

2012 Empire State Counsel® Photo Gallery

A. Thomas Levin

72 Pro Bono Hours



I perform pro bono because pro bono service is the obligation of every attorney, and a fair exchange for the privilege granted to each of us to practice our profession.

A civil society cannot function without everyone having access to the legal system, regardless of means or ability to pay. It is in the interests of all attorneys to make sure that such access is available to all.

Claire P. Gutekunst

55 Pro Bono Hours



Providing pro bono services is both personally and professionally rewarding. It lets me help people who need legal assistance to provide for their basic needs. It

also allows me to work with and learn from talented attorneys in new and challenging areas of law.

Jamie R. Dyce

250 Pro Bono Hours



I believe that every attorney has an obligation to perform pro bono services because we each possess a unique and special skill set which enables us to help others

in ways that we simply would not be able to without a law degree. The obligation, however, should not be

viewed as a burden. It is truly an honor to be able to provide assistance to those in need, and I view my ability to practice law as a gift that I choose to share.

Marilyn (Moriah) Tebor Shaw

95 Pro Bono Hours



I serve the public through pro bono legal work because I view my law license as a sacred trust given to me by the State of New York to practice law on behalf of

citizens of this State. As lawyers, we are in a unique position to help those less fortunate than ourselves navigate the vicissitudes of life as they relate to their legal affairs. I believe it is our obligation to do so whether or not people have the means to pay us for our services.

Most recently in 2012, I have been privileged to help through the efforts of the NYSBA to try and ease the hardship of New Yorkers downstate who have been affected by Superstorm Sandy. At times of natural disaster like this, it is so rewarding to be able to offer some assistance to people, who through no fault of their own find themselves in dire circumstances. This is what lawyers can do and, in my opinion, should do for the public. As Marian Wright Edelman said at my daughter's graduation from high school a number of years ago, "Community service is the rent we pay for living." That statement has remained with me as a great summation in words of what my parents, Lea and Leonard Tebor, and my legal mentor, J. Coyne O'Brien, Esq. of Rochester showed me with their deeds. I am grateful that my profession allows me to follow in all of their footsteps.

Reshma Shah

100+ Pro Bono Hours



I partake Pro Bono work because the legal field is so difficult to navigate especially for those who do not speak English as their first language, are

elderly or just do not have the means to hire counsel. In order for the justice system to work, everyone needs fair access to help. Attorneys who do pro bono work help create a more balanced world.

Major Guneet Chaudhary

70 Pro Bono Hours



I am an Ex-Cavalry officer of the Indian Army and an attorney. Being an Ex-Serviceman, I provide free legal services to former army personnel in civil matters

who cannot afford an attorney. I also do volunteer legal work on behalf of Indian women who have been divorced by their husbands or who have been sexually assaulted.

I consider it my moral duty to provide pro bono service to people who cannot afford the high cost of litigation in India.

Victor Stephen Ramirez*126 Pro Bono Hours*

I am very honored to be recognized by my peers for the assistance I provide to our community. I am happy knowing that the people I help see me as a resource in the

community. Not only are we trying to help the community navigate the court system, but we are directly helping displaced families, abused women and children, non-English speakers and underprivileged individuals take action legally through our court system. I am proud to be a part of GE where we are encouraged to volunteer and make an impact to our local community.

Brandon T. Morris*68+ Pro Bono Hours*

My pro bono work focuses principally on helping nonprofit organizations apply for and maintain tax exempt status. It is rewarding to assist these fledgling organiza-

tions in taking a major step achieving their charitable, educational, or other goals.

Michael J. Sciotti*125 Pro Bono Hours*

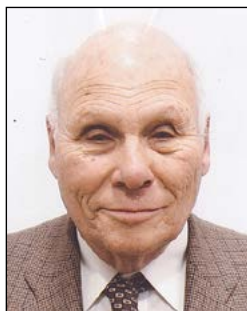
It is simply the right thing to do!

Roberta Ann Arnone*50 Pro Bono Hours*

In these financially trying times, it is important to remember the working poor and middle class who routinely suffer so many expenses.

Anything we can

do as lawyers to assist our neighbors and those generally ineligible for free services is helping to restore the promise of America.

Morton L. Gitter*550 Pro Bono Hours*

Having retired after almost fifty years in practice, I continue as a volunteer attorney for the past five years with The Legal Aid Society, City Bar Justice Center, Queens

Volunteer Lawyers Project and other groups. It gives me immense personal satisfaction to help those who cannot afford a lawyer to deal with their personal problems such as credit card debt and related consumer matters, personal bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosures. I feel privileged in being able to make this contribution which is beneficial to the less fortunate and also enhances our profession.

Timothy W. Hoover*277 Pro Bono Hours*

There is a continuing, vast unmet need for basic civil legal services for struggling New Yorkers. Every lawyer should do his or her part, and try to do more.

Robert Selya*52 Pro Bono Hours*

Attorney Jimmy Lathrop* is the Director of the Brooklyn Bar Association's Foreclosure Intervention project. He recruited me and has mentored me since I volun-

teered for the Project in 2010. I am deeply grateful for his guidance.

Rachel Ehrlich Albanese*125 Pro Bono Hours*

Quite simply, I like to perform pro bono service because it is rewarding for me on a personal level and for my clients. I like to be able to assist people who need help but can't afford it.

Peter J. Glennon*57 Pro Bono Hours*

Performing pro bono work is not only a professional responsibility, but it is a personal responsibility and a civic duty. Without each other there is no community.

Raymond LaHoud*340 Pro Bono Hours*

Serving the community through pro bono assistance is a bedrock principle when one is an attorney. My service is not only because I want to do it,

but, ethically, I, like all other attorneys am required to help others.

Emily Zhao
65+ Pro Bono Hours



I take the opportunity of providing pro bono assistance to persons in need of legal services who cannot afford them as not only an obligation,

but also as a privilege of being a licensed attorney.

Howard M. Adelsberg
74 Pro Bono Hours



Giving back to your fellow citizens who are in need is a civic duty. Society is better served when we help our neighbors. We should always strive to help those who

need assistance but are without means to pay for the help they need.

Andy I. Chen
115 Pro Bono Hours



I do pro bono work at a homeless shelter for military veterans. Many of the veterans feel that their legal problems are insurmountable; but in reality, for a

lawyer their problems are easily resolved. By helping them I gain experience and a veteran who has served our county can have a better life. I see it as a win-win situation.

Julian C. Glatt
420 Pro Bono Hours

As with many divorce attorneys the understanding that the system despite competent judges - is broken lingers; and the need to do something to restore faith in the system at an individual level is particularly acute. Doing pro bono gives mean the change to bring meaning to a client who is experiencing a difficult life.

J. Mabelle Sweeting
50 Pro Bono Hours



"Justice, justice, shall thou pursue." The value of pro bono service is priceless. It gives a voice to the voiceless and access to our court system to those who might

otherwise be denied justice. Providing pro bono services allows the sign above the doorway of justice to read: "All may enter!"

Gary Elias
75 Pro Bono Hours



I donate my pro bono hours drafting Advanced Directives and Wills for military personnel being deployed overseas. I also perform this service for local

military families and retirees at Fort Hamilton Army base in Brooklyn. If a person can put themselves in harm's way, the least I can do is provide legal services.

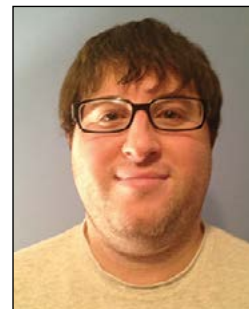
Kelechi Ogbuzuo
60+ Pro Bono Hours



I have a strong sense of justice and I believe that people in the pursuit of justice, should have the opportunity to be heard and should have informed legal

counsel. Volunteering is my way of contributing to my community, plus the experience is well worth the time.

Louis Brett Goldman
51 Pro Bono Hours



I have taken part in the New York State Unified Court's Access to Justice Program because I recognize that many New Yorkers do not have the resources to afford the

legal help that we all deserve. By volunteering in Housing Court help centers throughout New York, I have the opportunity to help pro se litigants understand their legal problems. More importantly, it gives the people a chance to talk with someone, especially someone that will hear their trials and tribulations, and help them figure out the best solution for their dilemmas.