



2011 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL® PHOTO GALLERY

The Empire State Counsel® Program proudly recognizes NYSBA members who, during the calendar year, performed 50 hours or more of free legal assistance either through direct legal representation of a low-income individual; or by donating free legal services to an organization whose services are designed primarily to address the legal and other basic needs of persons of limited financial means; or by providing free legal services to an organization dedicated to increasing the availability of legal services to vulnerable and/or low-income populations. Since the Empire State Counsel® Program was launched in 2006 by former president Mark Alcott more than **5000** Association members have earned this honorary designation. Collectively our members have provided more than **660,000** hours of free legal services!

Our members' generosity helped to ensure that equal access to the justice system is not merely a lofty ideal, but a tangible reality. Thanks to our members' efforts foreclosed homeowners, evicted tenants, disabled children, and the victims of consumer fraud had meaningful access to justice. Pictured below are some of the distinguished 2011 Empire State Counsel® Honorees.



A. Thomas Levin - Pro Bono Hours 82

Pro bono services are recognition that as attorneys, we are privileged to have an exclusive license to provide legal services to persons in need. We have a concomitant responsibility to use that privilege to make sure that everyone has access to justice, and that no one should be put in jeopardy of losing their liberty or property without a full and fair opportunity to be represented. It has been accurately said that Pro Bono services are the rent we pay for the privilege of practicing law.



Kimberly Anne Pelesz - Pro Bono Hours 51.5

My interest in Pro Bono is simple and selfish. It makes me feel good.



Timothy Hoover - Pro Bono Hours 170+

I do pro bono because I believe it is the duty of all lawyers to assist the underprivileged, poor and those who need legal assistance the most. I also donate free legal services because it helps to address the vast unmet need for civil legal services.



Kathleen Copps Dipaola - Pro Bono Hours 225

I perform pro bono work because I know there are so many people that need legal services but simply cannot afford them. I strongly believe that it is each attorney's duty to do their part to make sure that need is fulfilled and that the ability to access the courts is not dependent upon financial means. Plus, pro bono clients always seem to be the most appreciative - and that appreciation makes all of the time and effort more than worthwhile.



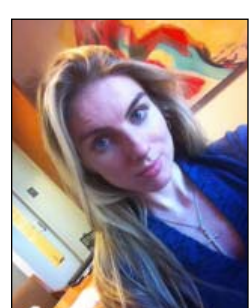
Jeffrey G. Smith - Pro Bono Hours 85

The practice of law is a privilege granted by a society that has every right to expect that the lawyer will freely give something back to society.



Kevin Frankel - Pro Bono Hours -322

I feel that practicing law is a privilege and it comes with an obligation to give back to the community and to help those without financial means obtain justice.



Verity S. Rees - Pro Bono Hours- 58

I perform pro bono service to charitable organizations so they can focus their resources on those that need it most.



John E. Ballow - Pro Bono Hours 60

Having a special needs son, I understand the true essence of what it means to help those less fortunate.



Todd B. Nurick - Pro Bono Hours 300+

Pro bono service should be a requirement. We are blessed with an amazing career and have a moral obligation to give back and assist those less fortunate.



Michael A. Oropallo - Pro Bono Hours 93.3

As a long standing attorney in the Central New York area, I recognize that providing legal counsel to those who need it extends beyond our law firm doors. It's the personal satisfaction of giving something back to the community that has given me so much. I also find it's an opportunity to delve into the types of matters I enjoy, but don't always get the chance to handle in my day-to-day work.



Anne Reynolds Copps - Pro Bono Hours 71

My philosophy of pro bono work is derived from the theory that to those to whom much has been given, much is expected. I have been blessed with a wonderful family, a job which I love, and a very comfortable life. I have had the opportunity to handle real estate and estate matters for the Legal Aid Society, adoptions for the Empire Justice Center, real estate and domestic violence cases for The Legal Project. My favorite pro bono opportunities come from The Legal Project pro bono clinics.



Liam G.B. Murphy - Pro Bono Hours 51.5

I helped several people with divorce and support matters and incorporated a local not-for-profit focused on workers' rights.



Cheryl L. Kates - Pro Bono Hours 50

Pro bono work is very fulfilling to me. I represent inmates in their quest to re-gain their freedom after serving their minimum sentence when they appear before the Parole Board. When someone serves several decades in prison many times their family members die and they are left alone without any outside support. Every year I take on some pro bono cases to assist some of these people regain their freedom if we are successful.



Stewart D. Aaron - Pro Bono Hours 120+

Pro Bono work is good for the soul!



Matthew R. Coseo - Pro Bono Hours 78

I perform pro bono service because I believe, as Theodore Roosevelt said, that "every man owes some of his time to the up building of the profession to which he belongs." In my belief, our profession is built on service, particular service above self, and opportunity to provide pro bono service to those within our community with the most need is professionally and personally the most rewarding element of my practice.



Nelson A. Castillo - Pro Bono Hours 229

Through my pro bono work, I strive to empower people, positively change their lives, and help them obtain justice.



Steven C. Krause - Pro Bono Hours 400

I do pro bono because we can make a difference in people's lives - and improve our craft.



Alan J. Pierce - Pro Bono Hours 75

I do pro bono because it helps people and makes me feel good!



Benjamin Ostrer - Pro Bono Hours 107+

I have been representing Katherine Seeber with Vernon Broderick, Corey Chivers and Tashanna Pearson of the Weil Gotshal law firm. After 11 years we were successful in vacating her guilty plea.