



2014 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL® PHOTO GALLERY

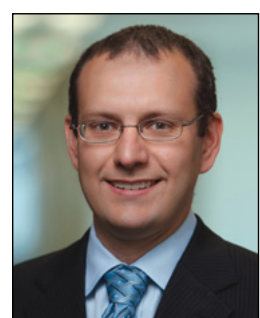
The Empire State Counsel® Program proudly salutes NYSBA members who, during the calendar year, generously donated 50 hours or more of free legal assistance either through direct legal representation of a low-income individual; or by donating free legal services to an organization whose services are designed 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 2006, more than 10,000 Association members have earned this honorary designation. Collectively our members have provided over 1.5 million hours of free legal services!

Our members' generosity ensures 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 2014 Empire State Counsel® Honorees.



Raul Emilio Martinez, Esq. – 60 Pro Bono Hours

It only takes desire to help the legally underserved. The necessary expertise quickly follows. Thanks to Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County for helping me to help others.



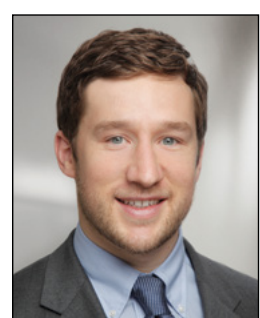
Patrick A. Sheldon, Esq. – 134.5 Pro Bono Hours

Representing indigent persons on direct appeal of their convictions to the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals



Ryan A. Lema, Esq. – 187.1 Pro Bono Hours

In 2014 I worked pro bono on two appeals, one a criminal from a state-court drug conviction, and the other a civil appeal in a federal Section 1983 prisoner's rights case.



Spencer L. Durland, Esq. – 612.7 Pro Bono Hours

My pro bono work this year has consisted of prisoners' rights, and immigration in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.



Larry P. Schiffer, Esq. – 81.3 Pro Bono Hours

My pro bono service in 2014 is divided between my service as a volunteer mediator for the Southern District of New York's Mediation Program, working on voter protection issues for the Election Protection Coalition through the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; including acting as a call center co-coordinator for the 2014 general election and acting as pro bono litigation counsel for a nonprofit that provides shelter to battered and abused women; and other services for the community in a contract dispute with a contractor who failed to perform its contract and kept the nonprofit's down payment. Providing a variety of pro bono service in different capacities and on different issues allows me to expand my experience and my ability to provide services to others.



Dr. Paul Jay Edelson, Esq. – 219 Pro Bono Hours

I'm fortunate to have the time, inclination and resources enabling me to contribute pro bono legal services on Long Island through the Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee. It is challenging work, but the dividends are enormous. I applaud the NYSBA for exploring how the criteria for pro bono can be broadened so that many of my colleagues can also contribute.



Adam W. Silverman, Esq. – 134 Pro Bono Hours

I represent victims of domestic violence in family law matters in order to provide guidance and assistance to those who may otherwise lack the support necessary to navigate the judicial system during what is very often a deeply traumatic point in their lives.



Marc A. Lieberstein, Esq. – 135 Pro Bono Hours

Pro bono work is something I find very rewarding, as it is an opportunity to provide legal representation to someone who ordinarily would not have counsel. And this provides hope, and hopefully more equality where it may not have ever existed.



Ira L. Herman, Esq. – 101 Pro Bono Hours

Tikkun Olam (translated roughly as- improving the world) is an important element of my Jewish upbringing. Since I earn my living as a lawyer, it feels right to use what I know "to advance the ball".



Ryan Saasto, Esq. – 56 Pro Bono Hours

I am privileged and honored to provide legal advice services to the non-profit and social enterprise communities; and help further their excellent services to society.



Joshua E. Dubs, Esq. – 64.63 Pro Bono Hours

There is no higher calling for people of learned professions than doing good for those who need it most, but can afford it least. Our justice system was never designed to be something which only the most wealthy and powerful could avail themselves. By doing pro bono legal work, I feel like I am helping further our fundamental American ideals. We, as individual lawyers, may not be able to change the world, but if we help someone who might otherwise not be able to afford our services, we can change the world for that client.

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Richard Mancino, Esq. – 100 Pro Bono Hours

Working on and supervising pro bono cases has become an integral part of my litigation practice. Not only are the cases challenging, they give me and my colleagues an opportunity to promote positive change in deserving individuals' lives, in the law and in society. For me, there's nothing more rewarding than persuading a three-judge federal court to redraw New York's congressional districts based not on partisan self-dealing and incumbent protection, but on the basis of non-partisan, neutrally applied principles, or in mentoring associates who are working to obtain political asylum for families who risked everything to come to our country to escape religious or political persecution.



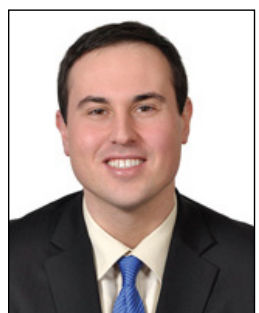
Lisa A. Coppola, Esq. – 140 Pro Bono Hours

This past year I had the honor of working with a family who was seeking asylum in the United States. The parents had made profound sacrifices for the safety of their young children. When they reported to the U.S. border, they learned that without proving entitlement to asylee status, they would be returned to the persecuting nation. My role was to advocate for them in Immigration Court, so my years of litigating in other courts and contexts became a springboard for successfully serving this well-deserving family and for engaging in meaningful work.



Linda Du, Esq. – 83 Pro Bono Hours

It is particularly rewarding as I can help people who would otherwise have no access to legal assistance



Justin L. Salkin, Esq. – 75 Pro Bono Hours

I perform pro bono legal services because, from a young age, I have always believed that it is important to lend a hand to those who need help, when in a position to provide that help. Many members of my and other communities are in need of legal representation, and should not be denied the help they need because they cannot afford it.

Being an attorney puts me in a position where I can make my community better, and help individuals with a problem, solve that problem. Nothing makes a person feel better than a good deed, and the comfort of knowing that their concerns are being cared for. I have the ability to make my community a better place by providing pro bono legal services, and providing that help to others brings me tremendous satisfaction.



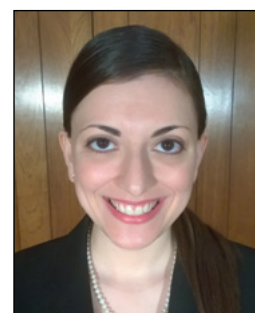
Eric T. Glynn, Esq. – 55 Pro Bono Hours

I think we all chose to become lawyers because we want to help people. Pro bono work provides the opportunity to do that in the purest sense, to help those who truly need it, while using and developing our legal knowledge and talents. I cannot think of a single reason not to do it.



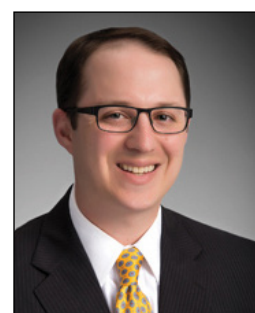
Karim A. Abdulla, Esq. – 73.7 Pro Bono Hours

Why I do pro bono? It's a great opportunity to give back to the community and do good for others who might not ordinarily be able to afford representation.



Amy G. Davis, Esq. – 225 Pro Bono Hours

I contribute to the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program by providing information to pro se litigants involved in landlord-tenant actions. Pro bono work gives me the opportunity to dive in and gain experience with meaningful, socially beneficial legal work early in my career - plus it creates good karma!



Corey A. Auerbach, Esq. – 98.6 Pro Bono Hours

Pro bono is my way to "pay it forward" for all those who have helped me in times of need.



Jonathan S. Press, Esq. – 117 Pro Bono Hours

Almost everyone in the US is just a job loss, major medical issue, or a major storm away from facing possible foreclosure and/or bankruptcy. I feel blessed that I am able to provide assistance to hard working people who are facing tough times due to no fault of their own. For those who need assistance and cannot afford counsel pro bono legal help provides the assistance and peace of mind they otherwise would not have. That is why I enthusiastically volunteer for The Nassau County Bar Association at their Superstorm Sandy/Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention/Bankruptcy clinics twice a month and frequently serve as the "Attorney-of-the-Day" at mandatory foreclosure settlement conferences.