

**Legal Services to the Public Committee
Agenda
Committee Section Day
November 17, 2005**

The meeting was chaired by Co-chair Liz Fritsch .

Present at the meeting were: Sandy Ballard, Joe Campagna, Sam Cooper, Vicky Coyle, Sue Danforth, Micah Davis, Jim DeAngelo, David DeVries, Karen Forman, Liz Fritsch, Janet Ginzberg, Jim Kearney, Barb Kittrell, Kate Cramer Lawrence, Henry Leone, Kathy Manderino (Board of Governors' Liaison) , Milt Munk, Arthur Read, Sam Rosenzweig, William Warner, Joanne Wilder (Co-Vice Chair), and Charles Young. Dale Schell and David Trevaskis represented the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Joining on the phone were: David Baxter, Sylvia Hahn, Christine Kirby and Cynthia Sheehan

Welcome from the Co-Chair

Liz Fritsch welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Visit from President-Elect Ken Horoho

Fritsch welcomed PBA President-Elect Ken Horoho who joined the Committee right at the start of its meeting. Horoho noted his background in family law and his long support of pro bono efforts. He referenced the recently completed PBA membership survey and discussed how protecting the profession and the image of lawyers was a top priority of his. Horoho added that there was no better way to address this than through pro bono and public service. He then outlined that his main areas of interest as President would be on a technology task, working with Attorney General Tom Corbett on eliminating child predators from the internet, and on a pro bono component that he hoped the Committee could help focus. Horoho explained that he wanted to promote something that would work in most of our counties. There followed a lively discussion with many ideas being suggested as Jim Kearney outlined the hiring with donated dollars of a family law civil legal aid attorney by the Lancaster Bar, Art Read talked about the need for language access, Sylvia Hahn and others mentioned the recent and 4th annual Lackawanna Pro Bono Inc.'s Northeast PA Pro Bono Conference, and Hank Leone emphasized PALawHelp.org and PApronono.net.

Bill Warner noted how every county in Pennsylvania is unique as regards pro bono and civil legal aid and he encouraged Horoho to connect with county Bar leadership and provide a strong message for the need for significant support of pro bono and civil legal aid in each locality. Christine Kirby gave Horoho a brief update of the information her surveys had turned up on loan forgiveness as an issue in young lawyers entering into careers in civil legal aid. Sandy Ballard talked about setting up courthouse help desks, informing Horoho that Lancaster had just set up what looked like a promising model. Fritsch noted PBA marketing efforts and the technology task force as important steps in the PBA improving civil legal aid and pro bono efforts. Janet Ginzberg highlighted a

court records on line project of the AOPC where the poor were being heavily impacted by false police records—Ginzberg stated that state police records are only 70% accurate. Other suggestions for Horoho included a Pro Bono Attorney of the Month that Horoho would honor on his travels, an effort to build on the middle income task force and develop a program that targeted low income/modest means clients.

Visit from President Bill Carlucci

Fritsch then welcomed PBA President Bil Carlucci who joined the meeting to share his Public Interest Institute initiative (the first was in Harrisburg, the second is scheduled 3/9/06 in Philadelphia and the third one is set for Pittsburgh in summer 2006). Carlucci thanked the Committee for its hard work and announced his commitment to celebrating attorneys doing work in public service. He noted that he is encouraging all attorneys to find an avenue of public service in their career.

Pro Bono Coordinator's Report

David Trevaskis handed out a copy of his report that was presented to the Board of Governors. All coordinator reports are posted on the Pro Bono Office website. Among the highlights Trevaskis noted: PALawHelp.org is up and running as a website designed and maintained with PBA support (www.palawhelp.org) for clients and attorneys to find available resources in the field; It's companion, www.PAProBono.Net, a website designed for pro bono attorneys seeking support for their cases and for agencies to use in recruiting additional pro bono attorneys, was showcased to the legal community at last May's Pro Bono Conference in Pittsburgh and was up and running with support from an IOLTA pro bono grant this fall. Trevaskis shared an updated report on the county pro bono survey and noted that the annual meeting and pro bono conference in 2006 would take place in June.

Report of Task Force on Loan Forgiveness and Debt Reduction

Sam Cooper, a Tri-Chair of the Task Force, gave a brief report to the Committee about the work of the Task Force and he noted that he and Lou Rulli were making an informational report to the House of Delegates the next morning. Cooper said that he looked forward to the Task Force making a final report in fall 2006 and he then fielded questions from the Committee. David DeVries, a member of both the PBA and ABA Task Forces in this area, provided an enlightening overview of the debt problem. He explained that the Task Force was dealing with the distinction between that large group of all law students with huge debt who will disperse into various practice areas and the particular problem of the law student going to work for a legal services program carrying an \$80 thousand debt upon graduation. Joe Campagna added that his concern is what happens 10 years later for that legal services attorney when the debt burden becomes crushing.

Subcommittee Reports:

Fritsch noted that she had met with Co-Chair Dveera Segal (who missed this meeting to be with family in Israel as part of her sabbatical) and discussed reorganizing the

Committee subcommittee structure. The following reports were made and reflect their discussion:

Pro Bono Conference

Derek Green, Committee Co-Vice Chair and the Chair of the Pro Bono Conference Subcommittee was unavailable but Trevaskis shared a draft agenda for the Wednesday, June 7, 2006 Pro Bono Conference in Hershey. Trevaskis explained that the focus of the conference will be on *Pro Bono, Ethics and Technology: An Interactive Seminar Featuring PALawHelp.org and PAprobono.net*. All members of the Committee were asked to save the date and try to attend the Hershey event, but a deeper discussion ensued about the need to get private practice attorneys to attend, and pay for attending, the conference. Jim DeAngelo suggested that a special outreach needed to be made to private practice attorneys and he offered his support of that effort. It was noted that the Committee needed to show it could hold a self-sustaining Pro Bono Conference; all four conferences to date have benefited from significant grant support to cover registration costs. A hope that registration costs for legal aid professionals could still be covered was also shared.

Local Support

Trevaskis noted that Educational and CLE programs are continuing across the state as a tool for promoting pro bono. He explained that his office now had the best information about what is going on in each county thanks to the work of PBA intern Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith.. There was discussion of the state survey done by Marshall-Hockensmith and certain suggestions for expanding the survey were given.

Development

Fritsch explained that the Development Subcommittee continued to operate in the background since the Task Force on Loan Forgiveness and Debt Reduction had been focusing on resources. However, Christine Kirby followed up on her previous efforts about *Cy Pres* and the ensuing discussion emphasized how this was an area for development that Committee members needed to pursue by presenting information to other Committees and Sections at the June Annual Meeting. It was determined that the Committee would need to provide brochures and speakers at the next Committee/Section Day to such Committees and Sections that could help with civil legal aid programs being awarded funds.

Law Schools

Segal and Fritsch determined that there was a need for a different approach for this group since the Task Force has co-opted the Law School Subcommittee's work to a large extent. No further discussion was held on this subcommittee.

PLS Update

Sam Milkes was unavailable to give an update on PLS, but mention was made of the Access to Justice Sunset Repeal efforts. There was a brief discussion of efforts PLS had

undertaken to attempt to eliminate the Sunshine Provision on the Access to Justice Act which have failed to date to eliminate the five year term for the Act. With more than a quarter of all support for civil legal aid in Pennsylvania coming from the Act, the 2007 sunset date is looming large for the field.

PALawHelp/PaProbono.Net

Hank Leone and Trevaskis updated the Committee on the two website tools and on continuing CLE training on the tools across the state.

IOLTA Update

Al Azen was unavailable to provide an update on IOLTA, but the 2006 IOLTA Pro Bono grants were highlighted and information about the PBA IOLTA grant was shared.

Pro Bono Awards

Trevaskis gave a brief report as the meeting was coming to an end and announced that the new round of pro bono awards would include the awards first given in 2005 for a legal services person and a judge.

LAMP –Report on Efforts of the New Military Affairs Committee

Spotlight Articles/Webpage Update/Miscellaneous

Trevaskis noted the successful first meeting this morning of the Military Affairs Committee staffed by the PBA Pro Bono Office. He asked for more volunteers to write Spotlight articles and he directed the Committee to check out the recently redesigned pro bono program webpage. Joanne Wilder, Co-Vice Chair, highlighted a series of small grants from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers for \$5000 that were available. She said the deadline was July 1st each year (this is year 10 of the grants) and that the money was for individual projects. She encouraged more Pennsylvania applications.

Regular Phone Calls of the Committee

Fritsch ended the meeting by stating that there was a need for further communication besides the two Committee/Section Day meetings and the Pro Bono Conference get together. She suggested that the Committee hold a conference call in the new year to keep track of its projects

The meeting ended just after 3:30 p.m.