

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Want to add meaning to your life? A great way to do so is to get involved with any of the public service and/or pro bono opportunities provided by the Law In Service Committee ("LIPS"). There is no question that getting involved, whether putting in a few hours in an afternoon, helping victims of domestic violence with restraining orders once a month, or taking on any pro bono commitment, gives meaning to our lives and makes our practices fulfilling. The LIPS Committee is here to provide these opportunities to you. We welcome your involvement, regardless of the amount of time you may be able to contribute.

LIPS is already busy coordinating exciting public service projects, insuring recognition for the wonderful work of our members, and providing tools and resources to facilitate public service and pro bono opportunities. First and foremost, we have an onsite public service project scheduled for our Fall meeting in West Palm Beach at the Boys and Girls Club on Friday, October 5, 2007 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. We will go to the Boys and Girls Club and speak to high school students about pursuing careers in the law, opportunities, resources, obstacles, and personal tips and advice. We welcome your participation.

We have also put together a domestic violence screening card, that can be downloaded and used by practitioners throughout the country. The card contains questions to help attorneys identify victims of domestic violence. We are hoping to also partner with state and local bar associations through our state and local bar task force to spread the word about this terrific resource.

We will also survey our members so that we can recognize their wonderful public service and pro bono efforts. The recognition will not only be made in a traditional manner via the Muskie Award, which is given annually to a TIPS member who has performed extraordinary pro bono service, as well as our Honor Roll that recognizes members of the Section who have performed outstanding pro bono or public service work, but we will also endeavor to recognize the members working on either pro bono and/or public service throughout the year via our various TIPS publications and the website. If you know of individuals who should be recognized for their efforts, please contact any member of LIPS and do not hesitate to prepare a nomination form for the Muskie Award or the Honor Roll, which are available on our website.

We will also explore other avenues of involvement in pro bono via partnerships with corporations and volunteer lawyers to get involved in meaningful public service and pro bono opportunities. We are very excited about the work that LIPS will pursue. We welcome your ideas, your energy, and any time that you can possibly provide.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or any member of the LIPS Committee, should you have any questions. We look forward to working together to fulfill the ABA's and TIPS' commitment to pro bono and public service.

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