PBA 2006 Pro Bono Award Winners

Abrahamsen, Moran & Conaby: Scranton, PA - In 2005 each attorney of Abrahamsen, Moran & Conaby accepted pro bono referrals in addition to a number of cases that they accepted from Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc. They provided expertise in matters pertaining to child custody, divorce, landlord-tenant, and license suspension. According to Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc. and the Lackawanna Bar Association, “Abrahamsen, Moran & Conaby has truly made a difference to the bar and the community as a whole.”

John Eric Bumbaugh: North Huntingdon, PA - John Bumbaugh has been accepting Pro Bono cases since 1991, assisting many in their bankruptcy matters. In 2005, John dedicated 275 hours of service to helping those who were in need. John is known for being readily available, always willing, and maintaining a cheerful demeanor and disposition. John, who enjoys the hobby of building and flying model airplanes, holds memberships with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Westmoreland Bar Association, Deer Lakes Pilot’s Club, Murrysville Area Radio Control Society, and Norwin Rotary. Iva Munk, who entered the nomination, says “John embodies the spirit of his profession in helping others and promoting understanding and appreciation of the law.”

Loreen Burkett: Keys & Burkett - Lebanon, PA - Loreen Burkett, Lebanon County Bar Association President, is a general practice lawyer, who specializes in domestic law. She was nominated by MidPenn Legal Services in recognition of her 15 year involvement with the organization. She volunteers her time a few times a year to meet with clients in the Mid Penn office, and conducts custody clinics several times a year. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section, Children Rights Committee, LegisAct Subcommittee, Women in the Profession, National Association of Counsel for Children, and the Lebanon County Board of Arbitrators. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Cornwall Children’s Center. Loreen has been an author, co-chair, coordinator, and chairperson. In all of the roles, her Passion for helping others has been evident.

Jacob Cohn: Cozen O’Connor - Philadelphia, PA - Jacob Cohn dedicated over 200 hours of pro bono time in 2005. He was nominated by Ceil O’Connor, Director of Professional Development. Jacob has dedicated his time to pro bono matters since he graduated law school in 1988. He currently takes pro bono cases from the Aids Law Project and he has handled pro bono matters that include issues pertaining to asylum matters, prisoner civil rights, ACLU research assignments, contract disputes, and insurance policy disputes.

Muriel Crabbs: Law Office of Crabbs & Crabbs - Hanover, PA - Muriel Crabbs, of Crabbs & Crabbs, was nominated by MidPenn Legal Services for her dedication to help those in need of legal guidance with social security matters. She has accepted every one of Mid Penn’s social security cases and donates the money that she has received from fees back to the organization. Muriel is held in high regard for her dedication and generosity.

Dover Intelligent Design Trial Team: Pepper Hamilton - Philadelphia, PA - Pepper Hamilton served as lead counsel for the plaintiff families in the landmark “intelligent design” case of Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District that was decided in Pennsylvania in December 2005. Pepper, along with lawyers from the ACLU of Pennsylvania and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, successfully represented eight families who challenged the Dover, PA, policy that included intelligent design in the high school science curriculum.
Patricia A. Dunlevy: Lancaster, PA - Patricia Dunlevy specializes in the area of family law and has volunteered with the Volunteer Attorney Program of the Lancaster Bar Association since 1998. She was nominated by James Kearney of MidPenn Legal Services in recognition of her consistent Participation in the program. In 2005, Patricia dedicated approximately 100 hours of pro bono service to domestic cases. She is the Chairperson of the Family Law Section of the Lancaster Bar Association and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Valerie Faden: Camp Hill, PA - For the Past two years Valerie Faden has been conducting divorce clinics for MidPenn Legal Services. She was nominated by Grace D’Alo of MidPenn Legal Service and Becky Morgethal of the Cumberland County Bar Association. Valerie serves on many committees and boards, such as the CCBA ADR Committee and CCBA Family Law Committee. She is also a volunteer mediator and facilitator for the Dauphin County Civil Dispute Resolution Program and Lancaster Mediation Center. Valerie’s contribution to MidPenn Legal Services has been priceless, as it has allowed the staff to focus more time on other issues.

Catherine J. Garbus: Tunkannock, PA - Catherine Garbus, who was nominated by Deborah Albert-Heise, is someone who has been known for doing the very best to help clients. She never says no, when asked to take on a case and will handle multiple matters in an effort to help the client in every way she can. In 2005, Catherine spent over 50 hours helping clients in matters pertaining to child custody, divorce, protection from abuse, dependency, support and elder law. Catherine Participates in the Wyoming/Sullivan County Pro Bono Program, but also provides free legal services to the Dietrich Theatre, Habitat for Humanity, and Wyoming Cares. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Wyoming Bar Association.

Amy L. Groff: Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicolson Graham, LLP – Harrisburg, PA - Amy Groff of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicolson Graham, LLP has voluntarily devoted a significant block of time to provide pro bono representation to an inmate with an appeal before the Third Circuit. In this case alone, she has devoted more than 150 hours to serving the needs of her client and has given her pro bono appointment the very best quality representation. Amy is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, American Bar Association, and Dauphin County Bar Association.

Paul H. Herbein: Paul Herbein & Associates – Reading, PA - Paul Herbein is a bankruptcy and criminal defense attorney in Reading, Pennsylvania. He is a long standing Participant of the Pro Bono Bankruptcy Panel of MidPenn Legal Service. Paul is always willing to take emergency cases on short notice and will handle case that is difficult in nature without question.

Craig Huffman: Eckell Sparks Levy Auerbach Monte Rainer & Sloane – Media, PA - Craig Huffman is a family law attorney, who was nominated by Karen Tyler, Pro Bono Coordinator of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware County. Craig’s nomination was in recognition of his generosity in dedicating 68 hours of his time to Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania in 2005. Craig is an attorney who goes above and beyond to help clients. He makes sure that all the issues are dealt with and the client’s issues are fully resolved.

Rosadele Kauffman: Delafield McGee Jones & Kauffman – State College, PA - Rosadele Kauffman is a family law attorney, who was nominated by legal aid in Centre County and the Centre County Bar Association. Rosadele meets with clients regarding property settlement issues and divorce matters. She provides each client with the advice and direction that they need to move forward. Rosadele is a mediator for the Center for Alternative in Community Justice, a member of the State
Board Rotary, and sits on the boards of Aronsburg Public Library and Women’s Resource Center. She is held in high regard by her peers as a mediator over family law cases.

**Lackawanna Bar Association: Scranton, PA** - In the Past year, the Lackawanna Bar Association has provided a significant portion of Lackawanna Pro Bono’s operating expenses, co-sponsored the Equal Access to Justice Awards, provided the opportunity for Lackawanna Pro Bono to distribute its “Pro Bono Honor Roll,” provided Lackawanna Pro Bono the opportunity to conduct a raffle at the Bar Association’s Summer Golf Outing, and served as CLE provider for a seminar Lackawanna Pro Bono sponsored, among many other contributions. In addition, Lackawanna Pro Bono matched Lackawanna County Attorneys to the poor for pro bono representation in 169 new cases.

**Tammy Lamary: Erie County Courthouse – Erie, PA** - Tammy Lamary is general practice attorney who was nominated by David Baster of Erie, Pennsylvania, in recognition of dedicating 293 hours of pro bono time to those who are in need. She has supplied pro bono representation in the areas of family law and unemployment compensation. Tammy is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Erie County Bar Association.

**Eric M. Lieberman: Zimmerman, Lieberman & Tamulonis – Pottsville, PA** - Eric Lieberman, an attorney at Zimmerman, Lieberman & Tamulonis, was nominated by Marsha Chwastiak for his willingness to help clients on short notice. Eric Participates with the pro bono program of the Schuylkill County Bar Association. He is a caring attorney whom clients rave about and appreciate.

**Michael J. Marrazzo: Scranton, PA** - Mike Marrazzo, who was nominated by Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc., is recognized for his outstanding commitment to the program. He has dedicated a substantial amount of hours to representing numerous clients, in custody, visitation, and protection from abuse matters. Mike is a current board member and Past president of the Dunmore Senior Center.

**Kathy E. Ochroch: Blank Rome, LLP – Philadelphia, PA** - Kathy Ochroch was nominated by Fred Blume, Managing Partner and CEO of Blank Rome, LLP, who states that Kathy’s steadfast commitment to pro bono service, Passion and strong leadership skills are just a few of the qualities that make her a valuable asset to Blank Rome and the numerous public interest organizations she serves. Her legal expertise and enthusiasm for public service has distinguished her from her peers. Kathy is a past winner of a PBA Pro Bono Award.

**Heather L. Paterno: Goldberg Katzman – Harrisburg, PA** - Heather Paterno, who practices family and commercial litigation, was nominated by Sandy Ballard of the Dauphin County Bar Association. Heather is an outstanding pro bono attorney who was recognized for her commitment by the Dauphin County Bar Association, when she received the Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award in January 2006. According to Sandy Ballard, a member of the Dauphin County Bar Association Award Committee stated that Heather’s “contributions are recent, substantial, and in the area (family law) where our needs are the greatest. She has been in practice four years and, as such her commitment is a shining example of what we would like to inspire in others in her generation to embrace.” Heather is a member of the Pennsylvania and Dauphin County Bar Associations, the Dauphin County and Pennsylvania Councils of Republican Women, and is a board member of the Harrisburg branch of the American Association of the University of Women.

**David Pelletier: Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP – Philadelphia, PA** - David Pelletier is a civil litigation attorney at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP in Philadelphia. He was nominated
by Joanne Noble, an associate at the firm, who recognized David for his dedication of 300 pro bono service hours to those in need of legal assistance with civil rights and homeless advocacy matters.

**Jerry A. Phillpott: Duncannon, PA** - Jerry Phillpott was nominated by Rhodia Thomas, Executive Director of MidPenn Legal Services. Jerry has spent 13 years as a Legal Aid Board member. He is recognized for his long term representation and pro bono case involvement. He is a Past president and current member of the Perry County Bar Association, member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and is the President of the Board of Directors for the Susquenita School District.

**Michelle Piscopo: Blank Rome, LLP – Philadelphia, PA** - Michelle Piscopo is a member of the Matrimonial group at Blank Rome. She handles a wide array of cases involving marital estates, divorce, equitable distribution, child custody, alimony and adoption. Michelle was nominated by Managing Partner and CEO Fred Blume. According to Fred Blum, in 2005 Michelle dedicated over 200 hours of pro bono service to the “arduous and challenging representation of a prisoner on Pennsylvania’s death row in Post-Conviction Relief Act proceedings. In addition, Michelle has also dedicated many pro bono hours to family law cases through the Volunteers for the Indigent Program. She has assisted other attorneys with divorce and custody cases on a pro bono basis. Michelle is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section, the American Bar Association Family Law Section, and the Philadelphia Bar Association Family Law Section.

**Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership: Pittsburgh, PA** - The Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership is an association of Pittsburgh law firms, corporate and governmental legal departments and the Allegheny County Bar foundation. Currently there are 17 law firms, five corporate members and one governmental legal department. Their purpose is to increase attorney and Paralegal pro bono legal services to the southwestern Pennsylvania community.

**Karen Pieslak Pohlmann: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP – Philadelphia, PA** - Karen Pieslak Pohlmann is a litigation attorney at Morgan Lewis & Bockius in Philadelphia. Her concentration is in securities and shareholder litigation and corporate governance issues. Karen was nominated by firm Managing Partner Howard Meyers, firm Pro Bono chair Kevin Donovan, Philadelphia Pro Bono Chair James DelBello, and Philadelphia Pro Bro Bono Associate Vice Chair Susannah Henderson. In 2005, Karen dedicated 114 hours of pro bono service to children’s rights and dependency litigation and advocacy. In honor of her devotion, The Support Center of Child Advocates honored Karen as one of their “Distinguished Advocates” this year. According to Karen’s nominators, she is a “tireless advocate for clients, even in the face of opposition.”

**Harvey B. Reeder: Huntingdon, PA** - Harvey Reeder was nominated by Rhodia Thomas, Executive Director of MidPenn Legal Services. According to Rhodia Thomas, Harvey “has consistently supported the legal needs of the indigent in Huntingdon County and surrounding counties as well, by taking pro bono cases and providing leadership through Board representation.” Harvey is a general practice attorney, Mid Penn Legal Service Board Member, and member of the Huntingdon County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

**Marsha A. Sajer: Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham, LLP – Philadelphia, PA** Marsha has devoted over a 100 hours of pro bono service to civil rights and veteran benefit matters. She is a civil litigation attorney at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham, LLP in Harrisburg. Marsha was nominated by firm Partner Robert R. Fine, in recognition of her devotion to pro bono work and quality representation. She Participates with the Federal Bar Association Pro Bono Program and the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program.
Saul Ewing, LLP: Philadelphia, PA - In March 2005, Saul Ewing, LLP selected a signature cause and population to which it would provide free legal services. After much research, Saul Ewing adopted the elderly and veterans and military personnel as its signature causes, and launched We’re All In, a firm-wide pro bono project. Under the project, all of the firm’s 260 attorneys pledged to undertake a pro bono matter by the end of the year.
Patricia Shoap: Shoap Law Offices – Chambersburg, PA - Patricia Shoap was nominated by MidPenn Legal Services and the Franklin County Bar Association. For many years Patricia has served as a Board member for the former LSI and MidPenn Legal Services. According to her nominators, Patricia “has been a vital link as the voice of not only Franklin County’s low income residents, but the staff of MidPenn Legal Services as well.” She is compassionate and dedicated to making sure clients receive the highest quality of legal representation. Some of Patricia’s memberships include the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Franklin County Bar Association, and Pennsylvania Lawyers Association.

Samuel W. Silver: Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP – Philadelphia, PA - Sam Silver, Chair of Schnader’s Litigation Department, provided 150 hours of pro bono service in 2005. Sam provides free legal assistance through Schnader’s pro bono program; handling matters pertaining to capital punishment and prisoner civil rights. Sam’s most recent victory was of a man who had spent 19 years on death row and his conviction was vacated minutes before the execution was to take place. Sam was nominated by firm associate Joanne Noble. According to Joanne Noble, “over the year’s Sam has dedicated thousands of hours to pro bono matters.” He is known for his strong support and encouragement of pro bono service. Sam makes himself available to answer the questions of other attorneys who are handling pro bono cases and “his enthusiasm to help those in need is contagious.” Sam serves as the coordinator of the Prisoner Civil Rights Panel of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and is a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel, and the University of Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

Keith E. Smith: DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP - Philadelphia, PA - Throughout his legal career, Keith Smith has been deeply committed to pro bono work that makes a critical difference in the lives of those in need of legal representation. Pro bono service is an essential Part of his life as a lawyer. For years, Keith has served as one of the lead attorneys on two large, highly complex, time consuming pro bono matters. He has given his time and experience to both these important endeavors with unflagging generosity and profound devotion. Keith also helps those who would otherwise go without legal representation in his work for a non-profit that assists senior citizens.

Jonathan Solomon: New Castle, PA - Jonathan Solomon was nominated by Claudia J. Bistyga of Neighborhood Legal Services, which is the pro bono program that he provides free legal services under. Jonathan is a general practice attorney who during his pro bono service prepares protection from abuse documents, creates wills and gives legal advice to the elderly. In an effort to improve the level of service for the low income community in Lawrence County, Jonathan has helped to bridge the gap between judges, the Lawrence County Bar Association and NLSA.

Heather Steinmiller: Blank Rome, LLP – Philadelphia, PA - Heather Steinmiller, who donated 190 hours of pro bono service time in 2005, was nominated by Blank Rome Managing Partner and CEO Fred Blume. Heather is known for her Passionate nature and dedication to pro bono services. She provides pro bono services to the Support Center for Child Advocates, the Capital Habeus Unit, the Homeless Advocacy Project, and the Philadelphia Bar Association. She advocates for the rights of children and is Part of a team of attorneys at Blank Rome who are representing a mentally handicapped inmate in Post-Conviction Relief proceedings. Heather has also provided counseling to Katrina evacuees, counsels non-profit organizations on personnel matters, volunteered on a number of political campaigns, and has advocated in election court on behalf of voters. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Young Professional Leadership Committee and Chair of the Advocacy Committee, the
John Walter, Jr.: McNees Autenreith Rockley Walker & Carr: Beaver, PA - John Walter, who provided over 80 hours of pro bono service for Beaver County, was nominated by Bruce Curry of Bridgewater, Pennsylvania. According to Bruce Curry, John “has filled a void by taking on almost all the reduced fee bankruptcy cases in the county over the last year.” John is a general practice attorney and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Past-president of the Beaver County Bar Association.

Brian L. Watson: Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP – Philadelphia, PA - Brian Watson is a litigation attorney at Morgan Lewis & Bockius in Philadelphia. He was nominated by firm Managing Partner Howard Meyers, firm Pro Bono chair Kevin Donovan, Philadelphia Pro Bono Chair James DelBello, and Philadelphia Pro Bro Bono Associate Chair Susannah Henderson. Brian dedicated 88 pro bono hours in 2005, and over 700 pro bono hours in the last five years. He provides pro bono service to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and is the coordinator for pro bono asylum and immigration matters at Morgan Lewis. Brian is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Paul Welch: Coploff Ryan & Welch – Lock Haven, PA - Paul Welch is a civil and criminal general practice attorney, who was nominated by Danna Rich-Collins of North Penn Legal Services. He works with the NLS Judiciary Referral Program and is known for his willingness to accept cases at the last minute. According to Danna Rich-Collins, Paul “has bailed Legal Services out of many emergency situations.” In addition to his judiciary services, Paul accepts pro bono clients and is a great resource for Legal Services within the community. Paul is also the representative for victims of domestic violence in Clinton County through the domestic violence shelter.

J. Michael Wiley: Raup & Wiley – Williamsport, PA - J. Michael Wily is a general practice and environmental law attorney, who was nominated by Danna Rich-Collins of North Penn Legal Service. Michael has been a great deal of help to NLS. In addition to his normal pro bono caseload, Michael accepts cases until clients can be placed with an attorney. He has also accepted cases when there have been restrictions that would not permit Legal Services to represent the client. Michael serves on the NLS Protection from Abuse Panel and has never refused a pro bono referral since the Panel was established in the 1980’s. Michael is well received and appreciated by all the clients that are referred to him.

Elizabeth Silvia Wood: Gawthrop, Greenwood & Halsted, PC – West Chester, PA - Elizabeth Silvia Wood provided 100 hours of pro bono service in 2005. She was nominated by Rachel H. Houseman of Legal Aid Southeastern Pennsylvania. According to Rachel H. Houseman, Elizabeth “demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the interest of her pro bono clients.” She is recognized for her tenacity, devotion, compassion, and commitment. Elizabeth is family law attorney who dedicates her time to child custody and support matters at the Legal Aid of Southeastern of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Chester County Bar Association, and Doris Jonas Freed American Inn of Court.

Andrew W. Young: England & Young – Doylestown, PA - Andrew Young is a general practice attorney, who volunteers his time for domestic matters with Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania Bucks County Division. In 2005, he provided over 80 hours of pro bono service to those in need. According to Randi Riefner, the Pro Bono Coordinator for Legal Aid, Andrew “more than embodies the true meaning of Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct in providing legal representation to those
individuals who otherwise would not be able to obtain legal representation.” Andrew is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Bucks County Bar Association.

**Lawrence V. Young: CGA Law Firm - York, PA** - Lawrence Young is a bankruptcy attorney who provided 115 hours of pro bono service to those who are in need in 2005. He was nominated by Tom Kearney of the York County Bar Foundation. According to Tom Kearney, “Larry Young’s name is synonymous with pro bono service in the York County Bar.” Larry is a very active supporter of pro bono service. He Participates in pro bono activities, has taught CLE’s to pro bono attorneys, has served on many legal service boards, and advocates for the pro bono program at the Bar Foundation and Association.