

## **Section Honors Atlanta –Based Firm Sutherland Asbill & Brennan with National Public Service Award**

At this year's Section Spring Meeting Luncheon in Seattle, Friday April 2, Kathleen Hopkins, Chair of the Pro Bono Committee presented the 2004 National Public Service Award to Atlanta based law firm Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP. Accepting the award on behalf of the firm was partner Knox Dobbins, who serves as Chair of the State Bar of Georgia A Business Commitment Committee.

The National Public Service Award is presented annually to individuals, firms or corporate departments that have demonstrated a commitment to providing free legal services to the poor in a business context.

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan is a national law firm of more than 350 lawyers with offices in Atlanta, Washington, DC, Austin, Houston, New York and Tallahassee. Since the firm's founding in 1924, lawyers with Sutherland Asbill and Brennan have exhibited exemplary dedication to providing pro bono legal services to underserved individuals and non-profit organizations.

To this end the firm has adopted a policy of a minimum goal of an average of 50 hours per attorney per year to be spent on pro bono work. Sutherland Asbill & Brennan joined other large firms in becoming part of the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, a group that requires its members to contribute at least 3% of its annual billable hours to pro bono matters. The firm is also a founding member of the Pro Bono Institute, an organization that facilitates pro bono projects nationwide.

For many years the lawyers of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan have worked thousands of hours to provide pro bono services to those in need. In addition to the firm's support of Georgia's ABC Committee and clients, the firm has supported the activities of the District of Columbia's Community Economic Development Project, Boggs Rural Life Center, Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society, Georgia Legal Services and various non-profits in and around Georgia and Washington, DC.



Atlanta, Georgia

## **Doing Well by Doing Good: Using Pro Bono to Leverage Your Skill Set and Expand Your Expertise**

Following the luncheon, the Pro Bono Committee and the Pro Bono Subcommittee of the Business and Corporation Litigation Committee sponsored a CLE workshop entitled, "Doing Well by Doing Good: Using Pro Bono to Leverage Your Skill Set and Expand Your Expertise." Patrick Clendendin moderated a panel discussion for this workshop that included Rick Hobish, Director of Pro Bono Partnership, White Plains, NY; Marc Kalish, Chair of the Section of Dispute Resolution's Pro Bono Committee, Phoenix, AZ; and Paul Wilson, Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo, Boston, MA. Each of the panelists shared their experiences and rewards obtained through their different perspectives and engagements in providing business pro bono legal services.

## **ABA Annual Meeting – August 5-10 Atlanta Section of Business Law**

### **Fourth Annual Public Service Project**

Tyler Place CDC

Atlanta, GA

Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The Fourth Annual "Hands-On" Public Service Project will be held Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Tyler Place Community Development Corporation. This project, conducted jointly with the National Association of Women Judges, the ABA Young Lawyers Division, and the State Bar of GA ABC Committee, is organized and co-sponsored by the Business and Corporate Litigation's Pro Bono Subcommittee and the Business Law Section's Pro Bono Committee.

An ABC client group, Tyler Place CDC is located in the Vine City section of downtown Atlanta, a traditionally

poor inner city neighborhood that was ravished by floods last year. At the ABA Equal Justice Conference in Atlanta last month, Carrie Salvary, the Exec. Director of Tyler Pl. and her volunteer ABC attorney Todd Grice, of the Coca Cola legal division, were presenters at the Business Law Pro Bono Breakfast. Salvary & Grice, who serves on the Board of Tyler Place, talked of the value each brought to their working relationship. For the Public Service Day, the GA ABC Committee and the Coca-Cola Legal Department will be recruiting for local volunteers from the committee and their firms and in-house staff at Coca-Cola. Volunteers should contact Guy Lescault [glescault@glsp.org](mailto:glescault@glsp.org).

**Pro Bono Committee Breakfast  
Atlanta Hilton  
Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30am – 9:00am**

For this Committee Breakfast, the planning committee has invited the State Bar of Georgia A Business Commitment Committee to showcase three initiatives in which they have been engaged. One is the recruitment of retired attorneys to work with community groups; a second is the strategic partnership with a statewide microenterprise network; and the third is a partnership with the Southeast Council of Foundations to promote “Lawyers & Philanthropy”.

**Pro Bono Committee Meeting  
Atlanta Hilton  
Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am – 10:30am**

Immediately following the Breakfast, the Committee will have their open business meeting. The focus of the committee meeting will be to re-examine ABC’s commitment to serve as a model for national resource development and explore potential opportunities for collaboration. Invitations will be extended to the co-chairs of the CED Committee; the co-chairs of the Business and Corporate Litigation Pro Bono Subcommittee; the chair of the Business Bankruptcy Pro Bono Subcommittee and the Non-Profit Committee.

<p><b>ABC Project Director</b> Guy E. Lescault Georgia Legal Services Program 104 Marietta St., NW #250 Atlanta, GA 30303 404-463-1612 404-463-1624 FAX <a href="mailto:glescault@glsp.org">glescault@glsp.org</a></p> <p><b>Layout and Design</b> Marcia M. Watson Atlanta, GA</p>	<p><b>Chair</b> Kathleen Hopkins Seattle, WA</p> <p><b>Vice-Chair</b> Peter Carson San Francisco, CA</p> <p><b>ABA Staff</b> Sue Daly Stuart Meyer Nhu Ly</p>
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**Lawyers for Community Change: An Introduction to Business Law Pro Bono**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, ABC partnered with the State Bar of GA ABC Committee and Power of Attorney to sponsor a Business Law Pro Bono Track at the ABA Equal Justice Conference in Atlanta.

Steve Weise, Chair of the ABA Business Law section welcomed guests to the Opening Plenary that featured a video montage of business law pro bono programs throughout the country. Peter Carson, Vice-chair of the Pro Bono Committee moderated a panel discussion on the role of business lawyers in helping to change communities. The panel included Todd Grice, Counsel, The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta GA; Carrie M. Salvary, Exec Director of Tyler Place CDC, Atlanta, GA; Lucy Helm, Counsel, Starbucks Coffee Co., Seattle, WA and Carolyn Rosenthal, Pro Bono Manager at Goodwin Procter, Boston, MA.

Over 100 conference attendees participated in the three workshops and closing plenary that were held over the course of the day. One workshop moderated by Kathleen Hopkins, *Starting Up A Program*, highlighted the variety of programs and how they were started in different settings. Allen Bromberger of PoA moderated a workshop on *Identifying Clients & Client Needs*. Guy Lescault moderated a session on *Resources & Best Practices* that showed what national resources are available to grow new and existing business pro bono programs and how they have been adopted by existing programs to set “benchmarks” of best practices in their programs. Bill Kelly, Chair of the CED Project at the DC Bar concluded the day by recapping his engagement on business law pro bono issues.

Buoyed by the success of this first effort, ABC has begun planning another full day track for next year’s Equal Justice Conference in Austin, TX.

**Business Law Today**

In the most recent publication of the Section’s **Business Law Today**, the “Pro Bono in Action” page has an article, “Philanthropy & Lawyers in Georgia” by Guy Lescault.

If you wish to write an article on pro bono the guidelines are at [http:// www.abanet.org/buslaw/blt/index.html](http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/blt/index.html) Submissions should be sent to:

[Khopkins@rp-lawgroup.com](mailto:Khopkins@rp-lawgroup.com).

**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.