

Show Gratitude for Eric Avildsen with a Contribution to the VBF Today

Turnover among Vermont nonprofit executives, seems high as of late, with Deborah Bailey of the Vermont Bar Foundation retiring in late 2021, Teri Corsones of the VBA moving on to the Vermont Supreme Court, and now another highly respected and accomplished executive director, Eric Avildsen with Vermont Legal Aid, will retire.

Deborah Bailey commented on Eric's retirement, saying, "It was a pleasure to work with Eric during my time as executive director of the Vermont Bar Foundation. His determination and commitment to equal access to justice aided and improved the lives of many of Vermont's most vulnerable individuals and families. He made a difference, and I hope you will consider donating to the VBF in Eric's honor. That, I believe would be meaningful to Eric and to the VBF."

In 1988, Eric Avildsen took over the reins of VLA, where he has since gained renown during a 33-year stint as executive director. Under his direction, the size of the VLA staff and the breadth of its legal work has increased significantly. VLA now has a staff of 89, organized into 11 projects and has an annual budget of more than \$9.5 million.

This October will be extra special for both the Vermont Bar Foundation, as we celebrate our 40th year anniversary, and for Vermont Legal Aid, as it bids farewell to Eric after an impressive record of helping to improve access to justice for all Vermonters.

The Vermont Bar Foundation is proud to have worked with and to have supported VLA over the years. Our most recent collaboration included us fundraising for the Poverty Law Fellowship. Our previous fellow, Emily Kenyon, was located at Vermont Legal Aid. We are excited to continue our collaboration with Wendy Morgan as VLA's interim executive director.

To honor and show our gratitude for Eric Avildsen, we are asking attorneys, judges, justices, and anyone who has witnessed the amazing work he has done to improve access to justice to donate to the Vermont Bar Foundation on Eric's behalf. The work of improving access to justice has progressed greatly since 1988, but we still have work to do.

You can donate at vtbarfoundation.org. Please indicate you are donating on Eric's behalf. All donors, including those who give to the VBF on behalf of Eric Avildsen, will be recognized in an upcoming VBF annual report.

You can also mail a check to: Vermont Bar Foundation, PO Box 1170, Montpelier, VT 05601-1170. In the memo, please indicate that you are donating to the VBF on behalf of Eric Avildsen.

Thank you, Eric Avildsen, for your amazing work and we wish you the best in your life's next chapter.