

Pro Bono



From right to left, Maurice Segall and Rick Hobish present the Partnership's 2005 Volunteer of the Year Award to Melissa Bellavia, Employment Counsel at PepsiCo. Leanne Oliver, Vice President, Employment Law stands at far left.

Pro Bono Partnership Honors Outstanding Volunteer Attorneys

The Pro Bono Partnership, which provides free business legal services to nonprofit organizations, has named its Volunteers of the Year for 2005: Jason Mark Anderman of Montclair, NJ, Counsel at Becton, Dickinson and Company; Melissa Bellavia of Fairfield, CT, Employment Counsel, at PepsiCo, Inc.; and F. Maureen Duffy of Hartsdale, NY, Staff Counsel—Real Estate, at IBM Corporation. The Corporate and Law Firm Award recipients are the legal department of Sony Electronics, Inc. and the law firm of Winston & Strawn LLP, respectively. The award winners were nominated for their pro bono legal assistance to nonprofit organizations.

The Partnership recruits attorneys to provide free legal advice to organizations serving the disadvantaged or working in the public interest in Westchester County, NY, Fairfield County, CT, and New Jersey. "The Partnership serves two purposes," explained Executive Director Rick Hobish. "We provide important business legal services to nonprofits that can't otherwise afford an attorney and manage pro bono matters for business law attorneys who often have difficulty finding appropriate volunteer opportunities. It's a win-win situation."

"We have been able to count on Sony Electronics since we opened our Newark office," said Deputy Director Nancy Eberhardt. Sony volunteers have handled 40 legal matters for Partnership clients since 2000, including a wide range of employment matters, copyright protection, drafting and review of leases, waivers and loan notes, quit claim deeds, incorporations and dissolutions. Sony Electronics' General Counsel Michael T. Williams said, "This award recognizes a collaborative effort between Sony Electronics lawyers in Park Ridge [NJ] who have actively participated with the Partnership and the efforts of our corporate Community Affairs Department to support the Partnership's financial needs."

Winston & Strawn, a 152-year-old commercial law firm with offices across the U.S. and in Europe, has received numerous awards for public service and is a charter signatory to the Pro Bono

Challenge, which commits firms to substantial pro bono work. Winston & Strawn attorneys have provided free legal advice to the Partnership's nonprofit clients on several dozen matters since first signing up with the Partnership in 2002. Jennifer Staple, Founder and CEO of Unite for Sight, which works to prevent blindness, praised the firm and, in particular, the recent work of Winston & Strawn attorney Jay Gladis of Manhattan. "In keeping with my expectations of Winston & Strawn, Jay has been an extraordinarily valuable advisor," Staple said.

Jason Mark Anderman is an attorney at Becton, Dickinson and Company, a leading medical technology company. He specializes in intellectual property licensing, technology contracting, health privacy law and procurement contracting, and he recently prepared a client service agreement for Rising Tide Capital, a nonprofit micro lender in Jersey City. "He helped us achieve an important program objective, and he made us feel comfortable asking questions and getting exactly what we needed," said Alex Forrester, Chief Operations Officer. Forrester is very grateful to the Partnership and Anderman for making legal services accessible to organizations which would otherwise be unable to afford them.

Melissa Bellavia of PepsiCo has only been involved with the Partnership for a year and has already taken nine different employment matters. "She is always attentive and happy to help with matters and the dozens of legal questions nonprofits pose to us by phone each month," said Deputy Director Maurice Segall. "Her enthusiasm is contagious." Just after the Partnership presented its award to Melissa at PepsiCo, her long-time employment law assistant asked to take on a matter under Melissa's supervision, adding a new corporate volunteer to the Partnership's roster. Bellavia said, "I was concerned when coming in-house, that I would not have opportunities to do pro bono work. The Pro Bono Partnership has made it easy and rewarding."

Maureen Duffy, who specializes in contracts and real estate at IBM Corpo-

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

Letter From the President Of The New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association



To the Readers Of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*:

This past year, NJCCA has continued its tradition of supporting activities with law students and encouraging our members to contribute volunteer services in a variety of forums. In addition to our long-standing support of the Pro Bono Partnership, we initiated several outreach programs in 2005 to give our members additional ways to contribute to our broader community. We look to expand our efforts even further throughout the remainder of 2006.

Activities with Law Students. For a number of years, NJCCA has hosted an evening program for summer interns working in corporate legal departments. Hosted at a corporate conference facility, the program attracts about two dozen law students who compare notes about their experiences at a variety of corporations. To facilitate networking, the evening features a panel discussion by members of NJCCA's Board of Directors who highlight their career paths and describe their current jobs. The purpose is to give law students a smattering of insiders' views of in-house practice, provide role models and answer questions that the law students may have about strategies for achieving their own career goals and objectives.

Pro Bono Partnership. A legal resource center for nonprofit organizations, Pro Bono Partnership provides free legal services to nonprofit organizations, coordinates manageable volunteer opportunities for transactional attorneys from corporate legal departments, legal workshops for nonprofit executives and directors, and publications for problem solving and practical guidance. NJCCA supports Pro Bono Partnership's efforts by sharing information about workshops and other upcoming events with NJCCA members and providing display space and conversational areas at NJCCA's annual conference for Pro Bono Partnership to discuss opportunities with in-house counsel.

Dress for Success. When NJCCA's Women's Networking Group hosted its first meeting in 2005, it received an overwhelming response to its request that attendees bring their gently used business clothes. Dress for Success accepted their contributions for use in its charitable program to provide clothing and counseling to disadvantaged women who are looking for help in entering the workplace.

Hopeline. At its second meeting, NJCCA's Women's Networking Group asked attendees to bring their used cell phones, which Hopeline accepted for its charitable program that recycles cell phones to help abused women.

Hurricane Relief. With unstinting enthusiasm, NJCCA members joined their corporations in their outreach efforts to help those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in fall 2005. In addition, they generously contributed to relief agencies and charities of their choice. NJCCA received a heartfelt response to its announcement of the Association of Corporate Counsel's dollar-for-dollar match of its chapters' donations, with the generosity of NJCCA's members exceeding the matching \$5,000. We thank ACC for the matching funds sent to the designated charities and are honored to be a part of such a caring in-house legal community.

Street Law. NJCCA is exploring with the leaders of Street Law ways in which our chapter can become involved with supporting the organization's outreach programs targeted to the disadvantaged school systems in our state.

Charitable Fund Drive. On September 26, NJCCA is sponsoring its inaugural golf outing. The event will feature a 50:50 raffle with proceeds going to a charity to be designated by the planning committee and approved by NJCCA's Board of Directors.

Additional Outreach Programs. NJCCA's Women's Networking Group is planning to continue its outreach programs with clothing, food, book and eye glass drives in connection with the events it plans for the remainder of 2006.

Visit NJCCA's calendar of events at www.acca.com/chapters/njcca.php to learn more about our upcoming outreach programs, or you can contact NJCCA's Executive Director Barbara Walder at njcca41@aol.com.

Sincerely,
Kristi L. Vaiden

ration, has taken on nearly a dozen matters since she first volunteered with the Partnership in December of 2004. One of Duffy's recent clients was the Westchester Institute for Human Development, a new nonprofit serving individuals with disabilities and their families. President & CEO Ansley Bacon praised Duffy, "Establishing a new non-profit was a daunting task and the lease agreement was critical to our future, so it was very reassuring to know that Maureen had in-depth knowledge

that was required. This project turned out to be more complex than we had anticipated, but Maureen skillfully moved things ahead and just got it done." Bacon said she can't imagine having more responsive representation. "I have loved helping these clients," said Duffy. "It keeps me well grounded concerning the important things of life."

For more about Pro Bono Partnership, visit www.probonopartnership.org, or contact Lisa Rosenbloom, Director of Development, at (914) 328-0674.