

Equal Access to Justice Award Recipient Information

- The Equal Access to Justice Awards are **sponsored jointly** each year by the Lackawanna Bar Association **and** Lackawanna Pro Bono.
- These awards are given to recognize individual attorneys and law firms who have shown outstanding commitment to pro bono service.
- For a law firm to be eligible for this award, each attorney practicing in the firm's Lackawanna County office must have accepted at least one pro bono referral during the past year.
- A new development this year is that the awards to individual attorneys have been named after Sam Fallk.
- Born in 1908, Samuel Fallk was a native of Old Forge. He began practicing law in Lackawanna County in 1937 and continued to practice until his death in 2000. For many years, before funding became available, Sam was a one man legal aid society and the public defender, both on a volunteer basis. He was called upon by the courts to find representation for the poor and indigent. If a fellow lawyer could not be found to volunteer, Sam would take on the case by himself.
- Sam was known for his solid intellect and keen sense of humor. He practiced with an unerring sense of fairness, a passion for justice and a complete empathy for the difficulties faced by the ordinary citizen. He believed deeply in his faith, his country, and the rule of law.
- The recipients of this year's awards for individual attorneys are:
 1. **Bill Blaum**
 2. **Rocco Haertter**
- The recipients of this year's law firm awards are:
 1. **Abrahamsen, Moran & Conaboy**
 2. **Dougherty Leventhal & Price**
 3. **Kelley & Polishan**
 4. **Powell Law**

- **William M. Blaum, Esq.**

- Since 2001, Bill has handled 15 pro bono cases for Lackawanna Pro Bono. All of those cases have been family law matters, including custody cases, PFAs, support matters, and divorce.
- Bill can be counted on to cheerfully and enthusiastically accept pro bono referrals whenever possible.
- His ready willingness to represent pro bono clients in custody cases deserves special recognition.
- Bill is a 1989 graduate of King's College and received his J.D. in 1992 from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He has practiced in Lackawanna County since 1992 and he concentrates his practice in civil litigation, insurance defense, workers compensation, personal injury, collections, and domestic relations.

- **Rocco Haertter, Esq.**

- Rocco is a 1991 graduate of Millersville University and a 1995 graduate of the Widener School of Law in Harrisburg.
- He has practiced with the law offices of Carl J. Greco since 1995 and concentrates his practice in corporate and banking law.
- Rocco's commitment to pro bono service was demonstrated in his pro bono representation of a Scranton family in a mortgage foreclosure proceeding. He devoted a significant number of hours to this case over an extended period of time, making a real difference to the family.

- **Abrahamsen, Moran & Conaboy**

- This is the third year in which Abrahamsen, Moran, & Conaboy has received this award.
- The attorneys in the firm's Scranton office, each of whom accepted at least one pro bono case in 2008, include Ned Abrahamsen, Larry Moran, Chip Abrahamsen, Jim Conaboy, Kevin Conaboy, Christina Coury, and Michael Parker.
- The firm accepted 9 pro bono cases during 2008, including divorce, custody, a PFA, landlord-tenant disputes, and a driver's license suspension.

- **Dougherty Leventhal & Price**

- The attorneys in the firm's Lackawanna County office, each of whom accepted one pro bono case in 2008, include Tom Cummings, John Finnerty, Sean McDonough, Paul Oven, Joe Price, and Judy Price. Brian Price, in their Kingston office, also accepted a pro bono referral.
- The pro bono cases the firm accepted included custody cases, landlord/tenant disputes, a consumer matter, and the defense of two uninsured tort actions.

- **Kelley & Polishan**

- The attorneys at Kelley & Polishan, each of whom accepted at least one pro bono case in 2008, include Gene Kelley, Tim Polishan, Carrie Buscarini, David Solfanelli, and Patrick Walsh.
- The pro bono cases the firm accepted included a PFA, a custody case, and debtor/creditor matters.

- **Powell Law**

- Since the Equal Access to Justice Award for 100 per cent pro bono participation was first given in 2003, Powell Law has received the award five times.
- During 2008, the firm's attorneys, Chris Powell, Jim Powell, Mark Powell, Chris Osborne, and Bruce Zero, accepted six pro bono referrals, including landlord-tenant cases, PFAs, and unemployment compensation.

Conclusion

- Each of the award winners has truly demonstrated outstanding commitment to pro bono service and made a difference to the bar and the community as a whole.
- In addition, each of the many Lackawanna County attorneys who perform pro bono work and those who support pro bono work through their financial contributions to Lackawanna Pro Bono deserve commendation and special recognition.