

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

***WHEREAS**, the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh has chosen to honor the Abolitionist Law Center as a recipient of the 2014 Racial Justice Award, an annual tribute to leaders who promote equality in society; and*

***WHEREAS**, founded in February 2013, the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC) is a public interest law firm inspired by the struggle of political prisoners, and organized for the purpose of abolishing class and race-based mass incarceration in the United States; and*

***WHEREAS**, the ALC engages in litigation on behalf of people whose human rights have been violated in prison, produces educational programs to inform the public about the evils of mass incarceration, and works to develop a mass movement against the American penal system by building alliances and nurturing solidarity across social divisions; and*

***WHEREAS**, to date, the ALC has filed three lawsuits over the illegal use of solitary confinement and censorship by the PA Department of Corrections; the organization is currently preparing a fourth lawsuit, and has recently announced the publication of its preliminary report, "No Escape: Exposure to Toxic Coal Waste at State Correctional Institution Fayette;" and*

***WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is fortunate to have the leadership and dedication that the ALC brings to our region and is grateful for its work to create an equal society for all.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate the Abolitionist Law Center on receiving the 2014 Racial Justice Award and thank the organization for its commitment to promoting equality within our community.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.*

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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*Rich Fitzgerald*