



The Legal Project

Pro Bono Corner January 2013

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director

Happy New Year!

Meet Katelyn Primomo Millwood, our newest Domestic Violence Staff Attorney



Katelyn Primomo, the newest member of The Legal Project’s team of staff attorneys, is from the Capital Region, graduating from Bethlehem High School in 2003. In 2007 she received her bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Biology at SUNY Albany while playing Division I Lacrosse. After college she moved to England to coach lacrosse and teach physical education at an all-girls school. She then returned to the States and attended Albany Law School graduating this past May. While in Law School she received a Zonta Scholarship and was able to spend her summer after second year and first semester third year interning full time at The Legal Project. This October she rejoined The Legal Project Staff full-time as a Matrimonial Fellow (thanks to the New York State Bar Association) and upon admission in January she will become a Domestic Violence Staff Attorney.

Recently, Katelyn spoke about her experience interning at The Legal Project at the Albany Zonta Club annual meeting. We wanted to share some of her words so you can get a sense of who Katelyn is and how committed she is to The Legal Project’s mission.

“This internship allowed me to work one on one with the victims of domestic violence helping them with divorce, child support, and custody of their children. The Legal Project prides itself on the opportunities and experiences they are able to give law students such as myself. Within my first few days of the internship I was sitting in on domestic violence consults. I was able to listen to the victims and see how the lessons from Family Law and Matrimonial Law were applied first hand. (They) applied for me to have a student practice order within my first month at the Legal Project. ... a student practice order allows a law student to appear in court as long as supervised by a practicing attorney. This is an opportunity a law student lives for, the opportunity to stand up in open court on behalf of a client. I will never forget the first time I appeared in front of a support magistrate on behalf of a client. A first appearance is something most students to get to experience until they are admitted to the bar and I was able to have the experience after my second year in law school.

My client was an amazing woman raising a 3 year old daughter while struggling with MS. Since she had left her abuser he was no longer physically or verbally abusing her, so instead he took to the Court Room to harass her. He continually filed in family court forcing her to come for court appearance after court appearance. This was twice as difficult for her as other victims, because she was not only a single mom with no family around to watch her young daughter, she also had a physical disability making attending the appearances that much harder. Even though she was frustrated with the entire situation she was so thankful to have someone there beside her, so she never had to face her abuser alone. As she progressed with her court appearances she took comfort in knowing she always had someone in her corner and someone to call when she needed guidance.

One thing they always said half the time you are an attorney and the other half you are a counselor. Through my time in law school and especially with my time (here) I can see they are 100% correct. However ... at the Legal Project that percentage is different; if I had to estimate I would say we are attorneys 30% of the time and counselors 70%. This is because we do not have clients who are finding themselves in a difficult situation for the first time in their lives and are now in need of legal assistance. Our clients have been suffering and are seeking help to get out of a situation they may have been living in for years. Client counseling for victims of domestic violence is not a course you can take in school, where you learn the right thing to say, the right advise to give, or even more importantly how to be able to tell what a victim is saying without her ever saying it. These skills are things I have learned and continue to learn by my first hand experiences and by the experienced staff at The Legal Project.”

We are thrilled to have Katelyn join us!

Thank you for volunteering in November!

Bankruptcy

Tony Arcodia
Paula Barbaruolo
Jerrold Bartman
Nancy Delain
Christian Dribusch
Marc Ehrlich
Michael Hernandez
Ron Kim
Matthew Mann
David Price
Laura Silva
Joanne Sternheimer
Richard Weiskopf

Domestic Violence Legal Connection

Carla Brogoch
Rebecca Mudie
Ariel Ruttenberg

Albany Housing Authority

Meredith Savitt
Margaret Vella
Theresa Taylor and Wendy Weeden,
Coordinators

Albany Public Library

Ira Mendleson
Ron Orlando
Sasha Ensslin - Coordinator

Equinox

Allegra Edelman
Lori Bovee
Rebekah Nellis Kennedy
David Levy
Julianne Patterson – Coordinator
Pat Vann – Coordinator

Mechanicville-Area Community Services

Casey Copps DiPaola
Lauren Hunt
Debra Sullivan – Coordinator

Taxes

Gilbert Carey

Schenectady YWCA

Denise Resta-Tobin
Wendi Gapczynski – Coordinator

Stratton VA Hospital

Shawn Flaherty
Michael O’Connor
Troy Public Library
Anne Hohenstein
Laurie D. Burns - Coordinator

Uncontested Divorce Clinic

Ann Copps
Kathleen Copps DiPaola
Michelle Miller
Katelyn Primomo

Wills Program

Lauren Palmer

**Representing Victims of Domestic
Violence
in Family Court**

Friday, February 1, 2013

**FREE CLE in exchange for pro bono
assistance**

Contact Kristie at KCinelli@Lasnny.org for
registration information.