

Patricia (Pat) J. Gerrich, Esq.
Director, Volunteer Lawyers Program

Patricia (Pat) Gerrich has been the Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program for 26 years. The Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) is co-sponsored by Community Legal Services, the “legal aid” organization for 5 counties in Arizona, and the Maricopa County Bar Association. VLP provides pro bono opportunities and training and support to nearly 3,000 private lawyers who volunteer their time to provide legal advice or representation to people with low incomes in Maricopa County, to supplement the work of legal aid staff. VLP volunteers help with civil legal issues such as consumer, bankruptcy, children’s issues, debt collection, domestic violence/family law, guardianship, home ownership, tenants’ rights, tort defense, and transactional assistance to non-profit organizations. VLP also collaborates with volunteer attorneys and community organizations to offer community clinics on juvenile law, family law, probate law, federal court cases, and medical-legal partnerships. Pat previously was Executive Director of The Arc of Arizona for 7 years and staff attorney for 3 ½ years for the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest. Pat received her J.D. from Arizona State University College of Law. In 2010, she received the first Justice for All Award from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Pat has been honored as the Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year by the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals and as one of the 100 Women and Minority Lawyers in Arizona. She also received the Legal Access Award from the Arizona Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Sharon A. Fullmer Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award from the State Bar of Arizona. She was inducted into the Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame in 2013 and honored by MCBA as the Public Attorney of the Year in 2018.