

LEGAL AID OF MARIN PRESENTS  
**7TH ANNUAL JAM FOR JUSTICE**  
JUNE 18, 2020



**EVENING PROGRAM**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Dave Winnett

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S WELCOME**

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Jonathan Gertler

**OUR CLIENTS**

Vivian Alatorre, Operations Manager

**CALL FOR SUPPORT**

Senator Mike McGuire

**JUSTICE AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

**Felecia Gaston and The Phoenix Project**  
presented by Lucie Hollingsworth, Sr. Staff Attorney

**Hon. Paul Haakenson**  
presented by Jessica Karner, Board Vice President

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

Tom Peters, Ph.D.  
President and CEO, Marin Community Foundation

# OUR AWARDEES

## Felecia Gaston and Phoenix Project, a program of Performing Stars, Partner of Justice

Felecia Gaston—This native of Georgia-turned-Marinite for the past several decades takes great pride in the day of her birth—December 1, 1955, the moment in history that Rosa Parks, a brave black woman in Montgomery, Alabama, defied tradition and decades of segregation by refusing to give up her seat in the colored section of a bus to a white person when the white section was full.

In 1990, Felecia Gaston founded Performing Stars of Marin, now a County institution that works with Marin’s underserved youth to build pride, character, discipline and self-esteem through exposure to and participation in the enrichment programs. Among her many other accomplishments, Felecia spearheaded the development of the Phoenix Project of Marin in 2009. Phoenix is a vibrant community connections center in the heart of Marin City public housing.



This is the vulnerable heart of our Marin City village, and the Phoenix Project offers a wide range of compassionate, preventative, intervention-centered, results-oriented programs to meet the obstacles facing Marin City’s challenged adults. It is due to Felecia’s inspiration, enthusiasm and persistence that this project has acquired so many partners, among them Marin Housing Authority, Marin County Probation Department, Marin County Public Defender’s Office, the Marin County Sheriff’s Department, Marin County District Attorney’s Office, Marin City Community Development Corporation, Legal Aid of Marin, Marin County Board of Supervisors and the Marin Community Foundation and others, and gained so much support

from the community. Marin Probation Department statistics show a dramatic drop in juvenile and adult residents on probation since the inception of the program.

Her awards include the Ruby Award sponsored by the Soroptimist International of Marin County (2018); Association of Fundraising Professional Vineyard Awards (2014); KPIX-Channel 5’s Jefferson Award (2006), Marin Women’s Hall of Fame (1999); Daisy Award – Girls Scouts of America (1990); Marin Human Rights Commission – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award (2002); and the Bank of America Business Award (1973). She also has been featured on television in ABC7 Salutes by Cheryl Jennings, Anchor, KGO-TV (2006) and the Hallmark Channel-New Morning Television (2006). In 2015, Felecia was presented with recognition into the House of Representatives Congressional Record by the Honorable Jared Huffman.

## Paul Haakenson, Beacon of Justice

The Honorable Paul Haakenson has for years been a dedicated supporter of Legal Aid of Marin, both personally and through the good offices of the Marin County Superior Court. It sounds like a cliché, but Judge Haakenson truly has been tireless and beyond generous in giving his time, wisdom, advice, consistent public support, and even meaningful financial sponsorship of our mission.

Yes, he is funny, and yes, he enjoys the reputation of being a fair and brilliant judge; but to Legal Aid of Marin, he exemplifies what it means for the members of our community who are in a position to help those who can’t help themselves to show up, consistently and with inspiring energy.



# OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

## Senator Mike McGuire, California District 2

Senator Mike McGuire is a third generation Northern Californian, whose family farmed prunes and grapes in the Alexander Valley for nearly a half century. Raised by his mom and grandma, Mike worked his way through high school and college and enjoyed a career in the radio and television industries.

Mike was first elected to the Healdsburg School Board when he was 19. As one of Northern California's youngest school board presidents, he led successful efforts to rebuild local decaying schools.



In 2004, Mike was elected to the Healdsburg City Council where he was the city's youngest mayor and was instrumental in creating one of the most successful local economies and stable municipal budgets in the region.

In 2010—during the depth of the recession—Mike was elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. He helped lead efforts that turned years of deficits into a multi-million dollar surplus and brought forward the county's economic recovery and jobs plan that made Sonoma County one of top counties in job growth in California.

Mike has led efforts that are investing historic levels—\$160 million—in local roads, bridges and highways. He has been a champion for strong public schools, including co-founding the Career Technology Education Foundation that has invested over \$1 million in career training classes in local high schools.

Mike has always been a tireless advocate for our environment. He has helped protect and preserve tens of thousands of acres of open space, watersheds and coast and he successfully fought to keep our regional and state parks open to the public.

Mike attended Santa Rosa Junior College and graduated from Sonoma State University. He is married to local high school teacher and middle school assistant-principal, Erika McGuire. Erika and Mike live in Healdsburg.

## Dr. Tom Peters, President and CEO of Marin Community Foundation

Dr. Peters is a leading national voice for community philanthropy, advocating and facilitating the dedication of private resources for the public good. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Peters had a 24-year career as a county public health official. He served in the San Francisco Department of Public Health from 1974-1990, including eight years as Chief of Staff, and was Director of the Marin County Health & Human Services Department from 1991-1998.



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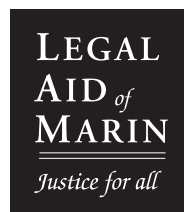
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## CONTACT INFO

To make a donation, please call Vivian Alatorre at (415) 492-0230, ext. 101 or email [valatorre@legalaidmarin.org](mailto:valatorre@legalaidmarin.org).

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