



NYSBA

National Pro Bono Week Reception and Awards Ceremony

*Recognizing Excellence in
Pro Bono Service*

October 14, 2014





Glenn Lau-Kee
President,
New York State Bar
Association

The New York State Bar Association proudly celebrates the Fifth Anniversary of National Pro Bono Week. National Pro Bono Week is the perfect time to highlight the important contributions that pro bono lawyers make to New York, our system of justice, our communities, and, most of all to the clients they serve. The week also is dedicated to educating the public, bench and bar about the ever growing need for more volunteer lawyers to provide

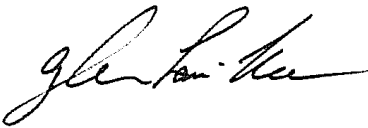
legal assistance in basic human needs areas such as landlord-tenant; immigration; domestic violence; mortgage foreclosure; bankruptcy and consumer credit cases. Moreover, National Pro Bono Week is the ideal time to recruit new volunteers.

The Association coined the phrase *"Do the Public Good! Do Pro Bono!"* The attorneys and paralegal we recognize this evening, personify the essence of this phrase and the spirit of National Pro Bono Week. The depth, breadth and scope of their pro bono contributions demonstrate how readily pro bono can be incorporated into any practice, regardless how large or small it may be.

The honorees have tackled a diverse range of pro bono projects and, in many instances, have contributed their legal skills to more than one legal services program at a time. Each is an exemplary role model and we are delighted to recognize their pro bono contributions.

The Association also extends its appreciation to the members of the legal services and pro bono communities, especially to those organizations who nominated the National Pro Bono Week honorees. Inside the brochure is a brief description of the Capital District legal services providers and their respective pro bono opportunities, together with some of the upcoming training programs. We hope that reading about the honoree's pro bono contributions you will be inspired to do pro bono and that you will consider donating your time to one of the programs identified in the brochure.

Congratulations and best wishes to the honorees!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Lau-Kee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glenn" being more prominent and the last name "Lau-Kee" following in a similar style.

Glenn Lau-Kee

New York State Bar Association

National Pro Bono Week Reception and Awards Ceremony

Recognizing Excellence in Pro Bono Service

Welcome

David P. Miranda, Esq.
President-Elect, New York State Bar Association

Keynote Speaker

Hon. Jonathan Lippman
Chief Judge, New York State Courts

Presentation of Awards

David P. Miranda, Esq.

Honorees

Kristie Cinelli

Byrgen Finkelman, Esq.

Seth R. Leech

Terrence M. McGuinness, Esq.

Lisa Mills, Esq.

Louis W. Pierro, Esq.

Patrick G. Radel, Esq.

Regina Treffiletti, Esq.

Michelle Wildgrube, Esq.

A Word of Thanks

As we celebrate the fifth Anniversary of National Pro Bono Week, the New York State Bar Association is pleased to recognize the generous contributions made by members of the Capital District legal community in furtherance of access to justice. Launched in 2009 by the American Bar Association, National Pro Bono Week affords the Association an opportunity to raise awareness about the ever-growing unmet legal needs of vulnerable persons and to encourage more attorneys to volunteer to help meet some of their diverse needs. The Association is especially proud of the work done by our Department of Pro Bono Affairs and its collaborative relationship with the following not-for-profit organizations and programs on an array of projects designed to recruit and encourage more members of the profession to do the public good by doing pro bono.

Albany County Bar Association

Albany Law School

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY

Office of the Fourth Judicial District Administrative Judge

Office of the Third Judicial District Administrative Judge

Prisoners' Legal Services of NY

The Legal Project



Kristie Cinelli

*Paralegal
Albany, New York*

Nominator: Lillian Moy, Esq.

*Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
Albany, New York*

Kristie Cinelli was the driving force behind the development and success of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York's (LASNNY) Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program. From 2007 until the end of 2013, as PAI Director, she developed, implemented and oversaw the programs which are currently in operation today, always with an eye toward best serving as many clients as possible with compassion and professionalism.

Ms. Cinelli established and fostered long-standing relationships with LASNNY's pro bono attorneys, which was absolutely vital for the success of the program. In addition, her relationships with LASNNY's community partners allowed for trainings throughout the years for new and seasoned pro bono attorneys, in addition to collaborations on outreach events and new programs. These community partners include the Albany County Bar Association, The Legal Project, Prisoners' Legal Services, New York State Bar Association, and Albany Law School. Not to be overlooked are the relationships she established with the clients of PAI. Clients felt at ease with Ms. Cinelli, which is the highest compliment, particularly since many of the clients turned to PAI as their last resort when faced with life-altering challenges.

Although Ms. Cinelli is no longer the PAI Director, she remains supportive of the mission and purpose of PAI and LASNNY as a whole. The programs that she launched, ranging from pro se divorce clinics, to unemployment insurance benefits clinics and referrals to private attorneys, are still going strong. Countless numbers of clients will continue to receive legal assistance that they otherwise would have been unable to access thanks to Ms. Cinelli's tireless work and effort.



Byrgen Finkelman, Esq.

Solo Practitioner

Slingerlands, New York

Nominator: Michelle Slight, Esq.

Director, PAI Program

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Albany, New York

Byrgen Finkelman received her J.D. in 1985 from the University of Texas School of Law after attending both the University of Texas School of Law and Cornell Law School. She was admitted to practice in New York State in 1986.

Ms. Finkelman practiced law in Binghamton, New York, with the firm of Aswad & Ingraham for five years and then took a 20+ year hiatus from practice to raise her children.

She currently has a solo practice in Slingerlands, New York focusing on name changes for transgender individuals across New York State who reside outside the metropolitan NYC area and on other legal problems/discrimination faced by transgender individuals. Ms. Finkelman is a member of Affirming Transgender Rights, a transgender advocacy group that works for transgender equality through outreach, education, and political activism. The group was instrumental in the unanimous passage of an anti-discrimination law, on June 10, 2013, which protects transgender people in Albany County.

Ms. Finkelman has been an invaluable resource for the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. On a pro bono basis, Ms. Finkelman represents individuals with transgender name changes, by collaborating with In Our Own Voices, an organization dedicated to addressing the many needs of the LGBT community. She brings in and represents pro bono clients outside of this collaboration as well. With this representation, Ms. Finkelman goes above and beyond and involves law students, making them an integral part of the process. In this way, Ms. Finkelman both affords clients with life altering representation, and provides law students with hands-on legal experience.



Terrence M. McGuinness, Esq.

*Levene Gouldin & Thompson
Binghamton, New York*

Nominator: Samantha Howell, Esq.

*Director of Pro Bono & Outreach
Prisoners' Legal Services of New York
Albany, New York*

Terrence M. McGuinness is an attorney with the firm of Levene Gouldin & Thompson in Binghamton, New York. He is a graduate of SUNY Oswego, *cum laude*, Binghamton University, and the University at Buffalo Law School. Mr. McGuinness is a member of the Broome County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. His areas of practice include Matrimonial and Family Law, Guardianships, Trusts & Estates, Labor Law, and Real Estate.

Mr. McGuinness stepped in and took over the pro bono representation of a prisoner after a colleague handling the pro bono case was unable to continue. The case was referred to the firm by Prisoners' Legal Services of New York. The pro bono client wanted to challenge a paternity acknowledgment which he signed as a minor, while in custody. Mr. McGuinness was ultimately successful; helping to ensure that there was one less obstacle facing this client upon his release.



Seth R. Leech, Esq.

Partner

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna

Albany, New York

Nominator: Jawad Shaikh, 3L

Albany Law School

Albany, New York

Jawad Shaikh, Albany Law School student Project Director of the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), commented that, *"Since its inception, as the supervising attorney, Mr. Leech has been a vital part of the IRAP pro bono project with his expertise in the field and tenacious work ethic."*

The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project provides comprehensive legal representation to refugees seeking resettlement. The IRAP is divided into teams, which consists of a supervising attorney who supervises two or three law students. The teams work with refugee families to navigate incredibly opaque refugee admissions systems. Some of the IRAP's past work includes assisting families that were targeted because of their help translating for the United States military; helping individuals who were targeted because of their sexual orientation; as well as working with countless other individuals and families, whose lives were in danger for unspecified reasons and who desperately needed passage into a safe new country.

Mr. Leech has been a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) since 1996. With that organization, he has served as a liaison of the Naturalization Committee and co-chairman of the Asylum Committee for AILA's South Florida Chapter. More recently, he served as the Treasurer of AILA's Upstate New York chapter. Mr. Leech has been a member of the Board of the Upstate Hispanic Chamber of Commerce since October 2010 and previously served on the Board, including a two-year term as President, of Catholic Charities of Albany/Hispanic Outreach Services. Mr. Leech regularly presents on immigration related topics before local colleges and universities; governmental entities; public and private research institutions; and a number of community organizations. Fluent in English and Spanish, Mr. Leech is a regular contributor to several regional Spanish language publications.

Mr. Leech is a partner with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna and is a member of the Firm's Immigration and International Trade and Business Practice Groups. His primary practice area is immigration law involving employment-based immigrant and nonimmigrant petitions, labor certification, waivers, family-based immigration and asylum. Mr. Leech has developed particular expertise as it relates to the immigration needs of engineers, scientists, researchers, and university personnel. In addition to his immigration work with the Firm, Mr. Leech is an adjunct Professor of Immigration Law at the Albany Law School of Union University.



Lisa Mills, Esq.

Partner

Fitzsimmons & Mills

Valatie, New York

Nominator: Michelle Slight, Esq.

Director, PAI Program

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern, New York

Albany, New York

Lisa Mills was admitted to practice in 1999. She is a partner at Fitzsimmons & Mills, located in Valatie, New York. Her primary areas of practice are Family and Matrimonial Law.

Throughout her time as an attorney in private practice, Ms. Mills has committed herself to aiding those less fortunate with their legal problems. She has been an active volunteer with The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York since 2007. During one of her first years volunteering at LASNNY, she spent fifty hours with a single client for a matrimonial matter, which is well beyond the “usual” amount of time that pro bono attorneys devote to an individual case. In 2011, Ms. Mills began conducting the pro se divorce clinic for clients in Columbia and Greene counties who otherwise would be unable to receive assistance in obtaining a divorce. In addition to teaching LASNNY’s pro se divorce clinic, Ms. Mills serves on LASNNY’s Private Attorney Involvement Program’s Advisory Committee, which oversees and consults with the PAI program staff in order to advise on new ideas and concerns for the program. She strives to improve the PAI program and remains willing to assist in any way that she can to expand the reach of pro bono services.

That, Ms. Mills’ volunteers with both LASNNY and The Legal Project is truly indicative of her mission to reach as many clients as possible in a pro bono capacity.



Louis W. Pierro, Esq.

Partner

The Pierro Law Group

Latham, New York

Nominator: Erica Nicole “Nic” Rangel, Esq., MPA

Post-Graduate Pro Bono Fellow

Albany Law School’s Pro Bono Program

Albany, New York

Twenty-years ago, Louis Pierro helped Albany Law School create and host the first Senior Citizens’ Law Day; a project he continues to be involved in to this day. Three years ago he helped the law student led Veterans Rights Project develop Veterans’ Law Day, and has volunteered at each law day program since then. Law Day programs bring vital know your rights information to the public and provide residents of the tri-cities the opportunity to sign-up for a brief, one-on-one legal advice and counseling sessions with a knowledgeable legal practitioner and a law student intern. Last year, Mr. Pierro’s law firm underwrote the costs of the newly created Special Needs Planning Law Day.

Mr. Pierro is the founder and principal of Pierro Law Group. Besides generously donating his time and talent to mentoring law students, he encourages the lawyers at his firm to volunteer at pro bono clinics and year-round veterans’ legal assistance initiatives. A graduate of Lehigh University and Albany Law School, Mr. Pierro is also an active member of the New York State Bar Association, having chaired the Elder Law Section; the Estate Planning Committee and the Committee on Taxation of the Trusts and Estates Law Section.



Patrick G. Radel, Esq.

Member

Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore

Utica, New York

Nominator: Samantha Howell, Esq.

Director of Pro Bono & Outreach

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

Albany, New York

Patrick G. Radel is a member of the law firm of Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore in Utica, New York. He received his law degree *summa cum laude* from the University at Buffalo Law School, where he was the Executive Editor of the Buffalo Law Review and recipient of the Max Koren Award, the law school's highest academic honor.

From 2002 to 2004, Mr. Radel served as a confidential law clerk to the Honorable William M. Skretny, United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. In 2008, Mr. Radel received the Nicholas S. Priore Advocacy and Professionalism Award from the Central New York and Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar Associations.

Mr. Radel is the Past President of the Central New York Bankruptcy Bar Association and a member of the New York State Bar Association, Oneida County Bar Association, and Council of Parent Attorney and Advocates. He lives in New Hartford, New York, with his wife, Mary Snyder Radel, Esq., and their three sons.

Over the last year, Mr. Radel has performed over forty hours of pro bono service, representing an indigent inmate in filing a writ of habeas corpus and appealing the denial of the writ. Mr. Radel dove head-first into the case and represented his client zealously and with determination.



Regina Treffiletti, Esq.

Retired

Bethlehem, New York

Nominator: Beth Diebel, Esq.

Acting District Executive

Third Judicial District

Castleton, New York

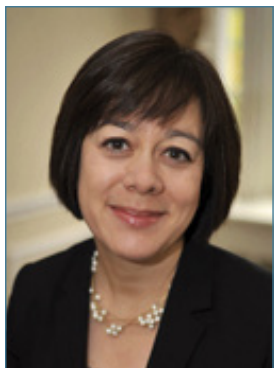
Regina Treffiletti has been a guiding force in the efforts by the Third Judicial District to support pro bono efforts and general legal information for the public in the Capital District Region. Those involved in organizations which provide pro bono services in the Capital District call her a good friend and a dedicated, hardworking colleague when it comes to promoting pro bono services.

In her capacity as a Court Attorney Referee for the Third Judicial District from 2004 through the summer of 2014, indeed throughout her entire legal career, Ms. Treffiletti developed many relationships, both personal and professional with people from an array of professions/agencies. She maintained these relationships throughout her career, which helped her be so influential and encouraging when it came to pro bono and recruiting efforts. From organizing and supporting the first Pro Bono Expo in 2007 to actively collaborating with members of the Capital Region Pro Bono Committee in the successful launch of the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration in the Capital District, Ms. Treffiletti has always been a stalwart supporter of pro bono and raising community awareness about the free legal services available to residents of the tri-cities.

Ms. Treffiletti has been an active member of the Capital Region Pro Bono Committee, a coalition of the Albany County Bar Association, Albany Law School, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Prisoners' Legal Services, The Legal Project and the New York State Bar Association. In this capacity, she served at the lead planner for the first Community Law Day event in the Capital Region. Community Law Day was institutionalized and now takes place twice a year to ensure that information about available free legal services reaches those most in need. Thanks to Ms. Treffiletti, the Pro Bono Committee was able to obtain permission from the City of Albany to sponsor a legal information table at the popular Tulip Festival which is held annually in Washington Park.

In addition, Ms. Treffiletti worked with the Honorable George B. Ceresia, then Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District, and the Pro Bono Committee members, to organize a breakfast for Managing Partners of local firms to promote pro bono services. This tradition has been continued by the Honorable Vito C. Caruso, Administrative Judge of the Fourth Judicial District hosting a breakfast in the spring, and the Honorable Thomas A. Breslin, Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District, who will host a breakfast in the fall.

Ms. Treffiletti graduated from Albany Law School and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1989. Among other positions, she served as law clerk to the Honorable Thomas Keegan for 15 years. Thereafter, she became a Court Attorney Referee for the Third Judicial District. Ms. Treffiletti retired from that position this summer; but her commitment to pro bono continues and she remains a valued member of the Capital Region Pro Bono Committee.



Michelle Wildgrube, Esq.

Partner

Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube

Niskayuna, New York

Nominator: Susan S. Pattenaude, Esq.

Senior Attorney/ Director of Pro Bono Services

The Legal Project

Albany, New York

Michelle Wildgrube is a partner with the law firm of Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube, in Niskayuna, New York. Her practice concentrates in the areas of estate planning and administration, corporate and business law, and real estate. Ms. Wildgrube holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Rutgers College and a Juris Doctor from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law.

Ms. Wildgrube has been involved with The Legal Project for more than 11 years as a volunteer and board member. She volunteers in the Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance Program (AHAA); lectures to first-time home buyers at Better Neighborhoods Inc.; trains attorneys to handle pro-bono real estate closings for AHAA; handles pro bono closings for first-time home buyers; mentors other attorneys participating in AHAA program; and helped develop the new Wills Program which assists low income individuals with wills, health care proxy and other end of life legal issues. One of Ms. Wildgrube's clients at a recent clinic wrote in her evaluation, *"Every part of the program was a smooth process. My initial call was handled quickly and I was referred to a wonderful lawyer. Michelle was easy to work with and answered every one of my questions... and I had a lot! She treated me with respect and I'm so grateful!"*

Ms. Wildgrube also helps mentor and educate The Legal Project's staff attorneys, law student interns and other pro bono attorneys; sharing her expertise and experience in ways that truly connect with younger attorneys. She has developed true expertise and is often called upon to share her experience through avenues such as the New York State Bar Association and the Office of Court Administration.

Ms. Wildgrube joined the board of The Legal Project in 2004 and it was clear that she was a natural leader and had the interest and desire to do more. Just after she joined the Board, The Legal Project suffered a significant funding loss and was at the precipice of financial crisis. Rather than run from an organization that posed huge challenges, Ms. Wildgrube rolled up her sleeves and helped get the organization through this terrible time. She quickly stepped up to become Secretary from 2005-2007, then Vice-President until 2009 when she was elected President. Although her two year term was set to expire in 2011, the Board asked her to stay on as President for at least one more year to maintain stability during a time of organizational change at The Legal Project. Ms. Wildgrube generously agreed to do so, even though the time commitment was significant in addition to her pro bono activities with the organization. Even with the additional, and most important, commitment of being a dedicated Mom to two young daughters, Ms. Wildgrube is always there for The Legal Project. She truly believes that helping The Legal Project provide equal access to justice for women, domestic violence victims, the working poor and other underserved populations in need. This access makes this community a safer, better place and she is willing to put her personal time, energy and expertise into helping The Legal Project meet its mission.

Ms. Wildgrube has energized The Legal Project's board and provided great leadership during her tenure and in strategic planning activities in the past six months—helping to turn the board into a truly active and engaged group of professionals who care deeply about the organization and equal justice in the community. Ms. Wildgrube is a consummate ambassador for The Legal Project's program and is adept at forming and maintaining relationships with community partners, funders, staff and clients. Ms. Wildgrube treats everyone with great respect and consideration. Spend five minutes with her and you immediately want to know more about The Legal Project. Her leadership, energy, commitment, expertise and generosity with her time and resources have made her a spectacular Board member and President; and an even more spectacular member of our community.

Pro Bono Opportunities in the Capital Region

Albany County Bar Association

The ACBA Pro Bono Department continues to grow and add programs. The ACBA has a strong commitment to advocacy work, helping people navigate a broad spectrum of problems which may seem unresolvable if tackled on their own. With the assistance of our member attorneys, who accept pro bono case referrals, the ACBA is able to provide representation in most civil matters to eligible clients.

The ACBA has a very active Pro Se Divorce Program helping clients, one on one, to obtain divorces, child and/or spousal support and custody when appropriate. Also, mediations have been arranged with volunteer attorneys who are experienced in the field of mediation.

The ACBA is an active partner in the Albany County Family Court Help Center and staffs the Albany County Help Desk with law students and pro bono volunteer attorneys.

The ACBA co-sponsors the Attorney for the Day Program representing tenants in city court.

By working closely with rehabilitation and reentry programs in the community, the ACBA is able to assist people with addressing credit reports, criminal history records (RAP sheets), Certificates of Relief from Disabilities and other civil legal matters that may interfere with their recovery and/or re-entry into society.

In partnership with the Albany County Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center a program has been developed that assists victims of domestic violence, specifically in cases where such violence is not between intimate partners.

The ACBA's Pro Bono Department is working towards a "Wills, Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy" program, and is currently researching how the ACBA can deliver additional services to the community. The Pro Bono Department is planning to hire another attorney in the near future to help in the implementation of these new initiatives. For more information, please contact:

Eileen Guinan

Pro Bono Coordinator

Albany County Bar Association

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518-445-7691 x 13

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www.albanycountybar.org

Albany Law School

The Pro Bono Program at Albany Law School was created in 2012, to assist law students in meeting the new pro bono requirements for admission to the New York bar; develop pro bono projects; provide supervision, training, management, and support to students doing pro bono work; and facilitate pro bono opportunities for attorneys interested in working with law students.

The program establishes and maintains pro bono opportunities for students by partnering with legal service providers, attorneys, non-profit organizations, law school faculty, and private bar associations to match students with attorneys doing pro bono work. In its first year, the Pro Bono Program grew from fewer than 10 active projects to more than 25 projects, and now serves more than 2,000 individuals, including seniors, veterans, immigrants and refugees, children and families, each year.

Formed out of a student organization, this program maintains a commitment to developing service learning projects that are student led and community based. The pro bono program is part of a multi-faceted approach to improving access to justice for those who need it most. In an era of decreasing resources and increasing community needs, the program is playing a crucial role in creating innovative pro bono partnerships and in bridging the gap between legal needs and resources. Albany Law's Pro Bono Program allows students to gain practical legal experience, helping them to be practice ready at graduation by using their skills and knowledge to serve real legal needs in the community.

The program hosts four law day events each year on campus, during which students work side by side with volunteer attorneys assisting in document preparation, workshop presentations, community resource fairs, and direct brief or extended legal services clinics. During other projects, students complete their service at the organization's office, or as part of a brief advice clinic, by conducting case reviews, intake or informational interviews, or screening letters from inmates. Other projects allow students to do their service from the convenience of their own home, including live chats with website users, conducting legal research, or drafting memoranda.

Organizations, attorneys, faculty, or other eligible supervisors may submit proposals to the law school's pro bono fellow to engage students in new short term or long term pro bono service learning projects. For some, working with students who can do much of the front end work, such as legal research or document preparation, allows supervisors to complete more pro bono service than they could without the student volunteers. Once a project is approved by the fellow, students are recruited for the positions available in the project according to the needs of the attorney supervisor.

The program provides in-depth training to student volunteers, including professional responsibility and ethical obligations to clients/supervising attorneys; and cultural competency and inclusiveness programming. The program also offers guidance for supervising attorneys, including best practices for supervising law students as volunteers.

Attorneys interested in working with a law student as part of your pro bono service are encouraged to contact the Albany Law School Pro Bono Program at 518-445-2304. You can email Nic Rangel at erang@albanylaw.edu until Oct. 31, or visit the Albany Law School website to learn more: www.albanylaw.edu.

Erica Nicole “Nic” Rangel, Esq., M.P.A.

Post-Graduate Pro Bono Fellow

Albany Law School’s Pro Bono Program

80 New Scotland Avenue Albany, NY 12208-3494

Tel: (518) 445-2304 | Fax: (518) 445-3333

Email: erang@albanylaw.edu

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

The Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program through the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) offers several opportunities for volunteer attorneys. These opportunities range from advice and brief service to extended representation, and involve many different areas of law.

Through general referrals, volunteers offer legal assistance to clients regarding civil legal issues including housing, unemployment insurance benefits, SSI/SSD, bankruptcy and matrimonial cases where there has been a history of domestic violence. Additional programs include Attorney for the Day (co-sponsored by the Albany County and the New York State Bar Associations, where volunteers offer free legal advice to litigants at their first appearance on a housing matter in Albany City Court), Pro Se Divorce Clinics (private attorneys instruct clients on how to complete their own divorce papers), the VAMC Legal Project (volunteers meet with veterans and provide advice on a civil legal issue), Wills for Heroes (volunteers prepare and execute wills and/or other advance directives for veterans), the Unemployment Insurance Benefits Clinic (volunteers meet with a client and provide him/her with advice regarding their unemployment matter), and others. Legal Aid provides 1.0 CLE credit for every 2.0 hours of pro bono work performed, free CLE trainings, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. Legal Aid also screens clients to ensure that they are the neediest in our community. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.lasnny.org/RTF1.cfm?pagename=Volunteer>, or contact Michele Sleight, Esq.

Michele Sleight, Esq.

Director, PAI Program

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

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Prisoners' Legal Services of New York's Pro Bono Partnership Program

The Pro Bono Partnership Program (PBPP) of Prisoners' Legal Services of New York is pleased to celebrate National Pro Bono Week with the New York State Bar Association and Capital Region Pro Bono Committee! Through the PBPP, attorneys represent indigent New Yorkers, incarcerated in state correctional facilities, in a variety of civil legal matters, including:

- challenging disciplinary hearings that result in the imposition of long term solitary confinement – a placement that has been deemed by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture, to be per se torture if in excess of 15 days; and
- advocating for individuals to receive adequate medical or mental health care; and
- challenging miscalculations in the computation of time to be served; and
- advocating for programming, education and vocational training to improve the chances of successful reintegration upon release.

The PRPP attorneys also provide assistance in translating legal educational materials for clients.

The PBPP provides training materials and CLEs for volunteers, as well as “back-up” support. As an accredited CLE provider, volunteers can receive credit for attending trainings and for doing pro bono work. We strive to provide quality legal representation to our clients, and quality assistance to our volunteers!

PLS also invites you to two upcoming events. On October 22nd, PLS will celebrate its fourth National Pro Bono Week Event, with a performance entitled, Within Prison Walls: Reflections on 100 Years of Incarceration in New York State, to be held at the Albany Barn on October 22nd (6-9pm). Then, on October 24th, PLS is celebrating its 40th anniversary, starting as a law clinic in 1974, at Albany Law School.

Tickets for Within Prison Walls are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door) and can be purchased online (www.plsny.org/celebrate-national-pro-bono-week-with-pls/) or by sending a check to PLS, 41 State Street, Suite M112, Albany, NY 12207. Tickets for the 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner are \$125 and can be purchased by remitting payment to PLS. For more information, please visit www.plsny.org. To volunteer with PLS, please send your résumé to showell@plsny.org.

Samantha Howell, Esq.

Director of Pro Bono & Outreach

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

41 State Street, Suite M112, Albany, New York 12207

518-445-6050 x1101 | showell@plsny.org

The Legal Project

The Legal Project is a private, not-for-profit agency that believes that all people, regardless of income, gender, disability, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity should have access to legal services. The Legal Project is unique in that it addresses the civil legal needs of the working poor, those who “on paper” make too much money to qualify for programs for the indigent, but who do not earn enough to pay the fees of private attorneys.

The Legal Project encourages and welcomes attorneys interested in doing pro bono work. The time commitment varies depending on the program, as does the training which may be required. CLE’s can be earned for work provided through many of our programs, as well as for trainings. Malpractice coverage is provided, and office space is available for you to meet with your clients on request. There is always someone available to answer your questions and to assist you in helping us meet the legal needs of our community.

Legal Representation Programs:

- ◆ The Domestic Violence Legal Connection provides pro bono civil legal representation in family court matters.
- ◆ Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance (AHAA) provides free and low cost legal representation to low income home purchasers.
- ◆ Bankruptcy & Credit Program provides free legal consults and free and low cost legal representation to individuals and families struggling with financial problems and debt.
- ◆ Wills Project provides assistance in preparing Wills, Living Wills, health-care Proxies, Guardianship, and guidance with other end of life issues.
- ◆ Immigration Legal Network provides free, private, and confidential legal consultations with pro bono attorneys and educational programs on various immigration issues.

Legal Advice and Information Programs:

- ◆ The Legal Clinic Program offers free, private, and confidential consultations with experienced attorneys at local community agencies.
- ◆ Legal Clinics for Veterans provides free consultations to veterans and active military personnel regarding civil legal issues that impact their reintegration into the community.
- ◆ Small Business Legal Network provides free legal consultations with attorneys and educational programs on small business legal issues for those interested in starting or expanding a small business.

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- ◆ Legally Speaking Workshops offer free, custom designed education programs to community groups and organizations about many legal topics.
 - ◆ Uncontested Divorce Clinics provide assistance with the preparation and filing of the necessary documents to low income individuals who are representing themselves in a divorce matter.

For more information, please contact:

Susan S. Pattenaude, Esq.

Director of Pro Bono Services

The Legal Project

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The New York State Bar Association

The New York State Bar Association has established a Pro Bono Appeals Program that provides pro bono representation for selected appeals to the Appellate Division, Third and Fourth Judicial Departments. This unique program is designed to help persons of modest means who are taking, or responding to, appeals regarding fundamental civil legal issues, such as family stability, personal safety or subsistence income. Note that the Program does not provide representation for criminal matters, is not administered by the court system, and gives preference to applicants who do not qualify for assigned counsel and cases that could have a broad impact.

The Program's home page (<http://www.nysba.org/probonoappeals/>) offers further, detailed information about the program territory, financial and subject matter criteria, and the three program partners: the NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, The Legal Project, and The Rural Law Center of New York. We invite trial attorneys and nonprofit agencies to assist clients in completing applications and identifying meritorious appeal issues.

Experienced appellate attorneys are encouraged to volunteer with the Pro Bono Appeals Program by sending an e-mail with your resume to info@probonoappeals.org.

Upcoming Pro Bono CLE Training Opportunities

October 16, 2014

Landlord Tenant Training

4:00pm - 7:00pm

New York State Bar Association

Great Hall

Albany, NY

Sponsors: Albany County Bar Association, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, and the New York State Bar Association.

Attendees will earn 3.5 CLE credits while learning the basics of landlord tenant law and will then be able to provide free legal assistance to low-income tenants facing eviction at their first appearance in Albany City Court through the Attorney for the Day program. CLE credits are free for any attorneys willing to participate in AFTD. For more information, contact Eileen Guinan at eguinan@albanycountybar.com, or Michele Sleight at msleight@lasnny.org.

November 7, 2014

Fulton & Montgomery County Matrimonial Training

8:45am - 1:20pm

Holiday Inn

Johnstown, NY

Sponsors: Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York and the Rural Law Center.

Attendees will earn 4.0 CLE credits while learning the basics and best practices of matrimonial actions in these two counties, and will have the chance to speak with the judges who preside over these cases. CLE credits are free for any attorneys willing to take on a pro bono case from Legal Aid. For more information, contact Michele Sleight at msleight@lasnny.org.

December 5, 2015

Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Family Court

8:30am – 1:20pm

The Teresian House

Albany, NY

Sponsors: The Legal Project, Empire Justice Center, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, and Albany Law School Domestic Violence Clinic.

Attendees will earn 6 ½ CLE credits while learning about the dynamics of domestic violence and how to effectively represent victims in Family Court. Since space is limited, preference will be given to attorneys who are willing to accept at least one pro bono case from The Legal Project and The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. CLE credits are free for any attorneys willing to take on a pro bono case from both The Legal Project and Legal Aid. For more information, contact Michele Sleight at msleight@lasnny.org.



**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
PRO BONO AFFAIRS**

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