



# 2010 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL® PHOTO GALLERY

The New York State Bar Association proudly salutes our members who generously donated 50 hours or more of their time and talent to represent low-income or vulnerable persons who were turned away by severely understaffed and underfunded legal services programs. Our members' generosity helped to ensure that equal access to the justice system is not merely a lofty ideal, but a tangible reality. Below are some of the distinguished 2010 Empire State Counsel® Honorees.



**Beth Avery**  
500 hours

The concept of pro bono legal and public service is one of the family values I grew up with, so it's "in my genes." I have found pro bono service for a nonprofit is more gratifying than for profit work because they are leveling the playing field by representing the "Davids," who cannot afford to pay for such help, rather than the "Goliaths," who can.



**Nelson A. Castillo**  
215 hours

Through my pro bono work, I strive to empower people, positively change their lives, and help them obtain justice.



**Magdalena Hale Spencer**  
156 hours

Law impacts us all, not just those who can afford legal counsel. I am lucky enough to have the resources available to me to assist those who need counsel but are unable to pay.



**James J. Morrissey, Jr.**  
55 hours

I do pro bono legal work to repay the kindness and time given to me by others.



**Elizabeth F. Larsen**  
677 hours

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as Kramer Levin's extern in the Housing Law Unit of South Brooklyn Legal Services for the first half of 2010. I was able to help a lot of people who otherwise would not have found legal representation in their housing cases.



**Peter A. Strauss**  
167.8 hours

It is my pleasure to assist in the great work of our firm's pro bono clients, such as Teacher U, Lower Eastside Girl's Club and the Harlem Children's Zone.



**Michael Miller**  
100+ hours

I perform pro bono service because those of us who are privileged have a moral debt which can never be fully repaid.



**Janet Michelle Cuevas**  
50+ hours

No matter what our religious, political or philosophical affiliations or predilections are, our primary purpose on earth is to lessen the suffering and discomfort of those who are most vulnerable. Their trust in allowing me to help them resolve their legal challenges is the most meaningful reward of this life.



**James P. McElheny**  
75+ hours

Active volunteer with Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County and one of the driving forces in the county's annual Campaign for Justice, a fundraiser benefiting county legal services programs that serve thousands of low-income clients with legal issues such as domestic violence, threatened loss of housing and consumer abuses.



**Monica P. McCabe**  
51 hours

I perform pro bono service to help others and to feel connected to a larger community.



**Richard C. Schoenstein**  
125 hours

Access to legal assistance should not depend on financial where with all.



**David A Price**  
150 hours

I perform pro bono service because it is very rewarding and as the last phrase of the Pledge of Allegiance reminds me "with liberty and justice for all."



**Carl D. Birman**  
125 hours

2010 was a busy and successful year for my pro bono legal work. Among other things, I remain lead counsel for Eric Hoffstead, whose challenge to New York State's loitering for panhandling statute continues to work its way through the appellate courts. My client's victory in New Rochelle City Court, which found Penal Law §240.35(1) unconstitutional in 2007, was upheld this year at the Appellate Term, Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts. Although the Office of the Westchester County Attorney has sought leave to appeal this important First Amendment ruling to the New York Court of Appeals, my side remains confident of success in this matter. I have had the good fortune of working closely with a Cornell Law School professor and two top law firms on this exciting pro bono project.



**Liam G. B. Murphy**  
65.25 hours

Over the course of the past year, I helped a client with a collaborative law divorce, continued my representation of a prisoner working through significant medical/legal issues and continued to help client's on a pro bono basis after the closing of their assigned counsel matters. Pro bono helps my colleagues and me maintain good client relationships and to remember to help the whole client.



**Eli Vigliano**  
1000+ hours

I believe every lawyer has an ethical responsibility to make our profession and our democratic society better. For more than 20 years since my retirement, I have lived and practiced that belief to the fullest by rendering pro bono legal and public service on a large scale.