

To: County Bar Leaders
Pro Bono Coordinators
Legal Services to the Public Committee

From: Clifford E. Haines, Esquire
President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

Date: February 10, 2010

Re: 2010 Pro Bono Awards

I am pleased to announce the opening of the nomination period for the Annual Pro Bono Awards of the PBA's Legal Service to the Public Committee. This is the 23rd year that the Committee has sought individual award nominees and these awards have come of age under the leadership of the Committee in recent years as the PBA Board of Governors and House of Delegates have passed resolutions endorsing pro bono service and supporting the expansion of funding and services for civil legal aid. This year marks the sixth year for both the "Judges Award" and the "Civil Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award", given to a judge and a legal services attorney selected by the Committee in recognition of his or her exceptional contributions to improving civil legal aid in the Commonwealth. The 2010 Pro Bono Awards will be announced on Law Day in May and the award winners will also be acknowledged at various pro bono events throughout the remainder of the year, whenever possible by PBA President-Elect Gretchen A. Mundorff, who plans to promote pro bono service and civil legal aid across the Commonwealth by honoring these champions of pro bono during her Bar travels. I am asking for your assistance in nominating and recognizing attorneys and judges who are outstanding in the pro bono arena.

This is your chance to recognize and thank those attorneys and judges who have used their talents to help the needy in your county. While the obstacles to equal access to justice continue to mount, the willingness of attorneys to help meet the legal needs of the indigent in their communities is important to those in need of service and bestows honor upon our great profession. These nominees provide services that allow the doors of justice to remain open to all citizens.

As you select your nominees for the awards, please keep in mind the following criteria:

- The lawyer or judge practices in Pennsylvania.
- The lawyer, other than the Civil Legal Aid Attorney of the Year nominees, is not employed by an organization that has as its primary purpose the provision of free legal services to the poor.

- The lawyer or judge has provided direct delivery of legal services or assisted in facilitating the delivery of such service in civil matters, with no expectation of receiving a fee, to a client or client group that does not have the resources to employ compensated counsel or has worked to facilitate such effort by other attorneys.
- The lawyer or judge has made an outstanding contribution to the provision of legal services to the indigent without charge.
- The lawyer or judge has made such contributions primarily through organized pro bono programs, lawyer referral service no-fee panels and legal services programs or has worked with such organizations to improve the delivery of legal services to the poor.
- The lawyer's or judge's efforts have resulted in the increased access to legal services for low-income people.

This year's awards nomination form is linked in the pro bono area of the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/public/probono/awards.asp. The form can be completed electronically and you will receive instant confirmation that we have received your nomination. If there are any questions regarding the Pro Bono Awards, please contact Pro Bono Coordinator David Keller Trevaskis (1-800-932-0311, Ext. 2236; cell 717-571-7414; e-mail david.trevaskis@pabar.org)

The deadline for nominations is Thursday, April 15; award winners and their nominators will be notified by May 1.

Thank you for your time and interest in supporting pro bono activities.

cc: Vicki Coyle, Esquire
Sandy Ballard, Esquire
Gretchen Mundorff, Esquire
Barry Simpson, Esquire
David Trevaskis, Esquire