BRINGING A PRO BONO FOCUS TO CRITICAL ISSUES

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT
A PRO BONO FOCUS

Dear Friends,

This past year the legal community faced many challenges that could have derailed the admirable pro bono work done in New York City in behalf of the poor. The financial challenges faced by law firms and the decreased job opportunities for law graduates could have been overwhelming. Nevertheless, New York’s lawyers put their shoulders to the pro bono wheel and pulled together to further the City Bar’s mission.

Your energy and commitment to access to justice for the disadvantaged made pro bono services possible for a client who could not possibly have been served.

Fueled by the energy of its volunteers, the City Bar Justice Center in 2011-12 was able to increase the value of pro-bono legal services donated through our programs at the City Bar Justice Center, from $18 million to $20 million, and to launch several new initiatives. We worked with the Special Master of the Reopened September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to find innovative civilian legal service providers with their applications, and we helped bring law students into the effort. We provided more assistance to tenants through the addition of a new staff attorney funded by the Robin Hood Foundation. Our pro bono fellows continued to lead important work in increasing access to counsel for detained immigrants as the government held record numbers of immigrant New York residents in detention facilities in New Jersey. Our Equal Justice Works Fellow, funded in partnership with Greenberg Traurig, LLP, created a focus on old victims of human trafficking. James Romanelli, the Director of our immigrant Women and Children Project (IWCP), once again traveled with the US Department to discuss human trafficking prevention strategies in countries that are experiencing a 21st century form of human slavery. We continued to help victims of violence from around the world through our Refugee Assistance Project and IAVA, as we continued our work in consumer bankruptcy, foreclosures, elderlaw, and cancer advocacy.

On the transactional side, the Justice Center worked to set the standard for legal services for micro-entrepreneurship. We are consulting on Goldman Sachs’ $10 million Small Business Initiative, both locally and across the United States. The creative partnering of inhouse counsel and service counsel at many of our transactional pro bono clinics is very popular. We are pleased to see the growth of pro bono in the corporate community and are happy to provide our staff’s expertise to new partnering organizations.

It is impossible to recall the past year in pro bono without noting the remarkable work played by New York’s Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman. Not only has he created and increased a substantial source of civil legal services funding at the Office of Court Administration, in 2012 he announced a ground-busting proposal to require lawyers appearing in Family Court to file a completed 50 hour of pro bono service. The City Bar was out front early in support of this effort, which has the potential to change pro bono culture not only in New York but across the U.S. and around the world.

Thank you for supporting our work over the past year. For those of you who are interested in hearing more about the Justice Center, we urge you to attend the Annual Meeting of the Justice Center’s staff or any of our wonderful and committed Board members. We shall supply you to reach out to the Justice Center’s Executive Director or Director of any pro bono initiatives if you are thinking of starting a pro bono program among your law firms.

Sincerely,

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Chief Operating Officer

LYNN M. KELLY
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

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 Bar Association, the Justice Center 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.

OES MISSION

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Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
When the Department of Homeland Security announced that individuals who were brought to the U.S. as children could apply for a two-year deferment from removal and receive authorization to work, the Justice Center identified a need that could be met with pro bono attorneys. With the support of the Justice Center’s Fragman & Wimpel and grants from the New York Community Trust and former City Bar President Robert M. Kaufman, the Justice Center was able to create a new pro bono program to help young undocumented or out-of-status immigrants apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The Justice Center recruited and trained over 200 pro bono attorneys in coordination with other nonprofit groups working in this area. The NYLS Secretary of States, concerned about denial fraud, met with the City Bar and local bar associations to encourage pro bono DACA programs. The Justice Center clinics have been very successful in helping more than 300 young people achieve their goals.

Who are these young people we help? Ms. W was brought to the U.S. at age 11 on a visa that has expired, and she graduated with a strong academic record from a high school where she participated in sports and dance. She works, files taxes, and is seeking work authorization to advance her career. Mr. H was brought across the border illegally at age two. He graduated from high school and has worked ever since to help support his three younger siblings. Mr. N applied for DACA to get work authorization to attend college and help his family have a better future. Pro bono volunteers have found it extremely rewarding to help these young New Yorkers, who can move forward in their lives since they can come out of the shadows when they apply for DACA.

SCALING UP: Why help just one or two clients when, together, we can help hundreds? The City Bar Justice Center has unmatched experience in determining when a large-scale pro bono clinic is an effective response. Firms and Corporate Legal Departments have rallied in support, filling our clinics with eager volunteers.

The Justice Center centroid clinics for the Reopened September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, and for scores of young people applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Reopened September 11th Victim Compensation Fund
The Special Master of the Reopened September 11th Victim Compensation Fund asked the City Bar Justice Center to start a pro bono program to assist pro se applicants. Congress established the Reopened Fund to aid first responders, clean-up crews, and employees and residents in the affected neighborhoods with illness occurring after the first fund closed. A decade after the City Bar led the tremendous pro bono response of the legal profession in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Justice Center volunteers were recruited to assist again.

The Justice Center hosted an initial training for 60 volunteers and the volunteer Slater pool has expanded to over 100. Heidt Lusini of SLA Piper helped launch the series of large-scale pro bono clinics, providing not only a large pool of volunteers from SLA Piper, but materials and technical support. In-house counsel from Barings Capital, Bank of New York Mellon, Citigroup, UBS, and HSBC have volunteered at the Reopened Fund clinic, with opportunities for them to partner with their outside counsel at the clinic.

The clinics are designed for limited scope representation, with each claimant receiving a free one-hour consultation with an attorney. Legal assistants and paralegals serve as translators, working with clients in Spanish, Cantonese, Polish, and Russian, among other languages. In Spring 2012, the Justice Center helped to foster law student involvement with several law schools hosting application clinics over Spring Break to help those claimants without basic computer skills fill out the online application after receiving help from the pro bono clinics.
FOCUS ON VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROJECT

For the past five years, the City Bar Justice Center has been leading the New York City pro bono civil legal program for veterans seeking disability benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In 2012, the 600th veteran seeking pro bono legal help contacted the Justice Center’s Veterans Assistance Project (VAP).

VAP receives referrals from the VA, veterans’ advocacy organizations, hospitals, shelters, and college campuses. VAP is a close partner of the Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. It is the resource (listed with NYU’s 311 information line) for veterans looking for legal assistance. VAP is supported by the New York Community Trust and the Robin Hood Foundation.

In addition, the chance to sit down and talk to a pro bono lawyer has brought peace of mind to many veterans who simply wondered if they might have a claim but didn’t know where to go for help finding out.

By recruiting and training pro bono attorneys from law firms and corporate legal departments, including Barclay’s Capital, JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, and Citigroup, VAP has been successful in hosting more than 50 free disability legal clinics for veterans, and recovering extra benefits (or back pay) benefits for veterans amounting to a total of $945,276. Moreover, VAP assisted in recovering monthly veteran’s benefits in the aggregate amount of $61,601.

The recovery of monthly benefits reflects VAP’s positive impact on the lives of disabled veterans, preventing poverty and homelessness because veterans will have continued, additional monthly incomes to improve their physical and financial health.

GROWTH IN LAW FIRM AND CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT PRO BONO PARTICIPATION

Emerging Issues

Military Sexual Trauma
Some veterans experience sexual harassment and sexual assault while in the military. These incidents may have lasting effects on these soldiers, with many suffering from PTSD, depression, and other adverse effects of sexual trauma. These veterans are coming forward in greater numbers to seek benefits for these conditions.

Radical and Ethnic Harassment
City clients report racial and ethnic harassment in the streets. Occasionally, this harassment escalates to the point of physical assault. Our volunteer lawyers help to hold these parties, stories.

Discharges Upgrade
We encounter many disabled veterans who are not eligible for VA benefits because they have an undesirable discharge, sometimes, an underlying mental disability may be responsible for the discharge status. Pro bono attorneys can seek an upgrade in order to help them apply for benefits.

Tobacco
The number of active duty personnel that have committed suicide in recent years is higher than the number of those who have died in combat. VAP sees veterans who have attempted suicide and suffer from debilitating mental illnesses. Benefits can help stabilize their situations.
The City Bar Justice Center provides a variety of legal and supported pro-bono opportunities that address the needs of low-income and disadvantaged New Yorkers.

Immigration
The Immigrant Women and Children Project assists survivors of violence, abuse, and human trafficking in legalizing their immigration status. Project staff provide legal representation, community-based organizations, and NGOs about the legal remedies available to these victims.

The Refugees Assistance Project represents individuals who have suffered torture and other forms of persecution in their home countries and are seeking asylum in the U.S. The project also assists with filing in asylum proceedings and obtaining asylum-related benefits such as employment authorization, refugee travel documents, and green cards.

The Immigrant Outreach Project is led by the Fragman Fellows at the Justice Center. The project coordinates community outreach to provide accurate information about immigrant rights and options, as well as assistance in the preparation of naturalization and other applications. The Defender Action for Childhood Arrivals is housed under the IDP.

The Defended Immigrant Representation Project is a direct representation pro bono project for long-term residents of New York who are detained in immigration jails and may be eligible for cancellation of removal. We collaborate with several partners on this project, which is designed to support a right to assigned counsel in immigration removal proceedings.

Veterans
The Veterans Assistance Project recruits, trains, and mentors volunteers to provide pro bono assistance to veterans pursuing disability benefits claims before the New York City Regional Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs. (see page 4)

People Dealing with 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—assisting debtors filing pro se bankruptcy petitions and providing pro bono representation to debtors in contested matters.

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

Elderly
The Elderlaw Project maintains the dignity and independence of elderly people by training pro bono attorneys who counsel and represent seniors in a variety of legal areas.

Homeless
The Legal Clinic for the Homeless provides 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.

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 law, insurance issues, access to public benefits, advance directives, and wills.

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

City Bar Justice Center Legal Hotline
Operates weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons providing free legal assistance to nearly 3,900 low-income New Yorkers.

Special Projects
The Reopened September 11th Victims Compensation Fund Project has operated since 2011 to provide large-scale pro bono (free) legal services for applicants to obtain free information about their eligibility. (see page 2)
The Defender Action for Childhood Arrivals Project helps public young immigrants apply for deferred deportation and receive work authorization. (see page 2)

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 non-legal volunteer placements for attorneys.

L富裕ly.orgNY is an online tool and resource for helping low-income New Yorkers solve their legal problems. The Justice Center is a founding member of L富裕ly.orgNY and houses it.
You have made a contribution. With your contributions, the Justice Center leveraged more than $30 million in pro bono legal services and helped over 20,000 low-income New Yorkers in 2011-2012.

LAW FIRM AND CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO JUSTICE CENTER’S LAW FIRM AND CORPORATE APPEAL AND GALA* May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012

$50,000 AND ABOVE

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Fraser, Burney, Rensen & Long LLP

$50,000 TO $55,999

Gravely, Snider & Moore LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

$25,000 TO $39,999

Ames & Overy LLP
BHY Masson
Cedwalkler, Wickham & Tull LLP
Clypeo, Gittschewer & Snow LLP

$10,000 TO $24,999

Chubbauer & Parks LLP
Cofinom-Familien Company
Endicott & Reed LLP
Deloitte Financial Advisory
Deutsch LLP
Diana Piper LLC
Eaton & Young LLP
Friedberg, Brasfield & Deerler LLP
Fulbright & Jaworski LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Goldman Sachs, The
Griffin, Paparo, & Liu LLP

$5,000 TO $9,999

Blank Rome LLP
Blackstone Group Inc.
Blumenthal, Merli & Goldberg LLP
Borden & Kronik LLP
Brooks, Leiser & Wharton LLP

$1,000 TO $4,999

Bryan Cave LLP
Cain & Light LLP
Canada Council for the Arts
Canada Trust

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Just Equal Works – Equal Justice
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American College of Banking (ACB) Foundation
Federal Reserve Bank of New York George Soros Charitable Trust
Goldman Sachs Foundation
Greater New York City Allied Arts Council
Alliance for Housing Opportunity Fund

Donors to the Justice Center’s Year-End Appeal and Gala

United States Department of Labor and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (Bash & Harris, Horowitz, Horowitz & Harris)

Bash & Harris, Horowitz, Horowitz, & Harris

1. The City Justice Center is a 501c3 not for profit organization of artists, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation does not accept or direct any contributions below $1,000.

2. In-kind gifts are not considered a charitable contribution.

3. In-kind gifts are not considered a charitable contribution.

4. In-kind gifts are not considered a charitable contribution.
TRANSLATING THE FINAL VOTING RESULTS INTO ACTION

Thank you for your support in Centering many ways:

PRO BONO VOLUNTEER SERVICE
The JTCST staff is excited about creating meaningful, mentions volunteer opportunities for attorneys. The Director of Pro Bono Initiatives works with other teams and corporate legal departments throughout the city to support attorneys and tailor programs. The donated items and expertise of pro bono attorneys are the fuel that drives the delivery of legal services by the JTCST to New York City’s low-income, vulnerable populations. Center Bold: 212.392.4114; checkycb.org

SPONSORSHIP OF FELLOWS
As the JTCST Center operates with a staff of only 38, we are extremely grateful for the assistance provided by fellows. Fellows, lawyers who work with the generous patronage of law firms that cover some personnel expenses for these “in-house” professionals.

ANNUAL MONETARY DONATIONS (INCLUDING GIFTS OF SECURITIES)
The JTCST Center is able to facilitate pro bono based-innovations that match the needs of both clients and volunteers is dependent upon the existence of an infrastructure to vet cases, train lawyers, and provide ongoing supervision and support. Your monetary donations keep the infrastructure viable and functioning.

- Law Firm and Corporate Appalo: The JTCST Center links to our law firm and corporate legal department partners annually, in the fall, for critical general operating support.
- Gala: Each year, at our spring Gala, JTCST Center honors both a law firm and a corporate partner for pro bono achievement, in an evening of celebration and nidification made possible by our partners.
- Year-End Appeal: Individuals have an opportunity to donate to the JTCST Center through our annual appeal at year-end which makes contributions to the Center even more meaningful.
- Checks Check-off: Members of the New York City Bar Association can elect to make a contribution to the JTCST Center when they pay their annual membership dues.

FELLOWS AND PRIVILEGES:
The various subject-matter projects operated by the JTCST Center receive important support from foundations, municipalities, and other institutional funders. We could not do the work we do without these grants.

The Justice Center welcomes not only gifts of cash but also legacy gifts. Individuals who arrange to benefit us once they are gone. These contributions—such as donations by will, bequests, charitable remainder plans, or donor advised funds, or by naming the Justice Center a beneficiary of a rollover, simple, or other pension accounts— are to make, may be tax advantaged, and permit donors to retain funds that they might otherwise distribute. Planned giving ensures that the Justice Center will be able to carry out its valuable work for years to come.

CY PRIZES:
The Justice Center’s mission and our record of assisting vulnerable, disadvantaged populations dealing with a variety of life challenges make us a worthy, appropriate recipient of your gifts. We welcome contributions of any size, particularly those who are members of the legal bar to keep us in mind in connection with such awards.

If you have any questions about giving to the Justice Center or would like assistance in making a contribution, Director of Development Marilyn F. Caswell (212.382.4681; mcaswell@nybar.org) is happy to speak with you.

You may donate to the Justice Center by check made payable to the City Bar Justice Center, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc.*
April 30, 2012

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| Liabilities and Fund Balances |          |          |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses | $186,666 | $197,216 |
| Fund Balances | 6,206,644 | 6,923,918 |
| **Total Liabilities and Fund Balances** | **$7,393,310** | **$7,121,134** |

* 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 1949. The City Bar Justice Center is the largest department of the City Bar Fund, with an operating budget of approximately $3 million dollars.

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THE POWER OF LEVERAGING:
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK

$3 MILLION
IN RAISED FUNDS

1,000 PRO BONO LAWYERS

30 JUSTICE CENTER EMPLOYEES
WHO TRAIN AND SUPERVISE LAWYERS AND SCREEN CLIENTS

$20 MILLION VALUE OF PRO BONO SERVICES

20,000 LOW-INCOME CLIENTS HELPED
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