

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

Pro Bono Partnership Announces 2006 Volunteer Awards

The Pro Bono Partnership has announced its 2006 Volunteers of the Year – in-house counsel and members of the private bar who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the Partnership's clients, nonprofit organizations that provide services primarily to poor and disadvantaged communities. The 2006 Volunteers of the Year are the legal departments of Boehringer Ingelheim, Honeywell International Inc. and Johnson & Johnson; the law firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, and individual attorneys Yee-Min Gan of GE Commercial Finance, Debra A. Shelinsky Greene of Merck & Co., and George N. Nichols of The Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT.

"Without the services of the Partnership," said Executive Director Rick Hobish, "many nonprofits would have to choose between sacrificing funds for critical programs and making important business decisions without legal counsel. By leveraging the pro bono services of outstanding business and transactional attorneys, like our Volunteers of the Year, we can provide the legal advice nonprofits need, preserve their program funds and help them strengthen the safety net they provide for our communities."

Mr. Hobish points to the work done this year for the Partnership itself by Orrick, one of many examples of leveraging resources. Several Orrick attorneys volunteered hundreds of hours to update the Partnership's on-line employment manual, an extensive, free resource on employment law for tri-state nonprofits accessible on the Partnership's website.

Volunteer of the Year Honeywell International is one of several corporations that originally invited the Partnership to expand its program into New Jersey in 2001. "The Partnership has been instrumental in enabling Honeywell lawyers to support the community," said Peter Kreindler, senior vice president and general counsel, Honeywell. "Our lawyers volunteer their time and expertise from M&A to labor to intellectual property to advise tri-state non-profits on a diverse range of projects so these charities can focus on providing the important services they deliver in all of our communities."

As one recent example, Honeywell assisted The Learning Circle of Summit, NJ, a non-profit childcare center for working families, in its merger with the Summit Area YMCA.

"It truly was an historic combining, a win for both organizations, the community and working families," said Lisa Grattan, Esq., president of the board of The Learning Circle at the time of the merger.

Ron Spielberger, director and senior division counsel at Boehringer Ingelheim and director of pro bono efforts, thinks no organization should have to handle legal matters on its own just because they cannot afford an attorney.

"I am proud to be part of a company that emphasizes the importance of giving back and helping others in less fortunate circumstances," Mr. Spielberger said. "Over the last year, we have put our legal expertise to good use, not only for the corporation, but for the surrounding communities as well."

Sandee Martensen, executive director of the Pinwheel Project in Bedford, NY,

which provides practical and emotional support to hospitalized children and their families, agreed, citing the example of Marla Persky, Boehringer's general counsel, who recently advised Pinwheel concerning liability protection.

Debra Shelinsky Greene, counsel at Merck & Co., specializes in Trademark and Copyright matters. "I am able to practice in my area of expertise and, at the same time, provide assistance to nonprofits helping individuals in need," she said. "And, the Partnership's staff makes the process run smoothly."

"I am thrilled," reported Karen Carbonello, president of the Morris Plains, NJ-based Creative Heartwork, a client of Ms. Shelinsky Greene's which uses the arts to help heal children who have serious physical or emotional challenges.

Yee-Min Gan, regional counsel/compliance officer for GE Commercial Finance, who recently transferred to Hong Kong, even worked during a trip to England on behalf of one client, the Westchester Institute for Human Development, which assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

"She emailed back and forth to our bank to help complete the paperwork to get us our line of credit," wrote WIHD President Dr. Ansley Bacon. "And then, she accompanied us to the closing at the bank! She was a partner in all our efforts."

George Nichols, director of human resources and general counsel at The Ferguson Library, stated, "Volunteering with the Partnership has allowed me to make a contribution to many important not-for-profit agencies that serve the Fairfield County [CT] community where I have lived all my life and practiced law for the past 40 years," he said.

Patrick Grogan, associate director of Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program (NORWESCAP) which provides cost-effective, coordinated services to low-income people in six New Jersey counties, recently contacted Partnership Deputy Director Nancy Eberhardt to praise the work of Lisa Warren, assistant general counsel at Johnson & Johnson. Ms. Warren had provided harassment training, Mr. Grogan said. "Lisa's presentation was highly professional in style and content, and she even gave me an electronic copy of her Power Point so I can keep it up to date and use it for future in-house training."

Johnson & Johnson is the first corporation to be named Volunteer of the Year twice.

"Let me be so bold as to suggest that those of us who engage in pro bono activity do so because there is a reward – the gratification of knowing we've helped to make others' lives a little better in some small way," said Tracy Poole, assistant general counsel at J&J, "and it's also an opportunity to use the talents and gifts we've been blessed with. It just feels right."

For more about Pro Bono Partnership visit the website at www.probonopartnership.org.



Peter Kreindler



John L. Sander

John L. Sander, vice president and associate general counsel, Schering-Plough Corporation, has been elected president of the Pro Bono Partnership, Inc., a nonprofit tax exempt organization which provides business legal services and educational resources to nonprofit community-based organizations in New Jersey, Westchester County, NY,

and Fairfield County, CT.

By leveraging the pro bono services of volunteer attorneys from corporations and law firms throughout the region, particularly in-house counsel, the Partnership provides free legal assistance to clients that serve the disadvantaged, benefit low income communities, or otherwise work in the public interest.

The Partnership has been nationally recognized for its pro bono mission in awards from the American Bar Association, American Corporate Counsel Association, and Lexis-Nexis/Corporate Legal Times.

Norris McLaughlin, Investment Banker Plan Seminar On Selling A Business

The Somerville law firm of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. will co-host a seminar titled Selling Your Business: Prepare Now For What Lies Ahead with Coady Diemar Partners, a Peapack, NJ investment bank.

The breakfast seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 21 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Norris McLaughlin offices, 721 Route 202-206, Bridgewater. Registration begins 8:30 a.m.

This seminar is designed for business owners who are contemplating selling their business. Speakers will discuss the initial steps involved in preparing to sell a business; the different ways to structure the sale of a business and why they matter;

valuing a business and determining the right sale price; the sale process and how to control it; the "due diligence" process; the major elements of every deal, and ways to address common problems encountered when selling a business.

Speakers at the breakfast seminar include John N. Vanarthos, Scott M. Baach, Martha N. Donovan, and Charles A. Bruder, Norris McLaughlin, and J. Scott Magrane and Michael R. Pagano, Coady Diemar Partners.

For more information or to register, contact Cathy Wolfe at (908) 252-4251 or cwolfe@nmmlaw.com, or visit www.nmmlaw.com to download a registration form.

Seminar To Offer Advice On Handling Corporate Acquisitions Efficiently

The Greater New York Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel America and the firm of Epstein Becker & Greene, P.C. are planning a CLE seminar titled Critical Legal and Business Aspect of Corporate Acquisitions and Divestitures – Keys to a Successful Journey From the Letter of Intent to the Closing Table.

The program will take place on Wednesday, March 14 from noon to 2 p.m. at The Yale Club of New York, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City.

The session covers the forces that drive deal structures and gives an overview of an effective due diligence process and why it is important – understanding and prop-

erly valuing the business to be acquired, identifying, assessing and managing legal and commercial risks and transition planning.

Speakers will include Scott M. Drago, Scott M. Dubowsky, Sharon L. Ferko and Theodore L. Polin, all of Epstein Becker, and Mark A. Polemeni, an attorney with Alexandria Investment Management, LLC.

There is no registration fee. For details on CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpocounsel.com.

For reservations, call (212) 351-4661 or email jmllward@englaw.com.

NJCCA To Offer Women's Health Seminar Featuring Author Marie Savard, M.D.

The New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association (NJCCA) this month is planning a seminar titled Health and Wellness for In-House Women Counsel.

The program will take place on Wednesday, March 14 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Honeywell Conference Facility, 101 Columbia Road, Morristown, NJ.

Noted author and women's healthcare expert Marie Savard, M.D., will kick off the discussion by highlighting some of the latest issues concerning women's health and preventative tips to get us on the road to good health. Gibbons attorneys Mark Sidoti and Phillip Duffy will add their perspectives on Gyn Issues 2007 - Managing The Risk and Promoting Good Health.

At this program, attendees will learn: Important Questions to Ask Your Doctor During Your Next Exam; The Road to Good Health and Wellness; Modern Cervical Cancer Screening Methods and Their Implications From Patient and Risk Management Perspectives, and Impact of New and Improved Screening Methods and How These More Advanced Tests Affect Patients and the Physicians Who Monitor Their Health.

For details on registration, fees, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpocounsel.com.

To register for the program, call Kristi Vaiden at (973) 706-5027 or email njcca@optonline.net.