Schnader Receives Pennsylvania Youth Court Champion Award

05/05/2016

Schnader was honored to receive the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s inaugural Pennsylvania Youth Court Champion Award at a ceremony in Pittsburgh on May 3, 2016. Schnader partnered with Manchester Academic Charter School, a blue ribbon school serving grades K-8, on its youth court initiative.

MACS Principal Dennis Henderson, Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Coordinator David Trevaskis, and Chair of PBA’s Law-Related Education Committee Philip Yoon joined seventh and eighth grade students for the festivities. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice David Wecht and Duquesne Law Professor Tracey McCants Lewis spoke passionately about service and justice. A youth court demonstration was followed by awards to the eighth grade students who make up MACS youth court and the swearing in of the seventh graders as next year’s youth court team. Attorney Carl Cooper, a longtime supporter of restorative justice efforts at MACS, concluded the program with brief remarks.

Throughout the school year, Schnader attorneys and staff members met with students on several occasions to teach them about the U.S. Constitution and help them draft a “bill of rights” for their school. They also helped prepare students for a mock trial that was held on March 17 before the Honorable Joseph Williams of the Court of Common Pleas for Allegheny County. Schnader helped set up the school’s youth court, and trained the students on the various roles they would fulfill as part of youth court. Schnader also sponsored an 8th grade trip to Harrisburg where the students advocated to legislative leaders for restorative justice.

Schnader volunteers during the past year include: Karen Baillie, Ronald Cusano, Elliot Dater, Jay Evans, Megan Harmon, Alice Sacks Johnston, Jonathan Skowron, Keith Whitson, Robert Williams, and Roberta Wolfinger.

Pictured above (l. to r.) Alice Johnston, Dennis Henderson, Educational Director MACS Junior High, David Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator, Philip Yoon, Superior Court counsel and chair of PBA’s Law-Related Education Committee, PA Supreme Court Justice David Wecht, Tracey McCants Lewis, Professor Duquesne Law School, Keith Whitson, Karen Baillie, and Jay Evans.