

Pro Bono News

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Answering the Call of the Legal Profession

300 Attorneys, Top Law Firms Recognized for Distinguished Pro Bono Service

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Every year, hundreds of attorneys in Nassau County volunteer pro bono legal services, consultations and referrals to help thousands of Nassau residents in crisis. A volunteer attorney may provide reassurance to a distressed homeowner afraid to lose his house to foreclosure, or represent a client in court to avoid eviction. Another may take on a long-term matrimonial case for a victim of domestic abuse, or help a struggling couple decide when it's time to file for bankruptcy and how to go about it. When disaster strikes -- as Superstorm Sandy did in 2012 -- volunteer attorneys can be found on the front lines, giving hands-on legal assistance to help residents begin the process of getting life back to normal.

Nassau County Bar Association President John P. McEntee*, a partner at Farrell Fritz, remarked, "We are fortunate that when people are desperate and don't know where to go, volunteer attorneys are ready to answer the call, helping those lower income and vulnerable people who cannot afford an attorney gain access to the civil justice system."

To recognize the pro bono attorneys and law firms that have performed distinguished volunteer service for the community, on April 1 the Nassau County Bar Association, The Safe

Center LI and Nassau/Suffolk Law Services held the First Annual Access to Justice Pro Bono Recognition Reception at NCBA's headquarters in Mineola. Three hundred volunteer attorneys received the Access to Justice Certificate of Recognition, and 26 Long Island law firms and solo practitioners that provided the most pro bono hours of service in 2014 were honored. Topping the list are:

Large Law Firms

Rivkin Radler LLP
Farrell Fritz, P.C.
Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz,
Mineo & Terrana, LLP

Medium Law Firms

Horing Welikson and Rosen P.C.
John P. DiMascio & Associates
Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, PLLC

Small Law Firms/Solo

George Frooms*, Esq.
Jon Press*, Esq.
Janet Connolly, Esq.

In addition, two businesses -- Real-time Reporting and Ultimate Process Service -- were acknowledged for donating free services in crisis situations.

"The premise of this recognition is

to honor those attorneys and law firms that place the highest priority on helping society and those less fortunate than us," said Access to Justice Committee Co-Chair Gregory Lisi*, a partner in charge of the Labor & Employment Departments at Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana. "We, as a profession, have a duty to help those less fortunate try to obtain justice, and these firms understand and embrace this calling."

NCBA Second Vice President and Committee Co-Chair Steven Leventhal*, a partner at Leventhal, Cursio, Mullaney & Sliney, added, "The attorneys honored today represent the best tradition of the legal profession - the tradition of service to the community. They make us all proud. This event is our way of saying thank you."

The NCBA Access to Justice Committee is a joint effort of the NCBA, The Safe Center LI and Nassau/Suffolk Law Services and other legal service providers, working together to coordinate legal services for the community, strengthen the core of volunteer attorneys through education and professional development, and provide information on free and reduced fee legal resources.

The complete list of honorees is available at www.nassaubar.org.