

Pro Bono Highlights

Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) of The Bar Association of San Francisco

465 California Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco 94104. Contact: Amanda Chavez 415-782-8956 www.sfbar.org/vlsp

VLSP provides free legal aid to low-income and disadvantaged people and has numerous legal and non-legal volunteer opportunities in the areas of civil law and social services.

HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Inc. (HALSA)

3550 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 750 Los Angeles 90010. Contact: Laurie Aronoff, 213-201-1492 www.lacba.org

This collaboration of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and HALSA provides direct legal services to diverse communities affected by HIV & AIDS in the areas of public and private benefits including COBRA and ERISA, confidentiality, employment, discrimination, housing, immigration, debtor/creditor, and wills and powers of attorney.

Legal Services of Northern California, Shasta Voluntary Legal Services Program

1370 West Street, Redding 96001 Contact: Kathie King, 530-241-3565 www.lsncc.net

The Shasta office of the Legal Services of Northern California provides pro bono legal assistance in the areas of family law, housing, government benefits, employment, economic development, consumer, health care, probate, and more in the counties of Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity.

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS CALIFORNIA PRO BONO WEEK

Governor Gray Davis has officially proclaimed **October 7-14, 2002** as "California Pro Bono Week". Business, governments, and community organizations are invited to celebrate and encourage the contributions of volunteer attorneys who enable people to get the legal assistance they could otherwise not obtain. For a copy of the Governor's Proclamation contact Kate O'Connor at kate.oconnor@calbar.ca.gov or go to the Governor's "Press Room" on-line at: www.governor.ca.gov/state/govsite/gov.

October 2002

You can make a difference!

You possess the power to make a difference and the power to recognize those volunteers who are making that difference.

The 2002 award recipients honored for their contributions have volunteered their services through the following organizations. For more information about pro bono opportunities in your community, contact your local bar association or the State Bar of California Office of Legal Services, Access and Fairness Programs, Program Development Unit.

Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley
480 North First Street, San Jose 95103
Contact: John Hedges, 408-998-5298, x 310, www.probonoproject.org

The Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley provides pro bono legal assistance and has volunteer opportunities in programs including a Debtor's Rights Clinic, Family Law Project, Domestic Violence Project, Mediation Project, Consumer Program, a Paternity Clinic and a general litigation panel.

Public Law Center (PLC)

601 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, 92701. Contact: Gary McGaha, 714-541-1010, www.publiclawcenter.org

Public Law Center offers a variety of pro bono opportunities for volunteers in Orange County through the following projects: Affordable Housing, AIDS Legal Assistance, Attorneys Representing Children, Clinic Outreach, Domestic Violence, Private Attorney Referral and Southeast Asian Legal Outreach.

San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP)

625 Broadway, Suite 925, San Diego, 92101. Contact: Cheryl Martínez, 619-235-5656, x110

SDVLP provides pro bono legal advice and direct representation assistance to the indigent in family law, domestic violence prevention, AIDS law, guardianships, special education, immigration and civil rights.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS WITH SKILLS & SOUL

Are you interested in impacting and improving the delivery of legal services for low and middle-income individuals on a statewide basis? Do you have the time and dedication it takes to actively participate with a dynamic team of individuals committed to improving access to justice? Apply to be considered for appointment to the **Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS)** of the State Bar of California. Request a SCDLS informational brochure by emailing programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov.

Van Nuys Self-Help Legal Access Center of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

13327 Van Nuys Boulevard, Pacoima 91339. Contact: Carolyn Reznik-Camras, 818-374-2134 www.nls-la.org

Funded entirely by the County of Los Angeles, the Van Nuys Self-Help Legal Access Center is a joint project of Neighborhood Legal Services, Los Angeles Superior Court and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. The Center offers legal information and guidance to pro per litigants in the areas of family law, housing law, and small claims. Volunteer opportunities are also available at the Pomona Self-Help Legal Access Center and the Workers' Rights Centers.

Ventura County Bar Association, Volunteer Lawyers Services Program (VCBA/VLSP)

4475 Market Street, Suite B, Ventura, 93003. Contact: Charlene Saxey, 805-650-7599 www.vcba.org

VCBA/VLSP is the only organized private attorney involvement pro bono service in Ventura County. Eight Emeritus Attorneys and approximately 100 volunteer attorneys provide legal services to low-income individuals and families focusing in areas of family law, landlord/tenant, probate and miscellaneous civil cases.

Self-Help Legal Access Center, Ventura County Superior Court

800 South Victoria, Room 106, Ventura 93009. Contact: Tina Rasnow, 805-654-3879 www.courts.countyofventura.org

The Self-Help Legal Access Center offers informational assistance to self represented litigants needing information about their case, civil procedure, court rules and process and alternatives to litigation.

THERE'S MORE IN LIFE FOR RETIRED ATTORNEYS

The Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program is the perfect opportunity for retired attorneys to contribute a life's worth of legal experience to help people get legal assistance. Whether you are an attorney in transition or retiring from a long career in the legal profession, consider signing up with the EA Program. The EA Program waives the active State Bar membership fee for eligible attorneys who would otherwise be retired from the practice of law to do pro bono work with a qualified legal services program or State Bar certified lawyer referral service. Contact Rodney Low at rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov or 415-538-2219

The mission of the Program Development Unit is to develop and support efforts on a statewide basis that enhance and improve the delivery of legal services to low and moderate income Californians.

RENEWING THE STATE BAR'S PRO BONO RESOLUTION

Originally adopted by the Board of Governors in December 1989, the State Bar's Pro Bono Resolution encourages all attorneys to contribute at least 50 hours per year of pro bono service. In June 2002, the Resolution was amended to reflect an updated and renewed commitment to serving the legal needs of low and moderate income Californians today. The revisions strengthen the original resolution by:

- acknowledging judicial support for pro bono
- urging law schools to promote and encourage law student pro bono participation and
- adding an option to support pro bono through financial contributions.

The resolution also references California Business and Professions Code Section 6068 (h) that establishes the duty of a lawyer "Never to reject, for any consideration personal to himself or herself, the cause of the defenseless or the oppressed."

Local bar associations are encouraged to revisit their commitment to pro bono and to adopt similar resolutions. For a copy of the revised Pro Bono Resolution or for more information about the implementation of the Pro Bono Resolution and enhancing pro bono activities at the local level, contact Sharon Ngim at 415-538-2267.

Office Of Legal Services, Access and Fairness Programs Program Development Unit

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The State Bar of California

A Tribute to Pro Bono



Karen Nobumoto

President, The State Bar of California

On behalf of the State Bar of California, I am honored to recognize the recipients of the 2002 President's Pro Bono Service Awards and the Loren Miller Legal Services Award. The State Bar is committed to not only being an efficient and accountable organization, but also to ensuring that members of the Bar meet their professional obligations.

During my tenure, I am pleased that the State Bar refocused its commitment to pro bono by revising and strengthening

its Pro Bono Resolution. I encourage you to review your commitment to ensuring meaningful access to the legal system for all. Ensuring equal access to our justice system is a cornerstone of our profession. I thank and honor the individuals recognized here for their inexhaustible commitment to equal access by volunteering their time, energy and expertise to helping low- and moderate-income Californians. They remind us of our obligation to do the same.



Chief Justice Ronald M. George California Supreme Court

My congratulations to this year's recipients of the State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Awards and Loren Miller Legal Services Award. I commend these professionals from many different practices for meeting the biggest challenge of the profession: providing meaningful access to justice. They have recognized that promoting the fair administration of justice is not a business targeted toward a handful of high-paying clients; it is a necessary professional obligation that serves

not only the individuals in need whom they assist, but also the public at-large. The accomplishments of the outstanding recipients of these awards demonstrate that an attorney need not specialize in a specific practice such as litigation or family law in order to contribute the skills necessary to affect people's lives. I thank the truly deserving individuals whom we honor today for reminding us of our profession's commitment to ensuring a fair and accessible justice system for all.

The President's Pro Bono Service Awards

The State Bar Board of Governors established the President's Pro Bono Service Awards in 1983 to provide statewide recognition of attorneys for outstanding provision of pro bono legal services to the poor. Awards categories beginning 2001 were reconfigured to fully ensure that lawyers from a wide scope of settings be recognized for their extraordinary provision of pro bono legal services to low income individuals or organizations whose primary purpose is to serve the poor.

These awards are given for pro bono contributions provided during 2001.

The following factors are taken into consideration in the selection process:

- ★ breadth and impact of nominee's work
- ★ nominee's practice setting
- ★ nature of pro bono program through which the work is done
- ★ evidence of nominee's commitment to pro bono work
- ★ nature of services contributed



2002 President's Pro Bono Service Awards' Recipients

Corporate



H. Nelson Meeks
— Oakland
Mr. Meeks, the sole lobbyist and Government Affairs Issues Manager for the Clorox Company, has provided family law pro bono services through

the Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) of the Bar Association of San Francisco for the past two years. He represented three new dissolution clients in 2001, and served as co-counsel on a spousal modification matter requiring a four-day trial. It is not uncommon for Mr. Meeks to travel from his job in Oakland to San Francisco during his lunch break to assist victims of domestic violence with complicated and time sensitive legal matters. He routinely assists VLSP by helping to coordinate and promote monthly training and mentoring sessions for other VLSP volunteer attorneys. Nelson also has been instrumental in obtaining financial support from the Clorox Company to further the work of VLSP. He is actively involved in the Oakland community and is a member of the board of directors for the Alameda County Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Corporation (VLSC).

Nominated by Volunteer Legal Services Program, Bar Association of San Francisco

Government



Bruce A. Zucker
— Northridge
Bruce Zucker, a full time professor at California State University Northridge teaching real estate law and finance, serves one of the most vulnerable

sectors of society—prisoners and parolees. Through his creation of a Justice Center program, students learn how to assist low-income people with landlord/tenant matters. Professor Zucker often litigates the meritorious cases that cannot be resolved through the Center. In 2001 alone, he took on three eviction cases, one case involving an elderly couple evicted for being "horder-clutterers" that was successfully resolved with a part of the settlement agreement being that Professor Zucker and 10 of his students would clean up and organize the unit on a Sunday. Mr. Zucker also volunteered as a supervising attorney at the Van Nuys Self-Help Legal Access Center where he enlisted 19 of his students (who spoke some 10 different languages) to translate and distribute a Russian, Armenian and Farsi flyer for clients needing interpreters in court.

Nominated by Van Nuys Self-Help Legal Access Center of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County and Self-Help Legal Access Center, Ventura County Superior Court

Small Law Firm



Philip L. Hammer of Hammer & Jacobs — San Jose
Philip Hammer practices complex family law litigation in a four-attorney firm in San Jose. Under his lead, the firm provided

representation on three separate cases for indigent clients referred through the Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley. Mr. Hammer also serves as Chair of the newly formed Legal Services Committee of the Santa Clara County Bar Association where he successfully led and coordinated a campaign to raise over \$1.4 million for eight local civil legal services programs. He is the founding director and Vice Chair of the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services that has raised over \$750,000 in the past two years for agencies providing civil legal services for the low-income in Santa Clara County.

Nominated by Legal Services Committee of the Santa Clara County Bar Association

Jointly Nominated by: Asian Law Caucus, Bay Area Legal Aid, California Rural Legal Assistance, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Service, East Palo Alto Community Law Project, East San Jose Community Law Center, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley, Senior Adults Legal Assistance

Recently Admitted



Thomas A. Kritzik
— San Diego
Before graduating from law school and being admitted to the bar in June 1999, Thomas Kritzik volunteered with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer

Program's (SDVLP) Domestic Violence Prevention Project assisting in obtaining restraining orders and at SDVLP's Guardianship Clinic helping relative caregivers obtain guardianship. In April 2001, he became a full time volunteer staff attorney overseeing and coordinating volunteer referrals for dependent children with legal issues outside of the juvenile dependency system. He also provided representation for de facto parents in Juvenile Court proceedings and handled referrals for SDVLP to provide direct representation for dependent minors. Thomas has received the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services consecutively for the past five years and the Distinguished Service Award given by SDVLP in 1997, 1998 and 2001. He was hired full time at SDVLP in January of 2002.

Nominated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Retired



John P. Miller
— Santa Ana
John Miller retired in April of 2000 from a diverse legal career including three years as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation

investigating fraud and white-collar crime, three years as a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles and then twenty-three years of private practice with the law firm of Morris, Polich, Purdy where he was the managing partner of the firm's Orange County Office. Shortly after retirement, he joined the Public Law Center as a volunteer attorney in October of 2000. In 2001 alone, he assisted at least 200 clients by providing various legal assistance including: handling a wide variety of individual client matters in family law, domestic violence, truth in lending and student loans; staffing a number of clinics for the homeless and low-income Vietnamese communities and mentoring junior attorneys. He is the recipient of Public Law Center's 2001 "Volunteer Attorney of the Year Award".

Nominated by Public Law Center

Solo Practitioner



Thomas N. Andrews
— Redding
In 2001, Thomas Andrews opened his private practice specializing in real estate law, estate planning, municipal law, elder law, civil

litigation and personal injury. He was one of the Legal Services of Northern California's (LSNC) first pro bono volunteers when the Shasta office opened in 1999. Mr. Andrews provided direct pro bono services in the areas of real estate transactions, contract disputes, leases and promissory note disputes. He is also active in his community, sitting on the board of directors of three local non-profits serving the disadvantaged, one of which he helped with incorporation. In his "spare" time, he provides legal services for the City of Orland and the City of Anderson, as well as for community service districts in two different counties. Mr. Andrews is also the MCLE Director for the local bar association and serves as a Judge Pro Tem for Shasta County Superior Court. He regularly volunteers his musical talents to local civic events.

Nominated by Legal Services of Northern California, Shasta Office

Medium Law Firm



Gregory J. Ramirez — Ventura
Gregory Ramirez practices business litigation and employment discrimination with the 12-attorney Ventura County based firm Benton, Orr, Duval and Buckingham. Mr. Ramirez has represented and advised indigent clients with the Ventura County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Services Program since 1996. He assisted a single mother with a child custody matter who had fled her abusive husband in Texas. He also successfully handled the case of an elderly woman who was sued by her former corporate employer in retaliation for her filing a successful wage

claim for back wages with the Labor Board. Mr. Ramirez serves as pro bono general counsel for both the Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard/Port Hueneme and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Ventura County Chapter. His legal assistance at the NAACP included helping the family of a young African-American man killed by the local police department after the young man had filed complaints against the department for mistreatment. As a direct result of his efforts, the police department instituted new training for officers and convened a community advisory group to improve police/community relations.

Nominated by Self-Help Legal Access Center, Ventura County Superior Court

Large Law Firm



HALSA Project Team of Arnold & Porter — Los Angeles

Thomas Dupuis, Julia Zalba and David Eisen of the law firm of Arnold and Porter specialize in multiple practice areas at the Los Angeles branch office of a 700 attorney national and international firm. Aided by

additional members of Arnold and Porter, including Pamela Daves, Warren Bleeker, and Lois LeBar, this team took an emergency time sensitive referral from the HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA) to represent an African American mother dually diagnosed with HIV and manic depression who fell victim to real estate fraud. They provided a variety of highly specialized legal services and vigorous full court representation in a complicated case to successfully help the client regain title to her home, defend an unlawful detainer action, negotiate for a delay in the foreclosure of several mortgages, and sell her home, thereby salvaging the remaining equity.

Nominated by HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Inc.

Distinguished Pro Bono Service



Emeritus Team of the Volunteer Lawyers Services Program, Ventura County Bar Association

Frederick Barazani, Raymond Clayton, Howard Evans, Verna Kagan, Earl Price, Carolyn Tulberg, Al Yablon, and Pauline Zebker coordinate as a team of eight retired attorneys to serve the low-income and legally underserved population of Ventura County through the Ventura County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Services

Program. Launched by the commitment and collaboration of Emeritus Attorneys in December 1996, the VLSP program has grown to over 100 volunteers with the Emeritus Attorney Team of 8 serving as the backbone of the program. Each attorney is committed to volunteering a morning or afternoon each week to answer legal questions of indigent clients in addition to being "on call" for emergency situations. The team plays a role bridging the gaps in available services by screening all clients and making appropriate referrals to other legal resources in the community such as California Rural Legal Assistance, the Self-Help Legal Access Centers, Family Law Facilitators, social services agencies and government resources. They also make limited court appearances in family law and eviction matters and conduct negotiations.

Nominated by the Self-Help Legal Access Center, Ventura County Superior Court