

PBA 2005 Pro Bono Award Winners

Robert Banks — a sole practitioner from Baden, Banks handled the second highest number of weighted cases through the Neighborhood Legal Services Pro Bono/ Reduced Fee Programs in 2004. He helped 16 clients in the areas of landlord/tenant, divorce, custody and support.

Rachel Blake — an attorney with Pepper Hamilton in Pittsburgh, Blake was instrumental in the planning and creation of the Homewood Lending Clinic in Pittsburgh. She recruited attorneys to help with the clinic.

Stephen D. Brown — an attorney with Dechert Price LLP in Philadelphia, Brown annually donates 250-300 hours to handle prisoner civil rights cases. He is the co-coordinator of the Prisoner Civil Rights Panel for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and is the co-founder of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Public Interest Civil Litigation Fund, which is a nonprofit corporation that defrays out-of-pocket expenses for attorneys accepting cases from the panel.

Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights — the center, which is the site of the nation's only law school student clinic dedicated solely to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues, provides legal services to LGBT individuals facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Last year, it responded to 632 requests for assistance, represented more than 70 needy clients in legal actions and referred more than 200 cases to other attorneys.

Raymond Ferrario — a sole practitioner, Ferrario accepted pro bono cases from both from Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc., and the Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association's pro bono project. In 2004, he donated over 60 hours to pro bono cases, which included bankruptcies and custody matters.

David Fine — an attorney with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP in Harrisburg, Fine donated more than 200 hours of pro bono service in the past year and provided firm leadership in coordinating over 1,000 hours of service by other firm attorneys.

Leo Gibbons — an attorney with MacElree Harvey in West Chester, Gibbons donated more than 100 hours to help nine indigent bankruptcy clients in 2004. He also volunteered for two pro bono programs in Chester County.

Susannah Henderson — an attorney in the Philadelphia office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Henderson handled eight pro bono cases through the Support Center for Child Advocates and the Homeless Advocacy Project, donating more than 90 hours. She is the founder and organizer of the Morgan Lewis Child Advocates Group.

Carolyn Hetrick — an attorney with Byler, Goodley, Winkle & Hertick in Lancaster, Hetrick handled six pro bono custody cases last year and donated more than 60 hours of her time.

Peter Horne — a sole practitioner in Lawrence County, Horne donated more than 50 hours to help 118 needy clients last year. He worked in the areas of divorce, family law and elder law.

Michael Kruszewski — an attorney with Quinn, Buseck, Leemhuis, Toohey & Kroto, Inc., in Edinboro, Kruszewski donated more the 80 volunteer hours through the Erie County Legal Aid Volunteer Attorneys Program in the areas of defense of lawsuits and bankruptcy.

Kenneth Kulak — an attorney in the Philadelphia office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Kulak donated 167 hours to handle pro bono cases through the Homeless Advocacy Project. He also recruits volunteers to staff the law firm's homeless advocacy clinic and to take cases from the clinic.

Lebanon County Bar Association — Eighty-nine percent of the county's attorneys actively participate in pro bono work through MidPenn Legal Services, Lebanon County office. Last year, the attorneys donated more than 1,099 hours to represent 302 needy clients.

Pamela Mayer — an attorney in Johnstown, Mayer co-facilitates a batterer's intervention program in Cambria and Somerset counties and operates a legal clinic one afternoon each week. She conducts a monthly informational seminar for clients staying in shelter care and those involved in counseling on issues involving domestic violence.

Jonathan McAnney — an attorney with Tucker Arensberg PC in Pittsburgh, McAnney donated more than 50 hours to help 91 needy clients. He also serves as the firm's pro bono coordinator and organized a group of lawyers to handle protection from abuse cases.

John McKenna — an attorney with MacElree Harvey, Ltd in West Chester, McKenna donated more than 60 hours to assist four needy clients involved in custody matters. He also created the "Access to Justice" program to serve the working poor in Chester County.

Lawrence Neary — an attorney in Harrisburg, Neary donated more the 50 hours to help four needy clients last year through the Dauphin County Bar Association Pro Bono Program.

Wendelynn J. Newton — an attorney with Buchanan & Ingersoll in Pittsburgh, Newton coordinates the firm's pro bono program, which was ranked first in Pennsylvania and 49th in the nation for its pro bono work in 2004. She also has volunteered for 20 years with KidsVoice, a nonprofit organization that represents abused and neglected children in the court system.

Brian Petroski — an attorney with Echard & Snyder in Pittsburgh, Petroski donated more than 85 hours last year to help seven needy clients through the Bankruptcy Clinic, Volunteer Attorney for the Day Program and Reduced Fee Program.

Powell Law Firm — each of the attorneys in this Lackawanna County law firm accepted at least one new pro bono case from Lackawanna Pro Bono last year.

Michael Riskin — an attorney with Riskin & Riskin in Bethlehem, Riskin donated more than 55 hours last year to help 12 needy clients through the Fair Share Pro Bono Program offered by North Penn Legal Services.

Marsha Sajer — an attorney with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP in Harrisburg, Sajer donated more the 135 hours last year to help six needy clients through the Third Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Bono Program and the Veterans' Consortium Pro Bono Program.

Daniel Schaffzin — an attorney with Pepper Hamilton in Philadelphia, Schaffzin donated hundreds of hours last year to help a death-row inmate. He also volunteered his time to coach a local high school mock trial team.

Harry Skene — a Lackawanna County attorney, Skene has accepted 10 pro bono custody cases over the past few years through Lackawanna Pro Bono.

Alan Skwarla — an attorney in Cabot, Skwarla donated more than 200 hours last year to help dozens of needy clients through the Neighborhood Legal Services Association's referral programs and his own private practice.

Travis Thompson — an attorney with Liederbach, Hahn, Foy, VanBlunk & Thompson, Thompson donated more than 30 hours last year to help a needy client through the Pro Bono Program of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Bucks County Office.

Barry VanRensler — an attorney in Delaware County, VanRensler donated more than 100 hours last year to help two needy clients through the Pro Bono Project of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware County Division.

Nancy Winkelman — an attorney in the Philadelphia office of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, Winkelman annually donates more than 200 hours to help needy clients with prison, immigration and disability matters before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She also co-chairs the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

Diane Zabowski — a sole practitioner in Pottstown, Zabowski donated more than 85 hours last year to help 10 needy clients through the Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Montgomery County Division.