

The Legal Project

Pro Bono Corner June/July 2014

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director

ATTORNEY EMERITUS PROGRAM

The Emeritus Program is a state-wide initiative of Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to help address New York State's "justice gap." In 2012, approximately 2.2 million New Yorkers navigated civil court proceedings without the benefits of counsel. As the number of senior New York attorneys grows, we hope to tap their skills and experience to assist in closing this justice gap. The New York State Unified Court System's Access to Justice Program operates the AEP, and Fordham Law School's Feerick Center for Social Justice provides programmatic and administrative support to the program.

The Attorney Emeritus Program connects experienced attorneys to volunteer opportunities with legal service organizations and court-sponsored programs that address poverty-related issues. Participants in the AEP commit to serving 60 hours over the course of two years, and are provided with malpractice insurance by the host organization through which they serve. Participating attorneys must be 55 or older, in good standing, and have practiced for at least ten years. Attorneys do not need to be retired to participate. Pro Bono CLE credits can be earned for the pro bono work; 1 CLE credit for every 2 hours of legal service up to 15 credits a reporting period.

Apart from individual volunteers, law firms can play an important role in the Attorney Emeritus Program. Participating firms make appropriate work space available for their attorneys to provide pro bono legal service, whether the attorney is active or retired. Firms also provide secretarial and technological support as appropriate. We hope that participating law firms can foster an ethos of service among their members and provide support for ongoing pro bono by senior attorneys.

There are a number of opportunities for attorneys emeritus to serve the capital region through host organizations, one of which is The Legal Project (spattenaude@legalproject.org). For more information, the Capital Region Pro Bono Committee (CRPBC) is sponsoring an information session and reception at the New York State Bar Association on June 18th from 4:30-7:30. The session is free, but please pre-register by contacting Eileen Guinan at eguinan@albanycountybar.com or at (518) 445-7691. The CRPBC is comprised of The Legal Project, New

York State Bar Association, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Prisoners Legal Services and Albany Law School. (Thanks to Eileen Guinan for this article)



Bar Foundation Board Member William Keniry, Jr. presents check for \$2,500 to The Legal Project on May 20, 2014

Johanne Floser, CBA, Board Member; Joseph Williams, Kathryn A. Katz Student Fellow; Gracja Nowak, Kathryn A. Katz Post-Graduate Fellow; Lorraine R. Silverman, Esq., Managing Attorney; Carla Brogoch, Esq., Supervising Attorney; Jessica Lennon, Assistant Director; Katelyn Primomo-Millwood, Esq., Staff Attorney

Second Row (from left to right): Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq., Board Member; Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director; William Keniry, Esq., NY Bar Foundation Trustee; Elizabeth Lott, Esq., Incoming Board President; Colleen M. Campoli, CPA., Board President.; Jennifer Corona, Esq., Board VP; Victoria P. Lane, Esq., Board Secretary; Bridget Ball-Shaw, Board Treasurer.

New York Bar Foundation Provides Grant Funding for Pro Bono Immigration Program

We are very grateful for the wonderful support of the New York Bar Foundation for our Pro Bono Immigration Project. This grant allows us to enhance our existing program which includes outreach and legal information to the immigrant community, the facilitation of the Capital Region Immigration Collaborative, and the administration of a pro bono panel of expert immigration attorneys from the private bar. This important grant adds to the generous support of this program by the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital District.

Thank You to our Departing Board Members!

We find ourselves having to say goodbye to three of our remarkable board members: Michelle Wildgrube, Esq., who is so committed to The Legal Project that she was Board President for two consecutive terms, Cynthia Feathers, Esq., who is our Pro Bono Appeals guru and unwavering supporter; and Casey Copps DiPaola, Esq., practically a life-time volunteer and zealous promoter of pro bono. You will be missed but we know you will always be there for The Legal Project! We will announce our terrific new Board Slate in the next newsletter.

Thank you for volunteering in March & April!

Albany Housing Authority

Katherine Levitan, Esq.
Meredith Savitt, Esq.
Margaret Vella, Esq.
Coordinator: Wendy Weeden

Albany Public Library

Janet Axelrod, Esq.
Ira Mendleson, Esq.
Ron Orlando, Esq.
Coordinator: Joseph Chicoine
Bankruptcy
Anthony Arcodia, Esq.
Paula Barbaruolo, Esq.
Brian Bronsther, Esq.
Richard Croak, Esq.
Christian Dribusch, Esq.
Marc Ehrlich, Esq.
Eric Gee, Esq.
Kristie Hanson, Esq.
Opal Hinds, Esq.
Alan LeCours, Esq.
Justin Myers, Esq.
Michael O'Connor, Esq.
David Price, Esq.
Michael Toomey, Esq.
Jonathan Warner, Esq.
Richard Weiskopf, Esq.

Domestic Violence Legal Connection

Douglas Broda, Esq.
Lalitha Gadepally, Esq.
Jo Katz, Esq.
Jessica Ansert Klami, Esq.
Denise Resta-Tobin, Esq.
Eric Scalzo, Esq.
Margaret Tabak, Esq.

Equinox

Janet Axelrod, Esq.
Will Berglund, Esq.
Lori Bovee, Esq.
Charlie Feldman, Esq.
David Levy, Esq.
Coordinator: Pat Vann

HATAS

Michael Rhodes-Devey, Esq.
Michael Yood, Esq.
Coordinator: Larry Signer

Homeowner Protection Project

Lauren Bachner
Tracy Gibeau
Paul Richer

Hudson American Legion

Veronica Kosich, Esq.
Coordinator: Michael Aggrippino & Jodi Koenig

Immigration

Jill Nagy

Legally Speaking

Anthony Arcodia, Esq.
Carla Brogoch, Esq.
Lisa Frisch
Kathleen Godfrey
Michelle Wildgrube, Esq.

North Greenbush Memorial American Legion

Carolyn D'Agostino, Esq.
Margo Rosato, Esq.
Coordinators: Herb & Shirley Gordon

Schenectady YWCA

Denise Resta-Tobin, Esq.
Edward Salvo, Esq.
Coordinator: Wendi Gapczynski

Stratton VA Hospital

Shawn Flaherty, Esq.
Lee Kindlon, Esq.
Michael O'Connor, Esq.
Coordinator: Larry Signer

Unity House

Tom Kenney, Esq.
Coordinator: Abe Bolgatz

VetHelp

Opal Hinds, Esq.
Teresa Donnellan, Esq.
Coordinator: Cynthia Coon

SAVE THE DATES!

**Legal Project Pro Bono Awards Luncheon
Century House, Latham
Wednesday, October 15, 2014**

**19th Annual Pro Bono Reception
The Egg, Albany
Thursday, October 23, 2014**