

**VOLUNTEER  
APPRECIATION EVENT**



The  
**ProBono**  
Project

Volunteer Lawyers Providing Access to Justice

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009**

## ***Phenomenal Pro Bono Pros***

2009 Pro Bono Law Firm

**Baker Donelson Bearman**

**Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC**

2009 Pro Bono Corporate Partner

**Right Hat**

2009 Law School

**Loyola University New Orleans College of Law**

2009 Friend of Pro Bono

**Desiree Giler Mann**

2009 Pro Bono Law Student

**Homero Lopez**

2009 Pro Bono Paralegal

**Reba Mackey**

2009 Distinguished Donor

**Sessions Fishman & Nathan, LLP**

2009 Distinguished Service Awardees

**Michelle Egan                      Lorien Golaski**

**Sherry Dolan                      John A. Gordon**

**Skaden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP**

2009 Distinguished Jurist

**The Honorable Michael Bagneris**

**Judge, Civil District Court, Orleans Parish**

2009 Pro Bono Leadership Award

**Presented by Mark Surprenant**

## **Advisory Board of Directors**

Mark Cunningham

**Board Chair**

Justin I. Woods

**First Vice-Chair**

Judge Jay Zainey

**Second Vice-Chair**

Catherine Lasky

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Mark Surprenant

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Donna Fraiche

Judge Robin Giarrusso

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Jan M. Hayden

Mark Moreau

Carole Cukell Neff

Norman Rubenstein

Rafael Saddy

Marta Ann Schnabel

## **Ex-Officio Members**

A. Wendell Stout

**Past-Chair, 2007**

John E. McAuliffe, Jr.

**New Orleans Bar Association**

Marion Floyd

**Jefferson Bar Association**

Van Robichaux

**St. Bernard Bar Association**

Cindy Petry

**22<sup>nd</sup> JDC Representative**

## **The Pro Bono Project Staff**

Rachel Piercey

**Executive Director**

Linton Carney

**Chief Legal Officer**

Christopher Coty

**Staff Attorney**

Joshua Holmes

**Outreach Attorney**

Vanessa Spinazola

**Employment Law Staff Attorney**

Zakiya LaGrange

**Paralegal**

Becky Stallard

**Intake Coordinator**

Lillian Long

**Office Administrator**

*Financially assisted by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA)*

*program of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.*

## **THE PRO BONO PROJECT**

615 Baronne Street, Suite 203    (504) 581-4043    fax (504) 566-0518

email: [probono@probono-no.org](mailto:probono@probono-no.org)

Continuing Legal Education Seminar:

**“You Don’t want to Go There: Disciplinary Rules of  
the Eastern District of Louisiana”**

and

**Volunteer Appreciation & Recognition Ceremony**

Thursday, December 10, 2009

JONES WALKER

201 St. Charles Ave.

New Orleans, LA

Main Conference Room

4:00 - 5:00

**CLE Program with speaker**

**The Honorable Ivan L.R. Lemelle**

**United States District Judge,**

**Eastern District of Louisiana**

5:00 - 6:30

**Volunteer Appreciation & Recognition Ceremony**

**Honoring 2009 Pro Bono Volunteers**

Presentation of Awards by

**Kim Boyle**

**President, Louisiana State Bar Association**

Wine and Cheese Reception following

**Donated 100+ Hours in 2009**

Joanna Broussard	Brian Hoerner	Kerry Murphy
Bill Cherbonnier	Kindall James	Norman Rubestein
Mark Cunningham	Katie Lasky	Elonide Semmes
Carrol Hand	Reba Mackey	Jennifer Sullam
Don Haycraft	Simone Manuel	Mark Surprenant
	Lauren McKnight	

**Donated 50+ Hours in 2009**

Alexis Aloï	Alona Croteau	Allison Frihart
Sasank Ancha	Jorge Dalence Gastelu	Duncan Fulton
Kathryn Belcher	Sarah Dawkins	Lauren Godshall
Kelly Bennett	Alastair Deans	Lorien Golaski
Thomas Betts	Courtney DeWitt	Versa Gold
Lakeisha Bruner	Patrick Dick	John Gordon
John Byron	Marc L. Domres	Matthew Graham
Pamela Carter	Lindsey Duckworth	Daisy Gurdian
Lydia I. Casiano	Elizabeth Dufour	Susan Haydel
Christine Chen	Dawn Euer	Jan M. Hayden
Le Chen	Monica Ferraro	Brian Hiller
Lauren Connell	David Fink	Emma Hinnigan
Aileen Cook	Katie L. Francioni	Yoo Hee Hong

## 50+ Hours in 2009 Continued

Beth E. Johnson	Eric Mack	Maurice Ruffin
Mary Jones	James Maguire	Marta Ann Schnabel
Esther Kapinos	Susan Mahoney	Rose Sher
Robert E. Kerrigan, Jr.	Stephanie McLaughlin	Stephanie Sherry
Eva Koestel	Pamela McLendon	John Shreves
Leslie Lanusse	Misty Mercer	Cathy Siebecker
Linda La Spina	Marc Michaud	Ashley Snyder
Alan Lapre	Luz Molina	Katie Spillane
Lynn Laweryson	Jennifer Myers	Ashley Spizzuco
Sang Hwa Lee	Michelle Payne	Daniel Umlouf
Kate Leib	Yamille Phanor	Evan Walker
Michael Lennox	Sara Porsia	Jason Wallace
Ben Leonard	Kyle Potts	Susan Waysdorf
Chris Lerch	Thomas Rafferty	Amy Yacorzynski
Wendy Lo	Ashlee Reed	Daniel Zweben
Charles Long	Mary Jo Roberts	
Homero Lopez	Deborah B. Rouen	

### What the clients say:

*“They were timely and I didn’t have to wait for my case to be resolved.”*

*“I’m disabled and my cousin was trying to take my property. Get more people like [your staff] Chris and Zakiya who truly are a blessing.”*

*“The volunteer was very patient and understanding. I am in the process of getting the title to my house in my name only.”*

*“God bless her all of her life.” said about a volunteer attorney.*

*“I get no more phone calls, thanks so much it has made me less stressed.” client with credit problems*

## 2009 Honor Roll Continued

Frank Towers	Monica M. Waldron	Bluma F. Wolfson
Pat Traina	Laura Walter Plunkett	John Womack
Sandra Tsung	Evan Walker	Justin I. Woods
Michael Tusa, Jr.	Jerome Walker	William Wright
Joseph Tynan	Jason Wallace	Amy Yacorzynski
Ruth Umfrey	Ryan Wallis	Laurie Young
Daniel Umlouf	Rachel Walsh	Mark Young
Richard Vale	Sidney Watson	Hon. Jay Zainey
Peggy Vallejo	Susan Waysdorf	Joy Zainey
Sandi Varnado	Franklin E. Weindruch	Maryann Zavez
R. Patrick Vance	Karn L. Weirman	Christy Zeringue
Hon. Sarah Vance	Judith Wenger	Rebecca Eileen Zuniga-Hamlin
Roland Vandenweghe	Scott T. Whittaker	Daniel Zweben
Stephanie Villagomez	Anne Derbes Wittmann	
Kristen Wainright	Alan Wolf	

## 2009 Contributing Law Schools

Barry University	Student Hurricane Network*
Drake Law School	Tulane University
Hofstra University	University of North Carolina
Indiana University	University of the District of Columbia
Loyola University	Villanova University
Roger Williams University	Wake Forest University

*\* A consortium of law students from law schools across the country*

**What the volunteers say:** “The value of this judgment to a single mother with nowhere left to turn is immeasurable—the penalty monies have been collected and saved for future use in care of her daughter. More importantly, this case—one of hundreds The Pro Bono Project handles every year—is indicative of the effort of the staff and volunteers that work with The Pro Bono Project on behalf of individuals throughout the New Orleans area.”

“I’d like to thank you and The Pro Bono Project for giving me a great intern experience. Having opportunities, especially in family law, ranging from reviewing client files over the phone, completing divorce petitions, scheduling and meeting with clients and going on court run were valuable experiences. Getting the opportunity to volunteer is such a successful firm so vitally important to the New Orleans community is something I can take a lot away from.”

## 2009 Honor Roll Continued

Cherie Nobles	John Robert	John Shreves
O'Bryon & Schnabel	Mary Jo Roberts	Stan Shuler
Jeffrey O'Neale	Van Robichaux	Stanton E. Shuler, Jr
Daniel Oquendo	Wendy Hickok Robinson	John W. Sinnott
Nancy Ordonez	Paula Jimena Rodriguez	Cathy Siebecker
Katie Oswald	Brianne Rome	Parker Smith
John C. Overby	Curt Rome	Tara Nunez Smith
Erin Parkinson	Portia Rosemond	Ashley Snyder
Pat Patrick	Gregory Rouchell	Joy and Mark Spansel
Michelle Payne	Deborah B. Rouen	Asha Spencer
Erin Pelleteri	Elizabeth Roussel	Katie Spillane
Kathlyn Perez	Wendy Rovira	Ashley Spizzuco
Ralph Perez	Norman Rubenstein	Nick Staggs
J. Roumaine Peters	Maurice Ruffin	Robert Stefani
Cindy Petry	Rafael Saddy	David Stein
Mary Peyton	Beau P. Sagona	Charles L. Stern
Yamille Phanor	Scott R. Samuel	A. Wendel Stout
Glen Pilie	Monica Sanchez	Shane Stroud
Denise Pilie	Anthony Sartorio	Chase Stuart
Pius Obidha	Charlotte Sawyer	Jacqui Stump
Daniel Plunkett	Justin Schmidt	Tina Suggs
Alexis Polk	Marta Ann Schnabel	Jennifer Sullam
Sara Porsia	Eric Schorr	Mark C. Surprenant
Kyle Potts	De Mark Schulze	Monica Surprenant
Andrea Price	William Schwartz	Ernest Svenson
Mary Dawn Pugh	Amy Seltzer	Jim Swanson
H. Phillip Radecker	Elonide Semmes	Miles Swanson
Thomas Rafferty	Joe Semmes	Margaret Swetman
Anna Rainer	Valerie Sercovich	Lauren Tafaro
Chris Ralston	Jessica Serrano	Taro Taguchi
Tracey Rannals	Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, L.L.P.	Carol Talley
Doug Redfearn	Umair Shaikh	Kriste L. Talton
David Redmann	Katherine Shepher	Nikki Thanos
Denise Redmann	Rose Sher	Catherine Thigpen
Ashlee Reed	Stephanie Sherry	Scott Tillery
James Reehl	Ronald J. Sholes	Alex Tinucci
Naomi Reyes	Chris Short	Peter S. Title

## 2009 Honor Roll

The **Honor Roll** recognizes the attorneys, paralegals, students, and non-legal volunteers who have actively participated in **The Project's** work this year. Through their generous donations of time, expertise and funds, hundreds of disadvantaged clients were provided with legal representation and access to justice. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all.

J.Q. Affleck	Jim Blazek	Ryan M. Casteix
Rebecca Aledort	Elizabeth Boe	George Cauthen
Sherona Alexis	Louis P. Bonnaffons	Charles A. Cerise, Jr.
Trevor Allen	Jason Bonnet	Kathleen Charvet
Alexis Aloï	Allen H. Borne, Jr.	Christine Chen
John Amato	Phillip J. Borne	Le Chen
Sasank Ancha	Barbara Bossetta	George Ching
David Anderson	Jonathan Bourg	P.A.Black-Childress and T.E. Childress
Heather Angelico	William Boyles	Justin Chopin
Dean Arruebarrena	T. Peter Breslin	Richard Chopin
Bart Bacigalupi	Jacqueline Brettner	Andy Chrestman
Hon. Michael Bagneris	Dominique Bright-Wheeler	Phyllis C. Coci
Dara Baird	Joanna M. Broussard	Meredith Cohen
Ofelia Balderas Delgado	Susan Broussard	David L. Coleman
Baptist Community Ministries	Marcus Brown	Paul Colomb, Jr.
Lauren E. Bartlett	Lakeisha Bruner	Lauren Connell
Lauren F. Bartlett	Laura Buck	Aileen Cook
Wade Bass	Katlyn Buggy	David Coons
Richard Baudouin	Jeffrey M. Burg	Tom Cortazzo
Robert Baudouin	Maurice L. Burk	J. Dalton Courson
Walter Becker	Callan Burzynski	Thomas Cowan
Mark Beebe	Amanda Butler	Casey Cowley
Kathryn Belcher	John Byron	Michelle Craig
Henry Bennett	Karen Calhoun	Mary Craver
Kelly Bennett	David Canales	Alona Croteau
Phil Bergeron	John Cangelosi	Mark Cunningham
Christopher Bernhardt	Burt Carnahan	Meredith Cunningham
Thomas Betts	James K. Carroll	Jill Czapla
Virginia Blake	Pamela Carter	Chris D'Amour
Kurt Blankenship	Lydia I. Casiano	Jorge Dalence Gastelu

## 2009 Honor Roll Continued

Carey Daste	Steven Fischbach	
Sarah Dawkins	Pam Fischer	
Alastair Deans	Harold Flanagan	Joe Gordon
Mickey Delaup	Robert Fleischman	John Gordon
S. Guy Delaup	M. June Fliri	Christopher Grace
James Derbes	Marion Floyd	Matthew Graham
Mark E. Devenport	Randall K. Foreman	Meghan Grant
Courtney Dewitt	Christine Fortunato	Patsy Green
Patrick Dick	Darryl Foster	Jennifer Grobelski
Rebecca Dietz	Donna D. Fraiche	David Groome
Susan Dinneen	Katie I. Francioni	Richard Gruner
Carmen Ditta	Phil Franco	Suzanne G. Guillot
Sherry Dolan	Nicole Friant	Michelle Gullage
Marc L. Domres	Alison Frihart	Daisy Gurdian
Lori Dowell	Duncan Fulton	Erin Gustafson
John M. Duck	Cameron Gamble	John Hainkel, III
Lindsey Duckworth	Kurt Garcia	Elsie B. Halford
Peter E. Duffy	Eb Garrison	Cara Hall
Elizabeth Dufour	A. Kirk Gasperez	Michael Hamilton
Mary L. Dumestre	Celeste Gauthier	Carrol Hand
James Dunne	Edward George	Pamela Hansen
Michale A. Duplantier	Paula R. George	Edward F. Harold
Scott Dusang	Catherine Giarrusso	Patricia Harris
Katie Lynn Dysart	Hon. Robin Giarrusso	Don Haycraft
Emily Eagan	Sally Gilmore	Thomas W. Hardy
Nici Eichberger	K. Eric Gisleson	Susan Haydel
Jamie Eichinger	Jane Gisevius	Jan M. Hayden
Nina English	Henry B. Gassner and	Edward T. Hayes
Elizabeth Etherton	Betty-Chia Karro	Jessica Hayes
Dawn Euer	Lauren Godshall	C. Peck Hayne, Jr.
Larry Feldman	Lorien Golaski	John Henry
Faun Fenderson	Versa Gold	Brian Hiller
Ann Fenton	John Gomila	Emma Hinnigan
Monica Ferraro	Kenneth Goodwin	Aubrey B. Hirsch
Everett Fineran	Cecile Gordon	Chin Chin Ho and
David Fink	Demarcus Gordon	Mark Moreau
		Brian Hoerner

## 2009 Honor Roll Continued

Jeffrey Hoffman	Katie Lasky	Lauren McKnight
James A. Holmes	Lynn Laweryson	Stephanie McLaughlin
Yoon Hee Hong	Celia Leber	Andrew McLean
Loretta Hoskins	J. Dwight LeBlanc, Jr.	Pam McLendon
Laura Howard	Margaret (Peggy) Leblanc	Kathleen McNelis
Anna C. Hrybyk	Charles Leche	Donald J. Melancon
Joshua Hudson	Bernadette Lee	Andy Mendez
Nathan Huntwork	Sang Ha Lee	Misty Mercer
Natacha M. Hutchinson	Kate Leib	Henry Mestetsky
Sherri Hutton	Michael Lennox	Conrad Meyer, IV
IBM	Ben Leonard	Malcolm Meyer
James Ianelli	Chris Lerch	Mary Meyer
Gerald D. Issokson	Frank Liantonio	Amy Meynig
Kindall James	Eric Liddick	Tania Michaels
Benjamin Janke	Wendy Lo	Marc Michaud
Angela Johnson	Charles Long	Courtney Miller
Beth E. Johnson	Sal Longoria	Claire Mitchell
Mary Jones	Homero Lopez	Sultana Mixakis
Esther Kapinos	Erin Lorio	Luz Molina
Susan Keller	Eric Mack	Sarah Monsour
Robert E. Kerrigan, Jr.	Reba Mackey	Yolanda Montgomery
Kathryn M. Knight	Barbara Madere	Danielle Moore
Donna Knowles	James Maguire	Edith H. Morris
Eva Koestel	Susan Mahoney	Roderick Morris
Ann Koppel	Simone Manuel	Kaoul Mowatt
David Krebs	Michael Marsiglia	Kerry Murphy
Lynda La Spina	John Marzullo	Tobi Murphy
Louis C. Lacour, Jr.	Doug Mathew	Jennifer Myers
Alan LaGrange	Stephen Mattesky	Stephen Myers
Ed Laizer	Regina Matthews	Jennifer Nagourney
Judge Madeline Landrieu	John McAuliffe, Jr.	David Napoleon
Michael Lane	Jackie M. McCreary	Renata Nascimiento
Laura Langdon	Glenn C. McGovern	Carole C. Neff
Leslie Lanusse	Alexander M. McIntyre, Jr.	Charles W. Nelson
Alan Lapre	Donald McKay	Tania Nelson
Lindsay Larson	Jade McKeough	Sarah Ney

## **2009 Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year**

### **Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC**

During 2009, the members of Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC provided over 1,000 hours of volunteer service to The Project and its clients through the participation of 15 attorneys who worked on 40 cases. But to cap this, several of the firm's members worked very hard for the Justice For All Ball, helping make it one of the biggest successes to date. In October, in honor of the very first National Pro Bono Week, the firm partnered with The Project to stage a continuing legal education program on professionalism duties and how pro bono work can fulfill these important obligations. Baker Donelson not only created the presentation but also provided one of the speakers and then hosted a reception afterwards.

With the kind of commitment that Baker Donelson has made to The Project and the pro bono community, we are able to extend our reach and continue providing the kind of service that is still critically needed by our clients and this community. We salute Baker Donelson for their amazing partnership in 2009 and look forward to their continued participation in 2010.

## **2009 Pro Bono Corporate Partner**

### **Right Hat & Elonide Semmes**

Over the past year, supporters of The Pro Bono Project have begun to see the work of Boston-based design firm Right Hat, and one of its founding partners, New

Orleans native Elonide Semmes. Elonide, her partner Charlyne Fabi and the team of Right Hat, have created the new look of The Project that has been slowly emerging this year with new corporate and Justice For All Ball branding. In addition, Elonide also sits on the Resource Development Committee and has been instrumental in fundraising efforts for The Project through both her personal and business contacts in New Orleans, as well as in Boston. Her involvement with Board member Norm Rubenstein in conducting marketing workshops for law firms in exchange for a donation to The Project is the brainchild of Ann Wallace from Adams & Reese, who promptly took advantage of this dynamic marketing duo.

Elonide's work will continue in 2010 as we finalize the transition to our new branding with an updated and more user-friendly website, fundraising and other marketing and communications materials. The Right Hat team, and Elonide in particular, are bringing resources to The Project, which are often beyond the reach of most non-profits, and we are grateful for all their creativity and hard work on our behalf.

### **2009 Law School of the Year**

#### **Loyola University New Orleans College of Law**

Loyola has been an essential element in the network of collaboration with other public interest legal organizations that enables The Project to advance its goal of providing access to justice to the less fortunate people within our community. Through its array of legal clinics and in-house expertise, Loyola Law School is in the forefront in the quest for access to justice. In the past year, The Project has benefited from its partnership with Loyola and Catholic Charities in setting up and

managing the wage claim clinic, which targets marginalized populations who often are unable to defend themselves against predatory employers. This partnership has proved successful on many fronts and as a result, the work of The Project touches so many more lives because of this partnership with Loyola Law School. We are grateful for their commitment to The Project and to those in need of ‘access to justice.’ DO WE NEED MORE HERE???

### **2009 Friend of Pro Bono**

#### **Desiree Giler Mann**

Although she’s on IBM’s legal staff in New York, Desiree Giler Mann has strong roots in Louisiana and New Orleans. Her great-grandfather, an immigrant from Holland, was a stevedore for the Port while her grandmother was Cajun, her grandfather was born and raised in the Irish Channel, and her parents met at LSU. So after Katrina, Desiree was part of the brigade of out-of-state attorneys who came to provide help to the most vulnerable among us. Desiree came in summer 2007 and worked with The Project, but even after she went back home she remained a true friend by extending her commitment to monetary contributions through her employer, IBM, so that The Project receives a reminder of Desiree’s friendship every month. We are grateful to Desiree for her commitment.

### **2009 Pro Bono Law Student of the Year**

#### **Homero Lopez**

Pro bono work started early for Homero Lopez, this year's distinguished law student. Currently a third year law student at Tulane Law School, Homero has been instrumental in the success of The Pro Bono Project’s Wage Claim Clinic in New Orleans, and our Hispanic Outreach Clinic in Kenner, Louisiana. He has used his

language talents for three years at the Wage Claim Clinic, providing critical translation services to hundreds of Spanish-speaking laborers who had been denied their livelihood by dishonest employers.

Homero began volunteering at the Kenner Hispanic Clinic in the fall of 2007, as The Project was re-formalizing its presence in response to the influx of Hispanic community members following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He was a diligent and reliable volunteer, interviewing and counseling clients with patience and care in order to determine and record their legal problems for The Project staff.

Homero became the unofficial liaison between the Project and Alianza, Tulane's Hispanic-Latino issue-focused student organization, recruiting and coordinating other volunteers to accompany him to the clinics. When The Project's staff became unavailable to staff and supervise volunteers at the clinic, Homero stepped up to the plate. He and Alianza took the initiative in producing the proper forms, interviewed clients for The Project at its Hispanic Outreach Clinic, and delivered the interview materials for staff review. The leadership and selfless dedication of Homero Lopez has been instrumental in delivering quality free legal services to dozens and dozens of marginalized community members. We are grateful for Homero's service to the community and us.

### **2009 Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year**

#### **Reba Mackey**

Some people just don't seem to know the meaning of the word "retirement," and Reba is definitely one of them. Between her church work and her work at The Pro Bono Project, it's just like she's still working a full-time job. After working with

our immediate past-chair, Mark Surprenant, for over 20 years, Reba stepped in and was able to help us out with very little training. In fact, she has taught us quite a few things and the relationships she cultivated in her years at a law firm have been very beneficial to us in dealing with judges and law clerks.

In addition to her regular volunteer hours each week, Reba is always willing to help with special projects or take over and help with general office duties when other people are not feeling well. Last year she donated over 100 hours of her time to The Project and its clients.

She is also very kind and generous with the clients, occasionally paying for copies of essential documents or meeting them closer to their homes to collect documents or filing fees. Of her own initiative, she took on a special project helping our clients get reimbursement for excess court filing fees paid. In her two years with The Pro Bono Project, she has been a pleasure to have around the office and we look forward to many more years of volunteering from her. We are lucky and so grateful to have her with us.

### **2009 Distinguished Donor**

#### **Sessions Fishman & Nathan, LLP**

Our distinguished donor is the law firm of Sessions Fishman & Nathan, LLP, a long-time supporter of The Project and its goals. Carole Neff, a member of The Project's Board of Directors, has been a terrific resource for our clients and staff as a mentor for succession work. In addition to its ongoing support of The Project, Sessions Fishman & Nathan, LLP provided substantial financial support this year

through litigation. Through the auspices of WHO???, the firm directed \$10,000 in cy pres funds to The Project from a class action settlement that set aside money for civic and nonprofits as a part of the settlement. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the comprehensive efforts of Sessions Fishman, Carole Neff and the **above noted attorney** for their commitment and generosity to The Project, our clients and community.

### **2009 Distinguished Service Awardees**

#### **Michelle Egan**

Though not a native New Orleanian or even a native Louisianian, you wouldn't know it by talking to Michelle Egan, who has as many connections to the city and state as someone born and raised here. Michelle is the Director of Talent Development for the O'Melveny & Myers and is based in San Francisco. Through her efforts and generous personal donation, Michelle is responsible for the Fundraising Seminar held in May for The Project's present and past Board members, as well as on-going work with top-notch fundraising consultant Bill Hautt. In addition, when O'Melveny & Myers upgraded their computers, Michelle jumped in and secured their older models for The Project, where they have been put to good use upgrading and supplementing our technology. As a member of the Resource Development Committee, Michelle has brought a level of expertise and commitment to The Project for which we are truly grateful. Thanks Michelle!

## **Lorien Golaski**

In May 2005, Lorien graduated magna cum laude from Tulane University Law School and took a job at a law firm in North Carolina. So in 2008, when Lorien's law firm, Dechert, offered to send her to New Orleans for two weeks to work on succession cases at The Pro Bono Project, she jumped at the chance. While here, she arrived early every morning and stayed late every evening. Even before returning to North Carolina, she expressed an interest in continuing to work on cases and boy, has she! Although many out-of-state attorneys have come to volunteer, very few have continued to do so after leaving. More than a year after coming to volunteer, she has helped 12 clients with succession cases and they have all given her rave reviews for her helpfulness and graciousness. From us, she gets rave reviews and a huge thank you for her commitment and competence.

## **Sherry Dolan**

When she wasn't serving as pro bono coordinator for her firm, Baker Donelson, Sherry Dolan was working on the Justice for All Ball, or taking a family law case, or mentoring other pro bono attorneys, or working on a continuing legal education program for The Project and its volunteers. Sherry volunteered well over 100 hours this past year, and was a driving force in making Baker Donelson the 2009 Pro Bono law firm. Many thanks, Sherry, for your great work! We look forward to 2010 with you.

## **John (Jack) Gordon**

Jack Gordon proved that volunteer work came naturally to him this year. One of

The Project's most active attorneys as Volunteer Lawyer of the Day, Jack holds the record for assigning the most cases to volunteers in a single day. As a practicing attorney for over 50 years, Jack seems to have the touch with other counsel and persuades them to take on pro bono cases where they can be the most help. He has also undertaken representation in several difficult cases himself, including one for a 90 year old client who needs redress against a construction contractor. Jack has donated well over 50 hours of work this year, and we look forward to his distinguished service for many years to come.

### **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom**

Since Feb. 4, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom associate Daniel Zweben and a team of attorneys from the firm have worked on the Succession Project at The Pro Bono Project in New Orleans. Together, the 10 full-time associates and eight summer associates from Skadden have worked more than 250 hours helping residents of New Orleans correctly title the properties of deceased relatives, and they continue to take on new matters each month. Skadden's role is to draft all initial pleadings, which requires extensive research such as creating family trees, before The Project meets with the client in its New Orleans office, notarizes all of the documents and files them with the New Orleans judicial system.

Since Skadden's involvement began, approximately 20 of our pro bono clients have completed the succession process, and we continue to help with the backlog of cases the city has faced since Hurricane Katrina. We are so appreciative of this commitment of long-distance support, which enables our local volunteer corps to work on cases that can only be handled locally. As a result, we can be of service to more clients. Thank you Skadden Arps and Daniel for your continuing support.

## **2009 Distinguished Jurist**

### **The Honorable Michael Bagneris**

### **Judge, Civil District Court, Orleans Parish**

Judge Michael G. Bagneris is a proud native of New Orleans. He attended St. Augustine High School where he graduated 4th in his class and received the prestigious "Purple Knight Award." He went on to Yale University where he received two B.A. degrees, one in American History and the other in African-American History. As a freshman, he received the "Jonathan Sterling Trumbull Award," which is given to the most all around student. In 1975, he received his J.D. from Tulane Law School.

While in law school, Judge Bagneris worked as a law clerk for the Law Firm of Fine & Waltzer and upon graduation, became an associate of that firm. In four short years (1979), he became a partner and the firm was renamed Fine, Waltzer & Bagneris. A year later, Judge Bagneris became Executive Counsel to Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial. In 1986, he returned to his law practice at Waltzer & Bagneris. He was elected to his current post in the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Division "H", in 1993.

However, before he took the bench, Judge Bagneris was a volunteer for The Project, and his energy and leadership abilities eventually placed him on the board of directors where he served as chair in \_\_\_\_\_. His executive committee meeting always had perfect attendance, maybe because he often held them in chambers.

As a judicial educator, Judge Bagneris has lectured extensively, primarily on evidence, personal injury, legal experts, ethics, and professionalism. He serves as an Assistant Examiner for the Louisiana State Bar, a member of the Louisiana Judicial College, a member of the Supreme Court Ethics Committee, and Member of the Supreme Court Pro Se Litigation Committee.

Judge Bagneris is a member of many civic and legal organizations and has often served as President or Chair, among them are the National, American, Louisiana and New Orleans State Bar Associations, the American and Louisiana District Judges Association, the Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Judicial Council-NBA, the Louis A. Martinet Society, the Louisiana Judicial Council-NBA , the NAACP, the New Orleans Museum of Art and The Pro Bono Project. Judge Bagneris is married to Madlyn Bridges and they have four children and nine grandchildren

Even with all his varied activities, Judge Bagneris continues to keep the interests of The Project and its clients close to his heart as the court reviews and implements new operations and procedures. It is this commitment to justice that makes us honor Judge Bagneris as this year's Distinguished Jurist.

## **Donated 100+ Hours in 2008**

### **Joanna Broussard**

Joanna, and her company The BizMark Group, which was named Corporate Pro Bono Partner in 2003, began a pro bono relationship with The PBP about 11 years ago when Rachel asked her to become a member of the Justice For All Ball committee. Joanna's expertise has been invaluable in helping to manage the public relations and creative aspects that are such an important part of the event. But, more than her work on the Ball, she knows and understands The Project's mission and is able to translate our efforts into press releases, fundraising materials, newsletters, frequent email updates, and more – she finds ways to tell our story so that people listen. She often flies from Chicago, on behalf of The Project, whenever we need her and has pulled together a team of native New Orleanians and 'friends of New Orleans' living elsewhere to support The Project's marketing, communications, and fundraising efforts pro bono. Joanna has become a valuable part of The Project's team and volunteer corps, bringing consistency and creativity to our communication efforts, pushing us with her insider's understanding from an outside perspective and making connections around the country for us. Thank you Joanna, we appreciate everything you do.

### **Bill Cherbonnier**

It's not unusual that Bill Cherbonnier volunteered over 100 hours this past year. He's practically been our resident consumer law attorney for several years, taking on many consumer and credit cases, which are among the hardest to place with volunteers. This year, Bill also served as a mentor for other attorneys taking on such cases. As well in 2009, he helped organize the Debt Collection Project with Loyola students in which they took pro bono cases and advocated on the behalf of the client, trying to make sure they stay out of a bankruptcy and still have good credit. Bill's enthusiasm for his work and his willingness to share his talents and skills truly is remarkable and shows the true meaning of pro bono. Bill we are so, no pun intended, 'indebted' to you for on-going commitment to The Project, our clients and this community.

**Mark Cunningham (DO YOU WANT TO TAKE COMPLETELY OUT or STILL ACKNOWLEDGE JUST AS A Mention?)**

**Carroll Hand**

A law student at Tulane, Carroll devoted over 100 hours of work last summer to The Project. She did so many things that it's hard to list them all—running reports, updating files, coordinating volunteers, organizing files, and other ministerial work. Carroll undertook this “unflashy” work always with a smile on her face. It is dedicated folks like her who are willing to do these types of assignments that help make sure that The Project can do its work. This is distinguished service of the highest kind. Thanks Carroll for your dedication.

**Don Haycraft**

It's hard to put your finger on just where Don Haycraft has been most helpful. Is it his work as a volunteer for clients, as the case coordinator of Liskow & Lewis, as a board member since \_\_2008?\_\_\_\_, or some other way? He's truly been everywhere when it comes to The Project. As Liskow's volunteer coordinator, Don has been a strong leader in support of The Project, and has been instrumental in engaging the majority of lawyers in his firm in pro bono activities. In fact, last year Liskow & Lewis was the firm of the year.

Don also has taken many difficult cases, and has mentored other attorneys in his firm, such as Kerry Murphy and Kindall James, two of our other 100+ hours honorees, to jump in and handle cases in the areas of wage claims, construction contract disputes, family law and successions/Road Home

He has also facilitated the handling of numerous cases by arranging for his firm to graciously accommodate large groups of law student volunteers in the firm's auditorium and conference rooms. Nearly every week in which students volunteered at The Project, Don and Kerry arranged for the space and greeted the students.

Don's help is evident today in the CLE program, which he organized. We applaud Don and the many members of Liskow & Lewis for their continuing work with The Project, but this year, we are especially pleased to recognize Don individually for his many efforts on behalf of The Project in providing access to the legal system for those who would otherwise be denied.

**Brian Hoerner**

A recent graduate of Boston University with a paralegal degree, Brian has just taken the LSATs and hopes to go to law school this coming year. Since September, Brian has been a constant help to the staff and clients, helping principally with case assignments to volunteers. But he's shown an eagerness to pitch in wherever he's been needed, and has helped the staff with every thing from drafting pleadings and contacting clients to data entry and envelope stuffing. His good nature and intense interest in the clients and The Project's mission have been welcome additions to our office, while his language abilities have been a boon to the ever-increasing number of our clients whose primary language is Spanish. Brian has clocked in almost 300 hours so far. Well done, Brian!

### **Kindall James**

Kindall James is an associate at Liskow & Lewis in the firm's business litigation and labor and employment law sections. Kindall became involved with The Pro Bono Project shortly after beginning her law career not only to provide a much-needed service in this community, but also to gain hands-on litigation experience.

This past year, Kindall represented two local restaurant workers in securing several months of overtime wages earlier this year along with fellow Liskow associate, Kerry Murphy, and The Project's Staff Attorney, Vanessa Spinazola. The successful outcomes in these cases represent a significant contribution to this community and we applaud Kindall's efforts on our behalf and look forward to her continued work with The Project in 2010.

### **Katie Lasky**

We once again recognize Katie Lasky's passionate commitment to pro bono efforts and her clients. As a member of the board of directors, this year serving as secretary/treasurer, Katie has been instrumental in program development for the past several years. In addition, this year she took on the challenge of chairing the 2009 Justice For All Ball. Beyond her board service, Katie also directly represents clients and mentors less experienced attorneys. She donated well over 100 hours this year alone. Her passion, enthusiasm and ideas are endless and The Project knows how fortunate we are to have such a dynamo working with us. Thank you Katie for your hard work on behalf of The Project, its clients and community.

**Reba Mackey**—already in earlier category

### **Simone Manuel**

Formerly at Krebs, Farley, Simone Manuel devoted almost 200 hours to pro bono clients, working especially hard on a Road Home appeal.-- emailed her for contact, but may have to be creative

### **Lauren McKnight**

An associate at Baker Donelson, Lauren threw herself into volunteer work this year. She became involved with The Project one year ago after assisting several clients with estate planning needs.

In 2009, she accepted estate planning matters, a divorce and a breach of contract and express warranty claim. She also served on the planning committee for the

Justice for all Ball and put in many hours helping to stage The Project's signature benefit.

Currently, Lauren is continuing her volunteer work with local domestic violence shelters to help with fundraising, raise awareness and help provide low cost and pro bono legal assistance to women & children at the shelters. Thank you Lauren, for your dedication and hard work for The Project, its clients and our community.

### **Kerry Murphy**

Kerry Murphy is an associate at Liskow & Lewis, practicing in the area of commercial litigation. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she served as Senior Note and Comment Editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review* and worked as a student attorney with the Neighborhood Law Project and the Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic. After law school, she became involved with The Pro Bono Project in order to continue reaching out to low-income people in need of legal assistance.

This year, along with Vanessa Spinazola and Kindall James, Kerry represented two local restaurant workers in securing several months' worth of unpaid overtime wages. She also worked with the Loyola Law Clinic representing workers in immigration proceedings following a workplace raid in Laurel, Mississippi. Kerry is also involved with the Louisiana Bar Foundation, serving on the Grants Committee and the Greater New Orleans Community Partnership Panel. Thank you Kerry for your work this year and we know you will continue your passionate support in 2010.

## **Norm Rubenstein**

A partner at the law firm management consulting company, Zeughauser Group, headquartered in Washington DC, Norm is a native New Orleanian, Board Member and Chair of The Project's Resource Development Committee. Calling on resources and contacts within the legal industry from across the country, Norm has devoted countless hours to working on marketing and fundraising efforts and to developing The Project's reach far outside the borders of New Orleans. Norm was named the 2008 Distinguished Donor, an award inaugurated last year because of his personal financial commitment to The Project, which he continues to maintain. Among other things, this past year, he has worked in partnership with Elonide Semmes on behalf of The Project to institute a marketing and communications seminar for law firms in exchange for a donation to The Project. The brainchild of Ann Wallace of Adams & Reese, Norm and Elonide will continue to work on expanding this program in 2010. The Project is thankful to have such a committed volunteer. Thanks Norm for your continued dedication!

## **Elonide Semmes -- already in earlier category**

## **Jennifer Sullam**

This past summer, Jennifer spent six unpaid weeks working at The Pro Bono Project. As our office was still adjusting to the loss of the two attorneys who had been working on family law, her help was very much appreciated. She dove right into the work and was curious about the whole process, diplomatically offering suggestions on how we might make improvements. During her time here, she was certainly put to the test, both by our clients, one of whom insisted on showing her

photos of where his wife had stabbed him, and employees of the local courts. Many would have freaked out at these unusual (even for us) situations, but Jennifer was able to laugh it off and move on. Her diligence and intelligence were both missed when she moved on to her paid internship. Jennifer, you are so missed and we are so grateful to have had you with us this year.

### **Mark Suprenant**

It is not surprising to see Mark back on our list of 100+ pro bono hours. As a senior partner at Adams and Reese, Mark takes pro bono cases and supports and encourages his colleagues to do so as well. Prior to his role as an officer on the board, Mark chaired our Law Firm Outreach Committee and was instrumental in designing an award winning pro bono program for his firm, as well as serving as a model for other large firms in our community.

Mark travels quite a bit for Adams & Reese and is always available to work on behalf of The Project in his travels. During 2008, The Pro Bono Project was fortunate to have Mark at the helm as Chair of the Board as a relentless and passionate advocate throughout his term. In 2009, he continued to serve on the Board and Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chair, working as the Chair of the Nominating Committee and as the Board Liaison to the Resource Development Committee. We know that we can continue to count on Mark's ongoing service and commitment to our organization. Mark's work with our organization, and many other community organizations with which he is active, brings credit to the legal profession by emphasizing to the public the contributions of lawyers to our society. Thank you Mark for all your work – we know you are one of our greatest

supporters and look forward to your continued work with The Project for years to come.

**PITCH IN FOR PRO BONO – A LIFELINE FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

***Pitch in for Pro Bono*** in 2010. Your support is vital to our mission to provide access to justice for all our citizens.

You can donate securely online at: [www.probono-no.org](http://www.probono-no.org) by clicking the

***Louisiana Giving*** button or mail this form to: The Pro Bono Project, 615 Baronne Street, Suite 203, New Orleans, LA 70113. You may also fax the completed form to: 504.566.0518.

Check enclosed (payable to The Pro Bono Project) in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please debit my Credit/Debit Card in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
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My firm or company will match this donation, please contact me.

I want to support The Project by donating \_\_\_\_\_ hours at my billable hourly rate of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a total gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Check enclosed or debit my \_\_\_\_\_ Credit/Debit Card (circle one).

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