



DOOR OPENER AWARD 2010
William J. Gallagher, Esq.

The Door Opener Award is bestowed upon a professional advisor who is an outstanding supporter of legacy philanthropy. By presenting and encouraging philanthropic initiatives to their clients, professional advisors (estate planning attorneys, investment managers, wealth managers and accountants) play a crucial role in propelling philanthropy in Chester County.

The Chester County Community Foundation is pleased to bestow its 2010 Door Opener Award to William J. Gallagher, Esq. of Chadds Ford. Bill is a partner of the law firm of MacElree Harvey, with offices in West Chester and Kennett Square.

Bill concentrates his practice in complex litigation, personal injury, professional malpractice, and family law. Prior to joining MacElree Harvey, he served as Public Defender of Chester County and as a Captain in the Marine Corps. Bill earned his BA in Government at La Salle University, and his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Bill is currently a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Service to the Public Committee and the Chester County Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee. He is a director of Legal Aid of Southern Pennsylvania and Community Impact Legal Services. He also serves on a Hearing Committee for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Bill is a former President of the Chester County Bar Association and past member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates.

Bill's community involvement extends to participation in Legal Aid and advocating for the American Cancer Society. His commitment to the community was recognized through receipt of the award for Outstanding Service to Cancer Control. He also was bestowed the Chester County Women's Commission Unsung Hero Award for the development of the Protection from Abuse Pro Bono Project. In addition, he has lectured to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the Chester County Bar Association.

Bill encourages colleagues and friends to become involved with charities, and he is clear that planned giving is an important consideration in the estate planning process.