

NYSBA

2015

President's Pro Bono Service Awards





President's Message

Today marks the 25th Anniversary of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards. The President's Pro Bono Service Awards recognize the extraordinary pro bono contributions made by individual attorneys and law firms from around the State. The awards also celebrate the outstanding pro bono service provided by a

law student and a law school group. These are among the most prestigious and coveted of the Association's annual awards.

Publically recognizing extraordinary pro bono service helps to raise professional awareness about the vital role pro bono plays in ensuring equal access to justice for low-income individuals and families, persons with disabilities, the homeless, veterans who need legal services because of conditions related to their military service, and all who are marginalized on account of job loss, ill-health, victimization, or for their political beliefs. Recognition ceremonies, such as this, serve as a catalyst to get others involved in volunteering. This celebration also reminds the public that the members of our profession continue to be actively engaged and committed to helping the less fortunate in our communities.

The scope of the honorees' contributions is truly remarkable. The 2015 President's Pro Bono Service Award recipients have engaged in diverse pro bono initiatives that include the representation of immigrants in asylum proceedings, survivors of domestic

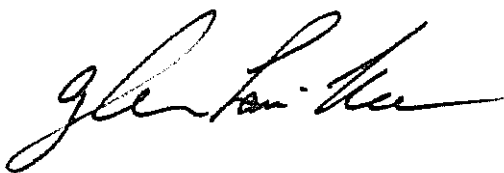
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violence in divorce, custody and visitation matters, and providing legal advice and counsel to nonprofit organizations that work to empower the poor to earn a sustainable, living wage.

Many of the recipients we recognize today are solo practitioners, who despite the time consuming demands of building or sustaining a law practice, have enthusiastically incorporated pro bono into their solo practice. One senior volunteer undertook the study of an entirely new area of law so that she could assist claimants in unemployment insurance benefits – an area where pro bono assistance is always desperately needed. Other volunteers donated their time and expertise assisting low-income individuals in bankruptcy, foreclosure proceedings, contested divorces where domestic violence was a significant factor, and in a host of other legal issues impacting the essentials of life.

On behalf of the Association, I am deeply honored to recognize the generous pro bono contributions made by each of the 2015 President's Pro Bono Service Award recipients. Each of you has made a difference in the lives of the individuals and organizations you have represented. Thank you for accepting the challenge to do the public good! Congratulations and best wishes to the 2015 President's Pro Bono Award Recipients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Lau-Kee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glenn" being the most prominent part.

Glenn Lau-Kee

THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2015 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductory Remarks

David P. Miranda

President-Elect and Co-Chair

President's Committee on Access to Justice

Welcome

Glenn Lau-Kee

President

New York State Bar Association

Law Day Remarks

Hon. Jonathan Lippman

Chief Judge, State of New York

Luncheon

Presentation of Awards

Glenn Lau-Kee

David P. Miranda

Closing Remarks

David P. Miranda

May 5, 2015

Albany, New York

THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2015 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

Celebrating 25 years of Outstanding Pro Bono Contributions

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 contributions. Members of the Nominating Committee are:

David P. Miranda

President-Elect and
Co-Chair President's Committee on Access to Justice

William T. Russel, Jr.

Co-Chair President's Committee on Access to Justice

Bryan D. Hetherington

Keisha A. Williams

Co-Chairs Committee on Legal Aid

Saralyn M. Cohen

Deborah O'Shea

Co-Chairs Pro Bono Coordinators' Network

Gloria Herron Arthur

Director

Department of Pro Bono Affairs

Criteria

Honorees are selected based on the depth, breadth and scope of the pro bono service rendered during 2014 and in consideration of the following criteria:

- Number of pro bono clients served;
- Number of pro bono hours donated;
- The impact of pro bono service on clients;
- The impact of service on a pro bono program; and
- The influence of their service on others to do pro bono.

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

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 County at St. George, Staten Island

First Judicial District



Marjorie J. Pearce, Esq.

Ballard Spahr LLP
New York, NY

Nominator:

Mary Gay Scanlon, Pro Bono Counsel
Ballard Spahr LLP
Philadelphia, PA

A partner with Ballard Spahr, Marjorie Pearce was among the first to volunteer with Clemency Project 2014. The goal of Clemency Project 2014 is to screen federal prison inmates for eligibility to apply for clemency under a new program targeting nonviolent offenders who were sentenced under harsh mandatory sentencing guidelines that are no longer in use, and which have significantly swelled the federal prison population. The Clemency Project is an initiative of President Barack Obama's administration. Ms. Pearce calls the project "the most significant criminal justice initiative in half a century," affecting not just prisoners in New York, but the entire country. The Clemency Project has received in excess of 30,000 requests from inmates seeking to apply for clemency.

Ms. Pearce played a pivotal role in the building and launching of the project through her development of a comprehensive training program to equip volunteers to provide effective representation in a highly specialized legal task. Besides developing the training, Ms. Pearce provided the training to approximately 500 volunteers via a webinar. In addition, she served as an effective bridge to the pro bono coordinators of dozen of law firms in helping them address essential ethical issues that had to be resolved before they could become involved in the project. Thanks to Ms. Pearce's efforts, 80 Ballard Spahr

attorneys volunteered and this past year they donated more than 1,100 hours of pro bono to Clemency Project 2014. Ms. Peerce not only supervises her firm's volunteers, she personally represents individual inmates. Attorney Peerce also serves on both the screening committee and the steering committee of Clemency Project 2014.

Ms. Peerce is an exemplary pro bono role model. Her personal participation in Clemency Project 2014 and recruitment of major law firms has had an immeasurable impact on the success of the project, affording hundreds of inmates an opportunity for clemency.

Third Judicial District



Lynne A. Papazian, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Albany, NY

Nominator:

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

Solo practitioner Lynne Papazian is a shining example of a young lawyer who has successfully incorporated pro bono into her practice. Although admitted to practice for just four years, Ms. Papazian has had a tremendous impact on the low-income clients she represents in the Attorney for the Day program sponsored by the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York and the Albany County Bar Association in Albany City Court. Volunteers with the Attorney for the Day program represent indigent clients at their first appearance in landlord-tenant cases in an attempt to negotiate a favorable outcome, settlement or resolution.

A housing court client brought to court by her landlord for several months of back rent was successfully represented by Ms. Papazian. Ms. Papazian had the case dismissed, proving an insect infestation rendered the apartment uninhabitable and that the landlord did not have a valid Residential Occupancy Permit. Writing in support of Ms. Papazian's nomination for the President's Pro Bono Service Award in the Third Judicial District, the client commented that "...I am so grateful to have had Lynne's representation and assistance. ...Without Lynne's representation, I'm positive that I would have been on the hook to pay several hundreds of dollars' worth of back rent, which I did not have the means to pay."

In addition to her private practice and her volunteer work with the Attorney for the Day program, Ms. Papazian represents tenants in housing matters in other local courts. She also donates time to handle unemployment insurance benefits cases (UIB). UIB is an area of law where it is almost impossible for a low-income person to find an attorney due to statutory restrictions on attorney compensation in such cases. Ms. Papazian's representation in these matters, therefore, is particularly important since in most instances only employers are represented by counsel, while claimants are left to defend the denial of UI benefits pro se. Being represented by counsel gives the UI claimant a much better chance to secure these vital benefits.

Fourth Judicial District



Natasha B. Hill, Esq.

Lekki, Hill, Duprey & Bhat PC
Massena, NY

Nominator:

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

The Fourth Judicial District encompasses the rural counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington. Providers who service clients in these rural communities can attest to how difficult it can be to recruit and retain pro bono volunteers. Natasha Hill is recognized today because she has been an exemplary volunteer for close to 15 years with the Legal Aid Society's Private Attorney Involvement Program (PAI). Ms. Hill assists low-income clients in the North Country with uncontested divorces and in cases involving domestic violence. Moreover, Attorney Hill will continue to work on a divorce matter even if it later becomes contested. Her willingness to extend herself in this regard is truly remarkable and deeply appreciated by her clients who have no means to pay for legal representation. During the last two years, Ms. Hill provided more than 60 hours of free legal services to individuals who would otherwise be unrepresented. Her steadfast commitment and generosity has allowed some of LASNNY's neediest clients to break free from abusive and controlling relationships.

Ms. Hill also volunteers her services to St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc. "Her outstanding leadership and interest in addressing and raising awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault as a volunteer is highly commendable," stated Ilene Burke, Executive Director of Renewal House. The Honorable John Richey, St. Lawrence County Surrogate Judge, also submitted a letter in support of Ms. Hill's nomination, noting "Throughout her career, Tasha (as she is known), has committed herself to aiding those less fortunate with their legal problems."

Fifth Judicial District



Emilee Lawson Hatch, Esq.

Bousquet Holstein PLLC
Syracuse, NY

Nominator:

Sally Curran, Esq.

Executive Director

Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County
Syracuse, NY

Emilee Lawson Hatch is a member of Bousquet Holstein PLLC where she concentrates her practice in the areas of estate planning, trusts and estate administration, and estate and gift taxation. Ms. Lawson Hatch's pro bono service has had a profound impact on the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County's Estate Planning and Hospital Clinic Program. Both of these programs provide pro bono legal services that require extensive legal knowledge and, often, a great deal of time. At the Hospital Clinic, Ms. Lawson Hatch and the other pro bono attorneys provide on-site assistance with Power of Attorneys, Health Care Proxies, Living Wills, and advice regarding other areas of law ranging from consumer law to Medicaid/Medicare issues. Ms. Lawson Hatch's willingness to tackle these often complicated and emotional cases makes her a standout volunteer.

Ms. Lawson Hatch made a life-altering difference in the life of a hospitalized older gentleman who could not be transferred to an assisted living facility because he refused to cooperate with hospital staff to apply for Medicaid. The patient was educated, retired and estranged from his family. He did not have anyone whom he trusted to serve as power of attorney. Although para-

noid and suspicious of hospital personnel, Ms. Lawson Hatch won him over almost immediately because of her professionalism and friendly demeanor. She met with him several times while he was hospitalized, building a rapport, treating him with dignity and respect and showing genuine concern. The client felt comfortable with Ms. Lawson Hatch, calling her between their visits with questions and allowed her access to the home to obtain his reading glasses, which she brought to him. Trusting Ms. Lawson Hatch, he made her his power of attorney which enabled her to work with the hospital social workers to transition him to a new nursing home community where his social and physical needs could be met. Ms. Lawson Hatch visited the client at his new residence the very next day - a Saturday - to ensure he was adjusting to his new environment.

Sixth Judicial District



William L. Gibson, Jr. Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Johnson City, NY

Nominator:

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

Formerly Chief Legal Officer for Broome County as well as a private practitioner, Attorney William Gibson, Jr. joined the Legal Aid Society of Mid-NY's pro bono panel in 2014. In just one year's time, Mr. Gibson has had an unprecedented impact on their program, completing 180 clinic, helpline and attorney of the day cases, and donating 115 hours of direct delivery pro bono service. As a newly registered member of the Attorney

Emeritus Program, Mr. Gibson has already performed nearly double the 60 hours of pro bono service required of program participants.

On a weekly basis Mr. Gibson represents tenants through LASMNY's Attorney of the Hour Eviction Defense Program in Binghamton City Court. His representation is critical as he has the skills and legal acumen to raise defenses and counterclaims on tenant's behalf and is able to negotiate settlements where appropriate. In one recent case Mr. Gibson was able to obtain an abatement of rent due to severe warranty of habitability issues, resulting in a substantial savings which the family was able to apply toward other housing. More than 40 tenants and their families were represented by Attorney Gibson during 2014.

In addition to representing tenants in housing court, Mr. Gibson volunteers in many of LASMNY's other programs as well. Among other areas, he has represented domestic violence victims in family court support matters, assisting them to secure and/or increase child support payments. He also is a weekly volunteer on the Legal Helpline, a telephone hotline which provides legal advice on a wide range of civil matters. Attorney Gibson's extensive legal experience has been invaluable in assisting low-income individuals and families in LASMNY's three busiest areas of practice: housing, consumer issues and family law.

Seventh Judicial District



Sandra M. Williams, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Rochester, NY

Nominator:

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

Solo practitioner Sandra Williams has been especially generous donating time to represent low-income individuals referred by Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP) in unemployment insurance benefits (UIB) disputes. Ms. Williams recently relocated to the Rochester area, having previously lived and worked in Paris, France where she had extensive experience in banking services, investment products and asset management. When she was approached by Volunteer Legal Services Project to represent claimants in UIB hearings Ms. Williams enthusiastically accepted the challenge to go outside her area of expertise and comfort to learn UIB law. In addition to assisting VLSP clients in UIB proceedings, Attorney Williams also has handled three family law cases for the non-profit. During 2014, Ms. Williams donated in excess of 236 hours of pro bono service to indigent and low-income clients.

Attorney Williams has proven to be a highly dedicated advocate. In one UIB case where Ms. Williams and her client partially prevailed, she undertook an appeal even though doing so was outside the scope of her limited representation agreement. According to her nominator, Executive Director Sheila Gaddis, Esq., Ms. Williams did so because she believed the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) had erred in her decision on a specific issue of law, which if unchallenged, would not only prejudice her client, but would also adversely impact other indigent and low-income claimants faced with similar issues.

Ms. Williams' nomination is also strongly supported by the Honorable Connor Jane O'Brien, Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. Writing in support of the nominee, Judge O'Brien stated "Ms. Williams has demonstrated the dedication, perseverance, and leadership that sets our profession apart, and exercised these on behalf of those who need such resources."

Eighth Judicial District



John L. Trigilio, Esq.

Trigilio Ciambrone Partnership
Buffalo, NY

Nominator:

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

John Trigilio is a highly-valued volunteer with the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP) who never refuses a referral even when the case and client are difficult. During this past year, he has contributed in excess of 70 hours handling three very difficult divorce cases. Divorce cases involving domestic violence, child custody and visitation are typically difficult to refer since many volunteers do not want to handle them pro bono. Attorney Trigilio is the exception. He welcomes difficult divorce cases and has done an excellent job representing these clients.

One divorce case involved a spouse who had been so physically abused by her husband that she finally fled, without any money or place to go, leaving her seven children behind. Upon learning that her husband had begun directing his violence onto their 13 year old daughter, she went to VLP for help with a divorce.

Another case involved a mother who was struggling with a drinking problem that had led to her being in and out of jail and detox programs. After she was served with divorce papers she went to VLP seeking help with custody and visitation with her children. Attorney Trigilio was able to successfully resolve both difficult matters.

Mr. Trigilio also has been one of VLP's best and most consistent volunteers at the VLP Family Court Help Desk. The Family Court Help Desk is located in Erie County Family Court and is staffed in the afternoon four days a week. Pro se clients are interviewed by trained law students who open a file. The client then meets with an experienced volunteer attorney knowledgeable in family law issues who, on the spot, provides brief, limited scope counsel and advice. During 2014, Mr. Trigilio volunteered 15 days at the Family Court Help Desk and has already volunteered there on two different occasions this year. During these shifts, Mr. Trigilio was able to assist 77 clients.

The Family Court Help Desk has reduced the number of petitions filed by 30% because after consulting an experienced attorney clients better understand what their options are and that sometimes filing a petition may make their situation worse, rather than better. The pro bono program is also beneficial to the Family Court because it allows it to operate more efficiently.

Ninth Judicial District



Sarah Sulkowski, Esq.

Clifford Chance US LLP
New York, NY

Nominator:
Beth A. Levy
Senior Associate Counsel
My Sister's Place
White Plains, NY

Admitted to practice in 2013, litigation associate Sarah Sulkowski confidently undertook the pro bono representation of a domestic violence client referred to her by My Sister's Place (MSP). Since 1976, MSP has worked to end violence in intimate relationships and combat the effects of domestic violence and human trafficking on women, men and children. MSP has a long lasting pro bono partnership with Clifford Chance as evidenced by the fact that most of their lawyers donate generous amounts of time to help indigent domestic violence survivors break free from their abusers.

Quickly mastering the nuances of representing domestic violence clients, Attorney Sulkowski spent several hundred hours on a complicated modification of custody case. The client, an immigrant from another country, was isolated and imprisoned by her abusive spouse after he relocated the family to Westchester County for his job. The client had no family or friends in Westchester. Emotionally and physically abused by her batter over a period of years, the client also had a history of mental illness, including four separate hospitalizations in 2009-10. After the parties had two children together, the abuser obtained sole custody of them on consent by manipulating the client. During a brief attempt at reconciliation, the client became pregnant and the physical abuse intensified.

The client went to MSP for help to obtain sole custody of her youngest child and improved visitation with her two older children. In order to obtain custody the client would have to overcome the law's strong preference for keeping siblings together. In addition, in order to gain increased visitation she would have to demonstrate that improvements in her own medical condition constituted a changed circumstance justifying modification of a prior visitation order. Thanks to Ms. Sulkowski and the client's therapist, the client received the emotional support she needed to face her abuser during a grueling six day bench trial which took place over the span of seven months.

Attorney Sulkowski is to be commended for genuinely caring about the client. She devoted countless hours preparing the client to testify. Her confidence in the client made a huge difference and enabled the client to testify compellingly about the abuse she had endured. During the trial, Ms. Sulkowski also masterfully cross-examined the abuser, exposing his unstable temperament. She also was able to successfully elicit a damning admission from one of the abuser's witnesses that he had confessed to physically abusing the client. Despite the client's mental health issues, the court found that her mental health condition had improved greatly since 2011 and awarded her custody of her youngest son. In addition, the court significantly expanded the visitation order allowing the client additional visitation time with the two older children and eliminated the prior order's requirement that visitation be supervised.

Writing in support of the Ms. Sulkowski's nomination, the client stated "Ms. Sulkowski's reassurance helped me feel strong and comfortable in myself and in her as my lawyer. In addition, knowing that Sarah was confident in who she was and with her knowledge about the law and family court further reassured me."

Tenth Judicial District



Harold M. Somer, Esq.

Harold M. Somer PC
Westbury, NY

Nominators:

Susan Biller, Esq.
Nassau Suffolk Law Services
Hempstead, NY

Harold Somer, a longtime volunteer with Nassau Suffolk Law Services' free Bankruptcy Clinic Project, has helped literally hundreds of low-income and indigent clients burdened with crushing debt obtain a fresh financial start through Chapter 7 protection. At the bi-monthly clinics, Mr. Somer has assumed a leadership role, overseeing the work done at the clinics as well as mentoring newer attorneys who wish to hone their skills so they may similarly aid future clients. Besides handling the preliminary screening of potential clients' cases for referral to a panel of pro bono attorneys, Attorney Somer educates them about their legal options, and accepts many of the cases for free representation. Over the span of 20 years, Attorney Somer has logged in excess of 300 hours of pro bono service.

A seasoned bankruptcy attorney, Mr. Somer treats each client with dignity and respect. One of his most gratifying cases involved a client with cerebral palsy who was confined to a wheelchair with limited ability to communicate. Due to the severity of his disability, the client was unable to accomplish certain requirements dictated by the Bankruptcy Code. Attorney Somer was able to get these requirements waived so that the client was able to receive a discharge of his debts without undue hardship and burden.

Mr. Somer also is a valued volunteer with the Nassau County Bar Association's Mortgage Foreclosure Clinic.

Eleventh Judicial District



Brandy A. Beltas, Esq.

Solo Practitioner
Astoria, NY

Nominator:

Mark Weliky, Esq.
Executive Director
Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
Jamaica, NY

Solo practitioner Brandy Beltas has distinguished herself in the level of service she provides to clients of the Queens County Bar Association's CLARO-Queens Consumer Debt Clinic. The clinic provides free legal assistance to low-income residents dealing with consumer debt issues. Many of the clients served by Ms. Beltas are elderly or disabled and may have a restrained bank account or garnishment due to a default judgment. In many instances the default judgments were obtained by the use of questionable collection tactics and the debtors never received notice of the lawsuits which had been filed against them.

Ms. Beltas is a vital part of the program and since 2012 has served as a mentor to new volunteers when they begin volunteering with the clinic. She also is a role model for law student volunteers who have found her to be an invaluable resource. Attorney Beltas is well-respected by staff attorneys and clinic visitors because she provides each client a very comprehensive consultation. Besides providing legal advice and assistance to clinic visitors, Ms. Beltas has been extremely helpful in the administration of the clinic, making suggestions and observations which have enhanced its efficiency and quality of service received by the visitors who have nowhere else to go for help.

During 2014, Ms. Beltas participated in 20 CLARO-Queens clinic sessions, providing consultations to 75 clinic visitors. In addition to donating her time with the debt clinic project, Attorney Beltas has handled two foreclosure case conferences. Between her pro bono service at the clinic and foreclosure conferences, Ms. Beltas has donated more than 100 hours.

Twelfth Judicial District



Eric Faragi, Esq.

Special Counsel, Baker Botts
New York, NY

Nominator:

Amy Barasch Esq.
Executive Director
Her Justice
New York, NY

To date, Eric Faragi has handled eight matters for five clients of Her Justice. Her Justice is a non-profit organization that assists low-income and under-served women in crisis with matrimonial, family and immigration law issues. Described by his nominator as “fearless”, Mr. Faragi was one of the first pro bono attorneys to successfully argue that the adverse party’s signing and filing an I-864 Affidavit of Support for the client’s immigration case legally bound him to provide her with spousal support.

In addition to being fearless, Attorney Faragi is also highly dedicated as evidenced by his accepting an appellate case the week before Christmas in 2013. The client was the victim of an arranged marriage in which she was used as slave labor for her husband’s family. Counsel for her estranged spouse had filed an appeal of a Supreme Court order issued in the parties’ underlying matrimonial action, seeking an immediate stay of the action. The Supreme Court order had nullified a family court order attempting to settle the parties’ divorce action. This action was key because

the family court order would have deprived the client of any share of the husband's generous retirement benefits. Despite the holiday and the expedited timeframe, Mr. Faragi accepted the case, filed opposition papers requesting the court to vacate the appeal as a matter of law, and prevailed. Mr. Faragi's successful representation of the client in the appellate case enabled her to proceed with the divorce action and secure spousal maintenance, as well as a share of her husband's retirement benefits.

Mr. Faragi also has been a vigorous advocate on behalf of two clients with special needs children to obtain upward modifications of prior child support orders in the Bronx and Manhattan Family Courts. In one of the cases, Mr. Faragi was able to successfully obtain arrears of approximately \$4000 in child support. In the other case, he secured a favorable award of spousal support for the mother of a special needs child.

Thirteenth Judicial District



Jack Yoskowitz, Esq.

Seward & Kissel LLP
New York, NY

Nominator:
Amy Barasch Esq.
Executive Director
Her Justice
New York, NY

Attorney Jack Yoskowitz answered Her Justice's call for a pro bono litigator willing to tackle contested divorce cases. Each year, Her Justice is contacted by survivors of domestic violence seeking representation in high-stake litigated cases involving custody of their children, obtaining a rightful share of marital assets, child support and spousal maintenance - all critical life impacting matters. Without volunteers like Mr. Yoskowitz, these women would be helpless in the battle to secure their lawful rights.

Mr. Yoskowitz has worked with 21 clients, either as lead attorney or as the supervising partner, on 26 cases referred by Her Justice. Of these 26 matters, 18 have been litigated cases, including eight litigated divorce cases. His achievements include obtaining a divorce for a victim of domestic violence and securing custody of her children, child support and her rightful share of the spouse's retirement benefits; obtaining a final order of sole custody for another client who was physically and emotionally abused by her partner for years; securing a final order of protection for the maximum five year period for an abused mother of a special needs child, together with an order granting her sole custody of her two children; and in a different difficult divorce case involving a mother of a special needs child, Mr. Yoskowitz was able to obtain favorable child custody, child support and spousal maintenance terms, and an order providing safety provisions for the child's care while having parenting time with her father.

Recently, Mr. Yoskowitz committed his firm, Seward & Kissel, to support Her Justice's Supreme Court Project, an initiative in which law firms commit to handling a minimum of five litigated divorce matters at any one time. This commitment shows that Attorney Yoskowitz is not only a leader individually, but also as a firm partner dedicated to inculcating and nurturing a strong pro bono culture at his firm.

Young Lawyer



Josie M. Sheppard, Esq.

Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina PC
Rochester, NY

Nominator:

Tiffany Lee, Esq.
President, Greater Rochester Association for
Women Attorneys
Rochester, NY

Josie Sheppard is a dedicated volunteer with Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP). She has generously donated 297 hours of pro bono service assisting low-income clients in the Rochester, New York area. Even before she was admitted to practice, Ms. Sheppard assisted other attorneys at Harris Beach, her former firm, with pro bono cases. Ms. Sheppard stands out as a volunteer because of her ability to take on cases in a diverse range of subject areas and to seek out additional training or mentoring to handle those cases effectively. All of the pro bono cases Attorney Sheppard handles are outside her usual law practice areas and have included custody, divorce, grandparent custody, child support, wills and worker's compensation.

This past year, Ms. Sheppard donated 95 pro bono hours to VLSP clients. One case was a divorce action involving abuse of the children by their father. Thanks to Ms. Sheppard's diligence and skillful lawyering, she was successful in obtaining sole custody for the mother with supervised visitation by the father. Ms. Sheppard also secured \$5,600 for the mother from the spouse's retirement account. In another case, Ms. Sheppard represented a grandmother seeking custody of a six year old grandchild who had lived with her since birth. Attorney Sheppard obtained an order of joint custody for the grandmother with the child's father, the client's son. This outcome resulted in the grandchild's being able to continue to reside in a stable, safe environment. Ms. Sheppard also represented

a client in a worker's compensation case where the employer was contesting whether the client's injury was work related. The case involved several appearances and a hearing where Ms. Sheppard took the testimony of a witness to the accident. The client prevailed and was awarded lost pay and medical expenses.

Ms. Sheppard also is a role model and mentor. As a member of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys, she facilitated the Diversity Clerkship summer program for law students. She also serves as a lawyer mentor to inner-city youth.

Senior Lawyer



Janet Axelrod, Esq.

Retired
Albany, NY

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

Upon her retirement in 2011 as associate counsel for the New York State United Teachers Association, Janet Axelrod has become one of the most valued pro bono volunteers for the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY (LASNNY). Ms. Axelrod committed to delivering the unemployment insurance benefits (UIB) advice clinic where she meets with several clients each week to advise them on their UIB claims. Before volunteering with LASNNY, Ms. Axelrod was unfamiliar with UIB law. Undeterred, she committed to educating herself on the UIB law and process, taking a course on the subject and sitting in on a number of consultations in order to quickly come up to speed. To date, she has assisted 232 clients who lacked the financial resources to hire an attorney.

Ms. Axelrod has proven to be a reliable and effective advocate for the clients. In addition to volunteering with LASNNY, Ms. Axelrod also donates pro bono legal services to The Legal Project, offering brief advice at many of their legal clinics. She is a dedicated legal professional, who through her extensive pro bono service has assisted a great many individuals who otherwise might not have received the benefit of legal advice.

Law Student



Shelby Maroselli

SUNY Buffalo School of Law
Buffalo, NY

Nominator:

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

During her three years as a law student, Shelby Maroselli has had a tremendous impact on pro bono legal services for indigent individuals and families residing in the Buffalo, NY area. Ms. Maroselli first began volunteering with the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) in 2012 as a summer intern. From the outset, Ms. Maroselli knew she wanted to help people living in poverty with the many legal issues they face. She started out handling in-office client intakes; assisting clients with document preparation; drafting wills; conducting research assignments on issues such as the relationship between a Muslim divorce and NY law; working on UIB hearings and appeals; and assisting with the Attorney of the Morning eviction defense program at Buffalo City Court.

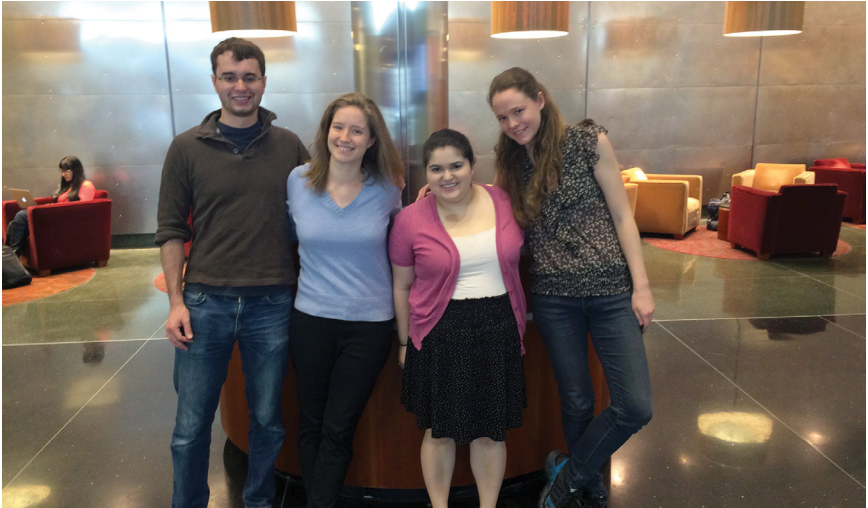
Not limiting herself to volunteering with just VLP, in 2013 Ms. Maroselli began donating her emerging legal skills with the Women Children & Social Justice Clinic at SUNY Buffalo Law School. There she served as the student coordinator at Haven House, a shelter for battered women and their children, providing these women with access to desperately needed legal services.

Returning to VLP in the summer and fall of 2013, Ms. Maroselli assumed a pivotal role in the development of VLP's Family Court Help Desk, developing client literature, training materials, and program manuals, and ultimately serving as the first Help Desk legal intern.

This past year, Ms. Maroselli began volunteering with the Homeless Task Force at Neighborhood Legal Services where she worked in a shelter assisting homeless people to obtain benefits at the Department of Social Services and preparing fair hearings to challenge wrongfully denied benefits. During 2014, she also externed with the Attorney for the Child Unit at the Legal Aid Society of Buffalo. There, she observed and assisted in neglect and juvenile delinquency proceedings and conducted related research. Throughout 2014, Ms. Maroselli continued working at the Family Court Help Desk, conducting intake, assisting volunteer attorneys, training law students, and working with VLP staff to improve the Help Desk program.

During 2013, it is conservatively estimated that Ms. Maroselli donated in excess of 488 pro bono hours. During 2014, she contributed well over 350 hours. In addition to pro bono work at VLP and with other legal providers in Buffalo NY, Ms. Maroselli serves as a volunteer tutor with Lawyers for Learning in the Buffalo Public Schools, working one-on-one with middle school students. Her commitment to helping persons living in poverty to access the civil legal system is extraordinary.

Law School Group



Society for Immigrant and Refugees Rights

Columbia Law School
New York, NY

Nominator:

Laren Spirer, Esq.

Director

Pro Bono Programs at Columbia Law School

New York, NY

The Columbia Law School Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) has engaged in a wide-range of pro bono projects, some of which have existed for several years, and others that were created in response to urgent community needs. The students work closely with the director of pro bono to troubleshoot any potential issues when creating new projects and to set up training and recruit volunteers.

Throughout the academic year SIRR is engaged with ongoing pro bono projects, as well as during spring break when the students travel across the US and internationally to work

intensively with a legal services organization or NGO to assist them with legal work under the supervision of their attorneys. This year SIRR continues its long-standing partnership with the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) which allows students to work with law firm attorneys to help refugee families living in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, or Jordan seek resettlement. Students are afforded the opportunity to interview families, and to research and prepare submissions to UNHCR, IOM, and DHS. During spring break, a group of students traveled to Amman, Jordan where they participated in specialized training on how to interview victims of torture and conducted client intakes with vulnerable refugees referred to IRAP by partner NGOs. Law firm partners involved in the IRAP project include Hogan Lovells, Proskauer, Skadden and Orrick.

Columbia Law School and SIRR have formed a relatively new partnership with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Students work under the supervision of attorneys from Greenberg Traurig representing unaccompanied minors in immigration matters. With the recent implementation of “surge dockets” in immigration court for unaccompanied minors in NYC, SIRR worked with KIND on a new project conducting client intakes on surge docket days. In addition, SIRR recruited students to work on a court monitoring project with The Door where students monitored the surge docket proceedings in order to collect information regarding any potential due process violations.

Other SIRR pro bono projects include working with Immigration Equality, whereby students under the supervision of staff attorneys, assist on various asylum matters for LGBT and HIV-positive clients, conducting research on country conditions, and preparing asylum applications.

The impact of this law school’s group pro bono work is far and wide, extending well beyond the borders of New York State. Their efforts are to be commended.

Large Law Firm

SHEARMAN & STERLING^{LLP}

Shearman & Sterling LLP

New York, NY

Nominator:

Seymour W. James, Jr. Esq.
Attorney-in-Charge
The Legal Aid Society
New York, NY

Shearman & Sterling has a long history of providing exceptional pro bono service and sets a strong leadership example for the legal profession in New York and beyond. The scope of the firm's pro bono program is impressive in both its size and diversity. During 2014, 374 attorneys in the New York office performed 18,600 hours of pro bono, averaging 50 hours per attorney. This was supplemented by an additional 2,813 hours of pro bono performed by non-attorney legal staff. Worldwide, the firm's attorneys contributed in excess of 33,000 hours of pro bono work. Shearman & Sterling has consistently been a member of the American Lawyer's "A list" and for the last nine years has been ranked as one of American Lawyer's top 30 pro bono law firms. Shearman & Sterling's global pro bono effort is led by Pro Bono Counsel and Director of Pro Bono, Saralyn Cohen.

Among its numerous pro bono projects the firm has been a pro bono leader representing low-income immigrant workers in New York City's service industry. Partnering with The Legal Aid Society, Shearman & Sterling secured a ground-breaking \$1.282 million settlement benefiting 61 current and former exploited delivery workers, requiring the pizza franchise to pay the full minimum wage instead of a lower "tipped" wage. In its on-going

efforts to end the victimization of immigrants, the firm has developed a successful multifaceted pro bono practice on behalf of battered immigrant women, LGBT individuals and people who are HIV-positive. This practice assists clients in a variety of ways, including seeking immigrant relief through the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), U and T visa regulations, Temporary Protected Status, and asylum law.

Shearman & Sterling also partners with Credit Suisse and The Legal Aid Society to provide a Supplemental Social Security Income Waiver Clinic which assists individuals with disabilities who are threatened with the loss of benefits due to alleged over-payments. Without the pro bono assistance of these attorneys individuals with disabilities would be unable to maintain an independent, modest lifestyle. Shearman attorneys also staff the walk-in family court clinic, providing brief legal consultations to unrepresented litigants on matters involving child support, paternity and guardianship.

The firm is co-counseling with the New York Civil Liberties Union in a certified federal class action lawsuit challenging conditions of confinement at two local correctional facilities in Riverhead and Yaphank, NY. In 2014, the firm donated more than 3,000 hours to this litigation. The firm also helped secure an important legal victory involving the NYPD's controversial "stop-and-frisk" practices in *Ligon v. City of NY*, one of three federal class-action cases filed challenging the constitutionality of these practices. Other partners in the litigation included The Bronx Defenders and Latino Justice PRLDEF.

Firm attorneys also have devoted countless hours to complex transactional work on a multitude of projects for groups making an impact in underserved communities. On transactional pro bono projects Shearman & Sterling has collaborated with, among others, Viacom lawyers, the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project, and attorneys from Barclays Bank, and the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. These collaborations provide brief advice to small business owners on business law issues and to artists and artist organizations on legal matters such as forming nonprofits, contracts and intellectual property law issues.

The breadth and complexity of the firm's pro bono projects, in addition to its extensive collaborations and partnerships with in-house counsel departments and community based legal services programs, have made a positive impact on the lives of the disadvantaged and underserved in New York. Shearman & Sterling's nomination was strongly supported by Latino Justice PRLDEF, Lawyers Alliance of NY, and Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

Mid-Sized Law Firm



Hodgson Russ LLP

Buffalo Office
Buffalo, NY

Nominator:

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

Under the guidance of pro bono partner Joshua Feinstein, Hodgson Russ' Buffalo office is continuing the firm's long-standing commitment to pro bono. Mr. Feinstein is a champion for VLP pro bono initiatives and has consistently been ready and willing to commit his firm's attorneys to provide free legal assistance whenever they are needed. In 2014, more than 26 firm attorneys worked on 113 cases referred by VLP. Some offered brief advice and representation to 57 clients threatened with eviction in the Attorney of the Morning program (AOM). The Attorney of the Morning program helps low-income clients avoid homelessness. Hodgson Russ attorney Frank Sciremammano and Mr. Feinstein coordinate the AOM program for the firm.

Other Hodgson Russ attorneys represent clients through the Federal Court Pro Se Assistance Program (PSAP), providing limited scope legal assistance to unrepresented litigants. Hodgson Russ partner Jodyann Galvin was one of the first people to approach Chief Judge William Skretny to assist in creating PSAP. Attorney Galvin was instrumental in developing and implementing a CLE program to introduce the PSAP to experienced federal court litigators. She also recruited a core group of PSAP volunteer attorneys, and spends countless hours working to secure additional volunteers. Thanks to Ms. Galvin's efforts, the roster of experienced federal court litigators working with PSAP has grown to 37; ten of the skilled litigators are from Hodgson Russ.

Last year, Hodgson Russ agreed to take the lead in establishing a pro bono assistance project dedicated to assisting low-income individuals who were living in deplorable conditions. The firm hosted a CLE for attorneys interested in handling affirmative warranty of habitability cases for VLP clients. To date they have assisted 3 clients. One client, who had a child with a disability, was living in an apartment that had no heat or electricity. All it took was just one phone call from a Hodgson Russ attorney to the landlord and the repairs were made, enabling the client to continue living in her long-term residence. Another warranty of habitability case involved an insulin-dependent diabetic client who was living without heat or electricity. As a diabetic, it was essential that the client's insulin be refrigerated. Upon discovering the client's apartment had been condemned, instead of arguing for necessary repairs to be made a Hodgson Russ associate took the landlord to Small Claims Court, recovering the client's security deposit and moving costs.

Other firm pro bono projects include hosting a free legal clinic for small not-for-profit organizations to educate them on the requirements of the new Nonprofit Revitalization Act and assisting them with specific compliance issues. The firm also was the first to adopt a Buffalo Public School and provide free legal representation to the students and their families in a diverse range of civil and criminal law issues through a weekly legal clinic held at the school. The firm's pro bono contributions also include substantial financial assistance to VLP.

The firm's commitment to pro bono has been exceptional. It is one of the outstanding leaders in the pro bono community, raising the standard for pro bono involvement for all firms in the Buffalo area.

Small Law Firm



The Law Offices of Remy R. Perot

Binghamton, NY

Nominator:

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

The Perot firm is a small three-person general practice law firm located in Binghamton, NY. The firm provides representation in a broad range of areas, including criminal defense, family law, personal injury, real estate and estate planning. All of the firm's attorneys are dedicated volunteers with the Legal Aid Society of Mid-NY's (LASMNY) Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program. The PAI Program is a joint initiative between LASMNY and a panel of private attorney to serve the legal needs of low-income clients residing within LASMNY's thirteen county service area.

The Perot firm has partnered with LASMNY in a divorce referral program in which the firm has agreed to accept divorce case referrals every few months. Without this partnership, low-income clients would have no one to turn to for legal representation. Divorce is one of the most stressful life experiences an individual can ever experience. The problems can become even more complex when severe domestic violence is also present. The firm has

demonstrated a willingness to handle domestic violence cases, while many other volunteers tend to shy away from such cases due to their complexity and substantial time demands. Recent contested matters handled by the firm include a divorce that involved multiple rapes; a divorce for a pregnant woman who was punched and locked in a closet; and a divorce for a client whose spouse was recently released from jail after having stabbed her with a knife.

Since the divorce referral partnership was formed three years ago, the Perot law firm has handled well over 30 divorces and donated approximately 40 hours during the past year. Significantly, no matter how many active divorce referrals the firm may already be working on, the attorneys have yet to refuse to accept a new referral. Even the firm's senior paralegal, Jessica Sbarra, is involved with the pro bono cases, meeting with clients, helping to prepare their paperwork, and regularly updating clients on the status of the cases. Because of the stressful nature of divorce, clients often call multiple times over the course of a week or a single day. The Perot office staff have always been patient, courteous, and reassuring. The professionalism of the staff and attorneys makes the clients feel as if their cases matter, even though they are not paying for the representation.

Although the firm's offices are located in Broome County, the Perot firm has never hesitated to represent clients in the rural counties of Chemung, Delaware and Otsego Counties, despite the fact that these cases mean additional time and expense for the attorneys who travel to these areas when the divorce cases are contested.

The Perot firm also sets aside time to mentor and train pre-law undergraduate students attending Binghamton University, providing them with valuable exposure to the practice of law. Student interns are taught how to prepare divorce papers and other documents for pro bono clients and accompany firm attorneys on client meetings and court appearances. These efforts help to instill a commitment and appreciation of pro bono in the hearts and minds of the next generation of potential members of the legal profession.

In-House Counsel



American International Group, Inc.

*Global Legal Compliance Regulatory Affairs
& Government Affairs Department*

New York, NY

Nominator:

Eric Kobrick, Esq.
Deputy General Counsel
American International Group (AIG), Inc.
New York, NY

AIG's General Counsel and Executive Vice President, Thomas Russo, has made it a priority to create a pro bono program from scratch. Mr. Russo believed that offering in-house counsel meaningful opportunities to do pro bono was an important part of revitalizing the Global Legal, Compliance, Regulatory Affairs & Government Affairs Department (the Department). He also believed in service, giving back to less fortunate members of society, and the need to help victims of injustice and abuse who cannot afford legal representation.

Launching the program in 2012 took extensive planning, including surveying the Department's employees regarding their

interests, securing funding, developing formal guidelines, drafting standard forms, forming a steering committee, and establishing a training program, newsletter and awards program. Deputy General Counsel Eric Kobrick also provided valuable guidance and input in the development of AIG's broad-based pro bono initiative. The meticulous planning paid off - the pro bono program was a success from the start and has continued to expand with each passing year.

For example, in 2012, 65 AIG lawyers, compliance personnel, and paralegals spent 1,042 hours on 25 different projects. The projects involved working with 18 different nonprofit organizations in 11 different areas of law, including civil rights, corporate, education, employment, estate planning, election law, family, immigration, intellectual property, special education and veterans rights. The following year, 63 AIG personnel donated 1,435 hours on 29 different pro bono projects involving collaborations with 21 different nonprofit organizations in 11 diverse areas of law. This past year, 128 AIG personnel contributed 2,027 hours on 34 different projects where staff worked with 28 different nonprofit organizations, focusing on 10 diverse areas of law. Of these hours, approximately 1,500 were devoted to NY-based projects.

Some of the pro bono projects have included assisting refugees whose lives are in imminent danger to resettle in a safe country through the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. AIG works with Child Advocates, Inc. to serve as guardian ad litem for children in foster care/state custody. The Department collaborates with Her Justice and Sanctuary for Families to represent low-income women and women in crisis to escape domestic violence. In conjunction with the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project, AIG staff provide advice and consultation to fledgling businesses on fundamental compliance and regulatory issues. The Department also represents children with special needs to obtain the educational services they are entitled to in cases referred by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. These projects are illustrative of the breadth and complexity of AIG's pro bono involvement.

The Department's nomination was enthusiastically supported by the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project; Street Law, a diversity pipeline program dedicated to educating low-income students about the law and the legal profession; and Harmony Power Foundation, a program for which AIG created a global platform for people to take a stand against hatred, intolerance, violence and bullying.

AIG is to be commended for its robust commitment to pro bono and its extensive range of collaborations with a diverse group of legal services programs and community groups.

N Y S B A
DO THE
PUBLIC
GOOD
VOLUNTEER
FOR PRO BONO

Previous Recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards 2014-2000

2014

David A. Sausen – 1st Judicial District
Sarah Levin & Christopher Strong - 2nd Judicial District
Robert P. Mascali – 3rd Judicial District
Joel P. Peller – 4th Judicial District
Thomas E. Myers – 5th Judicial District
Kevin H. Yeager – 6th Judicial District
Kevin T. Saunders – 7th Judicial District
Joshua E. Dubs – 8th Judicial District
Robert H. Hermann – 9th Judicial District
Evelyn Kalenscher – 10th Judicial District
Bernadette M. Crowley – 11th Judicial District
Eric C. Woglom – 12th Judicial District
Tracy Lynn Sullivan – Young Lawyer
Frank Longo – Senior Lawyer
Joshua Bennett – Law Student
Hofstra University Veterans Legal Assistance Project – Law School Group
Dechert LLP – Large Law Firm
Ashcraft Franklyn Young and Peters LLP – Small Law Firm

2013

Proskauer Team – 1st Judicial District
James Maleady - 2nd Judicial District
Michelle Wildgrube – 3rd Judicial District
Andrew Moses – 4th Judicial District
Anthony P. Marshall – 5th Judicial District
Mary Jo Long – 6th Judicial District
Michael S. Schnittman – 7th Judicial District
Matthew B. Herdzik – 8th Judicial District
Daniel A. Schlanger – 9th Judicial District
Michael Aronowsky – 10th Judicial District
Julia Maeng – 11th Judicial District
Jeffrey Alfano – 13th Judicial District
Lindsay Moilanen – Young Lawyer
Michael O'Brien – Senior Lawyer

Catherine (Cady) Sinnwell Gerlach – Law Student
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP – Large Law Firm
Morrison & Foerster LLP– Mid-sized Law Firm
Ehrlich & Arcodia PC – Small Law Firm
Theresa K. Mohan – In-House Counsel
Seventh Judicial District Help Center – Government Office

2012

Caroline Heller - 1st Judicial District
Weil Advantage Team - 2nd Judicial District
Alyssa Talanker - 3rd Judicial District
Jessica H. Vinson - 4th Judicial District
Jill O'Sullivan - 4th Judicial District
Susan N. Esce - 5th Judicial District
Carol Ann Malz - 6th Judicial District
Lucien A. Morin, II - 7th Judicial District
Peter C. Obersheimer - 8th Judicial District
Julia M. Santiago - 9th Judicial District
Barry M. Smolowitz - 10th Judicial District
Mohammad Saleem - 11th Judicial District
Noah Liben - 12th Judicial District
Daniel C. Marotta - 13th Judicial District
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-sized 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 Judicial District
Larissa Eustice – 2nd Judicial District
David A. Price – 3rd Judicial District
Bethany Schumann-McGhee – 4th Judicial District
John G. Powers – 5th Judicial District
Kurt D. Schrader – 6th Judicial District

Shaleeya B. McFadden – 7th Judicial District
Michael Anton Sciortino – 8th Judicial District
Elizabeth King – 9th Judicial District
Leah Belfort – 10th Judicial District
Ned Kassman – 11th Judicial District
Sheila T. McGinn – 13th Judicial District
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-sized Law Firm
Davis Polk & Wardell LLP – Large Law Firm
Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division –
Government Office

2010

Anne S. Raish – 1st Judicial District
Christopher Rio – 2nd Judicial District
Daniel J. Hurteau – 3rd Judicial District
Emily Muller – 4th Judicial District
David M. Hayes – 5th Judicial District
Peter A. Orville – 6th Judicial District
David Tennant – 7th Judicial District
Catherine E. Nagel – 8th Judicial District
Guy Fairstein – 9th Judicial District
Stuart P. Gelberg – 10th Judicial District
Hilary Gingold – 11th Judicial District
Michael S. Davi – 12th Judicial District
Serena M. Stonick – 13th Judicial District
Hagit Elul – Young Lawyer
Shirley Adelson Siegel – Senior Lawyer
Levene Gouldin & Thompson LLP – Small/Mid-sized 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 Judicial District
Kim Zinke – 2nd Judicial District
Jena Rotheim – 3rd Judicial District
Cheryl L. Maxwell – 4th Judicial District
Edward McCardle - 5th Judicial District
Thomas Miller – 6th Judicial District
Jane Gabriele – 7th Judicial District
Barbara R. Ridall - 8th Judicial District
Simon Haysom – 9th Judicial District
Charles S. Sherman – 10th Judicial District
Nicholas DeCesare – 11th Judicial District
Isabelle L. Curro – 12th Judicial District
Jennifer P. Stergion - Young Lawyer
Hon. Robert J. Nicholson - Senior Lawyer
DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr LLP - Small/Mid-sized Law Firm
Kaye Scholer LLP - Large Law Firm
Siana McClean - Law Student
Syracuse University College of Law Pro Bono Bankruptcy Practice - Law School Group
Legal Department of IBM - In-House Counsel

2008

Aaron M. Frankel - 1st Judicial District
Cynthia Feathers – 3rd Judicial District
Richard I. Gardner – 4th Judicial District
Michael J. Sciotti - 5th Judicial District
Herbert A. Kline - 6th Judicial District
Jeffrey Wicks - 7th Judicial District
Kenneth A. Manning – 8th Judicial District
Devon Salts – 9th Judicial District
Rudolph de Winter – 10th Judicial District
Michael M. Cohen – 11th Judicial District
Sarah Bell - Young Lawyer
Warren Heilbrunner - 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 Judicial District
Michael J. O'Connor – 3rd Judicial District
Matthew H. Dwyer – 4th Judicial District (Awarded Posthumously)
Martin L. Fried – 5th Judicial District
James R. Franz – 6th Judicial District
Jodie L. Ryan – 7th Judicial District
Francis J. Offermann, Jr. – 8th Judicial District
Edith Sullivan – 9th Judicial District
Lewis C. Edelstein – 10th Judicial District
Regina Alberty – 11th Judicial District
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 Judicial District
Mark A. Beckman – 1st Judicial District
Richard Croak – 3rd Judicial District
Scott N. Fein – 3rd Judicial District
Hon. James E. Doern – 4th Judicial District
Anne B. Ruffer - 5th Judicial District
Hope W. Olsson – 7th Judicial District
James C. DeMarco, III – 8th Judicial District
Lee Vartan - 9th Judicial District
Patricia F. Neumann – 10th Judicial District
Archibong Archibong – 11th Judicial District
Richard Bara – 12th Judicial District
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 Judicial District
Ronald J. Tabak - 1st Judicial District
Jeffrey S. Trachtman – 2nd Judicial District
Ronald B. Orlando – 3rd Judicial District
Andrew J. Wylie – 4th Judicial District
Margaret Murphy Peterson – 5th Judicial District
C. Bruce Lawrence - 7th Judicial District
Matthew B. Herdzik, Jr. – 8th Judicial District
Elisabeth K. Wolfe – 9th Judicial District
Peter H. Levy – 10th Judicial District
Floyd Alan Sheeger – 11th Judicial District (Awarded Posthumously)
Evelyn McCabe – 12th Judicial District
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 Judicial District
Bruce Weiner - 2nd Judicial District
Brian LeCours – 3rd Judicial District
Barbara King – 4th Judicial District
Kathryn McCray – 4th Judicial District
Christopher Wiles – 5th Judicial District
Albert Kukol – 6th Judicial District
John R. McQueen – 7th Judicial District
Norilyn A. Dillon – 8th Judicial District
Glenn Shapiro – 9th Judicial District
Robin Abramowitz – 10th Judicial District
William H. Scott – 11th Judicial District
David Tomlin - 12th Judicial District
Law Offices of Harold I. Silverman - Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton - Large Law Firm
Gemma Rossi Corbin - Young Lawyer
Gloria Bruzzano - Law Student

2003

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

2002

Kevin Curnin – 1st Judicial District
Professor Susan Block-Lieb – 2nd Judicial District
Professor Karen Gross – 2nd Judicial District
Matthew J. Kelly – 3rd Judicial District
Christine M. Galvin – 4th Judicial District
George H. Lowe – 5th Judicial District
Frank Novak – 7th Judicial District
Kevin M. Reedy – 8th Judicial District
Professor Vanessa Merton – 9th Judicial District
Wallace L. Leinhardt – 10th Judicial District
Stephen S. Weintraub – 11th Judicial District
Robert Gilmore – 12th Judicial District
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 Judicial District
Steven D. Cohn – 2nd Judicial District
Marc S. Ehrlich – 3rd Judicial District
Glen W. Brownell – 4th Judicial District
Thomas Atkinson – 5th Judicial District
Diana Hughes – 6th Judicial District
Kim Reisch -7th Judicial District
Kevin M. Kearney – 8th Judicial District
Michael E. Uhl – 9th Judicial District
Robert W. Corcoran – 10th Judicial District
White & Case LLP - Special Recognition Award
Debevoise & Plimpton - Large Law Firm
McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams P.C. - Small/Mid-Size Law Firm
Jayson Wolfe - Law Student
Hofstra University School of Law, Domestic Violence Courtroom
Advocates Project - Law Student Group

2000

Nancy Lazar – 1st Judicial District
Mark A. Longo – 2nd Judicial District
Jo M. Katz - 3rd Judicial District
David Harper – 4th Judicial District
Andrea King – 5th Judicial District
Michael S. Sinicki – 6th Judicial District
Barbara Roesch - 7th Judicial District
Regina A. Reitz - 8th Judicial District
Helga Klessen – 9th Judicial District
Barbara J. Fritz - 10th Judicial District
Jason Lutzky – 12th Judicial District
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 - Law Student Group



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
PRO BONO AFFAIRS

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