

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL®

Seventeenth Annual Justice for All Luncheon

*Celebrating the Pro Bono Contributions
of the 2017 Empire State Counsel®*

New York Hilton Midtown
1335 Avenue of the Americas
Sutton Center, 2nd Floor

January 25, 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pro bono publico is at the very heart of the New York State Bar Association. Our stationery, website and publications all bear the quote: "Do the Public Good." It pervades our legislative priorities, when we fight for changes which will better the justice system, funding for the provision of civil legal services, and fully funded representation for criminal defendants and for all citizens who need assistance to receive basic needs. The Association also funds many programs which enable our members to provide legal services pro bono to those who need it most. Our Foundation funds over 100 legal service providers.

Our Rules of Professional Conduct encourage all lawyers to provide pro bono representation, and set 50 hours as an aspirational goal. While many of us have the best intentions to meet this aspiration, the lawyers we recognize and honor today have matched their intentions with action which not only meets, but often exceeds, this goal. In 2007, then-President Mark Alcott created the Empire State Counsel® Program, to recognize the extraordinary work these lawyers do, to increase awareness of the intense need for pro bono representation, and to encourage more attorneys to meet the aspirational goal.

Since the program's inception, thousands of attorneys have met the criteria and have been designated Empire State Counsel®. Today we honor all of them for the great good that they do, whether at the federal or local level, on behalf of immigrants or citizens, to protect civil rights or to ensure that basic needs are met. Of these tireless attorneys, we choose a few representative attorneys, who have done extraordinary work, and a few representative law firms who have dedicated resources that make such a large impact.

Our 2017 Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteers are Benjamin Ostrer and Caroline Heller. Ben has contributed hundreds of hours at both the trial level and appellate level in the defense of criminal defendants. In addition to all of the "hands on" representation, he also finds the time to share his expertise with other attorneys, either by editing "Atticus," a publication of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, or as a panelist at numerous CLE programs. Pro bono is a way of life for Ben – he has been recognized many times for his contributions, including with the 2016 Charles Crimi award from NYSBA's Criminal Justice Section.

Caroline has not only contributed hundreds of hours in representing special needs children in proceedings for the enforcement of their educational rights, but as pro bono coordinator of Greenberg Traurig's New York office, she has

energized the lawyers in her firm to take on large pro bono projects, including the adoption of homeless youth shelters and training for representing refugees. Pro bono is a way of life for Caroline, too.

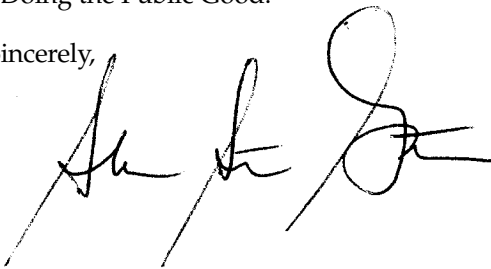
We also recognize the excellent efforts of law firms throughout the state. These efforts are essential in assisting and encouraging their lawyers to perform pro bono representation. We honor three within New York City: Skadden Arps, Proskauer Rose and Willkie Farr & Gallagher; and three outside the city: Barclay Damon, Phillips Lytle and Nixon Peabody. Their pro bono practices are described further in this brochure.

We are presenting for the first time two new awards to honor the pro bono work of Free Legal Answers™ volunteers. New York's Free Legal Answers™ site (ny.freelegalanswers.org) was launched in August 2016 as part of the American Bar Association's nationwide Free Legal Answers™ project. It allows volunteer attorneys to answer low-income New Yorkers' basic civil legal questions on a limited scope basis online. Today, we honor Phillip Hurwitz, a Rochester-based attorney who has answered over 70 questions on Free Legal Answers™, for having the most significant impact on New York's Free Legal Answers™ clients in the past year. We also honor Barclay Damon as the firm that has the most attorneys and partners signed up for Free Legal Answers™.

This year, we are so honored to have the Honorable Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, as our keynote speaker. Judge DiFiore has tirelessly advocated for increased funding of civil legal services, and has dedicated her life to public service. Having her with us underscores the support that our Courts give to the pro bono efforts of all attorneys and demonstrates the importance of our goal: Justice for All.

Thank you for attending the Justice for All luncheon, and thank you for "Doing the Public Good."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Stern Gerstman', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Stern Gerstman
President, New York State Bar Association

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Welcome

Michael Miller

President-elect

New York State Bar Association

Introduction of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

Sharon Stern Gerstman

President

New York State Bar Association

Keynote Address

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

Presentation of Awards

Sharon Stern Gerstman

Michael Miller



Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore has devoted her career to the fair administration of justice, both as a judge and prosecutor. Throughout her career, she has brought to her work a combination of bold and effective ideas, a willingness to work extensively with colleagues and partner agencies, and a non-partisan approach to problem-solving which emphasizes collaborative effort and shared credit.

Janet DiFiore was born and raised in Mount Vernon, New York, where she attended grade school and High School. She attended C.W. Post College, Long Island University and St. John's University School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor degree. She was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in 1982.

Judge DiFiore entered public service in 1981 as an Assistant District Attorney in the Westchester County District Attorney's Office remaining there until 1987 and returning in 1994 as Chief of the Office's Narcotics Bureau.

In 1998 she was elected a Judge of the Westchester County Court, presiding over criminal and civil matters and sitting by designation in the Family Court, Surrogate's Court and Supreme Court. She served as a County Court Judge until 2002, when she was elected a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court.

Shortly after her January 2003 swearing in as a Supreme Court Justice, during the administration of Chief Judge Judith Kaye, Judge DiFiore was appointed by then-Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman to serve as Supervising Judge of the Criminal Courts for the 9th Judicial District. As Supervising Judge, she restructured the case assignment system to bring more efficiency to the management and disposition of criminal cases and led a collaborative effort in the criminal courts of the 9th Judicial District that completely eliminated the backlog of criminal cases that did not meet the Standards and Goals (reportedly the first and only time since the Standard and Goals were established that any Judicial District in New York has done this). Also as the Supervising Judge, Judge DiFiore led the collaborative effort to establish the 9th Judicial District's Mental Health Courts and Sex Offender Courts.

In 2005, Judge DiFiore resigned from the bench and was elected as Westchester County District Attorney. As District Attorney, she served as the chief law enforcement officer of Westchester County, home to nearly one million people

who reflect the broad economic, social, racial and ethnic composition of New York State itself. District Attorney DiFiore headed an office of 235 Assistant District Attorneys, Criminal Investigators and support personnel, prosecuting approximately 30,000 cases per year, with a felony conviction rate that was consistently among the highest in New York State.

Judge DiFiore's law enforcement strategies have addressed the persistent problems of crime and poverty in cities that have been part of New York State's strategic IMPACT and GIVE anti-violent crime funding programs. She has also been at the forefront of establishing innovative education and prevention initiatives to reduce crime. Countywide strategies include targeting crimes involving gang violence, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, identity theft, the environment, animal abuse, and driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Early in her first term as District Attorney, Judge DiFiore led the multiagency effort to create a Child Fatality Review Team in Westchester County to examine deaths of children that are suspicious or are the result of abuse or neglect, and identify factors that might prevent future child fatalities. Working with partner agencies, the Child Fatality Review Team has worked to improve child safety in the County since 2007.

Also in her first term as District Attorney, then-District Attorney DiFiore was approached by the Innocence Project on behalf of an individual who had been convicted as a teenager in 1990 of the rape and murder of a 15-year old girl in Peekskill, New York. A Westchester County jury had convicted this individual based upon police testimony of a confession by the defendant. Because an FBI laboratory analysis of the evidence recovered from the deceased victim produced a non-matching DNA profile and this exculpatory evidence was admitted at his trial, this individual was not entitled, by statute, to further DNA testing of the sample. Notwithstanding these circumstances Janet DiFiore personally reviewed the case file and insisted on new DNA analysis of the evidence. This new DNA profile matched the profile of an inmate incarcerated for his conviction in another Peekskill murder case. That inmate made a credible confession to the murder. Then-District Attorney DiFiore immediately acted to have the murder and rape convictions vacated and the individual wrongfully convicted released from custody. The District Attorney's Office then secured a conviction of the true murderer. In order to identify and learn from the mistakes that led to this conviction of an innocent man, Judge DiFiore commissioned an independent group of outside experts to review the entire record of the case and at its conclusion, publicly issued the independent commission's report in an effort to contribute to law enforcement's understanding of wrongful convictions.

As the chief law enforcement officer in Westchester County, Judge DiFiore recognized that there was a critical need to coordinate investigative resources and enhance information sharing among Westchester County's 42 local police de-

partments, the County Police, the New York State Police, and the state, federal and regional law enforcement agencies that work in the County. Working with these partners, she led the effort to establish the Westchester Intelligence Center, which supports multi-agency investigations by obtaining evidence through databases, analyzing telephone data, identifying crime trends that cross jurisdictional borders, monitoring the myriad of platforms of social media used by criminals, and serving as a clearinghouse for information for law enforcement.

In 2009, Judge DiFiore was appointed by then-Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to serve as Co-Chair of the newly created Justice Task Force which examines the causes of wrongful convictions and recommends changes to the criminal justice system to safeguard against such convictions. Judge DiFiore held that position until her confirmation as Chief Judge in 2016.

From 2011 to 2012, Judge DiFiore served as President of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, leading the organization of New York State's 62 elected District Attorneys in its work to enhance public safety by setting forth the perspective and experience of New York's prosecutors in the public debates on criminal justice legislation and policy. During her tenure as President she was a lead participant in building support among colleagues for the "all crimes" DNA legislation, which included post-conviction access to DNA testing by defendants that became law.

Also in 2011, then-District Attorney DiFiore was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo as the first Chair of the 14-member Joint Commission on Public Ethics, the statewide ethics agency created by the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011. District Attorney DiFiore led the effort to develop this important Commission from infancy into an efficient 50+ person operation which regulates public officials, state employees, lobbyists, and lobbying clients.

In 2014 Janet DiFiore served as a member of the Governor's Commission on Youth, Safety and Justice recommending reforms to the laws governing the prosecution of young offenders.

On December 1, 2015, Governor Cuomo nominated her to the position of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York. On January 21, 2016, Janet DiFiore's nomination was unanimously confirmed by the New York State Senate.

In August of 2017, Janet DiFiore was elected to a two year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices.



2017 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL®

Pro Bono changes lives. The Empire State Counsel® Program recognizes our members' pro bono contributions. By generously donating their time and expertise, our members help low-income and vulnerable persons who otherwise could not afford an attorney gain access to the civil justice system. The program also recognizes the law firms who support and encourage pro bono. Congratulations to the 2017 Empire State Counsel® and their law firms.

Law Firms *

Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP

Alston & Bird LLP

Ballard Spahr LLP

Barclay Damon LLP

Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC

Crowell & Moring LLP

Davis, Polk & Wardell LLP

Dentons US LLP

Fish & Richardson P.C.

Hogan Lovells LLP

Hunton & Williams LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Linklaters LLP

Lowenstein Sandler LLP

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

McCarter & English LLP

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley &
McCloy LLP

Morrison and Foerster LLP

Nixon Peabody LLP

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Perkins Coie LLP

Phillips Lytle LLP

Proskauer Rose LLP

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher
& Flom LLP

Stephens & Johnson LLP

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

White & Case LLP

Willkie, Farr & Gallagher LLP

Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale &
Dorr LLP

Winston & Strawn LLP

* Law firms with three or more Empire State Counsel®



50

EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL®

2017 EMPIRE STATE COUNSEL®

Individual Attorneys **

Jennifer L. Adams	George E. Lowe
Ronald A.C. Anderson	Kenneth A.C. Manning
Robert L. Becker	Thomas E. Myers
John F. Boyd	Lucien A.C. Morin
Robert F. Brauer	Liam G.B. Murphy
Eileen E. Buholtz	Robert J. Nahoum
Martha Buyer	Michael J. O'Connor
Major Guneet Chaudhary	Benjamin Ostrer
Jessica N. Clemente	Allen Pheap Prak
Gary Cohen	David E. Prager
Spencer L. Durland	M. Salman Ravala
Jonathan Todd Engel	Maria J. Reed
Lisette G. Fernández	Seth M. Rosner
Alissa M. Fortuna-Brennan	Theresa E. Rusnak
Gail Gottehrer	R. Brian Seibert
James M. Griffin	James Sherer
David M. Hayes	Derrick A. Spatorico
Christa Hibbard	Thomas R. Smith
Kate Siobhan Howard	Sharon P. Stiller
Raymond G. Lahoud	David Leonard Tsin
Graciela Langone	Radhika Varavenkataraman
Catherine Jones	James J. Veneruso
A. Thomas Levin	Henry A.C. Zomerfeld

** From firms with less than three Empire State Counsel® or solo practitioners

2017 Empire State Counsel® Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteers and Law Firm Honorees

Caroline Heller

Chair of the Global Pro Bono Program, Greenberg Traurig LLP

Ben Ostrer

Ostrer Associates, P.C.

Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

Proskauer

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Phillips Lytle LLP

Barclay Damon LLP

Nixon Peabody LLP

List your organization at
NYSBAProBono.org today!



- Does your organization provide legal services to our immigrant communities?
- Do you have projects that could benefit from volunteer attorneys?
- List your projects at NYSBAProBono.org today for volunteer attorney referrals!



You can also:

- See what other projects are going on elsewhere in the state;
- Post your training events on our Events page

The New York State Bar Association's Pro Bono Immigration Portal:

Is a new and exciting initiative created to address the growing needs of our immigrant communities and public service organizations, inspired by an overwhelming response of New York attorneys wishing to contribute and help out in any way they can. Browse available opportunities and volunteer directly, or use the tailored referral service to get connected with volunteer opportunities at organizations that work closely with immigrants.

Questions? Email probonoport@nysba.org or call 518-487-5642.



THE NEW YORK
BAR FOUNDATION



Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteers



Caroline Heller

*Chair of the Global Pro Bono Program
Greenberg Traurig LLP*

Caroline J. Heller is a shareholder in the Litigation Practice of Greenberg Traurig's New York office. Caroline focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation and business disputes on a nationwide basis in the fields of professional liability, partnership disputes, securities litigation and entertainment disputes. She is also Chair of the firm's Global Pro Bono program and the Pro Bono Coordinator for the New York office. Since joining the firm in 2004, she has dedicated over 4,100 hours of her time to the pro bono representation of low-income families and

non-profit organizations. Among others, Caroline has represented the parents of children with disabilities seeking appropriate educational programs, unaccompanied minors in immigration proceedings, and victims of domestic violence in family court proceedings.

Since 2006, Caroline has represented low-income parents of approximately 25 children with disabilities who have sought to obtain appropriate special education services for their children from the New York City Department of Education (DOE). These cases are referred to her by Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), a New York City nonprofit, where she also serves as a member of the Board of Directors.

In 2017, Caroline represented four families with children with disabilities, filing complaints alleging that for the 2017-2018 schoolyear, the DOE failed to provide the students with a free appropriate public education in violation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and New York Education Law, seeking payment for the tuition of specialized private schools for these students.

This year, Caroline also took on the representation of the parents of four medically fragile New York City school students who either had not attended school for 2-3 years, or were at risk of not being able to attend school, because the DOE failed to provide these students with medically necessary nurses to accompany the children to, from, and in school; nurses that DOE had promised to provide.

Caroline also received a favorable decision from the Second Circuit this year in another special education case involving a student with dyslexia who, at 12 years old, still had not been taught how to read by the public school programs in which the DOE had placed him.

In 2016, Caroline represented a number of organizations in amicus curiae briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in two cases concerning the rights of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Caroline represented Autism Speaks, on whose behalf she submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in support of the petitioner in *Fry v. Napoleon Community Schools*. In a decision dated February 22, 2017, the Supreme Court reversed the Sixth Circuit—a victory for Caroline’s client—holding that the IDEA does not require exhaustion of state-level administrative remedies when the gravamen of the plaintiff’s lawsuit is not related to the denial of free appropriate public education.

Caroline has been a trailblazer in Greenberg Traurig’s Pro Bono practice. Under her leadership, in 2017, GT joined the American Bar Association’s Homeless Youth Legal Network Pro Bono Initiative, “adopting” homeless youth shelters across the country in order to provide free legal services to youth and young adults. Caroline was also instrumental in a firm wide training program, with more than 200 attorneys and clients participating, led by International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). IRAP is an organization committed to helping attorneys and law students develop and enforce a set of legal and human rights for refugees and displaced persons.

Among Caroline’s many recognitions for her pro bono service, she received the New York Business Journal’s “Women of Influence Award”, the New York Law Journal’s “Lawyers Who Lead By Example Pro Bono Award” and the President’s Pro Bono Award from the First Judicial District of the New York Bar Association.

Caroline received her J.D., cum laude, from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and her B.A., cum laude, in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College.



Ben Ostrer

Ostrer Associates, P.C.

Benjamin Ostrer was admitted to practice in New York in 1977 and is also admitted before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and in the District Courts of the Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts. He is a graduate of Alfred University and New York Law School. He has tried numerous cases to favorable verdicts and has successfully litigated appeals before the New York State Court of Appeals and Appellate Divisions. He regularly accepts pro bono matters on behalf of individuals accused of serious crimes, including *People v. Maragh*, 94 N.Y.2d 569 (2000), which resulted in the adoption of a

new jury charge with respect to juror expertise and the reversal of a homicide conviction; *People v. Pitkin*, (2008) in which he obtained not guilty verdicts of all counts, including Murder 2nd, in an alleged shaken baby diagnosis case. His pro bono efforts also include serving as co-counsel on behalf of Katherine Seeber, in Saratoga County, with Vernon Broderick and Corey Chivers of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, which resulted in vacating a homicide conviction which relied upon falsified evidence at the New York State Police Lab, ending 12 years of incarceration for a young woman; *People v. Seeber*, 94 A.D.3d 1335 (2012). He is currently pro bono counsel in *People v. Carlson*, defending a man in connection with the shooting death of an admitted rapist who had been eluding capture by law enforcement.

Ben currently serves on the Board of the Criminal Justice Section of the NYSBA and was the recipient of the section's Charles F. Crimi Award in 2016. He is a board member of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and past president of the N.Y. State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. His firm, Ostrer Associates, P.C., is located in Chester, Orange County, New York.

Law Firm Honorees

The logo for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, featuring the word "Skadden" in white serif font on a red rectangular background.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and affiliates strongly encourages its lawyers, summer associates, and legal assistants to work on pro bono legal matters and projects for individuals and groups unable to afford legal services. The firm is a charter signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, pledging to commit lawyer and summer associate pro bono time in its United States offices equivalent to at least 3% of its annual billable hours. In the first 11 months of 2017, New York office lawyers and summer associates' pro bono work equaled 6.8% of billable hours and totaled 73,035 hours. After adding in legal assistant pro bono work, the 11 month total hours were 86,240. Firmwide, Skadden attorneys, summer associates, and legal assistants recorded 218,880 hours of pro bono legal work for the first 11 months of 2017. The lawyer plus summer associate pro bono percentage of billable time in Skadden's domestic offices was 8.0% for the first 11 months of 2017.

Deeply ingrained in the firm's culture, pro bono legal work provides vital assistance to a wide variety of individuals and organizations in need of legal assistance. Skadden attorneys regularly assist those seeking asylum in the United States and elsewhere in their attempts to escape persecution due to religious or political beliefs or sexual orientation. Attorneys also handle many cases for death row inmates; take on numerous matters involving wrongful imprisonment and prosecution, housing disputes, and family law; and frequently provide legal assistance to legal services organizations and other nonprofits, as well as micro-entrepreneurs and veterans.

Skadden hosted 15 immigration related clinics in 2017, including naturalization application, naturalization screening, DACA, U-Visa, and unaccompanied minor immigrant clinics. More than 210 Skadden attorneys met with more than 285 people at these clinics.



Proskauer

With 725+ lawyers, 50 areas of practice, and offices in major financial business centers across Asia, Europe, and North and South America, Proskauer is a leading international law firm with the capabilities, experience and creativity to guide our clients through their most important legal and business challenges. At Proskauer, the commitment to pro bono and public service has been a key part of our culture for more than 140 years. We encourage our lawyers to make pro bono a vital part of their practice from the beginning of their careers, and pursue pro bono matters with the same vigor they devote to billable work. Our extensive pro bono docket ranges from civil rights litigation cases and complex corporate transactions for nonprofit organizations to direct-services matters for individual clients. We help a wide range of pro bono clients, including community groups, refugees, domestic violence and human trafficking victims, low-income tenants and artists, veterans, Holocaust survivors, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals. Our lawyers have played a crucial role in shaping issues such as gender equality, voting rights and religious freedom.

To learn more about the inspiring stories and impactful work being done by Proskauer's lawyers and staff, please read "For Good," our pro bono and corporate social responsibility blog, at www.proskauerforgood.com.

WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP is an elite international law firm of approximately 700 lawyers located in nine offices in six countries. For more than 125 years, we have represented companies worldwide across a wide spectrum of businesses and industries, most notably financial services. We take great pride in our pro bono program, which each year earns us numerous awards. We strongly encourage our attorneys to meet their pro bono responsibilities by providing essential legal services for the indigent and disadvantaged. Willkie maintains two pro bono externship programs in New York, one at Her Justice and one at Mobilization for Justice and another externship in DC with the Washington Lawyers' Committee DC Prisoners' Project, where Willkie associates serve on a rotating basis as full-time attorneys. In 2017, Willkie attorneys worked on over 350 pro bono matters, ranging from immigration matters to clemency petitions to amicus briefs.



Nixon Peabody LLP

At Nixon Peabody, we're devoted to ensuring equal access to justice for all. Our attorneys and staff have a rich history of supporting our local communities through pro bono work. We see the law as a tool to shape our clients' futures and understand that we have the power to make a difference by giving our time and skills to those who lack access to quality legal assistance.

Our 600+ attorneys across 17 offices have broad cross-industry experience, giving us the ability to help on a wide variety of pro bono matters. For example, over the past year, we've aided battered women's shelters, advocated on behalf of the homeless and victims of domestic violence, helped countless not-for-profit organizations incorporate and secure tax-exempt status, won asylum in the U.S. on behalf of refugees fleeing persecution in their home countries, helped other immigrants secure Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, UVisas and VAWA, worked with veterans to get the benefits they deserve, achieved precedent setting results on behalf of the LGBT community, and much more.

We ask every Nixon Peabody lawyer to render at least 60 pro bono hours annually; and for the past several years, we've devoted more than 3% of our billable time to pro bono matters.



Barclay Damon LLP

Barclay Damon has a proud history of giving back to the communities the firm serves, with an emphasis on using its skills to help the most needy among us achieve access to justice through an award-winning and innovative pro bono program. Because volunteer service is such an important part of the Barclay Damon culture, the firm encourages its attorneys to participate in meaningful legal work through a one-of-its-kind program that offers direct economic incentives to associates for their participation. At Barclay Damon, all associates are given billable hour credit toward their year-end performance reviews for pro bono work handled—in the same manner as if the work was performed for a top client of the

firm. In 2010, this innovative program earned Barclay Damon the President's Pro Bono Service Award from the New York State Bar Association in the "Large Firm" category.

The firm's commitment to pro bono work runs deep and is part of the firm's core culture. More than three quarters of the firm's attorneys are currently providing pro bono assistance in their communities. Barclay Damon is especially proud of the full-time associates in each of the firm's 11 offices—in 2016 they led the way with 100 percent participation in the pro bono program.

As a firm that has been in existence since 1855, a strong commitment to pro bono service has been a priority for Barclay Damon at every stage of the firm's development. Now the largest law firm in the Northeast based outside a major market area, the firm has more reason than ever to give generously of its time, talents, and passion for pro bono service.



Phillips Lytle LLP

Phillips Lytle LLP

Pro bono work has been an important commitment for Phillips Lytle throughout its 180+ year history. Across all of our eight offices (six of which are in New York State), our more than 190 attorneys are dedicated to providing legal services to the poor, the disadvantaged and those in need. The legal services the firm provides also benefit organizations and institutions that assist the indigent and contribute to the quality of life in our communities. This work includes civil and criminal matters, and non-litigation legal assistance, ranging from matters that broadly impact communities, to representation of those in need in high-volume court settings, to complex individual case representations. As the firm plans for the future, pro bono services remains one of its core values.

2017 Free Legal Answers™ Volunteer Attorney Award and Outstanding Firm Contribution Award

Since its launch, hundreds of civil legal questions submitted by low-income New Yorkers ranging from family law and wills and estates to consumer debt and property issues have been answered by Free Legal Answers™ volunteer attorneys. From this year forward, NYSBA will honor on annual basis the attorney who has had the largest impact on Free Legal Answers™ clients in the previous year and the law firm which has had the most associates and partners participating in Free Legal Answers™.



Phillip R. Hurwitz, Esq.

Phillip R. Hurwitz is a St. John's Law School graduate and a member of the ABA, the New York State Bar Association and the Monroe County Bar Association. His pro bono contributions are varied and have included preparing estate planning documents, standby guardianship petitions, name change petitions, home foreclosure settlements, non-profit formation and tax exemption recognition, consultations, and non-profit board membership.

Phillip Hurwitz has answered over 70 questions on Free Legal Answers™.

BARCLAY DAMON^{LLP}

Barclay Damon LLP

Barclay Damon has a proud history of giving back to the communities we serve, with an emphasis on using our skills, time, and ingenuity to narrow the gap between those in need who seek legal assistance and access to justice. Our commitment to pro bono work runs deep and is a critical part of the firm's core culture.

After achieving 100-percent participation by our associates in our pro bono program in 2016, we celebrated this accomplishment—but we didn't stop there. For all of us at Barclay Damon, the challenge was on. In 2017 we attained a goal that some of us thought might not be possible for a firm of our size and standing and with countless demanding client commitments. Last year, every one of our full-time attorneys proudly provided pro bono service.

As a firm that has been in existence since 1855, a strong commitment to pro bono service has been a priority for Barclay Damon at every stage of the firm's development. Now the largest law firm in the Northeast based outside a major market area, the firm has more reason than ever to give generously of our time, talent, and passion for pro bono service.

We are honored that our work is frequently recognized by our peers at organizations across the state, and we extend our great thanks to the New York State Bar Association for today's honors—both for our attorneys and for the many other attorneys at firms throughout the state who dedicate themselves to helping the most needy among us find justice. Learn more about our award-winning pro bono program at barclaydamon.com

Free Legal Answers™ is an easy way to provide legal information to low income people in pressing need of such information. In many instances, the individuals who use Free Legal Answers™ are not eligible for services from the local legal aid society, or cannot be served due to lack of staff resources. Free Legal Answers™ allows lawyers to do pro bono at their convenience, from home, from their car, from the soccer field, or even from the office. It provides a limited scope pro bono opportunity so that all lawyers can be of service to their low income neighbors.

Over 30 attorneys from Barclay Damon signed up to volunteer for Free Legal Answers™ in 2017.

***Congratulations 2017
Empire State Counsel®!***



*Do the Public Good • Do Yourself
Good • Volunteer For Pro Bono*



**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF PRO BONO SERVICES**

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