

Pro Bono Highlights

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 2003 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.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
1663 Mission Street, Ste. 500
San Francisco 94103
415-701-1100
www.alrp.org

The Alliance for Children's Rights
3333 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 550
Los Angeles 90010
213-368-6010
www.kids-alliance.org

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
1188 Franklin Street, Ste. 202
San Francisco 94109
415-567-6255
www.apilegaloutreach.org

Bet Tzedek Legal Services
145 South Fairfax Avenue, Ste. 200
Los Angeles 90036
323-939-0506
www.bettzedek.org

East Bay Community Law Center
3130 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley 94705
510-548-4040
www.ebclc.org

Inner City Law Center
1325 East Seventh St.
Los Angeles 90021
213-891-2880

Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights
131 Steuart Street, Ste. 400
San Francisco 94105
415-543-9444
www.lccr.com

Legal Services of Northern California, Shasta Voluntary Legal Services Program
1370 West Street
Redding 96001
530-241-3565
www.lsnr.net

Prison Law Office
General Delivery
San Quentin 94964
415-457-9144
www.prisonlaw.com

Public Counsel
601 S. Ardmore
Los Angeles 90005
213-385-2977
www.publiccounsel.org

San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
625 Broadway, Suite 925
San Diego 92101
619-235-5656, x110

Self-Help Legal Access Center, Ventura County Superior Court
800 South Victoria, Rm 106
Ventura 93009
805-654-3879
www.courts.countyofventura.org

Ventura County Bar Association, Volunteer Lawyers Services Program
4475 Market Street, Suite B
Ventura 93003
805-650-7599
www.vcba.org

Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco
465 California Street, Suite 1100
San Francisco 94104
415-982-1600
www.sfbar.org/vlsp/general.html

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS CALIFORNIA PRO BONO WEEK

Governor Gray Davis has officially proclaimed September 1-7, 2003 as "California Pro Bono Week". Businesses, 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 the State Bar at 415-538-2328 go to the Governor's "Press Room" on-line at www.governor.ca.gov/state/govsite/gov.

STATE BAR'S COMMITMENT TO PRO BONO

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. 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 it is 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.

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.



Program Development Unit
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639
415.538.2176 / 415.538.2552 fax
programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov
www.calbar.ca.gov

For a copy of the revised Pro Bono Resolution or for more information about enhancing pro bono activities at the local level, contact Sharon Ngim at 415.538.2267 or Sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov

(PROFESSIONAL) LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

Instead of working exclusively on their golf or bridge game, the retired attorney can turn to the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program to share her or his lifetime of experience in the law to assist those in need of legal assistance. Emeritus Attorneys work with qualified legal services programs or certified lawyer referral services, at their own pace, and the State Bar waives their active State Bar membership fee. For eligible attorneys, this is the perfect place to do pro bono work. Contact Rodney Low at Rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov or 415.538.2219.

OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES, ACCESS AND FAIRNESS PROGRAMS

Program Development Unit
Patricia Lee, Director, OLSAFP
patricia.lee@calbar.ca.gov
Rodney Low, Program Developer
rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov
Sharon Ngim, Program Developer
sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov
Kate O'Connor, Senior Administrative Assistant
kate.oconnor@calbar.ca.gov
Betty Barker, Administrative Assistant II
betty.barker@calbar.ca.gov
Kimberly Warmsley, Administrative Assistant II
kimberly.warmsley@calbar.ca.gov

The State Bar of California A Tribute to Pro Bono

James E. Herman President, The State Bar of California



On behalf of the State Bar of California, I am honored to recognize the recipients of the 2003 President's Pro Bono Service Awards and the Loren Miller Legal Services Award.

A perfect storm threatens access to justice in California. Path to Equal Justice, a recent study by the Commission on Access to Justice, teaches us 72% of low income Californians cannot afford basic legal services. The statewide ratio of low-income individuals to

legal services lawyers is ten thousand to one and, in some counties, thirty thousand to one. Falling interest rates mean ever diminishing IOLTA funds for legal services programs. We risk justice becoming a two-tiered system: one for the wealthy and one for the poor. As Chief Justice George has said, "If the motto *and justice for all* becomes *and justice for those who can afford it*, we threaten the very underpinnings of our social contract."

Those we honor stand in the face of this perfect storm setting an example for all of us to follow. As President of the State Bar, they make me proud to be a lawyer. I encourage you to consider how you can help ensure meaningful access to the legal system. There are endless opportunities for you to address this, the greatest challenge facing our profession. Help us realize the State Bar motto, "To preserve and improve the justice system in order to assure a fair and just society under the law."

Honorable Ronald M. George Chief Justice of California



My sincere congratulations and appreciation go 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 for taking seriously their ethical responsibility as lawyers. Those honored have dedicated their time and resources to provide meaningful access to justice. They have recognized that there are clients who lack resources but have legitimate needs not being adequately addressed. Although pro bono work is

not — and cannot be — legally required, it is an essential element in achieving the goal of establishing a legal system that is not reserved just for a small class of paying clients. The assistance provided by these attorneys serves not only the individuals whom they assist, but all Californians. The accomplishments of these outstanding recipients demonstrate that an attorney need not specialize in a specific practice in order to contribute the skills necessary to positively affect people's lives. I thank the truly deserving individuals whom we honor for reminding us of our profession's commitment to ensuring a fair and accessible justice system.

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 2002.

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

2003 President's Pro Bono Service Awards Recipients

Corporate:

**Barry Bartholomew & Associates
Pro Bono Adoption Group, Glendale**



Standing (L to R): Karen Davis, Barry Bartholomew, Robert Mansour, Cassandra Wentt

Seated (L to R): Ruby Shimomura, Heather Bale, Anne McCurdy, Irene Borromeo

Eight attorneys in this in-house counsel practice for State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company provided pro bono adoption services for three years with the Alliance for Children's Rights in Los Angeles. The attorneys prepared documents and made court appearances to finalize adoptions through the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services in 2002. The group is now also handling uncontested guardianships. Cassandra Wentt is credited with organizing the group to work with the Alliance.

Self-Nominated

Distinguished Pro Bono Service:

Kimberly Stewart, San Diego



Ms. Stewart is a Senior Appellate Attorney for the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One. For the past two years Ms. Stewart has co-chaired the Women's Resource

Fair, an annual community outreach event targeted to low-income women and children affected by homelessness, domestic violence or other social problems, sponsored in part by the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. The event helps hundreds of women and children find legal, medical and social services. She has been involved in the event since 1997 and is working on the 2004 event.

Nominated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Solo Practitioner:

Arthur Chettle, San Diego



Arthur Chettle has been a solo practitioner for 13 years specializing in debt relief and bankruptcy. Since 1996 Mr. Chettle has been a dedicated and devoted pro bono attorney at the Legal Clinic of the San Diego Volunteer

Lawyer Program's AIDS Law Project, counseling and advising clients on bankruptcy and tax issues, and accepting virtually every bankruptcy case offered by SDVLP. Mr. Chettle also mentors law students and newly admitted attorneys. He has been recognized by SDVLP with their Distinguished Service Award for the past five years.

Nominated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Government:

Steven Binder, San Diego



Mr. Binder is a Deputy Public Defender who helped create the state's first Homeless Court in 1989. The program has served as a model for other jurisdictions including Sacramento, Los Angeles, Riverside and

Ventura Counties. It is held monthly at a homeless shelter and assists the homeless resolve legal problems usually involving minor offenses arising out of the condition of being homeless. Mr. Binder meets with defendants prior to court to review their progress completing treatment programs, counseling or community service obligations. He also wrote a manual for the ABA on how to implement Homeless Court.

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

Recently Admitted:

Thomas Ostly, Berkeley



Thomas Ostly was admitted to the State Bar in December 2000. In 2002 he volunteered with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) in San Francisco working on landlord/tenant, employee benefits and insurance cases. He

also staffed a weekly clinic for the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) in Berkeley where he provided legal assistance in the areas of unlawful detainers, tenant rights and disability claims. Mr. Ostly also accepted many pro bono cases from EBCLC, providing free legal workshops for community groups and tenants associations, and made court appearances. He has been volunteering at EBCLC since 2001.

Nominated by AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Emeritus/Retired:

Peter Pickslay, San Diego



Mr. Pickslay is a retired corporate attorney enrolled in the State Bar's Emeritus Attorney Program. He provides pro bono counsel and advice at the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer

Program's Library Clinic Project where he has volunteered since 1995. In 2002 he provided legal assistance to low-income clients in the areas of consumer, employment, family law, housing, benefits, civil rights, torts, estate planning, public benefits, health, disability appeals and other civil issues. He also participated in SDVLP's Elder Law Project by presenting legal seminars for the elder community in San Diego.

Nominated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Small Law Firm:

Michael Ford, Fillmore



Michael Ford practices criminal defense, business law, family law and wills and trusts in a two-person firm located in rural Fillmore. His volunteer work consists of representing often mentally disabled homeless people

in civil and criminal matters to help them regain their belongings, recall failure to appear warrants, and other matters. Mr. Ford became a lawyer on 2001 with the sole intention of assisting underrepresented individuals and communities. He spent numerous hours helping hundreds of individuals in 2002.

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

Medium Law Firm:

**Heller Ehrman White
and McAuliffe, San Diego**



Top row (L to R): Melissa Black, Dan Silverman, Margaret Mann, Heidi Gutierrez, John Lien, Mikael Havluciyian, Katie Cohen, Chad Fuller and Jason Isaacs; Bottom row (L to R): Paul Rose, Barry Tucker, Shana Brown and Brian Griffith; Not pictured: Banks Staples Pecht, Naomi Walker, Libby Ryan, Juan Zuniga, Erin Booth, Samuel Lee, Fred Hernandez, David Charapp, Joseph Parker and Edith Bauer

Attorneys at the five year old, 45-attorney San Diego branch of Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe worked on non-profit incorporations, elder law and domestic violence matters, political asylum cases and prisoner's rights class action lawsuits. The firm's legal staff volunteer regularly with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program's Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic and Elder Law Project. In 2001 Heller received the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program's Pro Bono Law Firm Award.

Nominated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Large Law Firm:

Latham & Watkins, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco Offices



LOS ANGELES

(L to R) David Blood, James Barrall, Amos Hartston



SAN DIEGO

(L to R) Shannon Petersen, Joel Mack, Joseph Wheeler, Erik Bliss, Peter Benzian, Ward Lott



SAN FRANCISCO

(L to R) Amy Moen (seated), Ryan Nord, and Shannon Eagan

Latham & Watkins is an international law firm with a longstanding commitment to pro bono. Its five offices in California are located in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Orange County and Silicon Valley and each provides substantial pro bono services in its respective communities. The Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco offices are jointly recognized for their outstanding pro bono contributions in 2002. See highlights of each office below.

- Los Angeles and San Francisco offices assisted in the creation of a statewide pro bono project for California families affected by the September 11, 2001 tragedy. Forty attorneys in both locations devoted more than 2,300 pro bono hours in partnership with

the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco, Public Counsel and the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

- San Francisco office received the inaugural Partners for Justice Legal Impact Award from Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach for pro bono representation of immigrant domestic violence survivors who are self-petitioning for legal permanent residence. Attorneys also volunteered with the Prison Law Office on matters involving parole and conditions in the California Youth Authority.
- James Barrall of the Los Angeles office organized a team of 15 Latham attorneys that co-counseled with Inner City Law Center and secured a multi-million dollar settlement to compensate more than 100 tenants, mostly low-income children and immigrants, left homeless when a substandard apartment partially collapsed.
- Amos Hartston coordinated the pro bono committee and supervised the pro bono work of the Los Angeles office, in addition to providing hundreds of hours of direct pro bono service to 9/11 families through Public Counsel; to unaccompanied juveniles in INS detention in connection with applications for asylum through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC); and to low-income tenants in unlawful detainer cases and a non-profit organization in a real estate fraud case with Bet Tzedek Legal Services.
- A team of attorneys from the San Diego office, Joseph Wheeler, Shannon Petersen, Ward Lott and Joel Mark, spent more than 1,500 hours on a case referred by the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program representing a severely disabled 9 year old boy in a difficult and emotional matter involving complex litigation against a school district. Though the decision was in favor of the school district, the team succeeded in effecting changes to the district's use of restraints on disabled children.

Nominated by Inner City Law Center, Public Counsel, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco