

NYSBA 2013

President's Pro Bono Service Awards



NYSBA
**DO THE
PUBLIC
GOOD**
VOLUNTEER
FOR PRO BONO





President's Message

Today we proudly celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards. These awards were created to recognize the extraordinary pro bono contributions made by members of our profession. The depth, breadth, and scope of the legal services provided by the honorees is truly inspirational. Solo practitioners, a government employee, a law student, a young lawyer, a senior attorney and a corporate in-house counsel are among the individual recipients of this year's awards. A large, a mid-sized, and a small law firm also are being recognized, as is a government office.

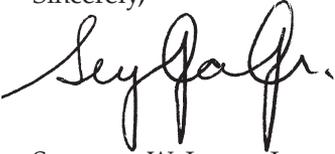
The life-changing impact of pro bono is vividly illustrated by the work done by the honorees. For example, four of the distinguished recipients — the Proskauer Team members — spent six years litigating against the Social Security Administration's policy of terminating the benefits of any recipient who had an open warrant, regardless of whether the warrant was decades old and whether or not the recipient was even aware of its existence. This draconian policy adversely impacted the lives of over 140,000 class members, thrusting many into homelessness and rendering them unable to afford life sustaining medications. Thanks to the perseverance of the dedicated members of the Proskauer Team, this policy has been changed and the members of the class have had their retroactive benefits restored -- benefits totaling one billion dollars!

Several of today's award recipients also are being recognized for their tireless assistance helping the survivors of Superstorm Sandy. Other honorees have distinguished themselves through their defense of unemployment claimants who were being unfairly denied benefits by their former employers. Still others tackled the unscrupulous student loan practices of scam trade schools that left unsuspecting low-income students buried under crushing debt, without having delivered the promised skills that were supposed to lead to better employment opportunities and ultimately a better life.

Residents in rural areas were provided needed advice and assistance in securing pro se divorces, obtaining debt relief, and fighting evictions. Transgender individuals received help in navigating the complicated legal process of completing a formal name change so that their legal identification can conform with how they self-identify and live their lives.

Our theme at the State Bar Association this year is “Making a Difference.” All of the pro bono volunteers we recognize today have helped to fill voids in the legal services delivery system and made a difference in the lives they have touched. In addition to achieving significant results for their clients, they have made individual clients feel respected and let them know that their cases matter. These volunteers serve as exemplary role models we can all strive to emulate as we incorporate pro bono into our own practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seymour W. James, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Seymour W. James, Jr.
President

2013 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductory Remarks

David M. Schraver
President-Elect and Co-Chair
President's Committee on Access to Justice

Welcome

Seymour W. James, Jr.
President
New York State Bar Association

Law Day Remarks

Hon. Jonathan Lippman
Chief Judge, State of New York

Luncheon

Presentation of Awards

Seymour W. James, Jr.
David M. Schraver

Closing Remarks

Hon. George H. Lowe
Co-Chair
President's Committee on Access to Justice

May 1, 2013
Albany, New York

THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2013 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

Celebrating 23 years of Outstanding Contributions in Pro Bono

A WORD OF THANKS

Nominating Committee members devote countless hours reviewing the many nominations submitted in each of the award categories. The Association is deeply grateful to each of them for their thoughtful and careful review of each nominee's pro bono contribution. Members of the Nominating Committee are:

Seymour W. James, Jr.
President

Hon. George H. Lowe, Co-Chair
President's Committee on Access to Justice

David M. Schraver
President-Elect and Co-Chair
President's Committee on Access to Justice

Edwina Frances Martin
Lewis Creekmore
Co-Chairs of the Committee on Legal Aid

Saralyn Cohen
Deborah O'Shea
Co-Chairs Pro Bono Coordinators Network

Gloria Herron Arthur
Director, Department of Pro Bono Affairs

Honorees are selected based on pro bono service rendered during 2012 and in consideration of the following criteria:

- Number of pro bono clients served;
- Number of pro bono hours of service;
- Impact of service on clients; and
- The impact of service on a pro bono program.

A brief profile, gleaned from the nominating materials, describes some of the outstanding pro bono service rendered by each award recipient.



First Judicial District

Proskauer Team

Proskauer LLP
New York, New York

Proskauer Team

Far left: Betsy Plevan
2nd from left: Russell Hirschhorn
Far right: Steven Obus
2nd from right: Brian Rauch

Nominator

Gerald A. McIntyre
Directing Attorney
National Senior Citizens Law Center
Los Angeles, CA

Proskauer Team members – **Russell Hirschhorn, Steven Obus, Bettina Plevan** and **Brian Rauch** – achieved a truly remarkable result in the class action lawsuit *Clark v. Astrue* which over a six-year period challenged a Social Security Administration’s (SSA) policy that cut off over one billion dollars of benefits to some of the most vulnerable older Americans and people with disabilities.

The challenged SSA policy routinely cut off benefits when it was discovered through a computer matching program that an individual had an outstanding warrant for an alleged violation of probation or parole, regardless of whether there was an actual violation and regardless of whether or not the individual knew about the warrant. As a result of the Proskauer Team’s efforts, approximately 140,000 class members are now receiving the money that was unlawfully withheld over the last six years, enabling many of them to once again afford stable housing.

Nominator Gerald A. McIntyre, Directing Attorney of the National Senior Citizens Law Center, wrote, *“The Proskauer team deserves recognition, not just because of the life changing results for the 140,000 class members or because of the one billion dollars in retroactive benefits being distributed although these are important factors to consider. They deserve it because of their hard work and persistence over a six-year period even when the prospects for success appeared dim.”*

The final order entered in 2012 is currently being implemented and not only provides for changing SSA’s policy prospectively, but also for providing retroactive benefits to those whose benefits were suspended or denied on or after October 24, 2006 or who had an appeal pending on that date. A number of class members were thrust into homelessness because the challenged policy cut off their only means of support.

One of the class plaintiffs had his Social Security Retirement Benefits stopped because there was an outstanding warrant from when he was a teenager stemming from a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Another client impacted by the lawsuit was homeless and living in the woods in Florida. She also suffered from cardiac disease, glaucoma, liver problems, and anxiety and was unable to afford her medications. Her federal benefits were terminated on account of an alleged violation of probation filed in Monroe County, New York. Thanks to the Proskauer Team’s efforts her benefits were recently restored and she received approximately \$30,000 in retroactive benefits that enabled her to enter into a lease for a new apartment and to pay off debts she had accumulated. The *Clark* class action litigation has directly benefited thousands of individuals like the two described herein.

The Proskauer Team’s nomination was supported by the Empire Justice Center which appeared as an amicus in the litigation at the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and by the Center for Disability Advocacy Rights (CeDar), Inc. CeDar Executive Director, Christopher J. Bowes, wrote that the Proskauer Team’s *“exceptional efforts in the Clark case exemplify precisely the type of pro bono commitment to which all attorneys should aspire.”*



Second Judicial District

James Maleady, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Brooklyn, NY

Nominator

Sidney Cherubin, Esq.
Director of Legal Services
Brooklyn Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
Brooklyn, NY

The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) of the Brooklyn Bar Association first met attorney James Maleady during the immediate aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. Jim attended a Sandy relief training which was held at the Brooklyn Bar Association and immediately signed up for nearly every disaster relief volunteer opportunity that the VLP organized.

In partnership with the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, the VLP established a twice weekly disaster relief legal clinic based at Brooklyn Borough Hall. In the months following the worst storm the East Coast has ever experienced, the VLP provided over 150 Brooklyn residents with storm-related legal advice and assistance through the clinics. Jim not only regularly participated in the clinics, but also was available outside of clinic hours for follow-up questions and consultations. *"With his experience and knowledge of insurance matters, Jim was an invaluable resource not just to clinic visitors, but also to his fellow volunteers and to the VLP staff,"* wrote nominator Cherubin.

Besides the Borough Hall clinics, the VLP organized a series of neighborhood-based clinics throughout Brooklyn, working sometimes in partnership with South Brooklyn Legal Services. Jim traveled to meet with Sandy survivors in Sheepshead Bay, Canarsie, Coney Island, and other hard-hit Brooklyn neighborhoods. At each event Jim was frequently the first volunteer to arrive and the last to leave, always staying until he was certain that all of the clinic visitors had received the assistance they needed. The Volunteer Legal Services Project is deeply grateful to Jim for his matter-of-fact intelligence and quiet compassion which inspired confidence and deep appreciation in Sandy survivors who sought legal advice and assistance through the clinics. With little fanfare, Jim skillfully counseled dozens of Sandy survivors and never hesitated to serve

as a mentor and resource to other legal services agencies in need of insurance-related expertise.

Jim’s nomination was supported by the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz. Pooja Bansal, Counsel to the Brooklyn Borough President wrote that, “Mr. Maleady distinguished himself as a very reliable and intelligent volunteer at the legal clinics. He provided a level of relief and comfort to every person he assisted.”



Third Judicial District

Michelle Wildgrube, Esq.
Cioffi Slezak & Wildgrube PC
Niskayuna, NY

Nominator
Jessica Lennon
Project Director
The Legal Project
Albany, NY

Michelle Wildgrube is a partner in the law firm of Cioffi Slezak & Wildgrube where she practices in the areas of estate planning and administration, corporate and business law, and real estate. Michelle has been involved with The Legal Project for more than ten years- both as a volunteer and as a board member. She is an invaluable volunteer with The Legal Project’s Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance Program (AHAA). Among other things, Michelle lectures first-time home buyers at Better Neighborhoods Inc., so that they are fully informed about the home-buying process. In addition, she trains attorneys to handle pro bono real estate closings for AHAA, mentors other attorneys participating in the AHAA program as well as personally handles closings for first-time buyers. Michelle also consistently helps mentor and educate the staff attorneys, law students and other pro bono attorneys, sharing her expertise and experience in ways that truly connect with younger attorneys.

The Legal Project is particularly grateful to Michelle for helping them develop a new Wills program to assist low-income individuals with wills, health care proxies, and other end of life legal issues. A client, whom Michelle assisted at a recent clinic, wrote on her evaluation, “Every part of the program was a smooth process. My initial call was handled

quickly and I was referred to a wonderful lawyer. Michelle was easy to work with and answered every one of my questions – and I had a lot! She treated me with respect and I am so grateful!”

As a board member, Michelle has brought the same dedication and passion that she displays as a volunteer attorney and mentor. From 2005-2007 she served as Secretary, then Vice President until 2009 when she was elected President of the Board. Although her two year term expired in 2011, at the Board’s request she stayed on for another one-year term so as maintain stability during a time of organizational change at The Legal Project. Michelle’s leadership, energy, commitment to pro bono, expertise and generosity make her an invaluable asset to The Legal Project and the greater pro bono community.



Fourth Judicial District

Andrew Moses, Esq.

Assistant County Attorney
St. Lawrence County
Canton, NY

Nominator

Lillian M. Moy, Esq.
Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY
Albany, NY

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) operates a pro se divorce clinic in St. Lawrence County. St. Lawrence County is a rural county with many low-income persons many of whom can barely afford to heat their homes during winter, let alone afford to hire an attorney to handle a divorce. Andrew Moses, a husband, father, and busy, full-time Assistant County Attorney, recognized the enormity of the need and took over as legal advisor to the pro se divorce clinic in 2010, when his predecessor, Attorney Richard Gardner, stepped down. *“By stepping forward in 2010 Andrew provides an absolutely essential service to the people of St. Lawrence County,”* wrote the Honorable Kathleen Rogers, Surrogate Judge, St. Lawrence County in support of his nomination.

During 2012 despite the substantial demands on his time Andrew conducted a pro se divorce clinic nearly every month, assisting 35 clients in processing their divorces pro se. Last year he donated approximately

35 hours to these pro bono matters. In prior years, Andrew took time to review and revise the pro se divorce packet that LASNNY uses at its clinics, simplifying some of the forms so that they were more user friendly for the clients. These forms were reviewed and approved by the Principal Court Attorney thereby ensuring that LASNNY's clients' pro se divorces would go through smoothly. Andrew values the opportunity to deliver the pro se divorce clinics because he appreciates the fact that these divorces allow some clients to finally end an abusive relationship.

Andrew has an easy way with LASNNY's clients, ensuring that they are comfortable and understand the process by explaining it in simple, easy to understand terms. At each clinic he invites questions so that he can be sure clinic participants understand the process. His nomination also is supported by NYS Senator Patty Richie. Senator Ritchie expressed hope that *"by recognizing Andrew with this award it could encourage many other attorneys employed by government agencies to consider donating their time to help families served by the Legal Aid Society."*



Fifth Judicial District

Anthony P. Marshall, Esq.

Harris Beach PLLC
Syracuse, NY

Nominator

Deborah O'Shea
Pro Bono Coordinator
Onondaga County Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyer Project
Syracuse, NY

Anthony (Tony) Marshall is a partner in the Syracuse office of Harris Beach. Tony is being recognized for his instrumental role in providing and inspiring the leadership needed to launch the Say Yes to Education (Say Yes) Program throughout the entire Syracuse City School District. It is believed that this is the first city-wide school district program of its kind.

The Say Yes to Education Program is a national urban education reform initiative designed to remove the primary socio-economic obstacles that most often prevent inner-city students from graduating high school and

attending college. The program recognizes that many students do not go to college or even consider college as an option, not solely because of academic reasons, but also because of crippling social and emotional, health and wellness and financial difficulties that the students and their families may experience. Say Yes brings lawyers, social workers, counselors, health care providers and an entire community of caring professional volunteers to inter-city schools to address the impediments faced by the students and their families. The Legal Support Services component to this holistic child and family approach is critical to the success of the program.

The logistics of providing legal support services throughout the entire Syracuse City School District was a daunting challenge which Tony enthusiastically accepted. In collaboration with Say Yes program administrators, Tony helped to design a preliminary scope of legal services to be offered to students and their families. These services included landlord-tenant and other housing issues, debtor rights, immigration, and limited domestic relations, educational rights and criminal issues. Next, he tackled the method of delivering so many wide-ranging legal services, deciding upon weekly in-school walk-in clinics to be staffed by attorneys who would provide direct legal services and through referrals, as appropriate, to local services providers and volunteer lawyer programs.

Tony then spearheaded the recruitment of local law firms and other vital community partners, such as the Fifth Judicial District Pro Bono Action Now Program, Syracuse University Law Clinic, Volunteer Lawyer Project of the Onondaga County Bar Association, Hiscock Legal Aid Society and Legal Services of Central New York. Working with these constituent groups Tony next set about re-designing the preliminary legal services component model and its eventual implementation.

Under Tony's leadership the enthusiasm for the Say Yes to Education Program spread throughout the Syracuse legal community. Tony assembled a Legal Task Force group which continues to oversee and manage the Legal Support Service program. Today the program offers in-school legal clinics, community legal clinics, as well as bi-weekly telephone clinics. These clinics provide legal services to 22,000 students and their families.

Tony's nomination was enthusiastically supported by Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey, President, Say Yes to Education. Ms. Schmitt-Carey candidly observed that, *"It is not an overstatement to say that without Tony's leadership there is no way we would have been able to deliver comprehensive,*

pro bono legal services to every family in need throughout the city of Syracuse. ...Tony truly took the bull by the horns and accepted responsibility for leading the development of the infrastructure that now is comprised of seven professionally-staffed clinics that are strategically located throughout the city."



Sixth Judicial District

Mary Jo Long, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Afton, NY

Nominator

Arlene Sanders, Esq.
Pro Bono Managing Attorney
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York
Binghamton, NY

Attorney Mary Jo Long maintains a busy solo practice in Afton, New York. Although she lacks the typical support system of a larger law firm she has been undeterred in her unwavering commitment to pro bono since joining the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York's (LASMY) Private Attorney Involvement Program in 2009. That year Mary Jo attended a CLE training intended to recruit attorneys to meet the rising need for representation of claimants in unemployment insurance hearings. Immediately following the training, Mary Jo did not wait passively for LASMY to contact her. Rather, she took the initiative and reached out to the legal services organization offering to accept cases. Since that time Mary Jo has provided zealous pro bono representation and advocacy to claimants in litigation that is often times consuming and complex. These pro bono cases require voluminous document review, interviewing and preparing claimants and other witnesses, developing legal arguments and strategy, and representation of claimants at administrative hearings.

One pro bono case last year required Mary Jo to expend more than 22 hours over the course of three months and four separate hearings. At issue was the employer's requirement that claimant perform duties that were prohibited by her physician due to her medical condition. The employer argued that claimant voluntarily terminated her employment without good cause and therefore was not entitled to benefits. Mary Jo

ultimately prevailed, securing claimant \$9,850 in retroactive benefits as well as on-going benefits. In other recent cases Mary Jo has traveled to various locations, including Binghamton and Norwich, to meet with clients who could not obtain transportation.

Mary Jo's services are vital to LASMY's clients. LASMY receives numerous requests each year for unemployment assistance. However, due to funding shortages, it is unable to provide extensive in-house assistance for this important legal need and must rely heavily on pro bono attorneys to fill this void. Unemployment cases are particularly difficult to place as they often are time consuming and require multiple appointments and appearances. For these reasons, Mary Jo Long's services are especially valuable.



Seventh Judicial District

Michael S. Schnittman, Esq.

Retired, Lacy Katzen LLP
Rochester, NY

Nominator

Sheila A. Gaddis, Esq.
Executive Director
Volunteer Legal Services Project
of Monroe County
Rochester, NY

Michael Schnittman is a recently retired partner from Lacy Katzen LLP in Rochester, NY. For over a decade, he has been an active member of the pro bono panel run by Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP) and continues with his volunteer work through the Attorney Emeritus Program. Over the years Mike has assisted over 125 low-income clients. This past year he donated more than 100 hours – these are just the hours he reported as Mike has a reputation for under-reporting the time he spends on pro bono matters.

Mike has been a valued member of the VLSP Debt Collection Advice Clinics. More recently he has represented clients dealing with foreclosure matters. Recently, Mike has been representing two clients through the foreclosure settlement process. On these two cases alone, Mike has

donated over 30 hours, resulting in one of the client's obtaining a loan modification that will enable her to keep her home.

In addition to his pro bono representation of clients Mike has been an active member of the VLSP Board of Directors since 1990 serving in many leadership positions including Board President from 2008-2010. Mike also has been a strong supporter of the annual Campaign for Justice (CFJ) Phonathon which raises funds to serve the unmet civil legal needs of low-income clients. The proceeds from the CFJ support programs at VLSP, the Legal Aid Society of Rochester and the Rochester office of Law NY (LAWNY). During the 2012 Campaign Mike personally solicited \$25,200 in donations to benefit the three legal services programs in Monroe County.

Mike's nomination was strongly supported by Peter T. Rodgers, Managing Partner at Mike's former firm. Mr. Rodgers wrote, "*Within our law firm, Mike urged his colleagues to share their talents through pro bono legal service. Mike remains a role model for the lawyers in our community in his dedication to pro bono service over the last four decades.*" Karen Ellmore, Vice President of the VLSP Board of Directors, added, "*I can think of very few people who have given as much to the cause of providing pro bono legal services to the community or who are more deserving of this recognition for their service. Mike contributes his time and energy not just because it is the right thing to do, but because he is passionate about justice for all – and that comes through loud and clear in everything he does!*" Mike's nomination also was supported by Bausch & Lomb's Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, A. Robert Bailey.



Eighth Judicial District

Matthew B. Herdzik, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
West Seneca, NY

Nominator

Robert M. Elardo, Esq.
Executive Director & CEO
Erie County Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project
Buffalo, NY

During 2012 Matt performed substantially more than 120 hours of pro bono work on eight divorces, six bankruptcy cases, and one income tax matter. These cases were assigned through the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP). Matt currently has three other open cases — two divorce matters and one income tax case — and recently he accepted referrals of three bankruptcy cases.

Matt is an invaluable pro bono volunteer because he not only handles a huge quantity of cases, he also willingly accepts many of the more difficult and challenging divorce and bankruptcy cases. His nominator wrote that, *“He is always willing to take on cases which are difficult to refer because either the issues are difficult or some sort of emergency has created a requirement of acting immediately.”* For example, one divorce case Matthew took over was scheduled for trial when the other pro bono attorney’s own health problems prevented her from being able to continue on the case. Another sympathetic bankruptcy case involved a client who had been disabled by polio since he was a child. The client was working at a low paying job, but earning just enough to make his wages garnishable. Matt handled the client’s bankruptcy and relieved the pressure caused by his losing some of his already insufficient income. Matthew’s flexibility and commitment is a tremendous help to VLP and the client community they serve.

When low-income clients arrive at his private practice and attempt to hire him, Matt refers them to VLP so that he can represent them pro bono. For over 15 years Matt has been a reliable volunteer at VLP. He has won the affection and trust of the clients he has served. Commenting on Matt’s representation, one client wrote on a Client Satisfaction Survey, *“Mr. Herdzik made me feel like I was important as a client, he makes*

me feel relaxed, unintimidated and comfortable about asking questions.”
Another client’s satisfaction survey described Matt as *“very professional, very thorough, very conscientious ... I would rate him A+.”*



Ninth Judicial District

Daniel A. Schlanger, Esq.

Schlanger & Schlanger
Pleasantville, NY

Nominator

Carol S. Neiditch, Esq.
Pro Bono Coordinator
Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
White Plains, NY

Daniel A. Schlanger heads the Consumer Protection Practice at his law firm located in Westchester County. Dan volunteers with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) and has an extensive legal services background having served as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and was the founder of the Northeast Ohio wage project.

Through volunteering with the New York City Bar Justice Center, Dan became familiar with the Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office Program (CLARO). CLARO is a program that offers free legal advice to unrepresented debtors. Thanks to Dan’s commitment, leadership and determination he brought the CLARO program to Westchester County. In his position as co-chair of the Westchester County Bar Association’s pro bono committee, Dan led the team in developing a plan of action, recruiting volunteer attorneys, organizing training sessions, arranging for space in the Westchester County Courthouse, procuring professional liability insurance, conferring with colleagues at the Feerick Justice Center of Fordham Law School, recruiting and interfacing with partnering organizations and managing divergent points of views among team members. The program has been operational since October 2012.

Dan continues to manage the project and serves as an “expert” at least twice a month, overseeing less experienced volunteer attorneys. The program operates using an “attorney-of-the-day” format with attorneys available each week to assist clients prepare answers to summons and complaints, render advice and counsel, and make referrals when more

in-depth legal assistance is needed. Signs in the courthouse, referrals from local organizations, the Court's Help Center, and the local courts help steer clients to the program.

Attorney Schlanger's impact on the community has been felt in a variety of ways. Previously, many debtors did not always have a place to turn to for assistance when served with legal process. LSHV lacked the capacity to handle the volume of debtor issues that were routinely being referred to it for help. The CLARO program bridges this gap, helping individuals cut through their confusion and serves as an important source of empowerment. Dozens of debtors already have been helped.

Importantly also, this program has sparked the interest of area business attorneys, giving them a niche in the public interest legal field allowing them to comfortably represent clients in familiar issues. In addition, the CLARO legal trainings have attracted many newer attorneys, providing them legal skills in a new practice area. Dan also has incorporated pro bono as a part of his private practice, making him the ideal role model for his peers.



Tenth Judicial District

Michael Aronowsky, Esq.

Retired
Central Islip, NY

Nominator

Thomas Maligno, Esq.
Executive Director, Public Advocacy Center
and Director, Pro Bono and Public Service
Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Central Islip, NY

The Friday after Superstorm Sandy devastated Long Island communities, Touro Law announced the formation of the Touro Law Center Hurricane Emergency Assistance Relief Team (TLC-HEART) hotline to provide pro bono Sandy relief to all those in need. To date, TLC-HEART has provided consultations and referrals for over 850 calls and emails by Sandy survivors facing a range of legal issues including insurance claims, FEMA benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, environmental concerns, and contractor disputes.

Michael Aronowsky has been a stalwart force behind the hotline, acting in the capacity of a senior attorney, mentoring law students, and personally handling high call volume and conducting individual consultations on an entirely volunteer basis. During November and December, the TLC-HEART hotline handled approximately 400 calls and emails. During that time Mike worked approximately 100 hours training law students, conducting research, and advising callers. His excellent work has furthered the Law Center's public service mission by providing direct legal assistance and practical advice to hundreds of Long Islanders in critical need of assistance.

As a seasoned retired criminal defense attorney, Mike brought keen instincts, strong interpersonal client skills and a wealth of experience to help Sandy survivors navigate through the complicated layers of disaster relief. His work on the hotline reflects his lifetime commitment to public service, consistent with the mission of Touro Law Center and the New York State Bar Association.

Supporting Mike's nomination is Benjamin Rajotte, Director, Disaster Relief Clinic, Touro Law, who described Mike as a *"tireless and effective advocate for victims of Sandy ... [I]t is clear that volunteer law students and graduates working with him at the hotline deeply respect his skills and the rapport that he is so easily able to establish with callers."* Mike's nomination also was supported by law graduate Michael DeTrano, Nassau Suffolk Law Services, Disaster Relief Project.



Eleventh Judicial District

Julia Maeng, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Queens, NY

Nominator

Mark Weliky
Executive Director
Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
Queens County Bar Association
Jamaica, NY

Solo practitioner Julia Maeng has distinguished herself in the level of service she provides to clients through the CLARO-Queens Consumer Debt Clinic sponsored by the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project (QVLP)

of the Queens County Bar Association. Many of the clients served through the CLARO clinic are elderly or disabled and may have a restrained bank account or garnishment resulting from a default judgment. In many instances the judgments were obtained by creditors using questionable collection practices and often times the debtor never received notice of the lawsuit which had been filed against him or her.

Julia participates at the weekly clinics and since April 2012 she has provided advice and assistance at 33 clinics, serving 105 clinic visitors. To date she has donated 105 pro bono hours. In testament to the quality of her legal services, returning visitors to the clinics ask to be seen by Julia. Attorney Maeng never shies away from handling the more complex debtor issues and spends a generous amount of time outside clinic hours on the more complex cases, researching the law and drafting litigation. Besides the direct legal assistance she provides at the CLARO clinics, Julia has been instrumental in the administration of the clinics, making suggestions and observations to enhance the quality of service provided to low-income clients.



Thirteenth Judicial District

Jeffrey Alfano, Esq.

Law Clerk to the Honorable Joseph Maltese
Staten Island, NY

Nominator

Thomas J. Hall, Esq.
President-Elect
Richmond County Bar Association
Staten Island, NY

Since 2010 Jeffrey Alfano has served as the Treasurer of the Richmond County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP). Although his official title is "treasurer", *"he has become the go to person for any and every issue that arises in connection with the administration of the VLP. Mr. Alfano's tireless efforts have insured the smooth and efficient operation of the VLP so that the clients who are served by the VLP consistently receive effective and competent representation in their legal matters,"* wrote nominator Hall.

The VLP primarily serves homeowners who are facing foreclosure and who do not have the financial means to afford a private attorney. During 2012, the VLP handled approximately forty cases, many of which resulted in homeowners being able to continue to live in their homes. As he has each year since he first began volunteering with the VLP, Jeff contributed at least sixty pro bono hours last year. Jeffrey is an ideal role model for court attorneys and law clerks, demonstrating by his example that full time public service employees can make meaningful pro bono contributions.



Young Lawyer

Lindsay Moilanen, Esq.

Associate
Kaye Scholer LLP
New York, NY

Nominator

Alison King, Esq.
Pro Bono Counsel
Kaye Scholer LLP
New York, NY

Kaye Scholer has an on-going pro bono relationship with the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF), having handled numerous matters for the organization's Name Change Project, which helps transgender clients navigate the complicated legal process of completing a formal name change so that their legal identification can conform with how they self-identify and live their lives. Lindsay Moilanen tackled her first name change case in 2010 as a first-year associate. Upon successfully completing the case, she wrote a detailed memo covering what she had learned about the process and created a checklist of important information to help other lawyers handling name change cases.

Since then, the Name Change Project has become a mainstay of the firm's pro bono program, providing an attractive opportunity for summer associates and other lawyers, as the experience requires a limited time commitment while still providing a highly valuable and personal service to the client. As a result of her hard work and exceptional knowledge of the subject, Lindsay was appointed Co-Chair of the Name

Change Project in 2012 and given additional responsibilities, including assigning cases, training, supervising and mentoring junior associates, and managing the firm's relationship with TLDEF. In total, Lindsay has contributed well over 100 hours to the Name Change Project.

Recently, Lindsay has become involved with a high profile litigation arising out of her connection with the organization. TLDEF is trying to change the New York City Board of Health's stringent requirements for having one's official sex designation changed on one's birth certificate, which currently mandates that the individual have undergone detailed and specific surgical processes before the change can be made. These required surgeries are rarely covered by insurances and are very expensive – not to mention dangerous. Consequently, many transgendered individuals are medically and/or financially unable to undergo the procedures. Moreover, many others feel perfectly comfortable declaring their gender without completing the full surgical process. Yet the City allows absolutely no exceptions to the current regulation. Lindsay did not hesitate to secure Kaye Scholer's approval to serve as lead pro bono counsel in this litigation with TLDEF. Lindsay and a Kaye Scholar team of attorneys are working with TLDEF to eliminate the old regulation in favor of modern guidelines that better reflect the current realities of transgender identify.

Lindsay's nomination was strongly supported by Michael D. Silverman, Executive Director of TLDEF. Explaining the significance of Lindsay's pro bono contributions to the Name Change Project, Mr. Silverman said, *"Without a legal name change, transgender people face huge obstacles to full participation in society. In employment, for example, a name that does not match one's appearance "outs" a job applicant as transgender, increasing the odds that discrimination will infect the hiring process."*

Lindsay's pro bono commitment at Kaye Scholar is not limited to the Name Change Project. She has been involved with the death penalty appeal of an inmate in Alabama since her time as a summer associate. In addition, she has won multiple cases on behalf of pro bono clients seeking to obtain Social Security disability benefits, among others. Most recently, she also helped secure Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJS) for a young Haitian girl who had witnessed her father's murder in front of their home in 2007.

Nominator Alison King wrote, *"Lindsay's willingness to embrace a leadership role in her busy pro bono practice has provided a great example for other young litigators to follow her lead and use their talents to help those in need."*



Senior Lawyer

Michael O'Brien, Esq.

Retired
Albany, NY

Nominator

Lillian M. Moy, Esq.
Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY
Albany, NY

Michael O'Brien is retired from state service, having practiced law at the New York State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Legal Services for 34 years. When Mike reached out to the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY (LASNNY) he was very clear about the type of pro bono work he wanted to do – he wanted to help veterans and do so through LASNNY's Veterans Legal Project (VLP) and the VA Medical Center Legal Clinic.

Through the VLP, Mike meets with veterans at the Albany Housing Coalition, an agency that provides housing and supportive services to low-income, homeless veterans. He does not have a set schedule but comes whenever he is needed. At the VA Medical Center Legal Clinic, on average, he meets with veterans twice a month for scheduled appointments. During 2012 Mike assisted forty-five clients, thirteen of whom received assistance beyond advice. He donated more than 100 pro bono hours.

One noteworthy case involved Mike's meeting with a veteran for just brief advice. After their initial meeting, Mike decided he would personally represent the client in a visitation proceeding so that the client could regularly visit with his son who was in State care. Although it took several months, Mike succeeded in securing visitation for his client. After seeing the bond between the father and his son, Mike decided to pursue full custody for his client. He again prevailed and as of the end of June, the client has full custody of his son.

Thanks to his amazing work on behalf of Capital District veterans, Mike has been integral to creating lasting partnerships between the local legal services organizations like LASNNY and social services community programs such as Albany Housing Coalition, Soldier On and the Veterans Administration. He has demonstrably raised public awareness about the need for pro bono.

Mike also serves on Albany's Common Council, representing the 12th Ward. New York State Senator, the Honorable Neil D. Breslin, proudly submitted a letter in support of Mike's nomination. Senator Breslin wrote, "*Michael O'Brien is a dedicated member of the Community. ... He is a veteran and we have had the opportunity to talk about his work with veterans and it is clear that he is extremely committed to this cause.*" A letter of support also was submitted by Joseph Sluszka, Executive Director, Albany Housing Coalition who noted that since Mike began volunteering with them he has helped many hundreds of veterans transition to independent living. Courtney Slade, the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator at the Stratton VA Medical Center enthusiastically supported Mike's nomination writing, "*The needs of veterans can be different and varied. A veteran himself, Mike O'Brien knows how to engage and communicate with veterans.*"



Law Student

Catherine (Cady) Sinnwell Gerlach

Syracuse University School of Law
Syracuse, NY

Nominator

Sally Fisher Curran, Esq.
Legal Director
Volunteer Lawyer Project
Onondaga County Bar Association
Syracuse, NY

A 3L, the Pro Bono Fellow, and chair of the student run Pro Bono Advisory Board, Catherine (Cady) Sinnwell Gerlach has been an exemplary leader of pro bono efforts at Syracuse University School of Law where she personally donated 595 hours to various pro bono projects. Cady first began volunteering with the Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP) in the summer after her first year of law school and has continued her work with them over the course of her law school education.

Among other things, Cady has actively participated in the Syracuse City Court eviction defense attorney-of-the-day program. During the summers, she attended court daily, serving as the VLP intake specialist as she supported the attorney volunteers by developing concise case histories and gathering additional information necessary for settlement or hearings in landlord-tenant cases. Early on, Cady grasped that the

clients' issues extended well beyond whatever legal remedy VLP might obtain for them and as a result she began to actively refer clients to area social services programs that might be able to assist them with their other non-legal needs.

During the academic year, Cady continued to participate in the eviction defense program attending court one to two days each week. She also assumed the primary support responsibility for VLP's pro se uncontested divorce program. For this program, Cady conducted extensive intakes, gathered relevant information and helped draft the necessary divorce forms. During her time with VLP, she has helped support hundreds of clients seeking uncontested divorces.

In her capacity as chair of the student-run Pro Bono Advisory Board for the past two years, Cady has helped lead 110 of her third year classmates to donate a total of 11,395 hours of pro bono and community service through their work on over 25 projects around the country. With her guidance, law students now assist with intake and client flow at several of VLP's "Talk to a Lawyer" drop-in clinics held throughout the Syracuse area. In addition, Cady has arranged for law students to shadow attorneys in VLP's eviction defense program. These efforts have been critical to supporting the provision of civil legal services throughout central New York. This past October, Cady testified in support of law student pro bono before the Chief Judge's Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services and her testimony was enthusiastically received by the panel.

Cady's nomination was strongly supported by Christopher Wiles, President of the Pro Bono Committee of the Onondaga County Bar Association. Mr. Wiles noted that, *"through her leadership, pro bono participation by law students in VLP programming has more than tripled."* Melanie Cuevas-Rodriguez, Associate Director, Office of Student Life, Pro Bono, Diversity & Wellness Programs, stated that, *"We are very proud of Catherine, all of her academic achievements, and most importantly we are proud of her dedication to public service."*



From left: Benjamin Brandow, Amy Hundert, Eric Friedman, Robert Sheehan, Brenna DeVaney, Steven Kolleeny, Ronald Tabak.

Large Law Firm – 201 or more Attorneys

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

New York, NY

Nominators

Elizabeth Guggenheimer, Esq.

Michelle Friend, Esq.

Lawyers Alliance for New York

New York, NY

Helping Rebuild New York City in the Wake of Superstorm Sandy

Skadden has a well-deserved reputation as a leader in the law firm community for its outstanding and diverse contributions to pro bono. The firm's exceptional pro bono commitment and city-wide leadership was never more apparent than in its response in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. Skadden was the first firm to join The Legal Aid Society's legal relief efforts in Red Hook, Coney Island, and the Rockaways, assisting residents with FEMA applications, emergency food stamp applications

and other legal needs. Skadden made the largest contribution of any firm in New York, providing 86 volunteers to help devastated communities and staff the Legal Aid Disaster Relief Hotline.

Skadden's attorneys also researched and drafted handouts and other materials for hurricane survivors and pro bono attorneys, contributed to the femaappeals.org site, participated as trainers at sessions for volunteer attorneys, helped clients with Neighborhood Recovery Fund applications, served in a coordinating role in connection with the New York City Bar Association, and provided office space for displaced legal services staff.

Improving New York Communities

Last year, Skadden attorneys contributed a voluminous amount of high-quality pro bono hours to benefit individual New Yorkers and nonprofit organizations serving New Yorkers in need. Attorneys in the New York office devoted 57,222 hours to pro bono in 2012, averaging 91 hours per attorney. Pro bono legal services were provided in the areas of business law and transactional matters, labor and employment law counseling, immigration, asylum, Family Law, housing, Social Security Disability and other benefits.

Promoting Best Practices in New York City Pro Bono Legal Community

In 2010, Skadden's Pro Bono Counsel Brenna DeVaney, a member of the New York City Bar's Pro Bono and Legal Services Committee, originated a Best Practices Project with the City Bar Justice Center to establish collaborative best practices among law firms, legal services organizations, in-house legal departments, law schools and the courts. Since its inception, the project has hosted numerous forums where constituencies gathered to discuss topics such as Diversity and Pro Bono, Court Pro Bono Projects, Encouraging Law School Participation and the 50 Hour Rule. The Best Practices project has transformed the ability of the New York City pro bono legal community to coordinate services.

Skadden's nomination was enthusiastically supported by The Legal Aid Society, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), Legal Services NYC (LSNYC) the City Bar Justice Center, Human Rights First, and Volunteers of Legal Services (VOLS).

MORRISON FOERSTER

Mid-Size Law Firm – 50 to 200 Attorneys

Morrison & Foerster LLP

New York, NY

Nominator

Josh Zinner, Esq.

Co-Director

Neighborhood Development Advocacy Project

New York, NY

The Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP) is a nonprofit resource and advocacy center that works with community groups in New York City's low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. In 2011, NEDAP noticed a surge in hotline calls from low-income residents who were struggling with crippling student loan debt from having attended sham for-profit trade and degree schools offering certificates or degrees in cosmetology, auto repair, and fashion. Most of the callers received a substandard education that completely failed to prepare them for employment.

Abuses among for-profit schools are widespread. The illegal practices of these sham schools qualify some students for statutory discharges of their federal student loan debt. The problem, however, is that there are scarce resources available to assist students in applying for such relief and NEDAP was unable to handle many of the callers with potentially dischargeable debt. Through New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, NEDAP was fortunate enough to be introduced to Morrison & Foerster (MoFo) and together they formed the Student Loan Discharge Project.

Since the project was launched in 2011, Morrison & Foerster has taken on 17 discharge cases, dedicated 17 associates and two supervising partners to the project, providing more than 750 hours representing clients, and have secured numerous discharges, resulting in refunds of thousands of dollars to low-income New Yorkers. MoFo also provided

NEDAP with invaluable assistance in producing the guide, *“Resolving Defaulted Federal Student Loans: A Step-by-Step Guide for Advocates.”* The firm’s efforts were spearheaded by Pro Bono Counsel Jennifer K. Brown.

Ms. Brown recently approached NEDAP to inquire whether the organization was interested in helping to replicate the student loan discharge project in other cities. NEDAP enthusiastically agreed as it recognized that low-income people throughout the country have been targeted by similar scams. As a result of Ms. Brown’s efforts, at least three new firms with offices in target areas are now looking into the possibility of beginning loan discharge projects in cooperation with local consumer advocacy groups. In addition, a legal assistance organization in Chicago is considering adding this component to its consumer debt relief project.

Morrison & Foerster has a proven track record of pro bono leadership. During 2012, the firm’s New York office contributed 11,500 hours of pro bono service. On average, MoFo attorneys annually donate 64 hours of pro bono per attorney. In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, a team of 15 MoFo attorneys donated 200 hours of pro bono service to quickly produce the *“Helping Handbook: A Resource for Individual, Families and Small Businesses.”* The handbook covers emergency resources, income supports and detailed information on longer-term issues, including FEMA programs, mortgage and foreclosure relief, insurance claims, small business assistance and locating health, legal and social services.

In addition, since joining the New York City Volunteer Attorney Program in 2010, Morrison & Foerster lawyers have contributed more than 400 hours advising pro se clients in New York City Family Courts in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Bronx. The firm also has provided legal services through video-conferencing with clients in Richmond County. Last year alone, MoFo attorneys contributed 134 hours to the Family Court volunteer program.

Morrison & Foerster’s nomination was proudly supported by the New York City Bar Justice Center and by the New York City Volunteer Attorney Program of the New York Family Court.



Small Law Firm – 2 to 49 Attorneys

Ehrlich & Arcodia PC
Troy, NY

Nominator

Lillian M. Moy, Esq.
Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern
New York
Albany, NY

Ehrlich & Arcodia is a two-person law firm lead by Marc Ehrlich and Anthony Arcodia. Although small in size, the firm has blazed a trail, creating a culture of pro bono that is an inspirational example to other Capital District law firms. The firm provides pro bono representation in bankruptcy to the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY), The Legal Project and the Albany County Bar Association.

For LASNNY, during 2012, Marc and Tony accepted 17 new cases and closed an astonishing 22 cases. A total of ninety-six hours of free legal services were expended in closing bankruptcy cases. Besides their direct representation of low-income clients, they also participated in bankruptcy clinics, providing an additional 18 hours of free advice and consultation.

Ehrlich & Arcodia's nomination also was supported by the Honorable Robert E. Littlefield, Jr., Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of New York. Chief Judge Littlefield wrote, "*Marc and Tony clearly do all they can to help those who need it most. Their dedication goes above and beyond what one would reasonably expect from a small firm. They are role models and examples of how pro bono work can be a significant part of any firm.*"

Jessica Lennon, Program Director at The Legal Project praised the firm for its unwavering commitment to their clients. "*Every six weeks The Legal Project holds a bankruptcy clinic where low-income individuals can meet with an attorney and determine if bankruptcy is their best option. Marc and Anthony have attended almost every clinic since they began volunteering with The Legal Project and in 2012 their firm accepted 14 new pro bono bankruptcy cases. This year, they have already attended 9 bankruptcy clinics and donated over one hundred hours of pro bono work for low-income individuals.*"

The firm's nomination also was enthusiastically supported by the Capital Regional Bankruptcy Bar Association and by the Rensselaer County Bar Association.



In-House Counsel

Theresa K. Mohan, Esq.

Senior Regional Vice President
IBM
New York, NY

Nominators

Mark Weliky, Esq.
Executive Director
Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project
Queens County Bar Association
Jamaica, NY

Lynn Kelly, Esq.
Executive Director
City Bar Justice Center
New York, NY

Theresa Mohan distinguished herself in the immediate aftermath of Superstorm Sandy by being one of the first attorneys to mobilize the legal community to send volunteers out in the field to provide legal assistance to the storm ravaged communities of Queens County. Having family in the area, Theresa was personally aware of the dire and immediate need for legal services by Sandy survivors. Having assisted a family member apply for FEMA assistance Theresa was prepared to share what she had learned with other volunteers. For more than three months she worked tirelessly in the field and recruited lawyers to staff legal clinics throughout Queens County during the week and on weekends. Theresa also worked with Fordham Law School to mobilize law students and alumni who wanted to help out in the Rockaways.

Quickly realizing how important web based solutions would be in efforts to assist survivors, within weeks of the storm, Theresa approached Pro Bono Net about a potential donation of IBM's sophisticated collaboration tool, SmartCloud, to facilitate collaboration among legal services providers and pro bono groups. Theresa arranged for IBM

to grant Pro Bono Net 150 licenses, on behalf of the larger legal community, at no cost. She also made it happen in record time, shortening a corporate approval time that usually takes months into a few weeks.

Months later, Theresa continues working to increase the impact of pro bono lawyers. Whether working to multiply the efforts of fellow-in-house counsel, encouraging the involvement of law students and young lawyers, or dedicating her time to direct service, Theresa's commitment to pro bono is steadfast. In support of Theresa's nomination, Mark O'Brien, Executive Director of Pro Bono Net wrote, *"For the victims of Superstorm Sandy, Theresa provides critical legal advice on sensitive and important issues. For Pro Bono Net and other partners, she is an inspiration to seek new ways of using pro bono to close the justice gap."*



(L to R) Hon. Evelyn Frazee, Timothy Hunt, Sheila Gaddis, Nicholas Sprague, Hon. Craig Doran, Christa Hibbard, Anthony Piazza, Ronald Pawelczak, Loreen Nash

Government Office
Seventh Judicial District
Help Center
Hall of Justice
Rochester, NY

Nominator
Sheila A. Gaddis, Esq.
Executive Director
Volunteer Legal Services
Project of Monroe County, Inc.
Rochester, NY

The mission of the Seventh Judicial District Help Center is to provide necessary information about the courts and their procedure to ensure that the public has equal access to justice. The Help Center offers legal information to the public which helps individuals navigate the system to obtain a fair outcome. The Help Center does not provide legal advice but does provide access to and assistance with filling out forms, education for the public about the role and function of the courts, and information about alternatives to civil litigation. A public terminal for Do-it-Yourself (DIY) programs, assistance with online tools, and direction to books for research are also available. In addition, the staff at the Help Center makes referrals to available community resources including the Telesca Center for Justice.

The Honorable Fern Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for NYC and Access to Justice Program Director, together with the Honorable Craig Doran, Seventh Judicial District Administrative Judge, are the visionary leaders who made the creation of the Help Center a reality. With the enthusiastic support and collaboration of the greater area Rochester legal community, Judges Fisher and Doran were able to create the Help Center. The founding partners in the Help Center's creation are the 7th Judicial District Hall of Justice, Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc. (VLSP), the Monroe County Bar Association (MCBA), and the Center for Dispute Settlement. These four founding partners have shown that in the absence of additional funding, communities are able to create a noteworthy local resource when organizations are willing to donate time and combine assets.

The 7th Judicial District court personnel are indispensable partners, providing their knowledge of court procedures, computers, tables, and conference rooms of the public library at the Rochester Hall of Justice. The Help Center is unique in that unlike other help centers in the court system, it is not staffed by court personnel and volunteers. Rather, the 7th Judicial District Help Center is staffed through a collaboration of its founding partners. VLSP donates the time of one of its staff attorneys and a law student intern each afternoon. The Center for Dispute Settlement provides volunteer mediators. The 7th Judicial District rotates court staff to assist; the law librarian, law library clerk, and clerks from each of the Supreme, City, and Family Courts all rotate through the Help Center.

The Help Center's nomination was supported by the Honorable Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York. Noting the unique staffing of the 7th Judicial District Help Center, the Chief Judge expressed his hope that it would serve as a *"model for collaborative initiatives that can be replicated in other parts of the State."* Connie O. Walker, President of the Monroe County Bar Association, echoed the Chief Judge's comments, calling the Help Center *"an innovative and creative approach to the delivery of much-needed legal information and pro bono assistance to unrepresented civil litigants who lack the information and skills to effectively use the courts."*

Letters in support of the Help Center's nomination also were provided by Ronald W. Pawelczak, District Executive for the Seventh Judicial District, and Sherry Walker-Cowart, President & CEO of the Center for Dispute Settlement.

Counties in the 13 Judicial Districts

First:	New York
Second:	Kings
Third:	Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster
Fourth:	Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington
Fifth:	Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego
Sixth:	Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins
Seventh:	Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates
Eighth:	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming
Ninth:	Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester
Tenth:	Nassau, Suffolk
Eleventh:	Queens
Twelfth:	Bronx
Thirteenth:	Richmond

Previous Recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards

2012-2000

2012

Caroline Heller – *1st*
Weil Advantage Team – *2nd*
Alyssa Talanker – *3rd*
Jessica H. Vinson and
Jill O'Sullivan – *4th*
Susan N. Esce – *5th*
Carol Ann Malz – *6th*
Lucien A. Morin, II – *7th*
Peter C. Obersheimer – *8th*
Julia M. Santiago – *9th*
Barry M. Smolowitz – *10th*
Mohammad Saleem – *11th*
Noah Liben – *12th*
Daniel C. Marotta – *13th*
Natalie Fleming Nolen –
Young Lawyer
Benjamin Pomerance –
Law Student
Syracuse University College of
Law Pro Bono Advisory Board –
Law School Group
Noemi Fernandez –
Small Law Firm
Bond Schoeneck & King PLLC
Syracuse Office – *Mid-Size Firm*
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher –
Large Law firm
Daniel F. Kolb – *Senior Lawyer*
Ronnie Abrams –
Government Office
Lesley Rosenthal –
In-House Counsel

2011

Eric H. Blinderman – *1st*
Larissa Eustice – *2nd*
David A. Price – *3rd*
Bethany Schumann-McGhee – *4th*
John G. Powers – *5th*
Kurt D. Schrader – *6th*
Shaleeya B. McFadden – *7th*
Michael Anton Sciortino – *8th*
Elizabeth King – *9th*
Leah Belfort – *10th*
Ned Kassman – *11th*
Sheila T. McGinn – *13th*
Hon. Hugh C. Humphreys –
Senior Attorney
Angela C. Winfield –
Young Lawyer
Maria Martinez – *Law Student*
Brooklyn Law School's CLARO –
Law School Group
Lansner Kubitschek Schaffer –
Small Law Firm
Phillips Lytle LLP –
Mid-Size Law Firm
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP –
Large Law Firm
Supreme Court of the State of New
York, Appellate Division, Fourth
Department – *Government Office*

2010

Anne S. Raish – *1st*
Christopher Rio – *2nd*
Daniel J. Hurteau – *3rd*
Emily Muller – *4th*
David M. Hayes – *5th*
Peter A. Orville – *6th*
David Tennant – *7th*
Catherine E. Nagel – *8th*
Guy Fairstein – *9th*
Stuart P. Gelberg – *10th*
Hilary Gingold – *11th*
Michael S. Davi – *12th*
Serena M. Stonick – *13th*
Hagit Elul – *Young Lawyer*
Shirley Adelson Siegel –
Senior Lawyer
Levene Gouldin & Thompson LLP
– *Small/Mid-Size Law Firm*
Hiscock & Barclay LLP –
Large Law Firm
Gary B. Cohen – *In-House Counsel*
Ryan Shannon – *Law Student*
Suspension Representation Project
(SRP) – *Law Student Group/
Organization*

2009

Ronald Abramson – *1st*
Kim Zinke – *2nd*
Jena Rotheim – *3rd*
Cheryl L. Maxwell – *4th*
Edward McCardle – *5th*
Thomas Miller – *6th*
Jane Gabriele – *7th*
Barbara R. Ridall – *8th*
Simon Haysom – *9th*
Charles J. Sherman – *10th*
Nicholas DeCesare – *11th*
Isabelle L. Curro – *12th*
Jennifer P. Stergion – *Young Lawyer*
Hon. Robert J. Nicholson –
Senior Lawyer
Kaye Scholer LLP – *Large Law Firm*
DelBello Donnellan Weingarten
Wise & Wiederkehr LLP –
Small & Mid-Size Law Firms
Siana McLean – *Law Student*
Syracuse University College of Law
Pro Bono Bankruptcy Practice Group
– *Law School Group*
Legal Department of IBM –
In-House Counsel

2008

Aaron M. Frankel – *1st*
Cynthia Feathers – *3rd*
Richard I. Gardner – *4th*
Michael J. Sciotti – *5th*
Herbert A. Kline – *6th*
Jeffrey Wicks – *7th*
Kenneth A. Manning – *8th*
Devon Salts – *9th*
Rudolph de Winter – *10th*
Michael M. Cohen – *11th*
Sarah Bell – *Young Lawyer*
Warren Heilbronner – *Senior Lawyer*
Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCoy
LLP – *Large Law Firm*
Blitman & King LLP –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Katherine Steiner Higgins –
Law Student
Safe Passage Project of the Justice
Action Center of New York Law
School – *Law School Group*

2007

James W. B. Benkard – *1st*
Michael J. O'Connor – *3rd*
Matthew H. Dwyer – *4th*
(*Awarded Posthumously*)
Martin L. Fried – *5th*
James R. Franz – *6th*
Jodie L. Ryan – *7th*
Francis J. Offermann, Jr. – *8th*
Edith Sullivan – *9th*
Lewis C. Edelstein – *10th*
Regina Alberty – *11th*
Benis Guzman – *Young Lawyer*

Adrienne D. Gonzalez –
Young Lawyer
Gail Rodgers – *Young Lawyer*
Patterson Belknap Webb
& Tyler LLP – *Large Law Firm*
Costello Cooney & Fearon PLLC –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Kaplan and Brennan LLP –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Olivia Nix – *Law Student*
Willow Baer – *Law Student*
Student Hurricane Network,
Chapters in 12 New York State Law
Schools – *Law School Group*

2006

John M. Aerni – *1st*
Mark A. Beckman – *1st*
Richard Croak – *3rd*
Scott N. Fein – *3rd*
Hon. James E. Doern – *4th*
Anne B. Ruffer – *5th*
Hope W. Olsson – *7th*
James C. DeMarco, III – *8th*
Lee Vartan – *9th*
Patricia F. Neumann – *10th*
Archibong Archibong – *11th*
Richard Bara – *12th*
Vincent J. Roldan – *Young Lawyer*
Madeleine Schachter –
In-House Counsel
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP –
Large Law Firm
St. John's University School of Law,
Latin American Law Students
Association – *Law School Group*

2005

Jeffrey Simes – *1st*
Ronald J. Tabak – *1st*
Jeffrey S. Trachtman – *2nd*
Ronald B. Orlando – *3rd*
Andrew J. Wylie – *4th*
Margaret Murphy Peterson – *5th*
C. Bruce Lawrence – *7th*
Matthew B. Herdzyk, Jr. – *8th*
Elisabeth K. Wolfe – *9th*
Peter H. Levy – *10th*
Floyd Alan Sheeger – *11th*
(*Awarded Posthumously*)
Evelyn McCabe – *12th*
Proskauer Rose LLP –
Large Law Firm
Nixon Peabody LLP –
Large Law Firm
Siegel Kelleher & Kahn –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Joshua Sohn – *Young Lawyer*
Kara Leopold – *Young Lawyer*
Judi Coon – *Law Student*
Fordham University School of Law,
Legal Education and Advocacy
Program – *Law Student Group*

2004

Saralyn Cohen – *1st*
Bruce Weiner – *2nd*
Brian LeCours – *3rd*
Barbara King – *4th*
Kathryn McCary – *4th*
Christopher Wiles – *5th*
Albert Kukol – *6th*
John R. McQueen – *7th*
Noralyn A. Dillon – *8th*
Glenn Shapiro – *9th*

Robin Abramowitz – *10th*
William H. Scott – *11th*
David Tomlin – *12th*
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton –
Large Law Firm
Law Offices of Harold I. Silverman –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Gemma Rossi Corbin –
Young Lawyer
Gloria Bruzzano – *Law Student*

2003

Christopher J. Meade – *1st*
Debra Brown Steinberg – *1st*
Fern J. Finkel – *2nd*
Anne Reynolds Copps – *3rd*
Peter V. Coffey – *4th*
James T. Snyder – *5th*
David E. Butler – *6th*
Margaret A. Clemens – *7th*
Peter Bergenstock – *8th*
Randall S. Lewis – *8th*
Frank Muller – *9th*
Herbert Harris – *10th*
Elizabeth S. Hall – *11th*
Rochelle Sendar – *12th*
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP –
Large Law Firm
Mackenzie Hughes LLP –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Meade Versace – *Young Lawyer*
Renee Hebert – *Law Student*
Pace University School of Law,
Pace Women's Justice Center –
Law School Group

2002

Kevin Curnin – *1st*
Professor Susan Block-Lieb – *2nd*
Professor Karen Gross – *2nd*
Matthew J. Kelly – *3rd*
Christine M. Galvin – *4th*
George H. Lowe – *5th*
Frank Novak – *7th*
Kevin M. Reedy – *8th*
Professor Vanessa Merton – *9th*
Wallace L. Leinhardt – *10th*
Stephen S. Weintraub – *11th*
Robert Gilmore – *12th*
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett –
Large Law Firm
Hancock & Estabrook, LLP –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
M. Akram Fraizer – *Young Lawyer*
Peter Rolph – *Law Student*
CUNY School of Law,
Workfare Advocacy Project –
Law School Group

2001

Andrew Tomback – *1st*
Steven D. Cohn – *2nd*
Marc S. Ehrlich – *3rd*
Glen W. Brownell – *4th*
Thomas Atkinson – *5th*
Diana Hughes – *6th*
Kim Reisch – *7th*
Kevin M. Kearney – *8th*
Michael E. Uhl – *9th*
Robert W. Corcoran – *10th*
White & Case LLP –
Special Recognition Award
Debevoise & Plimpton –
Large Law Firm

McNamee Lochner Titus
& Williams PC –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Jayson Wolfe – *Law Student*
Hofstra University School of Law,
Domestic Violence Courtroom
Advocates Project –
Law Student Group

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Nancy Lazar – *1st*
Mark A. Longo – *2nd*
Jo M. Katz – *3rd*
David Harper – *4th*
Andrea King – *5th*
Michael S. Sinicki – *6th*
Barbara Roesch – *7th*
Regina A. Reitz – *8th*
Helga Klessen – *9th*
Barbara J. Fritz – *10th*
Jason Lutzky – *12th*
Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP –
Large Law Firm
Wolford & Leclair LLP –
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Boaz Weinstein – *Law Student*
Fordham Law School, Family Court
Mediation Project –
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