

Pro Bono

Pro Bono Partnership Honors Attorney Volunteers

The Pro Bono Partnership has named Richard C. Altman of Savino Del Bene U.S.A., Diane C. Iglesias of SBC East and Frederick T. Forster and Kyle A. Odin of Shipman & Goodwin LLP as 2004 Volunteers of the Year. The law firm Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP and the legal department of Merck & Co., Inc. have also been recognized for pro bono legal services to the nonprofit community.

Each year, the Pro Bono Partnership chooses Volunteers of the Year to recognize individuals, corporations and law firms that make outstanding commitments to providing free legal assistance, through the Partnership, to community-based nonprofit organizations in Westchester County, NY; Fairfield County, CT, and NJ.

The Partnership, with offices in White Plains, NY; Newark, NJ and Stamford, CT, was founded in 1997 to provide free legal assistance to nonprofits whose programs benefit low-income communities or serve the public interest.

More than 800 volunteer attorneys have enlisted to provide pro bono services through the Partnership. Partnership volunteers and staff attorneys have provided assistance to nearly 700 nonprofits in the tri-state area and addressed more than 1,800 legal issues since the Partnership was founded.

"The Partnership has chosen to honor Merck & Co.'s legal department because of its whole-hearted commit-



Pro Bono Partnership presents 2004 Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award to the Legal Department of Merck & Co., Inc. Row 1 (l-r): Debra Shelinsky Greene, Merck; Richard Hobish, Executive Director, Pro Bono Partnership; Kenneth Frazier, Senior VP and General Counsel, Merck; Jonathan Ramsfelder and Linda Sargent, Merck. Row 2 (l-r): Jennifer Hauge and Nancy Eberhardt, Pro Bono Partnership; Hilary Wandall, Merck. Row 3 (l-r): Robert Peverada, Vance Camisa and Valerie Camara, Merck.

ment to providing pro bono legal services through our program," says Richard Hobish, the Partnership's Executive Director. "Within 12 months of first getting involved with the Partnership's programs, 12 Merck attorneys from the Whitehouse Station and Rahway, NJ, offices assisted with 17 different matters for nonprofits in the region." Merck volunteers addressed contract and bylaw reviews, intellectual property

issues, assistance with leases, collaboration and licensing agreements, review of personnel policies, privacy practices, Internet issues, and HIPAA compliance matters. According to Hobish, "Merck attorneys have made a real difference to clients in New Jersey and New York and have significantly contributed to the Partnership's capacity to provide expert, focused legal assistance in a timely and professional manner. The corporation's

designation as our 2004 Corporate Volunteer of the Year is well deserved."

The Partnership has also named Drinker Biddle & Reath, based in Philadelphia, as 2004 Law Firm Volunteer of the Year because of its exemplary commitment.

Richard Altman, of Ossining, NY, is Vice President & General Counsel of Savino Del Bene U.S.A., Inc., a global company with headquarters in Florence, Italy. Altman has been involved with the Partnership for several years. He has worked on employment, corporate and contract-related matters.

Diane Iglesias of Guildford, CT, is Counsel for The Southern New England Telecommunications Company d/b/a SBC East. Iglesias is being honored for her work with many of the Partnership's Connecticut clients on a variety of corporate, contract, tax exemption and governance matters.

Frederick Forster of Ridgefield, CT, and Kyle Odin of Stratford, CT, are associates at Shipman & Goodwin LLP, in Stamford, CT, which received the Partnership's 2004 Law Firm Volunteer of the Year Award. Forster and Odin have provided assistance to clients in both Fairfield and Westchester Counties.

To learn more about the Pro Bono Partnership, call the White Plains office at (914) 328-0674 or (203) 351-4123, or the New Jersey office at (973) 273-0600, or visit the website at www.probonopartnership.org.

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

ABCNY Seminar To Discuss Avoiding Pitfalls Of Outsourcing

Since the early 18th century when the Luddites destroyed automated textile machines in England, outsourcing has been a controversial issue. Billions of dollars are currently spent on outsourcing each year.

To help make attorneys better able to advise clients in avoiding potentials pit-

falls in outsourcing, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York this month will offer a video replay of a CLE seminar titled Outsourcing: Protecting Assets After the Horse Is Out of the Barn.

The program will take place on Monday, February 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at

the House of the Association, 42 West 44th Street, New York City.

Outsourcing-related topics to be discussed include intellectual property, scope of services, business continuity, service levels, pricing, personnel, regulatory, privacy and off-shore servicing.

The program chair is Richard

Raysman, Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner LLP.

For details on program fees and CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpcounsel.com.

To register for the session, call (212) 382-6663 or visit www.abcny.org.

WESFACCA Calendar Focus: Communications Styles, Employment Law, Ethics

Communications styles, employment law and ethics will be the focus of seminars on the February CLE calendar of the Westchester/Southern Connecticut Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel America (WESFACCA).

On Thursday, February 10, WESFACCA is offering a program titled Executive Presence: Understanding the Communications Styles for Success from 6 to 9 p.m. at a location to be announced.

Michael Simon, Simon Group Ltd., will discuss four styles of communications and how to identify them by spotting the signals.

On Tuesday, February 15, the chapter will present a program titled 15 Years of the ADA: What Have We Learned? The session takes place from 9 to 11 a.m. at the WESFACCA Confer-

ence Center, 970 Summer Street, Stamford, CT.

The featured speaker will be Michael Soltis, managing partner at the Stamford office of Jackson Lewis.

On Wednesday, February 16, WESFACCA has scheduled a seminar titled Compliance & Ethics Program Risk Assessment.

This program will run from 9 a.m. to noon at a site to be announced. Speakers for the session also are still to be announced.

For details on registration fees or available CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpcounsel.com.

To register for any of the programs, call Lee Cushman at (203) 461-9004 or e-mail wesfacca@wesfacca.com.

Seminar Will Offer Hotel Operators Advice On Dealing With ADA Suits

Even though the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) has been in effect for more than 10 years, hotel owners and operators are increasingly being named in ADA Title III (access to public accommodation) lawsuits. In New York City alone, the groups Accessibility for All and ADA Access Today have filed 42 Title III ADA lawsuits against New York City hotels in the last several months.

To help attorneys deal with this development, the firm of Nixon Peabody LLP this month is preparing a CLE seminar on behalf of the Greater New York Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel America (NY ACCA).

The program, titled Hotels & Restaurants Beware! How to Avoid Bar and Restaurant Licensing Pitfalls; Title III of the ADA and Its Impact on Hotel and

Restaurant Design, Construction, Renovation and Guest-Employee Relations, is set for Friday, February 25.

This presentation will include an overview of the ADA's provisions applicable to hotels and how to avoid and defend ADA lawsuits.

Speakers at the session will be Jonathan W. Greenbaum, Matthew D. Bolting and Vincent O'Brien, all of Nixon Peabody, and Ron Fondiller, general counsel, Constellations Brand, Inc.

The program will take place from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Nixon Peabody offices, 437 Madison Avenue, 24th Floor, New York City.

For details on CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpcounsel.com.

For reservations, e-mail Robert Stoy at rstoy@nixonpeabody.com.