

# THE DAILY RECORD

WESTERN NEW YORK'S SOURCE FOR LAW, REAL ESTATE, FINANCE AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1908

## Pro Bono SPOTLIGHT

# 'Pro Bono' Idol auditions coming soon

When it comes to *pro bono*, the Seventh Judicial District has a lot to celebrate.

Hope Olsson, a Rochester bankruptcy attorney, received a 2009 American Bar Association *Pro Bono Publico* Award at the ABA's annual meeting in Chicago earlier this month. She is one of only five recipients of the prestigious national award, and the only honoree who is not from a major metropolitan area.

Rochester's dedicated panel of *pro bono* attorneys provides another reason to celebrate. In October, volunteers will have the chance to shine as Volunteer Legal Services Project and *ProBonoNY* hold "*Pro Bono Idol*" auditions (with apologies to "American Idol").

*Pro Bono Idol*, a twist on a traditional *pro bono* fair, is being planned as part of the ABA's National *Pro Bono* Celebration, which features a variety of events taking place nationwide Oct. 25 through 31. The celebration will showcase the important difference *pro bono* attorneys are making to our nation, our system of justice, our communities and, most significantly, to the clients served. The quest for more *pro bono* volunteers to meet the ever-growing legal needs of our country's most vulnerable citizens will be highlighted as well. Visit [www.celebrateprobono.org](http://www.celebrateprobono.org) for more information.

VLSP and *ProBonoNY*'s *Pro Bono* Idol fair offers four firms and/or corporate law departments the chance to sign up for lunchtime audition spots on a first-come, first-served basis Oct. 26 through Oct. 29. During an audition, firms and/or law departments will hear 15-minute presentations at their offices from VLSP, the Arts and Cultural Council and two other organizations offering *pro bono* opportunities in Monroe County. Oct. 30 will be reserved for small firms and solos, who will be offered the chance to get in on the action, too, with an audition at the MCBA's Rubin Center for Education.

Members of the Seventh Judicial District's *Pro Bono* Action Now Committee will be invited to attend all *Pro Bono* Idol auditions and serve as judges, a natural role for Justice Van Strydonck and other members of the judiciary who serve on the committee.

Who will be Rochester's *Pro Bono* Idol? The group with the

largest number of attorneys in attendance. The winner will receive a fabulous prize: Volunteer Legal Services Project's monthly list of cases awaiting placement will be sent to them a day early, allowing first pick of *pro bono* cases. Please contact me directly for more information.

Many thanks to the volunteers who already have registered for VLSP's Art of Lawyering Workshop Aug. 20 at Studio 34 Creative Arts Center, 34 Elton St., Rochester. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the workshops will run from 6 to 8 p.m.

Thanks, too, to those who donated jewelry for the VLSP's jewelry drive, which generated an impressive array of materials for use at next week's workshop.

VLSP and *ProBonoNY* also wish to thank the members of the legal community who stepped up last month to help low-income clients cope with a wide range of issues, including bankruptcies, wills, name changes, unemployment insurance benefits denials, grandparent/non-parent child custody petitions, adoptions and divorces.

### July 2009 Honor Roll

Solo practitioners: Charles Genese; Phillip Hurwitz; Christopher Johnson; Rhian Jones; Christian Kennedy; Victoria Lagoe; Jennifer Lockemeyer; Denise Munson; Karen Morris; Barbara Orenstein; Thomas Rohr; David Ross and Paul Watkins.

Attorneys and paralegals at firms: C. Bruce Lawrence, Sherman Levey, James Metzler, Christopher Werner (Boylan Brown); Eileen Buholtz (Connors & Corcoran); paralegal Elsa Trotto (Faraci & Lange); Steven Levitsky (Handelman, Witkowitz & Levitsky); David Boysen (Harris Beach); Aaron Hiller, Diana Holl, Michael Nicholson, John Pattison, Jesse St. Cyr (Harter Secrest); Wayne DeHond, Amy Kendall (Hiscock & Barclay); Diana Deyo Ryan (Kaman Berlove); Hon. Robert Lunn, Jonathan Trotto (Lunn Trotto Law Firm); Lucien Morin II (McConville Considine); Michael Canfield, Joseph Carello, Thomas Farace, John Fitzgerald, Jared Lusk, John McQueen, Patrice Morrison, Jason Torres, Janelle Whitaker, paralegals J.P. Fountain and Deborah Wilcox-Mabry (Nixon Peabody); Hope Olsson (Olsson & Feder); Paul Missal (Pir-



By LINDA KOSTIN  
Daily Record  
Columnist

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relo Missal); James Gocker (Trevett Cristo); paralegal Rebecca Guillet (Ward Norris); Christen Bruu, R. Thompson Gilman and paralegal Marcelle Veater (Woods Oviatt).

Corporate attorneys and paralegals: Clay Arnold, Robert Stiles (retired) (Bausch & Lomb); Daniel Dick, Patrick Fong, paralegals Patricia Carey and Karen Drysdale (Thomson Reuters); Gary Cohen, Robert Hutter, Kevin Kepner and Richard Spooner (Xerox).

Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee: George Reiber.

Law students: Jonathan Pollard (Hiscock & Barclay); Benjamin Bodner, Robert Cruz, Alex Paradiso, Sunny Tice, David

Wilks (Harter Secrest), Barry Carrigan, Amanda Connors, Gregory Erickson, Colleen Holland, Meghan Schubmehl, Mit-sie Smith, Kristina Russell (Nixon Peabody) and Molly Dougherty (VLSP).

My apologies to Thomas Farace of Nixon Peabody, whose name was misspelled in last month's Honor Roll. Thank you, Tom, for your dedication to the Lawyer of the Morning program in Rochester City Court.

*Linda Kostin is the Pro Bono Coordinator for the Seventh Judicial District's Pro Bono Action Now Program. Her office is located at Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County Inc. Contact her at [lkostin@wnylc.com](mailto:lkostin@wnylc.com) or (585) 295-5703.*