Norma Chase, Pittsburgh

Norma Chase is a solo practitioner in Pittsburgh. She is a council member of the PBA Solo and Small Firm Practice Section and a member of several PBA committees and sections.

Describe your pro bono work. I accept domestic relations referrals from the Allegheny County Bar Association and from the Neighborhood Legal Services Association. I accept court appointments on criminal appeals. I am also an off-and-on gadfly with respect to the legal system. My biggest accomplishment that did not involve a client matter was getting an escrow overdraft reporting rule adopted in Pennsylvania. Of course I didn’t do this single-handedly; it was through a PBA committee. Our proposal was adopted by the PBA and ultimately by the state Supreme Court. More recently I have informally challenged transcript policies that impair access to information and court practices that make intra-family adoptions unnecessarily cumbersome.

Why do you participate in pro bono? I don’t want to see people who need legal remedies rendered helpless by a shortage of resources.

How did you become involved? I probably called someone and said, “Add my name to the list.”

Have your pro bono cases dealt with legal issues different from your regular practice areas? If so, how did you adapt? I generally stick with matters involving my regular practice areas.

What have been the personal rewards? Foiling those who anticipated taking advantage of someone else’s indigency.

Describe your other community service: I am a regular donor at the Central Blood Bank. My time there gives my brain a welcome respite.

How does pro bono “make a difference”? It empowers disadvantaged people. Poverty becomes less of an obstacle to being heard and to being treated fairly.

Remember to Pay Your PBA Section Dues

PBA section membership dues were to be paid by April 30. Section members who have not yet made payments should do so promptly to remain current with section memberships.

To check the status of section memberships to make payments, go to your PBA Member Dashboard. Click on the Member Login link at the upper right of the PBA home page at www.pabar.org. You can also contact the PBA Member Service Center at 800-932-0311.

Learn more about PBA sections at www.pabar.org/public/sections.

And the Winner Is …

Luke T. Weber, an associate in the Lancaster office of Stevens & Lee, is the winner of an iPad mini for following the PBA on Twitter.

“Checking the Twitter feed from PBA and other legal sources is a great way to keep up on current news and events within our profession,” said Weber.

Weber’s name was selected in a random drawing from among the more than 1,000 followers who signed up for the PBA Twitter feed during the contest period in March.

A significant increase in PBA staff postings of events, publications, news releases, awards and more has enhanced PBA’s social-media presence. PBA staff also retweet postings from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, providing links to significant Supreme Court opinions and rule changes.

To join in the PBA social-media boom, members should click on the icon links for Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn at the upper right of the PBA website’s home page at www.pabar.org.