

Through the Pro Bono Center, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation maintains its role as a vital member of the *pro bono* legal services sector in Allegheny County. The Pro Bono Center is instrumental in supporting low-income residents in Allegheny County through its grant program, its work with ACBA committees and sections, its participation in the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, and its community outreach programs.



**PRO BONO
CENTER**
Allegheny County Bar Foundation

The Pro Bono Center comprises a network of organizations and programs—now numbering 29 in all—that match eligible low-income clients with volunteer attorneys.

The Center works with service providers such as Neighborhood Legal Services Association, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, and the YWCA's Legal Resources for Women to help them recruit, train, and recognize attorneys who provide free legal services to disadvantaged residents and small nonprofit organizations in Allegheny County. The Center refers potential volunteers to these agencies, assists them with training sessions, and recognizes volunteer attorneys for their *pro bono* efforts.

On average, more than 10,000 low-income clients are served annually by volunteer attorneys through Pro Bono Center programs. Since the Pro Bono Coordinator position was established in 2005, more than 40,000 qualified individuals have received free legal services through programs supported by the foundation. The Divorce Law Project, managed by a part-time foundation attorney, alone averages 138 phone calls per month and in 2008 filed 164 divorce petitions and obtained 121 divorces for low-income individuals. No other legal services provider in Allegheny County offers free representation in uncontested divorce cases.

In recognition of the dedication of Pro Bono Center volunteers, the Pro Bono Coordinator worked with the Public Service Committee to hold a volunteer appreciation event in May 2008. Nearly 100 attorneys, paralegals, law students, judges, and others were treated to breakfast at the Rivers Club and a free, one-hour CLE on ethical issues relating to legal services to the poor.

In further recognition of its volunteers, the Pro Bono Center launched a new feature in the *Lawyers Journal* that showcases a pro bono volunteer and a member organization or project. The "Pro Bono Spotlight" will appear approximately every two months, and will often show attorneys doing the unexpected, like taking on pro bono cases that are completely outside of their regular practice area. It will also help readers to learn more about the variety of volunteer opportunities that are available. The Center also continues to publish monthly the Pro Bono e-newsletter.

Relationships with the local judiciary continue to be strong, and in 2008 the Pro Bono Coordinator worked with the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on a program to provide pro bono representation to low-income borrowers in mortgage foreclosure conciliations. During the course of working on this project, the Coordinator testified before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee about the proposed conciliation program in Allegheny County. Along with then President Judge Joseph James, County Sheriff William Mullen, and others, the Coordinator spoke to the committee about the bar foundation and the ways that it establishes programs to recruit and train volunteer lawyers. This effort culminated in the signing by Judge James of an administrative order in December 2008, establishing a pilot project to divert foreclosure cases to conciliation, where low-income borrowers may be represented by lawyers from the Pro Bono Center and Neighborhood Legal Services Association.

The Pro Bono Center worked closely with the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership to help launch two new community legal clinics—one assisting veterans with the legal problems that have been impediments to employment and financial stability, and the other serving residents of the Millvale community north of Pittsburgh, an area that has been hard hit by flooding and economic downturn.

The Partnership added a new member in 2008—the law firm of Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, PC—and continues its efforts to develop new *Signature Projects* to help the poor.

The legal problems of the poor are often rooted in their financial situations, and this year the ACBA's Public Service Committee undertook several projects that served some of the non-legal needs of low-income residents in our communities. The Pro Bono Center worked with the Committee to help low-income working families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit using the I-CAN™ E-File program; to talk to Pittsburgh middle-school students on Law Day about what lawyers do; to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to elementary school students; and to solicit donations of suits for Project Employ at Bethlehem Haven. The Pro Bono Coordinator will continue to work closely with this committee to develop both public service and pro bono projects.

The Pro Bono Center will continue to work to identify areas of need for the most vulnerable members of our communities, and create new programs to meet those needs. At the same time, the Center will grow its corps of volunteers and continue to support them with training, recognition, and other essential services.

PRO BONO CENTER STAFF:

Pro Bono Coordinator: Barbara Griffin, Esq.

Divorce Law Project Staff Attorney: Juli Marhefka, Esq.

Pro Bono Assistant: Erin Rhodes

JUVENILE COURT PROJECT

The Juvenile Court Project was established in 1982 with two part-time independent contract attorneys representing parents in dependency proceedings in Juvenile Court. Over the past 26 years, the Juvenile Court Project has evolved into a public interest firm with sixteen attorneys and seven support staff who provide representation to approximately 1,200 disadvantaged clients with 2,500 cases annually in Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights proceedings as well as representation at the appellate court level. Funding for this program is provided in full through a contract with Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Children Youth and Families.

JUVENILE COURT PROJECT STAFF:

Director

Eleanor Grainy, Esq.

Managing Attorneys:

Sharon Biasca, Esq.

Catherine Volponi, Esq.

Parent Advocate Attorneys:

James Ball, Esq.

Frank Bogatay, Esq.

Jeffrey Eisenberg, Esq.

Kiersten Frankowski, Esq.

Nicole Gardiner, Esq.

John Hayes, Esq.

Gina Klein, Esq.

Kathryn Miehle, Esq.

Barbara Atkin Ramsey, Esq.

Melinda Sala, Esq.

Ray Sanchas, Esq.

Robert Scott, Esq.

David Sheldon, Esq.

Benjamin Zuckerman, Esq.

Parental Support Advocates:

DeLisa Coleman

Deborah Fisher

Betty Tallon

Legal Assistant:

Carolyn Fisher

Paralegal:

Sharon Ciechalski

IT Technician:

Philip T. Savino

Receptionist:

Debra Santmyer

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ACBA & ACBF PROJECTS:

ADOPTION COMMITTEE BIRTHPARENT CONSULTATION PROJECT

Provides legal consultations to low-income birthparents contemplating, or involved in, private and private agency adoptions.

DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT

Primarily provides representation and advice to victims of disasters.

DIVORCE LAW PROJECT

Represents plaintiffs in simple, no-fault divorce actions and conducts outreach clinics at community services agencies.

FEDERAL COURT SECTION PRISONERS

CIVIL RIGHTS PRO BONO PROJECT

Represents prisoners who have filed non-frivolous civil rights claims in federal court. Ranges from one-day mediations to more protracted civil rights litigation.

FLOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Provides legal advice, referrals, and/or representation to individuals who are impacted by flooding in Allegheny County.

INDIGENT BIRTHPARENT ATTORNEY PROJECT

Represents indigent birthparents in termination of parental rights proceedings in Orphans' Court.

MILITARY PERSONNEL PRO BONO PROJECT

Offers legal advice, referrals, and/or representation to military personnel and their immediate family members who are Allegheny County residents who have been called to active duty as a result of war and/or military action and veterans and their families.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LEGAL ADVICE CALL-IN DAY

Four-hour call-in program at KDKA providing legal advice to military and veterans. Managed by the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

PITTSBURGH PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP

Group of law firms and corporate and governmental legal departments who develop signature pro bono projects.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID OF PITTSBURGH

Provides free legal consultations on non-criminal matters including but not limited to family law, protection from abuse orders, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant issues, and elder law.

EDUCATION LAW CENTER

Provides legal advocacy to families who have public education-related problems. Services include individual counseling and technical support, legal representation in select individual cases and cases involving key issues affecting large numbers of students, and advocating for administrative and legislative reforms at the local, state and national levels.

GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS

Provides advice and representation to emerging and small arts organizations and low-income individual artists in the following areas: incorporation, by-laws and 501(c)(3) status filings, entertainment contracts, immigration law, trademark, copyright and other IP issues.

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICE OF PITTSBURGH

Offers family and immigration law assistance to low-income refugees and immigrants in Pittsburgh.

KIDSVOICE

Represents abused, neglected and at-risk children in Juvenile Court dependency proceedings.

LAWLINKS, A PROGRAM OF THE BAYER CENTER FOR

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT AT ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY

Provides legal services, education and advice to small, grassroots non-profit organizations.

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA—ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Provides legal consultations and limited representation on non-criminal matters to individuals receiving mental-health services.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Provides advice and representation in the following areas: employment and unemployment compensation law, family law, tenant's rights, debt collection and bankruptcy law, protection from abuse, SSI and social security disability, litigation defense, estates with limited assets, and adult guardianships. Special programs: Debt Advice Clinic; Family Law Clinic; PFA; Older & Wiser.

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

Provides counseling and referral services at clinics in the North Hills regarding family, consumer, and landlord/tenant issues.

PITTSBURGH AIDS TASK FORCE LEGAL COMMITTEE

Advises, refers and/or represents people living with AIDS and HIV infection, their family and friends in legal matters including: wills; living wills; powers of attorney; SSI/SSDI; guardianship; and issues involving civil rights, employment discrimination, medical treatment discrimination, confidentiality issues and medical insurance.

PRO SE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Assists eligible unrepresented applicants in the preparation of motions to be presented to a Family Court Judge.

UPTOWN LEGAL CLINIC

Offers pro bono legal services at Bethlehem Haven to indigent and low-income individuals in matters pertaining to family law, housing, debtor-creditor, and benefits issues.

YWCA'S LEGAL RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

Advises, refers and represents women in a wide variety of legal matters; services include seminars and individual counseling.



VOLUNTEER WITH THE PRO BONO CENTER

The Pro Bono Center encourages attorneys, paralegals and law students to volunteer their services to the Center's organizations and projects that provide direct legal services to the poor. Volunteer benefits include:

- Malpractice insurance coverage provided by Bar Foundation for referred cases
- Eligibility for reduced-fee and free CLE programs
- Opportunities to gain courtroom experience
- Exposure to different areas of the law
- Access to training mentoring and practice manuals
- Opportunities to network with attorneys and other professionals
- Access to free on-line research through LexisNexis

In 1990, the Public Service Committee created the Pro Bono Achievement Awards as a means to recognize outstanding pro bono contributions. The annual awards have expanded from one individual award to 11 categories for which nominations are accepted. The nomination process is launched in June of every year. The Public Service Committee holds a special awards selection meeting in August to review all nominations and select the annual recipients. Nominations are taken from members of the Bar, Pro Bono Center projects and member organizations, Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership members, and the Public Service Committee. The awards are presented at the annual Fellows Reception & Dinner in the fall. At times, the Public Service Committee and bar foundation may designate special awards to recognize unique pro bono services. These awards have included the Career Achievement Award for Pro Bono Services, Special Recognition Awards, and the ACBF Presidential Merit Award.

In February 2002, the Board of Trustees of the ACBF adopted a resolution to rename the annual individual Pro Bono Award to the Jane F. Hepting Individual Pro Bono Award. The award recognizes her dedication to the delivery of pro bono legal services through her 26 years as an NLSA attorney, the many and varied pro bono programs that she helped create and implement, her recruitment initiatives and exceptional training programs to attract and prepare volunteer attorneys, her exceptional expenditures of time and energy on behalf of pro bono legal services, and her outstanding commitment and dedication to public service, the legal profession, and the community.



2007 ACBA Pro Bono Achievement Award Winners were honored at the Eleventh Annual Fellows Dinner on September 24, 2008.

2007 ACBA PRO BONO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

LORRAINE M. BITTNER PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEY AWARD

Evalynn B. Welling, Esq.

For more than a quarter of a century, Evalynn Welling has worked tirelessly and passionately as a legal advocate for disadvantaged individuals and families in Allegheny County. As an attorney with the Community Justice Project since 2001, Welling advocates statewide for low-income individuals in the areas of education and employment law. She has filed class action suits in both federal and state court resulting in decisions guaranteeing constitutional protections of due process to low-income tenants, water service customers, parents of children placed in the juvenile court system, homeowners with tax problems, and former union members affected by increases in health insurance premiums, among others. In the past year, Welling continued to work on a statewide class-action suit challenging Pennsylvania's funding formula for distributing state special education dollars. She has also been involved in wage-payment lawsuits on behalf of immigrant workers. Welling began her legal service career at Neighborhood Legal Services Association and also served as a staff attorney at the Education Law Project. Her compassion for those to whom she has devoted her life's work, her persistence in using her legal expertise to assist them even in the face of great odds, and her great humility in doing so make her an exemplar of the ideals of this award.

JANE F. HEPTING INDIVIDUAL PRO BONO AWARD

Efrem M. Grail, Esq.

Efrem Grail is a partner at Reed Smith LLP and is the former chair of the firm's pro bono committee. His leadership and commitment to providing legal services to the poor has brought Reed Smith to the forefront of law firm pro bono in Allegheny County. Working with the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, Grail organized his firm's response to the needs of two particular low-income populations: the elderly and children whose parents are involved in complex custody litigation. In both cases, Reed Smith took the lead in developing new Signature Projects to serve these two client populations. Grail is a member of the board of directors of Neighborhood Legal Services Association and serves as the chair of its Lawyer Support Committee. In that capacity he has worked to expand the participation of Pittsburgh law firms in the "Lawyers on Loan" program. His board participation has also included serving as a member of the client grievance hearing panels. Grail works with NLSA to provide representation in litigation defense cases, often assigning the cases to new lawyers in order to provide them the opportunity for courtroom experience and expose them to the low-income community's critical need for pro bono legal assistance. He has also taken on his own cases, working in the past year on behalf of a defendant facing capital murder charges and a juvenile immigrant seeking legal status in order to stay in Pittsburgh for medical care. Grail thus leads by example, illustrating that pro bono volunteerism can be shared by both new and experienced attorneys at his firm.

LAW FIRM PRO BONO AWARDS

Jones Day

Recognizing the inequity that might occur when a pro se litigant faces an opposing party in an alternative dispute resolution process, Jones Day attorneys offered a solution designed to assist both the litigants and the court. Working with judges from the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, attorneys from Jones Day developed a program by which indigent pro se litigants may elect to have pro bono representation for the limited purpose of the court's ADR proceeding. In addition to developing all of the forms and notices for the program, the firm agreed to coordinate the process, acting as a clearinghouse for clients by either taking on the representation themselves or finding other volunteer attorneys to handle the matter. The participation of a lawyer on behalf of a pro se litigant makes the ADR process run more smoothly for both the parties and the court. In the past year, Jones Day attorneys have also taken on civil rights cases through the Federal Court Prisoners Civil Rights Pro Bono Project operated by the ACBA and the federal court staff. Additionally, working with members of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, the firm recently launched the Veterans Project, a general legal clinic serving veterans in transitional housing programs at the Veterans Place on Washington Boulevard. In addition to providing valuable services to the poor, Jones Day recognizes the benefits that come to the firm from pro bono in the form of training and professional development of its attorneys.

Reed Smith, LLP

Reed Smith has played a significant role in the success of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership through its participation in projects that advance equal access to justice and assist the neediest members of our communities. Working with the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Reed Smith attorneys are appointed to act as volunteer guardians ad litem in certain child custody cases where the court identifies a need for an attorney to represent the child's best interests. The firm continues to spearhead the Wills Project, which prepares wills and other vital documents for senior citizens in partnership with the legal departments at GlaxoSmithKline and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Reed Smith has also participated in the "Lawyers on Loan" program, pursuant to which two attorneys from the firm served as staff attorneys at Neighborhood Legal Services Association while continuing to draw their salaries. The firm has also directly assisted NLSA through its willingness to take litigation defense referrals and to mentor the new associates assigned to those cases as they proceed through the litigation. Reed Smith has demonstrated that dedication to advancing equal access to justice both through volunteerism and financial support is now firmly engrained in its culture.

LAW STUDENT PRO BONO AWARD

Casey L. Slotter

Casey Slotter won this award as a third-year law student at Duquesne University. Her introduction to legal services to the poor came as a participant in the law school's Civil and Family Law Clinic, where she did her practicum work at Neighborhood Legal Services Association. Slotter continued to volunteer at NLSA even after she completed her clinic requirements, and thus earned an award from Duquesne University given to students with significant public service project hours. In addition to her work at NLSA, Slotter has volunteered at the University of Pittsburgh Law School's Economic and Community Development Clinic, performing research on an Allegheny County Blight Reduction Manual. She has also been involved in the Sideyard Sale Program through the City of Pittsburgh, purchasing the lot beside her house to use for urban farming or community gardens. She is a student whose concern for less fortunate individuals has been carried into action through her work in the law and in the community.

PARALEGAL PRO BONO AWARD

Bobbi Cramer

Bobbi Cramer is a paralegal with the law firm of K&L Gates and for the past several years has been an active and reliable volunteer at Neighborhood Legal Services Association's Family Law Clinic. Despite a full schedule at the firm, Cramer finds time to participate in a variety of programs that provide legal assistance and public service to poor and disadvantaged members of our community. She works with women in family crisis situations through the YWCA's Legal Resources for Women, assisting in the Second Tuesday Divorce Program, which provides a comprehensive seminar for women going through or contemplating divorce. She prepares meals for women at the Bethlehem Haven Shelter and has volunteered to mentor a student at Oliver High School under Duquesne University's CLAAY Program. She is an active member of the Community Relations Committee at the Rivers Club. Cramer's understanding and empathy for the needs of individuals facing hardship and emotional distress are apparent in her volunteer work.

NEW PRO BONO INITIATIVE AWARD

Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh

Although Christian Legal Aid (CLA) has been advising and counseling low-income Pittsburgh residents since 2004, in the past year the organization has grown and expanded its services by adding a full-time legal director and dozens of new volunteer attorneys, law students, and paralegals. It operates weekly general legal clinics at two handicapped-accessible locations—one at Allegheny Center Alliance Church on the North Side and one at Church of the Ascension in Oakland—serving clients on a wide variety of legal issues facing the poor. CLA plans to continue its expansion so that it can fulfill the many requests for assistance it receives, which in some months have totaled close to 200. This growth will include the enhancement of the volunteer attorney program, the development of an externship for law students, and the expansion of its ability to provide full representation of clients. CLA's growing presence in the pro bono legal services community will enhance the availability of equal justice for needy residents of Allegheny County.

CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT PRO BONO AWARD

CBS Corporation

CBS Corporation's small legal department is doing big things in pro bono. Upon joining the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership as a member in 2007, CBS became an immediate and energetic supporter of the Partnership's goals. Three of the department's four lawyers are volunteers for the Custody Conciliation Pro Bono Project. One takes referrals of Protection from Abuse cases from Neighborhood Legal Services Association, and another serves on the executive committee of a program for non-violent female offenders. CBS attorneys sit on the administrative board of the Partnership and are active in the process of identifying ways to meet the legal needs of low-income individuals and expanding the participation of volunteer attorneys. The work of the attorneys in the CBS Corporation's legal department illustrates how even a few individuals can work together to make a meaningful contribution to providing equal access to justice.

The Public Service Committee has made several significant contributions to the Allegheny County Bar Association this year in meeting the Committee's goal of promoting and encouraging members of the Bar to provide pro bono services to, and to sponsor public service projects for, the residents of Allegheny County.

A pro bono volunteer recognition event was hosted by the Committee in May 2008 at a breakfast at the Rivers Club. This event, chaired by Kelly Williams, was organized to thank and recognize pro bono volunteers. Over 100 attorneys, paralegals, law students, judges and other members of the Bar were provided a free one-hour ethics CLE program presented by a panel of attorneys and judges, who discussed ethical issues relating to pro bono legal services. Pro bono volunteers also received a Pro Bono Center pin, special pen and candy bar.

In August 2008, the Committee organized and held the second annual "Backpack Project" to help students attending Grandview Elementary School in the Allentown neighborhood and children in temporary housing at two area homeless shelters. This effort was spearheaded by David Mitchell and other members of the Committee who raised funds for the purchase of the school supplies. The Committee was able to provide the school and homeless shelters with 450 backpacks filled with supplies. In November, the Committee approved implementation of the project in 2009.

In response to ACBA President Jay Blechman's "Impact 250" campaign calling for ACBA Committees and Sections to launch public service projects in an effort to reach at least 250 people in Allegheny County, Committee members Dana Levine and Nicole Scialabba launched the "Calling All Suits" campaign. Well over 250 pieces of clothing, including business suits and accessories, were donated by attorneys and collected by members of the Committee to benefit Project Employ, a professional development course offered at Bethlehem Haven.

The Committee honored the recipients of the 2007 ACBA Pro Bono Achievement Awards at the Eleventh Annual Fellows Dinner held at LeMont Restaurant in September 2008. Eight attorneys, law firms, legal departments, paralegals, law students and organizations were acknowledged for their outstanding commitment to providing pro bono services. The Committee also nominated three attorneys, Benjamin Orsatti, Joshua Hall and Eileen Yacknin for the 2008 Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Award for their outstanding involvement and dedication to pro bono services. The awards were presented to these recipients at the PBA Pro Bono Conference in May 2008.

The Committee implemented two programs in 2008 which resulted from a brainstorming session earlier in the year: the I-CAN!™ E-File program and the Law Day program. The I-CAN!™ E-File program, spearheaded by Nicole Scialabba, provided low-income individuals and families with tax preparation services free-of-charge. Volunteers assisted individuals as they completed their own tax returns electronically. In addition, Nicole Scialabba, along with Dana Levine, coordinated the Committee's first Law Day event in May 2008 where a group of volunteer lawyers, along with Court of Common Pleas Judge Beth Lazarra, engaged over 300 middle-school students in a "Rule of Law" exercise which put students in the roles of lawyers and legislators. This event received national recognition in a Law Day program guide published by the American Bar Association.

The Committee continued to investigate several pro bono legal and public service opportunities, such as the Individualized Education Plan Project, and a project to provide legal services to immigrants. The Committee's plan is to continue to support the expansion of pro bono and public service efforts by volunteer attorneys.



Students take part in activities as part of the Public Service Committee's Law Day event on May 1, 2008.



Volunteers fill backpacks with supplies for the Public Service Committee's 2008 Backpack Program.



The Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership (PPBP) is a collaboration of law firms, corporate and governmental legal departments, legal service providers, law-related organizations, and the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. This year the PPBP continued to offer a unique avenue for a variety of groups to work together with one

goal in mind: increase legal services to those in our community who cannot afford an attorney. In 2008, the Partnership added a new member and new *Signature Projects*, and enhanced and expanded several existing projects.

The law firm of Dickey McCamie & Chilcote PC became the newest member and quickly launched a new legal clinic at the Millvale Wellness Center, a community medical clinic operated by the Sisters of St. Francis and serving the residents of Millvale, just north of Pittsburgh. In June, the Partnership helped to launch a new signature project serving veterans, staffed by volunteer attorneys from Jones Day, and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. The Partnership also expanded the Wills Project with a new participant and a new location: the legal staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection signed on to prepare wills at the Stephen Foster Community Center in the Lawrenceville neighborhood.

This year's annual breakfast of the PPBP provided one hour of free ethics CLE and featured a keynote address from Robert J. Cindrich, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of UPMC, who spoke eloquently about the importance and positive effects of attorney volunteerism. His remarks were followed by an interactive discussion between audience members and a panel of attorneys including Judge Kim Eaton, Supervising Judge of the Adult Family Division, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. The Partnership has several new initiatives in the planning stages, including a new site for the Wills Project, a medical-legal collaborative, and a project to meet the legal needs of the homeless. In the upcoming year, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation will continue to work with the Partnership on creating new ways to serve communities in need.

PPBP SIGNATURE PROJECTS:

Anti-Predatory Lending Clinic – Provides representation to individuals who have been victimized by unfair or illegal lending practices. Staffed by attorneys from U.S. Steel Corporation and Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP.

Child Custody Guardian Project - Provides attorneys to serve as guardians representing the best interests of at-risk children in high-conflict custody cases. Staffed by attorneys from Reed Smith, LLP.

Custody Conciliation Pro Bono Project - Limited representation of clients at family law custody conciliations. Staffed by Pro Bono Partnership member organizations. Managed by Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC.

McKees Rocks Clinic - General clinic held two times per month at Focus on Renewal in McKees Rocks. Staffed by attorneys from ALCOA, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, and Burns, White & Hickton.

Millvale Community Clinic* - General legal clinic held once a month at the Wellness Center of the Sisters of St. Francis in Millvale, Pennsylvania. Provides legal advice to low-income residents of the Millvale area on a variety of legal issues. Staffed by attorneys from Dickie McCamey & Chilcote, PC.

Reduced Fee Referral Assistance Project – Provides NLSA clients with subsidies for reduced-fee referrals to private attorneys in child custody trials. Funded by a grant from the Alcoa Foundation.

Veterans Legal Clinic* - General legal clinic held on the first Tuesday of every month at The Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard. Provides legal advice to veterans on a variety of legal issues, including obtaining benefits to which the veteran may be entitled. Staffed by attorneys from Jones Day and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP.

The Wills Project - Provides drafting of wills, living wills, and Healthcare Powers of Attorney for senior citizens who meet income-eligibility guidelines. Staffed by attorneys from Reed Smith, LLP, GlaxoSmithKline, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

**Launched in 2008*

PITTSBURGH PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS (2008)

Academy of Trial Lawyers

Alcoa Inc.

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney

Burns, White & Hickton, LLC

CBS

Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania

Cohen & Grigsby, PC

Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Equitable Resources

GlaxoSmithKline

H.J. Heinz Company

Houston Harbaugh, PC

Jones Day

K & L Gates, LLP

McGuireWoods, LLP

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP

Pennsylvania Department of

Environmental Protection

Pepper Hamilton, LLP

Pietragallo Gordon Alfano

Bosick & Raspanti, LLP

Pittsburgh Paralegal Association

PPG Industries, Inc.

Raphael Ramsden & Behers, PC

Reed Smith, LLP

Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP

Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP

Tucker Arensberg, PC

United States Steel Corporation

UPMC

Watkins Dulac & Roe, PC

White and Williams, LLP

ACBA CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PRO BONO SERVICES

Jules Lobel (2004)
James E. Mahood (2003)

ACBF PRESIDENTIAL MERIT AWARD

Kenneth Feinberg (2006)
The Honorable Lawrence W. Kaplan (2007)
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham (2004)

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Kenneth M. Argentieri (1998)
Burns White & Hickton (1997)
Barbara Kern (1996)
Laurie Mansell Reich (2005)
Robert J. Ridge (1998)
Kenneth Steinberg (1995)

INDIVIDUAL PRO BONO AWARDS[^]

Ann Morris Baker (2003)
Janice Barone (1991)
James Belliveau (1998)
Robert G. Boyle (2001)
William Buchko (1991)
Norma Chase (2000)
Joseph Chester (1998)
Joy Flowers Conti (1993)
Francis E. Corbett, II (2002)
Maria Greco Danaher (2002)
Sylvia Denys (2002)
Peter D. Eberhart (2000)
Karen Engro (1998)
Ronald Fischer (2004)
Andrew T. Flowers (2002)
C. Donald Gates, Jr. (2002)
Edward Gentry (1998)
Efrim M. Grail (2007)
Marcia Grimes (1998)
Heather S. Heidelbaugh (1989)
John H. Herman (2000)
David Herrera-Korman (1999)
Gary Hunt (2003)
Edward J. Kabala (2004)
Kathryn M. Kenyon (2000)
Joel Klein (1998)
Gary Marshall Lang (1999)
Alan Lefkowitz (2001)
Laura A. Maines (2005)
James M. Malley (1996)
Jerry McDewitt (1990)
W. Thomas McGough, Jr. (1994)
William Mendlow (1998)
Keith Mikush (1997)
David M. Moran (1999)
John R. Owen, III (1999)
David L. Pollack (1999)

Gretchen Roos (1998)
Melaine Shannon Rothey (2006)
Kenneth Steidl (2001)
Heidi Rai Stewart (2003)
Timothy Uhrich (2001)
Robert S. Whitehill (1998)
Joanne Ross Wilder (1999)
The Honorable Paul Zavarella (1992)

CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT PRO BONO AWARDS

Alcoa Inc. (1999/2004)
CBS Corporation (2007)
Chicago Title Insurance Company (2003)
Fidelity National Title (2003)
First American Title Insurance Company (2003)
LandAmerica Lawyers Title (2003)
PPG Industries, Inc. (1996)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (2005)
Stewart Service Center (2003)
USX Legal Department (2000)

GOVERNMENT PRO BONO AWARD

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (2000)

JUDICIAL PRO BONO AWARD

Adult Section Family Division
Pro Se Litigant Program (2003)
The Honorable Max Baer (1998)
The Honorable Kathleen R. Mulligan (1999)

ACBA LAW FIRM PRO BONO AWARDS

Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C. (2003)
Dickie McCarney & Chilcote, PC (1997/2004)
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC (1998/2006)
Jones Day (2007)
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP (2001)
Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck (1996/1999)
Moody, McElrath and Johnston (2002)
Nigro & Malley (2000)
Raphael Ramsden & Behers, PC (2005)
Reed Smith LLP (2005/2007)
Steidl & Steinberg (1998)
Thorp Reed & Armstrong (2002/2004)

ACBA LAW STUDENT PRO BONO AWARDS

Kelly Bartko (2002)
Eric Dee (1999)
Joshua F. Hall (2006)
Katy McKee (2005)
Robert J. Perkins (2003)
Jennifer Lynn Rellis (2004)
Nicole Scialabba (2005)
Casey L. Slotter (2007)
Jennifer A. Staley (2000)
Patrice Wade (2001)

LORRAINE M. BITTNER PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEY AWARD

Lorraine M. Bittner (2005)
Evalynn B. Welling (2007)
Eileen D. Yacknin (2006)

ACBA PRO BONO AWARD FOR NEW INITIATIVES

Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh (2007)
Immigration Asylum Project, Pittsburgh Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (2005)
McKees Rocks Community Clinic, Alcoa Inc. Corporate Legal Department and Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling, P.C. (2003)
Uptown Legal Clinic, F.J. Lucchino, Jr. / Deborah Kutzavitch (2004)
The Wills Project, GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, Reed Smith LLP (2006)

ACBA PARALEGAL PRO BONO AWARDS

Maureen L. Atkinson (2006)
Pamela J. Bailey (2000)
Beth Brandstetter (1998)
Bobbi Cramer (2007)
Rachel V. Klink (2006)
Deborah L. Kutzavitch (1996)
Judy E. Jackson (2005)
Susan Logan (2006)
Fay Luther (2002)
Laurie Mansell (1998)
Matthew Ometz (1999)
Lori A. Perrera (1997)
Sandi Tedesco (2004)
Maria Heidi Weber (2003)
Lynn Wyant (2001)
Peggy S. Zirckel (2006)

ACBA SECTION PRO BONO AWARD

Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section (1999)
Family Law Section (1998)

ACBA YOUNG LAWYER PRO BONO AWARD

Benjamin E. Orsatti (2006)

ACBA SPECIAL PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership (2006)

^{*}Includes ACBA Pro Bono Awards, ACBA Individual Attorney Awards, Jane F. Hepting Individual Pro Bono Awards, and Recognition for Pro Bono Services Certificate recipients

[^]Names and titles appear as they were when the award was given.

TO NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE

For more information about nominating an individual and/or group for their outstanding commitment to pro bono service, please contact Barbara Griffin at bgriffin@acba.org. Nominations for the 2008 Pro Bono Achievement Awards will be accepted through July 2009.

Names are listed as they have been provided by the Pro Bono Center agencies and programs. For confidentiality reasons, volunteer attorneys from the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force Legal Committee have not been published. Please contact Barbara Griffin at the foundation at 412-402-6677 or bgriffin@acba.org if your name has been misspelled or mistakenly omitted. Thank you for your efforts to support the worthwhile programs of the Pro Bono Center.

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 Regis W. Stafford
 Lisa M. Standish
 William L. Stang
 Neva Lee Stanger
 *Diane Stares
 Bernadette Staroschuck
 Kelli Staub
 Paul J. Staub
 Michael A. Steger
 Julie Frazee Steidl
 Kenneth Steidl
 John Michael Steidle
 Joshua Stein
 Arnold Y. Steinberg
 Kenneth M. Steinberg
 William L. Steiner
 John Stember
 Marc Lee Sternberger
 Jacqueline K. Stevens
 *Timothy R. Stevenson
 Heidi R. Stewart
 Sam Stoller
 Kristen M. Storms
 Jane Story
 Hayes C. Stover
 *Eric Stroud
 Scott T. Stroupe
 Brendan Stuhan
 Gregory T. Sturges
 Gail E. Suhr
 Mark R. Sullivan
 *Ashley Swanson
 *Deborah Swettenam
 Andrew G. Sykes
 LeeAnn Syme
 Gregory L. Taddonio
 Kimberly S. Tague
 Mark R. Tamalia
 Jenifer Tarasi
 Robert J. Tate
 Andrew D. Taylor
 *Melissa R. Taylor
 Stephanie Taylor
 Stephen J. Taylor
 David B. Teigman
 Ann Ten Eyck
 Vince Tennarelli
 Brienne S. Terri
 Gregory H. Teufel
 *Andrew Thalman
 Samuel H. Theiner

Mary Thinius
 Arun J. Thomas
 Zakarij Thomas
 *Brian Thompson
 Alexander W. Thomson
 *Holly Thurman
 *Beth M. Tibbott
 Arisa Tinaves
 M.J. Tindall
 Richard T. Ting
 Paul H. Titus
 Ilene S. Tobias
 Stephan K. Todd
 Amy Marie Tonti
 *Gary Topolosky
 Mary A. Traupman, CDP
 David K. Trautman
 Thomas Trempus
 Gary R. Truitt
 Robert Tucker
 Jaime S. Tuite
 Megan Turnbull
 Denise R. Turner
 Chaton Turner
 *James J. Turocy
 Megan L. Tymoczko-Korch
 Timothy G. Uhrich
 *Gregory Moran Unatin
 *John Unice
 *James Urban
 Thomas J. Vail
 James Valecko
 Laura Ann Valles
 Gary T. Vanasdale
 *Brandon Verdream
 *Sara Verti
 Brian C. Vertz
 Thomas Vesch
 Robert P. Vincler
 Jeff Vitek
 John Vogel
 John D. Wacławski, Jr.
 Nina Wadhwa
 Bobbi Jo Wagner
 *Shannon Wagner
 William D. Wall
 Craig M. Waller
 Marybeth Walsh
 Edward Walter
 Michel F. Ward
 *Adam Warhola
 Elizabeth Warner
 Marcia A. Watson
 Peter M. Watt-Morse
 Jordan Webster
 Richard Weibley
 Jesse I. Weidaw
 Melissa S. Weidaw
 Kenneth M. Weidaw
 Michael A. Weiss
 Michael S. Weiss
 Rosanna D. Weissert
 Robin S. Wertkin
 *Edward Wertman
 Allan J. Wertz
 Nicole Wetherton

Jeffrey J. Wetzel
 Elizabeth Weyant
 Lisa Marie Wezorek
 Scott J. Whitacre
 Robert B. White
 Keith Edward Whitson
 Jerry W. Wienand
 Bruce Lord Wilder
 Joanne Ross Wilder
 Deborah A. Williams
 Denise Williams
 M. Elizabeth Williams
 Robert Williams
 Tara L. Willke
 Elizabeth Windsor
 Barry Duane Wingard
 Angela R. Winslow
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 Lorina W. Wise
 Chad Wissinger
 Edward Atwater Witt
 Kenneth J. Witzel
 Bruce Wolf
 Christopher G. Wolfe
 Lisa M. Wolfe
 Michael Wright
 Shawn N. Wright
 Cher E. Wynkoop
 Dianna Calaboyias Wyrick
 Wesley Yang
 *Stephanie Yarbrough
 Julie R. Yarzabinski
 Cynthia J. Yializis
 George F. Young, III
 Penny E. Zacharias
 *Thomas Zahn
 Charlene A. Zeleznock
 Megan L. Zerega
 Judith H. Zernich
 Samuel F. Zets
 JoAnn F. Zidanic
 David Ziegler
 *David Zimmaro
 *Jennifer Zofcin
 Todd Thomas Zwickl

** Denotes new volunteers in 2008.*