

## Sharon López, Past President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Joins PLSE Board of Directors

**November 29, 2019** – Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) announced today that Sharon R. López has been unanimously elected to its Board of Directors. López served as President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 2017-2018 – the first Latina and previous fulltime legal services attorney ever to serve in that leadership role – and was involved in presenting PLSE the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation’s Louis J. Goffman Award for outstanding pro bono (volunteer) service in May 2017.

“We are greatly honored that Sharon is joining us,” said Ryan Allen Hancock, chair of the PLSE Board of Directors. “Her record of service to the cause of equal justice under law is long, deep and diverse. She gives us immediate credibility with community-based organizations with which we hope to partner in attacking the enormous, intergenerational damage caused families by criminal records. But even more than that, the experience and connections Sharon made as the statewide leader of the legal profession, and the high regard in which she is held by all, gives us a whole new level of visibility and access to opinion leaders and concerned citizens in every part of the state.”

A resident of Philadelphia, López is a founder and the managing partner of her Lancaster-based law firm, Triquetra Law, where she represents workers and plaintiffs in employment law, discrimination and police misconduct cases. She recently served as special counsel for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, and prosecuted discrimination complaints before the Commission at public hearings. She is a graduate of the Widener University School of Law, which awarded her its Alumni Outstanding Service Award for her work in promoting diversity and mentoring law students and new lawyers.

“PLSE is very special to me,” López said. “I know and respect its founders. I am awestruck by what it has achieved with a very small staff. I have seen the new hope and confidence it creates in the lives of its clients. And I am eager to help it expand its reach across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” “This is a unique moment in time,” she continued, “with our Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General all committed to making pardons a realistic opportunity for tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians who have turned their lives around and deserve a second chance. I am eager to help PLSE seize that moment, and make Pennsylvania a national leader in providing restorative justice.”

**ABOUT PLSE:** PLSE provides free legal representation to low income residents of Philadelphia whose criminal records are holding them back from achieving their potential as productive, contributing citizens. The services include seeking expungements in criminal court and pardons from the Governor, educating elected and community leaders, creating community-based Pardon Hubs, and empowering under-resourced communities to seek a greater voice and needed systemic reforms. PLSE is a recipient of the 2018-2019 Barra Award as an Exemplary Non-Profit Organization.