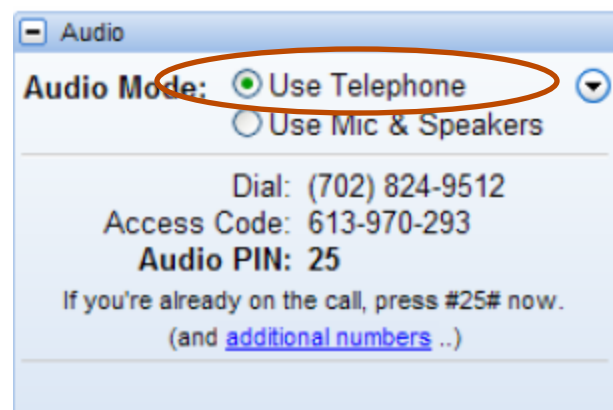


## Overview

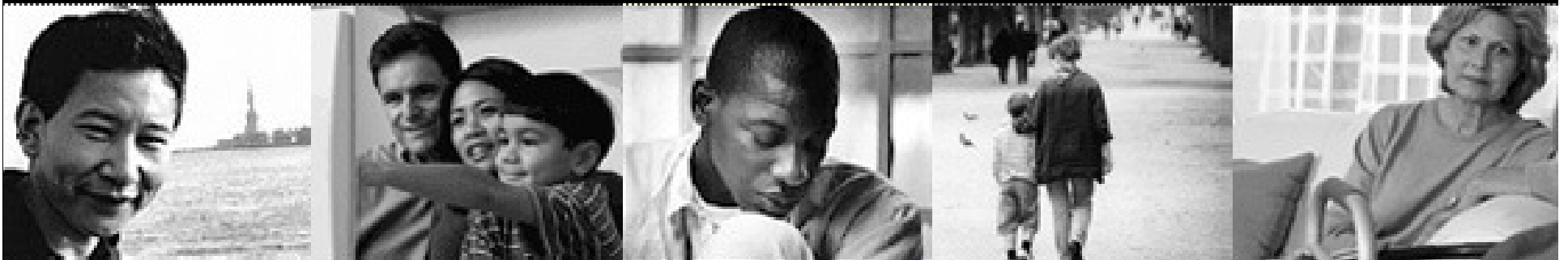
# Welcome to Pro Bono in New York

Probono

- You are muted, we will begin promptly **at the top of the hour.**
- Make sure the correct Audio Mode is selected to how you have connected: Telephone or Mic & Speakers.
- If you joined the conference via telephone, please enter your **audio pin** if you haven't already. (The image on the right is an example - your audio pin will be different.)
- If you joined with a microphone and headset or speakers (VoIP), please be sure your **device volume settings** are properly adjusted.
- If your mic & headset are not working, please try **unplugging and re-plugging** in your device.



# probono.net



## National Pro Bono Celebration Week Virtual Pro Bono Open House

Pro Bono in New York Webinar  
October 27, 2010

# Webinar Logistics

- You are muted, but...
- Please ask questions using Questions log!
- We are recording the webinar today and will archive on [www.probono.net/ny](http://www.probono.net/ny).
- Audio/tech problems: [jstuart@probono.net](mailto:jstuart@probono.net)

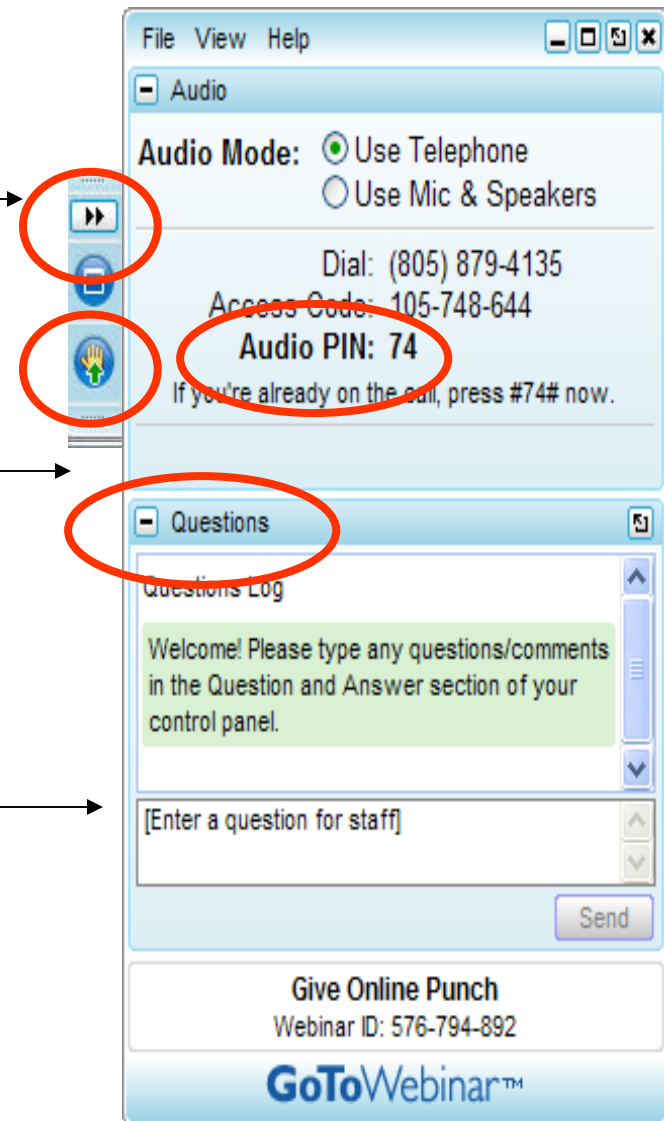
## Overview

# Control Panel

**Grab Tab** – click arrow to open/close Control Panel. Click square to toggle Viewer Window between full screen/window mode. You can raise your hand to flag, then ask a question.

**Audio pane** – select audio format. Click Audio Setup to select Mic & Speakers devices.

**Questions** – you can submit questions and review answers. Messages to everyone will also show here. Type your question and click **Send** to submit it to the presenters.



## Overview

# Pro Bono in New York

Probono

- Goal is to increase the number of attorneys involved in pro bono in New York.
- Highlight New York pro bono programs as virtual orientation session to learn how to get involved.
- Funded by the New York Community Trust and hosted by Pro Bono Net.

- This week is



National Pro Bono Celebration  
October 24-30, 2010

Overview

# Today's Webinar Agenda

- MFY Legal Services, Inc.
- Urban Justice Center
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- The Legal Aid Society
- Resources on [probono.net/ny](http://probono.net/ny)
- Wrap-up and Contact Information

Overview

# Today's Presenters

- **MFY Legal Services**
  - Amy Roehl, Staff Attorney
- **Urban Justice Center**
  - Doug Lasdon, Executive Director
- **Legal Services of the Hudson Valley**
  - Erin Guven, Director of Pro Bono Affairs
- **Legal Aid Society**
  - Katie Niejadlik, Pro Bono Administrator
- **Pro Bono Net**
  - Allison McDermott, Deputy Director
  - Tony Lu, Pro Bono & Special Initiatives Coordinator

## Pre-Webinar Poll

*Probono*

**What are the biggest challenges to doing pro bono work?**

**What kinds of pro bono opportunities do you prefer?**



PROBATION.

MFY Legal Services, Inc.

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# Pro Bono Opportunities at MFY Legal Services



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National Pro Bono Week

October 27, 2010

# Kinship Caregiver Law Project

- MFY's Kinship Caregiver Law Project is primarily a pro bono project handling custody, guardianship, adoption and public benefits matters for families caring for related children in all five boroughs.
- There are over 300,000 children in New York City being raised by grandparents and other non-parents.



# The People we Serve

- Citywide Project
- Relatives
  - ❑ Grandparents
  - ❑ Great-grandparents
  - ❑ Aunts and Uncles
  - ❑ Siblings
  - ❑ Step-parents
- Other Kin
  - ❑ Family friends
  - ❑ Godparents
  - ❑ Neighbors



# Services we Provide

- Advice and Counsel/Referrals
- Direct Representation in Family and Surrogate's Court
- Community Education
- Legal Clinics in community based organizations and the Kings County and Bronx County family courthouses
- Public policy advocacy



# Pro Bono Involvement

- Over the past year 240 pro bono attorneys provided 13, 750 hours of service to MFY clients.
- Over the past year, approximately 306 attorneys were trained through the Kinship Caregiver Law Project.
- Approximately 38 firms are involved in the project, as well as solo practitioners.





# Supporting Pro Bono Services

- While the volunteer attorney (or firm) is the attorney of record, we provide the following to all pro bono attorneys:
  - ❑ Mentoring
  - ❑ Training
    - At least 4 live CLE trainings per year in custody/guardianship and adoption
  - ❑ Materials
  - ❑ Document Review
  - ❑ Technical Support



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# Who are the Clients at MFY?

- Often they have been caring for the child(ren) for many years. In many cases, the parents are incarcerated, abusing drugs or alcohol or have a physical or mental illness that prohibits them from caring for the child(ren).
  - Many are grandparents but approximately 35% of all MFY callers are other relatives or kin.
  - Many are on fixed incomes (such as Social Security or a pension) or are working poor.
  - Most families have had some contact with the formal child welfare system but none are currently in foster care.
-



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# Why Volunteer with MFY?

- Our clients are rarely, if ever, eligible for assigned counsel if they are otherwise unable to afford an attorney, no matter how long they have been the primary caretaker for the child;
  - Any parent who contests the matter is automatically assigned counsel if s/he is otherwise unable to afford an attorney;
  - Our clients cannot otherwise afford an attorney for these cases, which often take several months and several court appearances to resolve;
  - To help stabilize a family and a child's life with a court order.
  - Gain experience in working with clients and possibly litigation.
-

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## For More Information:

- Please contact Ramonita Cordero at 212-417-3774 or Amy Roehl at 212-417-3743 with questions about the program or to accept a case for representation.
  - We offer mentoring and support throughout the process.
  - Thank you for your participation and support!
-

PROOF.11

Urban Justice Center

PROBATION

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley



# **Legal Services of the Hudson Valley**

Protecting rights and promoting  
justice

# What we do and why

- Did you know that in this country we are not guaranteed legal representation in non-criminal matters?
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, a not-for-profit law firm, is committed to making "justice for all" a reality throughout the lower Hudson Valley, regardless of an individual's economic status and ability to pay an attorney.
- For over 40 years, LSHV has been helping people with urgent non-criminal matters secure necessary legal representation. With dedicated attorneys, paralegals and advocates working out of seven branch offices, LSHV provides assistance to individuals and families in a variety of legal matters, including: unlawful evictions, the wrongful denial of public benefits such as unemployment insurance, domestic violence, disability, elder law and special education.

# Overview of the LSHV *Pro Bono* Program

- The mission of the LSHV *Pro Bono* Program is to increase access to justice for the poor through the organized participation of the private bar.
- We are committed to ensuring the success of our *pro bono* programs by offering a high level of support to our volunteers, including: training and

# The Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP)

- The LSHV Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP) is the cornerstone of the LSHV *pro bono* program.
- The VAP consists of a panel of attorneys who agree to represent at least one client per year in exchange for CLE credit. Private attorneys provide essential support in a range of civil matters.
- LSHV staff work with attorney volunteers to ensure that they are comfortable with the cases that are referred.
- In addition, staff is always available to consult with and offer assistance to volunteers throughout the duration of the matter.



# Project F.A.I.R. P.L.A.N.

(Family Attorneys in Rockland Providing Legal Assistance Now)



- Project **FAIR PLAN** is a pilot program in conjunction with *ProBonoNY* and the Rockland County Family Court which began in October of 2010.
- **FAIR PLAN** utilizes volunteer lawyers who act as “attorney-of the-morning” in Family Court. Attorneys answer questions, provide information and assist pro se litigants in preparing and filing petitions regarding various issues including:

# Westchester County Uncontested Divorce Project



- This Project is a collaboration between LSHV, The 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Law Department and The Westchester County *Pro Bono* Committee.
- LSHV does not have the resources to meet the demand for services for qualified clients seeking to commence uncontested divorces.
- This project was designed to help people representing themselves in uncontested divorce matters with a higher level of service than offered in a traditional "clinical" model.
- Prospective clients who are screened for eligibility by LSHV will be referred to a volunteer attorney who will provide the client with limited representation in assisting in the preparation of the "uncontested divorce packet" as well as advice and instructions on how to complete the process.
- If the attorney deems that a client needs a higher level of service, the client will be referred back to LSHV.
- The volunteer attorneys will be meeting with clients in the Courthouse.

# Bankruptcy Clinics

- Due to economic turmoil, impoverished debtors are looking more than ever to utilize the protection of bankruptcy laws, but can't afford to hire an attorney to guide them through the process.
- Overwhelmed with the volume of eligible clients seeking bankruptcy protection and having a difficult time meeting the demand for services, LSHV developed a Chapter 7 *Pro Se* Bankruptcy clinic designed to give individuals the information, advice and training they need to navigate bankruptcy.
- Experienced volunteer attorneys administer the clinics, which walk clients through the bankruptcy process as well as the preparation of the Chapter 7 petition and schedules.
- LSHV recruited a panel of volunteer attorneys to review client-prepared petitions and schedules before a client files the documents in Court.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Foreclosure Settlement Conference Project



- LSHV has partnered with Pro Bono Committees, Bar Associations and the Judiciary throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> District and Ulster County to implement programs that utilize private volunteers to assist homeowners facing foreclosure.
- For the past 18 months, LSHV has worked with Empire Justice Center which has been providing free training to attorneys on how to represent home owners facing foreclosure who qualify for mandatory settlement conferences.
- We have reached out to Special Referees throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> JD who preside over the settlement conferences to establish direct referrals to LSHV in which the homeowner is in need of counsel.
- LSHV then assigns a volunteer attorney trained by the Empire Justice Center and/or LSHV to represent the homeowner at the settlement conferences.

# The Unemployment Project

- Low-income workers who have been laid off and denied unemployment benefits often do not have legal representation.
- With unemployment rates nearing catastrophic proportions, the project, now in its third year, recruits and trains private attorneys to provide pro bono representation to claimants seeking benefits to which they are legally entitled.

# The Children's Justice Project

- Children with Disabilities, under federal law, have rights afforded to them, including the right to a free and appropriate education as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).
- There is a significant shortage of attorneys representing disabled children in the arena of special education law.
- Without a sufficient number of attorneys to advocate for the rights of disabled children in education, these rights are rendered virtually meaningless.
- The lack of experienced attorneys in this area of law has taken on new urgency because of the autism epidemic. LSHV and the Orange County Pro Bono Committee continue to train and mentor private attorneys to represent children whose families cannot afford representation.

# Westchester County "Lunch and Learn" CLE Series



- LSHV became an accredited CLE provider in 2008 accredited 13 programs in 2009.
- We also co-sponsor many other CLE's to promote attorney volunteerism. The Westchester Lunch and Learn CLE series is a recent collaboration between LSHV, the Westchester County *Pro Bono* Committee and the New Lawyers Section of the Westchester Women's Bar Association.
- The program offers a monthly series of "nuts and bolts" Continuing Legal Education programs designed to present the basics in different practice areas in which *pro bono* attorneys are needed.
- All of the CLE programs are held in the Westchester County Courthouse and a number of Judges, Special Referees and prominent local attorneys have committed their participation.
- Topics include debtor issues, uncontested divorces, adoptions and probate.

PROBONO.

The Legal Aid Society





# National Pro Bono Celebration Week

An overview of The Legal Aid  
Society's  
Pro Bono Program



# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY: AN OVERVIEW

- Oldest and largest provider of free legal services to the indigent
- Founded in 1876
- 24 offices city-wide
- Staff of 850 attorneys, 600 paralegals, support staff, investigators and social workers



# PRACTICE AREAS

- **Criminal Defense**
- **Juvenile Rights**
- **Civil**



# THE PRO BONO PRACTICE

- In 2009, 1740 attorneys volunteered with the Legal Aid Society
- The total valuation of pro bono services contributed to the Legal Aid Society was \$61.3 million
- Pro Bono attorneys volunteered over 170,000 hours of their time in 2009



## PRO BONO: HALLMARKS OF OUR PROGRAM

- Pro Bono is integrated throughout all 3 Practice Areas
- The Legal Aid Society is the Attorney of Record
- Pro Bono attorneys are covered by our malpractice insurance
- Specialized CLE Pro Bono Training Program; CLE credit awarded for pro bono work



# PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS

1. Law firm and Corporate Projects
2. Individual Cases
3. Class Action and Affirmative Litigation
4. Externships



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

- Law Firm and Corporate attorneys
- Individual attorneys
- “Second Acts<sup>®</sup>” attorneys

Second Acts<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of the Pro Bono Institute.



## GETTING INVOLVED: LAW FIRM AND CORPORATE ATTORNEYS

- Projects
- Individual Case Referrals
- Class Actions and Affirmative Litigation
- Externships





## GETTING INVOLVED: TRANSITIONING AND RETIRED ATTORNEYS

- Opportunities available for transitioning and retired attorneys
- “Second Acts” attorneys use their legal talent and expertise in a variety of ways
- Learn more about opportunities and how to develop a pro bono portfolio tailored to your background and interest

Second Acts® is a registered trademark of the Pro Bono Institute.



## GETTING INVOLVED – INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEYS

- Individual attorneys who can make a 3-month commitment
- Provide resume/CV, and include detailed information about availability – hours per week, and what length of time you are able to commit



# RESOURCES FOR VOLUNTEERING

- Visit our website, [www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org) to learn more about our three practice areas
- NYC Pro Bono Center - [www.probono.net/ny/nyc](http://www.probono.net/ny/nyc) – pro bono news, cases, events, and training materials



## CONTACT US

- Katie Niejadlik, Pro Bono Administrator  
email: [KANiejadlik@legal-aid.org](mailto:KANiejadlik@legal-aid.org)  
tel: (212) 577-3919
- Marlene Halpern, Supervising Attorney for Pro Bono  
email: [MIHalpern@legal-aid.org](mailto:MIHalpern@legal-aid.org)  
tel: (212) 577-3288



Resources available on [probono.net/ny](http://probono.net/ny)

Probono

- **Probono.net New York**

- [www.probono.net/ny/](http://www.probono.net/ny/)

- **New York Pro Bono Opportunities Guide**

- [www.probono.net/ny/oppsguide](http://www.probono.net/ny/oppsguide)

Question and Answer  
**Questions?**

Probono



**Questions?**  
**Use Questions box.**

PROLOGUE

Wrap-up

- To volunteer with MFY, contact:
  - Ramonita Cordero at [rcordero@mfy.org](mailto:rcordero@mfy.org)
- To volunteer with the Urban Justice Center, contact:
  - David Colodny at [dcolodny@urbanjustice.org](mailto:dcolodny@urbanjustice.org)
- To volunteer with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, contact:
  - Erin Guven at [eguven@lshv.org](mailto:eguven@lshv.org)
- To volunteer with the Legal Legal Aid Society, contact:
  - Katie Niejadlik at [KANiejadlik@legal-aid.org](mailto:KANiejadlik@legal-aid.org)
- To learn more about [probono.net/ny](http://probono.net/ny), contact:
  - Tony Lu at [tl@probono.net](mailto:tl@probono.net)



Wrap-Up

# Save the Date

Probono

Please send us feedback!

[tl@probono.net](mailto:tl@probono.net)

Look out for more Pro Bono in New York webinars coming soon!

**November 17, 2010 at 2:00PM:  
Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Service Project and  
Adult Guardianship Proceedings**