

THE FIFTH ANNUAL

Access to Justice Pro Bono Recognition Reception



**RECOGNIZING ATTORNEYS AND FIRMS THAT HAVE
PERFORMED DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER SERVICE
FOR THE COMMUNITY IN 2018 AND 2019.**



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

5:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Nassau County Bar Association

Access to Justice Committee

The Nassau County Bar Association, through its Access to Justice Committee, comprised of The Safe Center LI, and Nassau Suffolk Law Services, in conjunction with other legal service providers, work together to coordinate legal services for the community, strengthen the core of volunteer attorneys through education/professional development, and provide information on free and reduced fee legal resources.

At this annual Pro Bono Recognition Reception, the Access to Justice Committee recognizes those individuals and law firms who generously donated their time and expertise in 2018 and 2019 to help low-income and vulnerable persons who otherwise could not afford an attorney or gain access to the civil justice system.

Rosalia Baiamonte
Co-Chair

Kevin P. McDonough
Co-Chair

Sheryl Channer
Vice Co-Chair

Two individuals who have been instrumental in delivering Access to Justice to those in need deserve a special thank you at this time.

Lois Schwaeber, Esq., Director of Legal Services at The Safe Center LI has officially retired as of February 5, 2021. Recognized as an authority in the field of domestic abuse, Ms. Schwaeber has dedicated her career to ensuring that victims rights in Nassau County are protected via access to legal representation. Ms. Schwaeber's dedication and most caring heart has touched the lives of several thousand domestic abuse victims. Her efforts have given her clients and their children the opportunity to become survivors: living safe and violent-free lives. Often referred to as "Wonder Woman" by colleagues and clients alike, she is the recipient of numerous awards that recognize her "super-human" efforts on behalf of them. Her career at The Safe Center LI has come full circle as she has already offered to volunteer her services.



Jeffrey A. Seigel, Esq., Executive Director of Nassau/Suffolk Law Services will officially retire on April 20, 2021 after more than 30 years of service. Mr. Seigel dedicated his career to to providing the highest quality legal services for the poor and the disabled, and to expanding access to justice for all Long Islanders. He is a recipient of the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University "Public Justice Foundation Outstanding Alumnus Award" in recognition of his decades of extraordinary dedication and commitment to public service and equal access to the civil justice system on Long Island. He explained that "the inspiration behind our work, simply stated, is the desire to provide access to justice in the court system to those individuals who would otherwise not be able to gain access, and, in part, on the pro bono side, of giving something back to our community."

ACCESS TO JUSTICE PRO BONO RECOGNITION RECEPTION

PROGRAM

President's Welcome

Introduction

Presentation

Top Providers of Pro Bono Services for the Community

TOP THREE PRO BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS

LARGE FIRMS

Forchelli Deegan Terrana, LLP

Founded in 1976, Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP ("FDT") is one of Long Island's largest and most distinguished full service law firms. The firm employs 65 attorneys in nearly 20 practice areas. Headquartered in Uniondale, NY, on the top floor of The OMNI, FDT's office is in a prime geographic location for servicing clients in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and in New York City. FDT is a proud corporate citizen. Over the years, the firm has supported over 75 charitable and non-profit organizations by providing the time, legal services and contributions needed to help them thrive.

Rivkin Radler, LLP

Through five offices and 190 lawyers, Rivkin Radler consistently delivers focused and effective legal services. We're committed to our best practices, requirements that go beyond professional and ethical standards. Our work product is clear and delivered on time. As a result, our clients proceed with confidence. We provide strong representation and build even stronger client relationships. Many clients have been placing their trust in us for more than 25 years. Our unwavering commitment to total client satisfaction is the driving force behind our firm. We are the advisor-of-choice to successful individuals, middle-market companies and large corporations. And for clients who prefer to speak their native language, we can communicate in Albanian, French, French and Haitian Creole, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Pilipino, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Urdu.

TOP THREE PRO BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS CONT.

Rivkin Radler, LLP Cont.

We give back to the community through volunteer and pro bono legal services. At Rivkin Radler, we serve our community through the support of Nassau/Suffolk Law Services. Through this program our pro bono team makes dozens of court appearances each year on behalf of indigent tenants facing eviction.

In conjunction with KIND (Kids in Need of Defense), we represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their deportation proceedings. Through The Safe Center of Long Island, we represent victims of abuse. We're proud to have been selected for the Partner in Justice Award, in recognition of our pro bono work. Our attorneys have also provided pro bono legal assistance to many charities and non-profit organizations, including: Boy Scouts of America's Suffolk County Council, Long Island's Make-A-Wish Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Long Island Chapter, Long Island's United Way, Mentoring Partnership of Long Island, Chabad of Port Washington, Fair Media Council, Catholic Charities, Molloy College, Long Island Regional Planning Council, Kids in Need of Defense [KIND], Long Island Children's Museum, Long Island Arthritis Foundation, Safe Center of Long Island and others.

Bond, Schoeneck & King

Bond, Schoeneck & King brings together a diverse group of attorneys across its geographic platform of New York State, Boston, Kansas City and Naples, Florida. With 250 lawyers in more than 30 practice and industry groups, Bond works with companies, individuals, not-for-profits and public sector entities. For more than 120 years, Bond has succeeded because its clients have succeeded. Bond's goal is to have mutually beneficial relationships with its clients through excellence in legal work, service delivery, and business acumen while providing leadership in community activities, pro-bono work and service to the Bar.

The Garden City office of Bond, Schoeneck & King opened in 2004 to introduce the firm's collaborative, integrated, statewide depth of experience to the communities of Long Island and the surrounding region. From Nassau County, Bond is proud to connect its neighbors to the 250 attorneys in Bond's 10 other offices, including the provision of pro bono legal services to individuals and organizations who cannot otherwise afford adequate legal assistance. Nassau County is their home, and Bond is proud to be of service.

TOP THREE PRO BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS CONT.

MEDIUM FIRMS

Abrams Fensterman Fensterman Eisman Formato Ferrara Wolf & Carone, LLP

Abrams Fensterman, one of the largest full-service law firms on Long Island and the largest in Brooklyn, serves clients throughout New York from offices on Long Island, in Brooklyn, Manhattan, White Plains and Rochester. The firm's law departments are chaired by recognized leaders in their fields in areas such as family and matrimonial law, health law, mental health law, elder law, guardianship law, corporate law, insurance defense, estate planning, commercial litigation, employment law, real estate law, transportation law, health care fraud, white-collar criminal defense, appellate and municipal law.

Berger Fischhoff Shumer Wexler Goodman, LLP

Berger, Fischhoff, Shumer, Wexler & Goodman, LLP, is a full-service Long Island Law firm providing clients with the highest caliber of legal services in a cost effective manner. The firm has the skill and experience to handle all types of bankruptcy cases, matrimonial cases, family law cases, divorce and mediation, real estate transactions, education cases, complex transactional matters and litigation matters. With our offices located in Suffolk County, Nassau County and Brooklyn, our team of legal professionals is ready to fight for you. Our lawyers are not only fluent in the law and possess superior business acumen, but also offer a practical "real-world" view of the time frames and costs needed to achieve alternative business or litigation strategies and goals. It is for these reasons that the firm enjoys a well-deserved reputation for superior legal services and responsiveness – delivered at a consistent cost effective price.

Horing Welikson Rosen & Digrugilliers, PC

Horing Welikson Rosen & Digrugilliers PC is a well known real estate and litigation firm, especially in the landlord-tenant and administrative law areas. First formed in the early 1980s, the firm has helped set important legal precedent in various aspects of real estate law. For example, the firm was successful in having the New York Court of Appeals hold that the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 should not be applied retroactively (Matter of Regina Metro. v. DHCR, 35 NY3d 332 (2020)). Through its participation in the Volunteer Lawyers Program in the Nassau County District Court, the firm is committed to providing pro bono services in landlord-tenant proceedings to parties otherwise unable to afford the services of an attorney. Our firm is thankful for the opportunity to assist litigants in need of representation.

TOP THREE PRO BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS CONT,

SMALL FIRMS/SOLO

Dennis Buchanan, Esq.

Dennis Buchanan retired from New York Presbyterian New York Methodist Hospital in 2017 as Vice President for Human Resources and Corporate Compliance. Since then, he has been in solo practice is active on the boards of several non-profits. In addition he has been volunteering with NSLS Voluntary Lawyers Project Attorney of the Day in Landlord-Tenant Court, NCBA's Foreclosure Settlement Conference program and Pro Bono Partnership. He is a graduate of St John's University School of Law and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Maryanne Foronjy Pedersen, Esq.

Maryanne Foronjy Pedersen is the Executive Vice Chairperson of the Board of Bethany House – a not for profit emergency shelter for women and children consisting of 5 buildings here in Nassau County. She is also a leader of “Multiple Pathways to a Diploma for All” an advocacy group here on Long Island consisting of over 6,000 members – which advocates before the NYS Board of Regents in Albany on behalf of special education students. Maryanne has been an active participant in our Foreclosure Pro Bono Program here – volunteering to represent homeowners in their efforts to secure a loan modification or reinstatement – to resolve the impending foreclosure action regarding their homes. She was previously a senior litigator at Buchanan Ingersoll PC where she handled creditor rights matters for Banks and financial institutions, including large commercial and residential foreclosure actions. Maryanne is a graduate of Fordham Law School.

Amarilda Brahim Fligstein, Esq.

My solo practice began as a general practice in 2018, commenced in the midst of motherhood, and not defined or limited by any particular field of law. As a student of law I was interested in areas that affected the different stages of life such as Family and Matrimonial Law, Elder Law, and Litigation. These areas of law continue to be the focus of my practice. Although challenging at times, efficiency and expediency, developed out of necessity in balancing professional and family time, became a skill that drove my business to the success it currently is, as well as allowed me to give back to causes that are near and dear to my heart.

TOP THREE PRO BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS CONT.

NON LEGAL PROVIDERS

Printing House Press

In 2018, after a long and contentious trial the Respondent filed an appeal of a Family Court Order. The Safe Center does not usually represent clients in appeals, mostly due to financial restraints. The Pro Bono Project Coordinator had the good fortune of connecting with John McGorty of Printing House Press. After briefly describing the situation and what was at stake, he immediately offered his assistance. Thanks to the combined efforts of the TSCLI Staff Attorney and Printing House Press, the client prevailed!

International Investigative Group Ltd.

With over 10 years' experience as a Licensed Private Investigator and Polygraph Examiner, Lisa Ribacoff currently serves as the Firm Manager of International Investigative Group. She has been a Community Liaison for the WE-CARE Advisory Board for nine years. She is a Court Certified Expert for Polygraph Examinations & Private Investigations on the Expert Panel for the City of New York, and both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. She was awarded a contract with the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department, over-seeing and managing the conducting of pre-employment polygraph examinations for all prospective employees.

Realtime Reporting

Ellen Birch is President and Founder of Realtime Reporting, Inc., a national court reporting company. Along with court reporting services, Realtime Reporting provides interpreting, transcription and additional litigation support services to the legal community for depositions, arbitrations, hearings and meetings. During this time of the pandemic, Ellen has transformed Realtime Reporting by providing remote court reporting services and training to law firms, as a group or individually, for their remote needs. Each year Ellen Birch donates a portion of her company's proceeds, and her time, to charitable causes and to organizations in which her clients serve.

Ultimate Process and Attorney Services, Inc.

In matrimonial and family court actions, most summons, complaints, and petitions must be personally served. Often times, clients of The Safe Center are unable to have a family member or friend serve the documents and need to hire a professional process server. For some, this is a cost that they simply cannot afford. Ultimate Process & Attorney Services, Inc., has personally served countless individuals on behalf of TSCLI on a pro bono basis. Craig Eisenberg and his team have never turned down a request for their assistance with a case, thereby enabling victims of domestic abuse to move forward in the legal process.

NON LEGAL PROVIDERS CONT.

Nassau Suffolk Hospital Council

Stacy Villagran is the chief operating officer of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association, and Suburban Hospital Alliance. She oversees the New York State Department of Health-sponsored grant program that provides enrollment assistance in Medicaid programs for the aged, blind, and disabled populations, provides technical support to hospital members, and assists in monitoring developments at the state and federal level.

Pro Bono Law Firms Standard Bearers

The below individuals have consistently volunteered across all three organizations and have donated a large amount of their time each year. In that, we recognize and thank them.

George Frooms, Esq.

I retired from a predominately real estate practice and joined the Foreclosure/Sandy Program a decade ago. Desiring to put my experience to use, I thought it would be a good fit. I would like to lighten the mood with a quick story: When I first became an attorney, I joined the NY County Bar Association and they sent me a list of numerous committees to join. Finally, at the end, one stood out: “the Committee on Committees.” I was asked why? My answer was “I want to put it on my resume.” Not only did I not get on it, but they eliminated the Committee. I have enjoyed helping people and not worrying about getting paid. I guess my thought process is slightly different! I thank the Bar Association for this experience.

Evelyn Kalenscher, Esq.

Evelyn Kalenscher, who received a JD degree from Hofstra University School of Law in 1989, is a participant in the New York State Attorney Emeritus Program for retired attorneys who work pro bono. Since 2009, until the courts closed down for in person appearances due to COVID-19, Ms. Kalenscher has worked two days a week through the Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Volunteer Lawyers Project in the Landlord/Tenant Part of the Nassau County District Court, representing indigent clients who are at risk of being evicted from their homes. During this difficult time, she has continued her pro bono representation through the NCBA COVID Help line.

Jon Michael Probst, Esq.

A graduate of Syracuse University and St. John’s University School of Law, where he was an Editor of the St. John’s Law Review, Jon worked at several firms in Manhattan and eventually opened in his own firm in 1982 in New York and Los Angeles. Since 2002, Jon has been living and practicing in Long Island concentrating in real estate, guardianship, matrimonial and family law, corporate law and litigation. He is also an arbitrator and mediator, a member of the ABA, NYSBA and NCBA, and the recipient of the 2015 Thomas Maligno Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award.

Pro Bono Law Firms Standard Bearers Cont.

Scott Schneider, Esq.

Scott R. Schneider has over 30 years of experience. His practice areas include bankruptcy law, debtor/creditor law and foreclosure defense. He received his law degree from St. John's School of Law in 1990 after graduating magna cum laude from LIU, C.W. Post Campus with a degree in accounting and a dual minor in economics and finance. While in law school he held two internships. The first with the NYS Attorney General's Office and the second with the Appellate Division Second Department. After graduation, he was associated with two bankruptcy law firms and started his own practice in January 2000. He joined the Volunteer Lawyers Project and was honored in 6/2004, 1/2009 and 3/2015 as Pro Bono Attorney of the Month. He is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association and NYS Bar Association. He is also a member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy attorneys. He has lectured on behalf of the Coalition for Consumer Debtor Education Program run by New York Law School. He also lectured on New York Foreclosures and Workouts on behalf of the National Business Institute. He is admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey as well as in the US District Court in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the US District Courts in the Northern and Western Districts of New York.

Harold Somer, Esq.

Mr. Somer is sole member of the law firm bearing his name which opened in July 2002, mainly practicing in the following areas of law: Bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights with extensive experience representing secured creditors and debtors in all phases of workouts; bankruptcy proceedings; corporate and individual Chapter 11 debtors, Chapter 7 and 13 debtors and creditors committees; state court litigation; general commercial litigation; lien enforcement; mortgage foreclosures; real estate; commercial matters including business buys and sells; leases; corporate transactions.

Mr. Somer also volunteers considerable time related to bankruptcy as a member of the New State Bar Association's Committee on Volunteer Lawyers; the Bankruptcy Panel of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Nassau County Bar Association; and Nassau County Bar Association Mortgage Foreclosure Legal Consultation Clinic where he also counsels on foreclosure and other state law issues.

**Pro Bono Law Firms
Honorable Mentions**

Large Firms

**Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, PC
Farrel Fritz, PC**

Medium Firms

**DiMascio & Associates, LLC
Craig D. Robins, Esq.
Joseph Law Group, PC**

Small Firms/Solo

**Genna Rosten Margolis, Esq.
Michael Aronowsky, Esq.
Marc Ialenti, Esq.
Carol Koch, Esq.
Stuart Gelberg, Esq.
Andrew Thaler, Esq.
Adam D'Antonio, Esq.
John M. Zenir, Esq.**

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Ahuja, Esq. Anand
Alizio, Esq. Peter
Allen, Esq. Taniesha S.
Alpert, Esq. Gary S.
Altimari, Esq. Anthony
Amadio, Esq. Alfred
Amato, Esq. Michael
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Arrowood, Esq. Charlie
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Boronow, Esq. Paul A.
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Brill, Esq. Howard R.
Bristol, Esq. Lauren B.
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Whitaker, Christine
Wisselman Jerome A.
Witkon, Esq. David I.
Wofse, Esq. Adam P.
Woods, Esq. Brian
Wurtzel, Esq. Elan
Wurtzel, Esq. Stewart E.
Yetman, Esq. John R.
Yousefi, Esq. Delaram
Zausmer, Esq. Hon. Robert N.
Zelmanovitz, Esq. Esther Schwartz
Zenir, Esq. John

Pro Bono Opportunities in Nassau County

Bankruptcy Clinics

These clinics are held every other month. Volunteer attorneys provide guidance to those considering bankruptcy, and when necessary screen clinic attendees for referral to pro bono attorneys for filing of Chapter 7 petitions. Although this is a limited engagement, participating attorneys are eligible to receive cases that are referred.

CONTACT: Nassau Suffolk Law Services

Susan Biller, 516-292-8100 ext. 3136; sbiller@nsls.legal

Federal Court – EDNY Long Island Courthouse

Opportunities exist to represent indigent litigants in pending litigation in the EDNY's Long Island Courthouse. Cases typically involve civil rights claims brought pursuant to Section 1983 or employment discrimination claims arising under the Title VII, the ADA and/or ADEA. Representation may be for the duration of the litigation or for a limited purpose such as mediation or for trial only.

Pro bono counsel must join the Court's pro bono panel in order to be considered for appointment. The application can be found at: <https://www.nyed.uscourts.gov/forms/pro-bono-panel-application>. Completed applications may be returned to Alyce Goodstein, Pro Se Staff Attorney, US District Court, EDNY, 100 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722 or at alyce_goodstein@nyed.uscourts.gov.

CONTACT: Alyce Goodstein, Esq., 631-712-6060,
alyce_goodstein@nyed.uscourts.gov

Landlord/Tenant Attorney-of-the-Day Project

Volunteer attorneys provide legal assistance to low income residents at eviction proceedings and guidance with regard to other landlord-tenant issues.

CONTACT: Nassau Suffolk Law Services

Roberta Scoll, 516-292-8100, rscoll@nsls.legal

Pro Bono Opportunities in Nassau County

Mortgage Foreclosure/Superstorm Sandy Recovery Joint Consultation Clinics

These Clinics run twice a month from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Attorneys

perform 20-30 minute consultations and provide legal guidance, including real estate, insurance, contractor and bankruptcy issues. This is a limited engagement; attorneys do not follow cases and are not permitted to be retained.

CONTACT: Nassau County Bar Association

Gale D. Berg, 516-747-4070, gberg@nassaubar.org

Mortgage Foreclosure Settlement Conferences

Conferences are held Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 until 12:00 noon and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Supreme Court. Free legal advice is provided for anyone in court without representation, and attorney volunteers join an NCBA staff member for each session. This is a limited engagement; attorneys do not follow cases and are not permitted to be retained.

CONTACT: Nassau County Bar Association

Gale D. Berg, 516-747-4070, gberg@nassaubar.org

The Safe Center LI

The Safe Center LI seeks volunteer attorneys to assist victims of domestic/dating abuse, elder abuse, and/or rape/sexual assault with legal advocacy, consultations, and/or representation, with issues arising from the abuse.

CONTACT: The Safe Center LI

Gail Broder Katz, 516-465-4700, GBroderKatz@tscli.org

Pro Bono Opportunities in Nassau County

Student Mentoring Program

Volunteer attorneys mentor middle school aged children identified by education professionals as “at risk.” Attorneys meet with children at 8:00 AM for 45 minutes, every other week.

CONTACT: Nassau County Bar Association

Stephanie Pagano, 516-747-4070, spagano@nassaubar.org

Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Project staff refers a variety of legal matters to private volunteer attorneys. The most common areas referred include matrimonial, landlord-tenant, bankruptcy and guardianship issues.

CONTACT: Nassau Suffolk Law Services

Susan Biller, 516-292-8100 ext. 3136; sbiller@nsls.legal



Hosted by

Nassau County Bar Association

The Safe Center LI

Nassau Suffolk Law Services

NASSAU COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

15th and West Streets

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