



The Legal Project

Pro Bono Corner April 2013

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director

New Immigration Pro Bono Effort

In August of 2011, The Legal Project, in collaboration with The Empire Justice Center, created The Capital Region Immigration Collaborative, in response to a need in the local community for a shared arena for immigration service providers. Since then, the Collaborative has expanded to include more than 30 partners including other non-profits, such as Legal Aid of Northeastern New York, Catholic Charities and the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants as well as a number of private immigration attorneys and Albany Law School.

This impressive partnership not only provides the opportunity for networking and discussing current cases and immigration issues but it has also allowed for the creation of a *pro bono* panel of attorneys who have been offering their services for free consultations and on-going immigration services for the local community since April of 2012.

Since October of 2012, The Legal Project is also a partner on the recently created Office of New Americans, an important new initiative funded through the NY Department of State. Our role in the project is to provide these *pro bono* consultations for immigrants, and to assist with DACA applications and citizenship drives.

More than 60 potential Clients have contacted us for assistance with immigration matters to date and the demand continues to grow—especially as we are poised to do additional outreach in the immigrant communities through the new ONA grant. We provide consultations that are held once or twice a month in various locations, including The Legal Project offices. The attorneys who have generously given their time to this project to date are:

Nicole Comstock
Seth Leech
Jill Nagy
Laurence Stevens
Marco Tomakin
Barbara Weiner

We are seeking additional attorneys to volunteer for this important program. We also would like to thank Brian Wang, Immigration Attorney of Legal Aid of Northeastern New York, for his assistance with cross referrals and technical assistance on cases.

Please contact Natalie Birch-Higgins if you are interested in getting involved as a *pro bono* attorney or by attending the CRIC. She can be reached at nbirch@legalproject.org.

Thank you for volunteering in February!

AHAA

Lauren Palmer, Esq.
Domestic Violence Legal Connection
Tracey Brown, Esq.
Lauren Hunt, Esq.
Anthony Morelli, Esq.

Bankruptcy Program

Jerrold Bartman, Esq.
Melissa Beojekian, Esq.

Albany Housing Authority

Katherine Levitan, Esq.
Meredith Savitt, Esq.
Margaret Vella, Esq.
Theresa Taylor and Wendy Weeden – Coordinators

Albany Public Library

Janet Axelrod, Esq.
Ira Mendleson, Esq.
Sasha Ensslin - Coordinator

Equinox—Tuesday

Rebekah Nellis Kennedy, Esq.

Equinox—Thursday

Will Berglund, Esq.
Lori Bovee, Esq.
Charles Feldman, Esq.
Pat Vann – Coordinator

Legally Speaking Events

Kathleen “Casey” Copps DiPaola, Esq.
Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.
Meredith Savitt, Esq.

Mechanicville

Kathleen “Casey” Copps DiPaola, Esq.

North Greenbush American Legion

Carolyn D’Agostino, Esq.

Stratton VA Hospital

Shawn Flaherty, Esq.

Stacey Metro, Esq.
Larry Signer--Coordinator

Troy Public Library

Anne Hohenstein, Esq.
Laurie D. Burns – Coordinator

Uncontested Divorce

Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.
Kate Wilson, Esq.
Ashley McDonough (Paralegal)
Wendy Ng (Paralegal)
Courtney Alpert
Nolan Comfort
Heather Davis
Nicholas Dorando
Aimee Furdyna
Cecelia Hassett
Neha Issar
Linda Jones
Pamela Lowe
Calee Oas
Zachary Powers
Sara Rolls
Glenys Rosario
Jessica Tomkiell

VetHELP

Sarah Goldman, Esq.
Opal Hinds, Esq.

Save the Date!

**18th Annual Pro
Bono Reception**

The Egg, Albany, NY

Thursday, October 24, 2013