

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – June 13, 2019

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## **Philadelphia City Council honors the Public Interest Law Center with a resolution marking the Law Center’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*The resolution, introduced by Councilmember Helen Gym, recognizes the organization for “deep-seeded, relentless commitment to pursuing racial justice and social equity”*

Philadelphia, PA—During its general session on Thursday, June 13, Philadelphia City Council introduced and passed a resolution honoring and recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Philadelphia’s Public Interest Law Center for its “pioneering civil rights litigation, which has advanced the civil, social and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region.”

The Law Center was founded in 1969 by Ned Wolf as the Philadelphia affiliate of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, who sought to champion civil rights and take on systemic racism through the courts. Today, the Law Center uses high-impact legal strategies to advance the civil, social and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region facing discrimination, inequality and poverty.

“For five decades, the Public Interest Law Center has been an innovative force for justice in the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and beyond,” [the resolution reads](#). “The Law Center focuses on securing the fundamental resources that people use to build their lives—safe housing, quality education, a voice at the ballot box, and more—for communities that face discrimination and exploitation. The Law Center’s policy, advocacy, and legal work has consistently pushed the boundaries of what justice can look like, and its work always follows the lead of communities that are the lifeblood of the Philadelphia region.”

The resolution describes a record of significant accomplishments throughout the Law Center’s history. These include, among others: the first successful case establishing that students with intellectual disabilities have a right to receive a public education, the nation’s first local “Right to Know” ordinance for toxic pollutants, and a successful 2018 challenge to partisan gerrymandering of Pennsylvania congressional districts.

“We were deeply honored to be recognized by Philadelphia City Council for 50 years of work challenging discrimination and poverty in our city and beyond,” said Jennifer Clarke, Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Center. “This work is the product of bold and persistent action over the past five decades by hundreds of people: current and former board members, employees, advocates, City Council, and most important, our clients. As we reflect on our history, we look forward to continuing to help Philadelphians stand up for their civil, social and economic rights for decades to come.”

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**The Public Interest Law Center** uses high-impact legal strategies to advance the civil, social, and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region facing discrimination, inequality, and poverty. We use litigation, community education, advocacy, and organizing to secure their access to fundamental resources and services in the areas of public education, housing, health care, employment, environmental justice and voting. For more information visit [www.pubintl.org](http://www.pubintl.org) or follow on Twitter [@PubIntLawCtr](https://twitter.com/PubIntLawCtr).