



**TAKEROOT
JUSTICE**

20 YEARS OF MOVEMENT BUILDING

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LAW,
RESEARCH, AND POLICY FOR ORGANIZING**

**A VIRTUAL EVENT
WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH, 2022
7PM - 8PM EST**

Welcome

Iliana Garcia, Supervising Paralegal/Advocacy Coordinator, TakeRoot Justice

Introductory Remarks

April Herms and Sadia Rahman, TakeRoot Interim Co-Directors

Special Guest Message

Jonathan Van Ness

Award Presentations

Ally for Justice Award presented by Keriann Pauls

Remarks by Emily Bronner, Sidley Austin LLP

Activist Award presented by Aline Gue

Accepted by Ninaj Raoul

Legacy Award presented by Mike Grinthal

Accepted by Susan Butler Plum

Community Leader Award presented by Irene Linares

Remarks by Randy Dillard and Lauren Springer,

Right to Counsel NYC Coalition

Staff Spotlight on Remote Work

Closing Remarks

Lee Bynum, TakeRoot Justice Board Member

Iliana Garcia, TakeRoot Justice

Breakout rooms to follow

About TakeRoot

TakeRoot Justice provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression. We employ a unique model of partnership with grassroots and community-based groups. Our partners take the lead in determining the priorities and goals for our work, and advance our understanding of justice.

We believe in a theory of change where short-term and individual successes help build the capacity and power of our partners, who in turn can have longer-term impact on policies, laws and systems that affect their communities. Our work has greater impact because it is done in connection with organizing, building power and leadership development.

Our Partners

We believe that community organizing should be at the center of any effort to create sustainable, systemic change. TakeRoot Justice has a long history of partnering with grassroots and community-based organizations that build leadership and power within New York City's low-income communities, particularly communities of color, immigrant communities and others who are traditionally excluded from policy-making.

Our Structure

Only true democracy will achieve the progressive change we need to end systemic oppression. We model our internal structure on anti-oppressive and democratic principles in order to create an environment that mirrors the progressive change we pursue through our work.



About Special Guest Jonathan Van Ness

Jonathan Van Ness is an Emmy-nominated television personality, New York Times best-selling author, podcaster, and hairstylist to the stars. He stars on Netflix's Emmy Award-winning reboot series "Queer Eye," and he is the host and executive producer of the Netflix series "Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness," based on Jonathan's popular podcast of the same name. In 2020, Jonathan launched JVN, a clean and sustainable haircare line that sees all beauty, serves all beauty, and honors the uniqueness in each of us.

Honorees

SIDLEY

Sidley Austin, LLP

Sidley comprises a diverse group of legal professionals from many cultures who are dedicated to teamwork, collaboration and superior client service. Forging enduring relationships with the business community, while remaining attuned to the dynamic legal landscape, they understand and work to fulfill the needs of our global clients. Since their founding in 1866, Sidley has cultivated a tradition of, and commitment to, pro bono service. As they have grown, so has the reach of their pro bono efforts. From Alabama to Arizona, Colombia to Madagascar, Sidley lawyers and staff devote more than 100,000 hours annually to serving those most in need. Their pro bono work has influenced the legality of Americans to live freely and proudly; protected the constitutional rights of prisoners, including the rights of inmates on death row; saved the lives of immigrants who fled their home countries seeking religious freedom; and lifted up women trying to make a better life for themselves and their families by starting businesses in developing countries.

Ninaj Raoul

Ninaj Raoul is a co-founder and Director at Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees (HWHR) in Brooklyn, New York, an organization founded in 1992 to respond to the human needs of Haitian refugees and immigrants in the U.S., fleeing persecution. Through education, community organizing, leadership development and collective action, she has been working with HWHR members to empower themselves as they struggle for social, economic and racial justice. Over the years, HWHR has conducted leadership and organizing trainings for adult literacy learners, to address the root causes of migration and developed brave culturally-grounded healing spaces to engage in survivor informed practices to address the impact of individual and community trauma. Her current work with HWHR involves local organizing and advocacy efforts for refugees, undocumented immigrants and survivors of violence, to build power and resist racist policies. Ninaj is the daughter of Haitian immigrants and she has often traveled to and from Haiti, where HWHR has worked in solidarity with women-run organizations that respond to manmade and natural disasters



Honorees

Susan Butler Plum



Susan Butler Plum was the former founding director and is now senior advisor and Trustee of the Skadden Foundation, which awards two-year grants to 28 public interest attorneys per year. The Foundation was established in April 1988 and has made grants to 934 attorneys. Prior to joining Skadden, Ms. Butler Plum was the director of the Botwinick-Wolfensohn Foundation and program director of the Booth Ferris Foundation. She also was the associate director for the Environmental Defense Fund. She is a graduate of the University of Miami. Among her board affiliations are trusteeships of the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation, and of the Community Opportunity Fund. Further board service includes member positions at Deaf Legal Advocacy Worldwide and Justice Labs, among others. In 2015 Ms. Butler Plum was selected as one of 50 inspiring Change Makers worldwide by the Harvard Law and International Development Society and the Harvard Women's Law Association.

Right to Counsel NYC Coalition



The Right to Counsel NYC Coalition is a tenant-led, broad-based coalition that formed in 2014 to disrupt Housing Court as a center of displacement and stop the eviction crisis that has threatened NYC families, neighborhoods and homes. The Coalition is made up of tenants, organizers, advocates, legal services organizations and more. Their work is rooted in principles of equity, dignity, humanity, diversity and justice. After a hard fought, 3 year grassroots campaign, led by this coalition New York became the first city in the nation to establish a Right to Counsel for tenants facing eviction. This campaign has inspired a movement across the country. They are building campaigns for an eviction-free NYC and ultimately for a right to housing. They are running direct action campaigns against NYC's worst evictors, changing the laws to stop evictions, supporting the development of passionate and zealous attorneys committed to tenant power, and expanding and strengthening Right to Counsel so that it extends to all tenants.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Visionary

Michele Burger
& Tom Cramer

The Skadden logo consists of the word "Skadden" in white serif font centered within a solid red rectangular box.

Movement Builder



Change Maker



Supporter

The M&T Bank logo features the text "M&T Bank" in a green, sans-serif font.The Green Thumb logo features the text "Green Thumb" in a green, sans-serif font, with a stylized green sunburst icon between the words.