

To: County Bar Leaders
Pro Bono Coordinators
Legal Services to the Public Committee

From: Gretchen A. Mundorff, Esquire
President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

Date: January 18, 2011

Re: 2011 Pro Bono Awards

I am pleased to announce the opening of the nomination period for the Annual Pro Bono Awards of the PBA's Legal Service to the Public Committee. This is the 24th year that the Committee has sought individual award nominees and these awards have added meaning this year as state Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille has started 2011 by joining me in calling on all Pennsylvania lawyers to provide pro bono service. This year marks the seventh year for both the "Judges Award" and the "Civil Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award", given to a judge and a legal services attorney selected by the Committee in recognition of his or her exceptional contributions to improving civil legal aid in the Commonwealth. The 2011 Pro Bono Awards nominations are due on April 15th and the awardees will be announced on Law Day in May. The award winners will also be acknowledged at various pro bono events throughout the remainder of the year, whenever possible by PBA President-Elect Mathew J. Creme Jr., who plans to continue to promote pro bono service and civil legal aid across the Commonwealth by honoring as I have these champions of pro bono during his Bar travels. I am asking for your assistance in nominating and recognizing attorneys and judges who are outstanding in the pro bono arena.

This is your chance to recognize and thank those attorneys and judges who have used their talents to help the needy in your county. While the obstacles to equal access to justice continue to mount, the willingness of attorneys to help meet the legal needs of the indigent in their communities is important to those in need of service and bestows honor upon our great profession. These nominees provide services that allow the doors of justice to remain open to all citizens.

As you select your nominees for the awards, please keep in mind the following criteria:

- The lawyer or judge practices in Pennsylvania.
- The lawyer, other than the Civil Legal Aid Attorney of the Year nominees, is not employed by an organization that has as its primary purpose the provision of free legal services to the poor.

- The lawyer or judge has provided direct delivery of legal services or assisted in facilitating the delivery of such service in civil matters, with no expectation of receiving a fee, to a client or client group that does not have the resources to employ compensated counsel or has worked to facilitate such effort by other attorneys.
- The lawyer or judge has made an outstanding contribution to the provision of legal services to the indigent without charge.
- The lawyer or judge has made such contributions primarily through organized pro bono programs, lawyer referral service no-fee panels and legal services programs or has worked with such organizations to improve the delivery of legal services to the poor.
- The lawyer's or judge's efforts have resulted in the increased access to legal services for low-income people.

This year's nomination form is located at <http://www.pabar.org/public/probono/probonohome.asp> (just click on the link Awards, Including 2011 Pro Bono Awards Nomination Form). The form can be completed electronically and you will receive instant confirmation that we have received your nomination. If there are any questions regarding the Pro Bono Awards, please contact Pro Bono Coordinator David Keller Trevaskis (1-800-932-0311, Ext. 2236; cell: (717) 571-7414; e-mail: david.trevaskis@pabar.org)

The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 15, 2011; award winners and their nominators will be notified by May 1, 2011.

Thank you for your time and interest in supporting pro bono activities.

cc: Vicki Coyle, Esquire
Sandy Ballard, Esquire
Mathew Creme, Jr., Esquire
Barry Simpson, Esquire
David Trevaskis, Esquire