

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. Thanks to our members' efforts foreclosed homeowners,

evicted tenants, disabled children, and the victims of consumer fraud had meaningful access to justice. Pictured below are some of the distinguished 2009 Empire State Counsel® Honorees.



Christopher A. Andreucci
52 hours
Harris Beach

"I do pro bono work because I enjoy being involved in people's lives to bring about change and assistance. This work is rewarding and rejuvenating and allows me to give back to the community. We are all fortunate to be attorneys and as such should bestow some of that good fortune on the less fortunate among us."



Nicole Haff
247 hours
Proskauer Rose

"I participate in pro bono because everyone should receive representation regardless of their economic means."



Daniel Schleifstein
89 hours+
Reed Smith

"I am grateful for the opportunities I have received in my education and career. It is my duty, privilege, and pleasure to give back through pro bono service."



Roberta Arnone
52 hours+
Solo Practitioner

"Especially now in a troubled economic environment, it is so important to lend a helping hand, to offer free legal services and to give more than you expect to receive."



Michael Hagan
180 hours+
Morrison & Foerster

"The legal profession is uniquely positioned to improve the lives of our fellow citizens in the communities in which we practice."



A. Nicole Spooner
56 hours+
Proskauer Rose

"I participate in pro bono because I strongly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. In giving back to my community, I believe that I actually help to strength the entire community, and as cliché as it sounds, make the world a much better place to live in for everyone."



Sheldon W. Boyce
51 hours
Brenna Brenna & Boyce

"Equal Justice under the law means nothing without adequate representation. The only way attorneys can completely fulfill their oath of office is to provide legal services to those who cannot afford them."



Robert Harmon
73 hours
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

"I believe that as lawyers and individuals it is our responsibility to help strength our communities. It brings me great joy to show an individual who believes the courts are inaccessible that the law can work in their favor."



Leon Volchok
303 hours+
Proskauer Rose

"Participating in pro bono allows me to make a difference in my community by helping individuals and organizations that are unable financially to secure assistance to address essential legal issues, while developing professionally at an accelerated pace."



Eileen Buholtz
66 hours
Connors & Corcoran

"I conducted the most exhilarating deposition of my career in a matrimonial action where I represented the wife. By the end of his three-hour deposition, the husband admitted to holding a knife to his son's throat, which led to a finding of abuse, and to beating his wife for twelve hours straight one night at the house of friends. I framed the e-mail from the husband to my client that said 'your pro bono attorney made me look bad.'"



A. Thomas Levin
62 hours
Meyer Suozzi English & Klein

"Pro Bono service is the rent we pay for the privilege of practicing law in New York State. It is a wonderful opportunity to use our skills and talents as lawyers to help those who are not otherwise able to help themselves, and to make a real difference in someone's life."



Michael Philip Weinstein
70 hours
Solo Practitioner

"I perform pro bono service because there is a large unmet need for legal services and the priceless feeling I get from clients sincere 'thank you' for helping them."



Michael Dallal
800 hours
Jones Day

"I perform pro bono service first and foremost to help people and to support causes that I believe in. An added bonus is that I do work usually reserved for more senior attorneys in billable matters. This work provides me valuable experience and opportunities to develop my skills."



Shaleeya McFadden
492 hours
Harter Secrest & Emery

"Pro bono cases directly impact people's lives in a meaningful and lasting way. The best examples of this for me are the special immigrant juvenile pro bono cases on which I have had the opportunity to work. These cases allow me to advocate for children who have entered the United States from impoverished countries throughout the world to escape abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment by their biological parents or caregivers. The very lives of these children are at stake. Without being able to show that they are entitled to remain in the United States, they would be forced to return to their country, and very likely return to abusive homes or return to the streets – ass many of these children are homeless. These cases help you to count your blessings every day and remind you of how fortunate you are."



Allegra C. Wiles
283 hours
Latham & Watkins

"Many New Yorkers desperately need legal services to help them out of difficult spots, and pro bono work is one way I can contribute. Pro bono service also helps me develop knowledge and skills that are useful in my daily practice."



Gary Elias
80 hours
Solo Practitioner

"Once a month, at Fort Hamilton, I prepared wills and advance directives for servicemen going to the Middle East or who are retired."



Liam G. B. Murphy
50 hours+
Ward & Murphy

"I believe it is important to remember it is a privilege to practice law and that we must pay for that privilege by sharing our skills with those who need them."



Margarett M. Williams
55+ hours
Solo Practitioner

"Law was my fourth career. I worked all day and attended Touro Law School at night. It was a grueling yet wonderful experience. I would not have the honor and privilege of being an attorney today without the caring efforts of the deans, faculty, administration and staff of the law school. Pro bono service is the best way for me to show my gratitude to them for the priceless education I received. They transformed my life."



David J. Fernández
50 hours +
Dorsey & Whitney

"Providing pro bono service is a wonderful way to help give back to the community and help pay forward the good deeds being accomplished by these organizations."



Roger Noble
96 hours
White & Case

"I have been regularly performing pro bono work since I began practicing law in the early 1970's. I find it to be immensely rewarding, particularly because of its tendency to broaden one's horizons and contacts. It fosters engagement with a variety of persons and causes that are beyond many a busy, business-oriented attorney's ordinary base of clients and contacts."



Elisa P. Gerontianos
54 hours
Weinberg & Gerontianos

"Pro Bono work affirms my belief in civic duty; taking pride in my community and giving people a helping hand. I cannot recommend it enough as the rewards are immeasurable!"