

Pro Bono News

Empire State Council® Edition Vol. 24 No. 2

Greetings!



Herron Arthur*

Congratulations to the 2013 Empire State Council®! If you are not already involved in pro bono activities, the generous pro bono contributions described in this issue will inspire you to

join your colleagues in doing the public good.

Finding a pro bono project that suits your interests, needs, and skill set may be easier than you think. Not every pro bono matter requires a long term time commitment. Time-limited projects assisting unrepresented litigants are available and include attorney-for-the-day programs or brief advice and referral clinics. Not a litigator? You don't have to be. Volunteer to explain court forms or assist a self-help litigant fill out a petition. On the other hand, if you desire something more challenging that requires a greater time commitment, perhaps an appeal or a trial is just right for you.

Regardless of your preference, first thing you have to do is get started.

Getting Started - Where to Look?

Bar Associations

The New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar Association, Volunteers of Legal Services and Pro Bono Net jointly sponsor the online Pro Bono Opportunities Guide for

Lawyers in New York State at www.nysba.org/PBNET. The easy-to-use guide can be searched by the county where the attorney wishes to do pro bono or by the substantive law area in which the volunteer wishes to serve.

The New York State Bar Association has a number of Committees and Sections which sponsor pro bono opportunities. For example, the Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, in collaboration with The Legal Project and the Rural Law Center, operate a pro bono appeals program in the Third and Fourth Departments. The appeals program is designed to assist persons of modest means who do not qualify for assigned appellate counsel whether they are taking or responding to an appeal. Preference is given to cases which may have a broad impact and involve the essentials of life, such as Family Court matters, education cases, family stability, health, housing, personal safety, public benefits, and subsistence income. For more information on the Appellate Pro Bono Project, go to: www.nysba.org/probonoappeals.

Some of the larger county bar associations, such as the New York City, Nassau/Suffolk, Westchester, Albany, Onondaga, Monroe and Erie County bars, also offer a diverse range of pro bono opportunities in areas such as veterans benefits, eviction defense, debtor/creditor projects, and mortgage foreclosure advise clinics. Don't be discouraged if these are not your usual areas of practice because training is available. Another added benefit is that your pro bono work may qualify you to earn CLE credit. For more information about CLE credit and pro bono go to www.nycourts.gov.

Legal services programs that serve low-income persons

Civil legal services programs across the state not only welcome volunteers but frequently offer free CLE training programs in core poverty law topics to attorneys who promise to accept a pre-screened case referral. The Association regularly co-sponsors MCLE pro bono recruitment programs in the Capital District Region with local legal services providers in areas of domestic violence, landlord tenant cases, bankruptcy, LGBTQ issues, and a host of other topics. The Capital District Region encompasses the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts.

To identify legal services providers in your area, visit www.LawHelpNY.org. This site can be searched by county and or subject matter and will provide a brief description of the legal services provided by the program.

State Court Volunteer Attorney Programs

Under the supervision of court staff, volunteer attorneys can spend just a few hours, a full day or part of a day in a courthouse providing brief legal advice and assistance to self-represented litigants in consumer debt cases, family matters (e.g., custody, visitation and child support), landlord-tenant cases, matrimonials, and uncontested divorce. The court system will provide free training with CLE credits. For more information on court sponsored volunteer attorney program go to www.nycourts.gov.

This brief listing of potential opportunities is not exclusive. If you don't find something that interests you, perhaps we can be of assistance. Contact the Department of Pro Bono Affairs at probono@nysba.org.

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An asterisk appears next to the name of NYSBA members who contributed to writing an article or who worked on one of the many diverse legal projects highlighted in this issue.

Pro Bono: There Will Never Be a Time When There is Not a Need

Gayle T. Murphy*, Pro Bono Coordinator, Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project is proud to honor Joshua Dubs* as a member of the class of 2013 Empire State Counsel. Since April 2, 2009, Josh has represented over 162 clients for VLP, logging over 154 total pro bono hours.

A particularly meaningful case involved drafting a will for a dying patient at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Josh got the call from VLP about a client needing a will, fast. Without hesitation, Josh took the case and headed directly to the hospital to meet with the client. Later that same day Josh returned with another attorney to have the client execute the will. Two weeks later the client died. Josh said this case gave him pause because, "I was able to give the client some measure of security in his final days, knowing that his affairs were all taken care of."

Josh absolutely recommends volunteering. "There will never be a time when there is not a need. There are always people without money who people with money try to take advantage of. These people always need someone to help." Josh says his pro bono service is a small contribution to help those who need it most but who can afford it least to make sure their legal needs are met.

Josh is always ready to answer the call from Chris Biggie, VLP's volunteer coordinator. He handles name changes, prepares wills and represents tort defendants. He regularly represents clients in the Attorney of the Morning eviction defense program at Buffalo City Court.

Josh recommends volunteering at the AOM program for younger attorneys. The many benefits include skill building and networking, "It's great

practical experience. You are working with the same people on a regular basis. I was able to develop a good rapport with the judges and attorneys. I even met my current landlord (who is also my client) through my AOM volunteering."

According to Josh, it's easy to volunteer for VLP, "When called, I'm there." Josh accepts cases that are part of his skill set and something he is good at. He also takes on matters that place him in unfamiliar legal territory because VLP, "is willing to hold your hand as much as you need it. Greg Stewart, VLP's supervising attorney, was there every step of the way for me."

Joshua Dubs can discuss at length the positive effect volunteering for VLP has on his private law practice. He also is well aware of the positive impact his pro bono legal services have for VLP's vulnerable clients. When asked why he volunteers his time and skills to VLP, Josh simply states, "At the end of the day, I do this to make a difference."

"To me, having a law degree and license to practice is the functional equivalent of having a superpower: I have the power and the know-how to do something many Americans do not. And with all superpowers come great responsibility. For lawyers, that responsibility comes in the form of helping those who need it the most, but can afford it the least. Our entire justice system is dependent on a legal community not beholden only to those who can afford to pay us lavishly for our work. I use my superpower to help those who need it, and by doing so I give back to the justice system which gave me my career."



Joshua E. Dubs – 53.3 Pro Bono Hours
Law Office of Joshua Dubs PLLC

“To me, having a law degree and license to practice is the functional equivalent of having a superpower: I have the power and the know-how to do something many Americans do not. And with all superpowers come great responsibility. For lawyers, that responsibility comes in the form of helping those who need it the most, but can afford it the least. Our entire justice system is dependent on a legal community not beholden only to those who can afford to pay us lavishly for our work. I use my superpower to help those who need it, and by doing so I give back to the justice system which gave me my career.”

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An Asylum Case Built on Trust

Alison Sclater, Director, Pro Bono & Volunteer Department, New York Legal Assistance Group

Esther fled her West African home country in 2008 after being forced to marry a polygamous older man who raped and beat her repeatedly in the days following their marriage, and threatened to kill her if she did not accept the marriage. After being hospitalized for her injuries, she went to the police, who slapped her and sent her away. The next day they came to arrest her under false charges of theft. She escaped by jumping out a window just as the police broke down her door.

Esther found her way to New York City. In 2009 she was admitted to the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, a treatment center that provides medical, mental health and social services to victims of trauma and abuse. Bellevue referred her to NYLAG’s clinic for asylum seekers, run by attorney Cecelia Volk, who immediately confirmed that Esther was a good candidate for pro bono representation.

DLA Piper took on the case in November 2010 under the supervision of partner Gail Rodgers, who has represented numerous asylum clients and supervises many teams of associates in asylum cases. In 2012, Shanai Watson*, then a first-year associate, was tapped

to join Esther’s team. It was Shanai’s first taste of asylum work, but not of pro bono representation. At the time she was a DLA Piper Krantz Pro Bono Fellow; by the end of the year she had logged more than 2,100 hours of pro bono work.

“I came to DLA Piper aware of the fact that too many people cannot afford an attorney. During the fellowship year I did nothing but pro bono – all types of work. And that really launched me,” said Shanai. “As one of the lucky ones who got to become a lawyer, I want to help people fight back. Pro bono will always be part of my practice.”

Esther’s case was particularly challenging. In her initial interview, which she attended on her own, an asylum officer had determined that her story lacked credibility. This was due to an interpreter who did not speak French in her native dialect. Also, not realizing when she entered the US that she was eligible, it appeared she had missed the one-year deadline for applying for asylum. But even more important, Esther found it extremely difficult to talk about the persecution she had suffered, even to her lawyer.

“She did not want to tell her story - to provide the detailed information that I needed to submit a brief and to prepare her to testify in immigration court,” said Shanai. “Because she was so traumatized, she just wanted to gloss over the details. My biggest challenge was to help her to get comfortable enough to talk about what had happened.”

Over the next year and a half, the two women and other members of the team would spend countless hours together, often meeting several times a week.

In addition, Esther met regularly with a psychologist to help her deal with the emotions – including thoughts of suicide – that came with reliving her ordeal. Gradually, she began to open up and talk about what she had endured, and what she feared would happen if she were forced to go home.

Shanai’s legal brief included research on the background and cultural conditions in Esther’s home country, where women and girls are victims of discrimination, forced marriage, torture and female genital mutilation. She secured medical records and affidavits from

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Esther's friends, attesting to her mistreatment. Shanai prepped her for cross examination, a daunting experience for anyone but especially for someone who does not speak English fluently and must speak of very private and painful matters.

The enormous investment of time paid off. In June 2013 Esther testified

in court. She was composed and confident. Under cross examination she told her story – her way.

If the interpreter's words were not what she intended to communicate, she used the English skills she developed over the course of the case to speak up and correct them. Shanai remembers realizing early on that the

government attorney could see how genuine her client was.

"After listening for a while he said, 'I believe her,' and shortly thereafter the judge granted Esther asylum. It was a beautiful moment."

Fictitious names have been used to protect the client's identity and maintain confidentiality.

Pro Bono Tech and Marketing Tips

Adam Friedl, Pro Bono Net



Adam Friedl

I was delighted by the invitation to speak recently at one of my favorite events – the yearly gathering of New York's Pro Bono Coordinators Network, held during the New York State Bar Annual Meeting in NYC. The meeting brings together pro bono professionals of all persuasions – from large urban legal services organizations and small rural ones to law firms and law schools – from across the state to discuss changes and hot topics in the field. Although my lunchtime tech talk meant that I missed out on those delicious little sandwiches (I think it's the dressing) I'd tasted the previous year, it was definitely worth it to share ideas with these folks.

The invitation asked me to share ideas on tech tools and case management systems, but I confessed up front that the only thing I can say about case management systems with 100% confidence is that you're probably frustrated with the one you're using. Better to stick with a few tips for using technology to streamline, automate, and promote key elements of a pro bono program (and an organization).

So, first up: versatile, name-brand, collaboration-enabling office tools that you're already familiar with are available in the cloud, and in many cases are free to your program or organization.

Not that you don't have so much funding you can't spend it all but, you know, just in case. Google for Nonprofits offers the suite that you probably

already use in your personal life completely free to nonprofit organizations. Gmail, Google Docs, Calendar...but branded with your program's name. That is, I can use the email address afriedl@probono.net (drop me a line!) through Gmail, with my program's logo where Gmail usually goes. Not to be outdone, Microsoft has begun offering Office 365 for Nonprofits as well. Outlook, Word, Excel...all the programs that you know and love, cloud-based and free.

Second tip: don't reinvent the wheel – just write your name on it.

There are great tool-builders out there you can partner with to offer innovative features under your brand. Take, for example, the NY Pro Bono Opportunities Guide (probono.net/ny/oppsguide) created by Pro Bono Net. I mean the NYSBA Pro Bono Opportunities Guide for New York Lawyers (probono.net/ny/nysba_oppsguide). See what we did there? The second is identical to the first (it searches the same organizations and provides the same functions) but has the look (or "skin") of NYSBA's website laid on top. (Also, NYSBA's great new design!) Similarly, for large organizations and law firms that use an intranet, Pro Bono Net has developed a tool that seamlessly streams content from the PBN network alongside the normal content on your page. It makes pro bono resources and information available in the same window – no going to another website or remembering passwords. In many cases, users don't even know the content is coming from another site.

Third tip: when you've got a great program, folks ought to know about

it – but be thoughtful in how you approach your web and social media presence. It's always better to start small and grow rather than start too ambitiously and not be able to keep up. For example, you want to make sure that your website is fresh and current. Websites that have obviously not been touched in a long time feel stale and imply that their creators are not on the ball.

Similarly, if you're going to use Facebook or Twitter, really use them. When an organization's last tweet was 963 days ago, I start to suspect it might not be the sort of engaged place I want to know more about.

There are lots of ways to lighten the social media load, including linking your Facebook and Twitter accounts or using services like Buffer or Hootsuite that allow you to pre-write, schedule, and otherwise manage posting efficiently.

Although I'd love to say my talk was the day's unquestionable highlight, 2013 was a year of big changes for pro bono in New York, so I was a small part of a big day. It was fascinating to hear views on developments such as the 50-hours of pro bono requirement for bar admission, mandatory pro bono reporting (but not mandatory pro bono service itself), and authorization for in-house counsel pro bono from such a diverse group. There were also excellent panels on Federal Practice Pro Bono and on Court-based Family Law Clinics for Pro Se Assistance (including a new videoconferencing model that Pro Bono Net is helping to expand).

A.C. vs. NYC Department of Education

Yulia Neyman*, Associate, White & Case LLP

In the summer of 2012, White & Case was approached by a family from Moldova, now living in New York City. The parents had a five year old boy – Alex – who suffered from severe speech apraxia. He could utter less than a dozen words. Alex’s doctors told his parents that if he didn’t start speaking by age seven, his neural pathways would seal and he would never be able to speak.

Like all disabled children, Alex had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Alex’s IEP specified that he must receive special services in a classroom with no more than 12 kids and no less than two teachers, and several sessions a week of speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Alex had attended a preschool that had met his IEP specifications, but when it came time to enter kindergarten, the New York City Department of Education (DOE), could only offer him a place in a standard public school classroom. The DOE agreed with the parents that putting an effectively mute child in a class of 25 five year olds was not an option; but try as they might, the parents could not get the DOE to give Alex a different placement.

The DOE is obligated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide every child with a Free, Appropriate, Public Education (or FAPE). The gist of FAPE is that the DOE must provide every child with a school placement that is free and appropriate for the child’s disability. If the child can’t function in a normal public school, the DOE can enroll the child for free in an approved private school. If no approved private school is available, the DOE must pay for the child to enroll in an appropriate private school that’s not on the DOE’s list.

By the time the White & Case pro bono team met the parents, school was due to start in less than a month and Alex had no place to enroll.

The parents had filed an impartial hearing request to get a placement for their child, but hadn’t yet received a hearing date. The time sensitive nature of his disability made this fact all the more frustrating and troubling. The first

day of school came and went, and Alex stayed home with his mother, who tried as best she could to help him with his speech.

The impartial hearing to determine where Alex would enroll was finally held in early October. The impartial hearing officer unequivocally agreed with us that the DOE had denied Alex FAPE, and recommended he be enrolled in a DOE-approved private school. But, at that point, every DOE-approved school that could meet Alex’s IEP was full.

The parents’ next option was risky, but unavoidable. They enrolled Alex at a private school that was not on the DOE-approved list, but that specialized in children with speech and language disabilities. Our team then sued the DOE for tuition reimbursement under the Connors Funding doctrine, which states that if the DOE fails to provide FAPE, a parent can unilaterally enroll the child in an appropriate private school, and recover tuition from the DOE. The proposition was risky because the parents were not in a financial position to pay the tuition cost – more than \$50,000 a year – but after weighing the risks of further delaying Alex’s speech development they concluded it was worth it.

Alex finally enrolled at the private

school after Thanksgiving, three months into the school year. We immediately filed our due process complaint. After multiple hearings on the case, our impartial hearing ruled in July of 2013 that the DOE had failed to provide FAPE, and had to reimburse the parents for approximately 90% of Alex’s tuition at the private school.

Meanwhile, Alex had been making enormous progress at the private school. At first, his parents counted every new word that he learned, but they soon lost count because he was assimilating vocabulary at such a rapid pace.

We received a joyous email to let us know that he had finally said the word “Mama.”

In the fall of 2013 the DOE again failed to offer Alex a school placement. We again sued the DOE under the same claim to keep Alex in private school, and settled the case favorably, with the DOE agreeing to pay full tuition for the 2013-2014 school year.

Alex’s mom visited us last month to thank us for our help. She brought Alex with her. He’s tall for his age, very cute and shy. He peeked out from behind his mom and said hello. He’s started to speak in full phrases, to read and to write. He still has a long way to go, but now seems on the right track.



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2013 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL® PHOTO GALLERY

Axinn Veltrop & Harkrider LLP



Rachel J. Adcox
250.5 Pro Bono Hours

For me, pro bono work is an opportunity to do my part to ensure that nobody is denied effective access to the legal system because of their inability to pay for a lawyer. I look forward to the challenges pro bono representation brings and the positive effect it can have on clients' lives.



Gail L. Gottehrer
190.3 Pro Bono Hours

I've been fortunate to provide pro bono legal services to the International Rescue Committee, a nonprofit organization that assists refugees, asylees and victims of human trafficking. It's been extremely rewarding to support an organization that is doing such important work around the world.



Thomas Hedemann
219 Pro Bono Hours

I do pro bono work because I believe that the court system should be available to everyone on as equal a basis as possible. Representing people who would otherwise not be able to afford representation is one small step in that direction. It is also an opportunity for me to take on matters that are outside of my typical practice and thereby become a better lawyer.



Shawndra G. Jones
168.1 Pro Bono Hours

Performing pro bono work is not only a fulfilling experience, but also an invaluable learning opportunity. I am fortunate to have colleagues who are committed to doing such work, and I am grateful to be able to give back to the community through pro bono service.



Aaron J. Feigenbaum
202 Pro Bono Hours

In 2013, I did pro bono work on behalf of a married couple suing their former landlord for housing discrimination, and on behalf of a woman suing her former employer for discrimination on the basis of her medical disability. I chose to do this work because I wanted to help injured people who lack the resources normally necessary to litigate, and because I saw it as a great opportunity to develop my pre-trial and trial skills. For example, in one of my pro bono cases I was able to first-chair a damages trial that led to a judgment on behalf of my clients.



Eric P. Barstad
93.2 Pro Bono Hours

I partnered with another associate at Axinn to represent an indigent plaintiff in a §1983 action against the City of Hartford in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. In addition to the sense of gratification I got from representing a client in need, the matter provided invaluable opportunities to hone my litigation skills, including by drafting substantive motions and other court filings and by taking and defending depositions.

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2013 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL® PHOTO GALLERY

Axinn Veltrop & Harkrider LLP



Brooke J. Oppenheimer
90 Pro Bono Hours

As an eDiscovery attorney, my work is focused on one specific part of the litigation process. Working on matters through Axinn's pro bono program has allowed me to develop skills in other areas of the law. This adds to my overall competence and growth as an attorney. Most importantly, it is wonderful to be able to assist an individual through an intimidating and daunting legal process that will truly impact their future, whether a divorce, custody battle, or immigration issue. The power that we have to help is remarkable and it feels great to be a part of the process.



Magdalena Hale Spencer
51 Pro Bono Hours

Law impacts us all, not just those who can afford legal counsel. I am lucky enough to work at a firm that provides me with the resources I need to assist those who need counsel but are unable to pay.



William J. McDermod
63.9 Pro Bono Hours

I volunteered to do pro bono work in order to gain legal experience in more diverse areas of law and to help individuals in need. In helping a woman apply for social group asylum and helping provide legal advice at a local men's homeless shelter, I believe I was able to accomplish both goals this last year.

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NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

The Past, Present and Future of Indigent Defense in New York:

Where Has 10 Years of Reform Gotten Us and Where Are We Going?

Friday, June 6, 2014 | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Albany Law School

80 New Scotland Ave., Albany, New York 12208

Join the Committee to Ensure Quality Mandated Representation of the New York State Bar Association and leaders in the field of indigent defense from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services, the American Civil Liberties Union and providers across the state, as we assess the progress made over the course of the last 10 years of indigent defense reform efforts and help us chart a course for future reforms that will lead New York to fulfilling the promise of *Gideon v. Wainwright*.

For more information visit www.nysba.org/CEQMRprogram

Pro Bono is Personally and Professionally Satisfying for ECBA VLP Award Winner

Gayle T. Murphy*, Pro Bono Coordinator, Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

Michael Mettille*, a 2013 Empire State Counsel honoree, is a solo practitioner who began volunteering at Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) in March 2013 at the suggestion of his wife, Claire Sellers*, one of VLP's outstanding volunteers. In less than one year, Michael has generously volunteered over 113 hours representing 76 clients.

At our recent awards ceremony, Michael received the 2013 VLP Attorney of the Morning Award. Michael volunteered as the Attorney of the Morning 15 times, representing a total of 75 low income clients facing eviction.

He often saved the day at AOM, filling in at the last minute for volunteers. Michael did an excellent job settling cases so the tenancy was saved or the clients had additional time before moving so they did not become homeless.

In one case, Michael represented a tenant in an eviction proceeding involving an out of town landlord and multiple third party managers. The tenant was caught in the middle of a very difficult situation and faced loss of her personal belongings and homelessness. The tenant lived in an apartment purchased by an out of town landlord. The property manager told the client that the new landlord was going to charge more rent, and understood if the tenant wanted to move. In fact, they would help her by giving her a good reference and paying her moving expenses. Unfortunately, that property manager was fired and replaced by a new manager who did not honor the representations of the first property manager. Instead, he told the tenant she owed money,

began to move out her belongings, and harassed her. At the court hearing, Michael successfully raised a contract defense, detrimental reliance. He ultimately negotiated a favorable settlement where the landlord agreed to give the client neutral references so she could move and pay for her moving expenses. The client also received three months free rent. According to Michael, this is a classic case where his involvement helped to stabilize a recurring problem. Because of his efforts, justice was served. Out of town landlords and local property managers were held accountable.

new attorneys provide pro bono legal service, especially those in large law firms.

By taking a VLP case, the attorney will get significant client interaction and trial experience. They will gain the attention of the senior and supervising partners. "The legal profession, unlike other advanced academic degrees, requires going out and working with people and seeing how the law affects people every day."

"I feel really good after a day of volunteering. It was a constructive use of my time. It is satisfying professionally and personally." VLP

"Volunteering at VLP gave me a tremendous opportunity to put into practice what I learned in law school. I took advantage of the numerous opportunities for attorney skill development. In less than a year I was able to participate in the full spectrum of representation, from an administrative hearing, to City Court, to County Court. When I needed specific technical assistance, Robert Elardo, VLP's Managing Partner, provided the technical expertise that was critical to the success of the case. I also found that as a VLP attorney volunteer, I was able to benefit from the VLP's outstanding reputation in the legal community."*

Michael also represented a not for profit client in a foreclosure action. Michael's successful legal defense resulted in the not for profit client being able to remain in its building and continue to provide shelter and essential support services to our most vulnerable members of society.

Michael highly recommends that

is proud of Michael Mettille's contributions to pro bono legal service and salutes him as a member of the 2013 Empire State Counsel Program.

Crowell & Moring Helps Victim of Domestic Violence Stay with her Son in the U.S.

Eden Rohrer, Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP

Mariya Deryugina, Former Associate, Crowell & Moring LLP

A young mother was able to escape domestic violence, legally remain in the U.S., and retain custody of her son thanks to the efforts of C&M attorneys Eden Rohrer and Mariya Deryugina and New York office manager Dibe Perez in completing and filing her U visa application.

“Joanna” is a 26-year-old woman who came to the United States in 2005 and soon afterwards met “Malcolm”, a U.S. citizen and son of a New York Police Department lieutenant. The couple moved in together in June of 2008, about a month before the birth of their son. Over the next three and a half years, Malcolm abused Joanna emotionally, verbally, and physically with increasing intensity. When Joanna broached the possibility of ending the relationship, Malcolm was clear: if she left him, he would have his father call immigration authorities and have her deported, and then file for custody of their child, ensuring that she would never see her son again. The fear of separation from her young

son ensured that Joanna remained in a relationship with Malcolm despite repeated and severe physical attacks. On the evening of November 16, 2011, Malcolm beat Joanna so severely and in front of their son, that despite her fear of being deported, she called 911. Joanna notified the dispatcher that Malcolm was the son of a New York City police officer and requested a Spanish speaking officer. However, when the police arrived, they spoke in English only to Malcolm and ultimately arrested Joanna and not Malcolm.

Joanna spent a night in jail only to be told in the morning that the charges against her would be dropped. Joanna persisted in having criminal charges brought against Malcolm.

Eden, Mariya, and Dibe applied for a U visa for Joanna. A U visa is available for victims of violent crime who cooperate with law enforcement in prosecuting such crimes, providing a pathway to citizenship. In three years, Joanna will be eligible to apply for a “green card.” Joanna bravely reported

Malcolm’s abuse to authorities, cooperated with the district attorney, and testified against Malcolm in his criminal case. Joanna spent countless hours in the courtroom and in meetings with the district attorney and reviewing physical and video evidence. Simultaneously, Joanna fought battles in family court. She sued for and was awarded custody of her son and child support from Malcolm. Additionally, the team understands that an internal investigation was opened to review potential misconduct relating to whether the arresting officer gave Malcolm preferential treatment as the son of a police officer.

With the help of C&M in getting her a U visa, Joanna can now legally live and work in the U.S. without fear of being deported and being separated from her son.

Fictitious names have been used to protect the client’s identity and maintain confidentiality.

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

SAVE *the* DATE

Moving Towards Civil Gideon
2014 Legal Assistance Partnership Conference

September 10-12, 2014 | The Albany Marriott
189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York

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Pro Bono Clinic Model Delivers Experience as Well as Service

Lydia Allen Caylor* Bungett & Robbins LLP

Pro bono legal services can be provided in many different forms. Many of the cases I have handled have mirrored a “traditional” model, in which an eligible client is referred by legal services to a private attorney willing to take the matter free of charge. Even more have been of the “informal” variety, in which a private attorney represents a client under no illusion that the client will ever be able to pay, simply because their sense of compassion or professional obligation does not allow them to turn that person away. In my experience, both types have yielded great frustration and great rewards; most recently, my case literally concluded with teary hugs on the courthouse steps. However, thanks to the efforts and the support of our local legal services office, our community affords a third, perhaps lesser-known, mechanism for private attorneys to donate their services to eligible pro bono clients: the “clinic” model.

Although a clinic model had been used in the past by our local organization, the most recent incarnation, which assists income-eligible clients in prosecuting their own pro se divorces, has been in existence for approximately four years. The clinic combines technology and attorney participation

to simplify the pro se divorce process, which can be daunting even for well-informed litigants. Specifically, the legal services office maintains a database of information for each client, including party names and addresses, marital information, and biographical information of any children. This information is merged into pleadings based upon the Unified Court System’s pro se divorce documents, generating a personalized divorce packet that is already prepared by the time that the client arrives for the clinic. At the clinic, volunteer attorneys meet individually with litigants to explain the pleadings, review the documents for accuracy and legal sufficiency, and answer any questions. Clients are required to attend only two clinics: the first to prepare and sign the documents necessary to commence the proceeding, and the second to prepare and sign the remaining documents to be filed with the judgment roll. In the four years it has been in existence, the pro se divorce clinic operated by our local legal services office, and supported by private volunteer attorneys, has successfully assisted more than three hundred clients in obtaining pro se divorces.

Participation in the clinic is also interesting and rewarding for the attor-

ney volunteers. The sheer volume of cases and clients guarantees that attorneys will be presented with unusual issues that they may never experience in private practice. In my experience, I assisted with several motions for service by publication in the clinic context, so that, by the time I was required to do so in my private practice, it was a familiar process. In addition, I consulted with a litigant en route to obtaining what was, by all accounts, the first same-sex divorce in our county. Moreover, the fact that many of the attorney volunteers are the same for each clinic has resulted in a greater sense of camaraderie among members of the local bar, as well as the formation of lasting friendships.

In sum, while I am happy to have had the opportunity to provide both traditional and informal pro bono legal services, it has been my frequent participation in our local pro se clinic that has stood out as the experience that has been most valuable to me, personally and professionally. It has allowed me the chance to help the greatest number of persons in a given period of time. As such, I would encourage anyone who is interested in this type of pro bono work to seek out a similar program in his or her area.

A Pro Bono Opportunities Guide For Lawyers in New York State Online!



Looking to volunteer? This easy-to-use guide will help you find the right opportunity. You can search by county, by subject area, and by population served. A collaborative project of the New York City Bar Justice Center, the New York State Bar Association and Volunteers of Legal Service.

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Pete Seeger and Social Justice

Kevin J. Curnin, Partner and Director of the Public Service Project, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP



Kevin J. Curnin

Pete Seeger's passing at the age of 94 last month gives lawyers reason to reflect not only as fans of his music, but as potential stewards of his lifelong mission of social justice.

Seeger was long and lean. Although he's been called the Hammer, I think of him as more of a nail. And what a nail he was. In his commitment to folk music, as in his drive for social justice, he went in deep and held fast. Outside his music, he lived a simple, almost Spartan life through almost 70 years of marriage. Listening to tributes after his death, one got the sense that Seeger had that special gift that allowed millions of people feel as if they knew him. His music carried his message, but he lived it out in his life, too, lending a kind of moral credence to his musical force.

Seeger wasn't the first American folklorist to tilt at inequality and abuse of authority -- Woody Guthrie, for example, had a sign on his guitar that said "This machine kills fascists" -- but out of that tradition he lasted the longest, sang the loudest, and may have been the most steadfast. His voice pulled people in -- spoke to them in a disarming vernacular rhythm -- and his vision kept them close. He did this for me and, because his music hewed so closely to some of the most important civil rights issues of our time, I think a case can be made that Pete Seeger should be the musical patron saint of social justice lawyers everywhere. He constantly hit two notes that any effective social justice action must have: honesty and courage.

From the 1940's right on through, Seeger tackled the big social justice issues of his day. In the 40's, it was workers' rights and the labor movement. During this time, he joined and left the Communist Party, but that was enough to sweep him up in the anti-Communist furor of the 1950's. He was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1955, where he refused to give names. He was indicted in 1957, convicted in 1961, and won on appeal in 1962.

Under sharp questioning, Seeger told HUAC, "I feel that in my whole life I have never done anything of any conspiratorial nature." Prodded again and again for names, he stated: "I am not going to answer any questions as to my association, my philosophical or religious beliefs or my political beliefs, or how I voted in any election, or any of these private affairs. I think these are very improper questions for any American to be asked, especially under such compulsion as this." If the committee was interested in what he was up to, he offered to sing his songs for them. If the committee was interested in what the music was all about, he wondered if they'd ever thought about "the great Negro spiritual, 'I'm Gonna Lay Down My Sword and Shield, Down by the Riverside.'" The committee was uninterested.

He prevailed as a matter of principle, but his ascending career, which had soared with The Weavers, was torpedoed. In the 60's and 70's, he slowly built it back up, rising ever higher in the public consciousness by singing against the winds of war and racism, lighting up protest marches and folk festivals with songs, like "Knee Deep in the Big Muddy," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and "We Shall Overcome," that became intertwined with the civil rights and peace movements.

More recently, Seeger turned his attention to environmental justice, acting locally to protect the Hudson River, along which he lived for most of his life - but thinking, and singing, globally. He built the 106-foot sloop

Clearwater and founded the Clearwater Festival to raise awareness of the predation of our waters, land and air. He shamed General Electric into cleaning the Hudson, which it had dumped toxins into for years.

These songs and others, like "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "If I Had a Hammer," were anthems on a national scale, but also on a personal one, because they were simply great songs, easy to internalize and sing along with, so his audiences not only sang with him in concert, but carried his lyrics around with them as an internal soundtrack through the decades, as accessible to new listeners as to old, familiar chords connecting yesterday's struggles and today's.

One wonders if at the end of his life he remained the optimist he professed to be since his days riding the rails in the 1940's. And if he had, some might say history had passed Seeger by, that there was nothing left to sing optimistically about. But that was just his point: we can't tackle our problems today without a song in our hearts about what tomorrow should look like. If Seeger's songs presumed the promise of a more perfect union, his words were only echoing those of the founders in the Declaration, Whitman in his poems, Lincoln in his speeches, and Norman Rockwell in his drawings (think "The Four Freedoms"). What he wanted most of all was for us to sing along with him. He not only taught children how to sing, but he insisted on sing-alongs when he played for adults. After joining Pete Seeger in song, you were one step closer to joining a protest march or sit-in. To see the need, to give it voice, to act in service, these too are the paths of the social justice lawyer -- day by day, row by row.

Late in his career, he kept on singing, but the Hammer was getting heavy and his voice didn't hit like it used to. So Seeger, ever the teacher and ever-purposeful, did what he had really already been doing all along, he passed the torch. "I can't sing anymore," he'd tell his audience, "but you can sing."

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Katherine McClung **148 Pro Bono Hours**

After engaging in substantial motion practice, I was able to negotiate a favorable settlement for my client. My client, an inmate, suffered violations to his First, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments and required assistance with his Section 1983 action.



James Holahan **80 Pro Bono Hours**

I represented an inmate in a Section 1983 action for violations of the inmate's constitutional rights under the First, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. After engaging in substantial motion practice, I negotiated a favorable settlement for my pro bono client.

LawHelpNY.org/Consumer Brings Consumer Debt Resources to Users' Fingertips

Adam Friedl and Jake Hertz, Pro Bono Net

Pro Bono Net and LawHelp New York are taking aim at one of the most frequent legal problems New Yorkers face: consumer debt. LawHelpNY.org/Consumer gives those sued for consumer debt the critical resources and tools they need to advocate for themselves effectively, as well as information on where to go for more help. Individuals can now access interactive guides, definitions, and referrals with a single click.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are sued for consumer debts every year, yet 98% have no attorney to represent them. The overwhelming majority does not know how to contest their cases or what their rights are. LawHelpNY.org/Consumer helps

individuals understand and feel confident asserting their rights, alleviating the problem of plaintiffs obtaining hundreds of millions of dollars in judgments – often despite not possessing any proof of their claims.

The new site features interactive forms, developed with Pro Bono Net's LawHelp Interactive technology, that enable users to create their own legal documents and learn about their case. The interactive technology prepares individuals to defend themselves against creditors who often employ deceptive collection practices and to navigate an often-unfamiliar court system. In addition, the site highlights information that helps litigants understand their situation, their rights, and

what actions they can take. In short, the new site provides consumer debt defendants with the tools to confidently and successfully advocate for themselves in court.

For those in need of additional assistance, the site lists scheduling information for consumer debt defense clinics and legal referrals across New York State. In the coming months, Pro Bono Net will curate the site, expanding and maintaining the resources, and will engage other organizations to promote and enhance the site.

For more information, contact Adam Friedl at afriedl@probono.net.

Pro Bono Committee Forms to Address Needs of Capital Region New Yorkers

Samantha Howell*, Pro Bono & Outreach Coordinator, Prisoners' Legal Services

We are proud to announce the formation of the Capital Region Pro Bono Committee, a collaborative of community partners invested in improving and facilitating access to pro bono legal services in the Capital District.

The committee has informally existed for several years, since forming at the behest of the Honorable George B. Ceresia, former Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District. The group currently includes representatives from the Albany County Bar Association, Albany Law School, Legal Aid of Northeastern New York, The Legal Project, the New York State Bar Association, Prisoners' Legal Services of New York and the Third Judicial District.

Each month, the group meets to discuss issues in the pro bono and legal service fields, including the 50

hour admission requirement, mandatory reporting for attorneys, new initiatives locally, statewide, and nationally, methods for recruiting attorneys and students, and National Pro Bono Week and Community Law Day activities.

For the past several years, the committee has organized Community Law Day events to spread awareness of available legal services to indigent persons in the Capital Region. These events have been held in diverse locations, including Crossgates Mall and the Main Branch of the Albany Public Library. At these events, representatives from each organization hosted tables with information about the services provided by their organization, and the eligibility criteria. Attorneys were available at all events to provide information and brief advice to individuals with questions.

This year, the committee is developing a flier for distribution throughout the Capital District, containing information about public interest and pro bono services available to indigent persons.

The hope of the committee is that these fliers will spread awareness of the services available to those most in need and streamline the referral process to and between agencies.

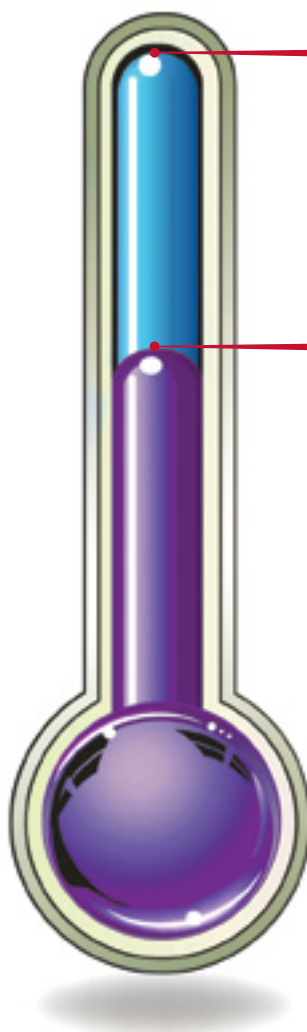
This year, the committee will also be reaching out to other pro bono professionals and individuals working to increase pro bono accessibility and participation. If you are interested in meeting with the Capital Region Pro Bono Committee, or learning more about the group, you can contact Samantha Howell, Pro Bono & Outreach Coordinator of Prisoners' Legal Services at showell@plsny.org.



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End of One Chapter - Beginning of Another

Kristie Cinelli, Former PAI Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

As you may know, I have resigned from my post as PAI Director for the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. It was very hard for me to make this decision. It has been a privilege to work with the Legal Aid attorneys, paralegals and support staff who bring justice to low income New Yorkers in our 16 counties. I have learned so much from each of you – thank you.

It was an honor to work with amazing volunteers and our community partners to increase pro bono assistance for Legal Aid Society clients for over 7 years. During this time I have gotten to know many of you not just for your volunteerism and dedication but as peers working towards a common goal: justice for all. Together we achieved this - not because we had to but because we

wanted to. And, with any good recipe for success, I believe this was the special ingredient for our great many successes.

With your help, LASNNY's PAI Program has grown to meet some of the gaps in services faced by people who need it most. Together we were able to create programs to assist people in the areas of unemployment, bankruptcy, divorce and housing; to name a few. We were able to assist Veterans and victims of domestic violence by placing them with volunteers who were not only qualified but compassionate, patient and dedicated.

I am so proud to have been part of a program made up of such wonderful people. To **Lillian Moy***, **Wendy Wahlberg***, **Mary Withington***, **Lisa Borthwick**, **Linda LaRue**, **Becky**

Buchanan and **Geri Pomerantz***, thank you for showing me the way when I was new to all of this. Thank you also to **Gloria Herron Arthur***, **Barbara Davis**, **Lisa Frisch**, **Susan Pattenau**, **Nic Rangel*** and **Samantha Howell***, all generous and creative partners.

I know that while I am no longer "staff" I will continue to do this work. I will do so just as all of you, the volunteers have, through balance and belief. Together, we will all continue in our own ways to ensure that the Legal Aid Society has continued success with its just cause.

I leave you in the best of hands and wish Lil, Linda and Cheryl (you are truly good) the best to come.

See you soon...

Introducing Michele Sleight, The New PAI Director at LASNNY

Lilian Moy*, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Michele Sleight* is the new Director of the Private Attorney Involvement Program at LASNNY.



Michele Sleight

Michele is a 2011 graduate of Albany Law School. During law school, Michele participated in Albany Law School's Family Violence Litigation Clinic, representing victims of domestic violence with family court issues, including custody and support. Upon graduating, she continued to volunteer her time participating in local clinics which provided assistance both in pro se divorce matters, and to people in need of estate planning documents. Michele is also a hotline volunteer

for the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Saratoga County, and is on the board of the Adirondack Women's Bar Association, a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of New York. Prior to her position as the Director of PAI, Michele worked in private practice as an associate attorney at DuCharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP.

Michele resides in Halfmoon with her husband, Brandon, and their two dogs, Auri and Dutch.

Reforming Solitary Confinement in New York State

Jennifer K. Brown, Senior Pro Bono Counsel, Morrison & Foerster

Empire State Counsel Honoree, **Kayvan Sadeghi***, who is Of Counsel at Morrison & Foerster, is playing a leading role in ongoing litigation that already has changed the use of solitary confinement by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. A groundbreaking interim agreement in the case, *Peoples v. Fischer*, drew national attention when it was announced in February. Under the agreement, juveniles and pregnant women will no longer be subject to solitary, and prisoners with developmental disabilities will spend no longer than 30 days in isolation. The broader prisoner population will benefit as well: specific sentencing ranges for violations of the dozens of rules that govern prisoner conduct will replace the nearly unbridled discretion of the system's hearing officers to order prisoners to isolation, even for nonviolent infractions. In a recent four year period, those hearing officers doled out 68,000 isolation sentences—more than one for each of the system's 56,000 prisoners.

The agreement does not end the lawsuit, but instead puts it on hold for two years. During that time, the parties are enlisting the help of penal experts to analyze the impact of these changes and issue comprehensive recommendations

for additional reforms to reduce the use of extreme isolation and implement evidence-based programs to constructively engage prisoners who need to gain greater control over their conduct.

The three plaintiffs, whose lawsuit prompted these changes, Leroy Peoples, Dwayne Richardson, and Tonja Fenton, were each sentenced to lengthy periods in isolation for nonviolent offenses. They are represented jointly by the New York Civil Liberties Union, pro bono counsel Morrison & Foerster, and Professor Alexander Reinert of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Kayvan Sadeghi, a 2013 Empire State Counsel, is the lead attorney at Morrison & Foerster.

"Our team at Morrison & Foerster is honored by the opportunity to work with the NYCLU and Professor Reinert on this litigation. Visiting the prisons drives home how fortunate we are in our own lives and how many people truly need and deserve the services that we can provide. I feel lucky to be at a firm that deeply values pro bono work and does not hesitate to devote the time and the resources necessary to help bring about meaningful change."

New York runs one of the largest prison systems in the country. The changes now underway position the state to take a leading role in moving corrections sys-

tems away from their misguided reliance on extreme isolation to control prisoners. Solitary confinement is widely recognized as putting prisoners' mental health at risk, with a recent study by researchers at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Health finding that solitary confinement significantly increases the likelihood of self-harm, including suicide, among prisoners. Moreover, there is evidence that spending time in solitary actually increases the likelihood of recidivism. Yet the United States leads the world's democracies in its reliance on solitary confinement to punish and isolate prisoners, with tens of thousands of prisoners confined in isolation on any given day.

As the case moves into the next phase of analysis and recommendations, the Morrison & Foerster team will be fully involved in continuing to reform the use of solitary in New York State. In Kayvan's words, "We have been very encouraged by the hard work put in by the Governor's office, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Corrections to get this far, and we look forward to continuing our productive working relationship to implement meaningful change that will benefit everyone."

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Simpson Thacher Files Mandamus to Compel Asylum Interviews for 5 Pro Bono LGBT Clients

Harlene Katzman, Pro Bono Counsel Director, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

NYSBA Empire State Counsel Christopher Hultman*, an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, along with several other attorneys in the office, filed a Mandamus action on behalf of five gay or transgender individuals seeking asylum in the United States. Chris's clients hail from Guyana, Russia, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Mexico, and each faced persecution in their home country based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Although all of these clients applied for asylum in 2012, each was placed on "permanent backlog" by the Rosedale Asylum Office, which, for unexplained reasons, stopped issuing interview dates for about 10% of applicants, thereby putting them in permanent limbo with regard to their status.

Frustrated by the unresponsiveness of the Rosedale Asylum Office to their requests for information, during their nearly two year delay, some clients made numerous calls and visits to the asylum office to seek information about their interview, only to be met with silence.

Absent pro bono counsel, it appears these clients would have had no recourse, forced to wait indefinitely for the Rosedale Asylum Office to schedule their interviews and later still to have their applications adjudicated.

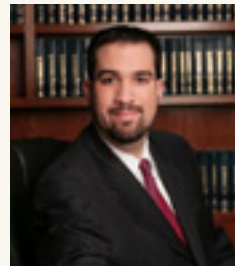
Chris and the team filed the Mandamus action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and sought to compel the Rosedale Asylum Office to immediately schedule interviews and adjudicate the asylum applications of the five clients as soon as possible. Filing a Mandamus action in this context was a novel approach

and presented several challenges. Chris and the team had to address complex issues presented by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and Administrative Procedure Act. Both statutes have numerous provisions that are potentially relevant to a motion to compel action under the Mandamus statute and they had to think critically about which provisions to invoke in the complaint. With limited relevant precedent, Chris and the team used case law resourcefully to form their argument.

The Federal Government shutdown in the Fall of 2013 presented another challenge regarding the timing of the filing. The INA allows for USCIS delay in the case of extraordinary circumstances, so filing the action before or during the shutdown may have caused the complaint to get lost in the shuffle or provided an excuse for delay.

In December 2013, the Assistant United States Attorney informed Chris and the team that in response to the suit, the Rosedale Asylum Office had scheduled interviews for each of the clients in March 2014. In speaking to his clients over the past several weeks, Chris knows that they have renewed energy and hope about their status in this country and are excited to plan their futures. In addition, Chris hopes that the Firm's advocacy will encourage the Rosedale Asylum Office to expedite the issuance of asylum interviews for other asylum seekers.

2013 Empire State Counsel® Photo Gallery



Thomas Sciacca
100+ Pro Bono Hours
Law offices of Thomas Sciacca PLLC

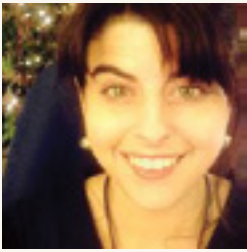
I ran a free legal clinic for low-income LGBT seniors in Manhattan and maintained an active roster of pro bono clients.



Todd B. Nurick
300+ Pro Bono Hours
Nurick Law Group LLC

I have dedicated an average of 5-8 hours per week, every week, to pro bono representation. From simple wills, planning and estate matters, family law, assisting the unemployed with new business endeavors to employment discrimination matters. I am committed to sharing and assisting those in need. I come from a long line of attorneys including my Grandfather. He and the others in my family made (and continue to make) pro bono service a priority.

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Amy Monk
65 Pro Bono Hours
 Albany International Corp.

Pro bono work is a very important part of my professional development goals and I am proud of the role it plays in not just my “work” life, but also my personal life. I recently relocated to NH with the company for which I work and, while awaiting admission to the NH Bar, I am working directly with the NH Bar Association on a pro bono initiative related to domestic violence and teenagers.



Lucas Tavares Nascimento
200 Pro Bono Hours
 South Jersey Legal Services Inc
 Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

I have conducted significant volunteer and pro bono work throughout my legal career, both before and after obtaining my license to practice in New York. I have dedicated most of my legal career to meeting the legal services needs of low-income populations, focusing primarily on the practice of immigration law, immigrants’ rights and advocacy, which I consider to be one of the top civil rights issues of our time.

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Special Needs Planning Law Day at Albany Law School: A Program for Individuals of All Ages with Developmental Disabilities, Their Families, and Their Caretakers

Erica Nicole “Nic” Rangel*, Esq., M.P.A. ’12, Post-Graduate Pro Bono Fellow, Albany Law School



Left to right: Robert Mascali, Congressman Paul Tonko, Brad Williams, Alicia Ouellette, Erica Nicole “Nic” Rangel

The Albany Law School Pro Bono Program started in 2012 with several student-run pro bono projects and a nascent but growing Veterans’ Law Day program. By the end of its first year, the Pro Bono Program was able to significantly expand the number of projects it offered to the community, as well as increase student participation three-fold.

Today, the law school offers 18 different student-led projects under the Pro Bono Society, three discrete faculty-led initiatives, and two attorney-led projects. In addition to continuing to develop new project offerings for students, the program has focused much of its energy in hosting day-long legal service pro-

grams, providing direct legal assistance, workshops and community agency resource fairs, at no cost, to the public.

This past fall, the Pro Bono Program hosted Albany Law School’s 19th Annual Senior Citizens’ Law Day (SCLD), a program previously organized by the Government Law Center. By all measures, SCLD was enormously successful. More than 250 seniors and their family members attended, nearly 30 attorneys and professionals in the field participated to give workshop presentations or free legal consultations, and more than 30 students volunteered.

Following SCLD, Robert Mascali*, an attorney at the Pierro Law Group, and regular volunteer at many of

the school's law day programs, suggested that the Pro Bono Program host an event for people with special needs. With Mascali's help, as well as the help of Judy Nolfo-McKenna*, Professor Bridgit Burke*, Professor Rosemary Bailly*, Pershia Wilkins, the Pro Bono Society, and many oth-

Needs Trusts and Pooled Supplemental Needs Trusts, OPWDD Housing Services, Support, Public Benefits and Waivers, Funding a Special Needs Trust, Individual Education Programs, Transitioning Out of High School, and Guardianship.



ers, the first-ever Special Needs Planning Law Day took place on Feb. 22, 2014.

Special Needs Planning Law Day began with a keynote address by Congressman Paul Tonko, U.S. Representative for New York's 20th congressional district, as well as remarks from Brad Williams, Executive Director of New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. The plenary session included remarks by Associate Dean Alicia Ouellette* and Mascali.

Following the opening ceremony, a series of 12 different 45-minute workshops were presented by attorneys, doctors and professionals in special needs matters. During the workshops free 30-minute consultations with an attorney or financial planner were available on issues of special needs planning. Throughout the day more than 30 different organizations and agencies were available at a community resource fair, held in the law school's foyer, to answer questions.

The workshops included Advanced Directives and Wills, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Employment/ Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS) 101, Supplemental

Based on a survey of attendees, the workshops on OPWDD, supplemental needs trusts and the ADA were attended by the most people. Nearly 150 people received reliable and objective information about their most pressing legal, financial and caregiving concerns. The event also attracted media coverage from regional CBS and NBC affiliates. The Pro Bono Program expects to develop additional programming for people with special needs in the near future.

Thanks to generous sponsorships, the Pro Bono Program was able to provide both breakfast and lunch to all participants and attendees. Sponsors included NYSARC Trust Services, The Center for Special Needs Trusts, The Pierro Law Group, Herzog Law Firm P.C., Merrill Lynch, Schenectady ARC, Capital Bank, Concepts of Independence, Inc., and Nolfo McKenna Law Office.

Kelly Decker and Elizabeth Beauregard also volunteered to provide ASL translation services.



Adib Tohme
50 Pro Bono Hours
 Citizen L

Citizen L is located in the Middle East (Lebanon, UAE, KSA). We are always ready to provide legal assistance and services in all legal conflicts especially those concerning human rights issues affecting women and children, social and other civil issues.



William J.A. Sparks
100 Pro Bono Hours
 William J.A. Sparks Attorney at Law

During 2013, I provided pro bono services to the Nassau County Bar Association (NCBA). These services were conducted both in court ordered mandatory settlement conferences and in NCBA clinics for homeowners affected by the mortgage foreclosure crises as part of the Mortgage Foreclosure Project.

On October 1, 2013, I was included among other lawyers as a Champion of Justice by NCBA for my efforts.

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A. Thomas Levin
84 Pro Bono Hours
 Meyer Suozzi English & Klein PC

Pro Bono service is a very satisfying way to use the professional skills I have obtained for the benefit of those who would not otherwise be able to afford these types of services. I have provided pro bono services to clients involving a variety of civil matters and through various bar association programs. I also provided pro bono services to non-profit organizations which provide legal services to people who could not otherwise afford them, such as Nassau-Suffolk Law Services. I have been fortunate to do well in the practice of law, and this is an opportunity to also do good.



Andy I. Chen
200+ Pro Bono Hours
 Law Offices of Andy I. Chen

There is a large homeless shelter located in downtown San Jose that I've been going to every Friday afternoon for almost two years. I went there originally to help homeless military veterans, but have evolved into helping everyone. Unless mandated by ethics or conflicts, I try not to turn anyone away. Most of the people there have never talked to a lawyer before (due to the cost) so I've been able to help out quite a bit on a wide variety of cases, including family law, and debtor defense, among other cases.

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First Time Law Firms Participants in the Empire State Counsel® Program

The Association owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the law firms, pro bono volunteer programs, and local bar association volunteer lawyers' projects for their generous support of the Empire State Counsel® Program since it was first launched in 2006. We also extend a warm welcome to each of the law firms joining the program for the first time:

Axinn Veltrop & Harkrider LLP

Ballard Spahr Stillman & Friedman LLP

Day Pitney LLP

Dechert LLP

Dentos US LLP

Fulbright & Jaworski LLP

Harris Beach LLP

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Outten & Golden LLP

Schulte Roth Zabel LLP

**Thank you for participating in the 2013 Empire
 State Counsel® Program!**

Distinguished 2013 Empire State Counsel® Award Recipients

Dwight R. Collin
Nixon Peabody LLP

Steven J. Kolleeny
Skadden Arps Slate
Meagher & Flom LLP

**Skadden Arps Slate
Meagher & Flom LLP**
Platinum Sponsor

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Platinum Sponsor

Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP
Gold Sponsor

Proskauer
Gold Sponsor

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Silver Sponsor

Hogan Lovells US LLP
Bronze Sponsor

**Orrick Herrington &
Sutcliffe LLP**
Bronze Sponsor

White & Case LLP
Bronze Sponsor



Dwight R. Collin, Nixon Peabody LLP

A well-respected senior attorney in the Rochester legal community, Dwight R. Collin began volunteering with Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc. in 2005. Despite never before having practiced Family Law during his long career, he decided that this was the area of law in which he would focus his volunteer efforts. Over the years he has successfully handled a multitude of divorce cases, domestic violence matters, orders of protection, child custody disputes, and applications both for and against downward modifications of child support payments. He also has devoted substantial amounts of time mentoring other, less experienced attorneys by assisting them with their cases. During 2013, he provided approximately 430 hours of free legal services to low-income, vulnerable and disadvantaged clients. Since 2005, he has devoted more than 1,000 pro bono hours to the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc. (VLSP).

Dwight is an exemplary role model for other attorneys regardless of whether they are just starting or winding down their legal careers. He provides existing clients with quality legal assistance, while continuing to take on new cases and initiate referrals. VLSP is extremely appreciative and grateful that Dwight decided to learn Family Law at this stage of his career. He is an outstanding pro bono volunteer.



Steven J. Kolleeny, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

For more than 25 years, Special Counsel Steven Kolleeny has led Skadden Arps' pro bono asylum program, personally representing individuals who fled persecution as well as supervising cases taken on by other Skadden Arps' attorneys. Steven's extraordinary commitment to pro bono work has transformed the lives of so many refugees and their families by helping them rebuild their lives in the safety of the United States. He has been a mentor and role model to dozens of attorneys, inspiring them to take on pro bono asylum and complex immigration cases. Despite carrying a full time case load, during 2013 Steven donated 686 hours of free legal services to numerous individuals who were persecuted, tortured, and forced to flee from their home countries, knowing they can never again return.



Leonard D. DuBoff
500 Pro Bono Hours
The DuBuff Law Group LLC

During the past year, I have provided pro bono legal services to Boy Scouts with developmental disabilities. I also provided pro bono legal help to the Mooreland Presbyterian Church in connection with many of its functions which help the underprivileged in our community and in other countries.



Thomas Philip Kurland
66.9 Pro Bono Hours
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

I represented a mentally disabled gentleman seeking SSI benefits. I also represented a pre-trial detainee who was incorrectly classified as a gang member and was improperly subjected to restrictive confinement.

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Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

Platinum Supporter

Ninety-three Empire State Counsel® Donated
21,481 Pro Bono Hours

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and affiliates strongly encourages its lawyers, summer associates, and legal assistants to do pro bono work for those individuals and groups unable to afford legal services. The firm is a charter signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, pledging to commit time equivalent to at least 3% of its annual billable hours to work on pro bono matters. In 2013, New York office lawyers and summer associates reached about 5% of time billed. Firm wide, Skadden attorneys, summer associates, and legal assistants recorded 150,583 hours of pro bono legal work in 2012.

Deeply ingrained in the firm's culture, our pro bono work provides vital help to a wide variety of individuals and organizations in need of legal assistance. Skadden attorneys regularly assist those seeking asylum in the United States and

elsewhere in their attempts to escape persecution due to religious or political beliefs, or sexual orientation. Attorneys also handle many cases for death row inmates and take on numerous matters involving wrongful imprisonment and prosecution, housing disputes, and family law, and frequently provide legal assistance to legal services organizations and other nonprofits, as well as micro-entrepreneurs. In 2013, the firm was delighted to receive the New York State Bar Association's President's Pro Bono Service Award, as the winner in the "Large Firm" category. The firm was jointly nominated by Lawyers Alliance for New York, The Legal Aid Society, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Legal Services NYC, through each of which the firm's lawyers have done substantial amounts of pro bono work.

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Platinum Supporter

One hundred and eight Empire State Counsel® Donated
19,531 Pro Bono Hours

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP is committed to the communities in which we practice, to those unable to afford legal representation, and to the legal profession itself. We seek to maintain this role of corporate and social leadership by supporting pro bono work and creating partnerships outside the Firm that promote legal justice and equality of conditions. The Firm regularly represents clients on a pro bono basis in significant

matters and has also undertaken important community building and community service efforts. The Firm's lawyers work on a wide variety of pro bono matters that cover issues ranging from criminal appeals and constitutional law to asylum and domestic violence. In addition, our lawyers serve on boards of more than 300 not-for-profit philanthropic, cultural, educational and civic organizations.

Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP

Gold Supporter

**Seventy Empire State Counsel® Donated
11,860 Pro Bono Hours**

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has a deep commitment to pro bono that is an ingrained part of the firm's culture. Weil's pro bono program reflects the belief that providing free legal services to those most vulnerable and in need is an essential element of the firm's relationship with the community and a vital professional obligation of every Weil lawyer. Many of Weil's institutional clients share the firm's commitment and actively work with the firm on initiatives in a number of areas, including criminal justice reform, human rights, community and economic development, children's welfare, civil and con-

stitutional rights, health and environmental issues, and asylum and immigration. Included in Weil's broad repertoire of pro bono service, the firm's New York attorneys devote many pro bono hours to assisting small business owners, nonprofits and microentrepreneurs with the assistance of the New York City Bar Association's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project, Start Small Think Big, Lawyers Alliance for New York, Volunteers of Legal Service, New York Lawyers in the Public Interest, and other pro bono clearinghouses. In 2013, Weil hosted its seventh annual Not-for-Profit Board Governance Symposium

to help charitable organizations better understand emerging best practices and regulatory developments and handle increased tensions and risks associated with our challenging economy, government regulations and effective not-for-profit governance. The firm's New York office also fields a powerful housing team in partnership with The Legal Aid Society through which attorneys from all departments represent low-income New Yorkers at risk of homelessness. Weil is justifiably proud of its time spent on pro bono matters, which the firm calls "Our finest hours."

Proskauer

Gold Supporter

**Seventy-eight Empire State Counsel® Donated
11,559 Pro Bono Hours**

Proskauer, founded in 1875, is an international law firm providing a wide variety of legal services to clients worldwide from offices in Beijing, Boca Raton, Boston, Chicago, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Paris, São Paulo, and Washington, DC.

Proskauer is proud of its robust pro bono program offering significant opportunities to lawyers at every level of experience in each of our offices and practice departments. The clients we help include community groups, refugees seeking asylum, domestic violence victims, artists and musicians, Holocaust survivors, and lesbian, gay,

bisexual and transgender individuals among many others. Our lawyers have also played a crucial role in shaping important issues such as gender rights, voting rights, prisoner rights and religious freedoms.

Our motto is "Doing Well, by Doing Good." We believe that introducing associates to pro bono work early in their careers will help instill in them a commitment to integrating this work into their professional lives. We view pro bono as an opportunity to not only positively impact another life, but also for personal and professional development. Pro bono allows our lawyers to work together while making a differ-

ence in the communities where they live and work.

A significant number of our lawyers participate in our pro bono program, dedicating thousands of hours to pro bono clients each year. Lawyers take on pro bono matters according to their individual interests and can choose a case from any of the referral agencies with which the firm partners or they can suggest a matter of their own design.

We are thrilled and honored to be selected as the recipient of the Empire State Counsel Gold Supporter Award.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Silver Supporter

Forty-one Empire State Counsel® Donated

10,366 Pro Bono Hours

Pro bono work is a core responsibility of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and its lawyers. The firm has a long and distinguished history of providing pro bono legal services to those who cannot otherwise obtain representation, and dedicates considerable resources to its pro bono program. Over the past year as a result of our work, we saw the release from prison of a client who had served 15 years on death row, and

another who had served 15 years of a minimum 30 year sentence. We continued our representation of low and middle-income homeowners against mortgage scammers and created a litigation model that has been used against scammers in other states. Among other things, we argued numerous criminal appeals, assisted workers in wage and hour violation cases; obtained U visas and green cards for many crime victims;

gained asylum for three individuals fleeing persecution in Guatemala, Iraq and the Sudan; negotiated a lease for a nonprofit organization; assisted another nonprofit facing insolvency in considering and implementing strategic options; served as counsel for four microfinance organizations; and provided IP, tax and corporate advice to numerous other nonprofit organizations.

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Bronze Supporter

Forty-one Empire State Counsel® Donated

9,369 Pro Bono Hours

Hogan Lovells is a global legal practice with a longstanding and extensive pro bono program that focuses on improving the lives of those without adequate legal representation and providing legal services to charities and nonprofit organizations with social justice as their core missions. The formation of Hogan Lovells brought together two leading pro bono practices, both with strong legacies on either side of the Atlantic. In the United States, we have

a 40-year history of recognizing pro bono as a practice group and were the first legal practice in the world to do so. Annually, we deliver tens of thousands of hours of free legal services and mobilize hundreds of volunteers to work on projects in areas such as poverty alleviation, human rights, public health law, education, and international development. Our pro bono practice has been honored with tributes such as the American Bar Association's Pro Bono

Publico Award, and we were the only legal practice named to The National Law Journal's Pro Bono Hot List in both 2012 and 2013. Providing high-quality legal services to those most in need and least able to pay is an integral part of being a lawyer. At Hogan Lovells we take that responsibility seriously. To learn more, please visit www.hoganlovells.com/probono.

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Bronze Supporter

Forty-three Empire State Counsel® Donated

9,626 Pro Bono Hours

Orrick strategically allocates its pro bono resources to ensure that each lawyer's work has the maximum impact for the client and the community. In recognition of this strategy, Orrick was named the inaugural pro bono law firm of the year by Who's Who Legal, the research arm of the International Bar Association, one of Law360's Pro Bono Firms of 2013, placed 12th nationwide in The American Lawyer's 2013 Pro

Bono Survey and was selected for The Recorder's elite list of the top 10 Pro Bono Achievers in Northern California. Orrick's pro bono program has been praised for the dedication of its lawyers to supporting diverse causes with tangible results—including high-profile immigration disputes, civil rights litigation and grassroots global development through an innovative impact finance initiative.

We focus our efforts on bread and poverty law work, in cases and on projects where there are no interested attorneys. However, our reach is even more extensive, and includes cutting edge public international work for NGOs developing and strengthening legal systems, and also work at the U.S. Supreme Court making law. Our pro bono program delivers the highest level of service to all of our clients in need.

White & Case LLP

Bronze Supporter

Fifty-seven Empire State Counsel® Donated

9,425 Pro Bono Hours

White & Case has been doing important pro bono work since the firm was founded in 1901, and today is one of the largest providers of pro bono legal services in the world. In 2010 we established pro bono as one of our 14 global practices. This step put the pro bono practice on par with our commercial practices in the leadership, focus and management that we bring to bear. Under the leadership of Brussels partner and EU-law litigator Ian Forrester, QC, our Global Pro Bono Practice focuses on three areas – providing access to justice, promoting good governance and the rule of law and serving the world's leading non-governmental organizations. More than 100 partners worldwide serve as Pro Bono Leaders who help guide and develop the practice.

Pro bono is the centerpiece of our social responsibility initiative, which we introduced in 2009. Our social responsibility programs also encompass our legal education work –such as our sponsorship of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition –our volunteer programs, charitable contributions and Firmwide Green Initiative.

White & Case's integrated global footprint is distinctive and it gives shape to our pro bono work. We offer many cross-border projects that give all our lawyers the opportunity to work on international issues regardless of where they work. More than half of our lawyers worldwide (including many in countries where pro bono is a relatively new concept) worked on a pro bono matter in 2013, dedicating more than 72,000 hours to pro bono legal services. Our largest project in 2013 was researching the rights of children in every country in the world for Firm pro bono client Child Rights International Network. More than 200 lawyers and legal staff across 30 offices participated in this global pro bono matter. Among other projects, we also:

- *Researched legal approaches countries have taken to adolescents' ability to consent to marriage, sexual conduct and health services for adolescents.*
- *Surveyed laws and regulations in eight countries relating to domestic workers' rights and enforcement of standards to assess compliance with*

the ILO Convention 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

- *Researched legislation and case law concerning human trafficking and criminal, employment and immigration law in nine countries to aid in the creation of a global human trafficking victim assistance hotline.*

In the United States, we increased our work on criminal appeals matters, expanding our practice from 16 matters in 2012 to 22 in 2013 and nearly doubling the number of participating lawyers. We also took on criminal matters around the world and addressed important policy issues in the criminal-justice system.

We believe that pro bono work is an excellent way to accelerate a young lawyer's training and development. All first year and summer associates are assigned at least one pro bono matter. We encourage all of our lawyers to propose pro bono matters to the Firm.

To read more about our pro bono work and social responsibility initiatives, and to view our 2012 Social Responsibility Review, please visit <http://srreview2012.whitecase.com/>.

2013 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL® PHOTO GALLERY



Paul Jay Edelson
65 Pro Bono Hours
Dean Emeritus, Stony Brook

It's not very profound, to give back. To help others, especially those who are disadvantaged, bypassed and who need assistance in coming to grips with our complex legal system. This is my way of helping to make a more just and equitable society.



Christopher G. Clark
470 Pro Bono Hours
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

As part of my pro bono service, I represent clients in landlord-tenant housing disputes, divorce, child custody matters, and immigration appeals, including an appeal currently pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I also am pleased to serve on the Second Circuit's pro bono panel.



Jillian L. McGuire
87.4 Pro Bono Hours
Mackenzie Hughes LLP

As my practice focuses primarily on family law and domestic litigation, I have donated pro bono hours to help those in need through matters of custody, divorce, child support, adoption, and other family law issues. I specifically try to donate hours toward helping victims of domestic violence, whether through acting as a pro bono attorney for our local domestic violence clinic or on individual cases as they arise.



Nelson A. Castillo
173 Pro Bono Hours
Nelson A. Castillo Attorney at Law

Through my pro bono work, I strive to empower people, positively change their lives, and help them obtain justice.



Daniel T. Gomez
52 Pro Bono Hours
Daniel T. Gomez Attorney at Law

Volunteering with the City Bar Justice Center's Elder Law and Cancer Advocacy Program is an immensely fulfilling experience especially at a time when poverty rates continue to rise in New York City. Through this effort, I have been able to help safeguard the legal rights of low income elderly and other terminally ill individuals at a critical point in their life. Careful life and estate planning reassures clients that their wishes will be carried out with dignity and their loved ones protected.



Karen Mills
50+ Pro Bono Hours
KarimSyah Law Firm

I am a commercial lawyer and thus do not deal with civil and family matters, and my firm does not have a specific program for low-income persons who are brought to court and cannot afford counsel. Having said that, I have spent more than 50 hours per year advising various persons who request advice or other assistance when they are unable to afford counsel. This includes employees who have been dismissed improperly or without good reason, or who are not being paid.



Fern J. Finkel
200+ Pro Bono Hours
Fern J. Finkle Attorney at Law

As part of my private practice, I spend a significant amount of time providing pro bono services on behalf of the indigent elderly of Brooklyn. I have spearheaded the Legal Education and Assistance Project, known as LEAP, at the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project. The LEAP project is dedicated to training attorneys to perform outreach at community and senior centers throughout Brooklyn, with a focus on assisting seniors to have their health care proxies and advance directives in place, avoiding the painful process of guardianship which might otherwise result.



Barry Lites
100+ Pro Bono Hours

Law Offices of Barry D. Lites

I am one of the founding members of the Suffolk County Bar Association's Foreclosure Project, a group of attorneys who donate their time and expertise to Suffolk County homeowners facing foreclosure. Since 2010, I have donated approximately 100 hours' time each year counseling homeowners and instructing attorneys seeking to provide pro bono foreclosure counseling services to Suffolk County residents. I have also spoken at local churches and libraries on the topic of foreclosure and the legal rights of and options available to those in financial distress.



Margarett M. Williams
69 Pro Bono Hours

Margarett M. Williams Attorney at Law

I didn't go to law school until I was 44 years old, so I feel privileged to be an attorney. Privilege also brings responsibilities. My pro bono work to date has involved matrimonial cases, and most of my clients have been vulnerable females in abusive relationships. There is nothing more gratifying than assisting those who feel they have no voice. During the divorce process, I try build their confidence while discussing education and independence. When I hear from them years later, I realize that I did more than get them divorced. They are on a path to a new life. How many people have the knowledge and skills to play a crucial role in another person's life? Priceless!



Michaela K. Rossettie Azemi
85.3 Pro Bono Hours

Michaela K. Rossettie Azemi Attorney at Law

This past summer I volunteered as a pro bono attorney at Legal Assistance of Western New York. I took over the pro se divorce clinic and worked on drafting the divorce papers, filing, and meeting with clients for the clinic. I had the pleasure of assisting many low income individuals obtain a divorce, some of whom had been waiting for years. After my time as a volunteer, I was hired in September at Legal Assistance of Western New York as a full time Staff Attorney. I am now continuing the work I did as a pro bono volunteer and reaching out to private attorneys in the area to encourage their participation in our growing pro se divorce clinic.



Therese Connors Ebarb
500+ Pro Bono Hours

Touro Law Center Elder Law Clinic

Following Superstorm Sandy, I provided legal advice to TLC Hotline callers on a variety of legal issues. I also coordinated with social service, non-profits and Sandy recovery providers to assist those affected. For homeowners, I conducted on-site inspections with experts to determine factual and legal issues and assisted homeowners in filing an initial or supplemental claim with their flood and homeowner insurance companies. In addition I represented elderly clients with Guardianship, Medicaid and end-of-life planning through the Elder Law Clinic.



Richard B. Ancowitz
75 Pro Bono Hours

Law Offices of Richard B. Ancowitz

In 2013, I provided pro bono representation to victims of domestic violence and to the homeowners against whom mortgage foreclosure actions were commenced



Raphi Blustein
60 Pro Bono Hours

Raphi Blustein & Co. Law Offices

I strongly believe in the social and economical empowerment of the Ethiopian community, which is deeply discriminated in Israel. Therefore, it is my duty to provide pro bono legal assistance to this community in order to allow Ethiopians in Israel to achieve equal protection of the law



Peri A. Berger
180+ Pro Bono Hours

Harris Beach, PLLC

Pro bono work is an important part of the practice of law. Helping those who cannot afford the legal services they require is a privilege of private practice. I am proud to be part of a firm and profession that volunteers to provide assistance to those in need.



Amy Lehman
60 Pro Bono Hours

Thompson & Knight, LLP

For 2013, my pro bono work consisted of assisting a client assigned to me by Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, with corporate compliance issues. I also work in the VLA Mediate Arts program training future mediators for VLA clients, and performing mediations between artists whenever needed.

*The Albany County Bar Association,
The Legal Aid Society, The Legal Project
& The New York State Bar Association*

Present

REPRESENTING THE PRO BONO
DEBTOR UNDER BAPCPA

*Transitional Program: Appropriate for both newly admitted
and experienced attorneys*

May 22, 2014

Registration and Lunch 12:00 p.m.

Seminar: 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

NYSBA, One Elk Street, Albany, Great Hall

For more information visit www.nysba.org/bankruptcy

Are You feeling overwhelmed?

**The New York State Bar Association's
Lawyer Assistance Program can help.**

We understand the competition, constant stress, and high expectations you face as a lawyer, judge or law student. Sometimes the most difficult trials happen outside the court. Unmanaged stress can lead to problems such as substance abuse and depression.

NYSBA's LAP offers free, confidential help. All LAP services are confidential and protected under section 499 of the Judiciary Law.

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NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM





New York Lawyers – The Good We Do

EXPRESSIONS

Expressions

Do you have a story to tell....

Have you worked on a special Pro Bono project?

Have you had a poignant experience you'd like to share?

Has your community service work improved the lives of others?

We invite you to submit your own stories of inspirational experiences, community service, pro bono activities or cases that have changed your life and your practice of law. Stories submitted may be featured in "Expressions," an online collection of essays that collectively highlight "New York Lawyers, The Good We Do." As a general guideline, submissions should be in the range of 750 to 1,000 words.

For a complete set of instructions please go to www.nysba.org/thegoodwedoguidelines.

Remarkable stories may be selected for expansion into video vignettes and will be posted under Expressions on the NYSBA website. Please join us in sharing the untold stories of New York lawyers making a difference – celebrate your good work and inspire others.

Email your submissions to thegoodwedo@nysba.org.





NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
PRO BONO DEPARTMENT

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