

BEST PROJECTS

A compilation of the best service programs from bar associations across New York State



A. Vincent Buzard, President
2005-2006



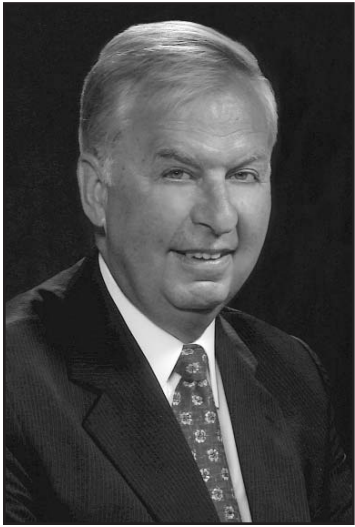
BEST
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of
Local Bar Associations
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INTRODUCTION



Everyday lawyers throughout New York, in communities large and small, work tirelessly to serve their community and their profession. Lawyers enhance the public's opinion of the legal profession through their community service work which exemplify the key qualities the public values most about us - leadership, problem solving, legal expertise, and service.

I wanted to pull together good projects so that when other bar leaders are looking for ways to reach the community, they can follow these models.

Through such successful projects as these we can demonstrate to the community that lawyers are caring people. These Best Projects also provide incentives for membership because they appeal to the idealism of all lawyers and especially young lawyers. I want to thank Jim Grossman of Rochester, the current Chair of the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders, who first brought up the idea as a project for the Conference, and who allowed me to bring it to fruition.

The projects in this book are organized into three categories: community, education and the profession. I wish to thank all of those bar associations that contributed to this compilation and encourage those who have not to submit their best projects for the Web site version of this book. Send to: psearsdoherty@nysba.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Vincent Buzard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Vincent Buzard, President
2005-2006

Community Service Programs

Association: ***Albany County Bar Association***

Current President: John Kinum

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Davis

Project Name: **Annual Law Day USA**

Target Audience: Residents of the Capital Region.

Purpose: To commemorate Law Day by fulfilling the public's right to fair legal representation.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Several attorneys volunteer their time for free legal consultations with residents of the Capital Region.

What Makes This Program Effective: People are always looking for free legal advice.

Volunteers Responsible: On-site coordinators Diana Bangert-Drowns, Ellen Marchese, James T. Potter, Jodie L. Sayers and Patrick Seeley, Jr.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Barbara Davis

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 518/445-7510

E-mail: barbaradavis@choiceonemail.com

Association: ***Albany County Bar Association***

Current President: John Kinum

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Davis

Project Name: **Annual Law Day Run Against Domestic Violence**

Target Audience: Victims of domestic violence in the Capital District.

Purpose: To raise money to assist charities working with victims of domestic violence.

Procedures to Implement this Program: More than 350 runners collect money from sponsors toward the cause. There is a lot of work in planning this run and making decisions concerning the race course, time, insurances, traffic control, police and EMT, fire departments, parking, numbers for runners, waivers, food donations, banners, booklets, party after race, sponsors, etc.

What Makes This Program Effective: More than \$20,000 was raised in the April 29, 2005 run.

Volunteers Responsible: Association members coordinate handing out water at water stations, helping at the finish and start stations, traffic stops, helping coordinate goodie bags, helping with numbers and t-shirts at registration, etc.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Barbara Davis

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 518/445-7510

E-mail: barbaradavis@choiceonemail.com

Association: ***Albany County Bar Association***

Current President: John Kinum

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Davis

Project Name: **Annual Holiday Party**

Target Audience: Parsons Child and Family Services clients.

Purpose: To assist Parsons Child and Family Services in providing holiday gifts and a party for its clients.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Check with Legal Aid, Parsons and the courthouse for date, line up music and catering; decide who gets Pro Bono Awards; do the flyer, press releases, etc.

What Makes This Program Effective: The Legal Aid Society, ACBA and Parsons work together on this well-attended holiday party for the benefit of the children of Parsons.

Volunteers Responsible: Bar Association volunteers and members of the Legal Aid Society.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Barbara A. Davis

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 518/445-7510

E-mail: barbaradavis@choiceonemail.com

Association: ***Brooklyn Bar Association***

Current President: Lawrence F. DiGiovanna

Chief Staff Executive: Avery Eli Okin, Esq., CAE

Project Name: **Senior Legal Education and Assistance Program**

Target Audience: Seniors in Brooklyn.

Purpose: To assist senior citizens with their understanding of and need for documents relating to health care, wills and trusts and other pertinent issues.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Staff and volunteers contact 80 senior centers regarding importance of advance directives, including health care proxies, living wills, powers of attorneys and wills, which last year resulted in 103 seniors receiving pro bono legal assistance.

Volunteers Responsible: A collaborative effort between VLP panel members and staff.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Jeannie Costello, Esq.

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 718/624-3894

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Association: ***Brooklyn Bar Association***

Current President: Lawrence F. DiGiovanna

Chief Staff Executive: Avery Eli Okin, Esq., CAE

Project Name: **Lawyer Referral Service Redesign**

Target Audience: The people of Brooklyn.

Purpose: To assist citizens seeking lawyer referrals.

Procedures to Implement this Program: The LRS converted from a walk-in service at the Brooklyn Bar Association headquarters building to a telephone service whereby Brooklyn residents may call for referrals to our panel members. The ability to answer web-based inquiries is being implemented this year. Hired two new staff members to operate the service.

Volunteers Responsible: The Executive Board of our Association.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Roseann Hiebert

Title: Director, Lawyer Referral Service

Phone: 718/222-3357

E-mail: rhiebert@brooklynbar.org

Association: **Broome County Bar Association**

Current President: John R. Normile, Jr.

Chief Staff Executive: Sindy L. Garey

Project Name: **Senior Citizen's Law Day**

Target Audience: Senior citizens of the Broome County area.

Purpose: To assist senior citizens seeking advice on several areas of legal expertise.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Every other year, the Association hosts a full array of legal services and information in a day-long program. Information, classes and service providers are available. Attorneys with various areas of expertise of particular interest to our local senior citizens are available to answer questions.

What Makes This Program Effective: We cover such areas as elder law, estate planning, wills/probate, Medicaid/Medicare and nursing home issues. The next Senior Citizen's Law Day will be held in June 2006.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Sindy L. Garey

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 607/723-6331

Association: **Broome County Bar Association**

Current President: John R. Normile, Jr.

Chief Staff Executive: Cindy L. Garey

Project Name: **Centennial 2006: Giving Back to the Community**

Target Audience: The Broome County area.

Purpose: To use the skills and expertise of Broome County's legal community to assist various charities serving the county's poor and under-privileged.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Programs currently being developed include, blood drives (100 pints for 100 years is the goal); building a house for Habitat for Humanity; volunteering time and setting up drives for various food pantries; collecting toner cartridges, etc. and recycling them to benefit various community entities, for example, for use by schools in purchasing school supplies.

What Makes This Program Effective: The program is one of a series of community-oriented centennial celebrations providing opportunities for interaction between the legal community and the wider community.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Cindy L. Garey

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 607/723-6331

Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Elder Law Fair**

Target Audience: Senior citizens, family members, caregivers, case managers, and other professionals in the field of aging and long-term care.

Purpose: To provide senior citizens and the care-giving community vital information on law-related topics.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Participants attend seminars that provide accurate and detailed information on law-related topics such as long-term care planning, wills, trusts and estate planning, and Medicaid/Medicare issues.

Volunteers Responsible: 2005 Elder Law Committee Chair Bruce D. Reinoso

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Sharlene A. Hall

Title: Executive Assistant

Phone: 716/852-8687 (ext. 20)

E-mail: shall@eriebar.org

Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Have a Heart Food Drive**

Target Audience: Food Bank of Western New York.

Purpose: To assist various charitable organizations in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties with collecting and transporting non-perishable food and money to the Food Bank of Western New York.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Assistance to various charitable organizations in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. Each year, members of the Bar Association of Erie County and the legal community dedicate time, energy and financial resources to this effort. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are collected, drop-off sites are established at Bar Association Headquarters and various law firms in Erie County and the National Guard contribute invaluable assistance in collecting and transporting the goods. This past year, the Bar Association focused its endeavor on monetary donations.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Susan Kohlbacher

Title: Communications Assistant

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Association: ***Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Law Association Foundation of Greater New York (LeGaL Foundation)***

Current President: Tara Rice

Chief Staff Executive: Daniel R. Schaffer

Project Name: **General Advice Walk-In Clinics and Pro Se Transgender Name: Change Clinic**

Target Audience: While geared toward the LGBT community, the walk-in clinics are open to all.

Purpose: To provide members of the LGBT community with legal advice.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Walk-in clinics are held weekly at the LGBT Community Center in Manhattan and periodically in Brooklyn. The Name: Change Clinic is part of a coalition of groups and is held once a month at the LGBT Community Center. The walk-in clinics are staffed by 2-3 volunteer attorneys each week.

What Makes This Program Effective: The weekly clinic at the LGBT Community Center sees approximately 500 people a year and has been in existence for 20 years. The Name: Change Clinic sees approximately 100 people per year. The Brooklyn clinic started this year. We are in the process of expanding the clinic to Long Island.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Daniel R. Schaffer

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 212/353-9118

E-mail: le_gal@earthlink.net

Association: ***Monroe County Bar Association***

Current President:

Chief Staff Executive:

Project Name: **Lawyers for Learning-School 29 Partnership and Tools for Schools**

Target Audience: Inner city students between k-6 grades; members of the legal community.

Purpose: To mentor students at Rochester City School #29 and to provide school supplies, field trips and grants to the students and their families.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Establish a partnership with a school in need of mentors. Work with school officials to determine a plan of action. Establish a committee to oversee programs and activities. Identify one contact within the school to pair mentors and students together. Recruit mentors within the legal community-attorneys, judges, paralegals, secretaries, or anyone else associated with the legal community. Allow at least two weeks to recruit mentors. Host a few fundraisers throughout the year to fund extra school activities such as field trips, provide teachers with grants, book give-aways and school supplies. MCBA hosts an annual golf tournament and a marathon.

What Makes This Program Effective: This is a collaborative partnership with Rochester City School #29. Each year, more than 100 mentors descend on the school to work with individual students or an entire class for one hour a week. They provide reading and math assistance, play educational games, and, most importantly, serve as positive role models. Lawyers for Learning also hosts an annual dinner for School 29 families, funds field trips, sponsors reading contests, distributes free books, provides enrichment grants to worthy students and gives each student a backpack filled with school supplies at the start of the school year.

Volunteers Responsible: Lawyers for Learning Committee-Mark Bennett, Esq.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Calista Amering

Title: Communications Manager

Phone: 585/546-1817

E-mail: camering@mcba.org

Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Cancer Advocacy Project**

Target Audience: Cancer patients, survivors and their families.

Purpose: To provide cancer patients, survivors and their families with legal advice and pro bono legal assistance.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Provides cancer patients, survivors and their families with legal information and pro bono legal assistance on issues relating to discrimination in the workplace, health law, insurance issues, access to public benefits and wills.

What Makes This Program Effective: Established in 1994, the project uses volunteer attorneys to assist patients and their families fighting against discrimination in the workplace and in obtaining the insurance benefits entitled to them under the provisions of their policies. In addition, the project advocates for patients and families in order to obtain public benefits such as Social Security Disability, public assistance, Medicaid and prepares advance directives and wills and counsels on other end of life issues.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Laura Mosiello

Title: Program Director

Phone: 212/382-4785

E-mail: lmosiello@nycbar.org

Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Elder Law Project**

Target Audience: Elderly low-income citizens of New York City.

Purpose: To provide elderly low-income citizens with legal advice and representation.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Volunteer attorneys counsel and represent elderly New Yorkers in a variety of arenas.

What Makes This Program Effective: Legal clinics are held at the Association and at senior centers to provide seniors with advice and representation regarding wills, living wills, health care proxies, powers of attorney, government benefits and consumer issues.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Vivienne Duncan

Title: Program Director

Phone: 212/382-6601

E-mail: vduncan@nycbar.org

Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Housing Court Summer Assistance Project**

Target Audience: Unrepresented tenants in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

Purpose: To assist tenants appearing *pro se* in housing court.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Summer associates from New York law firms and corporations assist unrepresented tenants in court.

What Makes This Program Effective: Students spend a week volunteering in the Pro Se Office of the Housing Court, providing information to unrepresented parties about their legal rights.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Carol Bockner

Title: Director of Pro Bono Initiatives

Phone: 212/382-4714

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Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Immigrant Women and Children Project**

Target Audience: Immigrant victims of domestic violence.

Purpose: To assist immigrant victims of domestic violence seeking freedom from their abusers and attaining legal status in the U.S.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Volunteer attorneys help immigrant victims of domestic violence seek freedom from their abusers and attain legal status in the U.S.

What Makes This Program Effective: Founded in 1996, the project helps women and children prepare self-petitions to obtain legal immigration status without relying on the sponsorship of an abusive spouse or parent. Volunteer attorneys also help the clients obtain work authorizations. In 2002, an anti-trafficking component was added. The project trains enforcement, community-based organizations and NGOs about the legal remedies available to victims of human trafficking and represents victims in obtaining legal immigration status, public benefits and counseling on civil, criminal and other legal issues.

Staff Person Contact:

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Title: Program Director

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Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Legal Clinic for the Homeless**

Target Audience: Homeless New Yorkers.

Purpose: To provide the city's homeless citizens with legal information, advice and representation.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Law firms "adopt" a legal clinic at a homeless shelter, providing the volunteer attorneys who staff the clinics. The volunteer attorneys provide information, advice and legal representation to the residents of the homeless shelters, mostly on public benefits issues.

What Makes This Program Effective: By taking ownership of the "adopted" legal clinics, the law firms develop an expertise in the area of public benefits. Residents of the homeless shelters are provided with advice and representation regarding public benefit issues, including public assistance, food stamps, Medicaid and public housing.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Lisa Pearlstein

Title: Program Director

Phone: 212/382-6709

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Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project (NELP)**

Target Audience: Low-income micro-entrepreneurs.

Purpose: To provide pro bono services to low-income micro entrepreneurs starting or forming micro enterprises.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Recruit, train and mentor volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono services to low-income micro-entrepreneurs interested in starting or formalizing an already existing micro-enterprise.

What makes this program effective: Founded in 2003, the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project grew out of the success of the 9/11 Small Business Initiative, which provided pro bono legal services to small business located in Lower Manhattan and directly impacted by the events of 9/11. NELP provides legal advice and information to low-income micro-entrepreneurs who would otherwise go without legal assistance when starting their businesses because of the relatively high costs involved. As a result of NELP's services, low-income micro-entrepreneurs are able to access volunteer attorneys who provide them with information and advice, and in certain circumstances, with direct representation. These pro bono services allow micro entrepreneurs to start their businesses with a better understanding of what their risks and obligations are, which helps them to plan for the future of their business more effectively.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Akira Arroyo

Title: Program Director

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E-mail: aarroyo@nycbar.org

Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Pro Bono Consumer Bankruptcy Project**

Target Audience: Low-income New York City residents.

Purpose: To provide low-income consumers with advice on their rights and responsibilities regarding outstanding debts.

Procedures to Implement this Program: This project recruits, trains and mentors volunteer attorneys to advise low-income consumers of their rights and responsibilities regarding outstanding debts. Where appropriate, volunteers prepare the forms and schedules required for debtors to file pro se Chapter 7 cases and advise them on the necessary steps to be successful.

What Makes This Program Effective: This project allows clients who would otherwise be unable to file for bankruptcy due to an inability to retain counsel, to re-order their finances and obtain an economic fresh start.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: John McManus

Title: Program Director

Phone: 212/382-6698

E-mail: jmcmanus@nycbar.org

Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Staff Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Refugee Assistance Project**

Target Audience: Asylum seekers in New York City.

Purpose: To assist those seeking U.S. asylum from torture and other forms of persecution in their home countries.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Volunteer attorneys represent asylum seekers who have suffered torture and other forms of persecution in their home countries and who are seeking asylum in the U.S.

What Makes This Program Effective: Since 1987, volunteer attorneys have been preparing asylum applications, representing clients at the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in interviews and at Immigration Court hearings.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Jennifer Kim

Title: Program Director

Phone: 212/382-6757

E-mail: jkim@nycbar.org

Association: ***Oneida County Bar Association***

Current President: Peter M. Rayhill, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Diane Godlewski, Executive Director

Project Name: **Legal Line**

Target Audience: General Public.

Purpose: To provide the public with the opportunity to ask questions of an attorney free of charge.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Obtain co-sponsors, then work with them to provide the program. ECR International donated the room space; Ronco provided a bank of telephones; and WKTV publicized the program. Volunteer attorneys manned the telephone bank and answered approximately 300 calls from members of the public regarding just about every area of the law. The Legal Line program is put on once a year, during the week of Law Day.

What Makes This Program Effective: Great exposure for the Bar Association showing attorneys volunteering their time for a public service. At the same time, a very valuable public service is provided, giving the general public a chance to ask questions of an attorney free of charge. It also builds camaraderie among the volunteer attorneys.

Volunteers Responsible: Elizabeth B. Snyder, Esq., Event Chair
Donna J. Case, Esq., Committee Chair
Public Information and Education Committee

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Diane Godlewski

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 315/724-4901

E-mail: ocba@borg.com

Association: ***Saratoga County Bar Association***

Current President: Stephanie W. Ferradino, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Patricia L. Clute

Project Name: **A Health Care Planning Forum: Health Care Proxies and Living Wills**

Target Audience: Residents of Clifton Park and the surrounding areas.

Purpose: To provide residents with information regarding health care proxies and living wills.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Establish agenda and notify the public through local newspapers and notices in target areas of forum to be held at the Clifton Park Senior Center.

What Makes This Program Effective: Forum allowed participants to ask specific questions.

Volunteers Responsible: Brian H. Breedlove, Esq. and District Attorney James A. Murphy, III.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Patricia L. Clute

Title: Executive Coordinator

Phone: 518/587-5829

E-mail: scba@spa.net

Association: ***Saratoga County Bar Association***

Current President: Stephanie W. Ferradino, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Patricia L. Clute

Project Name: **Contesting Property Assessment**

Target Audience: Property owners in the City of Saratoga Springs.

Purpose: To advise and assist property owners with Assessment Review Board issues.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Session demonstrating to the residents of the City of Saratoga Springs how to fill out the necessary grievance forms and explain what factors the Assessment Review Board considers.

What Makes This Program Effective: Concise panel assisting residents on a user-friendly topic.

Volunteers Responsible: Ann C. Crowell, Esq., Richard F. Mullaney, Esq., Christine M. Carsky, Esq., Louis P. Renzi, Esq., Robert L. Beebe, Esq., David R. Murphy, Esq. and William J. Keniry, Esq.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Patricia L. Clute

Title: Executive Coordinator

Phone: 518/587-5829

E-mail: scba@spa.net

Association: ***Saratoga County Bar Association***

Current President: Stephanie W. Ferradino, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Patricia L. Clute

Project Name: **A Health Care Planning Forum: Health Care Proxies and Living Wills**

Target Audience: Residents of Saratoga Springs.

Purpose: To provide residents the opportunity to question attorneys about health care proxies and living wills.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Establish agenda and notify the public through local newspapers and notices in target areas.

What Makes This Program Effective: Forum allowed participants to ask specific questions.

Volunteers Responsible: Matthew J. Dorsey, Esq., Eleanor K. Mullaney, Esq., Stephen M. Dorsey, Esq. And Stephen J. Conners, Esq.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Patricia L. Clute

Title: Executive Coordinator

Phone: 518/587-5829

E-mail: scba@spa.net

Association: ***New York State Trial Lawyers Association***

Current President: Benedict P. Morelli, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Dan Feldman

Project Name: **Community Outreach on Civil Justice Issues**

Target Audience: Members of various constituency groups and organizations.

Purpose: To offer assistance with civil justice issues to various constituency groups and organizations.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Outreach conducted through mailings, e-mails and telephone calls. Preparation of materials for distribution at presentation. Staff member makes presentation on civil justice issues to members of the community organization.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Courtney Morrow

Title: Campaign Director

Phone: 212/349-5890 (ext. 345)

E-mail: cmorrow@nystla.org

Association: **Warren County Bar Association, Inc.**

Current President: James E. Cullum, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Liann M. Lyons

Project Name: **Warren County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service**

Target Audience: General public.

Purpose: To provide low-cost legal consultations to the general public.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Attorneys (members and non-members of the Warren County Bar Association, Inc.) complete an application and pay a small yearly fee to participate in the program. Clients telephone the Lawyer Referral Service ("LRS") and provide a description of their legal issues. The LRS then refers the client to an attorney member of the LRS, who provides a half-hour consultation to the client for a fee of \$25. The attorney and client also complete an intake form, which is then returned to the LRS.

What Makes This Program Effective: It provides the general public with the opportunity to obtain legal advice at a low-cost consultation. The LRS receives more than 500 calls a year.

Volunteers Responsible: The Lawyer Referral Program was restructured in 2004 to increase the efficiency of the program, resulting in a more effective referral system and timely response to clients seeking legal advice. The volunteer committee that reviewed and recommended the restructuring included attorneys Kristine K. Flower, Daniel J. Mannix, Marsha Purdue and Gary Hobbs. The program is administered by Liann Lyons.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Liann M. Lyons

Title: Administrative Assistant

Phone: 518/792-9239

E-mail: wcba-ny@verizon.net

Educational Programs

Association: ***Broome County Bar Association***

Current President: John R. Normile, Jr.

Chief Staff Executive: Cindy L. Garey

Project Name: **Speakers Bureaus - Adults and Schools**

Target Audience: Adult Speakers Bureau - various community agencies and organizations; Schools Speakers Bureau - school districts.

Purpose: Attorneys volunteer as speakers at various community agencies and school events to provide basic legal information.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Adults-Volunteer attorneys speak on topics ranging from landlord/tenant concerns to elder law issues, DWI, bankruptcy and family court concerns. Schools-Association sends attorneys into the schools for various career day or other events. Members speak to the students about possible future careers in the law and/or a specific topic as requested by the school district.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Cindy L. Garey

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 607/723-6331

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Association: ***Broome County Bar Association***

Current President: John R. Normile, Jr.

Chief Staff Executive: Cindy L. Garey

Project Name: **2006 Centennial Law Day Program**

Target Audience: Association members, high school Mock Trial teams.

Purpose: Justices of the Appellate Court, Third Department, hear oral arguments in Broome County and meet with high school mock trial teams and young lawyers.

Procedures to Implement this Program: The Justices of the Appellate Court, Third Department will hear oral argument in Broome County and will meet and speak with members of the local high school Mock Trial teams and the Association's Young Lawyers. The Justices will then join the Association at an evening Law Day program for special presentations and programs.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Cindy L. Garey

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 607/723-6331

E-mail: BCBAExDir@stny.rr.com

Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Law Day Poster Contest**

Target Audience: For more than 25 years, the Association has sponsored a Law Day poster contest for public and private schools in Erie County. The contest is open to all grade school and high school students.

Purpose: Commemorates Law Day with a poster contest for grade school and high school students.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Students are invited to create artwork that captures the spirit of the annual Law Day theme, as designated by the American Bar Association. Historically, a panel of judges, comprised of sitting judges, selects winning entries for grades 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12, and the winners are invited to the Association's Law Day Luncheon where they are recognized and presented with savings bonds.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Sharlene A. Hall

Title: Executive Assistant

Phone: 716/852-8687 (ext. 20)

E-mail: shall@eriebar.org

Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Lawyers for Learning Program**

Target Audience: The Bar Association of Erie County's Lawyers for Learning Committee introduced an educational program in 1999 through which members of the legal community volunteer as tutors at a local inner-city school. The program is intended to assist students in improving their academic performance and building self-confidence.

Purpose: Members of legal community volunteer as tutors at a local inner-city school.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Approximately 100 members of the Erie County legal community, including judges, lawyers, court staff, paralegals and legal secretaries participate in this worthy endeavor on an annual basis. Each volunteer is assigned to one or two children and commits one hour per week to tutoring, principally in areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

What Makes This Program Effective: School administrators have reported marked improvements in academic performance and attendance. Lawyers for Learning was the recipient of the Buffalo Alliance for Education 2000 Gold Commitment to Education Award. Lawyers for Learning incorporated in 2003, but the program continues to operate with significant volunteer support of Bar Association members.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Susan Eagan

Phone: 716/858-1190

Name: James Eagan

Phone: 716/852-5875

E-mail: kbifaro@eriebar.org

Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **People's Law School**

Target Audience: This community service program is presented from time-to-time and is designed to help increase the public's understanding of the law.

Purpose: To help increase the public's understanding of the law.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Classes are held at a local college and are taught by lawyers and judges with special expertise in specific topic areas. Past classes have covered topics such as Understanding the Law and the Courts, Bankruptcy and Consumer Law, Civil Rights and Discrimination and Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Susan Kohlbacher

Title: Communications Assistant

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Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Stop DWI Student Assembly Program**

Target Audience: The program targets high school juniors and seniors during prom season.

Purpose: To depict for teenagers, the legal ramifications and devastating effects of driving while intoxicated.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Each year, the Bar Association of Erie County's Young Lawyers Committee, the Erie County District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement agencies combine efforts to present a panel - comprised of an attorney, a police officer or state trooper and a victim of drunk driving - who depict realistic perspectives of the legal ramifications and devastating effects of driving while intoxicated.

What Makes This Program Effective: This successful educational program has been in place for more than 12 years and is presented to 20 schools, on average, each year.

Volunteers Responsible: Young Lawyers Committee Chair David W. Polak.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Sharlene A. Hall

Title: Executive Assistant

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Association: ***Oneida County Bar Association***

Current President: Peter M. Rayhill, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Diane Godlewski, Executive Director

Project Name: **Speakers Bureau**

Target Audience: Lawyers + Judges in the Classroom: students of all ages;
other speakers: general public.

Purpose: Lawyers and judges discuss the legal profession to students during career days at local schools.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Lawyers and Judges volunteer to speak about the legal profession to students of all ages during school career days. During Law Day week, a special effort is made to have attorneys and judges visit classrooms to speak on a variety of topics. We also have presented a legal rights and responsibilities program to college students and are anticipating a similar program for high school seniors.

Volunteer attorneys also speak to local organizations about any topic requested. Attorneys have spoken at senior citizen centers about wills, living wills, power of attorneys, and grandparent visitation rights. In the planning stages is a seminar to be presented over an eight-week period, at which volunteer attorneys will speak on different substantive areas of the law. This seminar will be part of a local community education program.

What Makes This Program Effective: It reaches a wide cross-section of the public, providing substantive education about legal issues.

Volunteers Responsible: Donna J. Case, Esq., Chair, Public Information and Education Committee and many volunteer attorneys and judges

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Diane Godlewski

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 315/724-4901

E-mail: ocba@borg.com

Association: **Queens County Bar Association**

Current President: George J. Nashak, Jr.

Chief Staff Executive: Arthur N. Terranova

Project Name: **Annual Trip to Albany for High School Students in Queens County**

Target Audience: We offer to all our Queens high schools, both public and parochial, the opportunity to send two juniors from each school for our trip. On average, we take approximately 40 students to Albany each May.

Purpose: To send juniors from each high school to Albany to visit the Court of Appeals, meet the Chief Judge, lunch with local legislators and tour the Legislature and Capitol.

Procedures to Implement this Program: The trip involves visiting the Court of Appeals and meeting with the Chief Judge or another Judge of the Court who is present on that day. We then have lunch with all our local legislators where the students have an opportunity to meet their representatives.

Following lunch, we attend the Legislative session in the Assembly and/or Senate, whichever is in session. Finally, we meet with the Governor and/or Lieutenant Governor. At the end of the day, we head home and stop on the road for dinner. It is a most enjoyable day. Not many high school students in the state can say they have visited all three branches of New York State government.

What Makes This Program Effective: For more than 50 years, we have been doing this trip.

Volunteers Responsible: The trip is sponsored by our American Principles Committee, whose Chair makes the arrangements.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Arthur Terranova

Title: Executive Director

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Association: ***Saratoga County Bar Association***

Current President: Stephanie W. Ferradino, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Patricia L. Clute

Project Name: **Mock Trial**

Target Audience: Local public and private high schools to participate in the Annual Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament.

Purpose: To mentor and participate in the annual statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Done in coordination with the Law, Youth & Citizenship program of the New York State Bar Association. It is a volunteer program with volunteer teachers, attorneys and judiciary.

What Makes This Program Effective: Annual school participation.

Volunteers Responsible: Joseph C. Berger, Esq., Paul Pelagaili and M. Elizabeth Coreno, Esq.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Patricia L. Clute

Title: Executive Coordinator

Phone: 518/587-5829

E-mail: scba@spa.net

Association: ***Saratoga County Bar Association***

Current President: Stephanie W. Ferradino, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Patricia L. Clute

Project Name: **Scholarship Program offering two \$1,000 Scholarships to 2nd and 3rd Year Law Students**

Target Audience: Individuals studying to enter the legal profession.

Purpose: To offer two \$1,000 scholarships to 2nd and 3rd Year law students.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Post scholarship requirements on Saratoga County Bar Association Web site and notify colleges offering a law school program.

What Makes This Program Effective: Monetary needs of the students.

Volunteers Responsible: Hon. A. Rita C. Glavin

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Patricia L. Clute

Title: Executive Coordinator

Phone: 518/587-5829

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Association: ***Suffolk County Bar Association***

Current President: Robert F. Quinlan

Chief Staff Executive: Sarah Jane LaCova

Project Name: **Judging the Jury System Law Day Program**

Target Audience: The citizens of Suffolk County.

Purpose: To increase citizens' knowledge of the jury system.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Program focused on the theme set by the ABA for Law Day 2005: The American Jury. Its participants analyzed and critiqued the jury system. Speakers included Prof. Ralph N. Jonakit of New York Law School, Commissioner of Jurors Michael D. O'Donohoe, Kevin Fox, Esq., Willia Keahon, Esq., Hon. Georgia Tschember, and William T. Ferris, dean of Suffolk Academy of Law, a newspaper journalist and former jurors.

Volunteers Responsible: Scott M. Karson, Immediate Past President, and Dorothy Paine Ceparano, Academy of Law Executive Director

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Jane LaCova

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 631/234-5511

E-mail: jane@scba.org

Association: ***Westchester County Bar Association***

Current President: John S. Marwell, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Amy Patterson

Project Name: **High School Mock Trial Competition and Lawyers in the Classroom**

Target Audience: High School children in Westchester County at more than 40 schools.

Purpose: To mentor high school students participating in the Westchester County mock trial competition.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Coordinate with the court employees, security, school busing, teachers, students, parents, coaches and the many lawyer volunteers to schedule double elimination mock trials for 40 schools using every courtroom in the County Courthouse. Top awards are presented on Law Day in May in conjunction with our Law Day Program. Additional outreach is done with Lawyers in the Classroom Project and this year also may include a re-launch of the "Westchester Lawyers Speak" radio program.

Volunteers Responsible: Robert Redis, Ralph R. Nobile, Lou Maggiotto and many additional WCBA member volunteers.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Aaron Banks or Amy Patterson

Title: Banks - Outreach Coordinator / Patterson - ED

Phone: 914/761-3707

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Profession-Related Programs

Association: ***Brooklyn Bar Association***

Current President: Lawrence F. DiGiovanna

Chief Staff Executive: Avery Eli Okin, Esq., CAE

Project Name: **Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee**

Target Audience: Practicing attorneys in need of intervention, as an aid to the general public.

Purpose: To assist practicing attorneys in need of intervention.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Bar leaders identify an attorney in need, who is contacted by a trained volunteer.

Volunteers Responsible: Committee Chair Hon. Sarah Krauss

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Avery Eli Okin, Esq., CAE

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 718/624-0675

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Association: ***Association of the Bar of the City of New York***

Current President: Bettina B. Plevan

Chief Executive: Barbara Berger Opotowsky

Project Name: **Promotion of Diversity**

Target Audience: Law firms, Law departments.

Purpose: To provide monthly diversity working sessions to law firms and departments.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Monthly diversity working sessions. Each month, the Office for Diversity hosts an interactive and pragmatic session for signatory firms each devoted to one key aspect of diversity. The Office for Diversity collects, aggregates and shares diversity statistics for Signatory firms to measure progress against goals.

What Makes This Program Effective: In 1991, the Association adopted its first Statement of Goals of New York Law Firms and Corporate Legal Departments for increasing minority representation and retention. In 2003, the Association issued another statement to address the diversity in the leadership ranks at law firms and corporate law departments. The 2003 statement encompasses race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, nationality, age, disability and marital and parental status. Signatories to the 2003 Statement provide their diversity statistics for all classes and levels of lawyers to the Office for Diversity, which are aggregated. These annual Benchmarking studies are shared among peer firms and law departments. Signatories also have committed to implement programs and policies such as instituting Diversity Committees, providing diversity training, and flexible work policies. The Statement of Diversity Principles and Signatories and Benchmarking studies can be accessed at www.nycbar.org.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Meredith Moore

Title: Director for Diversity

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Association: ***New York County Lawyers' Association***

Current President: Norman L. Reimer

Project Name: **Minority Judicial Internship Program**

Target Audience: First- and second-year minority law students from New York County and Brooklyn Law School, St. John's University Law School and City University of New York School of Law at Queens College.

Purpose: To provide internships to minority law students.

Procedures to Implement this Program: In September, information is distributed to deans, placement officers and student associations. Members of the Association's Committee on Minorities and the Law interview each candidate and make selections. Selection is based on financial need, background, legal research and writing ability, the potential to benefit from the program and past contributions to communities of color. The interns receive a stipend; therefore, the number of internships offered depends on the participation of sponsors from the legal community and the private sector.

Each intern is assigned to a New York State Supreme Court Justice or a federal judge sitting in the Southern or Eastern District of New York. During the eight-week internship, interns may be asked to draft memoranda, attend oral arguments and perform legal research. It is a "hands-on" courtroom experience. An important benefit of the experience is the relationship that develops between the intern and the judge. The interns learn first hand how the system works and gain valuable insights into the decision-making process of the court system. The program provides mentoring, valued contacts and quality references.

Since its inception, more than 150 law students have participated in the program. Former interns have gone on to work in law firms both small and large, private corporations and government agencies.

Volunteers Responsible: NYCLA's Committee on Minorities and the Law

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Lois Davis

Title: Director, Pro Bono Programs

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Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Judicial Ratings**

Target Audience: Each year, the Bar Association of Erie County issues ratings for candidates seeking election or re-election to judicial office in Supreme Court, Erie County Court, Erie County Family Court and Buffalo City Court. The Bar Association considers its ratings of judicial candidates one of its most important public services and it endeavors to aid voters in electing the most qualified candidates.

Purpose: To rate the qualifications of judicial candidates on behalf of a more informed voting public.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Judicial candidates are rated on criteria including, but not limited to, integrity, experience, professional ability, education, fairness, reputation and industry. Judicial ratings are based on a process that includes interviews with those in the legal community who have had interaction with the candidates, as well as personal candidate interviews. A rating of Qualified is considered a measure of qualification for judicial office that is greater than that required for the private practice of law, and a judicial candidate must meet this standard to a high degree. A rating of Well Qualified or Outstanding requires qualifications beyond that standard.

Volunteers Responsible: Carol White Gibson

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Sharlene A. Hall

Title: Executive Assistant

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Association: ***Bar Association of Erie County***

Current President: Jeremiah J. McCarthy

Chief Staff Executive: Katherine S. Bifaro

Project Name: **Law Line**

Target Audience: The Bar Association of Erie County, through its partnership with the Western New York Public Broadcasting System, broadcasts a weekly call-in radio series to heighten public awareness of the legal profession.

Purpose: To heighten public awareness of the legal profession via a weekly call-in radio series.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Members of the Bar Association volunteer as guest speakers and discuss general or specialized topics such as elder law, consumer issues, real estate, negligence, matrimonial and family law and tax law. Law Line, a one-half hour show airs on WNED-AM on Saturday mornings and is hosted by reporter/announcer Mike Desmond. The program was implemented in 1997.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Katherine S. Bifaro

Title: Executive Director

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E-mail: kbifaro@eriebar.org

Association: ***Monroe County Bar Association***

Current President: James S. Grossman

Chief Staff Executive: Mary Corbitt

Project Name: **Deaf Equal Access Fund "DEAFund"**

Target Audience: MCBA members who represent deaf or hard-of-hearing clients.

Purpose: To educate the deaf community about its legal rights.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Educate the deaf community about their basic legal rights and provide them the reassurance that members of the local bar understand their obligation to deaf clients. Establish a relationship with an interpreting service to deliver simple-to-arrange, affordable and competent interpreter services to attorneys for the benefit of deaf clients. Establish a fund that will provide member attorneys with partial reimbursement for the costs of interpreters hired through the program. Identify other sources of funding for the DEAFund through grant opportunities.

What Makes This Program Effective: Attorneys become educated about their obligations to clients with disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act requirements, with a primary focus on clients who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and to provide attorneys with information on how to effectively provide services to those clients.

Volunteers Responsible: Brian D. Hetherington, Esq., Spencer Phillips, Esq.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Mary Corbitt

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 585/546-1817

E-mail: mcorbett@mcba.org

Association: **Monroe County Bar Association**

Current President:

Chief Staff Executive:

Project Name: **Speakers Forums**

Target Audience: Members of the legal community.

Purpose: To provide bi-monthly forums on topics of legal interest to the community.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Determine a topic of interest to the legal community. Identify a small committee or person to set up speakers and the format. Publicize the event at least six weeks in advance. Establish a committee to oversee programs and activities.

What Makes This Program Effective: The forums are bi-monthly and intended to create discussion or debate, as well as inform the legal community on a specific topic of interest. The programs are held over an extended lunch hour and previous forums included open meetings with judges of the various courts in our community; debate on a controversial Family Court decision that ordered a couple not have any additional children; a mayoral debate; a county executive debate; a discussion with Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. The MCBA charges \$10 to members, \$20 to non-members and lunch is provided. This is a revenue-generating event. Attendance at the forums range between 50 and 100.

Volunteers Responsible: Thomas P. Smith, Esq., chair of Speakers Forums

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Calista Amering

Title: Communications Manager

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Association: **Rockland County Bar Association**

Current President: Bridget M. Casey

Chief Staff Executive: Sandria Israel

Project Name: **Lunch with a Judge**

Target Audience: This type of meeting is very versatile - we can limit it to new attorneys, have a Family Court judge discuss "A Beginners Guide to Practice in Family Court" and even offer CLE credit when appropriate, or sometimes, the attorneys will sit down with their favorite judge and just discuss non-law-related subjects over lunch.

Purpose: To provide attorneys with an opportunity to meet with local judges in an informal setting.

Procedures to Implement this Program: This program came about after we had been conducting Roundtable Luncheons with Judges hosting the luncheon. The luncheon takes place in our conference room (the Association provides the lunch) and is limited to 16 people. We started out with specific topics, but found it more successful when hosted by a judge and just "general topics" were discussed. No specific cases are discussed. The Judiciary Bar Liaison contacts a judge and asks him/her to participate, set date. Flyer goes out to all attorneys or targeted audience (i.e., new attorneys). Bar Association orders lunch delivered.

What Makes This Program Effective: This program gives our attorneys an opportunity to spend time with a judge in a small, informal and intimate setting.

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Sandy Israel

Title: Executive Director

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E-mail: office@rocklandbar.org

Association: ***New York State Trial Lawyers Association***

Current President: Benedict P. Morelli, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Dan Feldman

Project Name: **Continuing Legal Education**

Target Audience: New York's trial lawyer community.

Purpose: To provide programs to local trial lawyers that will fulfill CLE requirements.

Procedures to Implement this Program: Planning, coordinating program featuring expert faculty members for each subject. Prepare seminar book of materials. Programs also available in audiotape and CD format, as well as DVDs.

Volunteers Responsible: Various faculty participants

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Alan Forrest

Title: Director of Legal and Professional Programs

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Association: ***New York State Trial Lawyers Association***

Current President: Benedict P. Morelli, Esq.

Chief Staff Executive: Dan Feldman

Project Name: **Annual Law Day Dinner and Reception**

Target Audience: NYSTLA members and other members of the legal profession.

Purpose: To commemorate Law Day and honor members of the legal community.

Procedures to Implement this Program: After honoree is chosen, invitations are sent announcing the annual Law Day dinner and reception to NYSTLA members and others in the legal community.

Volunteers Responsible: Various faculty participants

Staff Person Contact:

Name: Corinne Locke

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