

# A B C BUSINESS COMMITMENT.....

# UPDATE

WINTER 2003

## Friday, April 4th - A Day of Pro Bono Activities

Please join the Pro Bono Committee Friday, April 4, for a day of Pro Bono Activities.

### **Pro Bono Breakfast**

In the morning the Committee will host a Breakfast. The Planning Committee has invited Dan Grunfeld, Director of Public Counsel to lead a group discussion on the work of the CED Unit at Public Counsel. Rev. Mark Whitlock, the Exec. Director of FAME Renaissance, a nationally recognized economic development program that grew out of the First A.M.E. Church in South Central Los Angeles and Kim Boras, a partner at Latham Watkins will discuss their collaboration. Over the past six years, FAME devoted much of its energies to developing a state-of-the-art small business incubator for minority owned small businesses in South Central. The incubator is dedicated to assisting multi-media businesses that generate a substantial amount of transactional work. Most of the volunteer attorneys who have taken on these challenging and dynamic transactional assignments work at Latham & Watkins.

Public Counsel collaborated with the law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery to offer much needed assistance to LA's nonprofit community-based health care clinics that have limited staffing, resources and funding. The clinics attend to the medical needs of the most vulnerable members of our community including, for example, families without medical insurance coverage. The clinics, along with other much larger medical care providers, are now subject to a new and complex set of regulations dealing with privacy and patient confidentiality — the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act", or "HIPAA". In order to ease the transition and ensure that the clinics are compliant with the law, McDermott, Will & Emery and Public Counsel commenced a multi-faceted pro-bono assistance program. First, a series of workshops designed to guide the clinics through the law's intricacies were held. Additionally, McDermott, Will & Emery agreed to license, free of charge, the substantive compliance materials for the clients' use. Anne Britt, Executive Director of Valley Community Clinic, and Scott Edelstein, a partner with McDermott, Will & Emery, will discuss the project.

TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 AM  
PLACE: St Regis Hotel

### **Pro Bono Committee Meeting**

Following the breakfast, the Committee will have their business



meeting open to all meeting attendees. At this meeting, we will be joined by the co-chairs of the CED Committee; the co-chairs of the Business and Corporate Litigation Pro Bono Subcommittee; and the Chair of the Business Bankruptcy Pro Bono Subcommittee.

TIME: 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
PLACE: St. Regis Hotel

### **Section Luncheon**

The Annual Section Luncheon will feature the presentation of the National Public Service Awards. Information on the awards and the application process may be found on our web page. <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/probono/> nominations are due to the ABA by February 3, 2003. Please encourage your local programs to submit qualified nominees for national recognition.

TIME: Noon – 2:00 PM  
PLACE: Century Plaza Hotel

### **Pro Bono Workshop**

In the afternoon the Pro Bono Committee and the Pro Bono Subcommittee of the Business & Corporation Litigation Committee are sponsoring a CLE forum for ethics credit on "**Business Law Pro Bono & Public Service: Setting Up a Model Program and Adding to the Bottom Line**" Panelists for this workshop include:

Peter Gilhuly, Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, Latham & Watkins, *Los Angeles*  
Esther Lardent, President of the Pro Bono Institute, *Washington, DC*  
Carolyn Rosenthal, Director of Pro Bono, Goodwin Procter, *Boston*

Tom Samoluk, Corporate Counsel, John Hancock, Boston  
Dennis White, Corporate Counsel, General Motors, Detroit

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 PM  
PLACE: Century Plaza Hotel

### **National Public Service Awards**

The American Bar Association Business Law Section Pro Bono Committee is seeking nominations for its National Public Service Award. Nominations are due to the Business Law Section office by February 1, 2003. For more information, visit <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/probono/award.html> or contact Nhu Ly at 312-988-6710.

The committee presents two awards - one recognizing the pro bono contributions of an individual and one recognizing those of a firm/company. The awards will be presented on April 4, 2003 at the Section's Spring Meeting to be held in Los Angeles, California. The National Public Service Award was initiated in 1994 as part of the Section's pro bono project, A Business Commitment (ABC). The National Public Service Award recognizes significant pro bono legal services that demonstrate a commitment to providing services to the poor in a business context, and recognizes the achievements resulting from the public service work for the clients and the client groups represented. The recipients of the award will have undertaken a significant public service projects) that provided free business law representation to the poor or to an organization that predominantly serves the poor, or improves the provision of such services.

### **ABC Streamlines Web-site**

To assist Section members and others interested in promoting pro bono opportunities for business lawyers, the Committee on Pro Bono revamped the

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website <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/probono/abc/>

To promote the development of local and state based Business Law Pro Bono projects, ABC published in 2000 a "How To" Manual, ***The ABC Manual: Starting and Operating a Business Law Pro Bono Project***. A copy of the Manual may be downloaded from the site.

To help locate entities that either support the growth and development of business law pro bono projects; provide technical assistance to enable the development of local projects; or provide direct business law pro bono services, ABC in 2002 developed a ***Pro Bono Online Searchable Support Directory***. This directory enables the user to locate entities by city and state.

To assist in the administrative development of business law pro bono projects, ABC in 2002 also created with the assistance of it's strategic partner, Power of Attorney, a ***Pro Bono Online Searchable Toolbox of Sample Operating Forms***.

If you have sample electronic forms that you wish to contribute, please e-mail them to [glescault@glsp.org](mailto:glescault@glsp.org)

### **Pro Bono Institute Annual Seminar**

#### **Pro Bono in Motion: Transforming Law Firm & Corporate Pro Bono**

Friday, February 28, 2003  
The Willard Intercontinental

This year's seminar will begin with the presentation of the First Annual CorporateProBono.org Partner Award. Registration information may be obtained at <http://www.probonoinst.org/>

In future issues, ***Business Law Today*** will have a regular pro bono department. If you wish to write an article on pro bono the guidelines are at <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/blt/index.html> Submissions should be sent to: [Khopkins@rp-lawgroup.com](mailto:Khopkins@rp-lawgroup.com)

### **ABC Listserv**

ABC List serv currently provides a means of sharing electronic communications daily among the 190+ members who subscribe. If you would like to join the ABC list serv please contact: Guy Lescault [glescault@glsp.org](mailto:glescault@glsp.org)

### **Special Recognition**

ABC thanks the 2002 National Public Service Award winner Goodwin Procter LLP and Carolyn Rosenthal, Director of Pro Bono for volunteering to print this edition of the ABC UPDATE.