

## Pro Bono

### Pro Bono Partnership Inducted Into Public Broadcasters' Community Hall of Fame

In recognition of its efforts to educate, enlighten and inform the nonprofit community, the Community Advisory Boards of Thirteen/WNET and WLIW21 inducted the Pro Bono Partnership into their Community Hall of Fame on June 27 in a ceremony at the Thirteen/WNET studio in Manhattan.

The Partnership was recognized for its exemplary efforts in addressing social concerns. It was one of 10 tri-state New York community organizations to receive this prestigious award.

The induction ceremony was presided over by Dr. William F. Baker, CEO, Educational Broadcasting Corporation; Terrel Cass, president, WLIW, and Rhoda H. Karpatkin, chair, Community Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Thirteen broadcast personality Tom Stewart served as master of ceremonies.

Pro Bono Partnership, Inc. was founded by members of the corporate bar in 1997, to offer pro bono opportunities to in-house counsel. Since that time, the Partnership has provided business legal assistance, without charge, to more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations serving the poor and disadvantaged in Westchester County, NY; Fairfield County, CT, and New Jersey. Recently, it has also extended its services to arts, environmental and other civic organizations.

The Partnership represents more than 300 tri-state nonprofits annually, in large part by leveraging the expert pro bono services of attorneys from major corporations and the private bar, more

than 350 of whom volunteer in any given year.

The Partnership was nominated to the Hall of Fame by Dennis McDermott, vice president and regional community partnership manager for JPMorgan Chase Bank. Since 1998, Mr. McDermott has worked closely with the Partnership on a variety of programs and projects.

"I once described this agency as the 'best resource available to not-for-profit agencies in the New York Tri-State area,' and I continue to feel that way," Mr. McDermott said. "It is most gratifying to be able to direct the executive director or board chair of a not-for-profit agency to the Partnership because I know that their questions will be answered, their issues resolved and they will be treated with respect. They also will be treated to some humor, because the staff is amazingly harmonious and they go out of their way to lighten up the very serious legal matters that come before them."

Mr. McDermott credits the army of volunteer corporate lawyers, who provide the majority of legal advice, opinions and research, for making the Partnership's services so valuable.

"And, without the structure of the Pro Bono Partnership in place, none of this would happen," Mr. McDermott said.

For further information about Pro Bono Partnership, contact Lisa Rosenbloom, director of development – Pro Bono Partnership, at (914) 328-0674 or by email to [www.probonopartnership.org](http://www.probonopartnership.org).

### New ABA Guide Lists Opportunities For Pro Bono Work By Attorneys

Helping lawyers find opportunities for meaningful pro bono work in their communities is the goal of a project jointly sponsored by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, the ABA Center for Pro Bono and Pro Bono Net.

The National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide, available at [www.volunteerforprobono.org](http://www.volunteerforprobono.org), provides listings of more than 1,100 programs from across the United States that need volunteer lawyers. Through the directory's search option, lawyers can find programs based on location, area of law, the population served and CLE credits for training or service. Users can also pinpoint projects that require their skills and experience with features highlighting opportunities for transactional lawyers, litigators, law students and others.

"Serving the public good has always been an integral part of the legal profession," said ABA President Karen J. Mathis. "By making it easier for lawyers to identify pro bono opportunities – whether domestic violence, elder law, immigration, custody, housing, or other cases, we can begin to respond to the challenge of providing assistance to Americans of limited means whose legal needs are unmet."

Because the list is interactive, state and local bar associations as well as

community-based nonprofits can add or update information to ensure the list is current and accurate. This national guide leverages a network of regional content partners.

"This collaboration achieves a perfect mix of local and national strengths, harnessing the national reach of the ABA and Pro Bono Net's powerful online tools to support the needs of a diverse network of organizations serving the legal needs of communities across the country," said Pro Bono Net Executive Director Mark O'Brien.

Pro Bono Net (PBN) is a national nonprofit organization based in New York City that works to increase access to justice for the millions of low income people who face legal problems every year without help from a lawyer. Founded in 1998 with support from the Open Society Institute, PBN has created a broad and powerful network of nonprofit legal aid providers, courts and bar associations across the United States. This network uses two innovative web-based platforms – [www.probono.net](http://www.probono.net) and [www.lawhelp.org](http://www.lawhelp.org), for which Pro Bono Net received a 2007 Webby Award for Best Law Website – to recruit and manage volunteers to provide direct information and tools for low-income communities and the organizations that serve them.

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