

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

**From:** Matthew J. Creme Jr., Esquire  
President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

**Date:** January 30, 2012

**Re:** 2012 Pro Bono Awards

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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. We hit the quarter-century mark this year with this being the 25th year that the committee has sought individual award nominees. This year also marks the eighth year for both the Judges Award and the Civil Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award, given, respectively, to a judge and a legal services attorney selected by the committee in recognition of exceptional contributions to improving civil legal aid in the commonwealth. It will be the second year for the Pro Bono Partner Award to a non-attorney who supports legal services to the needy.

The 2012 Pro Bono Awards nominations are due on April 13, 2012, 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 Thomas G. Wilkinson 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 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 partner nominee works 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 partner may work for such an organization.
- 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, judge and partner nominee 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, judge's and partner's efforts have resulted in the increased access to legal services for low-income people.

This year's nomination form is located on the PBA website at [www.pabar.org/public/probono/probonohome.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/probono/probonohome.asp) (just click on Pro Bono Awards). 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 (800-932-0311, Ext. 2236; cell: (717) 571-7414; email: [david.trevaskis@pabar.org](mailto:david.trevaskis@pabar.org)).

Again, the deadline for nominations is April 13, 2012; award winners and their nominators will be notified by May 1, 2012, and honored during the Statewide Pro Bono Conference on May 21.

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

cc: Sandy Ballard, Esquire  
Tom Wilkinson, Esquire  
Barry Simpson, Esquire  
David Trevaskis, Esquire