

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2018 PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS

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



President's Message

Each Law Day, we gather to celebrate the role of law in our democracy. It is fitting that, as part of our celebration, we honor the men and women who donate thousands of hours of legal services to better the lives of clients who are impoverished. They prove everyday the positive effect that law has on our society, by helping to solve their problems through law.



These lawyers have been nominated by their legal communities. Not only have they exemplified the best of our profession, but their generosity has significantly helped their communities in addition to the individuals that they serve. For this reason, we strive to present awards in every district within the state, and by gathering these representatives in Albany today, we create a stronger legal community.

The lawyers honored today have helped to meet some of their clients' most pressing needs: fighting eviction or foreclosure; securing veterans' benefits, social security or public assistance; providing relief from domestic violence and other forms of abuse; or fighting deportation or immigration detention. Each of them makes pro bono assistance a regular part of his or her professional life.

This luncheon and the awards we will present today are a small token of our appreciation. Thank you for all the work you do and for being such outstanding examples for each of us to follow.

AGENDA

Introductory Remarks

Michael Miller

President-Elect and

Co-Chair, President's Committee on Access to Justice

Welcome and Introduction of Judge Rivera

Sharon Stern Gerstman

President

Keynote

Hon. Jenny Rivera

Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals,
State of New York

Luncheon

Presentation of Awards

Sharon Stern Gerstman

Closing Remarks

Edwina Martin

Co-Chair, President's Committee on Access to Justice

May 1, 2018

Albany, New York

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

"Pro Bono in Your PJs"

Log onto

NY.freelegalanswers.org

and sign up to be a
volunteer today!

Questions?

Contact Kristen Wagner

Director, Pro Bono Services, NYSBA

kwagner@nysba.org | 518.487.5640



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Register as an attorney volunteer or list your
organization at **NYSBAProBono.org** today!

Organizations:

- Does your organization provide legal services to our immigrant communities?
- Do you have projects that could benefit from volunteer attorneys?
- Post your training events on the Events page and list your projects today for volunteer attorney referrals!

Attorneys:

- Want to make a difference in your community, but don't know where to turn or lack immigration legal experience?
- Browse a list of exciting volunteer opportunities, review training resources, mentor others, and see what is happening around New York State on the Events page!

The New York State Bar Association's Pro Bono Immigration Portal is a new and exciting initiative created to address the growing needs of our immigrant communities and public service organizations, inspired by an overwhelming response of New York attorneys wishing to contribute and help out in any way they can. Browse available opportunities and volunteer directly, or use the tailored referral service to get connected with organizations that work closely with immigrants.

Questions? Email
probonoport@nysba.org
or call **518-487-5641**.

This project was made possible in part by a grant from The New York Bar Foundation.



A WORD OF THANKS

Nominating Committee members review the 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:

Michael Miller

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

Edwina Martin

Co-Chair, President's Committee on Access to Justice

Sergio Jimenez

Keisha A. Williams

Co-Chairs, Committee on Legal Aid

CRITERIA

Honorees are selected based on the depth, breadth and scope of the pro bono service rendered during 2017 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 describes some of the outstanding pro bono service rendered by each award recipient.



First Judicial District

Kevin Sullivan

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
New York, NY

Nominator

Elly Spiegel, Pro Bono Manager
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
New York, NY

Kevin Sullivan is a litigation associate at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer where his practice focuses on complex commercial litigation. Sullivan is a member of the firm's Pro Bono Committee and has represented numerous pro bono clients in a wide range of matters, including parental rights and domestic violence cases, immigration proceedings, civil lawsuits, criminal cases and federal habeas actions. Most recently, he acted as the lead attorney in the trial of a civil rights action on behalf of an inmate alleging excessive force by multiple corrections officers on Rikers Island.

Second Judicial District

William D. Pollak

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
New York, NY

Nominator

Lisa Schreibersdorf, Executive
Director
Brooklyn Defender Services
Brooklyn, NY



William D. Pollak is a civil litigator at Davis Polk & Wardwell where his practice includes complex commercial litigation. Pollak represents numerous pro bono clients in resentencings, relief from wrongful convictions, amici briefs, and immigration matters, among others. Recently, Pollak worked with Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS) to represent a woman in family court wrongfully accused of having shaken her baby. Through expert medical testimony, Pollak and BDS were able to prove that the child had, in fact, suffered a blood clot in his brain.



Third Judicial District

G. Kimball Williams

Slingerlands, NY

Nominators

Lillian Moy, Executive Director

Myleah Misenhimer, Private

Attorney Involvement Director

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern
New York

Albany, NY

G. Kimball Williams is of counsel at McNamee Lochner in Albany where he concentrates on civil litigation and appellate practice in state and federal courts. For years, Williams has done pro bono work with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, having served in various leadership capacities for their Justice for All Campaign, and as a volunteer for their Attorney for the Day Program, Private Attorney Involvement Panel and Bridging the Gap Program.

Fourth Judicial District

Alexander Dunshee

Tobin & Dunshee, LLP
Clifton Park, NY

Nominators

Lillian Moy, Executive Director
Myleah Misenhimer, Private
Attorney Involvement Director
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern
New York
Albany, NY



Alexander Dunshee, co-founder and partner at Tobin & Dunshee, LLP in Clifton Park, primarily represents clients in criminal, family and matrimonial matters. He is a 2008 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a 2011 graduate of Albany Law School. Dunshee serves low-income clients through his work with Legal Aid's Pro Se Divorce program.



Fifth Judicial District

James B. Fleckenstein

James B. Fleckenstein, Attorney at Law
Syracuse, NY

Nominator

Paul Lupia, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.
Syracuse, NY

James B. Fleckenstein has maintained his own private practice in Syracuse since 1978 specializing in litigation and personal injury claims. Fleckenstein has been a volunteer with the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. (LASMNY), at their Consumer Law Clinic for over 15 years offering advice and counsel to clients on consumer and bankruptcy issues. Additionally, he also has a weekly route delivering for Meals on Wheels in Syracuse.

Sixth Judicial District

Teresa McNamara

Owego, NY

Nominator

Michaela Rossettie Azemi,
Regional Pro Bono Coordinator
Legal Assistance of Western New
York, Inc.
Bath, NY



Teresa McNamara volunteers with Legal Assistance of Western New York in Ithaca. Her primary focus has been LawNY's Uncontested Divorce Program. She has personally assisted 25 clients with the program get a final judgment of divorce. She's also worked with clients in need of estate planning, dealing with issues related to special education, and those seeking a legal name change that more accurately reflects their gender identity.



Seventh Judicial District

Anita Pelletier

Nixon Peabody LLP
Rochester, NY

Nominator

Stacey Slater, Pro Bono Partner
Nixon Peabody LLP
New York, NY

Anita Pelletier is counsel in the nonprofit practice group at Nixon Peabody. There she is supervising attorney for all nonprofit pro bono work across their 18 offices. Pelletier often helps start-up nonprofits, last year having logged 460 pro bono service hours. She ensures that these organizations can focus on their primary mission—making life better for vulnerable people in the Rochester area as well as other areas in New York State—without using their limited resources to secure appropriate legal advice.

Eighth Judicial District

Benjamin R. Dwyer

Nixon Peabody LLP
Buffalo, NY

Nominator

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



Benjamin R. Dwyer, a commercial litigator in the Buffalo office of Nixon Peabody, represents companies in the context of dispute resolution and risk mitigation. Dwyer is currently helping two activists seek asylum and previously helped two children obtain special immigrant juvenile status and permanent resident status. He also mentors firm associates with immigration matters, has represented prisoners in Section 1983 proceedings and assisted in the incorporation of a nonprofit educational institution.



Ninth Judicial District

Kevin F. Preston

McVean Lewis Sherwin &
McDermott PC
Middletown, NY

Nominator

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

Kevin F. Preston, a member of NYSBA's House of Delegates, has practiced law at MacVean, Lewis, Sherwin & McDermott in Middletown since 1993 focusing on commercial and real estate litigation among others. For the past 12 years he has handled landlord-tenant, insurance and consumer debt pro bono matters through Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. Since 2016, he has served as president of the Board of Directors of the Middletown YMCA.

Tenth Judicial District

Lewis Silverman

Uniondale, NY

Nominator

Maria Dosso, Director of
Communications and Volunteer
Services

Nassau Suffolk Law Services
Islandia, NY



Lewis Silverman, current chair of NYSBA's Committee on LGBT People and the Law, was a professor and director of the Family Law Clinic at Touro Law Center in Central Islip until his retirement in 2016. Since 1995, he has been an active volunteer with the Suffolk County Pro Bono Project, operated by Nassau/Suffolk Law Services. There he's represented clients in their divorce proceedings, screened pro bono applicants and mentored the Project's new pro bono attorneys.

Lewis would like to dedicate this award to the memory of his father, Julian Silverman, who served as a volunteer paralegal with Nassau/Suffolk Law Services for many years after retiring as a Suffolk County Adult Protective Service worker. He was the first non-lawyer to be recognized by the Suffolk County Bar Association for pro bono services.



Eleventh Judicial District

Arnold W. Drucker

Law Offices of Arnold Drucker
Jackson Heights, NY

Nominator

Mark Weliky, Pro Bono
Coordinator
Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project,
Inc.
Jamaica, NY

Arnold W. Drucker of Jackson Heights, who founded the Law Offices of Arnold W. Drucker following his admission to the bar, provides legal services to a predominantly Hispanic community and represents clients throughout New York City and Long Island. He has volunteered since the inception of the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project and assisted thousands of clients in matters regarding landlord/tenant law, family and matrimonial law, real estate, civil litigation, criminal law and wills and estates.

Young Lawyer

Shaimaa M. Hussein

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
New York, NY

Nominator

Michael Schachter, Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
New York, NY



Shaimaa M. Hussein, a litigation associate at Willkie Farr & Gallagher, focuses on the representation of multinational corporations and financial institutions in complex commercial litigation and enforcement actions. Since joining Willkie in 2011, she has devoted hundreds of hours to pro bono matters, particularly on behalf of refugees, and currently represents asylum-seekers from around the world. Last year, Shaimaa made national headlines for her help in reuniting an Iranian mother with her young child who needed to travel to the United States for vision-saving surgery.



Law Student

Patricio G. Martinez-Llompart

Columbia Law School
New York, NY

Nominator

Laren E. Spierer, Director of Pro
Bono Programs & Lecturer in Law
Columbia Law School
New York, NY

Patricio G. Martinez-Llompart is a third-year student at Columbia Law School and is in the Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration Clinic where he helps represent incarcerated clients in parole and conditions of confinement matters before federal and state courts in New York. Since Hurricane María devastated Puerto Rico last year, he has organized law students from across the country interested in assisting with disaster relief efforts. This culminated in the visit of ten different law schools to Puerto Rico in March 2018.

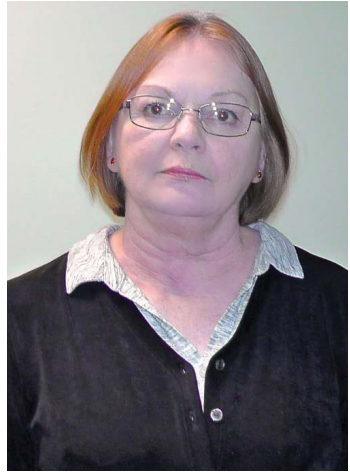
Senior Lawyer

Barbara M. Heyne

Barbara M. Heyne, Esq.
Rochester, NY

Nominator

Tina M. Foster, Executive Director
Volunteer Legal Services Project of
Monroe County Inc.
Rochester, NY



Barbara M. Heyne, who earned a law degree while employed by the New York State Office of Mental Health and then became assistant counsel there, worked as a federal court litigator in Atlanta. After retiring in 2016, she returned to Rochester and joined the New York Courts Attorney Emeritus Program, taking on cases regarding unemployment insurance hearings, name changes, debt collection, standby guardianships and wills via the Volunteer Legal Services Project. She also volunteers for its Federal Pro Se Assistance Program.



Large Law Firm

Kramer Levin Naftalis Et Frankel LLP

New York, NY

Nominator

Lisa Schreibersdorf, Executive Director

Brooklyn Defender Services

Brooklyn, NY

The ***Kramer Levin*** Bail Project Team in New York City works in partnership with Brooklyn Defender Services to challenge at the trial and appellate levels in Kings County excessive money bail set in felony cases. The team works closely with indigent defendants ahead of felony arraignment to create a viable bail package and then argues for lower cash bail, or asks the court to impose one of the several alternative forms of bail available under New York law, but rarely considered by the courts. Volunteers include litigation partner Darren LaVerne, who supervises the project, associates Daniel Ketani, Jennifer M. Klein, Alejandro G. Ortega and Reyhan Watson, who argue the cases in court, and paralegal Hannah Shlaferman.



BOUSQUET HOLSTEIN PLLC

Small Law Firm

Bousquet Holstein PLLC

Syracuse, NY

Nominator

Samantha Aguam, Staff Attorney

Sally Curran, Executive Director

Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.

Syracuse, NY

Bousquet Holstein holds as a core belief that the firm has a profound responsibility to contribute to the community and make it a better place for all to live. The commitments that the attorneys of Bousquet Holstein collectively and individually make to the Central New York community represent the firm's philosophy in action. These attorneys provide pro bono service via the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, assisting with matters related to family court, eviction defense, homeless advocacy and prevention, trusts and estates, elder law, LGBTQ law, immigration, re-entry and grassroots community economic development. They also provide services to not-for-profit organizations regarding governance, not-for-profit corporation law matters and tax-exempt status. Many firm attorneys also serve as volunteers for the Hiscock Legal Aid Society Say Yes Legal Clinics and Upstate Medical University Legal Clinic.



Government Office

New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Department

Rochester, NY

Nominator

Tina M. Foster, Executive Director

Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County Inc.
Rochester, NY

Attorneys of the *Appellate Division, Fourth Department*, have been actively involved in pro bono matters for many years. In 2016, they began providing free legal representation to unrepresented tenants in eviction proceedings via the Tenant Town and Village Court Pro Bono Program, established in partnership with the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County. The volunteers have since assisted more than 138 tenants facing eviction by evaluating available defenses, making motions and conducting hearings when appropriate, and negotiating agreements to permit tenants to remain in their homes.

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

Previous Recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards

2017

Adam Hunt – 1st Judicial District

Victor N. Piacente – 2nd Judicial District

Byrgen Finkelman – 3rd Judicial District

None Selected – 4th Judicial District

Todd M. Long – 5th Judicial District

Hon. Eugene E. Peckham – 6th Judicial District

Paul B. Watkins – 7th Judicial District

Lawlor F. Quinlan III – 8th Judicial District

Robert J. Nahoum – 9th Judicial District

Henry M. Mascia – 10th Judicial District

Thomas Wojtaszek – 11th Judicial District

None Selected – 12th Judicial District

None Selected – 13th Judicial District

Paul Q. Andrews – Young Lawyer

Barbara Weiner – Senior Lawyer

Lauren Henry – Law Student

The Immigration Advocacy Project at Fordham Law School – Law
School Group

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP – Large Law Firm

Barclay Damon LLP – Small/Mid-sized Law Firm

NBC Universal Media – In-House Counsel

2016

Stephen C. Lessard – 1st Judicial District

None Selected – 2nd Judicial District

Denise M. Resta-Tobin – 3rd Judicial District

Charles R. Harding – 4th Judicial District

Michael Palczewski – 5th Judicial District

James G. Cushman – 6th Judicial District

Andrew L. Martin – 7th Judicial District

Raymond N. McCabe – 8th Judicial District

Wendy Marie Weathers – 9th Judicial District

S. Robert Kroll – 10th Judicial District

Daniel A. Costigan – 11th Judicial District

None Selected – 12th Judicial District

None Selected – 13th Judicial District

Osvaldo Garcia – Young Lawyer

Frederick Stephen Marty – Senior Lawyer

Jessica Persaud – Law Student

Touro Law Disaster Relief Center – Law School Group

DLA Piper LLP (US) – Large Law Firm

Phillips Lytle LLP – Small/Mid-sized Law Firm

2015

Marjorie J. Pearce – 1st Judicial District

None Selected – 2nd Judicial District

Lynne A. Papazian – 3rd Judicial District

Natasha B. Hill – 4th Judicial District

Emilee Lawson Hatch – 5th Judicial District

William L. Gibson, Jr. – 6th Judicial District

Sandra M. Williams – 7th Judicial District

John L. Trigilio – 8th Judicial District

Sarah Sulkowski – 9th Judicial District

Harold M. Somer – 10th Judicial District

Brandy A. Beltas – 11th Judicial District

Eric Faragi – 12th Judicial District

Jack Yoskowitz – 13th Judicial District

Josie M. Sheppard – Young Lawyer

Janet Axelrod – Senior Lawyer

Shelby Maroselli – Law Student

Society for Immigrant and Refugees Rights – Law School Group

Shearman & Sterling LLP – Large Law Firm

Hodgson Russ LLP – Mid-Sized Law Firm

The Law Offices of Remy R. Perot LLP – Small Law Firm

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



**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF PRO BONO SERVICES**

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