



Patricia (Pat) Gerrich, Esq.

Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program

Patricia (Pat) Gerrich has been the Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program for 24 years. She has a J.D. from Arizona State University and was admitted to practice in Arizona in 1983. The Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) is co-sponsored by Community Legal Services, the “legal aid” organization for 5 counties in Arizona, and the Maricopa County Bar Association. VLP was established in 1981 and provides pro bono opportunities and supports to more than 3,000 private lawyers who volunteer to provide civil legal services to people with low incomes in Maricopa County, to supplement the work of Community Legal Services staff, and assistance to non-profits that serve children or people with low incomes.

Before she became Director of VLP, Pat was Executive Director of The Arc of Arizona for 7 years and did legislative advocacy work on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities and supported 24 local organizations advocating for people with disabilities and their families. Prior to that, Pat was staff attorney for 3 ½ years with the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest (later the Arizona Center for Disability Law) and advocated for children and adults with developmental disabilities, people with mental health issues, vulnerable adults living in boarding homes, and homeless people. She assisted with the Arnold v. Sarn class action on behalf of 4,500 indigent seriously mentally ill people in Maricopa County.

Pat received a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin and B.A. in Psychology from Ripon College. She was honored in 1999 as the Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year by the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals and in 2001 as one of the 100 Women and Minority Lawyers in Arizona. In 2002, she received the Legal Access Award of the Arizona Chapter of the American Jewish Committee. She was recognized by MCBA in 2003 as the Robert R. Mills Member of the Year. In 2006, Pat received the State Bar of Arizona Sharon A. Fullmer Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award. In 2010, she received the first Justice for All Award from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. In 2017, Pat was recognized by the U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, with a Pro Bono Service Award.