

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR ADAMS & REESE

One of The Project's most steadfast supporters since its beginning, Adams and Reese is honored as this year's Pro Bono Law Firm. The Project has been able to rely on the firm for many years for representing clients in a variety of cases, ranging from family law matters to construction cases, wills and successions. Adams and Reese has been the go-to firm to host students from out-of-state schools who came to do community service for The Project, and its attorneys have been active in community clinics. To support the title clearing collaborative formed by The Project and other nonprofits, the firm sponsored a CLE in October to train a volunteer pool to supplement our staff attorney's efforts.

This year in particular Adams and Reese spearheaded the support for the Self-Help Resource Center at Civil District Court. A collaborative with the Court, the Bar, Loyola and SLLS that The Project staffs and manages, the Center assists pro se litigants with legal information, like court forms and access to other legal information. Throughout the year, Adams and Reese attorneys stepped into the gap to provide services to hundreds of individuals, most to poor to afford an attorney. Over twenty of the firm's attorneys contributed over 250 hours, providing much needed help to the community's indigent while helping the court deal with a tidal wave of unrepresented parties.

CORPORATE PARTNER CLARITY LITIGATION SUPPORT

Clarity Litigation Support, always ready to come to the rescue, "whenever and wherever you need us" as their website boast. Founded and led by a management team with a combined 19 years litigation support experience that knows that practicing litigation is not a 9-6 endeavor, thus makes themselves available 24/7 "whenever and wherever" needed. The Pro Bono Project has needed them the last couple of years to help promote and showcase our JFAB donors and when asked, Clarity answered the call. Clarity's team is a welcome addition to our team, providing us with the ability to professionally display and compliment our loyal patrons by donating their skills and expertise all in support of our mission of justice for all.

We salute our corporate partner, Clarity Litigation Support for their service to The Pro Bono Project, helping us look like a professional corporate player, wherever and whenever needed. Many thanks to John, Clint and Clarity's team for their quick response in producing this year's Volunteer Appreciation Program yet again in a timely and professional manner.

FRIEND OF PRO BONO MARK SURPRENANT

What began strictly as a professional calling by his volunteer service to our organization has matured into a solid and loyal friendship with The Pro bono Project. Mark has held every title within our organization from case hander, to committee member ultimately rising to board Chair

in 2008. As a senior partner at Adams and Reese, Mark leads by example taking pro bono cases and supporting and encouraging his colleagues to do so, as well. Adams and Reese is once again being recognized for its commitment to public service with its 2011 Law Firm of the year award which Mark's leadership helped pave the way. While Mark is officially off the letterhead, we know that his heart remains with our organization and it is an honor to call him friend. We look forward to being friends for many, many years to come.

Mark's work for our organization and many other community organizations he is active with brings credit to the profession by emphasizing to the public, the contributions of lawyers to our society.

LAW SCHOOL OF THE YEAR LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE OF LAW

The Project salutes Loyola University New Orleans College of Law for its support for our programs and our shared mission. In the past and continuing to the present day, The Project's has collaborated with Loyola on many tasks, and the relationships have multiplied and strengthened in the time since Katrina. In response to the storm, Loyola and The Project, with funding from Oxfam, developed and implemented a wage claim program that in four years has represented hundreds of low-wage workers cheated out of their livelihood while educating members of the local bar on wage theft and remedies for it. Later, The Project and Loyola organized the Debt Collection Project with Loyola students who advocated on the behalf of the client to keep them out of bankruptcy while maintaining good credit. The Project also participates in and benefits from its collaboration with the University in providing legal resources to the homeless, and with the Law School's many clinics, most prominently the curatorship and mediation arms. Loyola has also been a valued partner in the development of CDC's Self Help Resource Center, providing volunteer students for the shifts managed by The Project and taking on the full responsibility on Fridays.

LAW STUDENT OF THE YEAR ANDERS HOLMGREN

It is always a delight to find a student volunteer who is willing to commit regular hours each week, especially one who is on law review and moot court and is near the top of his class at Tulane. And although he just started working with us this fall, Tulane 3L Anders has done such an excellent job with every assignment that it seems like he has worked even more hours than he actually has.

Anders came to help us twice a week and was always ready and eager to work. He is so industrious that we didn't see him tweet or text message once while here, which makes him a bit of an anomaly. And from legal research to client-letter writing to drafting petitions, motions, and interrogatories, Anders can do it all. We'd say more but he'd probably blush.

PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR

BRIAN HOERNER

In 2009 and 2010, Brian was a constant help to the staff and clients, donating several hundred hours of volunteer time, and we awarded him the paralegal of 2010. Since then, he left town for a while, but then picked back up with his volunteer work upon his return. While he helped initially with case assignments to volunteers as the main part of his work, he was eager to pitch in wherever he was needed, and helped the staff with virtually everything. In the past year, he donated over 200 hours and was particularly helpful with the Self-Help Resource Center at Civil District Court where he helped the volunteers keep track of the forms and get caught up entering client data. Brian's good attitude and diligent approach towards work make him a dream volunteer, and we were sorry once again to say good bye when he went to work at one of our supporting firms.

DISTINGUISHED DONOR GIBBS CONSTRUCTION

Our distinguished donor for 2011 is Gibbs Construction, one of the leading design and construction companies in our community. The company served as the Corporate Sponsor for the 2011 Justice For All Ball this year, which was the most successful Ball ever. Owner Larry Gibbs and his wife Marian served as Honorary Co-Chairs for the event, writing letters, attending meetings, making calls, whatever tasks were asked of them in support of the cause. Not only were the Gibbs the leading Corporate Sponsor, but also the highest bidder on several of the JFAB auction items helping to double the auction proceeds.

Larry and Marian grew up in our local neighborhoods, Gentilly and River Ridge and are actively involved in numerous community and professional organizations in addition to raising eight children. Larry started Gibbs Construction on July 4, 1976, and currently serves as its CEO. He is a past New Orleans chapter president and statewide president of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC), and served many years on the ABC National Board of Directors and twice received the ABC Man of the Year (now called Construction Industry Leader of the Year) award. Larry was recognized in the local business community by his election to the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 1994, and also had the honor of being selected as the Louisiana Entrepreneur of the Year for Construction in 1997. Gibbs Construction has demonstrated time and time again their commitment to our community. The Project is honored to have Gibbs Construction on our team and gratefully acknowledge them with this year's Distinguished Donor award

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

MICHAEL DUPLANTIER

We salute Michael Duplantier's twenty-five years of service to The Project's clients. Always willing to help out, Michael over the years has helped clients with a variety of matters, ranging from housing disputes to adult curatorships. A solo practitioner, Michael most recently helped an older client who had gotten his name changed in another state but could not get Louisiana to

recognize that judgment. Michael speedily helped the client, who had been waiting for the name change in order to get Social Security benefits and was approaching necessitous circumstances.

MATTHEW LIVACCARI

When Matt first started volunteering at The Pro Bono Project, we figured he'd help us with a few cases to gain some experience and we hoped that the work he did with us would be mutually beneficial. In the end, though, we came out way, way ahead. It took very little training for Matt to figure out what to do and in just a few months, he took on more than 100 divorce cases. While he was coming in to the office to help, Matt didn't say "no" to just about anything we asked him to do. And to top it all off, the clients loved him, raving about how courteous, patient and down-to-earth he is. We were actually a little ambivalent about him getting a full-time job, but hope that his pro bono experience made him a little more marketable.

CHRIS RALSTON

Chris Ralston has spent the last decade working for The Project and its clients. Starting in 2002 when he was an associate at Phelps, Dunbar, Chris put in close to 100 hours assisting a client who had been denied Social Security retirement benefits. There's been no turning back since then, and we routinely honor Chris for his many hours of service, this year well over 100. A phenomenal board member and liaison for his firm, in 2011 Chris took on extra duties as the chair of the Justice for All Ball and helped to make it the most successful one in The Project's history. We salute Chris for his dedication to justice and fairness, qualities that embody the best of volunteer work.

BARBARA SIEFKEN

For the past 18 months, Barbara Siefken has been the mainstay of The Project's homeless clinic at the Harry Tompson Center behind St. Joseph's Church on Tulane. As part of the continuum of services funded by Unity and in collaboration with the HELP Program, every Monday and Wednesday Barbara meets with clients, some of whom have typical legal problems, only exacerbated by their homeless status, and others with the unique problems that beset the homeless, like losing important ID papers and being ticketed for trespass on parking lots. In her work, Barbara exhibits great concern for the clients and dedication to helping them resolve their legal issues, frequently problem solving for them on-site. To help The Project serve another vulnerable population, Barbara also shares volunteer duties at the clinic for seniors in St. Bernard.

SEAN SULLIVAN

Although he only started volunteering for The Pro Bono Project recently, Sean has already spent so many hours at the office that we ended up giving him his own voicemail. And all this while working a job and volunteering with other organizations. We understand why he always has his on-screen calendar in full view.

Sean has been willing to take on a wide, wide variety of cases, from divorces to successions to interdictions to suits to quiet title. And while we have taught him a little about how to proceed with some of the cases, he has done the research and taught himself and us how to do other types of cases, for which we are very grateful. As a bonus, his Brooklyn/New Jersey accent has made him a real hit with our St. Bernard clients, who swear that he is from da parish.

DISTINGUISHED JURIST

JUDGE SENS

Judge Paul Sens is the Administrative Judge at the New Orleans Municipal Court. In that capacity, he has exceptionally busy dealing with budget issues relative to the City's funding of the Municipal Court. The workload of Municipal Court has recently drastically increased because the court is now hearing all state misdemeanors with less funding. There is even the possibility of a 25% staffing reduction for the court. The municipal court will process around 25,000 criminal cases next year. Even with all of this on his plate, Judge Sens has helped to develop and has presided over our State's first Homeless Court. The Court has exceeded our highest expectations, and has assisted many people with resolving municipal infractions in exchange for them receiving social services which will enable them to become productive citizens. Because of Judge Sen's dedication and compassion, many members of our homeless population are now receiving direct services - instead of jail. These services - through the effort of Judge Sens and his team, have assisted many of our less fortunate members of our community - escape the bonds of homelessness.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED BY JUSTIN WOODS
Elonide Semmes

Several years ago, when the Pro Bono Project contacted the Legal Marketing Association for help [Joanna Broussard would remember the actual date], it ended up reaching the head of LMA's New England Chapter who connected Joanna Broussard with Elonide Semmes. Elonide, the President of Right Hat, an award-winning strategic design consultancy headquartered in Boston, is a member of LMA's Hall of Fame and one of the country's most admired and respected professional services positioning and branding specialists. During her long career working with law firms, she's helped hundreds of domestic and global law firms create memorable and effective marketing campaigns. Elonide has family ties to New Orleans and plans to retire here, and coincidentally, at the time of Joanna's inquiry she and Norm Rubenstein both had been discussing wanting to engage in some pro bono service that would benefit New Orleans and make a contribution to the city's post-Katrina recovery. With her customary zeal and energy, Elonide "took on" the responsibility of redesigning the Project's materials—including its logo and fundraising materials—and its soon-to-be-unveiled new website. She became an active and contributing member of the Project's Resource Development Committee, and she and her team have devoted countless hours to PBP initiatives. In addition to bringing her skills and those of her staff to the Project's benefit, Elonide even endowed an internship so that her niece, who was about to start law school at Loyola, could spend last summer assisting the

Project with a variety of tasks—including an analysis of its social media opportunities. With a background in accounting marketing, and her more than two decades of experience working with law, accounting, and real estate firms as well as other businesses on mission-critical marketing and branding activities, Elonide has combined her passion for New Orleans, her knowledge of the legal profession, and her own commitment to philanthropic endeavor to the Project's ongoing benefit. In 2012 Elonide will co-chair the Pro Bono Project's Resource Development Committee with Michelle Egan, Elonide taking on the marketing side and Michelle the fundraising side.

Michelle Egan

Like Elonide, Michelle Egan has been another extraordinary gift to the PBP, and we have benefitted from her passion and insights for the two years [?] that she has served on the Project's Resource Development Committee. Michelle brings to her work with the Project decades of experience in senior management positions in leading global law firms, currently serving as O'Melveny & Myer's Managing Director of Talent Development. She also has a long history of philanthropy and volunteerism for academic and church-related causes in her native California. But New Orleans is a hard city to resist, and as Michelle began to work with the Pro Bono Project, she also began to fall increasingly in love with our city, and last year she succumbed and bought an apartment here so that she could get to know New Orleans better and, along the way, spend even more time working on behalf of the Pro Bono Project. Michelle's expertise and experience in fundraising has been a significant addition to our organization's skill sets, and to underscore her commitment and her belief in the importance of fundraising, she personally underwrote training for the entire Board last year. In 2012, she will co-chair the RDC with Elonide, focusing on fundraising while Elonide continues her focus on marketing and communications.

Individually they are amazing, dedicated, and generous members of the Pro Bono Project family . . . and in tandem, they are part of our Project's expanding organizational leadership whose commitment drives home that those who care for New Orleans and its citizens are not only full-time residents, but adopted members of our community. How blessed are we that in 2011 we had not one—but two volunteers of the year—two individuals whose dedication and talent are helping us achieve our mission on a daily basis.

100+ HOURS

KURT BLANKENSHIP

Another long time volunteer, Kurt Blankenship from Blue Williams has helped many clients over the years in matters ranging from divorces to consumer finance and veteran benefits. While Kurt always has been willing to help out, one of his specialties is construction cases, an area of great need for The Project's many client adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina. In the past year, Kurt worked over 100 hours on one case and successfully negotiated a settlement for one his client that helped make her whole again.

JOANNA BROUSSARD

The PBP has had the good fortune over the last fourteen years to benefit from the professional consulting services of the BizMark Group on a pro bono basis, particularly in the areas of marketing and communication.

Joanna Broussard is founding partner and President of the BizMark Group and was recognized as our 2003 Pro Bono Corporate Partner. In addition to BizMark's pro bono contributions of hundreds of hours, The Project has saved thousands of dollars as Joanna figures out the most cost efficient approach to our communication pieces, the most significant being our Justice For All Ball invitations. BizMark's services have involved the coordination and production of the Justice For All Ball invitations as well as assistance with publicity and press releases, marketing approaches and overall communication techniques in best promoting The Pro Bono Project. Additionally, Joanna has pulled together a team of native New Orleans and 'friends of New Orleans' living elsewhere to support The Project's marketing, communications, and fundraising efforts pro bono. She 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 almost not news that Bill Cherbonnier volunteered over 100 hours again this year. As practically the de facto consumer law attorney for several years, he's represented our clients in many consumer and credit cases, which are among the hardest to place with volunteers. Bill also continues to mentor other attorneys taking on such cases. As The Project restarts its consumer unit this coming year, Bill has offered to help with pleadings and strategies and to help provide training to new volunteers so we can swell their ranks and help the community battle lawsuits brought by unscrupulous creditors. Bill's willingness to share his talents the enthusiasm he brings to his work show the true meaning of pro bono. The Pro Bono Project is grateful for this zealous advocate for our clients and our community.

CAROLINE M. "SHERRY" DOLAN

Sherry Dolan, recognized by The Project in 2009 for Distinguished Service, again contributed over 100 hours of her time in 2011. Whatever Sherry does, you can be sure it's a wonderful job, whether it's as pro bono coordinator for her firm, Baker Donelson, or taking an adoption case, or mentoring other pro bono attorneys, or working on a continuing legal education program for The Project and its volunteers, or working on the Justice for All Ball. This year, Sherry took on new projects, and was one of the forces in the creation and successful functioning of the homeless court house in municipal court. She and her colleagues at Baker were also strong supporters of the CDC Self help Resource Center, donating many hours to its operation. The Project congratulates and thanks Sherry, for her tremendous work in the past and look forward to more collaboration in the coming year.

PAT HARRIS

A devoted volunteer, Pat Harris is best known to The Project for handling many of the child in need of care cases as a contract attorney. Over the years, she's undertaken representation of many PBPC clients in almost every area of family law. This year, we recognize her for her excellent work with a very difficult case in which she obtained a wonderful result for the client, winning him exoneration from enormous miscalculations in back child support, and hammering out a favorable visitation agreement. Pat has also volunteered in the office, for the Justice for All Ball, and for public speaking on the role of pro bono work in a solo practice. It's no surprise she has well over 100 hours under her belt for this year.

C. PECK HAYNE

Known as "Peck", Mr. Hayne joined the roster of volunteer attorneys in 1992 and has been a great asset to The Project and its clients ever since. A liaison for many years for Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, L.L.P, Peck consistently provides over 100 hours of service to clients every year, most often with estate planning documents. His commitment to service was recognized by the LSBA with a Pro Bono Publico award in 2003 during its Annual Conference, and by The Project with Distinguished Service Award in 2004 and 2010. In the past year, Peck has provided countless hours of service to a family embroiled in problems with Road Home.

KATIE LASKY

Katie Lasky's passionate commitment to pro bono efforts and her clients is an inspiration to everyone. As a member of the PBP board of directors, this year serving as first vice-chair, Katie has been an instrumental part of program development for the past several years. We expect even more of the same dynamic leadership when she takes the helm of the board in 2012.

But beyond board service, Katie has worked to augment our volunteer corps by recruitment and outreach at various organizations. She also has found the time to represent clients directly and to mentor less experienced attorneys, a key function in building a volunteer pool. She donated well over 100 hours just this year.

With such enthusiasm and passion, Katie makes everyone working at The Project realize how good it is to have such a dynamo on your team. Many thank to Katie for her hard work on behalf of The Project, its clients and our community.

CHARLES LONG

A volunteer since 2003, Charles Long, has been a mainstay of The Project's Child in Need of Care program, first in Orleans Parish and now in Jefferson Juvenile Court. Charles has used his expertise to represent many abused or neglected juveniles over the years, most recently taking on a challenging case for three siblings. Charles is ensuring that the children are receiving the services they need, including family therapy and medical care. No doubt before this case resolves, Charles will have dedicated many more than the 100 hours for which we recognize him today.

JIMMY MICHAELS

Just barred this past October, Jimmy Michaels met a client at a clinic a few days later and decided to help him with a complicated custody case for his only child after the mother died. Jimmy has taken the bull by the horns, and with lots of hard work and helpful mentoring from colleagues at Barrasso Usdin and other PBP volunteers, he has kept the case on course for trial on December 15 (we probably won't see him tonight for that reason). Jimmy exemplifies the enthusiasm and dedication that makes a great PBP volunteer.

MICHELLE PURCHNER

Michelle Purchner donated nearly 200 hours of her time this year representing a half dozen Spanish-speaking workers against one employer in two different cases, one filed in state court, the other in the Eastern District. Overcoming the employer's attempts to avoid liability, including hiring multiple lawyers and delaying discovery, Michelle has proved that she is determined to follow through on these cases until the workers obtain justice. When the employer declared bankruptcy, Michelle recruited attorneys from the bankruptcy section of her former firm to help with research. A careful litigator, she has spent hours poring over pleadings and corporate papers to get her clients the justice they deserve, recently discovering that the employer was claiming to be unemployed in one filing while simultaneously seeking relief in a different forum because he was working. Keep 'em honest, Michelle.

RICK SHELBY

Rick Shelby from Gordon Arata is a relatively new volunteer, but in 2011 he worked over 100 hours on cases arising from an initial wage claim complaint that eventually involved a corporate bankruptcy, attempts to pierce the corporate veil, and aggressive attempts to satisfy a judgment in favor of our clients. Rick stepped up to the plate with his expertise in bankruptcy and fraudulent conveyances to ensure that the clients are made whole. Thank you, Rick, for exhibiting the determination that inspires other volunteers.

SANDRA SUTAK

New to the panel of volunteers in late 2009, Sandra Sutak from Krebs, Farley, & Pelleteri immediately pitched in to help with the Child in Need of Care program, and has undertaken representation in three cases since being trained for practice with abused children. Sandra invested many hours in 2011 helping three children, one an infant who was threatened by her mother with a kitchen knife, another a disturbed child who threatened to burn down the center where he was living. Many thanks are due to Sandra for her dedication and compassion.

KEVIN VOGELTANZ

Although a new volunteer from 2009, Kevin Vogeltanz, an associate at Liskow & Lewis, worked over 100 hours again this year helping a homeless client resolve an extremely complicated case that mushroomed from a breach of contract case once allegations of fraud and conspiracy were

made amid tangled business and personal relationships. A natural volunteer, Kevin practiced extensively through the legal clinic at the University of Arkansas law school, and in New Orleans has volunteered with the HELP Program and his neighborhood organization.

SUMMER CLERKS

This past summer, Loyola law school rising 3L Cooper Fournet helped us out with successions and property transfers. He worked on two cases involving more than 30 heirs and helped our clients grant money to repair homes that had been in the families for many, many generations. The clients loved him both for the attention he paid while listening to their stories and his enthusiasm in trying to solve their problems. His colleague, rising 2L Sarah Fontenot, worked with domestic cases, interviewing clients, drafting divorce pleadings, court filing and researching pertinent family law issues, like how to handle a divorce when a spouse is in the military. Summer clerks Ronald Avila and Samantha Hechtman of Loyola worked closely with our former wage claims lawyer Vanessa Spinazola on an array of issues affecting clients deprived of their pay, and spent many hours intaking and helping clients at the weekly wage clinic where their ability with Spanish was very important for many of the clients seeking help. Rachel Granfield from The University of Maryland rounded out the crew, helping Vanessa with many complicated filings including claims under the civil rights acts, EEOC filings and lien enforcement. Thanks to all the clerks for their many hours of service (all well over 100 hours) and their devotion to our clients and The Project.

EXTERNS EXTRAORDINAIRES

For the first time, The Project hosted student interns during the 2011 summer. As part of a program through Tulane Law School, Keran Kama and Brandon Wentworth spent the summer working with the Project. Although they did plenty of research, pleading and memo drafting, and interviewing clients while in The Project's office, they spent the bulk of their time (300+ hours each) on two special projects. They both helped the clinic volunteer and the HELP Program attorneys on Mondays and Wednesdays at the homeless clinics, assisting the attorneys with intake and resource referral for the clients, and providing needed continuity whenever there were the rare unavoidable absences. Keran and Brandon also worked many hours at the Self Help Resource Center in Civil District Court where they assisted hundreds of clients in the course of their work. They covered both shifts on Monday and Wednesdays and helped the volunteer attorneys with intake, provided forms and filled out on-line divorce programs for the unrepresented litigants who use the Center. Their concern for our clients, willingness to pitch in on all fronts, and professional attitudes, besides the excellent work, made our experiment with externs one The Project wants to re-experience soon.