

The Legal Project

Pro Bono Corner Summer 2014

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director

The Legal Project and Albany Law School Help Victims of Domestic Violence by Launching Katheryn D. Katz Fellowship Program

On June 24, 2014, Albany Law School and The Legal Project held a joint press conference to announce the formal launching of the Katheryn D. Katz Fellowship Program which will provide increased access to civil legal representation to victims of domestic violence in the Capital Region. The fellowship program, made possible by funding from the New York State Office of Court Administration and, to date, nearly \$70,000 in donations from private law firms throughout the region, will employ current law students and recent graduates from Albany Law School.

Named in memory of the late Albany Law School Professor **Katheryn D. Katz**, who was the first in the nation to bring domestic violence education into law schools, the fellowship program is a three-part pipeline comprised of law school in-house clinical practice; law student placements; and two-year, paid post-graduate fellowships, during which the graduates will be public interest staff attorneys at The Legal Project, serving victims of abuse. Professor Katz graduated from Albany Law in 1970.

Lorraine Silverman, Albany Law Class of 2005, is managing attorney for the program and **Gracja Nowak**, Class of 2013 is the program's first fellow. **Kayla Molinaro**, who graduated from Albany Law this past May, will begin her fellowship in the fall. Founding sponsors of the Katheryn D. Katz Fellowship Program include the Katz family and the following law firms: **Martin, Harding & Mazzotti, LLP; Deily & Glastetter LLP; O'Connell & Aronowitz, P.C.; LaFave, Wein & Frament, PLLC; McNamee Lochner Titus & Williams, P.C.; Hacker Murphy, LLP; Tabner Ryan & Keniry LLP; Mack & Associates, PLLC** and the **Spada Law Firm**.

"We see our support of this fellowship program as an investment in our community, not only providing students and new graduates with a tremendous opportunity for experiential learning, but also increasing vital legal resources to serve victims of abuse," said Paul Harding of Martin, Harding & Mazzotti.

Albany Law School and The Legal Project are seeking additional resources to continue to expand the initiative, ultimately establishing an incubator to employ and help develop early career attorneys. For more information, please contact Lisa at lfrisch@legalproject.org.

The Legal Project Receives Vital Domestic Violence Senate Funding

We are very grateful for the support of **Senator Hugh Farley**, who secured \$90,000 in grant funding and **Senator Kathy Marchione**, who secured \$75,000 for The Legal Project in the 2014-2015 NYS Budget. These funds will support our pro bono civil legal services for victims of domestic violence, and will specifically provide critical resources to enhance our Katheryn Katz Fellowship Program. Thank you, Senators! This means so much to our clients.

ATTORNEY EMERITUS PROGRAM

The Attorney 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. You can contact Susan Pattenaude for more information at 518-435-1770 or at spattenaude@legalproject.org.



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 D. Katz Student Fellow; Gracja Nowak, Kathryn D. Katz Post-Graduate Fellow; Lorraine R. Silverman, Esq., Managing Attorney; Carla Brogach, 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, Empire Justice Center, and the Office of New Americans.

Thank You to our Departing Board Members and Welcome to our New Board Slate!

We are sad 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 and continues to

volunteer; Cynthia Feathers, Esq., who is our Pro Bono Appeals guru and unwavering supporter; and Casey Cops 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! Our new Board Slate is: President: Elizabeth A. Lott, Esq.; First VP: Jennifer Corona, Esq.; 2nd VP: Joann Sternheimer, Esq.; Treasurer: Bridget Ball Shaw; Secretary: Victoria P. Lane, Esq. Joining our Board are **Leonard J. D'Arrigo, Esq.** and **Cynthia Schrock Seeley, Esq.** and returning members **Meghan Johnston** and **Ron Orlando**. Continuing on our Board is: Past President Colleen M. Campoli, CPA; Melissa A. Bezio, CPA; Heather D. Diddel, Esq.; Johanne Floser, CBA; David Levy, Esq. and Pershia M. Wilkins. Thank you all for your dedication and support!

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.
Stephen Rodriguez, Esq.
Michael Toomey, Esq.
Jonathan Warner, Esq.
Richard Weiskopf, Esq.

Domestic Violence Legal Connection

Douglas Broda, Esq.
Tracey Brown, Esq.
Lalitha Gadepally, Esq.
Nancy Jones, Esq.

Robert Jones, Esq.
Jo Katz, Esq.
Barbara King, Esq.
Amy Knussman, Esq.
Jessica Ansert Klami, Esq.
Denise Resta-Tobin, Esq.
Eric Scalzo, Esq.
Margaret Tabak, Esq.
Neil Weiner, 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, Esq.

Legally Speaking

Anthony Arcodia, Esq.
Carla Brogoch, Esq.
Colleen Campoli, CPA
Casey Copps DiPaola, Esq.
Shawn Flaherty, Esq.
Fran Friedberg, Esq.
Lisa Frisch
Kathleen Godfrey
Lauren Palmer, Esq.
Margaret Reed, Esq.
Meredith Savitt, Esq.
Margaret Vella, Esq.
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 Gapeczynski

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