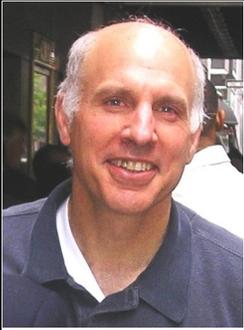


## WE HONOR OUR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE MONTH



The Suffolk Pro Bono Project honored **Thomas Persichilli** who has been doing pro bono work through the Project for over twenty years, with most of the work consisting of Chapter 7 bankruptcies.

In just the past ten years, Persichilli has accepted nearly 60 referrals, making him one of the largest contributors to the Project! When asked

if this substantial amount of pro bono work interferes with the rest of his solo practice, he responded, “No. Not at all. I really don’t find it to be a drag on my practice.” Moreover, he thinks his pro bono work enhances his practice by exposing him to factual scenarios and legal issues that he would not otherwise come across. But what really motivates Tom Perischilli to do pro bono work is the satisfaction that comes from helping those in need. “It feels good to step in and represent people who do not have legal counsel. We’re really helping people.” Maria Dosso, Nassau Suffolk Law Services’ Director of Communications and Volunteer Services, observed, “He’s one of those attorneys who’s been there for us year after year. He never declines a referral, making it easier for us meet our goal to provide access to justice to those less fortunate.”



The Suffolk Pro Bono Project recently honored the **Bankruptcy and Ad-**

**vanced Bankruptcy Clinics at Touro Law Center** and their Clinical Director, **Leif Rubinstein**. With Professor Rubinstein at the helm, Touro’s bankruptcy clinics have been working hand-in-hand with the Pro Bono Project for over seven years, helping hundreds of low income clients overwhelmed with debt, obtain legal assistance. The students participate in the final phases of the Project’s screening by interviewing prospective clients at the Nassau Suffolk Law Services office and are each assigned clients. They handle virtually all aspects of the case, with direct supervision from Professor Rubinstein. The clinics, in turn, provide a vital benefit to the Project by accepting a substantial portion of its pro bono referrals. Professor Rubinstein believes the Project and his clinics provide a crucial service when helping eligible clients obtain debt

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The Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP) recently honored **John Stellakis**. Since 2014, Mr. Stellakis has volunteered for the VLP Landlord/Tenant Attorney of the Day Project, providing tenants with representation which they could not otherwise afford. He has devoted over 50 hours in the past

year assisting tenants with their disputes, helping many facing eviction to remain in their residences, and thus to avoid being rendered homeless.

Mr. Stellakis is able to assist tenants who are not conversant with the laws that protect them and who cannot navigate our confusing legal system. Having legal representation in landlord tenant court can make all the difference in preserving stable housing.

Mr. Stellakis believes providing pro bono legal services allows young lawyers to gain valuable experience in interacting with clients, attending a court conference, presenting a case before the judge, and handling a case from intake to disposition. He feels that even though an attorney will not receive financial compensation, the reward of helping another person in their time of need is tremendous. “While providing [pro bono] assistance may involve some personal sacrifice, the benefits to the attorney as well as the client are great... if attorneys can spare their time to help others in need, then they certainly should.” Roberta D. Scoll, Staff Attorney and Coordinator for the Attorney of the Day Project states: “Every last Wednesday of each month, John faithfully arrives in room 277 in District Court in Hempstead. Always with a smile and an eagerness to help those less fortunate, John settles their cases in the best way possible for the clients. Stellakis plays an integral role in the success of the program.”

The VLP is truly proud to honor John Stellakis as Pro Bono Attorney of the Month for his tremendous work ethic and dedication to aiding clients with their landlord-tenant disputes.

*Pro Bono Attorneys are always in great demand. Attorneys in Nassau County who are interested in volunteering can call the Volunteer Lawyers Project at 516 292-8299.*