
ProBonoNY
AN ACCESS TO JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE POOR

NEWSLETTER

For Local Action Committees

SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM, OFFICE OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA BING NEWTON, DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR JUSTICE INITIATIVES
Edited by John Ritchie, Esq. • 100 Centre Street, Room 549, New York, New York 10013 • Tel. 646-386-4712 • Fax 212-748-5085 • jritchie@courts.state.ny.us

Volume 1, Number 3 November 2007

ANNUAL REPORTS!

Due by the end of November.

One additional reminder: please send Annual Reports to Judge Newton (copied to John Ritchie) by the end of November. If a little extra time to gather data is needed, sending in reports by the end of the week of December 3 will be OK. Suggestions for material to be included in the reports are in Volume 1, Number 1 of the Newsletter and its attachment. If you don't have that issue handy, please contact the editor (phone or e-mail above) for a new electronic or hard copy.

Those committees that are still in the planning phase could submit a brief report on the status of committee organization and planning, with an indication of whatever the committee believes will be its initial activities, events, or programs—with more or less detail, depending on how far planning is advanced. The committees have a lot to report—both things done and things in gestation—but the reports can and should be simple and compact.

These reports are going to be of great importance in publicizing ProBonoNY generally, as well as reflecting the accomplishments of each individual committee and all committees' future plans. The reports will also be very important in terms of sustained conceptual support and funding from the Court System. And the information will be of great interest to Chief Judge Kaye, whose strong commitment to enhanced pro bono services is the foundation for this statewide initiative.

In the works is a ProBonoNY page on the Court System's website where the annual reports (and other information about the initiative) can be available to the public, with links to each committee's individual website as those sites are created and activated.

9th District CLE Program

Free two-credit CLE program, with a string attached, will be sponsored by the Ninth Judicial District/Westchester County Pro Bono Committee on November 15, 2007. The string is that attendees must register with the Committee's Volunteer Attorney Program in order to receive the free CLE credits. For your information, a copy of the flyer for the program is an attachment to this month's [Newsletter](#).

NEW HOSPITAL PRO BONO PROJECT BY THE FIFTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Legal Assistance Clinic at Crouse Hospital

The Fifth Judicial District Pro Bono Program coordinates a Legal Assistance Clinic which is located at Crouse Hospital, in Syracuse, housed in the Admitting Office. Volunteer Lawyers provide free legal advice, referral, and assistance to patients of Crouse Hospital or University Hospital, who cannot afford a lawyer.

Clinic services include assisting in the preparation of health care proxies, living wills, standby guardianships, and other documents, as well as assistance with housing, employment, family, income, disability, and other issues related to or caused by health problems. Clinic attorneys do not address issues where there is a controversy with the hospital or medical personnel, or assist family members or other parties in obtaining guardianship of patients.

The Clinic is a walk-in only clinic. For patients who are unable to leave their hospital floor, hospital staff are able to schedule an appointment by contacting the Fifth Judicial District Pro Bono Action Now program staff. The Clinic began operating on June 5, 2007, and operates each Tuesday, except for the fifth Tuesday of a month and holidays, with hours alternating each week from 12 to 2 p.m. or 5 to 7 p.m.

Editor's Note: This was and is a complex project to develop and implement, a major piece of work. Public relations initiatives are needed to create awareness of the project among hospital staff, medical personnel, and potential low-income clients. The Fifth District Committee and its Pro Bono Coordinator created a very substantial set of training and resource materials. More details on the project in a future issue of the [Newsletter](#).

5th DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S WORK DRAWS ATTENTION FROM AMERICAN JUDGES ASS'N

Another story that will be more thoroughly covered later: Michigan District Judge Elizabeth Pollard Hines, chair of the American Judges Association's Access To Justice Committee, contacted Fifth District Administrative Judge James Tormey for information about the Fifth District Committee's organization and activities. Under consideration is an article in the Association's Journal. Also discussed: Judge Tormey being invited to attend the next Association convention to discuss ProBonoNY activities. This is a very exciting development! New York may provide a useful model for many other states seeking enhanced levels of pro bono work for the poor! More on this as the story develops!



The Westchester County Pro Bono Local Action Committee
Presents the 2nd Annual:

***VIEWS FROM THE
BENCHES AND THE TRENCHES***

A **FREE** 2 CREDIT CLE PROGRAM, with a string attached*
(1 Ethics Credit and 1 Professional Practice Credit)

WHERE: The Westchester County Courthouse, Central Jury Room
WHEN: Thursday, November 15 2007, 2pm-4pm, reception to follow

OPENING REMARKS: Hon. Francis A. Nicolai
MODERATOR/RECOGNITION: Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr.

PANELISTS:

~ David Boies, Esq. ~
~ Hon. Lewis Lubell ~
~ Hon. Alan Scheinkman, Esq. ~
~ Deborah Scalise, Esq. ~

RECEPTION: Meet the Judges and Panelists in an informal setting
immediately following the seminar.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE at this event or for further information please
contact Lisa Colosi Florio, Esq. at lflorio@courts.state.ny.us or 914-824-5100.

*If they have not already done so, attorneys attending the CLE program must agree to register with
the Westchester County Pro Bono Local Action Committee Volunteer Attorney Program
(administered by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley) and to represent a referred client on a pro
bono basis within the next 24 months.

*This program will be suitable for transitional and non-transitional coursework (appropriate for both newly admitted and
experienced attorneys).

**Application for accreditation of this program in New York is currently pending.