THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BOARD THAT OVERSEES THE CITY BAR JUSTICE CENTER (CBJC) rotates every two years, offering leadership opportunities for many in the legal community. During my tenure from 2011-2013, the CBJC recruited and trained 450 pro bono volunteers in response to Superstorm Sandy, while continuing our commitment to a right to counsel for detained immigrants, adding staff to our free Legal Hotline and human trafficking and consumer bankruptcy projects and branching into a new area, addressing the need of low-income people for planning and estate guidance. I am delighted to turn the Chair over to Mei Lin Kwan-Gett, a partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP with a distinguished record of service, who was elected in June 2013. The City Bar Justice Center is always ready to mobilize a pro bono response to emerging needs, and we invite you to get involved. There is no better time than now, with more than two million New Yorkers in the courts with no representation, with our Chief Judge urging more pro bono, and with the new requirement to report donated hours and funds.

Sincerely,
Jay Holtmeier
The City Bar Justice Center is uniquely positioned to coordinate pro bono legal responses to disasters, having mobilized volunteers after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. After Superstorm Sandy hit, the CBJC collaborated with legal services organizations, bar associations, law schools, law firms and corporate legal departments; trained 450 pro bono attorneys and coordinated legal clinics in the affected neighborhoods; directly assisted hundreds of affected individuals; identified emerging issues; and set up a framework for longer-term help.

The CBJC also raised funds to hire a full-time Disaster Coordinating Attorney, who has screened and matched pro bono cases and helped coordinate ongoing legal services roundtables on insurance and contractor problems. More than 500 Sandy victims have received free legal assistance through the CBJC. A lasting legacy of our efforts is the model pro se Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appeal form that the CBJC drafted based on initial research by the Skadden firm and with input from pro bono and legal services providers, to simplify the process of appealing FEMA denials. The form along with instructions is now available on femaappeals.org, after Pro Bono Net turned it into an online fillable template.

The Superstorm Sandy environmental disaster required a new pro bono response, and the City Bar Justice Center was there to craft it. The City Bar Justice Center’s Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project (NELP) began in 2001 and has developed a nationally recognized model of providing pro bono legal assistance to micro-entrepreneurs. NELP took immediate action after Sandy to assist small business owners whose businesses, and in some instances homes, had been damaged by the storm. NELP organized a Small Business Disaster Assistance training for attorneys interested in donating their time to assist harmed businesses. NELP also worked with community-based organizations in the hardest-hit communities to hold disaster assistance legal clinics for the local businesses. NELP has assigned pro bono counsel to represent 17 small business owners who are facing denials from their commercial insurers, having landlord-tenant disputes, and/or seeking assistance with applications for loans and grants for their affected businesses.

The City Bar Justice Center’s Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project (NELP) began in 2001 and has developed a nationally recognized model of providing pro bono legal assistance to micro-entrepreneurs. NELP took immediate action after Sandy to assist small business owners whose businesses, and in some instances homes, had been damaged by the storm. NELP organized a Small Business Disaster Assistance training for attorneys interested in donating their time to assist harmed businesses. NELP also worked with community-based organizations in the hardest-hit communities to hold disaster assistance legal clinics for the local businesses. NELP has assigned pro bono counsel to represent 17 small business owners who are facing denials from their commercial insurers, having landlord-tenant disputes, and/or seeking assistance with applications for loans and grants for their affected businesses.
The Consumer Bankruptcy Project provides free legal advice and assistance to low-income families burdened with consumer, medical, and other types of debt who may need to file for bankruptcy relief. Leveraging pro bono legal support, the project advises families of their rights and options and assists debtors with filing pro se Chapter 7 cases. The Consumer Bankruptcy Project allows clients who would otherwise be unable to proceed, due to an inability to retain counsel, to obtain an economic “fresh start.”

When the recession hit, the project was flooded with requests for help, creating a waiting list of nearly six months. Determined to help more clients, the project recruited additional volunteer attorneys and added extra clinics to handle more cases. With foundation support from The New York Community Trust, the project has been able to hire another staff attorney to double the number of bankruptcy cases handled. Project staff are now investigating the unique aspects of bankruptcy law that may be relevant to assisting Superstorm Sandy clients.

The Legal Hotline at the City Bar Justice Center has established a regularly scheduled clinic to advise low-income people on personal planning, end-of-life, and estate matters. The Planning and Estates Law Project (PELP) is the brainchild of Pamela Ehrenkranz, head of the Trusts & Estates practice group at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, who perceived a gap in the availability of services to low-income New Yorkers and decided to do something about it. “Everyone—regardless of economic resources—should have access to competent legal counsel with respect to these deeply personal issues affecting their legacies and personal affairs at death,” said Ehrenkranz. “We at the bar have an obligation to meet these needs.” This new model for pro bono help from experts in trusts and estates law is certain to make a difference for people at a very stressful time in their lives. The CBJC’s Legal Hotline, which screens calls for referral to PELP, has grown to provide legal advice, information, and referrals to over 10,000 low-income New York City residents annually on civil matters, including landlord/tenant issues, consumer law problems, family/matri monial law, domestic violence, bankruptcy, and more. The Legal Hotline can be reached Monday through Friday at 212.626.7383.
Project Highlights

The City Bar Justice Center provides a variety of vetted and supported pro bono opportunities that address the needs of low-income and disadvantaged New Yorkers.

VETERANS

The Veterans Assistance Project recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono assistance to veterans pursuing disability benefits, claims before the New York City Regional Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

PEOPLE IN FINANCIAL CRISIS

The Consumer Bankruptcy Project is one of only two pro bono bankruptcy projects in New York City providing legal assistance to low-income consumers with outstanding debts. It assists debtors filing pro se bankruptcy petitions and provides pro bono representation to debtors in contested matters.

The Foreclosure Project assists distressed homeowners in an effort to preserve homes. It includes the Lawyers Foreclosure Intervention Network, co-sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and additional efforts sponsored by the New York State Attorney General.

MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS

The Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project provides legal assistance to low-income micro-entrepreneurs in the initial stages of structuring a company or in strengthening an existing business.

CANCER PATIENTS

The Cancer Advocacy Project provides cancer patients, survivors, and their families with legal information and pro bono legal assistance on issues relating to discrimination in the workplace, health care insurance issues, access to public benefits, advance directives, and wills.

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People in Financial Crisis

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Micro-entrepreneurs

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Cancer Patients

The Cancer Advocacy Project provides cancer patients, survivors, and their families with legal information and pro bono legal assistance on issues relating to discrimination in the workplace, health care insurance issues, access to public benefits, advance directives, and wills.

Elderlaw

The Elderlaw Project operates the Legal Hotline to low-income New Yorkers. It provides free advice, advocacy, and representation to families who are residents of homeless shelters on a variety of matters related to public benefits. The project sponsors legal clinics at homeless shelters, with services provided by a partnering law firm or corporate legal department.

Homeless

The Legal Clinic for the Homeless provides advocates, attorneys, and paralegals to assist families who are residents of homeless shelters on a variety of matters related to public benefits. The project assists students who arrived as children to apply for a time-limited program to bring them into the legalization process and provide work authorization.

Other efforts

The City Bar Public Service Network serves as a clearinghouse for pro bono opportunities throughout New York City and develops innovative legal and pro bono volunteer placements for attorneys.

LawHelp.org/NY is an online resource for helping low-income New Yorkers solve their legal problems. The CBJC is a founding member of LawHelpNY and houses it.

The Planning and Estates Law Project, a new effort, assists unrepresented persons in facing or preparing for end-of-life issues. The CBJC Legal Hotline screens and refers suitable placements for attorneys.

Superstorm Sandy

In response to Superstorm Sandy, the City Bar Justice Center brought together a network of in-state and out-of-state law firms, associations, and law firms together to collaborate, trained hundreds of volunteers for legal clinics in storm-ravaged areas; directly assisted hundreds of affected individuals and micro-businesses; essentialized issues; created trainings and roundtable discussions to explore how to set up a framework for longer-term help.

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City Bar Justice Center Supporters

You have made a difference. With your contributions, the CBJC leveraged more than $21 million in pro bono legal services and helped over 125,000 low-income New Yorkers in 2012–2013. THANK YOU!

Foundation, Government, and Other Institutional Funders of the CBJC

**$25,000 TO $49,999**
- Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
- Jenner & Block LLP

**$50,000 AND ABOVE**
- Greenberg Traurig LLP
- Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013

Appeal and/or Gala*

*Donors to the CBJC’s Year-End Projects, and/or Gala* (May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013)

**$25,000 AND ABOVE**
- Robert M. Kaufman
- The Luci N. Littman Foundation (Robert D. Frost)

**$20,000 TO $49,999**
- Austin & Gwinston, LLP
- Pharos Capital Group

**Low-Income New Yorkers in 2012–2013.**

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Superstorm Sandy Friends

The CBJC is very grateful for the generous, caring response of the legal community to Superstorm Sandy. In the aftermath of the disaster, some friends found us for the first time and others continued their regular giving with an additional contribution. The CBJC is expert at quickly mobilizing to address emerging legal needs, but it’s your support that makes things happen.

Special Thanks to:

Executive Committee for in Re Stock Exchanges Options Trading Antitrust Litigation (Garwin Gerstein & Fisher LLP; Kohn, Swift & Graf, P.C.; Law litigators in class action litigation.

The CBJC provides free legal services to the poor and underserved people of this city. For this reason, donations to the CBJC qualify for the IT’S NOT JUST A METAPHOR FOR HOW YOU, DONATING TO THE CBJC CAN HELP CBJC

HOW YOU, OUR FRIENDS, CAN HELP CBJC

The City Bar Justice Center relies on the generous support of friends in carrying out our mission. Although part of the City Bar Fund, the CBJC must raise its own budget. Your contributions help us to ensure a dependable flow of rewarding, mentored volunteer opportunities for the legal community; address challenges in areas of emerging need; and maintain and expand service delivery through existing projects, all to provide low-income, disadvantaged New Yorkers with the legal assistance they could otherwise not afford.

The CBJC honors both a law firm and a corporate partner annually, in late summer, for critical general operating support.

Gala: Each year for our spring gala, the CBJC honors both a law firm and a corporation for exceptional pro bono achievement and offers our partners the chance to join the benefit committee or contribute.

Individual Donor Award: Individuals have an opportunity to donate to the CBJC through our formal annual appeal in the fall.

WAYS TO GIVE

Throughout the year, you can:
• Give online, by going to www.citybarjusticecenter.org, clicking on the “Donate” button, and using a credit card.
• Donate by mail, by sending a check payable to “City Bar Justice Center” to City Bar Justice Center, Attn: Development Department, 42 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036.
• Donate by suggesting the CBJC to the administrator of a qualified IRA, which may provide special tax advantages through the end of the 2013 tax year (please consult your tax advisor).
• Sponsor a Fellow, by covering personal expenses of a lawyer who can work alongside the CBJC staff.
• Take advantage of employer programs, such as community partnerships and matching programs, to expand your giving potential.
• Name the CBJC as a beneficiary of your estate planning — include us in your will or as a beneficiary of checking, savings, or pension accounts (list just a few options) — which will allow the CBJC to keep on carrying out its valuable work for years to come.

If you have any questions about giving or would like assistance in making a contribution or allocating a gift, the CBJC’s Director of Development, Marilyn F. Casowitz (212-382-6661, mcasowitz@nycbar.org), is happy to speak with you.

Contributions to the CBJC are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. A copy of the most recent financial report may be obtained, upon request, from the City Bar Justice Center or from the New York State Attorney General’s Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 260 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.
Financial Statement
Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc.*
April 30, 2013

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<th>Assets</th>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,245,323</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,082,690</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Financials are prepared for the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc. (the “City Bar Fund”), which is the 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization established by the New York City Bar Association in 1946. The City Bar Justice Center is the largest department of the City Bar Fund, with an operating budget of approximately $3 million dollars.

Sources of Operating Support

- 26.81% Corporate & Law Firms
- 23.82% Foundations & Trusts
- 10.31% Individual
- 31.26% Government
- 26.07% Corporate & Law Firm
- 2.07% Bar Association Support
- 6.47% Donated Services

Expenses by Function

- 11.25% Public Education & Research
- 5.90% Fundraising
- 80.27% Community Outreach & Services
- 2.58% General & Administrative
- 5.99% Government

THE CITY BAR JUSTICE CENTER’S MISSION is to increase access to justice by leveraging the resources of the New York City legal community. Drawing upon our relationship with the New York City Bar Association, the CBJC provides legal assistance to those in need; mobilizes lawyers, law firms, corporate legal departments, and other legal institutions to provide pro bono legal services; educates the public on legal issues; fosters strategic relationships; and impacts public policy.
2013–2014

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lkelly@nycbar.org

Managing Attorney
Alice Morey
amorey@nycbar.org

Director of Pro Bono Initiatives
Carole Bockner
cbockner@nycbar.org

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Marilyn F. Casowitz
mcasowitz@nycbar.org

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Mae Fang
mfang@nycbar.org

42 West 44th Street • New York, NY 10036 • Telephone 212.382.6727
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