



The Legal Project

Pro Bono Corner

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director

By now, many of you have heard that we were recently notified that we did not receive renewal of our Legal Assistance to Victims grant through the Office on Violence Against Women. This is our largest grant – the one that has allowed us to do custody, visitation, divorces, name changes, and the other comprehensive services we provide to victims of domestic violence; and which funds all of our sexual assault services. Loss of this funding is a tremendous blow.

However, we are doing all that we can to come up with some creative ways to continue our mission and still serve the hundreds of victims that come to us for assistance. In short, we still have a lot to do, and we intend to keep doing it as well as we can, for as long as we can. We know that the CDWBA was there to start our program a decade ago, and that we can count on you to help us now that we have to find alternative sources of support. There ARE concrete things you can do to help.

1) Use the donation envelopes that came in your last CDWBA newsletter or at our secure website at www.legalproject.org. Any and all donations will be gratefully accepted, large or small--whatever you can afford will be a great help to us.

2) Attend our Pro Bono Awards reception and Silent Auction on October 20, at the State Museum. Bring your checkbook and bid early and often on the fabulous items our board and staff have collected from generous individuals and businesses that support The Legal Project. You can respond to the invitation that many of you will receive or get your tickets with your credit card through our secure website at www.legalproject.org, just click on the link for the 10th Anniversary Pro Bono Reception.

3) Talk to anyone you know who might have resources to help support us in our work. Could your firm take on payment of one of our fixed expenses for a year – our Lexis account, our McKinney’s updates, etc.? Do you know a person or a business that has an interest in supporting legal services for victims? We’re happy to talk with any and all folks who have ideas for helping us out.

4) Please, please don’t let people erroneously believe that we are closing our doors. We are working extremely hard to find alternative funding, and our ability to do that depends on people believing that we are still a viable, vital organization that can continue with the mission we have

undertaken. We need people out there saying that for us, because it’s the truth.

We appreciate the support and assistance of each of you. CDWBA members have consistently been some of our strongest supporters – both in money and in time. We need you now more than ever, and hope you will all assist in getting the message out – The Legal Project has tremendous challenges to face, but we face those challenges with all the resolve and energy we bring to all our work. We cannot, and *will not*, leave victims without options. With your help, we will continue providing effective legal information, advice and representation in the Capital District.

Please Plan to Attend The Legal Project’s 10th Anniversary Pro Bono Reception on Thursday, October 20th at the NYS Museum Terrace Gallery in support of our work, and the great efforts of our awardees and all of our volunteers

2005 Awardees

Jo Katz, Esq.

Brigid Nolan Memorial Award for Pro Bono Service to Victims of Domestic Violence

This award is presented to an attorney who, through his or her dedication and pro bono service with The Legal Project, has helped a victim of domestic violence to begin life anew.

Margaret Tabak, Esq.

Stanley A. Rosen Memorial Award for Service to Victims of Domestic Violence

This award is presented to an attorney who has demonstrated an ability to litigate a matter on behalf of a victim of domestic violence and shows the utmost professionalism and integrity in their dealings with the Court, litigants and attorneys, which are qualities exemplified by Stanley Rosen during his lifetime.

Joann Sternheimer, Esq.

The Kurt Clobridge Award for Pro Bono Service

This award is presented “to an attorney who embodies the spirit of *pro bono* volunteerism and selflessness that Kurt Clobridge, an active participant in The Legal Project’s programs, exemplified during his life”.

Gordon, Siegel Law Firm, LLP

The Barry A. Gold Law Firm Leadership Award

This award recognizes a law firm that has made an important difference during the past year through the generous pro bono work of its partners and associates.

WNYT

The Ed Swyer Corporate Leadership Award

This award is presented in recognition of a corporation or philanthropist whose generous ability to serve the community.

The Capital District Community Loan Fund

The Field of Dreams Award

This award is presented to an individual or organization whose inspiration and efforts resulted in the development of a new or expanded Legal Project program to meet the needs of lower income or other underserved people.

Changes to our Bankruptcy and Credit Program

Due to changes in the federal bankruptcy laws, the program that we co-sponsor with the Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar will need to go on hiatus for at least several months until the details of the implications of the new law become known. We'll keep you posted about the status of that important program.

THANKS FOR TAKING CASES IN JULY AND AUGUST!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL CONNECTION

Sandra Allen
Sheila Berman
Julie Cabou
Michael Friedman
Galina German
Amy Knussman
David Levy
Michelle Pagan
Camille Siano Enders (2)
Margaret Tabak

AHAA

Peter Gumaer
Mark Juda
Kelly Malloy-Pogoda
Ann Sharpe
Kevin Wheatley

Legal Clinic Volunteers

Mechanicville

Casey Copps, Coordinator
Anne Reynolds Copps (2)

Summer Clinic at The Legal Project

Janet Axelrod
Jonathan Bernstein
David Levy
John McBride
Ron Orlando

Bankruptcy

Tony Arcodia	Matt Mann
Paula Barbaruoulo	John McBride
Kiernan Broderick	Peter McHugh
James Doern	Chris Nenninger
Marc Ehrlich	Michael O'Connor
Stewart Finton	Laura Silva
Gayle Hartz	Bryan Simmerman
Brian Kremer	Richard Weiskopf
Alan LeCours	Richard Weisz

Small Business Legal Network

Nancy DeLain James Marotta

Legally Speaking

Pam Robich

In Memorium

The staff of The Legal Project sends our sincere sympathies to the family of Bryan Simmerman, one of our dedicated volunteers in our Bankruptcy and Credit Program, who passed away suddenly on September 9, 2005 and to Judge Leslie Stein, who lost her beloved husband, Richard Wadlegger on September 24, 2005. Our hearts go out to them in their time of loss.