NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

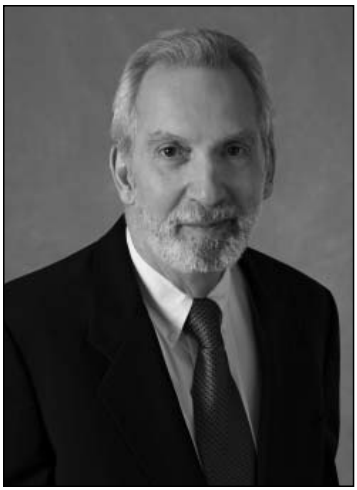


NYSBA 2010

President's Pro Bono Service Awards

NYSBA

NYSBA DO THE PUBLIC GOOD VOLUNTEER FOR PRO BONO



Today we proudly celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards. These prestigious awards are presented annually on Law Day by the Association to individual attorneys, law students, law schools and law firms in recognition of the outstanding contributions each has made to expanding access to justice for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the homeless, and all who are marginalized on account of job loss, ill-health, victimization, or for their political beliefs.

The 2010 Law Day theme is "*Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges*." In promoting this theme, the American Bar Association has challenged individual attorneys and non-lawyers alike to personally respond to two critical questions: (1) "What do you think is the most significant or interesting challenge that confronts law in the 21st Century?"; and (2) "In meeting this challenge, what legal tradition should we strive to maintain?"

For me, one of the most pressing challenges facing our profession in the 21st Century is whether, despite a bleak economy, we will be able to maintain and expand free access to justice for all who need such services. A related concern I have is whether efforts to enhance access to justice opportunities will be able to withstand the increasingly strident and divisive efforts by some in our society to limit free access to counsel only to those whose views or causes are deemed "worthy" of defense – worthy being subjectively defined according to whether you agree or disagree with the view or cause espoused.

Each attorney's responsibilities with respect to the foregoing concerns are clearly set forth in the New York Rules of Professional Conduct, effective April 1, 2009. Rule 1.2(b) appropriately points out that "a lawyer's representation of a client ... does not constitute an endorsement of the client's political, economic, social or moral views or activities." The Comment to the rule further reminds us that "Legal representation should not be denied to any person who is unable to afford legal services, or whose cause

is controversial or the subject of popular disapproval." Similarly, Rule 1.3(a) reminds us that a lawyer's ethical obligation is to "pursue a matter on behalf of a client despite opposition, obstruction or personal inconvenience" and that an attorney must "take whatever lawful and ethical measures are required to vindicate a client's cause or endeavor."

Having reviewed the outstanding contributions made by each of this year's recipients of the 2010 President's Pro Bono Service Awards, I am heartened, proud and filled with a renewed sense of optimism that the members of our profession and those who will be joining our ranks will not be deterred from complying with their ethical obligations out of fear of public rebuke or attack. Due process of law and equal access to justice – two fundamental principles underlying our democracy and system of justice will not be easily eroded.

Congratulations to each of the honorees! You are truly an inspiration to lawyers everywhere!

Sincerely,



Michael E. Getnick
President

2010 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

May 3, 2010
One Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Program Agenda

Introductory Remarks	Stephen P. Younger, President-Elect
Welcome	Michael E. Getnick, President
Law Day Remarks	Hon. Jonathan Lippman
Luncheon	
Awards Ceremony	Michael E. Getnick, President Stephen P. Younger, President-Elect
Closing Remarks	Hon. George H. Lowe

2010 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

Celebrating the Outstanding Voluntary Contributions Members of the Legal Profession have made to Enhance Equal Access to Justice Opportunities for Low-income and Disadvantaged New Yorkers

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For the past 20 years, the Association has proudly bestowed the President's Pro Bono Service Awards on members of the legal profession, law students, law school groups and law firms whose outstanding pro bono contributions have greatly expanded equal access to justice for the most vulnerable members of our society – children, disabled, abused, homeless, low-income, unemployed and individuals with limited English proficiency. Each honoree has had a profoundly positive impact on the lives of the individuals and families who were fortunate enough to receive free legal assistance when they needed it most – when threatened with deportation, eviction, loss of custody, unjust denial of subsistence benefits, or were being victimized by an abusive spouse.

Importantly, the President's Pro Bono Service Awards also help to raise public and professional awareness about the growing number of persons who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in desperate need of free legal services. Likewise, highlighting the invaluable contributions made by pro bono volunteers focuses attention on the need to increase funding and resources for traditional legal services providers who currently are forced to turn away one out of every four individuals seeking free legal representation. We believe that by recognizing the pro bono accomplishments of today's diverse group of honorees, legal professionals who have not yet become involved with pro bono will be inspired to actively seek out pro bono opportunities within their communities. Similarly, we are hopeful that as a result of learning about the awardees' contributions, those who already
volunteer will be prompted to increase their personal pro bono commitment.

The honorees' 2009 pro bono contributions were evaluated in light of the following four criteria:

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

A brief profile, gleaned from their nominating materials, describes some of the contributions each award recipient has made to pro bono.



First Judicial District

Anne S. Raish, Esq.
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
New York, New York

Nominator
Disability Advocates, Inc.
Albany, New York

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), §504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Supreme Court precedent prohibit discrimination in the form of unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities. Acting as lead attorney, in *Disability Advocates, Inc. v. Paterson,* a landmark disability rights case that spanned six-years, Ms. Raish headed a team of lawyers at Paul Weiss who, together with co-counsel from five nonprofit legal advocacy organizations, successfully challenged New York State's thirty-five year old policy of excluding residents of institutionalized adult homes from participating in the less restrictive system of community-based housing. As a result of this litigation more than 4,300 adult home residents with mental illness will now be integrated into their communities where they will live alone or in small groups and receive specialized services as needed.

Recognizing that nonprofit legal services providers could not have pursued this class action litigation without the financial and litigation support of a large law firm like Paul Weiss, Jeanette Zelhof, Deputy Director of MFY Legal Services, Inc., commented "Ms. Raish's collaboration with MFY Legal Services, Inc., Disability Advocates, Inc., the Bazelon Center for Mental Health, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and the Urban Justice Center, illustrates the importance of private bar pro bono contributions to assist public interest lawyers in advancing important issues, in this case, the civil rights of people with mental illness."



Second Judicial District

Christopher Rio, Esq.
Law Office of Frank J. Rio
Brooklyn, New York

Nominator
Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
Brooklyn, New York

Kings County residents have been hard hit by the mortgage foreclosure crisis resulting in a dramatic increase in the numbers of homeowners seeking advice from free legal services programs. Lacking sufficient staff to represent these homeowners, the Brooklyn Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project, in partnership with South Brooklyn Legal Services, launched the Foreclosure Intervention Project to recruit, train and educate volunteer lawyers in some of the complex legal issues confronting homeowners facing foreclosure.

One volunteer who stood out among the many lawyers who answered VLP's call for assistance was Christopher Rio, a 2008 graduate of Touro Law School, who jumped at the chance to represent struggling homeowners faced with the loss of their homes. During 2009, Rio handled five settlement conferences where he vigorously advocated on behalf of each homeowner. Besides learning this complex and rapidly changing substantive area of law, Mr. Rio gained invaluable experience in client interviewing and negotiation skills.

According to Jeannie Costello, Executive Director of the VLP, "Christopher has become a recognized and respected pro bono attorney in Kings County Supreme Court, Settlement Part, and on more than one occasion he has accepted emergency cases with less than 24 hours notice."



Third Judicial District

Daniel J. Hurteau
Nixon Peabody LLP
Albany, New York

Nominators
Nixon Peabody, LLP
New York, New York

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc.
Albany, New York

Last year, Daniel J. Hurteau donated 184 hours of free legal service to seventeen pro bono cases. Over the years, Mr. Hurteau has consistently demonstrated an unparallel commitment to pro bono. Besides personally representing clients, Hurteau is the Pro Bono Partner at the firm's Albany office. In this capacity, Attorney Hurteau is responsible for matching the attorneys at his firm with the pro bono cases referred by local legal services programs and the Albany County Bar Association. Under his guidance and leadership, the Albany office of Nixon Peabody had *close to 100% pro bono participation by its attorneys*.

Mr. Hurteau's leadership and commitment to pro bono extends far beyond his law firm as demonstrated by his willingness to assist Capital District legal services providers, the Albany County Bar Association, the State Bar and the Third Judicial District's Pro Bono Discussion Group in their efforts to increase the ranks of volunteer lawyers in the Capital District. Among other activities, in September, 2009 Hurteau joined with the Honorable George B. Ceresia, Jr., District Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District, to rally managing partners from a dozen local law firms to commit their firms to sign up for pro bono assignments.

Thereafter, on October 23, 2009, Hurteau again was one of the featured speakers at the Association's inaugural celebration in honor of National Pro Bono Week where he regaled the audience with his witty and original "Top Eleven Reasons to Do Pro Bono." As Judge Ceresia aptly noted "Dan Hurteau is a true pro bono hero."



Fourth Judicial District

Emily Muller, Esq.
Solo Practitioner
Saratoga Springs, New York

Nominator
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc. (LASNNY)
Albany, New York

The practice of law can be arduous under the best of circumstances, but never more so than when one undertakes solo law practice. The Association is especially pleased when the opportunity arises that we are able to commend a solo practitioner, Emily Muller, for making the time, over and above the regular hours spent operating a solo practice, to provide free legal services to clients who could not afford to pay for representation.

In spite of the exacting demands placed upon her by her substantial family law practice in upstate New York, over the years Attorney Muller has been a consistently reliable pro bono volunteer with LASNNY accepting numerous referrals in contested and uncontested Family Law/divorce cases. During 2009, Ms. Muller devoted more than 63 hours of free legal services to low-income clients. Writing in support of her nomination, the Honorable Vito C. Caruso, District Administrative Judge for the Fourth Judicial District, noted that "Emily provides the same quality of services to her pro bono clients as she does her paying one. She is well respected in our community and held in high regard for the quality of her work."



Fifth Judicial District

David M. Hayes, Esq.
Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC
Syracuse, New York

Nominator
Onondaga County Bar Association
Syracuse, New York

Throughout his legal career David Hayes has contributed wide-ranging and exten-

sive pro bono service to his community in Central New York. Among other volunteer legal activities, Mr. Hayes has dedicated a significant amount of time to the "Talk to a Lawyer" walk-in program sponsored by the Volunteer Lawyer's Project (VLP) of the Onondaga County Bar Association. The walk-in clinic provides free legal advice or referral to other available services to low-income clients in a diverse range of legal issues. In addition, Attorney Hayes volunteers in the VLP Landlord/Tenant eviction defense program in Syracuse City Court helping unrepresented litigants understand court proceedings and applicable law; representing them in obligatory mediation; providing information on how to obtain continuances and retain counsel; and makes referrals to legal services providers in appropriate cases.

In his capacity as chair of the Onondaga County Bar Association's Senior Lawyers Section, Mr. Hayes has rallied a cadre of enthusiastic senior attorneys to work with him in providing pro bono legal services throughout the Central New York area. Besides volunteering with the local bar association, Legal Services of New York, Inc., and the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Mr. Hayes also uses his corporate legal and business background to screen applications submitted by individuals interested in establishing not-for-profit charitable organizations whose mission specifically is to help the poor in the community.



Sixth Judicial District

Peter A. Orville, Esq.
Law Offices of Peter A. Orville, Esq.
Binghamton, New York

Nominator
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.
Binghamton, New York

"Attorney Orville is so committed to pro bono that he instructed his staff during an extended medical leave in 2009 to continue to take referrals" wrote nominator Arlene Sanders, Managing Attorney-Pro Bono Unit, Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.

Mr. Orville has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to Legal Aid and its Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program – a joint initiative between Legal Aid and a panel of private attorneys to serve the legal needs of low-income members of the community.

In 2009 alone, Orville assisted 22 Legal Aid clients in consumer credit and bankruptcy cases.



Seventh Judicial District

David Tennant, Esq.
Nixon Peabody LLP
Rochester, New York

Nominator
Nixon Peabody LLP
New York, New York

Partner David Tennant has performed an impressive array of pro bono services during 2009, donating 198 hours of free legal representation. Two pro bono activities Mr. Tennant was involved in during 2009 warrant special commendation.

First, an active member of the NYSBA Committee on Mass Disaster Response, Mr. Tennant provided significant assistance to many of the immigrant families of victims who died in the mass shooting that occurred on April 3, 2009 in Binghamton, New York. In this regard, he consulted with immigration lawyers and advised families regarding immigration questions, prepared paper work to expedite requested travel documents, served as an advocate for the families in discussions with federal and foreign officials regarding immigration issues, and attended meetings with emergency management officials to coordinate delivery of legal services to the families.

The second extraordinary pro bono matter that Mr. Tennant undertook during 2009 was an appeal by a woman in a lesbian relationship to determine whether New York Family Court Act's provisions for establishing paternity and child support obligations apply in circumstances where one woman uses an artificial insemination kit to impregnate her partner but no legal relationship exists between them and no relationship – biological or emotional – exists between the inseminating partner and the child. This case and a companion appeal involving visitation and custody of a child also conceived by artificial insemination during a lesbian relationship, will be decided in 2010 by the New York Court of Appeals.

In addition, to his personal commitment to pro bono, Attorney Tennant coordinates his firm's pro bono efforts in Rochester, New York serving as the liaison with Volunteer Legal Services Project (VLSP) of Monroe County, Inc. An active volunteer with VLSP since 1993, Tennant has represented indigent clients in a wide spectrum of legal issues, including unemployment insurance benefits, SSI benefits, real estate matters, and Family Law.



Eighth Judicial District

Catherine E. Nagel, Esq.
Nuchereno & Nagel
Buffalo, New York

Nominator
Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (VLP)

A partner in a two-person Buffalo, New York law firm, Ms. Nagel donated more than 90 hours of free legal services to low-income clients referred to her by the VLP, concentrating her pro bono work in the areas of divorce and estates. Because of her vast experience in these areas Attorney Nagel has provided invaluable legal assistance to clients involved in complicated divorces.

Particularly noteworthy, was Ms. Nagel's representation of three daughters, ages, 20, 18, and 13 whose father was tragically killed in the February 2009 crash of Flight 3407. At the time of his death the parents were divorced and the daughters had been living with the decedent. Upon their mother's attempt to re-enter their lives the daughters needed legal representation regarding distribution of their father's estate and Family Court, custody of the minor sibling. Ironically, Nagel had represented the father in his divorce and was more than willing to assist her former client's daughters pro bono. Attorney Nagel's representation of the daughters was facilitated through the coordinated efforts of the VLP and the NYSBA's Committee on Mass Disaster Response.

Besides representing clients pro bono, Nagel has donated considerable time to training volunteer lawyers to represent low-income community residents in pro bono divorces. In this regard, she was one of the trainers at a CLE program "How to Handle a Matrimonial Case: A Nuts

and Bolts Training" sponsored by the 8th Judicial District ProBonoNY Committee and VLP. 20 new pro bono volunteer lawyers were trained at the seminar and will begin accepting divorce cases during 2010.



Ninth Judicial District

Guy Fairstein, Esq.
Solo Practitioner
White Plains, New York

Nominator
Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV)
White Plains, New York

Not unlike other areas of New York State, the Hudson Valley has seen a dramatic increase in the number of individuals facing wage garnishments and frozen bank accounts resulting from default judgments obtained by unscrupulous "collection mills". Individuals affected by this practice are left practically destitute, unable to pay for basic life necessities such as food and shelter. Lacking sufficient staff support to challenge these default judgments, LSHV turned to solo practitioner Guy Fairstein for pro bono assistance.

In 2009 Attorney Fairstein devoted more than 100 hours assisting clients in vacating default judgments, lifting restraints on bank accounts and stopping wage garnishments.
Outraged by the abusive practices of these collection mills, Fairstein started to collect the names of the more egregious mills and alerted other practitioners about their tactics. In addition, he developed a two-hour CLE program on the legal issues relating to collection mills' practices for use in various venues located in the 9th Judicial District. Importantly also, besides educating fellow members of the bar, Fairstein also has been a dedicated mentor and advisor to fledgling volunteer lawyers who aspire to handle these types of cases.



Tenth Judicial District

Stuart P. Gelberg, Esq.
Solo Practitioner
Garden City, New York

Nominator
The Pro Bono Project
Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee
Hempstead, New York

A member of both the Suffolk and Nassau County Bar Associations, Stuart P. Gelberg has provided free legal services to low-income individuals living in the Long Island, New York area since 2002. With a private practice focusing primarily on bankruptcy, Gelberg regularly participates in the bimonthly bankruptcy clinics sponsored by the Pro Bono Project. During his volunteer affiliation with the Pro Bono Project Attorney Gelberg has contributed in excess of 226 hours in 131 cases, accepting on average, at least four new cases each month.



Eleventh Judicial District

Hilary Gingold, Esq.
Solo Practitioner
North Woodmere, New York

Nominator
Foreclosure Conference Project
Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (QVLP)
Jamaica, New York

Returning to the legal profession after an extended leave, Hilary Gingold has made substantial pro bono contributions to the residents of Queens County through her volunteer work with the QVLP's Foreclosure Conference Project and its Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO), a pro se debtor assistance clinic. The Foreclosure Conference Project serves residents of Queens County by providing free legal representation to homeowners in the mandatory foreclosure settlement conferences. During the summer of 2009, Gingold personally represented homeowners in fourteen separate foreclosure conferences, donating approximately 50 hours of free legal services.

Attorney Gingold's other pro bono activities include mentoring new volunteers in the foreclosure settlement conference process, co-counseling cases with new volunteers, and serving as a panelist in one of the QVLP's foreclosure seminars. Based on her experience as a real estate attorney and from her involvement in the foreclosure settlement process, Gingold created a step-by-step guide for QVLP volunteer lawyers in navigating the settlement conference process.



Twelfth Judicial District

Michael S. Davi, Esq.
Vinson & Elkins LLP
New York, New York

Nominator
inMotion, Inc.
New York, New York

Attorney Davi has demonstrated an exceptional pro bono commitment to clients of inMotion, a non-profit organization dedicated to the delivery of critical legal representation to low-income, underserved and abused women residing in New York City. Davi has personally represented clients in family offense, custody, visitation and child support proceedings in Family Court and in contested divorce matters.

One case which illustrates Davi's dedication to pro bono is that of a stay-at-home, non-English speaking mother who, after 19 years of marriage, was abandoned by her husband who left her with two sons to provide for, one of whom is a special needs child. The divorce was bitter and protracted, lasting well over a year. Emotionally exhausted by the drawn out litigation the client wanted to concede on important financial issues (e.g., maintenance, life insurance, continued Medicaid coverage for the client and the special needs child) without which her ability to continue providing round the clock care for her special needs child would have been imperiled.

Undaunted, Attorney Davi persuaded the client to hang in as he zealously prepared for trial while simultaneously aggressively pursuing a settlement. Described by his nominator as a "fearless advocate who repeatedly gives unselfishly of his time and takes on the difficult, challenging cases with zeal," on the eve of trial, Mr. Davi's negotiations proved successful and the client and her children were able to finally resume their lives without being burdened by financial fears.



Thirteenth Judicial District

Serena M. Stonick, Esq.
Lahr Dillon Manzulli Kelley & Penett, P.C.
Staten Island, New York

Nominator
Staten Island Legal Services
Staten Island, New York

Distressed homeowners on Staten Island owe a profound debt of gratitude to Attorney Serena M. Stonick who has worked tirelessly providing in excess of 50 hours of free legal services to homeowners threatened with foreclosure. In one case, after the bank had acquired the property through a foreclosure auction, Stonick successfully negotiated with the bank to extend the client a new mortgage and continued her free representation of the client during the highly complex new loan closing. Another example that illustrates Attorney Stonick's exceptional negotiating skills involved a case where an elderly couple's home was auctioned for substantially less than the fair market value and without their having been served with service of process. Thanks to Stonick's perseverance she was able to persuade the bank to structure a settlement favorable to the clients that, in accordance with their wishes, made it possible that they could afford to move to assisted living.



Senior Lawyer

Shirley Adelson Siegel, Esq.
Retired
New York, New York

Nominator
Lawyers' Foreclosure Intervention Network (LFIN) Project
City Bar Justice Center
New York, New York

Described as "strong but fair and remarkably disciplined", diminutive 91 year old Shirley Adelson Siegel is a true pro bono powerhouse. Coming out of retirement in 2008 Ms. Siegel determined to put her 74 year litigation experience in housing issues to work volunteering with the LFIN mortgage foreclosure defense project,

a joint venture sponsored by the City Bar Justice Center and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, dedicated to trying to stem the rising tide of foreclosures sweeping the Metropolitan New York City area. Her contributions to LFIN, the numerous volunteers she has mentored, and her relentless pursuit of justice for beleaguered homeowners simply can not be overstated.

In 2009, Attorney Siegel donated more than 400 hours to the project, making numerous court appearances in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Bronx housing courts on behalf of foreclosure clients in settlement conferences and pursuing loan modifications for others. Writing in support of her nomination, Attorney Bridget V. Hamill (Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP) aptly observed that, "Her years of practice have not diminished her curiosity, her drive, or her dedication to giving a voice to those who might not otherwise be heard."



Young Lawyer

Hagit Elul, Esq.
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
New York, New York

Nominator
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
New York, New York

An associate at the law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed, Ms. Elul has distinguished herself from her peers through her outstanding representation of pro bono clients in a diverse range of matters, including children's rights, appellate practice as a member of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Bono Panel, criminal defense as a member of the firm's criminal trial program before New York Supreme Court, and as a volunteer arbitrator in New York Civil Court. This past year Elul contributed 247 hours on pro bono cases.

Attorney Elul's pro bono representation of clients before the Second Circuit has been particularly impressive as evidenced by the fact that the Court noted in its written decision that she "has very ably represented [appellant]" and reversed the deportation order and remanded the client's case back for a full-fact finding hearing.

Ms. Elul also won remand in another Second Circuit pro bono appeal wherein she represented a member of a class in an action challenging as discriminatory the City of New York's practice of removing children from the homes of African-American parents without investigation of whether there was a risk of immediate harm if the children remained at home. In this case Elul persuaded the Court that her client had been wrongfully deemed to have opted out of the class settlement and that the class settlement needed to be revised to permit class members to pursue individual damages claims.

Attorney Elul's appellate advocacy skills in *Gillett-Netting v. Barnhart*, a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case, have earned her a national reputation as a leading advocate in expanding the law to recognize the legal status of posthumously conceived children to Social Security Child Insurance Benefits. Ms. Elul has successfully overturned on appeal denial of such benefits in California, Arizona, and Kansas.



Small/Midsized Law Firm

Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP
Binghamton, New York

Nominator
Broome County Bar Foundation
Binghamton, New York

Kathryn Grant Madigan, past President of the New York State Bar Association, Heather Cornell, and Maria Lisi-Murray, partners at the Binghamton New York law firm of Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP provided invaluable legal representation to many of the surviving family members of the April 3, 2009 American Civic Association shootings.

Representing their firm, these attorneys worked closely with NYSBA's Mass Disaster Response Committee, the Crime Victims Assistance Center, the American Red Cross, Broome County Mental Health Association, other area professionals and emergency response personnel to deliver a vast array of free legal services to the families and others affected by the tragedy, setting up guardianships and trusts for orphaned children, working with state and federal officials and diplomats to bring family members from other countries, arranging for translation services, accessing survivors' entitlements to government benefits, and assisting related family members in obtaining asylum in the United States.
Founded in 1927 Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP is a full service law firm providing quality legal representation in, among other areas, Trusts and Estates, Family Law, Health Law, Insurance Defense, Oil and Gas Law, Personal Injury Litigation, and Business/Corporate Law. The firm has more than 75 attorneys and paralegals with three offices strategically located in the Southern Tier of New York. For more than four decades the firm has enjoyed a solid reputation for providing prompt, practical, results-oriented service. In addition, the firm is well respected known for its dedication and commitment to the civic affairs of the area.



Large Law Firm

Hiscock & Barclay, LLP
Syracuse, New York

Nominator
Onondaga County Bar Association
Syracuse, New York

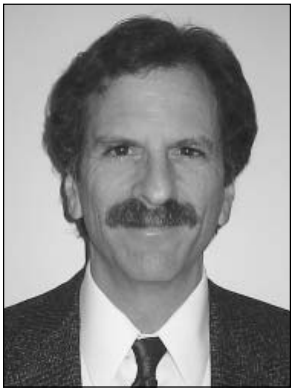
The Association is pleased to recognize Hiscock & Barclay, a 200 attorney firm headquartered in Syracuse, New York with five offices across the State, for its corporate commitment to public service which rewards attorneys for engaging in pro bono activities as part of their professional practice development. The firm's written pro bono policy – which is included in the NYSBA's *2007 Model Pro Bono Policies Manual* – eliminates economic disincentives for firm attorneys who engage in pro bono pursuits by combining billable hours and pro bono credits into a single figure for performance evaluation and compensation review.

The firm's progressive pro bono policy has had a significant impact in helping to bridge the access to justice gap confronting pro bono recipi-

ents residing in areas where firm offices are located. Diverse pro bono projects handled by firm attorneys include representation of prison inmates in Federal Court civil rights litigation; participation in local bar association's Eviction Defense Clinics; partnering with Habitat for Humanity to represent low-income individuals in real estate closings for first-time home purchasers; providing corporate advice to not-for-profit organizations whose primary mission are to serve low-income, disabled, and disadvantaged population groups; and undertaking litigation in cases ranging from estate litigation, small claims to housing discrimination.

Recently, the firm became an active partner in Syracuse's *"Say Yes to Education Program,"* a program dedicated to increasing high school and college graduation rates for children in the Syracuse City School system. Hiscock maintains a legal office on-site during the academic year and members of the school community can seek legal advice and representation from the staff.

Not content with just promoting active pro bono representation within the firm, each year Hiscock & Barclay sponsors a *"Pro Bono Fair"* at its various offices. The fair is intended to increase public and professional awareness about community legal needs and the myriad number of pro bono service opportunities available.



In-House Counsel

Gary B. Cohen, Senior Patent Counsel
Xerox Corporation
Rochester, New York

Nominator
Volunteer Legal Services Project (VLSP)
of Monroe County, Inc.
Rochester, New York

In addition to providing direct legal representation to low-income VLSP clients since 1995, Mr. Cohen has served in various capacities on its Board of Directors. Described by his nominator as "a virtual walking advertisement for pro bono," Cohen has been instrumental in nurturing a strong, vibrant long-term pro bono relationship between Xerox and VLSP, resulting in legal staff at Xerox not only accepting individual pro bono referrals, but also regularly participating in many of VLSP's on-going projects such as their Consumer Debt and Pro Se Divorce Clinics. Mr. Cohen has also been

highly effective in recruiting legal professionals employed by other corporations and business based in the Rochester, New York area.

Furthermore, recognizing the challenges he personally faced in transitioning from practicing within his corporate law comfort zone to dealing with unfamiliar poverty law issues such as matrimonial law and Family Law, Mr. Cohen has worked diligently to ensure that corporate attorneys receive training and supportive mentoring in handling VLSP cases.

Another area in which Attorney Cohen has made an unprecedented volunteer contribution to VLSP is in volunteering to write grants in an effort to fund new innovative legal services programs. In this regard, just last year alone, thanks to Attorney Cohen's superior grant-writing skills, VLSP obtained funding for a Certificate of Relief from Disability Re-Entry Program – a program intended to ameliorate some of the burdensome barriers ex-offenders contend with when seeking employment after incarceration. Another new program Cohen wrote a winning grant application for is the Micro-Enterprises Program for low-income entrepreneurs – a program which helps low-income individuals gain economic self-sufficiency. Mr. Cohen also was able to secure a grant from the Allstate Foundation to expand one of VLSP's signature programs, Nikki's Hope Legal Clinic, a program providing free legal services for victims of domestic violence.



Law Student

Ryan Shannon
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA

Nominator
Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.
Geneva, New York

Each year, the Law Students in Action Project, an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Program hosted by Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc., recruits 25 to 30 law students to serve as summer volunteers in public interest law offices located throughout Western and Central New York. These positions are unpaid. One 2009 first-year law student, Ryan Shannon, immediately caught the eye of the program coordinators with his cover letter application for the program. "I strongly believe that

nobody should be unfairly prejudiced against, and that every American should be able to receive the benefits their government affords them."

During the months of June, July and the beginning of August, Shannon put his idealism to the test, providing 321.75 hours of volunteer legal assistance to low-income clients in the areas of Employment, Elder law and Public Benefits, assisting 133 individuals - more than twice as many clients as served by each of the other summer volunteers.
Described as a "self-starter" and "eager to learn new areas of law," Ryan Shannon demonstrated an ability to communicate effectively with his clients and his adversaries, a rare skill in a law student so early in his education.

Besides achieving many successful results for his clients, Mr. Shannon also assisted community based organizations by developing an assessment tool for use by staff of the Emergency Services and Family Stabilization Network in more effectively responding to the needs of families and individuals in the community who are in crisis or at risk of being in crisis. The Network serves approximately 23,000 households annually throughout Monroe County. In addition, Mr. Shannon assisted a local grassroots organization dedicated to the successful re-entry of recently incarcerated persons. Specifically, his re-entry work focused on identification issues of homeless and recently incarcerated individuals and how the lack of vital documents negatively affects the ability of such individuals to obtain housing, employment and benefits.

Summing up intern Shannon's volunteer contribution, his supervising attorney observed that, "… the level of service he provided to our clients whose cases he handled was virtually indistinguishable from the high quality of legal services provided by our attorneys. Mr. Shannon provided our office with exceptional assistance."



Law Student Group/Organization

Suspension Representation Project (SRP)
New York University
School of Law
New York, New York

Nominator
New York University
School of Law
New York, New York

SRP is an advocacy group that trains law students to represent public school students in New York City Board of Education Superintendent's Suspension Hearings. This student-initiated and student-run project was launched in 2007, as part of the Law School's Education Law and Policy Society, in recognition that parents of students with disabilities, students of color, and low-income students facing long-term suspension from school often lacked access to quality representation.

Although New York law gives students facing a suspension of six days or longer the right to bring representation to a suspension hearing there are only a handful of lawyers who accept suspension hearing cases for representation. SRP helps fill this justice gap by pairing new law stu-

dent advocates with experienced law student advocates resulting in a win-win for all involved. Law students are provided excellent training, including interviewing skills, conducting direct and cross-examinations, and delivering closing and dispositional arguments. In turn, the suspended student and her family receive free quality representation.

Since its inception in 2007, the program has trained more than 150 law student advocates and in 2009 SRP students represented New York City public school students in each of the five boroughs at approximately 50 Superintendent's suspension hearings. In total, SRP has represented over 100 families. Importantly, SRP has earned a reputation for its effectiveness in shortening the length of a suspension or eliminating a suspension altogether, thereby helping a significant number of public school students to remain in school.

Last Spring, SRP became a stand-alone student organization, with built in leadership links to the Education Law Board at NYU. SRP has also expanded by collaborating with other New York law school students to create SRP chapters at Brooklyn Law School, CUNY School of Law, Fordham Law School, and Pace Law School. Moreover, SRP has also inspired its NYU Board members to pursue suspension representation work post- graduation. In 2009, one of the founding members of SRP was awarded a fellowship at Legal Services of New York in the Bronx to continue representing NYC public school students in suspension proceedings. In 2010, one of the current SRP Board members was selected as a 2010 Skadden Fellow to provide direct representation, policy advocacy, litigation support, and community outreach to ensure that low-income students with behavioral challenges get the necessary supportive services to which they are entitled so they can stay and succeed in school.

Counties in the 13 Judicial Districts

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

Previous Recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards

2009-2000

2009

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

2008

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

2007

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

& Tyler LLP, *Large Law Firm*
Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC, *Small/Mid-Size Law Firm*
Kaplan and Brennan, LLP, *Small/Mid-Size Law Firm*
Olivia Nix, *Law Student*
Willow Baer, *Law Student*
Student Hurricane Network, Chapters in 12 New York State Law Schools, *Law School Group*

2006
John M. Aerni – *1st*
Mark A. Beckman – *1st*
Richard Croak – 3rd
Scott N. Fein – *3rd*
Hon. James E. Doern – *4th*
Anne B. Ruffer - 5th
Hope W. Olsson – *7th*
James C. DeMarco, III – *8th*
Lee Vartan – *9th*
Patricia F. Neumann – *10th*
Archibong Archibong – *11th*
Richard Bara – *12th*
Vincent J. Roldan, *Young Lawyer*
Madeleine Schachter, *In-House Counsel*
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, *Large Law Firm*
St. John's University School of Law, Latin American Law Students Association, *Law School Group*

2005
Jeffrey Simes – *1st*
Ronald J. Tabak – *1st*
Jeffrey S. Trachtman – *2nd*
Ronald B. Orlando – *3rd*
Andrew J. Wylie – *4th*
Margaret Murphy Peterson – *5th*
C. Bruce Lawrence – *7th*
Matthew B. Herdzik, Jr. – *8th*
Elisabeth K. Wolfe – *9th*
Peter H. Levy – *10th*
Floyd Alan Sheeger – *11th (Awarded Posthumously)*
Evelyn McCabe – *12th*
Proskauer Rose LLP, *Large Law Firm*
Nixon Peabody, LLP, *Large Law Firm*
Siegel, Kelleher & Kahn, *Small/Mid-Size Law Firm*
Joshua Sohn, *Young Lawyer*
Kara Leopold, *Young Lawyer*
Judi Coon, *Law Student*
Fordham University School of Law, Legal Education and Advocacy Program, *Law Student Group*

2004
Saralyn Cohen – *1st*
Bruce Weiner – *2nd*
Brian LeCours – *3rd*
Barbara King – *4th*
Kathryn McCary – *4th*
Christopher Wiles – *5th*
Albert Kukol – *6th*
John R. McQueen – *7th*
Noralyn A. Dillon – *8th*
Glenn Shapiro – *9th*
Robin Abramowitz – *10th*
William H. Scott – *11th*
David Tomlin – *12th*
Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, *Large Law Firm*
Law Offices of Harold I. Silverman, *Small/Mid-Size Law Firm*

Gemma Rossi Corbin, *Young Lawyer*
Gloria Bruzzano, *Law Student*

2003

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

2002

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

2001

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

Mark A. Longo – *2nd*

Jo M. Katz – *3rd*

David Harper – *4th*

Andrea King – *5th*

Michael S. Sinicki – *6th*

Barbara Roesch – *7th*

Regina A. Reitz – *8th*

Helga Klessen – *9th*

Barbara J. Fritz – *10th*

Jason Lutzky – *12th*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP,
Large Law Firm

Wolford & Leclair LLP,
Small/Mid-Size Law Firm

Boaz Weinstein, *Law Student*

Fordham Law School,
Family Court Mediation Project,
Law Student Group

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