



Barbaruolo Law Firm, P.C.

Barry A. Gold Law Firm Leadership Award

In 1999, Paula Barbaruolo started a law firm that in part practiced in the area of bankruptcy and consumer debt relief. She regularly attended Legal Project clinics and quickly realized that there was a need for bankruptcy assistance for lower income households, a need that was much greater than the then-current pro bono programs could fulfill. When Paula approached both The Legal Project and the Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar Association, the match fit perfectly and the Bankruptcy and Credit Program was born.

The members of the Barbaruolo Law Firm have been assisting clients of The Legal Project ever since the Bankruptcy and Credit Program was implemented. The firm sees many clients who consult with them who would benefit from a pro bono filing. They then refer those clients to The Legal Project for income qualification and then the firm will assist them pro bono. Often, the firm assists clients who have filed pro se but are not able to complete the filing or are at risk of losing assets because they did not benefit from the assistance of counsel. The Barbaruolo Law Firm will intercede and undertake the remainder of the proceeding to obtain the debtor his or her discharge and protect whatever assets the debtors do have. They feel that it is important to “pay it forward” because they are in a position where they are able to do so. Justin Myers, an associate at the Barbaruolo Law Firm is an integral part of the firm being able to assist pro bono clients. Justin regularly attends the bankruptcy clinics and is available in between dates for clients who may have an immediate need.

The Barbaruolo Law Firm also donates to such causes as the Susan Komen Race for the Cure, Hospice, the Empire Project and other important causes. It is important to the Barbaruolo Law Firm that individuals who need bankruptcy relief be treated with dignity and compassion.