

Agenda

Pro Bono Conference 2006

Hershey Convention Center and Lodge

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Registration/Breakfast/Networking

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Pro Bono, Ethics and Technology: PALawHelp.org and
PAprobono.net (2 and ½ hours CLE-- 1 hour ethics, 1 and ½ hour
substantive)

This morning session will explore the reach and ethical implications of the new technology being used in Pennsylvania to promote civil legal aid and pro bono efforts, focusing on the two websites listed above and the creation of virtual law clinics using these tools. Hank Leone, Technology Coordinator for Pennsylvania Legal Services (PLS), will provide a power point presentation outlining briefly the PALawHelp.org and PAprobono.net sites that will be conducted by PLS Executive Director Sam Milkes.

An ethics panel consisting of Milkes, MidPenn Legal Services Director Rhodia Thomas, and Pepper Hamilton LLP's Director of Pro Bono Programs Joseph Sullivan will then lead conference participants through a series of hypothetical situations, looking at the ethical issues raised through technological enhancement of pro bono practice, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator David Trevaskis will moderate this panel.

Following the panel, Dauphin County Bar Association Public Interest Coordinator Sandy Ballard will be joined by the Office of General Counsel's David DeVries in modeling for the group the workings of the OGC's Virtual law Clinic. Ballard and DeVries will share protocols used by the OGC project to handle substantive legal matters ranging from name changes to custody disputes, showing conference participants how they might set up their own virtual clinics to improve the delivery of legal services to pro se clients. Other models of virtual law clinics, such as projects started by the Government Lawyers Committee to deal with protection from abuse cases and the Environmental Mineral and Natural Resource Law Section to deal with pro bono cases in its field, will be noted during this session. Attorney Steve Turner from the Government Lawyers Committee will present his perspective on pro bono service.

11:30 a.m. Pro Bono Awards

Legal Services to the Public Co-Chairs Elizabeth Fritsch, Co-Director of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Dveera Segal, Professor, Villanova School of Law, will present the 2006 Pro Boo Awards at this time with PBA President-elect Ken Horoho.

12 noon – 2 p.m. Joint Luncheon

Pro Bono Conference participants will join the Women in the Profession Committee for a joint luncheon honoring public service.

2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Future of Pro Bono In Pennsylvania: Hot Button Topics in the Law (2 and ½ hours CLE-- 1 hour ethics, 1 and ½ hour substantive)

The afternoon will feature panel presentations, interactive exercises and speakers (both live and taped) focusing on two significant developments in the pro bono field, Civil Gideon and Disaster Relief. Legal Services to the Public Co-Vice Chair Derek Green, Counsel to Philadelphia Councilwoman Marian Tasco, will moderate the afternoon program.

Civil Gideon will be the first topic covered as Green leads participants through a lesson from the 2006 PBA Law Day booklet on the right to counsel in civil legal aid matters. Pennsylvania Bar President Bill Carlucci and Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ralph Cappy then will be shown responding to a question about Civil Gideon from a high school student at last fall's Constitution Day program which was filmed and aired by the Pennsylvania Cable Network. Susan Feathers, Assistant Dean and head of the Public Service Program at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, will follow with a presentation outlining the current status of the Civil Gideon movement which was the focus of the 2006 spring Sparer Conference at Penn.

Allegheny County Bar Foundation pro Bono Coordinator Lorrie Albert and Pittsburgh attorney Renee Colbert will then discuss their experience working with Hurricane Katrina victims in a second topic area looking at the legal response to natural disasters. The connection to the earlier exploration of Civil Gideon flows from the popular belief that all of the legal needs of those displaced by disasters are provided for by the government. Albert devoted hundreds of hours to direct legal representation of persons displaced to Pittsburgh by Katrina and their experience will open up a broader discussion of the obligation of the field to pro bono service and the special ethical issues raised by such disaster relief. Colbert will discuss the new Disaster Relief manual of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Past Legal Services to the Public Committee Chair and private practice attorney Jim DeAngelo will provide his unique perspective to close this discussion and the conference.