

## PRO BONO AWARDS

### 2007 CIVIL LEGAL AID ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

*This award is given out each year to the civil legal aid attorney who best epitomizes the title of the award as determined by the Legal Services to the Public Committee.*

**Stephen R. Krone, Esquire: MidPenn Legal Services—Harrisburg, Dauphin County**  
(Nominated by Rhodia Thomas, Esquire, Director, MidPenn Legal Services)

Steven R. Krone has dedicated his life to public service on behalf of poor people. Legal aid used to be something that certain lawyers dabbled in at the beginning of their careers, but a new breed of attorneys at the end of the sixties made such work their career. Steve knew that he wanted to serve right from the start of his work as an attorney. After graduating from Dickinson Law, Steve went directly into the VISTA Program. Upon completion of his VISTA service in 1970, Steve went to work in Harrisburg with what was then Dauphin County Legal Services and is today MidPenn Legal Services. Thirty-seven years later he is still true to his original commitment to help the poor get a fair shake from the justice system. He has consistently maintained a high level of quality representation while mentoring many new MidPenn attorneys.

Steve has extensive experience in many areas of law, particularly in housing, social security and child support. Steve has long battled with bad landlords to force them to provide decent homes to tenants and their families. Private landlords with substandard properties have reason to fear his zealous advocacy. A slum landlord he recently battled with ended up in jail. He has also long struggled for fairness on behalf of the families in public housing. He was involved in a lawsuit against a public housing authority regarding eviction procedures that resulted in a major policy change for all their residents. Recently, he successfully challenged the authority's policy to deny a Section 8 Housing Voucher to tenants based solely on a landlord's statement that money was owed.

He excels at staying on top of the Rules of Civil Procedure. Steve is a frequent and effective commenter on proposed Rule changes that impact low income persons. He has presented many training sessions in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program and the annual Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Statewide training conference. Steve is a member of the Dauphin County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He has been very involved with the Pennsylvania Bar Association both as a Zone 3 Delegate to the Board of Governors and as an active member of the Family Law Section and numerous committees. Steve is also a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Committee on Racial and Gender Bias.

### 2007 JUDGES AWARD

*This award is given each year to the judge(s) selected by the Legal Services to the Public Committee as having made the greatest contribution to improving civil legal aid in the Commonwealth*

**The Honorable Chester T. Harhut: President Judge, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas—Scanton, Lackawanna County** (Nominated by Carlene Gallo, Esquire and Robert Gownley, Esquire of Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.)

President Judge Chester T. Harhut is a champion of children and families in the court system and one of the moving forces behind the Outreach to Children Committee's Children's Summit. Governor Robert P. Casey appointed Chester T. Harhut to the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas on April 30, 1987. In November 1987, he was retained for an additional ten (10) year term. He served as trial judge until January 1996 when he assumed administrative and judicial responsibility for the newly created Family Court. He continues to serve in that capacity. In October 2000, Judge Harhut was appointed President Judge of Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas. In addition to his administrative duties as President Judge, Judge Harhut continues to serve in Family Court.

Judge Harhut has served as a Director of the Lackawanna County Bar Association from 1976 to 1982 and as a delegate to the Pennsylvania Bar Association from 1982 to 1987. He is past President of Family Services of Lackawanna County and the Planning Counsel for Social Services of Lackawanna County. He served on the Board of the PA Affiliate of the American Heart Association, Trustees of Lackawanna Junior College and the United Way of Lackawanna County. Judge Harhut also served as President of the Board of Trustees and as a board member of the Everhart Museum.

Concomitant with establishing a Family Division (which includes Delinquency and Dependency courts) within Lackawanna County, Judge Harhut established the "Kids First" program to enlighten parents of the implications of separation and divorce on their children and made co-parenting an integral part of the Family Division. Judge Harhut also extensively revised the Court's rules regarding custody and parenting.

He also spearheaded S.T.A.R.S., the anti-truancy program in Lackawanna County. This collaborative program involving the schools, courts, and human services, focuses on reducing criminal activity while emphasizing the importance of education.

In a continuing effort to alleviate conflict within families, he moved to integrate human services into the legal setting to help achieve a more stable, cooperative and community environment. With the introduction of the integrated services and programs into the court system, recidivism is at an all-time low and healthy families are on the rise.

Judge Harhut is one the state's foremost proponents of resolving family conflict through alternative dispute resolution. He is a strong advocate of mediation as an alternative to litigation. He has moved to make mediation a meaningful part of all court proceedings in Lackawanna County. Judge Harhut has been an active participant in the Family and Juvenile Division of the Pennsylvania Trial Judges Association.

As President Judge, he has moved the court to individual calendars in the Civil and Criminal division. He has helped direct the court system to treatment orientation in criminal, family, juvenile, and dependency areas. Currently, his court is in the process of developing a common intake system for juvenile and dependency cases.

**The Honorable Katherine B. L. Platt: Judge, Chester County Court of Common Pleas—West Chester, Chester County** (*Nominated by Wendy Hoffman, Executive Director, Chester County Bar Association.*)

Judge Katherine B. L. Platt is a champion of pro bono service who is currently running a tutoring class for non-family law attorneys so that those lawyers in other fields know how to effectively conduct the pro bono representation of family law cases. The Chester County Bar Association notes that she has “single-handedly doubled the number of volunteers for pro bono family law cases”. Judge Platt has also opened up non-traditional areas of law for pro bono services, including both guardianships and small estates. Judge Platt works with her colleagues on the Chester County bench to positively reinforce pro bono work from attending events to honor pro bono lawyers to adapting court procedures to remove impediments to such service. Judge Platt is a lifelong resident of Chester County who received her B.A. degree from Sarah Lawrence College in 1972 and her J.D. degree from Villanova University School of Law.

Judge Platt’s earliest legal experience while still in law school was in public interest law. After graduating from law school, she maintained a general law practice concentrating in family law, real estate and commercial lending transactions. From 1980 through 1993 she served as a Hearing Officer for support cases in the domestic relations division, conducting hearings and deciding spousal and child support cases. Judge Platt was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County in November 1997, taking her oath of office in January 1998. She initially handled civil and criminal trials and is currently assigned to Family Court and Orphans Court. Judge Platt remains actively involved in community, school and church affairs.

## **2007 ATTORNEY PRO BONO AWARDS**

*These awards honor lawyers who fulfill the requirements of the profession to provide pro bono service in ways that deserve special recognition.*

### **Abrahamsen Moran & Conaboy: Scranton, Lackawanna County** *(Nominated by Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.)*

The law firm of Abrahamsen Moran & Conaboy has shown outstanding commitment to pro bono service in Lackawanna County. Their commitment has been demonstrated by the fact that each attorney practicing in the firm accepted at least one pro bono case referred to them by Lackawanna Pro Bono during 2006. The attorneys practicing in the firm include Edwin (Ned) A. Abrahamsen, Lawrence Moran, James J. O'Connor, James Conaboy, Christina Coury, Edwin (Chip) A. Abrahamsen, Jr., Michael Parker, and Stephanie Austria. The pro bono cases accepted by the law firm during 2006 included custody matters, landlord-tenant disputes, and a PFA. Pro bono practice areas taken on by the firm include custody, landlord-tenant, and protection from abuse cases.

### **Donna L. Adelsberger, Esquire: Donna Adelsberger & Associates. P.C. –Glenside, Montgomery County** *(Nominated by Wendy Denchick-Alloy, Esquire and Mary C. Pugh, Esquire of the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project)*

**Donna L. Adelsberger** is a pro bono attorney who epitomizes dedication to children. She has been an active child advocate for Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP) since 2004. As a child advocate, Donna is devoted to helping children in and out of the legal arena. She is committed to protecting children from the horrors of abuse. Simultaneously, Donna tries to support and to help abused children as they learn to trust others. She volunteers countless hours in and out of the courtroom to insure that each of her clients are safe and on a healthy road to recovery. MCAP, in its nomination, stated: “We recognize and appreciate Donna’s constant willingness to take any case. She has helped children in many of the legal venues such as criminal court, family court and dependency hearings. She is tenacious in protecting her

young clients, yet tender in caring for their needs. With advocates like Donna, MCAP continues to help children who are victims of abuse and neglect in Montgomery County.”

**Robert D. Bacher, Esquire: Golin, Haefner & Bacher—Lancaster, Lancaster County**  
(Nominated by the Lancaster Bar Association)

**Bob Bacher** has been a consistently active participant in Lancaster’s Voluntary Attorney Program since 1989. He is a strong advocate who believes in the pro bono philosophy that we should help those who are less fortunate and are unable to pay for legal assistance. Bob is bilingual (self-taught in the 80’s when he was a public defender) which has allowed him to directly represent many of the Hispanic clients seeking legal aid in Lancaster. MidPenn Legal Services notes that Bob donated 20 plus hours and has served five clients during the past year and that his representation was reflective of his service over the years, both “strong” and “exemplary.”

**Denise Bierly, Esquire: Delafield, McGee, Jones, and Kauffman—State College, Centre County**  
(Nominated by MidPenn Legal Services)

**Denise Bierly** has taken all of the adoption cases that she has been asked to assist in and has never refused any case including those in other counties. She has done adoptions for clients which included non-consensual adoption. In the past year, she has taken six adoption cases and has donated forty two pro bono hours. Denise is a member of Centre County Bar Association, PA Bar Association, and American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, where she serves as Board Member. Because of Denise’s’ hard work and dedication to the families that she has served, the children now have a father and the same last name as their other family members and this is important to a child.

**Brian J. Bluth, Esquire: McCormick Law Firm--Williamsport, Lycoming County**  
(Nominated by Danna Rich-Collins, Managing Person/Pro Bono Coordinator, North Penn Legal Services and Jessica Engel, Lycoming Law Association)

**Brian J. Bluth** became a member of the Protection from Abuse Panel by virtue of becoming an associate in his firm. While we may call him a draftee as opposed to an enlisted man, he has continued to serve with distinction. Because of the system employed by his firm, he automatically gets more than the usual three referrals a year. Mr. Bluth has served five clients in the last year and has dedicated 30 plus hours to pro bono service. But it is not for the number that we honor him, but for his advocacy with these cases. In addition to litigating issues that arise out of his PFA’s, this recipient goes beyond second hearing representation in virtually all cases. He keeps abreast any development in the law, and shares those with the staff of Wise Options and Legal Services for distribution to other advocates. Mr. Bluth participates primarily in the Protection from Abuse Panel at the Lycoming Law Association. Through that panel, he represents victims of domestic violence in Protection from Abuse hearings. His representation transcends the hearings, as he is truly an advocate in all areas that his clients need his service.

**Rebecca Bowman, Esquire: Washington, Washington County** (Nominated by Debbie Gardner, Interfaith Hospitality Network of the South Hills)

**Rebecca Bowman** gives of her time and her energy. She is available 24/7 for the clients she has chosen to serve. Not only does Rebecca serve through several formal pro bono disadvantaged. Rebecca practices primarily in administrative law, real estate (including landlord/tenant), construction/contracts, and small business formation. In addition to providing service in her primary practice areas, Rebecca also provides pro bono services for

adoptions. Rebecca has donated 156 pro bono hours and has assisted 50 clients in her pro bono work.

**Yvonne R. Bradley, Esquire: Chester, Delaware County** (*Nominated by Kevin Tyler, Paralegal, Pro Bono Coordinator*)

**Yvonne R. Bradley** has successfully represented numerous clients at Legal Aid's request. Ms. Bradley has, on many occasions represented clients at several hearings until their legal matters were completely resolved. Additionally, she has represented victims of domestic violence who suddenly found themselves without the financial resources to protect themselves and their children from abusive parties. Ms. Bradley has donated 89 pro bono hours in the last year and has served three clients. Her commitment has enabled many families to remain together in a healthy and safe environment.

**Brier & Brier: Scranton, Lackawanna County** (*Nominated by Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.*)

The law firm of **Brier & Brier** has shown outstanding commitment to pro bono service. In 2006, the firm's three attorneys, John J. Brier, Michael E. Brier, and Terrence J. McDonald, all accepted pro bono cases. These cases included custody, protection from abuse, and child support matters. The firm has donated time to assist in five pro bono cases in the last year.

**Romanna C. Butcher, Esquire: Norristown, Montgomery County** (*Nominated by Harvey Strauss, Co-Executive Director and Michele Beasley, Pro Bono Coordinator, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania*)

**Romanna C. Butcher** is a member of our local Bar Association and generously donates her time, energy, professional skills and caring and compassionate spirit to assisting a number of legal aid clients each and every year. She does both custody and divorce cases for our clients and always does this work in a highly professional and very pleasant way. Ms. Butcher has represented approximately 6-10 clients for Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Montgomery County Division with custody and uncontested divorce cases each year. Many of these cases are involved and have required significant amounts of pro bono work. Ms. Butcher's pro bono contributions have gone on for at least the past 5 years and have assisted our

**Joseph Colavecchi, Esquire: Colavecchi and Colavecchi –Clearfield, Clearfield County** (*Nominated by MidPenn Legal Services*)

**Joseph Colavecchi** never refuses any type of case or person he has been asked to assist. He has taken a variety of case types that require more than advice. In the last year Joseph has donated twenty five pro bono hours and served five clients. Joseph has voluntarily contributed a significant portion of time to providing legal services to poor people without charge; he has done several cases on debt collection and deed transfer. His principal areas of practice are consumer law and general law. Joseph is a member of Clearfield Bar Association, where he served as past president including a member of the PA Bar Association. Joseph has helped families solve legal problems in areas of debt collection and deeds relieving families of pressure and helping the household run smoother

**Edson S. Crafts, III, Esquire: Solo Practitioner--Huntingdon, Huntingdon County** (*Nominated by private attorney Michael M. Kipphan, Esquire*)

Attorney **Edson Crafts** has been providing free legal services for over ten years to PRIDE, a non-profit organization for persons with disabilities. Attorney Crafts contributions have been made primarily through his non-profit organization. He has routinely provided advice and

representation in all matters relating to the operation of PRIDE. He has contributed more than 80 hours to PRIDE in the past year alone.

**Charles S. Cusick, Jr., Esquire: New Castle, Lawrence County** (*Nominated by Neighborhood Legal Services, New Castle*)

**Charles S. Cusick, Jr.** in a time where private attorneys are not generally giving of their time, even at reduced fees it is admirable to find an attorney willing to help the less fortunate have equal rights to the law at a point where they may be at their lowest and most desperate. Mr. Cusick has done this, both by direct representation of clients and by working to improve the justice system. He has served 3 clients with pro bono activities in the last year.

**Cozen O'Connor: Philadelphia, Philadelphia County** (*Nominated by H. Robert Fiebach, Esquire*)

**Cozen O'Connor** law firm is recognized as a “go to” firm in handling complex pro bono matters, particularly in the field’s Immigration/ Asylum Law and post conviction remedies. Pro bono service is an integral part of the firm’s culture. Cozen encourages all of its attorneys to devote at least 60-hours annually, allowing 50 of those hours to be treated as full production credits. In 2006, Cozen O’Connor’s Pennsylvania attorneys and paralegals devoted over 9,900 hours to pro bono matters. Firm attorneys also take leadership roles in public service and charitable organizations and sit on the Boards of Directors of pro bono services organizations. Additionally, the firm has developed its own charitable programs that serve the greater Philadelphia region.

**Kelly Dilts, Esquire: Law Office of Roy Keefer –Gettysburg, Adams County** (*Nominated by Crystal Golden*)

**Kelly Dilts** has been very generous in taking pro-bono contested divorce cases for the firm she is currently employed by. Ms. Dilts would take on the contested divorce cases, that started out as uncontested, and helped obtain the divorce through Legal Aid Society and the local bar association. She has donated 5 hours of her time to pro bono work in the past year and has helped served 3 clients through pro bono activities.

**PECO (Exelon Corporation Legal Department).** (*Nominated by Kevin D. Stepanuk*)

**Exelon Corporation Legal Department** has a long-standing tradition of providing pro-bono legal services and support to the community. The department has a formal written pro-bono and community service policy that encourages all legal department employees to participate in pro-bono and company-sponsored community and charitable activities in order to provide access to legal services to people of limited means; help to meet individual professional responsibilities; and fulfill the company’s corporate responsibilities to the community. The pro-bono program is administered by two Pro-Bono Coordinators who report directly to the General Counsel. In the past year, The Exelon Corporation Legal Department has contributed 663 significant hours to pro bono work. Not only does the legal department encourages employees to engage in pro-bono activities, but also expects outside counsel to share in pro-bono commitments as well.

**Saul Ewing, LLP: Philadelphia, Philadelphia County** (*Nominated by Stephen S. Aichele, Esquire, Firm Chairman, Karen Forman, Esquire, Pro Bono Counsel*)

**Saul Ewing’s** firm wide pro bono project, “We’re All In” was established in March 2005. The project harnesses the collective talents of the firm’s 260 attorneys and directs it towards meeting the legal needs of low income elders and veterans. Karen Forman, Esq, the firm’s first Pro Bono

Counsel, provides coordination, and the firm provides ongoing training and support to the attorney volunteers. To date, the “We’re All In” effort has resulted in 100 percent participation in all three of Saul Ewing’s Pennsylvania offices, generating over 4,300 hours of pro bono service valued in excess of \$1.2 million. The program fosters collaborative relationships with local organizations serving the target populations and relies on these organizations for financial screening and referral of meritorious cases. “We’re All In” provides direct representation in a wide variety of matters including homeownership, healthcare directives, end-of-life documents, predatory lending, and access to benefits and conducts community based legal clinics. Firm attorneys are also providing leadership in the public interest community through their service on public interest boards and active work with the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee and Public Interest Section.

**John W. Frommer, III, Esquire: Smigel, Anderson & Sacks, LLP—Harrisburg, Dauphin County** *(Nominated by Sandy Ballard, Dauphin County Pro Bono Coordinator)*

**John W. Frommer, III** is a partner in the Harrisburg firm of Smigel, Anderson & Sacks, and LLP practicing in the area of business, commercial law, and Workers Compensation. For over a decade, John has provided critical pro bono service by running MidPenn Legal Services Dauphin County Pro Bono Program Divorce Clinics. In 1991, MidPenn launched the Divorce Clinics after seeing an influx of family law matters. At the same time, most Pro Bono attorneys were reluctant or unwilling to take on family law cases because of their lack of experience in that area and/or the time involved with these cases. At each of the Divorce Clinics, John assists 10-15 clients giving each his personal business card and welcoming them to contact him with any questions or concerns as their case proceeds. John also takes other pro bono case in addition to his Divorce Clinics. John is a humble pro bono servant and well-spoken role model for new Dauphin County Bar Association members to emulate.

**Betsy A. Gerber, Esquire: Cozen O’Connor—Philadelphia, Philadelphia County** *(Nominated by Ceil O’Connor and Cozen O’Connor)*

**Betsy A. Gerber** jumped right into her commitment to offer legal assistance to people struggling with poverty, abuse and discrimination without hesitation. Betsy’s focus has often been on matters involving families and particularly children. This year, Betsy spent countless hours on both a guardianship and an adoption case. Betsy was able to deliver a happy ending in both matters. Betsy also assisted on an additional pro-bono matter in which she successfully opened judgment entered against an elementary school. She worked closely with the Department of Licensing and Inspections to ensure that the underlying complaint was withdrawn, leaving the school with a clean premises record. Betsy has spent 108 hours handling pro bono cases and created three new pro bono programs upon joining Cozen O’Connor.

**William Gierasch, Jr., Esquire: Stock and Leader—York, York County** *(Nominated by Susan R. Emmons, MidPenn Legal Services)*

**William Gierasch, Jr.** has been committed to Pro Bono service for many years. He served many years on the Board of directors of MidPenn Legal Services and its predecessor programs. He takes pro bono cases every year and has donated 75 hours to pro bono work in the last year alone. In addition to taking 2 pro bono cases in the past year, he is currently very involved in organizing a fundraiser for York County to raise funds to hire a dedicated custody attorney for York County. He organized the MidPenn Advisory Committee which is a group of business people that provide support for the York office by donating furniture and other necessary items

for which there is no budget, and fund-raising. This group has been active for the past several years.

**Stuart L. Hall, Esquire: Miller and Hall—Lock Haven, Clinton County** (*Nominated by Danna Rich-Collins, Managing Person/Pro Bono Coordinator*)

**Stuart L. Hall** has been a willing participant in the pro bono referral system between North Penn Legal Services and Clinton County Bar Association since he began practicing in Clinton County. Stuart has never refused a referral. If he has had scheduling conflicts, Stuart has suggested continuances or other alternatives. Over the last year, Stuart has accepted 4 referrals while still assisting previous referrals with their ongoing cases as well as donating 30 hours to pro bono work in the last year.

**Hannah Herman-Snyder, Esquire: Griffie & Associates – Carlisle, Cumberland County** (*Nominated by Grade D'Alo, Manager, MidPenn Legal Services*)

**Hannah Herman-Snyder** is always willing to accept pro bono cases when we ask and she conducted one of Mid Penn Legal Services larger clinics in 2006 – accepting the clients as her own. Hannah is one attorney that can always be counted on to help out when a pro bono attorney is needed.

**Brad Koplinski, Esquire: Department of Auditor General—Harrisburg, Dauphin County** (*Nominated by Randi Blackman-Teplitz, Esquire*)

**Brad Koplinski** has dedicated a tremendous amount of time to providing pro bono legal services to victims of domestic violence in need of protection. Without Brad's consistent assistance in Protection from Abuse Court, many battered individuals would be forced to face the court system alone and without the benefit of legal advice, options counseling and safety planning. Brad is knowledgeable, compassionate and dedicated. He is an active member of the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Domestic Violence Legal Center. Brad uses his vacation time in order to attend the weekly protection from abuse court session and provides legal representation to clients assigned by the YWCA. He also assists pro se victims of domestic violence. Mr. Koplinski has donated an impressive 150 hours to pro bono work in the past year and has assisted 65 clients.

**Alison B. Long, Esquire: Law Office of William L. Goldman—Doylestown, Bucks County** (*Nominated by Randi Riefner, Pro Bono Coordinator, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania-Bucks County Division*)

**Alison B. Long** is always willing to help out with an overload of a Protection from Abuses cases or short dates in custody conferences or hearings. Alison has handled 18 cases and contributed 60 hours of pro bono work over the past year, often going above and beyond her pro bono requirement in assisting these clients with other domestic matters arising out of her representation in protection from abuse matters. When Alison accepts a custody case pro bono, she goes well beyond the pro bono requirement of the conference/hearing date, making herself available to the client at future times for telephone calls and advice. Alison has been a friend and invaluable resource to Legal Aid and the indigent of Bucks County since 2004. She is compassionate and patient with clients and her representation touches each family at a time of crisis when they are thrown into a system they do not understand.

**Laura A. Maines, Esquire: Reed Smith LLP—Pittsburgh, Allegheny County** (*Nominated by Lorrie Albert, Pro Bono Coordinator, Allegheny County Bar Association on behalf of the ACBA Public Service Committee*)

Attorney Laura A. Maines has handled a dozen Adoption Legal Services Project cases in the past three years and has donated about 50 hours of pro bono work in the last year. She has handled complex and important child welfare trials and appeals and has spoken to a state wide audience of adoption professionals. Specifically, Laura has handled a termination of parental rights and adoption of four children. She successfully represented adoptive parents in their fight against an alleged father's attempts to invalidate the adoption. She handled both cases through appeal. Laura also participated in a CLE panel on Terminations and Appeals.

**Joseph C. Mesics, Esquire: Feeman, Mesics & Hopstetter—Lebanon, Lebanon County**  
(Nominated by Laurie Yurejefcic, MidPenn Legal Services)

**Joseph C. Mesics** has been assisting with pro bono cases from MidPenn Legal Services for many years and does a great job for the clients. Over the last year, Joe has assisted 6 clients and has donated 25 hours to pro bono work. The majority of the cases involved custody actions. He represented clients at custody hearings and helped them maintain custody of their children. He also helped several clients gain regular visitation rights with their children.

**J. Gregory Moore, Esquire: Erie, Erie County** (Nominated by David A. Baxter, Coordinator, LAVA)

**J. Gregory Moore** has been a volunteer since the programs began in 1984. By estimate, Mr. Moore has taken more than 40 pro-bono clients and has volunteered more than 500 hours. In the past year alone, he has donated 85 hours and has served 2 clients through pro bono work. Mr. Moore contributes a significant amount of time through providing legal service to poor people without cost primarily through LAVA, but in addition participates in the Erie County Bar Association's Conflict panel, and the Non-Profit Partnership, which is a project of the ECBA and Erie Community Foundation. Besides helping children and families direction in custody cases, his help in bankruptcy provides the fresh start needed by our clients and their families.

**Terence O'Halloran, Esquire: Greensburg, Westmoreland County** (Nominated by Iva Munk)

**Terence O'Halloran** deserves recognition this month for graciously offering his time and knowledge of bankruptcy to the Pro Bono Program. He consistently lightens the load of work at the pro bono office by taking on a large amount of cases each year. In fact, Terry's been offering his services since the program started in 1991. He has already offered 50 hours of his time to the 5 clients he has helped this year, in addition to the amount of time he has spent on the phone answering our questions. Always happy to help, it is no surprise race reviews pour from the clients he has assisted. His sense of humor and compassion lifts the spirits of those of us lucky enough to work with him. Terry's dedication to the program is exemplary.

**Elena Park, Esquire: Cozen O'Connor—West Conshohocken, Montgomery County**  
(Nominated by Ceil O'Connor and Cozen O'Connor)

**Elena Park** contributed 10 times the number of pro bono hours recommended by the American Bar Association and has donated an impressive 546 hours in the past year alone. Elena and Rick Botnick won a stay deportation for a Chinese asylum applicant who miscarried twins when she was handled roughly and denied medical treatment while in custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She dedicated numerous hours as a member of a team of attorneys who have undertaken the highly publicized immigration rights case attacking as unconstitutional the city of Hazelton, Pennsylvania's Illegal Immigration Relief Act. She spearheaded the writing of several of the briefs filed in this litigation, including the nearly 100-page brief in support of summary judgment. Elena also worked tirelessly on a case of a Liberian woman

seeking asylum in the United States. The client had escaped the country after being kidnapped, tortured and raped by rebel forces. Elena was instrumental in helping an Iraqi woman who aided the U.S. military with translation services secure a temporary visa in the United States. She also provided representation for an indigent man from Nigeria who escaped persecution in his home country for religious beliefs. Elena has provided countless hours counseling the indigent on immigration issues such as the consequences of entering the U.S. without inspection, work authorization, paths to legalization and raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

**Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County** *(Nominated by Joseph Mack, Esquire, Chairman of Allegheny County Bar Association Public Service Committee)*

**Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership** was conceived in 2000 in response to Neighborhood Legal Services' need for increased assistance from the private bar. The consortium, comprised of legal departments, law firms, the Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Director of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Family Division Pro Se Motions Court, and the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, is dedicated to increasing pro bono services to the southwestern Pennsylvania. Currently 16 law firms, eight corporate members and one governmental legal department are involved in the partnership, and in 2005, the participating attorneys and paralegals contributed over 24,000 of pro bono service. The Partnership also focuses on creating innovative strategies to deliver pro bono services and has created six "Signature" projects: two aimed at children in need; a number of community based legal clinics; and is the creator of the nationally recognized "Lawyers on Loan" program.

**Powell Law: Scranton, Lackawanna County** *(Nominated by Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.)*

**Powell Law** has shown outstanding commitment to pro bono service. 2006 was the fourth year in which each of the firm's five attorneys accepted at least one pro bono case referred to it by Lackawanna Pro Bono. In 2006, the firm's five attorneys, James J. Powell III, Christopher T. Powell, Jr., Mark J. Powell, Bruce S. Zero, and Christopher Osborne, accepted cases from Lackawanna Pro Bono that covered a wide range of areas, including protection from abuse, landlord-tenant, and unemployment compensation matters. He firm has taken on 7 clients in the past year and has donated numerous hours to pro bono work.

**Frank J. Ruggiero, Esquire: Scranton, Lackawanna County** *(Nominated by Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.)*

**Frank Ruggiero** has shown an outstanding commitment to pro bono service. During the years he has been practicing law, he has handled numerous pro bono cases referred to him by Lackawanna Pro Bono. In the year 2006, he devoted at least 50 hours to his pro bono cases, working on three pro bono cases referred to him by Lackawanna Pro Bono: a custody case, a PFA, and a divorce.

**Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP: Philadelphia, Philadelphia County--Meredith Brennan, Natasha Gonzalez Rojas and Lauren Sorrentino:** *(Nominated by Joanne G. Noble, Director of Pro Bono Services and Mark Momjian, Partner in Family Law, Schnader Harrison)*

**Meredith Brennan, Natasha Gonzalez Rojas and Lauren Sorrentino** each does their best to provide as much pro bono assistance as they can. They work on numerous custody, child support, and divorce proceedings through the local public interest organizations, such as the AIDS Law Project and Philadelphia VIP. They accept appointments as guardian ad litem to represent the interest of the children when asked to do so by the courts. They also work on cases that involve rights on a broader basis, such as same sex partnership or grandparents' rights. Their

strong commitment to helping those in need is demonstrated by the positions each held prior to joining Schnader. Meredith served as an intern in the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, served as an intern at the National Organization of Women Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York and volunteered at the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia. Natasha has earned a doctorate in criminal psychology and serves as a commissioner officer in the US Air Force Reserves, served as a forensic psychology intern in Philadelphia, a Walcott Fellow at the Delaware Supreme Court, and a summer intern at Community Legal Aid in Delaware. Lauren was an Independence Foundation fellow in public-interest law at the Women's Law Project.

**Sarah L. Shannon, Esquire: Eckert Seamans—Pittsburgh, Allegheny County** (*Nominated by Lorrie Albert, Pro Bono Coordinator, Allegheny County Bar Association on behalf of the ACBA Public Service Committee*)

**Sarah L. Shannon** has been instrumental in planning and launching the new Pro Bono Custody Conciliation Signature Project. This project provides volunteer attorneys to indigent clients in an attempt to settle their custody case at the conciliation stage. Not only did Ms. Shannon help to plan the program, but she was able to advocate the program to her firm, Eckert Seamans. Through this effort, the firm is actively facilitating the program. She also takes cases on a regular basis.

**Tina Simpson-Price, Esquire: Hoffert, Huckabee & Weiler, P.C.—Reading, Berks County** (*Nominated by MidPenn Legal Services*)

**Tina Simpson-Price** does tremendous work for low-income clients that are referred to her. Through years of consistent participation in the pro bono program, she is an attorney that her employer relied on. Where some attorneys may seek to limit their involvement in pro se cases to advice or other brief service, Tina commits to see cases through to contested hearings. She has donated well over 10 hours and served 3 pro bono clients in cases in the past year. The majority of cases that have been referred to Tina have been contested custody matters, in which the best welfare of the children and their family has been the central subject of her advocacy.

**Debra A. Smith, Esquire: Krasno, Krasno & Onwudinjo—Pottsville, Schuylkill County** (*Nominated by James C. Bohorad, President, Schuylkill County Bar Association*)

**Debra A. Smith** serves on the Board of Directors of MidPenn Legal Services but her commitment to pro bono is far greater than her board service which dates back to the organizations that provided legal aid before MidPenn existed. Deb has, once a month for the past nine months, conducted custody clinics for individuals who were unable to secure representation from MidPenn because of a conflict. Deb has conducted these clinics on weekends and her gift of time and energy here has allowed hundreds of pro se clients learn how to file their custody actions. Deb, with support from other members of the local bar, put together custody packets with sample forms showing step-by-step how a person needed to proceed in a custody matter. The first 200 packets were gone within a few weeks. In addition, Deb accepts traditional pro bono assignments from MidPenn on a regular basis and has contributed 50 hours to pro bono activities in the past year.

**Joseph Spratt: Bridgewater, Beaver County** (*Nominated by H. Bruce Curry*)

**Joseph Spratt** has accepted numerous reduced fee cases and has expended numerous hours without compensation to serve the public need. Attorney Spratt represented 12 clients at a reduced fee providing services that would likely have been unavailable to them because of their economic needs. Mr. Spratt has donated 40 hours and has served 12 clients in the past year.