

2009 NLADA/ABA Equal Justice Conference
Beyond the Basics: A Program for Experienced Pro Bono Program Managers
Wednesday, May 13, 2009
12:30 p.m-5:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando
Orlando, Florida
Osceola Room

How to Strategically Build a Community of Cooperation

Beyond the Basics: A Program for Experienced Pro Bono Managers will explore issues of concern to stand-alone pro bono programs and programs affiliated with legal aid providers, bar associations and other organizations. We will focus on enabling legal services providers and pro bono programs to recognize how they complement one another in their community's legal services delivery system, particularly where there is a history of resistance to cooperation and an environment of competition for funding, volunteers and other resources, cases and recognition in the community. Our goal will be to encourage participants to think strategically about sustaining their programs – leading and managing pro bono programs; funding; and, support of staff. This is a terrific opportunity to share your experience and expertise with experienced pro bono managers from different pro bono delivery models and settings in a candid discussion.

Welcome

12:30 – 12:45 – Osceola Room

Anthony H. Barash, Director Emeritus, ABA Center for Pro Bono, Chicago, IL
Helenka Marculewicz, President, National Association of Pro Bono Professionals and Executive Director, Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, Dayton, OH

Plenary

12:45 – 1:45 – Osceola Room

Moderator: Anthony H. Barash, Director Emeritus, ABA Center for Pro Bono, Chicago, IL

Speakers: Sara Woods, Executive Director, Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program, Philadelphia, PA
Helenka Marculewicz, President, National Association of Pro Bono Professionals and Executive Director, Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, Dayton, OH
David Ackerly, Directing Attorney, Homeless Veterans Project Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles, CA

Our moderator will set the stage. Acknowledging that there can be tension, competition and rivalry between staffed and volunteer programs, our moderator will introduce the topics of our breakout sessions and encourage the audience to raise questions and identify ways to address and achieve prioritization, synergy, cooperation and support within the organization and the larger provider community. The audience will be encouraged to comment and ask questions.

Workshops

1:55 – 3:25

Our opening remarks will be followed by three interactive workshop sessions for members of the audience from different program settings. In addition to discussion topics presented by the facilitators, you are encouraged to raise topics and issues of concern to you in these workshops.

- **Workshop: Developing and Leveraging Your Resources
Osceola Room**

Often the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. How can stand alone pro bono programs and legal aid programs best utilize and share the limited resources available for legal services programs? This discussion will focus on how we can collaborate to best maximize and share resources – from funding to volunteer attorneys to in-kind donations. What can we offer each other? How can we reduce tensions? How can we collaborate?

*Facilitator: Sara Woods, Executive Director, Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program,
Philadelphia, PA*

Reporter: Martha Delaney, Assistant Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers Network, Minneapolis, MN

- **Workshop: Leadership and Management in Challenging Times
Indian River Room**

To lead any organization as a director or coordinator can be a daunting task, even when times are good. When times are troubled, we come face to face with such issues as a weakened economy, layoffs, and the mistrustful public (where is our money going and how is it being spent?). It is even more important today for members of any legal program to come together and share their views on how to navigate these challenging times. This session hopes to give you insight into ways you can utilize fewer resources and still provide more services.

*Facilitator: Helenka Marculewicz, President, National Association of Pro Bono Professionals and
Executive Director, Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, Dayton, OH*

*Reporter: Pedro J. Fierro, Equal Justice Volunteer Program Coordinator, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas,
Midland, TX*

- **Workshop: Maximizing the Value of Pro Bono in your Legal Services Organization
Cape Canaveral Room**

Pro Bono programs within legal services programs must work hard to negotiate with their (often) larger in house counterparts to develop effective mechanisms to screen, refer, and serve clients. Pro Bono Programs have the additional concern of developing a program that matches the interests of the pro bono volunteers and yet serves a useful need for the client and legal services program. This session will provide useful suggestions and encourage open discussion on mastering the relationship between pro bono programs and the rest of the legal services organization in order to best serve client, program, and volunteer needs.

*Facilitator: David Ackerly, Directing Attorney, Homeless Veterans Project Inner City Law Center,
Los Angeles, CA*

Reporter: Jennifer van Dulmen, Managing Attorney, Community Legal Aid, Akron, OH

Plenary: A Report to the Whole and a Candid Discussion 3:35 - 5:00 – Osceola Room

Workshop reporters will summarize the discussions in their respective workshops. The audience will be encouraged to comment and ask questions.

Moderator: Anthony H. Barash, Director Emeritus, ABA Center for Pro Bono, Chicago, IL