

# Pro Bono News

Spring Edition Vol. 25 No. 2

## NYSBA Proudly Recognizes the Pro Bono Contributions of Outstanding Volunteers from Around the State

**Gloria Herron Arthur\*, Esq., Director, Department of Pro Bono Affairs, New York State Bar Association**

The Association's commitment to recognizing and promoting pro bono service is well-known and respected by members of the legal community.



**Herron Arthur\***

For 25 years, NYSBA has presented the coveted President's Pro Bono Service Awards to those legal professionals and law students who have stepped up to provide free representation to impoverished individuals and families who could not afford to hire an attorney when threatened with the imminent loss of shelter, custody of their children, food, education or other essentials of life.

Recipients of these awards are selected based on many factors, including the number of pro bono clients served; amount of time donated, especially during the preceding calendar year; and the impact of the honorees' pro bono service on the lives of the clients served. Consideration also is given to the impact of the volunteer's service on the community at large, as well as its impact in expanding capacity of service delivery by the programs in the area. Similarly, the degree to which a nominee's pro bono service has inspired others to do pro bono is given due consideration. Lastly, the pro bono service must have benefitted individuals, families, and/or nonprofit organizations located in New York State.

The 2015 President's Pro Bono Service Awards recipients include individual attorneys from 12 of the 13 Judicial Districts, a law student volunteer and a law school pro bono group. Both a senior lawyer and a young lawyer are also recognized. Law firms play a significant role in promoting pro bono service. To ensure that firms throughout New York – regardless of size - have an opportunity to be recognized, these awards are divided into three categories: large firm (201 or more attorneys); mid-sized firm (50 to 200 attorneys); and small law firm (two to 49 attorneys).

This year's honorees donated pro bono service in a diverse range of substantive legal areas, including domestic violence cases, child support and

child custody matters, landlord-tenant cases, consumer debt, and unemployment insurance hearings and appeals. Federal prisoners, sentenced under harsh sentencing guidelines were assisted with applications for presidential clemency. Law students provided Iraqi refugee families living in Syria, Egypt, or Jordan with legal assistance to enable them to relocate to the United States. Detained immigrant youth received free legal assistance in immigration court. The honorees also served as exemplary role models and leaders, inspiring others to do pro bono service.

The awards will be presented during a luncheon ceremony at the State Bar Association on May 5, 2015. The honorees are featured in a photo gallery in this edition. To learn more about their pro bono service go to [www.nysba.org/PBAwards](http://www.nysba.org/PBAwards). Congratulations to the 2015 President's Pro Bono Service Award Recipients for their selfless service which positively impacted the lives of some of New York's neediest and most underserved population groups.

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**The Pro Bono Newsletter is available online at [www.nysba.org/ProBonoNews](http://www.nysba.org/ProBonoNews)**

A single asterisk\* next to a name indicates the individual is a member of NYSBA. A double asterisk\*\* indicates a law student member of the Association.

*Views expressed in published articles are those of the authors alone and are not to be attributed to the Pro Bono Newsletter, its editors, or the New York State Bar Association, unless expressly so stated.*

*Article authors are responsible for the correctness of all information, citations and quotations. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.*

**Editor: Gloria Herron Arthur, Esq.**  
**Assistant Editor: Dannielle Hille**

## Upcoming Events:

### Best Practices in Pro Bono: Preparing for and Managing Risk

**Skadden Arps  
4 Times Square  
New York, NY  
May 12 / 9am-11:30am**

A discussion on how to prepare for and manage risk in pro bono relationships. This session will open with a brief introduction to risk management techniques and will be followed by a panel discussion on how to deal with risk once it arises. RSVP: [Diane.Salzano@skadden.com](mailto:Diane.Salzano@skadden.com).

### Pro Bono "Plus One" Roundtable

**New York State Bar Association  
Albany, NY  
May 21 / 5pm-7pm**

The Capital Region Pro Bono Committee would like to show our appreciation to you, the Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys of the Capital District. We invite you to please bring a colleague or two and share the joy of doing pro bono work. We are rich in pro bono opportunities and excited to share them with your colleagues. Long time volunteers will offer their perspectives on the + and - of fitting pro bono into their practices. Topics covered will include time commitments, malpractice insurance, and limited scope vs. full representation; Attorney Emeritus Pro Bono Program, and more. For more information and to register visit [www.nysba.org/probonoevents](http://www.nysba.org/probonoevents).

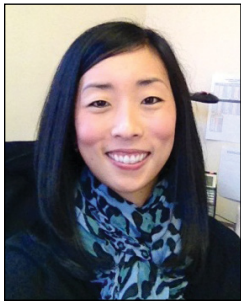
### Focus on Family Court: Holistic & Effective Family Representation CLE

**New York State Bar Association  
Albany, NY  
June 5 / 9:30am-4:45pm**

Leading practitioners knowledgeable in the representation of adults in Family Court proceedings will provide an overview of best practices and offer practical advice and strategies. The day-long CLE will cover best practices for working with experts in Article 10, child welfare and related proceedings, how to conduct more effective preliminary hearing preparation and discovery, and how to incorporate social workers and other non-legal professionals into your practice so as to ensure holistic representation for your clients. Because our clients seldom present with a single, discrete legal issue to be addressed in one forum, the CLE will feature a panel of experienced practitioners who will discuss the unintended legal consequences that may develop for clients and offer practical suggestions and strategies for how to coordinate the representation of a client facing multiple consequences in multiple forums. For more information and to register online visit [www.nysba.org/family2015](http://www.nysba.org/family2015).

# A Year in Review

**Michele Sleight\*, Esq., Private Attorney Involvement Director  
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York**



**Michele Sleight**

When I became the new Director of the Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program for the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, in February of 2014, I had no idea what to expect. I had much to learn, in terms of the daily operations of the office, the numerous programs which PAI is responsible for, all of the new faces both within and outside Legal Aid, reporting requirements, and everything in between. Having been at my post for a little more than a year now, I can say with pride that the PAI Program remains robust and strong, all thanks to my wonderful colleagues, community partners, and pro bono attorneys.

As has always been the goal in PAI, the goal this year is to expand existing programs, and ensure that we are providing services to as many clients as possible within these. Our 6 pro se divorce clinics, which cover 12 counties, are filling up to capacity. Our veterans' clinic, at the VA Medical Center in Albany is also at maximum capac-

ity on a consistent basis. The bankruptcy referral program is one of the most sought after, and I always have my eyes and ears open for pro bono attorneys who are interested in assisting our clients. A Chapter 7 bankruptcy can be absolutely life changing for clients, so it's imperative that this program maintains its strength and grows. We are also working with our Senior Legal Services staff attorney to do outreach in order to connect our clients with pro bono attorneys who will draft and execute wills and other advanced directives. We currently refer clients to private attorneys who need wills, healthcare proxies and powers of attorney. However, we know from PAI volunteers that they enjoy this work, so we are getting the word out to potential clients about the program. Lastly, one of our most successful programs is our Unemployment Insurance Benefits clinic, where a pro bono attorney meets one-on-one with a client regarding their UIB concerns. The attorney is able to meet with several clients each month, and we like to ensure that prospective clients know that we are a resource for their UIB needs.

Another goal is to begin new programs. One exciting program that

is currently in the planning stages, but will have been launched by the time this newsletter is published, is a re-entry clinic. The purpose of this clinic is to assist previously incarcerated individuals obtain Certificates of Relief from Disabilities so that they can obtain employment and establish a new life for themselves. There are other programs which we would like to instill, and plans for those are still ideas. However, it is my hope that in the coming years, we will have the ability to get some new programs up and running.

These last 13+ months have been both rewarding and challenging. Unfortunately, we cannot meet the needs of every single client who seeks services from the PAI Program, and that is often a bitter pill to swallow. However, on those challenging days, when a client comes to us in tears because of their gratitude for the assistance they received, we know that we are making a difference in people's lives, and our efforts to be creative and expansive are invigorated.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the next 12 months bring, and am humbled by the generous and selfless attorneys who are the bread and butter of this program.

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## A New Year...A New Attorney

**Samantha Howell\*, Esq., Director of Pro Bono & Outreach  
Prisoners' Legal Services of New York**



**Lisa Weinstein**

It is remarkable how many people have told me that 2014 was a rough year. I agree 100%, but 2015 is looking up! Not only has spring finally arrived in Albany (and they said it would never happen), but this year has already brought a great deal of excitement.

In February, Lisa Weinstein started working at Prisoners' Legal Services as the new Pro Bono Attorney. Lisa is a graduate of Pace Law School and Skidmore College and did not run screaming when her arrival was celebrated with the two worst snowstorms in years!

Lisa will review and screen cases for referral to pro bono counsel, assist and support volunteer attorneys and students, and represent the Pro Bono Partnership Program at community events. Add her to your rolodex...you

may be hearing from her.

We will also be doing trainings throughout the State this year. If you are interested in having us come to your office or town to do a CLE training on prisoners' rights issues – such as challenging a prison disciplinary hearing with CPLR Article 78 procedures, handling removal/deportation cases involving incarcerated persons, representing someone on a parole or medical parole denial – please send an email to [showell@plsny.org](mailto:showell@plsny.org).

# Hogan Lovells Secures Landmark Pro Bono Asylum Victory for Gay Macedonian Couple

Erin Meyer, Esq., Pro Bono Associate, Hogan Lovells US LLP

A team of Hogan Lovells pro bono lawyers recently secured a landmark asylum victory for a gay married couple fleeing persecution in Macedonia. The couple received asylum in one of the first cases of its kind following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Windsor v. United States*.

As a result of the high court's 2013 ruling striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional, gay and lesbian asylum applicants can now seek derivative asylee status for their spouses. Prior to *Windsor*, derivative asylee status was only available to heterosexual spouses.

The pro bono team handled the matter through Immigration Equality, and the January 2015 grant of asylum for both men is a landmark victory for gay married couples.

In Macedonia, the two young men were attacked by homophobic civilians, sexually abused, and violently beaten by anti-gay police officers. Fearing for their lives, they escaped their native country by obtaining visas to travel to the United States for temporary employment. Once in the U.S., they were married in New York and turned to Immigration Equality for help in applying for asylum.

Over the course of six months, Hogan Lovells lawyers assisted the clients by drafting affidavits describing the anti-gay persecution they had suffered in Macedonia, collecting supporting evidence and witness affidavits to corroborate the facts of the case, and preparing them for the asylum interview.

Partner Pieter Van Tol and associates Erin Meyer\*, Marisa Lenok\*, and

Garima Malhotra\* handled the case, with help from associates Nina Tandon\*, Conway Ekpo, David Mitchell, Annette Boglev\*, Samuel Zimmerman\*, Robert Baldwin, Katelyn Ruiz\*, and assistant Carol Kooshian.

## About Hogan Lovells

Hogan Lovells is a leading global legal practice providing business-oriented legal advice and high-quality service across its exceptional breadth of practices to clients around the world.

"Hogan Lovells" or the "firm" is an international legal practice that includes Hogan Lovells US LLP and Hogan Lovells International LLP. For more information, see [www.hoganlovells.com](http://www.hoganlovells.com).

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## Lending Expert Advice to Nepal

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

Morrison & Foerster's James Peck, who joined the firm in March 2014 and co-chairs its global Business Restructuring & Insolvency Group, is one of the world's most recognized authorities on U.S. bankruptcy law. As a judge in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, he presided over the Lehman chapter 11 cases — the largest bankruptcy filings in U.S. history. In July 2014, Judge Peck proved his expertise on global issues by traveling to Nepal to advise on reforms to that country's insolvency laws.

Nepal has recently been plagued by the failure of several banking and financial institutions, as well as insurance companies. These institutions

were poorly managed and unsound. The Nepalese Insolvency Practitioners' Association invited Judge Peck and two officers of INSOL International, a worldwide federation of associations dedicated to turnarounds and insolvency, to advise government and banking officials on the best global practices for dealing with distress in the financial sector. In early July 2014, Judge Peck spoke at a two-day program in Kathmandu on the subject "Insolvency: Local Issues, Global Views."

Judge Peck shared some of his cross-border experiences in Lehman and urged Nepalese regulators and courts to work together in finding commercially and culturally appropri-

ate means to better manage the resolution of banks, financial institutions, and insurance companies in Nepal. The economic problems in Nepal are not sophisticated by Western standards but are perhaps even more challenging to fix. The country needs to attract capital and the hope is that a more predictable and trustworthy system for resolving business failures will help to encourage foreign investment.

More than 120 delegates took part in the two-day meeting. And it wasn't just an academic discussion. The proceedings ended with a briefing on needed legal and regulatory reforms with the Nepalese minister of finance and other key government officials.

# Lawyers Alliance for New York Releases Publications for Pro Bono Attorneys Representing Nonprofits

Elizabeth M. Guggenheimer\*, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Institutional Advancement

Lawyers Alliance for New York recently updated its signature publications, *Getting Organized* and *Advising Nonprofits*, to reflect significant legal developments and best practices for nonprofits. Both publications serve as practical guides for pro bono attorneys. Their content is drawn from Lawyers Alliance's decades of experience representing community-based and other organizations working in low-income neighborhoods throughout New York.

These guides are particularly timely given that New York nonprofits must now comply with the state's new Nonprofit Revitalization Act, which became effective on July 1, 2014. This Act is the first comprehensive revision of the state's Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (N-PCL) in nearly 45 years. Under this Act, all nonprofits incorporated in New York State, both charitable and non-charitable entities, are legally required to adopt governance policies and fiscal procedures that were until now considered best practices.

Now in its sixth edition, *Getting Organized* is a 327-page hands-on

guide for nonprofit managers and attorneys representing organizations that seek to incorporate and secure recognition of tax-exempt status. The recent changes to the N-PCL strengthen corporate governance and nonprofit accountability, modernize certain aspects of the N-PCL, and eliminate some administrative and procedural burdens. *Getting Organized* helps newly forming groups and their attorneys find online forms, research information, and complete applications to help streamline the incorporation and tax exemption process.

Edited by Lawyers Alliance's Legal Director Linda Schechter Manley\* and Staff Attorney Nicole D. Cuttino, *Getting Organized* covers key legal issues relating to the incorporation procedure; the operation of newly formed not-for-profit corporations; federal, state, and local tax-exemption; regulatory reporting requirements; and fiscal sponsorship. Extensive appendices contain sample forms and resources.

Also in its sixth edition, the 526-page *Advising Nonprofits* provides a comprehensive, practical map for identifying a wide range of key legal

issues encountered by New York nonprofit staff and the attorneys who advise them. Edited by Lawyers Alliance's Executive Director Sean Delany and Senior Staff Attorney Elizabeth Perez, the book also helps pro bono attorneys assess when more in-depth legal counsel is needed.

*Advising Nonprofits* offers insight into legal issues relating to corporate structure, board governance, contracts, regulatory compliance, fundraising, personnel management, lobbying and political activity, intellectual property, and revenue-generating activities. Extensive appendices contain model documents and practical checklists and charts, making it easier for pro bono attorneys to help nonprofit clients apply these concepts to daily operations.

*Getting Organized* and *Advising Nonprofits* are available for purchase as bound printed publications or in electronic PDF format. Please visit Lawyers Alliance's website at [www.lawyersalliance.org/publications.php](http://www.lawyersalliance.org/publications.php) for a complimentary viewing of the table of contents and further details.

## 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.

powered by **probono.net**

You can find the Opportunities Guide on the Pro Bono Net Web site at [www.probono.net](http://www.probono.net), through the New York State Bar Association Web site at [www.nysba.org/pbnet](http://www.nysba.org/pbnet), through the New York City Bar Justice Center's Web site at [www.nycbar.org](http://www.nycbar.org), and through the Volunteers of Legal Service Web site at [www.volspobono.org](http://www.volspobono.org).



NEW YORK  
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# Legal Aid Society and Milbank Reach Settlement with New York City Benefitting Tens of Thousands of Low-Income New Yorkers with Disabilities

Louis S. Sartori, Esq., Director, Pro Bono Practice  
The Legal Aid Society

The Legal Aid Society and the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP announced the preliminary approval of a landmark settlement in a civil rights lawsuit affecting over 30,000 New Yorkers with disabilities. The class action law suit, *Lovely H. v. Eggleston*, 05 CV 6920, was filed in 2005 in Federal Court in the Southern District of New York because low-income New Yorkers with disabilities were being denied access to benefits by the City's welfare agency, the Human Resources Administration (HRA).

Kathleen Kelleher, a Staff Attorney in the Civil Law Reform Unit and the lead attorney for The Legal Aid Society on the case, said that, "This is a landmark settlement that reaffirms the rights of people with disabilities to be treated with dignity and fairness by all government agencies, especially those charged with protecting the most vulnerable families."

"We are happy to have been part of such an important litigation and thrilled to have achieved such a great result for our pro bono clients," said Sean Murphy, Milbank's lead attorney on the case.

*Lovely H.* challenged HRA's rules and systems for people with disabilities who receive cash assistance, SNAP and Medicaid. The case alleged that HRA programs and systems did not comply with federal, state and local laws protecting individuals with disabilities - failing to provide the accommodations clients need to comply with HRA rules. Staff attorney Susan Welber explained: "Just like

you may need a ramp if you are in a wheelchair to get access to a building, HRA clients with disabilities often need simple things in order to access their benefits, like help getting to appointments or even just filling out forms." The lawsuit alleged that without needed accommodations, clients were losing benefits when they could not comply with HRA rules and were put at risk of hunger and homelessness.

The settlement represents a sea change in the way people with disabilities will be served, affirming the agency's commitment to assisting people with disabilities to get the help they need and preventing loss of benefits due to disabilities.

## Key Provisions

In the proposed settlement, HRA has agreed to change rules and systems to make Cash Assistance and SNAP programs and benefits more accessible to people with disabilities. Changes include better screening in order to assist clients who may need help including those with disabilities that are difficult to identify - like mental health impairments; quicker access to disability help; a greater degree of case management services, with more intensive services provided to those with more serious barriers; protections to ensure that clients do not inappropriately lose benefits because of their disabilities; and improved phone and other communication systems so that disabled clients can get in touch with the agency, especially when they have emergencies.

"On behalf of our clients, we are pleased that the new Administration has made these important commitments to low-income New Yorkers with disabilities," said Seymour W. James\*, the Attorney-in-Chief of The Legal Aid Society. "We are optimistic that this landmark settlement will result in real improvements in the lives of low-income New Yorkers and that they will be treated with dignity and fairness."

## Past Achievements in the Case

Since it was filed in 2005, the team from Milbank and Legal Aid was able to stop the City practice of forcing disabled individuals to a segregated "disabled-only" welfare center rather than permitting them to be served in one of the 29 neighborhood offices and secured retroactive benefits for more than 15,000 households who lost benefits as a result of the practice. In addition, Plaintiffs secured a Court order protecting the rights of homebound clients whose cases were mistakenly closed due to HRA systems errors and directing reimbursement of any lost benefits.

The plaintiffs are also represented by Kenneth Stephens, Supervising Attorney, and Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of The Legal Aid Society's Civil Practice Law Reform Unit. In addition to Mr. Murphy, Pro Bono counsel from Milbank Tweed includes Sarah Rothenberg\* and Andrea Hood.

# Welcome Pro Bono Scholars!

**Marian Genio\*, Esq., Pro Bono Director, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley**

Two law students from Pace Law School, Leigh Ellis and Susan Papacostas, will be working at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley as Pro Bono Scholars for twelve weeks, through mid-May. We are happy to welcome them and grateful for their assistance.



**Leigh Ellis**

Leigh's desire to work in the area of public interest began as an undergraduate, while she was working at a shelter. She pursued a course of study which included

courses in women's justice, reproductive rights and domestic violence. Her decision to attend law school arose as a result of her work at the shelter.

As a member of the Public Interest Law Students Organization at Pace Law School, she was the recipient of a grant which enabled her to spend a summer doing work focusing on

immigration. That work included issues pertaining to job-related injuries, unaccompanied minors and sex trafficking.

Leigh applied to the Pro Bono Scholars program because she felt that "certain skills necessary to be a good lawyer can't be taught in the classroom." She feels that the experience of coming to an office each day, going to court, working closely with attorneys and dealing with clients directly is invaluable.



**Susan Papacostas**

Susan's purpose in attending law school was to prepare for a career in public interest law. Particularly, she has been interested in issues affecting women and children, and her incentive is to

assist those in need.

While at Pace Law School, Susan has been a member of the Public

Interest Law Students Organization. Upon learning of Judge Lippman's announcement of the Pro Bono Scholars program, Susan applied immediately. She saw it as the perfect opportunity to be able to "give back" to the community. Being chosen as one of the scholars in the inaugural year of the program is "a dream come true."

In addition to volunteering in the legal arena, Susan is a past board member of Cabrini of Westchester and, with her family, has been involved actively for the past nine years in supporting St. Innocent Orphanage in Mexico.

Leigh will be working with a Child Advocacy attorney and focusing on SSI cases. Susan will be assisting on cases in the Domestic Violence Unit. We are fortunate that Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has the opportunity to host these talented students, and are honored to be a participant in the inaugural year of the Pro Bono Scholars Program.

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## Long Island Attorneys Support Local Veterans

**Maria Dosso\*, Esq., Director of Communications and Volunteer Services**

Long Island attorneys demonstrated their resounding support for local veterans by participating in the *Volunteers for Veterans* event. The event, held on February 11, 2015 at the Suffolk County Bar Association (SCBA), was organized to provide short term consultations and guidance to veterans and their families on a wide variety of legal matters. This collaborative effort to serve Long Island veterans was initiated by the SCBA, the Suffolk Pro Bono Foundation and Nassau Suffolk Law Services to give back to veterans of all ages and their families, in gratitude for their service and their sacri-

fices. Over 60 attorneys signed up to help. The veterans who attended were clearly touched and impressed by the legal community's outpouring of support.

Almost 40 veterans participated on a wintry day, along with several Suffolk County veterans' service agencies, which were on sight to inform the veterans and the attorneys of the support services their agencies provide, making the event an inspiration to all. The veterans expressed their appreciation and commented on the kindness showed to them by the consulting attorneys. With an ample

number of volunteers filling the Suffolk County Bar Association's Great Hall, the veterans were impressed, upon arriving, by the image of so many attorneys in the room showing their care and concern for the everyday problems and struggles being faced by servicemen and servicewomen.

The Suffolk County Bar Association and Nassau Suffolk Law Services hope to repeat this event later this year and will spread the word among local veterans and their families that the Long Island legal community is here to help them.

# Pro Bono Innovations and Beyond

Kevin Kelly, Esq.\*, Pro Bono Innovations Fund Project Manager, Legal Assistance of Western New York

The stars have aligned in Upstate New York and Long Island for legal services agencies to transform the ways we serve our clients with new pro bono resources. The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) awarded a Pro Bono Innovations Fund Grant of over \$300,000 to Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY), together

grant to spend half their time on this project during the 15-month implementation phase that started in February and runs through April, 2017. NLS chose a veteran attorney from their Buffalo housing unit, Christine McMenemy, Esq. for this position. Nicole Scialabba\*, Esq. in LawNY's Ithaca Office brings experience from both the

Long Island with similar caseloads, but not in a small city like Ithaca surrounding Cornell. That is important on Long Island because Touro and Hofstra already have clinical requirements for their students that meet the new 50 hour requirement, and Melissa Greenberger is left with having to make extra exciting opportunities to attract law students to NSLS. In partnership with Hofstra, projects to help with preparing and filing child support petitions and to help consumer debt defendants in District Court proceedings are being explored. We are also able to mix traditional models our offices have used to utilize law students, like summer internships that provide upwards of 300 hours of hands-on experience, and tailor them into micro-versions for law students doing 50 hours, or even less depending on the demand.

We also look forward to bringing the talents of attorneys participating in the Attorney Emeritus Program (AEP) into our service delivery systems to enhance our ability to serve our clients. To participate, an attorney must be at least 55 years old and have ten years of practice experience. There are two ways to participate. One is to be retired from practice and only practice on a pro bono basis through an eligible agency. For these Attorneys Emeritus, bar registration fees and CLE requirements are waived. The other way is for attorneys to pledge 60 hours of pro bono over two years, which comes with 15 CLE credits, and written recognition from the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Hon. Jonathan Lippman\*. Because these attorneys retain their ability to practice law for a fee, they must still pay their registration fee and complete the remainder of their CLE credits. The long time NSLS pro bono coordinator, Maria Dosso\*, Esq. notes that the AEP presents an opportunity to attract law students who want to work with tested and reputable attorneys who also volunteer to provide

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*Each agency has designated an Innovator, who is funded by the LSC grant to spend half their time on this project during the 15-month implementation phase that started in February and runs through April, 2017.*

with the other five other LSC grantees serving these areas to recruit volunteer law students, including those completing their 50-hour pro bono requirement, and Attorneys Emeritus completing their 60-hour pledge, through our offices.

Our agencies all conveniently have law schools in our areas each of which wrote letters in support of the grant: Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) is working with the University at Buffalo School of Law; LawNY is working with Cornell Law School; the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York (LASMNY) is working with Syracuse University College of Law; the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) is working with Albany Law School; Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) is working with Pace University Law School; and Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee (NSLS) is working with Touro Law and the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra. We have been joined in the project by Columbia Law School. The Fordham Law School's Feerick Center for Social Justice is also assisting all of the agencies with their resources helping to administer partnerships with Attorneys Emeritus.

Each agency has designated an Innovator, who is funded by the LSC

Florida State University Law School Placement Office, and her background in Legal Services in Pittsburgh. LASMNY placed Andrew Eastham\*, Esq. in their Syracuse Office where he also conducts the Pro Se Consumer Law and Divorce Clinics. LASNNY's Cheryenne James\*, Esq. works in their Saratoga Office (See her article in the Winter Edition NYSBA Pro Bono News, entitled "An Innovative Time," page 7). Experienced pro bono coordinator Carol Neiditch, Esq. shares her career knowledge out of the White Plains Office of LSHV. Melissa Greenberger\*, Esq. fits the position for NSLS while she also works for Touro Law School. Collectively we are challenged to provide 17,500 hours of service from 130 law students and 60 Attorneys Emeritus, touching 1,900 client's cases, and developing 15 client educational brochures.

We all meet once a week by remote videoconferencing and participate in an interactive website portal to share our experiences and ideas for maximizing these resources. Of course our areas have vastly different and sometimes unique resources and challenges. Christine McMenemy's placement of law students with practice orders to try evictions in Buffalo City Court, for example, may be worth trying on



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services to our clients.

We are extremely grateful to Dora Galacatos, Esq., and her staff at the Feerick Center. She is charged with administration of the AEP and routinely checks in with our efforts individually, and through group conferences. During our weekly video conferences we often feature other guests who provide additional perspective or contributions. Veteran pro bono coor-

inator from LASMNY's Binghamton Office, Arlene Sanders\*, Esq. teamed up with LSHV Innovator Carol Neiditch to give some of the newer Innovators some "old school" lessons on pro bono recruitment. Anna Hine, LawNY's IT coordinator, joined us for developing our website portal, which can be visited at [www.nyprobono.org](http://www.nyprobono.org). LawhelpNY Organizational Listing and Upstate Outreach Coordinator Kaitlin Hollrah joined us recently to help coordinate our efforts

to develop client educational brochures. LawHelpNY Project Director Leah Margulies will be joining us to target which issues are most useful to our clients and discuss what types of materials work most efficiently.

By the end of this grant, we will have developed innovations for working with law students and Attorneys Emeritus that will be sustainable and shareable for our agencies in New York State and beyond!

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## Settlement Forces City to End Unlawful Enforcement of Criminal Trespass Laws in Public Housing

Louis S. Sartori, Esq., Director, Pro Bono Practice, The Legal Aid Society

"They've been treating people like criminals in their own homes, or the homes of their friends and loved ones," said Seymour James\*, Attorney in Chief.

*Davis et al. v. City of New York et al.*, 10 Civ. 0699, is a five-year-old federal class-action lawsuit brought by individual residents and guests of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residences on behalf of a plaintiff class that challenged the NYPD's unlawful policy and practice of routinely stopping and arresting NYCHA residents and guests without reasonable suspicion or probable cause of illegal conduct in a racially discriminatory manner.

The lawsuit, filed in January 2010, charged that residents of public housing and their visitors faced police scrutiny and unwarranted stops for mundane activities like talking in the hallways or dropping off children. These mostly came from officers engaged in so-called vertical patrols, when officers sweep buildings floor by floor. The Legal Aid Society filed the suit with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.

The terms of the settlement explicitly state that, "NYCHA residents and their authorized visitors have the same legal rights as the residents

and authorized visitors of any other residential building in New York City, and deserve the utmost courtesy and respect." The settlement revises the NYPD Patrol Guide on vertical (or interior) patrols in NYC public housing and the related NYPD training materials regarding vertical patrols and enforcement of NYCHA rules, imposes a documentation requirement for all trespass arrests in NYC public housing, and modifies certain NYCHA rules concerning residents' cooperation with police and the prohibited activity of "lingering."

The settlement is subject to final approval by Judge Shira Scheindlin\* of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, after class members have had an opportunity to voice their opinions about its terms. Upon final court approval, the Davis case will become part of the court monitoring process that was ordered in the lawsuit that successfully challenged the NYPD's stop-and-frisk policies (*Floyd v. City of New York*). Both matters will be overseen by the court-appointed monitor, and former NYC Corporation Counsel, Peter Zimroth\*. Community stakeholders, including public housing residents, will have input in the structuring of these reforms through a process that will be presided over by retired

State Appellate Division Justice Ariel Belen.

"This agreement strikes the right balance between safety in NYCHA developments and the rights of residents and their guests to be free from harassment and unlawful arrests," said Seymour James, Jr., Attorney-in-Chief of the Legal Aid Society. "The court monitoring process offers an opportunity for the community and the NYPD to have a meaningful discussion that is essential for constructive change, especially during this critical time in police-community relations. We are eager to begin the process that will ensure better security, and better police services, for public housing residents."

Staffing in this case from The Legal Aid Society included Staff Attorneys Marlen Bodden, Amanda Moretti, Lucy Newman, Nancy Rosenbloom, Steven Wasserman and Director of the Special Litigation Unit of The Legal Aid Society's Criminal Practice, William D. Gibney. Staffing from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund included President and Director-Counsel Sherilyn Ifill, Deputy Director of Litigation Jin Hee Lee and Senior Counsel Rachel M. Kleinman. Staffing from Paul, Weiss included Partner Michele Hirshman and Associates Elana R. Beale\* and Erin Elizabeth Elmouji.

# “Have Cell Phone, Will Help!”

**Mobile Optimized LawHelpNY.org Offers New Ways to Provide Assistance**  
**Leah Margulies, Esq., Project Director, LawHelpNY**

Just a guess—the vast majority of pro bono attorneys and law students in New York State use a smart phone. With a smart phone, when you go to [www.LawHelpNY.org](http://www.LawHelpNY.org), you are automatically connected to LawHelpNY’s mobile optimized site. With a streamlined homepage, it’s easy to find referral information and *Know Your Rights* resources. No matter where you are, even if you are miles from your desk top or laptop computer, you can help someone in need with good information and referrals to free services.

In the Winter Edition, 2015, of Pro Bono News, you read testimony from pro bono law students about their experiences as LiveHelp operators providing legal assistance to low income New Yorkers via online chat. For many law student volunteers, this is their first experience learning about the legal problems facing poor people, and their first experience serving in a pro bono capacity. Through LawHelpNY’s new mobile optimized site, LiveHelp chat is available from a mobile phone, in both English and Spanish. So, using your cell phone to access LawHelpNY.org, you can click on the LiveHelp button. LiveHelp is available from 9 am to 9 pm Monday through Thursday and until 6 PM on Friday.

In addition, we recently added Going to Court resources to the mobile experience so many of the resources from the new CourtHelp site ([www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/](http://www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/)) are now available for mobile access via LawHelpNY.org.

For the low-income general public, mobile optimized LawHelpNY.org makes access to know your rights information and legal referrals easier than ever to find since smart phone access to the Internet is increasingly becoming a significant part of how low-income people access online services.

The Pew Research Center’s 2013 report, “State of the Digital Divide” reports that Internet adoption is so broad, now at 85% of the U.S. population, that it has been transformed from a “novelty into a utility.” Their 2014 report, “The Web at 25 in the US” has even more startling data. For the Black population, the acceptance and use of smart phones increases Internet access by 15%—from 64% with broadband at home to 79% when smart phone access is added. For the Hispanic population, the increase is more dramatic—from 53% with broadband at home to 75% when you add smart phone access—an increase of 22%! In fact, there is almost no difference among race/ethnic groups for access

either from home broadband or with a smart phone: White, Non-Hispanic = 80%; Black, Non-Hispanic = 79%; Hispanic = 75%.

Of course, the highest percent of total access is with the young, ages 18 – 29, 80% of this group has broadband at home, but when you add smart phone access, 95% of this age group has Internet access at their fingertips. For the 30-49 age group, total access is 89%; for the 50-64 age group, total access is at 77%. There is a significant drop from those over 65, for a total of 46%. This is largely broadband from home—smart phone use only increases access by 3 %.

And, specifically for the low – income population, nationally, 47% of households with income less than \$30,000 a year have a smartphone. This increases to 53% with household income between \$30,000 to \$49,999. Smart phone use is also more concentrated in urban areas—64% urban users vs. 43% rural.

For all of these reasons, mobile optimized LawHelpNY.org, with Spanish and LiveHelp access, is a significant addition to the toolkit of technology enabled legal help for underserved New Yorkers, and another important strategy for decreasing the justice gap.



**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE...**

- **Have you worked on or do you know of a special Pro Bono project?**
- **Has a pro bono case made a difference in the lives of others?**
- **Has an individual attorney or firm gone above and beyond to provide pro bono assistance?**

We invite you to submit articles showcasing excellence in pro bono service for upcoming editions of the Pro Bono Newsletter. Guidelines for article submission and important dates are available at [www.nysba.org/pbdates](http://www.nysba.org/pbdates)

# VOLS Microenterprise Project Partners Win \$100,000 for Immigrant Entrepreneurs

**Benjamin Cox, Microenterprise Project Coordinator, Volunteers of Legal Service**

On January 13, 2015, the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Organization (SoBRO) was named winner of the third annual Competition To Help Reach Immigrant Ventures and Entrepreneurs (THRIVE). The competition, organized by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, seeks to identify and support innovative programs for immigrant entrepreneurs in New York City. As winner, SoBRO received a grand prize of \$100,000 to help fund and further develop the United Business Cooperative (UBC), a newly formed restaurant owners' cooperative that will help to reduce input costs and increase operational efficiencies for its South Bronx-based members.

As SoBRO was working with local restaurant owners to develop the UBC, the group received crucial pro bono legal assistance from White & Case LLP, a partner in Volunteers of Legal Service's (VOLS) Microenterprise Project. Through this project, White & Case has provided pro bono services to SoBRO and its low-income clients for several years, donating over 400 hours of assistance in the last three years alone. In addition to the twenty entrepreneurs served in this time are the forty immigrant restaurant owners that make up the UBC.

Specifically, volunteer attorneys from White & Case LLP assisted the UBC with respect to its structure, formation and management arrangements, including drafting all formation and organization documentation. Part of this work included liaising with the New York Secretary of State's office regarding the requirements for formation of the cooperative.

Steven M. Lutt, Counsel at White & Case and volunteer on the UBC

project, said, "Julia Bell and I enjoyed working with the UBC members and the SoBRO team on this project. It is extremely rewarding when we can apply our corporate law knowledge and business experience to give back to the local community and assist with getting a start-up business up and running."

Representatives from SoBRO and the UBC understand firsthand the value of pro bono legal services and the impact this had on the trajectory of the newly formed cooperative.

On being selected as the winner of Competition THRIVE, SoBRO's Assistant Vice President of Business Services, Jamila Diaz, said, "Immigrant restaurant owners have been forgotten as an economic engine of our City for too long. Thanks to the volunteer attorneys from White & Case and their support in the development of this project, we now have an opportunity to provide hands-on assistance to help New Yorkers realize the American dream."

While this recent award is a culmination of the efforts of many different people and organizations, VOLS is proud to have played a small part and we congratulate SoBRO and the members of the UBC on winning this year's Competition THRIVE.

\*\*\*\*\*

## About Volunteers of Legal Service

The mission of Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) is to leverage the goodwill, resources, and talents of New York City's leading law firms to provide pro bono legal assistance to the city's neediest residents. Through our projects, VOLS' staff and volun-

teer attorneys help all kinds of New Yorkers solve difficult legal problems that have significant consequences for them and for their families.

Our Microenterprise Project leverages law firms' and legal departments' expertise in business law to promote economic development in New York City. Through the project, pro bono lawyers help low-income micro-entrepreneurs overcome legal obstacles so that their businesses can thrive. For more information on VOLS and our Microenterprise Project, please visit [www.volsprobono.org](http://www.volsprobono.org).

## About SoBRO

The South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBRO) is a not-for-profit community organization that has been serving the Bronx since 1972. SoBRO's programs include adult education, workforce training, real estate and community development, technical and financial assistance for businesses, and an array of programs for youth and adults. For additional information about SoBRO, call (718) 292-3113 or visit [www.sobro.org](http://www.sobro.org).

## About White & Case

White & Case LLP is a leading global law firm with lawyers in 38 offices across 26 countries. Among the first US-based law firms to establish a truly global presence, the firm provides counsel and representation in virtually every area of law that affects cross border business. Our clients value both the breadth of our global network and the depth of our US, English and local law capabilities in each of our regions and rely on us for their complex cross-border transactions, as well as their representation in arbitration and litigation proceedings.

# Pro Bono Pioneers

**Alison Sclater, Director, Pro Bono & Volunteer Department  
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)**

Joseph Schofield finished his course work at CUNY School of Law in December and took the New York State Bar exam in February. He came to NYLAG on March 2nd to devote his final semester to working full time as a New York State Pro Bono Scholar. Three days later, he was shadowing an attorney in Queens Housing Court, observing as she explained NYLAG's retainer agreement to a client, negotiated with opposing counsel, and made arguments to judges. By his second week, Joseph was conducting client intakes, advising clients after consultation with a supervisor, obtain-

*at the mercy of the landlord attorney. It is such a privilege to be able to help level that playing field."*

Joseph is one of 13 law students who have made the choice to devote their last semester of study to pro bono service at NYLAG through the State's Pro Bono Scholars Program. They come from five law schools: CUNY, Fordham, Cornell, St. John's, and Hofstra. All of them, and the scores of other scholars working at legal service agencies and law firms across the State, have one thing in common – they are pro bono pioneers.



**Leigh Mangum and Joseph Schofield**



**NYLAG Staff and Pro Bono Scholars**

ing court documents, and requesting documents from various state agencies. But that first visit to Housing Court remains vivid:

*"From the moment you arrive, there is a distinct impression that people are being pushed along in the machine of a deeply impersonal bureaucracy. It was the day of one of our last big snow storms. People were waiting outside as the snow fell, then waiting again to get through security where they had to remove their belts and jackets and weren't allowed to bring in food or water. Their next task was to wait as long as an hour or more for a landlord's attorney to call their name and begin negotiations. Too often in Housing Court, things happen only*

They have chosen a different path to becoming a lawyer, one that will get them there more quickly, with more practical lawyering experience, and a deeper understanding of the role pro bono work plays in closing the justice gap.

In addition to housing law, Pro Bono Scholars are working with NYLAG attorneys in the areas of immigration, special education, public benefits, elder law and consumer protection. Each area's project is structured differently to accommodate the interests of individual students, the preferences of law schools, and the areas of greatest need for expanded resources within NYLAG.

The CUNY program is focused on housing, and because housing law is not always predictable, Ann Cammett,

a professor at CUNY, and NYLAG's Associate Director, Housing Law, Kamilla Sjödin, designed it to be flexible. NYLAG's four CUNY scholars are supervised by housing attorneys, yet have a degree of flexibility in the work that they do, and manage their own schedules. They understand that they need to be able to respond quickly and reprioritize in order to assist clients who have been locked out, or face imminent eviction or another crisis situation.

According to Kamilla, "While structure and training is important, we wanted students to have their own cases, and have their own clients right away. We support them, but ultimately, jumping in right away is the best

*continued on page 13*

way to teach them how to be lawyers. What I hadn't expected is how their presence has reinvigorated our staff. Their excitement and dedication is contagious."

NYLAG's partnership with Fordham Law evolved somewhat differently. Marcella Silverman\*, Clinical Associate Professor of Law at Fordham, who teaches a Consumer Litigation Clinic and actively practices consumer law, approached Daphne Schlick, Associate Director of NYLAG's Consumer Protection Project, about setting up a pro bono clinic.

"Marcella is an active consumer law attorney who has deep hands-on experience supervising students who participate in Fordham's Consumer Litigation Clinic, so this was just such a natural fit for us. Together we have designed a program that balances real-world and academic learning," says Daphne. "NYLAG's consumer protection attorneys and the pro bono

scholars, working closely with Marcella, have forged a true partnership that is giving our scholars the opportunity to gain practical legal experience and bring legal services to more New Yorkers. We are thrilled to have them and impressed by their commitment."

There are many synergies: Students in Fordham's Consumer Litigation Clinic work with legal services and private attorneys to enforce the rights of low-income consumers against merchants, lenders, assignees, and credit reporting agencies. NYLAG's consumer protection attorneys leverage the support of law students and other volunteers to fight a wide range of consumer fraud, including predatory lending, illegal debt collection practices, and identity theft. The added support of the Pro Bono Scholars mean our staff can take on additional cases and litigate cases for which they may have otherwise provided only advice.

"This partnership between Fordham Law School's Consumer Litigation Clinic and NYLAG is an important and valuable one," says Professor Silverman. "Educationally, it immerses these full-time Clinic students in a rich range of practice areas and settings, and allows them to work with and learn from a team of clinical faculty and practicing legal services lawyers. In turn, these students contribute their professional training, talent, skill and passion to serve low-income people, and enable both the Clinic and NYLAG to expand their delivery of legal services to protect consumers' rights."

New York State leads the way in developing cutting edge initiatives that can improve the delivery of justice for everyone, but especially for the poor and most vulnerable. The Pro Bono Scholars program is just the latest innovation – one that NYLAG is proud to be a part of.

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## VLP Welcomes Pro Bono Scholars

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



**Anne Modica and Jeff Donigan**

The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) welcomes our two 2015 Pro Bono Scholars, Jeff Donigan and Anne Modica\*\*.

In his 2014 State of the Judiciary speech, Chief Judge Lippman\* proposed the Pro Bono Scholars Program as a way to "instill in future members of the New York bar the value of public service to the poor and to provide them with the opportunity to acquire valuable legal skills that will prepare them for the practice of law." VLP is thrilled to be a part of the inaugural Pro Bono Scholars Program, hosting Jeff Donigan and Anne Modica, who are well on their way to achieving this goal.

Jeff and Anne are in the final semester of their third year at SUNY Buffalo Law School. They are among 12 Pro Bono Scholars from SUNY Buffalo Law School, which has the largest number of Pro Bono Scholars of any law school in the state. The 12 SUNY Buffalo Law School Pro Bono Scholars are working at VLP;

Neighborhood Legal Services; Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of WNY; the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo; and SUNY Buffalo Law School's Medical-Legal Partnership in-house clinic.

Jeff and Anne bring a wealth of skills and experience to their VLP placement. Jeff is the Publications Editor of the Buffalo Law Review, was the co-chair of fundraising for the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program during his 2L year, a member of the Prison Task Force, Phi Alpha Delta, and a recipient of the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellowship. He ranks in the top 15% of his class. Jeff interned with the NYS Office of the Attorney General in the Syracuse Regional Office. He was a summer associate at Harter Secrest & Emery,

*continued on page 14*

LLP in Rochester, and has accepted an offer to join Harter Secrest & Emery in September 2015.

Anne is a Publications Editor of the Buffalo Law Review and a Student Ambassador for SUNY Buffalo Law School. She was a Summer Law Clerk and an Extern for the US District Court WDNY in Rochester. She also externed in the Erie County District Attorney's Office. Anne was a summer associate for Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP in Rochester, where she will begin work as a full time associate in September 2015. Anne ranks in the top 5% of her graduating class at SUNY Buffalo Law School.

Jeff and Anne will work 500 hours over a twelve week period at VLP, from March 2, 2015 through May 22, 2015. They are learning practical legal skills and experiencing first-hand the importance of pro bono legal services for persons of limited means. Before their VLP placement, Jeff and Anne completed their law school coursework in December 2014. They were well prepared for the bar exam on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, having spent the brutally cold and snowy months of January and February inside studying. Shortly after their May 23<sup>rd</sup> law school graduation, and presuming that they both pass the bar exam and meet the requirements for admission to the New York bar, Jeff and Anne will be admitted to the Fourth Department on June 22, 2015.

While at VLP, our Pro Bono scholars are fully immersed in all aspects of our legal services office. During their first two weeks, Jeff and Anne had lengthy discussions with our attorneys and support staff, and they reviewed numerous programs and materials.

Jeff and Anne have shadowed our attorneys in court and at our limited-scope legal assistance programs in Family Court and Federal Court. They are assisting with our Say Yes Legal Clinics in four Buffalo Public Schools. They are participating in our Attorney of the Morning (AOM) eviction defense program on Monday and Wednesday mornings. At AOM they conduct client intake to deter-

mine financial eligibility, identify legal issues and defenses, shadow attorneys while they negotiate settlements, and observe court proceedings. They are taking full advantage of their Student Practice Orders and representing clients under the supervision of our attorneys.

Jeff and Anne also assist with important research projects. Their research focuses on substantive legal issues in many obscure circumstances in pending cases. Their research is important because it helps VLP staff attorneys determine a course of action and obtain a positive outcome for our clients.

In addition to their hands-on work at VLP, Jeff and Anne participate in a weekly seminar on Friday mornings with the other Buffalo Pro Bono Scholars. The group took a behind the scenes court tour of the NYS Supreme Court, the US District Court for the Western District of New York, Buffalo City Court, Erie County Surrogate's Court, Erie County Family Court, and the Erie County Clerk's Office. Other collaborative learning experiences are in the works.

Anne wanted to become a Pro Bono scholar to take the bar exam early. More importantly, she wanted hands on experience helping people. She believes that there is no experience like "actually doing it." She wanted to do more than just take classes her last semester of law school. The Pro Bono Scholars Pro-

gram gave her the opportunity to help others in a full time community placement. For Anne, "it is humbling working with our clients. They are in terrible situations and look to us to help them make a bad time easier." As a Pro Bono Scholar, Anne Modica is making a difference for those in need.

Jeff learned so much during his summer internship that he wanted to continue with hands on learning. He sees the 500 hour time commitment over 12 weeks as a great way to get practical experience that most law students do not get. Jeff observed that "many of our clients are in terrible situations. It is so rewarding to assist them and put a smile on their faces." Jeff has already represented our AOM clients pursuant to a Student Practice Order. He noted that he was well prepared for AOM because of his summer experience at Harter Secrest & Emery, and his prior research on landlord tenant issues. Jeff Donigan is helping real people with real life problems as a Pro Bono Scholar at VLP.

Anne and Jeff are tremendous assets to the VLP team. We will miss them when they finish their 12 week placement. But, we know that they have done great things to help our vulnerable low income clients in such a short time. We also know that they will continue to share their experiences and will be Pro Bono ambassadors in the future. Congratulations and thank you.



[www.twitter.com/nysba](http://www.twitter.com/nysba)

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# 2015 President's Pro Bono Service Awards Honorees



First Judicial District  
**Marjorie J. Pearce, Esq.**  
Ballard Spahr LLP  
New York, NY



Third Judicial District  
**Lynne A. Papazian, Esq.**  
Solo Practitioner  
Albany, NY



Fourth Judicial District  
**Natasha B. Hill, Esq.**  
Lekki, Hill, Duprey & Bhat PC  
Massena, NY



Fifth Judicial District  
**Emilee Lawson Hatch, Esq.**  
Bousquet Holstein PLLC  
Syracuse, NY



Sixth Judicial District  
**William L. Gibson, Esq.**  
Solo Practitioner  
Johnson City, NY



Seventh Judicial District  
**Sandra M. Williams, Esq.**  
Solo Practitioner  
Rochester, NY



Eighth Judicial District  
**John L. Trigilio, Esq.**  
Trigilio Ciambrone Partnership  
Buffalo, NY



Ninth Judicial District  
**Sarah Sulkowski, Esq.**  
Clifford Chance US LLP  
New York, NY



Tenth Judicial District  
**Harold M. Somer, Esq.**  
Harold M. Somer PC  
Westbury, NY



Eleventh Judicial District  
**Brandy A. Beltas, Esq.**  
Solo Practitioner  
Astoria, NY



Twelfth Judicial District  
**Eric Faragi, Esq.**  
Special Counsel  
Baker Botts  
New York, NY



Thirteenth District  
**Jack Yoskowitz, Esq.**  
Seward & Kissel LLP  
New York, NY





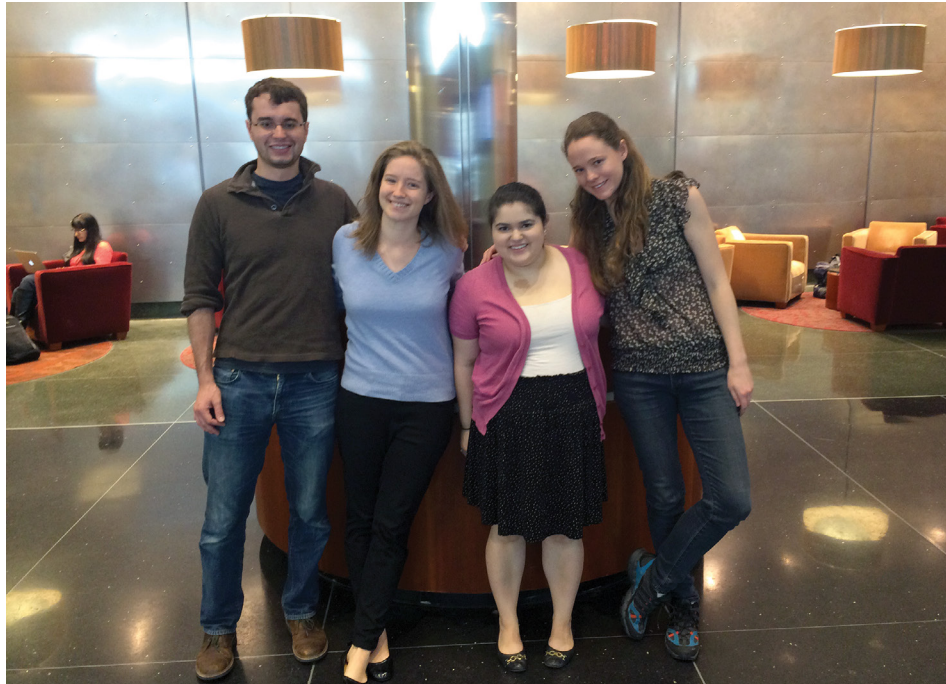
Young Lawyer  
**Josie M. Sheppard, Esq.**  
Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina PC  
Rochester, NY



Senior Lawyer  
**Janet Axelrod, Esq.**  
Retired  
Albany, NY



Law Student  
**Shelby Maroselli**  
SUNY Buffalo School of Law  
Buffalo, NY



Law School Group  
**Society for Immigrant and Refugees Rights**  
Columbia Law School  
New York, NY

Left-right: Tom Koester, Abigail Shaw, Angie Juarbe, and Amy Elmgren (not pictured: Mary Yang)

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New York, NY



Mid-sized Law Firm  
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Buffalo Office  
Buffalo, NY



Small Law Firm  
**The Law Offices of Remy R. Perot**  
Binghamton, NY

Left to right: Michael J. Mucci II, Esq., Remy R. Perot, Esq., and Christopher D. Grace, Esq.



In-House Counsel  
**American International Group, Inc.**  
**Global Legal Compliance Regulatory Affairs & Government Affairs Department**  
New York, NY

Front row: Heather Shea and Martin Bogue  
Back row: Eric Kobrick, Tom Russo and Kelly Pellicci

# Are you feeling overwhelmed?

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

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