took the most challenging pro bono cases and lived the value that every person was entitled to effective representation. Tom long supported his wife Marlene's involvement in The Advocates and co-hosted our Women's Human Rights Program house party for nearly 25 years.



JANET LESLIE

Janet Leslie was a long-time supporter, volunteer, and friend of The Advocates. Janet was committed to women's human rights, including reproductive rights and freedom from violence. Janet traveled to the United Nations in Geneva with our team to advocate for women's rights. She brought a keen observation of global women's rights issues from her travels, as well as a quick wit and a talent for storytelling. She was deeply committed to women's equality and gave both her time and resources to making the world a better and safer place for women in the United States and around the world.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE DRIVING FORCE OF OUR WORK.

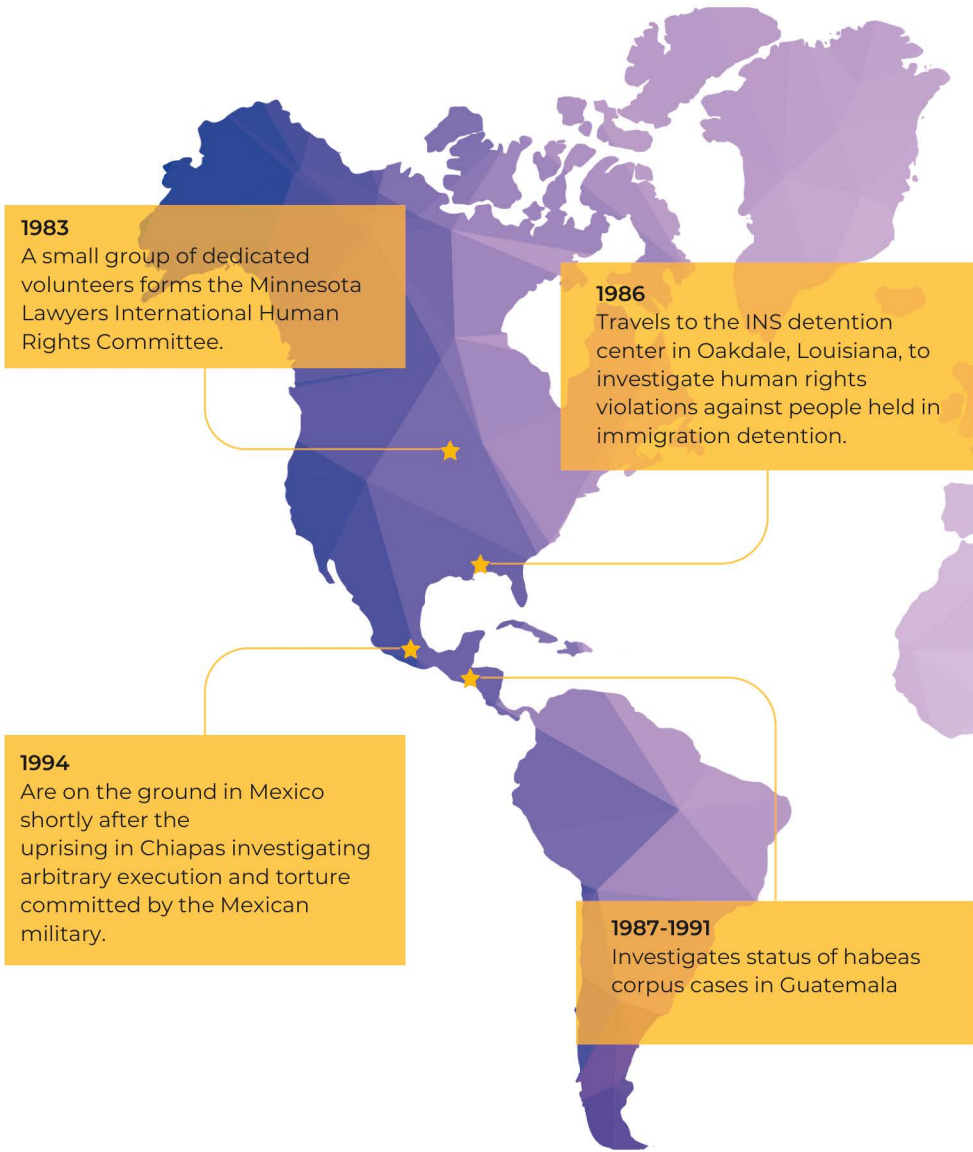


1395 volunteers contributed \$11.3M in in-kind human rights work in 2022

Join the many volunteers each year who engage in hands-on human rights work. Volunteers contribute critical research and advocacy skills and become advocates for human rights.

GET STARTED TODAY.





1983

A small group of dedicated volunteers forms the Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee.

1986

Travels to the INS detention center in Oakdale, Louisiana, to investigate human rights violations against people held in immigration detention.

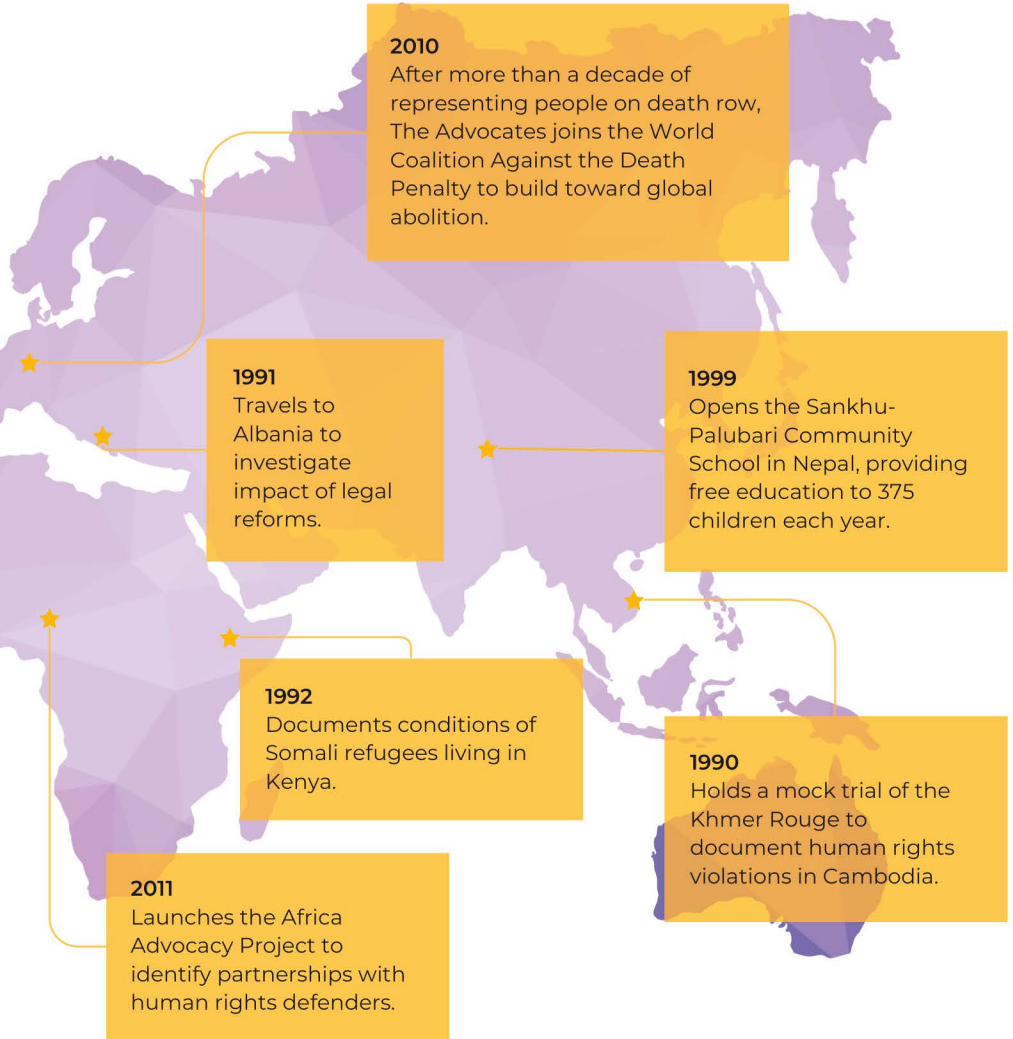
1994

Are on the ground in Mexico shortly after the uprising in Chiapas investigating arbitrary execution and torture committed by the Mexican military.

1987-1991

Investigates status of habeas corpus cases in Guatemala

Since 1983, The Advocates for Human Rights' innovative approach has been at the forefront of the human rights movement. By engaging volunteers directly in the work, we leverage millions of dollars annually to improve human rights conditions.



We ground our work in the lived experiences of our partners and clients. Rooted in deep expertise and strong relationships, The Advocates works in our home community and in partnerships around the globe to address some of the most intractable human rights issues.

1983-1992: SETTING THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



Investigators exhuming mass graves in Peru in 2002 using the Minnesota Protocol

Although international law clearly prohibits extrajudicial and summary executions, human rights activists and investigators lacked the tools to build a case against state actors when bodies were found.

The newly formed **Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee** (now The Advocates for Human Rights) teamed up with experts in law and forensic science to fill a critical gap in accountability.

The resulting protocol became the global standard for the investigation of state-involved killings. It has been used in investigations throughout the world, including in Rwanda, Bosnia, Guatemala, East Timor, and Peru.

Today the **Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death** continues to provide detailed procedures for crime-scene investigations, interviews of suspects and witnesses, the excavation of graves, post-mortem examinations, and the analysis of skeletal remains.

These investigations play a vital role in holding state actors accountable for unlawful deaths.

1993-2002: TURNING RHETORIC INTO REALITY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



When Hillary Clinton called for the world to recognize women's rights as human rights at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, few international human rights organizations were ready to act.

Minnesota Advocates was already leading the way. In 1993, the organization was challenged to respond to violence against women in Romania and invited by a partner organization to document the problem. A volunteer-led delegation spent twelve days interviewing judges, lawyers, doctors, human rights groups, women's groups, students, and government officials about the government's response to domestic violence. Analyzing the interviews through the lens of human rights, the groundbreaking report found that by failing to respond to domestic violence, Romania violated its international obligations. Invitations from partners in Bulgaria, Albania, and other countries soon followed, launching our **Women's Human Rights Program**.

Human rights defenders took these reports and advocated for change in their countries. Today a vibrant generation of women's human rights defenders has created a movement to protect women from violence in countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Aviva Breen presents at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

2003-2012: ENGAGING DIASPORA IN POST-CONFLICT TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE



In 2005, following more than two decades of conflict, Liberia embarked on a truth and reconciliation process. But the process threatened to leave out the stories of over 1.5 million Liberians who fled from their homes during the protracted conflict.

Working at the invitation of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia**, The Advocates for Human Rights spearheaded operations in the diaspora. The Advocates mobilized hundreds of volunteers to document the experience of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law that forced Liberians to leave the country. Volunteers collected more than 1600 statements from Liberians living in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Buduburam Refugee Settlement in Ghana. The Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission traveled to Minnesota in 2008 and presided over a powerful week of public hearings.

While the quest for justice and accountability remains ongoing, it was the first-ever truth commission to include the diaspora. It set a standard for widespread inclusion of diaspora voices in transitional justice.

Commissioners Massa Washington and Oumu Syllah react to testimony given during the Commission's U.S. public hearings in 2008

2013-2022: MEASURING VICTORY ONE LIFE AT A TIME



The Advocates' handled just three asylum cases in 1984. By 2022, that number was 3000.

International law provides the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution. But without access to counsel, that right remains illusory. Meanwhile, global instability has driven a dramatic increase in the number of asylum seekers worldwide. The Advocates mobilizes pro bono professionals to represent victims of human rights abuses living in the Upper Midwest as they face complex immigration legal proceedings.

Today our clients include people fleeing persecution and torture in search of asylum, unaccompanied children facing immigration proceedings on their own, victims of human trafficking, and people detained by federal immigration officials.

The impact is not in the numbers. It is in the countless lives restarted, free from fear and full of hope following a grant of asylum.

2023 AND BEYOND: MAKING THE VISION A REALITY



The vision that launched The Advocates for Human Rights in 1983 holds true today. Everyone has a part to play in making human rights the organizing principle for the planet.

Human rights are interconnected and interdependent. And now more than ever, the human rights movement must be too. The Advocates works across movements and around the globe to build a world where dignity, justice, freedom, equality, and peace are a reality.

Today, recognizing the inherent **dignity of our clients** means providing the legal help needed to win asylum. And it means providing the opportunity to advocate to change the conditions which forced them to flee.

Recognizing the **strength of our partners** means documenting what they are experiencing. And it means providing the training and tools for them to change the systems that violate human rights.

Recognizing the **power of our volunteers** means providing a chance to do hands-on human rights work and become advocates for human rights.

Join us for the next 40 years, and help us change the world for good.

Decades of Impact





YOU ARE INVITED TO A
PARTY IN THE PARK

PLEASE JOIN US!

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Waubun Picnic area in
Minnehaha Regional Park
4655 46th Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

The Party in the Park continues our 40th Anniversary Celebration and kicks off our Fall House Party Season. The party is for everyone.

Join us to connect with advocates for human rights, learn about pressing human rights issues and opportunities to stand up for human rights, and raise essential funds for the mission.

To RSVP, contact Cianna Holthaus at 612-746-4682
or cholthaus@advrights.org



Celebrating 40 Years of The Advocates

Honored to serve alongside
champions of human rights,
equality and social justice
around the world.

Deep Respect Proud Support

We are proud to sponsor the Human Rights Awards Dinner and the work of The Advocates for Human Rights.

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Congratulations on 40 years of human rights advocacy and protection around the world and in Minnesota!

Fredrikson

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Robins Kaplan LLP is proud to support The Advocates for Human Rights.

Our values align with its mission to implement international human rights standards that promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law.

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zealous advocates



DORSEY IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

We thank The Advocates for its work to represent asylum seekers, fight gender-based violence, and change systems and laws that cause human rights abuses.



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Shaping the future

Lathrop GPM is proud to support
The Advocates for Human Rights and
honors those who contribute to its
important mission.

Dean Eyler
612.632.3016
dean.eyler@lathropgpm.com
lathropgpm.com



Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner is proud to be a sponsor of The Advocates for Human Rights



Minneapolis | San Jose

A background image showing a dense collection of colorful handprints in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange) on a dark background.

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ADVOCATES
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & THEIR MISSION.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Pat Brenna, auctioneer | Bill Cameron, photographer
Anaid Plascencia, photographer | Thomson Reuters, printing
Bob Vaaler, videography
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Thank you to the more than 100 interns and work study students who helped us accomplish critical research and advocacy this year.

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Gretchen Piper
Marc Prokosch
Nancy Speer and Jim Shaver
Ellen & Jim van Iwaarden

SUPPORT THE NEXT 40 YEARS OF PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS WITH YOUR DONATION

- \$10,000** helps build coalitions to fight threats to democracy and human rights
- \$5,000** helps people find safety, become part of our community, and build our future together
- \$2,500** builds the capacity of human rights defenders to change laws and systems
- \$1,000** helps build new tools to respond rapidly to emerging community needs
- \$300** helps a student attend the Sankhu-Palubari Community School for one year
- \$100** helps engage the next generation in the human rights movement

Every gift of any amount helps bringing trained observers into court rooms, holding the justice system accountable, creating protocols to identify trafficking victims, abolishing the death penalty, stopping violence against women, advocating for human rights to be at the core of the legal system.



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