

# foundation focus

## Terence O'Halloran Named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year



Terence O'Halloran, a solo practitioner in Greensburg, was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation, which was held on Monday, April 9, 2007, at the Greensburg Country Club.

An active participant in the Pro Bono Program since its inception in 1991, Terry's dedication is exemplary, says Pro Bono Coordinator Iva Munk. "Terry has consistently offered his time and knowledge of bankruptcy law to the program by taking on numerous cases," says Iva. "His sense of humor and compassion lift the spirits of those lucky enough to work with him. He is truly appreciated."



▲ Terry O'Halloran (left) was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year at the WBF Annual Meeting. The Hon. Christopher A. Feliciani presented Terry with the award.

### Q WHAT DOES THE AWARD MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY?

A I've been with Pro Bono for a lot of years now. I frankly don't remember doing anything different this year than any other. It's gratifying that somebody thought my efforts were worth recognition. But I have to say, I'm humbled by the honor that's been given to me. I'm fiercely proud of the plaque and it's on the wall in my office already. I tried to say when I accepted the award that being a lawyer is a true privilege. When I was younger, I really thought that I "earned" what I had. But, with age, I came to appreciate that everything I have is a gift.

### Q WHAT DOES THE AWARD MEAN TO YOU PROFESSIONALLY?

A I've been doing bankruptcy work since I came back to Greensburg from Judicial Clerkship in Federal Court.

I was asked by Judge Gibson to take on Bankruptcy clients back in 1978 and I've been doing it since then. The landscape has changed a lot since then, but the clients still need when they come. I'd like to think that this award has validated my efforts. My assistant, Michaelene Horton, has for years taken Iva's calls and set up what has needed to be done when it had to be done. So many times, I have come to the office and "Mike" has given me my folders and pens when I arrived and sent me off to Pro Bono saying "It's time ... again." She knows the right thing to do.

### Q HOW DID YOU FEEL UPON LEARNING YOU WERE THE RECIPIENT?

A To say it was a surprise is an understatement! Listening to Judge Feliciani describe "yellow ties" and "comedians," I got this sinking feeling in my stomach, and then it came to

pass. "My God, he's talking about me!!" I can't tell you how gratifying it is to be humiliated in front of my peers rather than be embarrassed in front of a group of strangers.

### Q WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO FUTURE CANDIDATES FOR THE AWARD?

A I'm one of a cadre in this effort. Iva Munk calls my office when she needs and I'm one name on a long list that she has. And if you do this job to get an "award," I suspect you're not going to do it well enough or long enough to get it. You do it because you are privileged to be in a position to do the right thing. People out there need help because they don't have the resources, wherewithal, intelligence, family, sanity, ... whatever, ... to just get through a day. We, as lawyers, can help, simply because we are lawyers, and we know what can be done.

### Q WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE PRO BONO PROGRAM?

A Let me turn this question around and ask, "Why would any lawyer in this county not be?"

## Volunteers for Justice

The Pro Bono Program extends thanks to all the attorneys who volunteered their time from January to March 2007.

- Larry Burns
- Brian Cavanaugh
- Jennifer Dupilka
- Scott Fatur
- Rebecca Fenoglio
- Karen Ferri
- Vince Finoli
- Mark Galper
- Dennis Gounley
- E. David Harr
- John Hauser
- Jim Horchak
- Charles Jelley
- Dan Joseph
- Maureen Kroll
- Robert Liotta
- George Love
- Irene Lubin
- Jason Mazzei
- Paul Miller
- Keith Nicola
- Terry O'Halloran
- Gino Peluso
- Robert Slone