

# Pro Bono News

2016 Partnership Conference Vol. 27 No. 2

## Director's Message



**Wagner**

The New York State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Aid hosted the 2016 Legal Assistance Partnership Conference from September 14 – 16, 2016 in Albany, New York. More than

550 directors, attorneys, coordinators, and other civil legal service professionals gathered to attend the conference. This year's Partnership Conference consisted of 30 continuing legal education programs and seven learning labs, presented by over 100 subject matter experts from around the state.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to this year's Partnership Conference Steering Committee members, whose expert guidance was critical to the planning of the conference. This event would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of these individuals who contributed their time and energy to identify compelling topics and speakers from across the state.

Furthermore, the steering committee's finance subcommittee helped secure valuable sponsorships that made the conference that much more enjoyable. Thank you to our sponsors for their generous contributions.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the extremely dedicated and hard-working NYSBA staff who con-

tributed to the planning and preparation of this conference. Their hard work was visible to attendees in every detail of the conference, from the registration process to the printed CLE notepads to the seamless programming.

Thank you to all those that attended, planned, and otherwise contributed time and effort to the 2016 Legal Assistance Partnership Conference!

Thank you,

Kristen Wagner  
Director, Pro Bono Services

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# Opening Plenary

## Judge Rivera's Remarks

This year's Partnership Conference kicked off with opening remarks from Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals Jenny Rivera and a message from NYSBA President Claire Gutekunst. Judge Rivera's illustrious career, spanning across civil legal services, government, and academia, set the stage for her inspiring remarks.

Judge Rivera spoke of the courts' commitment to closing the gaps in access to justice across the state. She emphasized the courts' continued encouragement of the private bar to do pro bono service and reminded us all of the value of the rule requiring law students and recent law school graduates to do pro bono work in order to be admitted to the bar. She spoke of how this work prepares new attorneys to be the best attorneys they can be.

Judge Rivera also talked about the value of the work being done by public interest lawyers every day, not just in the practice of law, but also in the mentoring of law students and junior attorneys. She reminded the group that partnerships between the courts, private members of the bar, and law schools achieves the goals of this rule by providing mentoring, training and inspiration to new attorneys. She said,

"These rules would be less impactful without the work of public interest lawyers... Public interest work is a privilege, not a burden. And one which requires the same intellectual rigor discipline and commitment to excellence that all other practice demands."

She concluded her remarks by requesting help in assuring that these pro bono requirements pave the way for future lawyers and other jurisdictions. She pointed out that doing pro bono work in law school reminds students of why they went to law school in the first place – to change the world, not just to secure a good paying job. She encouraged all in attendance to assist in ensuring that all students who want internships doing public interest work can find one, not-



*Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals Jenny Rivera*

ing that money concerns should not preclude students from learning how to do good work from the trenches.

## Claire Gutekunst's Remarks

Following Judge Rivera's remarks, NYSBA President Claire Gutekunst reminded everyone that NYSBA is here for their community, to support and connect them with volunteers. She provided background about the Committee on Legal Aid's mission to support the work of legal service providers, as well as the history of NYSBA's Pro Bono Services Department and the creation of Partnership Conference to establish a venue for statewide networking.

Gutekunst provided an overview of what NYSBA is currently working on to support pro bono. She pointed out that the NYSBA/NYBF Joint Pro Bono Task Force is focused on its mission to identify gaps in pro bono service across the state and make recommendations as to how NYSBA can help close those gaps. She informed the audience that the President's Committee on Access to Justice created a model pro bono policy for government attorneys in state and federal government agencies, which was approved by House of Delegates. And she highlighted NYSBA's participation in the ABA's Free Legal Answers project – another initiative that has been

launched as a way to increase access to justice for low-income New Yorkers and pro bono volunteer opportunities for attorneys.

Gutekunst also took the opportunity to introduce her presidential initiative—a partnership with the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York to increase access to justice for survivors of domestic violence and to educate attorneys about domestic violence issues and how they can better help their clients. Through this initiative, a goal is to develop model programs to be brought to underserved communities across the state.

Finally, Gutekunst informed the group about a new discount on membership dues that is available to IOLA-funded civil legal service providers. Her remarks concluded with an affirmation regarding NYSBA's work on the state and federal level to increase funding for civil legal services.

## Panel Discussion

The final portion of the Opening Plenary featured a lively panel discussion of junior civil legal service staff attorneys from across the state. Andrew Scherer, Distinguished Adjunct Professor and Policy Director of the Impact Center for Public Interest Law at New York Law School, moderated the discussion.

The panel members discussed

why they started a career in legal services, and how their programs can be improved in order to allow them to do better and more effective work for their clients. A theme arose around the want and need to do more advocacy work to support the social movements that affect their clients every day.

They also emphasized a need to focus more on the priorities of their clients rather than those of lawyers and their organizations.

Throughout the panel discussion it became clear that civil legal services attorneys of today are going back to the heart of the social movements

that birthed their organizations. The panelists identify with socio-economic groups and causes that do not necessarily fit within their organizations' "law firm" models of days past. Holistic community support, working with non-lawyers, and trainings related to inherent bias and mental health, among so many other topics, are now crucial to the work they do. This all started as a social movement, and they do not want to lose sight of that.



*NYSBA President Claire Gutekunst*



*From left: Elizabeth Koo, Natalie Knott, Bill Bryan, Claire Gutekunst, Debra Collura, Andrew Scherer, Catherine Barreda, Adam Markovics, Keisha Williams and Bryan Hetherington*



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# Partnership Conference Programming

## **DAP Workshop #1: Exploring Limitations in Attention and Concentration in a Work Setting: The Effect on Disability Claims**

Panelists: Kevin Liebkemann and Catherine M. Callery

## **Nursing Homes: From Admission to Discharge**

Panelists: Marie T. Vaz and Daniel A. Ross

## **Representing Persons Accused of Public Benefits Fraud: Handling SNAP IPV and other Fraud Charges**

Panelists: Belkys Garcia and David Super

## **Cultural Competency Session**

Panelists: Kelly Louise Anderson and Samantha Howell

## **When Criminal Justice Involvement Affect Legal Needs: Utilizing Reentry Tools and Strategies to Address Employment, Housing and other "Collateral" Consequences**

Panelists: Bill Bryan, Paul Curtin, Graham Dumas and Judith Whiting

## **Legal Aid Leaders for Tomorrow**

Panelists: Diane DeGroat, Ellen Hemley, Sergio Jimenez and Sheroon Small

## **Healthcare Access for Immigrant New Yorkers & Strategies for the Undocumented - The World of PRUCOL**

Panelists: Laura F. Redman, Steven Sacco and Sarika Saxena

## **Building Community Collaborations to Support Low Wage Workers**

Panelists: Jim Williams, Rebecca Fuentes, Karen Cacace, Narbada Chhetri and Elizabeth Koo

## **A New Vocabulary for a New Paradigm**

Panelists: Lillian M. Moy, Milo Primeaux and Tanya Douglas

## **Strategies for Preserving Affordable Housing**

Panelists: Keriann Pauls, Kevin Quinn and Jennifer Metzger Kimura

## **Don't Call it Unbundled! Practical Tips for Limited Scope Pro Bono Projects**

Panelists: Jennifer L. Colyer, Louis S. Sartori and Manasi Raveendran

## **Fair Hearing Advocacy in 2016: Due Process, Clients Rights, and Best Practices**

Panelists: Douglas Ruff and Sienna Fontaine

## **Foundations of Matrimonial Practice: Pendente Lite Motions, Discovery and Spousal Support**

Panelists: Laura A. Russell and Cindy Nolan

## **Accessing Behavioral Health Services: Behavioral Health in Medicaid Managed Care & Using Parity Laws**

Panelists: Karl Lopez and Amy Lowenstein

## **DAP Workshop #2: Developing Medical Evidence for Limitations in the Ability to Attend and Focus on Tasks**

Panelists: Latanya White, Tanya Douglas, Joseph Maslak and Peter Racette

## **Serving Veteran Clients**

Panelists: Shara Abraham, Peter Kempner, Sabra Janko, Alexander J. Brandes, Will Hopson, Howard Goldsmith and Michael Wickham

## **Protecting your Clients' Appellate Rights in Family Court and other Appeals**

Panelists: Cynthia Feathers and Alexandra Lewis-Reisen

## **National Technology Innovations in Legal Services: A Roadmap for New York State**

Panelists: Anna Hinele, Christine Fecko and Christopher Schwarz

## **Representing Clients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): Strategies to Improve Language Access Across Various Systems**

Panelists: Lisa R. Strand, Fidele Menavanza, Jerry Owassi, Connie Joyce, Jillian Nowak and Karen Welch

## **Elder Abuse Prevention: Recognizing and Responding When Your Elderly Client is at Risk for Exploitation**

Panelists: Malya Kurzweil Levin, Sarah Duval and Katie Earl

## **Evidence in Family Law Matters/ Clearing Evidentiary Hurdles**

Panelists: Ellen C Schell, Ian Harris and Katherine McGerald

## **Why Bad Things Happen to Good Lawyers: How to Avoid Ethical Pitfalls in Your Pro Bono Practice**

Panelist: Pery Krinsky

## **Immigration 101: Immigration Laws for Non-Immigration Attorneys**

Panelist: Hasan Shafiqullah

## **The LGBTQ Community and the Law: A Discussion on Youth, Transgender Rights, and Legal Needs of Low-Income LGBT People**

*Panelists: Jose Abrigo, Adam Heintz, Katherine McGerald, Christopher Oldi and Milo Primeaux*

## **Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline: Representing Students in School Discipline Matters/ Equal Access to Education: Navigating New York Education Law and School district Policies**

*Panelists: Wendy Gildein, Diane E. Inbody, Ashley Patroski and Susan M. Young*

## **Tech Tips/Technology By Advocates for Advocates**

*Panelists: John Miller, Celia Matos, John Hocienec, Rob Vanderbles and David Bryan*

## **DAP Workshop #3: Presenting the Case for Limitations in Attention and Concentration at a Hearing: Direct and Cross Examination Strategies**

*Panelists: Louis M. Tarantino, Emilia Sicilia, Michael Telfer and Jennifer Karr*

## **Student Loan Debt Advocacy and Litigation Strategies for Defending Borrowers**

*Panelists: Maggie R. Robb, Johnson M. Tyler and Yan Cao*

## **Using the ADA to Help Clients With Disabilities Get Improved Access to Public Benefits**

*Panelists: Greg Bass and Katie Kelleher*

## **Lessons From the FEGS Collapse: A Discussion of Changes in Government Contracting and Nonprofit Risk Management**

*Panelists: Carol LaFleur, John Macintosh, Michelle Jackson and Sean Delany*

## **Using Chapter 13 Bankruptcy in Foreclosure Cases**

*Panelists: Peter M. Frank, David J. Bryan, Ndukwe Agwu and William Flynn*

## **To Be or Not To Be: The Role and Future of Volunteer Non Attorney Advocates in Legal Services**

*Panelists: Sally Curran, Laurie Milder, Anne Erickson, Ignacio Jaureguilorda and Munonyedi Ugbo*

## **Using Article 78 Proceedings to Get Far Reaching Results**

*Panelists: Lester Helfman and Maryanne Joyce*

## **Strategies for Opposing Termination of Subsidized Housing**

*Panelists: John Herman, David Kagle and Addrana Montgomery*

## **Coercive Control Dynamics and their Impact on Family Offense and Custody Matters**

*Panelists: Laura A. Russell and Amanda Norejko*

## **DAP Workshop #4: Identifying Issues in Appeals: Analyzing the ALJ Decision for Appeals Council Review and Beyond**

*Panelists: Catherine M. Callery, Michael Hampden, Carolyn A. Kubitschek and Montel A. Cherry*

## **A Fresh Start: Using Bankruptcy to Help Clients Deal with Debt, Student Loans, Evictions, Foreclosures, and More**

*Panelists: Peter Barker-Huelster, Ramona Morel and Mark H. Wattenberg*

## **PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS ARE...**

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Reliable. Always ready, willing and eager to serve.

Optimistic, even when the odds appear to be stacked against the client.

**B  
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# Denison Ray Civil Awards Ceremony

## Keynote Speech

The Committee on Legal Aid was happy to have Maya Wiley as the Denison Ray Civil Awards ceremony keynote speaker this year. Wiley is a nationally renowned expert on racial justice and equity who has litigated, lobbied the U.S. Congress, and developed programs to transform structural racism in the U.S. and in South Africa.

Wiley is currently the Senior Vice President for Social Justice at the New School and the Henry Cohen Professor of Urban Policy and Management at the New School's Milano School of International Affairs, Management & Urban Policy, as well as the Chair of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the independent oversight agency for the City's Police Department.

Prior to her roles with the New School and the CCRB, Wiley served as Counsel to the Mayor of the City of New York from 2014–2016. As Mayor Bill de Blasio's chief legal advisor and a member of his Senior Cabinet, Wiley

was placed at the helm of the Mayor's commitment to expanding affordable broadband access across New York City, advancing civil and human rights and gender equity, and increasing the effectiveness of the City's support for Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises. During her tenure, she also served as the Mayor's liaison to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary.

Before her position with the de Blasio Administration, Wiley was the Founder and President of the Center for Social Inclusion. She has also worked for the Open Society Foundation in the U.S. and in South Africa, the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., the American Civil Liberties Union and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

In her keynote address, Wiley offered compelling and inspiring remarks about dignity as the thread that runs through the civil legal service community's work and its

connection to humanity. She stated that dignity is "the state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect." She asked, "In a world of poverty and injustice, who are the undignified?" She explained that as civil legal service providers, the community is privileged to derive its dignity from its clients' dignity. "We are celebrating the fact that we refuse to allow our tiredness to stop us from recognizing the dignity of our clients." She noted the impact that the community's work is having every day.

Wiley's remarks echoed those of the panelists from earlier in the day. She remarked on how the poor in our society are overwhelmingly people of color, and implicit bias and over-policing in communities of color is creating criminalization of poverty. This is the movement of our day and it goes to heart of the work that the entire community does; and this focus must not be lost.



*Maya Wiley*





# 2016 Denison Ray Civil Awards Ceremony

The Denison Ray Awards are named in memory of career legal activist Denison (Denny) Ray, who led legal services programs in New York and other states. Four awards are presented at the Denison Ray Civil Awards ceremony at Partnership Conference, which takes place every two years. Two awards are given to staff attorneys employed by nonprofit entities that provide free civil legal services to low-income clients. One award is presented to a director of a civil legal services program or a director of a pro bono volunteer program. The fourth award is presented to a nonprofit organization that provides or facilitates the provision of civil legal services to low-income clients.

## Criteria

**The Civil Legal Services Staff Attorney Awards** recognize individual attorneys' extraordinary commitment to:

- The provision of creative, skilled, and zealous representation of low-income clients;
- Collaboration with pro bono volun-

teer attorneys from the private bar to expand access to justice opportunities for low-income clients; and/or

- Efforts to inspire, mentor, and support colleagues in the delivery of exceptional legal representation to low-income clients.

**The Director Award** recognizes outstanding leadership at a civil legal services or pro bono program by an executive director or legal director who inspires the kind of extraordinary commitment by staff and service to the community set forth in the above criteria.

**The Nonprofit Organization Award** recognizes extraordinary commitment to:

- Strengthening access to justice initiatives;
- Delivering or facilitating the provision of civil legal services to low-income and/or disadvantaged clients;
- Increasing the provision of pro bono services; and/or
- Marshaling resources to maximize services to the community.

## Awards Committee

Award recipients are selected by a committee consisting of the chairs of the President's Committee on Access to Justice, the Committee on Legal Aid, the Pro Bono Coordinators Network, and the Director of NYSBA's Department of Pro Bono Services.

## 2016 Denison Ray Civil Award Honorees

### Civil Legal Services Staff Attorneys

**Josh Cotter** is a staff attorney at Legal Services of Central New York. He is a graduate of Albany Law School and has been admitted to the New York bar since 2013. In the past year, Josh's cases have included advocacy on behalf of children held in solitary confinement, disabled persons denied access to reasonable accommodations and basic services, and immigrant families who fled war torn countries only to be placed in deplorable housing in Syracuse.

Cotter sued on behalf of minors in solitary confinement in Cayuga and Onondaga Counties; a prisoner in



*From left: Sharon Stern Gerstman, Claire Gutekunst, Josh Cotter, Bryan Hetherington, Keisha Williams*





*From left: Sharon Stern Gerstman, Keisha Williams, David Kagle, Bryan Hetherington, Claire Gutekunst*

Onondaga County, deaf since birth, who was denied a sign language interpreter, adequate time on a teletypewriter to make calls, and access to other services; filed a federal lawsuit (on appeal in the 2nd Circuit) for an inmate with cerebral palsy deprived of use of his motorized wheelchair; and a class action lawsuit on behalf of Somali refugees who were placed in an apartment complex owned by an out of state landlord and rife with health and safety hazards.

Cotter maintains a drop-in legal clinic in Oswego County, and handles all manner of cases in The Advocacy Group unit, especially cases relating to evictions and housing emergencies. In addition to his work at LSCNY, Josh is also a board member of the CNY Chapter of the NYCLU and serves on the NYCLU Legal Committee.

**David Kagle** is a staff attorney at Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. Kagle has been a staff

attorney in the LawNY Bath office since February 2013. He is a housing attorney with exemplary commitment to high quality representation of low-income clients facing homelessness and other hardships from problems with their housing. Kagle's combination of skills and talents is producing excellent results for his clients, as well as some of the best housing advocacy in the history of LawNY.

Kagle never tires of representing clients threatened with eviction, living in substandard housing, battling bedbugs, or trying to hold on to a Section 8 voucher. In addition to excellent legal advocacy, he goes above and beyond to make sure that clients get the services they need to preserve housing.

In addition to his eviction defense work, Kagle has filed a number of innovative affirmative actions that will have a broad impact. One example is a case which Kagle filed in

federal court, challenging lack of due process by code enforcement officers in posting substandard housing and summarily evicting tenants. *Breon v. Perales*, 2015 W.L. 7289399 (WDNY 2015). Kagle was able to obtain pro bono assistance from the law firm of Winston & Strawn in New York City. This partnership resulted in an important settlement that will benefit not only our client, but many other low-income tenants across the state.

Kagle filed another case in U.S. District Court against a landlord accused of abusing the Section 8 program. The case was filed as a federal false claims action, in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of New York, and resulted in a substantial settlement. Last year, Kagle received an award from the U.S. Attorney's Office for his work on this case at a ceremony in recognition of National Crime Victims Week.

## Legal Services Director

**Karen Nicolson** has been the director and CEO of Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc. (LSED) for the past 16 years. In that time, she has almost doubled the number of the organization's staff members, quadrupled the number of clients served, expanded the scope of services into five additional counties in Western New York, and spearheaded numerous new projects such as an Elder Abuse Prevention Unit and the Western New York Coalition Pooled Trusts. Before becoming CEO, Nicolson was a staff attorney at LSED for 11 years, helping people with housing issues and providing services to the Seneca Nation.

Nicolson is a community leader and spokesperson for the senior, disabled and low income populations on a statewide level. She currently serves on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aging, the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Aid, and the Town of Amherst Senior Services Advisory Board. She is a member of the Erie County Age

Friendly Initiative, a collaboration with Erie County Senior Services, AARP, and the Center for Inclusive Design at SUNY Buffalo. She also serves on the Elder Justice Working Group through the NYS Unified Court System under the leadership of Judge Deborah Kaplan, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence Cases.

She is a delegate to the New York Inaugural WINGS Guardianship Core Group through the New York State Unified Court System and a member of the Advisory Committee on the Crime Victims Legal Network Project. Finally, she is a member of the Think Group for the New York state Legal Services Initiative, a partnership of the NY State Office for the Aging, the NY State Office of Court Administration, the New York State Bar Association and the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Karen was named a National Federation for Just Community Leader in 2010 and in 2015 The Amherst Senior Citizen's Foundation named her their Senior Community Leader. This year, she was appointed by Senate Major-

ity Leader John Flanagan to the NYS Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons.

Nicolson's vision and leadership have led to the creation and implementation of programs that have made a difference in the lives of thousands of people. One of Nicolson's most significant accomplishments is founding the Western New York Coalition Pooled Trusts (WNYCPT) in 2003. The WNYCPT has become a valuable resource for people with disabilities in the community, making it possible for people to maintain their benefits such as SSI and Medicaid, but also be able to access funds needed to stay in the community. The trust has grown from a single client at its inception to now having 450 clients, with a value of over \$6 million. Nicolson continues to support the growth of the WNYCPT by providing community presentations and working with the local bar associations to promote the use of the trust as a valuable tool when planning for the immediate and future needs of a person with a disability.



*From left: Sharon Stern Gerstman, Claire Gutekunst, Karen Nicolson, Bryan Hetherington, Keisha Williams*





*From left: Sharon Stern Gerstman, Claire Gutekunst, Carlos Jesse and Judy Whiting of the Next Door Project, Bryan Hetherington, Keisha Williams*

## Nonprofit Organization

The Community Service Society of New York's **Next Door Project** has assisted New Yorkers in obtaining, understanding and correcting mistakes on their NYS rap sheets, applying for certificates of relief from disabilities and certificates of good conduct, and addressing discriminatory employment practices through legal advocacy and litigation for the past eight years. Their work is done in close collaboration with a dedicated cadre of specially trained and closely supervised older adult volunteers, many of whom hail from the same communities as their clients and all of whom believe in second chances. Working together, they see hundreds of clients each year and help put them in the best possible position to seek and obtain jobs and occupational licenses.

The Next Door Project staff and volunteers treat clients with decency and respect. For many, having a crimi-

nal record changes their lives forever, and not for the better. Many are shut out of the workforce due to their records.

When clients work with the Next Door Project staff and volunteers, they are able to do so in a non-judgmental and confidential setting. Prior to meeting with the Next Door Project, many clients do not understand their records. After working with them, the clients are better equipped to accurately and confidently discuss their records when needed in employment and licensing application processes. Clients repeatedly find they have cases on their records that should not be there due to them being sealed or a clerical error. These errors can mean the difference between a client being able to gain employment and homelessness.

For example, one individual recently discovered through working with the Next Door Project that there was mistakenly a serious violent felony on

his record. The client had no idea that this error even existed. The Next Door Project has been working diligently to correct it. These errors are discovered on a weekly basis and the Next Door Project diligently helps clients who are so eager to secure full time employment.

The Next Door Project is also commended for its advocacy work. In 2015, the project's staff acted as chief legal advisor and drafter of the New York City Fair Chance Act. This Act mandates that employers not ask questions about criminal records on initial job applications, saving those questions until individuals have had the chance to prove their fitness for the job sought. Once a conditional job offer is made, the employer must closely follow the law in evaluating the applicant's conviction history. The effect of this law is that applicants can compete for jobs based on their merits rather than their past mistakes.



## Phil Dailey Award

The Committee on Legal Aid and the Steering Committee for this year's Partnership Conference created the Phil Dailey Award in memory of the late Phil Dailey who was a paralegal at Legal Assistance of Western New York in Geneva, New York. The award recognizes the vital services of non-attorney staff who have demonstrated an excellence and dedication in service to legal service organizations in fulfilling their mission to provide all New Yorkers with equal access to justice.

Phillip Dailey was born in Penn Yan, New York on August 21, 1968. He served in the U.S. Army from 1992 to 1995. He served with the 7th Infantry Division, the 101st Airborne Division, and was stationed at Guantanamo Naval Base during Operation Safe Harbor. After his honorable discharge in 1995, Phil obtained an A.A.S. degree from Finger Lakes Community College in 1997 and a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Hobart College in 2000.

Dailey's life of service continued after college. Phil signed up for Amer-

iCorps, and came to the Geneva office of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. as an AmeriCorps Paralegal in 2001. He served two 12-month terms of service as an AmeriCorps paralegal. At the end of his second AmeriCorps term, LawNY hired Dailey as a staff paralegal, and he continued in that role until he passed away in April of this year.

Dailey had an unparalleled commitment to the rule of law and the concept of equal justice under the law. He dedicated his career to the notion that the law must be applied uniformly to all people, regardless of their circumstances or their station in life. He served in a rural part of New York State, where local agencies and judges knew the background and family history of the people that they judged on a day to day basis. Dailey held these folks accountable for the biases that they exhibited toward his clients, and forced them to follow the letter of the law. He exhibited a photographic memory and encyclopedic knowledge of the rules and regulations that applied to public assistance benefits, veterans' benefits, subsidized housing,

and landlord-tenant law.

LawNY launched a veterans' hotline in February 2012. The hotline was Dailey's brainchild, and until recently he ran it almost single-handedly. The hotline was initially intended to provide legal information and referral to veterans and their families in a five-county area surrounding Geneva. Word of the hotline spread quickly through the veteran community, and the hotline was soon getting calls from across New York State and beyond. The hotline handled 581 calls in 2015.

For several years, Dailey was a valuable member of the LawHelpNY team. He was largely responsible for organizing, reviewing and adding to the Veterans and Military topic area on the LawHelpNY website, and he was a leader on the team of legal services attorneys that developed the interactive forms that help a person in need request and then win a fair hearing if they lost or were denied public benefits.

Dailey's daughters accepted the award on their father's behalf.



*From left: Sharon Stern Gerstman, Claire Gutekunst, Ken Perri, Ashlie Daily, Stacie Daily, Bryan Hetherington, Keisha Williams*

***The New York State Bar Association and the Committee on Legal Aid congratulate each of the 2016 Denison Ray Civil Award honorees.***

# *Pro Bono Opportunities Guide*

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**PRO BONO DEPARTMENT**

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## *Do You Have A Story To Share...*

- Have you worked on or do you know of a special pro bono project?
- Has a pro bono case made a difference in the lives of others?
- Has an individual attorney or firm gone above and beyond to provide pro bono assistance?

We invite you to submit articles showcasing excellence in pro bono service for upcoming editions of the Pro Bono Newsletter. For more information, go to [www.nysba.org/probono](http://www.nysba.org/probono).

