

## VOLUNTEER LAWYER; LIFESAVER FOR THE ARTS

### *For artists, it's a lawyer to the rescue*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA - March 18, 2010** - Imagine you're a fashion designer whose entire line of clothing gets stolen; or a musician whose instruments are destroyed while in-flight; or the director of a children's ballet theatre company facing a legal matter.

"Get a lawyer!" you might think with a relieved eye-roll that you're not in the middle of any of these challenges.

But for the artists and the organizations that suddenly found themselves in these plights, they had to get a lawyer and he turned out to be Jeff Bates, Esq. Jeffrey Bates, Esq., shareholder at Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin and this year's Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (PVLA) Volunteer of the Year.

A musician before going to law school, Bates has been a PVLA volunteer for 20 years.

PVLA, a program of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, annually assists close to 500 artists and 120 cultural organizations throughout the Greater Philadelphia region, translating into an estimated \$1 million a year of pro bono service by PVLA attorneys.

And those volunteer lawyers often are lifesavers to the artists and arts organizations.

"Jeff's compassion and understanding comforted me and he went above and beyond to help," writes fashion designer Christine Phillips.

"I was overwhelmed and worried sick," recalls musician Elliot Savoy-Bell. "But Jeff was able to recover the costs of my instruments in full with just a few phone calls and letters."

Terri Lee, Director of Spirit in Motion Ballet Theater in Bucks County, puts her respect for Jeff in broader terms. "...the kindness and tack with which he communicated was amazing. In my opinion he changed everyone's lives; he opened our eyes to a new way of handing problems."

While Jeff Bates may not be in the running for a Man of the Year Award (yet), he'll be recognized on Tuesday, April 27 at the Arts & Business Council's Annual Awards Luncheon at the Pennsylvania Convention Center sponsored by PNC Arts Alive.

PNC Arts Alive is a five-year \$5 million grants initiative that supports the arts in the region, says Bill Mills, president of PNC Bank for Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

"The arts play an integral role in our region's economy and we are glad to support them through PNC Arts Alive and in particular through the Arts & Business Council's Awards Luncheon," Mills adds.

Nationally, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts organizations operate in 31 states.

**About Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia**

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, develops relationships between business and the arts for the mutual benefit of both and in support of the advancement of the Greater Philadelphia Region. For more information, visit [www.artsandbusinessphila.org](http://www.artsandbusinessphila.org) or call 215.790.3620.