

Meeting the Moment & Beyond for Pennsylvania Nonprofits PANO LEGAL CLEARINGHOUSE ADVISORY GROUP – CALL FOR MEMBERS

Background

Nonprofit organizations are critical components of civil society—providing supports and services that government cannot or will not provide. The Pennsylvania nonprofit sector and the communities they serve require immediate critical support to navigate today’s legal and political changes and uncertainty.

To meet this need, with generous support from the Pennsylvania philanthropic community, the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (“PANO”) is launching a statewide legal clearinghouse (the “Clearinghouse”) designed to train and build a sustainable network of lawyers committed to supporting the nonprofit community and providing expanded *pro bono* support for Pennsylvania nonprofits.

In partnership with Cheshire Law Group¹ and the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Pennsylvania Bar Institute (“PBA/PBI”), the Clearinghouse will deliver a series of CLE-accredited trainings for lawyers serving the legal needs of Pennsylvania nonprofit organizations on a *pro bono basis* or otherwise, and for lawyers who serve or are interested in serving on nonprofit boards. The Clearinghouse will also provide virtual legal education to 250+ organizations annually, operate a call center supported by an expanded statewide referral network, and pilot nonprofit-specific legal clinics—offering 1:1 *pro bono* counsel to 100+ organizations across at least four clinics. Finally, in support of this work, the Clearinghouse will maintain a practical library of Pennsylvania-specific legal tools and templates.

Legal Clearinghouse Advisory Group

We need you. To build a more sustainable legal support system, Commonwealth-wide, the Clearinghouse needs an advisory group of respected lawyers committed to improving the legal health of the nonprofit sector and to providing education and *pro bono* legal services. The members of this advisory group will: (i) assist in creating and reviewing training materials, template documents, and other content; (ii) serve as presenters and facilitators for virtual trainings and CLE; and (iii) otherwise provide input and guidance for the Clearinghouse.

Eligibility for Advisory Group Membership

Interested attorneys must be a member of the PBA Charitable Organizations Committee or a member of a nonprofit law, *pro bono* services, or public interest section or committee (or the equivalent) of any Pennsylvania County Bar Association—and must have demonstrated a commitment to serving the nonprofit sector in some capacity. Please fill out this [FORM](#) to indicate your interest in participating and your availability during the coming year for group work and virtual meetings.

¹ Cheshire Law Group is a 13-lawyer firm headquartered in Philadelphia, though it serves clients of all sizes throughout the Commonwealth. The Firm was awarded the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Solo and Small Firm Section Award in 2024. The Firm edited and published the 3rd edition of the nonprofit legal treatise *Stern’s Pennsylvania Nonprofit Law* and is the curator, editor, and publisher of www.PAnonprofitlaw.com, an educational resource for nonprofits and the professionals who serve them. Cheshire Law Group’s founder and Managing Attorney, Morgen Cheshire, serves on PANO’s Public Policy Committee, is a member of the Corporation Bureau Advisory Committee for Pennsylvania’s Department of State, and was named the 2024 *Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer of the Year* by the American Bar Association.