

**Brennan**  
**Legacy**  
**Awards**  
**Dinner**

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TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

# About the Brennan Center for Justice

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The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is a nonpartisan law and policy institute that seeks to reform, revitalize, and defend our country's systems of democracy and justice so they work for all.

For over 25 years, we have built a distinct model for our work: part think tank, part advocacy group, part cutting-edge communications hub. We start with rigorous research. We craft innovative policies. And we fight for them — in Congress and the states, in the courts, and in the court of public opinion.

Today, we are in a great fight for the future of constitutional democracy in the United States. At this pivotal moment, the Brennan Center has stepped forward to play a singular national role in the long-term drive for a more perfect union.

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## After three long years, we welcome friends to reunite and celebrate our continued fight for a just and free democracy.

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# Brennan Legacy Awards Dinner

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Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
583 Park Avenue, New York City

## Welcome

Robert Atkins, Co-Chair, Brennan Center Board; Partner, Paul, Weiss  
Troy McKenzie, Member, Brennan Center Board; Dean, NYU School of Law

## The Fight for American Democracy

Michael Waldman, President and CEO, Brennan Center

## Brennan Legacy Award Presentation

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

*Introduced by*

Sheena Meade, CEO, The Clean Slate Initiative

*Accepted by*

Stacey Friedman, Executive Vice President and General Counsel,  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Heather Higginbottom, Co-Head of Global Philanthropy and Head of Policy  
& Research for Corporate Responsibility, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

## Featured Speaker

Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., Manhattan District Attorney

## Featured Initiative: *Brennan en español*

Mireya "Mia" Navarro, Editor-in-Chief, *Brennan en español*  
Tamoia Calzadilla, Managing Editor, *Factchequeado*

## Brennan Legacy Award Presentation

Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State

*Introduced by*

Paul Tagliabue, Former Board Chair, RISE (Sports Initiative for Equality);  
NFL Commissioner, 1989–2006

# Dinner Sponsors

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*As of April 17, 2023*

# Brennan Legacy Award

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## Jocelyn Benson

For serving as a model for the nation by safeguarding every vote and every voice in her fierce protection of fair elections.



The Brennan Center is pleased to honor Jocelyn Benson, Michigan's Secretary of State, for her leadership in defense of voting and elections. As Michigan's top election official, she stands up for all Michigan voters and is a national symbol of American democracy in action.

After Secretary Benson's election in 2018, she put in place new policies to expand voting access for Michigan voters and improve how elections

are run. In 2020, she presided over record-breaking turnout despite the pandemic — all while keeping the election, and election officials, safe and secure. Indeed, the 2020 election was the most secure in American history.

All this required tremendous courage. In the face of the Big Lie of a stolen election, the former president called for her arrest and trial for treason. Death threats ensued. As she was putting up Christmas decorations with her six-year-old son, dozens of armed election deniers surrounded her home, demanding — in violent terms — that she reverse the state's election results.

Secretary Benson did not back down.

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**“I — along with thousands of others doing this work — will stand up every day in our job to protect all voters, regardless of how they voted or who they voted for.”**

Jocelyn Benson, before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Aug. 2022

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She and her office spearheaded efforts to combat misinformation. She instated a zero-tolerance policy for election interference at polling places. She fought lawsuits from those who claimed the contest was rigged. And she confirmed the election's integrity, including through more than 250 audits.

Following the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, Secretary Benson called on Congress to pass democracy reform legislation to protect voters, elections, and officials. She testified about the relentless harassment that she and other election officials have faced, helping to secure additional federal funding to protect officials. And in the lead-up to the 2022 midterms, she worked with officials across the political spectrum to ensure that voters and election workers were safe.

She also helped ensure fair representation for Michiganders. When she took office, voters had just passed a constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering through an independent citizens redistricting commission. She oversaw its implementation, which yielded fair maps in time for the midterms — creating some of the most competitive, responsive maps in the country.

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**“Full of integrity,  
she is a true leader in our nation.”**

President Joe Biden, presenting Jocelyn Benson with the Presidential Citizens Medal, Jan. 2023

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A graduate of Harvard Law School, Secretary Benson served as dean of Wayne State University Law School, the youngest woman in U.S. history to lead a top-100 accredited law school. Her book, *State Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process*, established her as a national expert on the office she would later hold. She has received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and the Presidential Citizens Medal for her work protecting democracy.

# Brennan Legacy Award

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## JPMorgan Chase

**For its leadership and commitment to advancing employment and economic opportunity — a “Second Chance” — for people with criminal backgrounds.**

One in three working-age adults has an arrest or conviction record. This leads to devastating barriers to employment and economic opportunity for an astounding number of Americans.

Policy experts increasingly recognize that employing people with criminal histories helps reduce recidivism, increases public safety, and builds stronger communities. Businesses have an important role to play.

The Brennan Center is honoring JPMorgan Chase for its commitment to fair chance employment and economic opportunities for people with criminal backgrounds. Through its “Second Chance” initiatives, the firm is advancing federal and state policy changes and running model *pro bono* clinics to enable eligible individuals to expunge their records.

The firm leads by example. In 2018, the firm made news for “banning the box” — removing all questions about criminal backgrounds from its job applications in the U.S. The firm also created a pipeline of potential employees through community-based hiring programs. The result: over the last three years, 10% of JPMorgan’s new hires in the U.S. have criminal backgrounds with no bearing on the roles they have filled.

Through its *PolicyCenter*, the firm advances evidence-based policy solutions for inclusive employment practices and has helped pass reforms:

- The Fair Hiring in Banking Act, a new federal law that opens doors to careers in financial services for people with records who were previously ineligible.
- Clean Slate automatic record clearing for eligible offenses in Michigan, Delaware, Connecticut, Virginia, New Jersey, and Colorado.
- The Fair Chance Act, a 2019 federal law that helps qualified workers with records compete for employment in federal agencies and with federal contractors.

Leveraging its deep ties within the business community, in 2021 the firm helped launch the Second Chance Business Coalition — more than 45 large companies that signed on to Second Chance hiring and advancement.

## Accepted By

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## Stacey Friedman

Stacey Friedman, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, JPMorgan Chase, is a champion of Second Chance efforts, including leading the firm’s legal team in working with policymakers to modernize industry hiring rules for people with records, organizing the legal community to support Clean Slate legislation in New York State, and encouraging the firm’s Legal Pro Bono team

to support expungement clinics in Chase community branches and facilities. As part of the firm’s \$30 billion commitment to reduce the racial wealth gap, she has also led the legal team in providing necessary legal support to implement low-cost banking products and services in underserved communities. Stacey is responsible for the firm’s exposure to legal risk across the globe. In this capacity, she advises on litigation and enforcement matters, products and services, and public policy. She is a member of the firm’s Operating Committee and serves as Executive Sponsor of the Office of LGBT+ Affairs. Previously, she was a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. Stacey currently serves on the board of the National Women’s Law Center. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and holds a J.D. from Duke University.



## Heather Higginbottom

As Co-Head of Global Philanthropy and Head of Policy & Research for Corporate Responsibility, Heather Higginbottom oversees the firm’s philanthropy, as well as the JPMorgan Chase Institute and *PolicyCenter*. She led the development of the firm’s Second Chance policy agenda. Previously, she served as Chief Operating Officer of CARE USA and held senior positions at

the State Department, in the White House, and on Capitol Hill. She serves on the boards of the Urban Institute, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, and the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester and George Washington University.

## Award Presenters

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### Sheena Meade

As CEO of the Clean Slate Initiative, Sheena Meade works to empower the disenfranchised through automating and expanding access to record relief. Previously, she helped found the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition as its first Organizing Director — and simultaneously took on the role of Senior Advisor to Florida’s Second Chances Amendment 4 Campaign to return voting rights to

people experiencing felony disenfranchisement. The campaign was a success, with Florida voters passing Amendment 4 in 2018, restoring voting rights to 1.4 million people. Sheena serves on the board of the Public Welfare Foundation, the Policing Project at NYU School of Law, Live Free USA, and the Florida Coalition on Black Civic Engagement. Sheena’s own journey epitomizes resilience: from teenage mom and survivor of domestic violence to acclaimed executive, proud mother of five children, and half of one of America’s most dynamic power couples with her husband, Desmond Meade.



### Paul Tagliabue

Paul Tagliabue has had a varied career for more than five decades, starting in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the late 1960s and extending to the law, sports, business, higher education, and nonprofit advocacy and service organizations. From 1969–1989, Paul worked at Covington & Burling LLP in a litigation, advisory, and legislative practice for domestic

and international clients. After twenty years at Covington, he was the Commissioner of the NFL from 1989–2006. He then served on the Georgetown University Board of Directors for twelve years, with six years as Chair. Until recently, he was Co-Chair of the Board of RISE, a coalition of professional and amateur sports organizations addressing issues of racism, conflict, and division in our democracy. Paul returned to Covington in 2007 and is now engaged in *pro bono* and volunteer activities. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Paul attended Georgetown University on an athletic scholarship and received his J.D. from NYU School of Law.

## Featured Speakers

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### Alvin L. Bragg, Jr.

Prior to his election as Manhattan’s 37th District Attorney, Alvin Bragg spent two decades fighting to make New York’s communities safer and its criminal justice system fairer. D.A. Bragg served as an Assistant Attorney General at the New York State Attorney General’s Office and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. In these roles, he handled a wide array of criminal

cases. From 2013–2018, he served in several leadership roles at the New York State Attorney General’s Office. He ended his service there as the Chief Deputy Attorney General, overseeing more than 1,500 people, a budget of \$225 million, and the office’s criminal and civil investigations and litigation. D.A. Bragg earned his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He clerked for Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Jr. in the Southern District of New York and was a Visiting Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Racial Justice Project at New York Law School.



### Michael Waldman

Michael Waldman is President and CEO of the Brennan Center. He has led the Center since 2005. Michael was a member of the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States in 2021. He was director of speechwriting for President Bill Clinton from 1995–1999. In this role, he was responsible for writing or editing nearly two thousand speeches,

including four State of the Union and two inaugural addresses. Before that, he served as Special Assistant to the President for Policy Coordination from 1993–1995. Michael is the author of the forthcoming book *The Supermajority: How the Supreme Court Divided America* (Simon & Schuster, June 6, 2023). He is also the author of several other leading books on issues of American democracy, including *The Fight to Vote* (2016, reissued 2022) and *The Second Amendment: A Biography* (2014), among others. Michael is a graduate of Columbia College and NYU School of Law.

# Speakers

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## Robert Atkins

Bob Atkins is Co-Chair of the Board of the Brennan Center. He is also a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where he has been a litigator and trial lawyer for 35 years. He is a former co-chair of the firm's Litigation Department, a former member of the Management Committee, and the current chair of the legal ethics committee. Bob has twice been

named *The American Lawyer's* "Litigator of the Week," first for his successful trial and appellate work in an antitrust and consumer deception case, and more recently for winning a trade secrets and noncompetition trial. He has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the "Best Lawyers" in U.S. antitrust litigation and most recently as one of *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Litigators in America." In addition to his commercial practice, he litigates voting rights cases and constitutional lawsuits involving gerrymandering, one-person/one-vote, and vote suppression. Bob is a graduate of Columbia College and NYU School of Law.



## Tamoa Calzadilla

Tamoa Calzadilla is a seasoned journalist and a leading voice in the fight against misinformation affecting Spanish speakers. She is the Managing Editor of *Factchequeado*, an initiative to combat misinformation within Hispanic and Latino communities in the U.S. Her work has been widely recognized, including by *Forbes.es*, which in 2022 named her one of the 100 most creative

individuals in the business world. Previously, Tamoa led elDetector, the fact-checking platform of *Univision News*. In this role, she oversaw live fact-checking coverage for digital and TV, as well as partnerships with media and other organizations. Tamoa was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for her collaborative work #FinCenfiles on corrupt Venezuelans and international banks, led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. She was also part of the research team for the Panama Papers. She has received the Special Mention of the Maria Moors Cabot Award from Columbia University and the Gabriel García Márquez Award, among other recognitions.



## Troy McKenzie

Troy McKenzie is Dean and Cecelia Goetz Professor of Law at NYU School of Law and a Member of the Brennan Center's Board. His research and teaching interests include bankruptcy, civil procedure, complex litigation, and the federal courts. Troy is a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference and the Council of the American Law Institute. Previously, he

served, by appointment of the Chief Justice, as a reporter to the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States. From 2015–2017, he took a leave of absence from NYU to serve in the U.S. Department of Justice as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. Prior to joining NYU in 2007, he was a litigation associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. He served as a law clerk to Judge Pierre N. Leval of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court. Troy earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a J.D. from NYU School of Law.



## Mireya "Mia" Navarro

Mia Navarro is Editor-in-Chief of *Brennan en español*. She joined the Brennan Center in 2018 as a senior media strategist after a 27-year career as a staff writer at the *New York Times*. At the *Times*, she covered a wide range of social justice subjects in the United States and Latin America and worked as a national correspondent in Los Angeles and Miami, where she was bureau chief.

She was part of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 for the series "How Race is Lived in America." Mia has served as Executive Director of the Community Reporting Alliance, a nonprofit that supports local newspapers published out of libraries by high school students. She has also taught journalism as an adjunct professor at Columbia University, the City University of New York, and the New School. She is the author of two nonfiction books: *Stepdog*, a humorous memoir about her blended family, and *Green Wedding*, about environmentally sound celebrations.



# Featured Initiatives

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## Democracy at Stake in the Supreme Court

The legal community rallied in a key constitutional law case: *Moore v. Harper*, argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in December. The case considered the radical “independent state legislature theory.” The claim is that the Constitution gives state legislatures exclusive power over federal elections — without checks and balances from state courts, state constitutions, governors, and even voters. Conservative former judge J. Michael Luttig called it “the most important case for American democracy” in two centuries.

The Brennan Center for Justice co-coordinated a powerful, persuasive *amicus* brief campaign. Dozens of the nation’s top law firms worked *pro bono*. They represented state and local election officials from both parties. Federal lawmakers. Top historians. Law professors and political scientists. Civil rights groups and good government advocates. And many others. All told, they submitted 50 *amicus* briefs — overwhelming legal firepower to oppose a constitutional power grab.

The Center put significant resources into rebutting this claim. Our scholarship showed the flimsy basis for the argument. We honed compelling messages through polling and focus groups; convened historians; and briefed dozens of allied organizations, lawmakers, and journalists. This work shifted public and media narratives around the case: Our written and video explainers generated 20 million social media impressions. In the final stretch, we were cited in 65% of news stories about the case — including nearly 1,200 times in a single week. Our own brief detailed the chaos that would ensue due to upended state election laws if the Court ruled unwisely. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson cited it from the bench.

By the time the Court heard oral arguments in late 2022, the Justices appeared to reject the most extreme points, and our side seemed to have effectively closed off the most egregious outcomes.

We now await a decision. In an unexpected twist, the Court may find it moot — the North Carolina Supreme Court may bless the gerrymander that had been struck down in the original case. But this fringe idea will not go away. The Justices will no doubt hear another version of the same argument in a future case. We stand ready to alert the public and mobilize the legal community for action.

We extend special thanks to the following leaders who joined us and partners to fight the “independent state legislature theory” in the U.S. Supreme Court:

Brown Rudnick LLP	Mayer Brown LLP
Caplin & Drysdale	McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	O’Melveny & Myers LLP
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Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP	Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP
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Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC	Reed Smith LLP
Gilbert LLP	Stris & Maher LLP
Holwell Shuster & Goldberg LLP	Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick PLLC	Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
León Cosgrove LLP	
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP	

## *Brennan en español*

We launched *Brennan en español* to connect with the more than 40 million Spanish speakers in the United States. Over the last year, the site has become a vital resource for the Spanish-speaking and bilingual public, media, and organizations to help dispel misinformation about voting, elections, and other issues related to our democracy and justice system. Along with translated Brennan Center research and analysis, our experts have released explainers specifically for Spanish-language and Latino audiences to underscore the threats to their fair and equal representation as their population grows. *Brennan en español* is bolstered through new partnerships with leaders in the Latino media and advocacy community, such as Hispanic Federation and *Univision News*, collaborating with them on content for *Brennan en español*’s site at [brennancenter.org/es](https://brennancenter.org/es), public education campaigns, and live events in Spanish.



# Brennan Legacy Award Past Honorees

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Since 2001, the Brennan Center has presented the Legacy Award to leaders and organizations for advancing critical democracy and justice initiatives.

## 2021

Kenneth I. Chenault  
Kenneth C. Frazier  
More Than a Vote  
Darren Walker

## 2019

Katie Fahey  
Desmond Meade  
Levi Strauss & Co.  
Patagonia

## 2018

Preet Bharara  
Christine Todd Whitman  
Salesforce

## 2017

Dan Schulman  
Rev. Dr. William Joseph Barber II

## 2016

Sandra Phillips Rogers  
Christopher Jackson

## 2015

Kimberley D. Harris

## 2014

Brad Smith  
Zachary W. Carter

## 2013

Sheri McCoy  
Bill Moyers  
Bryan Stevenson

## 2012

Michael S. Solender  
Judith S. Kaye

## 2011

Robert M. Morgenthau  
Jane C. Sherburne

## 2010

Cory A. Booker  
Indra C. Nooyi

## 2009

Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Nicole Seligman

## 2008

Lewis B. Cullman  
Representative Donna F. Edwards  
Jay S. Fishman

## 2007

Representative John Conyers, Jr.  
Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.  
Neal S. Wolin

## 2006

Richard Cotton  
Representative John Lewis

## 2005

Bertha Lewis  
Anna Deavere Smith  
Daniel Vasella, M.D.

## 2004

Michael S. Helfer  
Antonia Hernández  
Representative José E. Serrano

## 2003

Elaine R. Jones  
Marty Lipton

## 2002

Geoffrey Canada  
Martin Sheen  
UBS PaineWebber, Inc.

## 2001

Warren Beatty  
Senator John McCain  
Deval L. Patrick  
Robert E. Rubin

## Pro Bono Partners

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Our work depends on the support of our *pro bono* partners, who fight alongside us for democracy, justice, and the rule of law.

We are grateful to the following law firms for their support in recent years:

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Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP	Paul Hastings LLP
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
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Jenner & Block LLP	
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### Remembering Nancy Brennan

Nancy Brennan, daughter of our namesake, Justice Brennan, and dedicated Board Member, was critical to building our organization into the national force it has become. She was known for her kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to helping those in need. As an advocate and nonprofit professional, Nancy fought tirelessly to protect the rights of immigrants, refugees, women, and people of color. She was director of the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston, worked at Common Cause and the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, raised funds for criminal justice work in Baltimore, and more. Her decades of service with us were a direct link to the life and work of her father — her chance to pay tribute to him. We will be forever grateful for her contributions and pledge to carry on her legacy as we do her father's.

# Special Thanks

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The Brennan Center extends special thanks to the following people and organizations for making this evening possible:

Nausheen Ansari  
Ana Sofia Barrios  
Nell Compton  
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Paulette Hodge  
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Clark Jones Photography  
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We would also like to thank Goodwin Procter LLP, Kramer Levin, Chris and Linda Mayer, National Football League, Pfizer, Gerald Rosenfeld and Judith Zarin, and Ropes & Gray LLP for their support.

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