RECOGNITION AWARDS

2016 Volunteers of the Year

RYASAP

ACTS 4 MINISTRY, INC.

FAMILY PROMISE OF MORRIS COUNTY

BRIDGES OUTREACH, INC.

GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF THE HUDSON

FAITHACTS FOR EDUCATION
Honoring our amazing volunteer attorneys is one of the best parts of my job. The stories our clients share about the game-changing services you provide are daily reminders of the difference you make, and of the difference Pro Bono Partnership has made for nonprofits and communities for the last 20 years.

20 years! We are so excited to be celebrating our platinum anniversary this year. We are fortunate that some of you have volunteered with the Partnership since the early days. You believed in the vision, and you generously supplied the time, passion, talent, and motivation required to turn a concept into reality. Fast forward 20 years, and every year we add new volunteer lawyers to the list of those answering the call for transactional pro bono service. In 2016, more than 1,300 in-house legal teams and law firm attorneys provided 22,400 hours of expert counsel on all matters from mergers and bylaws to intellectual property and real estate contracts, free of charge. That translates to $9.4 million that our client organizations can spend on transforming the lives of their constituents and communities while still benefiting from the advice of the best legal minds in the tristate area.

You make that possible.

So, thank you for making a difference—for making all the difference to the 774 nonprofits in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York that benefited in 2016 from your service on more than 1,600 legal matters. As we celebrate you and all of our volunteers’ tremendous contributions, please also raise your glass to Pro Bono Partnership and our platinum anniversary, with all of the symbolism of endurance, commitment, mega success, and making a difference that it embodies!

Cheers!

Marcia Levy, Esq.
Executive Director
**CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR**

Krystyna M. Blakeslee, Jessica Seger Bula, and Samantha Gardner Dechert LLP  
Presenter: Sarah Elizabeth Carabetta, Executive Director, Acts 4 Ministry, Inc.

We are delighted to honor this “dream team” as our Connecticut volunteers of the year. Jessica has been volunteering with Pro Bono Partnership since 2006, Krystyna since 2010, and Samantha joined in 2015. For more than a year, the dynamic trio has been working with Acts 4 Ministry, an organization that supports low-income families and individuals in the greater Waterbury area, on a property purchase. Together, they have provided countless hours of guidance as the project has morphed and grown. Fueled by their positive experience and desire to do more, they enlisted PBP Hartford Program Director Priya Morganstern in the fall of 2016 to lead them in a workshop on incorporation and tax exemption to expand the assistance they could provide to Partnership clients in Connecticut. In 2016 alone, the team worked on projects for 10 different clients, including assisting three with incorporation and tax exemption!

**NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR**

Brian Ginsburg  
Sanofi US  
Presenter: Lois Bhatt, Executive Director, Bridges Outreach, Inc.

For 16 years, Brian has been an active volunteer with Pro Bono Partnership. Brian’s longstanding relationship with the Partnership dates back to his tenure at Schering-Plough, one of the corporations that funded PBP’s expansion into New Jersey, where he resolved multiple matters for Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County. Included in his countless hours of pro bono service while at Sanofi, are 31 matters for Bridges Outreach, Inc. Brian’s commitment to the organization and its mission eventually led to a position on their Board of Trustees. Moreover, thanks to Brian’s work, Bridges Outreach could devote resources to their programs that make a difference in the lives of homeless people. From reviewing bylaws to helping with employment issues, Brian has been a volunteer whom we frequently, and gratefully, rely on.

**Dun & Bradstreet Legal Department**  
Presenter: Dominique A. Tornabe, Director of Development & Community Relations, Family Promise of Morris County

The Dun & Bradstreet legal team reached out to Pro Bono Partnership in 2015 looking for a partner to launch their department’s pro bono program. Shortly after PBP presented our program to the D&B team, they answered the call with 14 attorneys and legal professionals graciously volunteering their time in 2016. With the help and enthusiasm of Kelly Pellicci, the D&B Legal Department has jumped in to assist with intellectual property, employment, contracts, privacy, e-commerce/internet, corporate, and bylaws matters for 13 nonprofit PBP clients! In the words of one of those thankful organizations, “Your counsel has been invaluable. ... there is no way we would have been able to access your expertise without your generosity.” We deeply appreciate the dedication of the D&B Legal Department in helping to strengthen the nonprofit community.
NEW YORK/FAIRFIELD COUNTY
VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Stephen E. Cooper, Robinson & Cole LLP
Presenter: Robert Francis, CEO, RYASAP

Since 2007, Steve has been a devoted volunteer for Pro Bono Partnership. In particular, he has provided assistance on some of the larger, more complex matters our clients face. Over the years, Steve has guided nine nonprofit clients through corporate mergers and collaborations. He also routinely provides counsel on name changes, revisions to certificates of incorporation, and bylaw reviews. Maurice Segall, Program Director for the Partnership’s New York/Fairfield County program said, “More of our nonprofit clients are asking for help with mergers and collaborations with other agencies, and Steve has been an absolutely invaluable volunteer for several of these complex and sensitive projects.” Among the matters Steve worked on was a merger for RYASAP, an organization based in Bridgeport, CT that works to create healthy communities free of the harm caused by substance abuse, crime, and violence.

Marc Gold
Thomson Reuters
Presenter: Brittany Coleman, Director of Operations & Program, FaithActs for Education

Marc has been a Pro Bono Partnership volunteer since 2005, and is one of our go-to attorneys for contract reviews, particularly those with looming deadlines. In 2016, Marc helped FaithActs for Education review and negotiate a number of grant agreements and contracts that required quick turnaround. “Marc elevates our team with knowledge, kindness, and excellence. I’m so grateful to learn from him and have him on our side,” raves Brittany of FaithActs. Marc’s expertise and responsiveness has allowed FaithActs to spend more time and resources equipping faith leaders with the tools necessary to improve public education for children. Beyond his engagement on individual matters, Marc continues to be a leading advocate of pro bono work at Thomson Reuters and encourages his colleagues to get involved with the Partnership.

Verity Rees
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Presenter: Karen Bobay, Chief Human Resources Officer, Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

Verity is a relative newcomer to Pro Bono Partnership, but in a short period of time she has made a tremendous impact helping the Partnership’s clients with various employment matters. In just one year, she has assisted five clients with seven different matters. Verity’s projects have included reviewing and drafting employment and independent contractor agreements, providing exempt versus non-exempt classification counsel, as well as counsel regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act. With the completion of each project, she has graciously and eagerly offered to take on yet another. In 2016, Verity worked with Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson on several employment issues, which has allowed them to dedicate more resources to providing girls with an experience that builds courage, confidence, and character so that they may make the world a better place.
As part of our 20th Anniversary, we honor those volunteers who joined our programs in the early years and who continue to provide valuable legal assistance to Partnership clients today. Thank you to our Founding Volunteers for your longstanding commitment to the Partnership and for your support of the nonprofit community.

**Founding Volunteers**

John Aissis
Leonard Andrew
Peter Arakas
Stephen W. Aronson
Irene Bassock
Krystyna M. Blakeslee
Tanya A. Bovée
Lee Braem
Jessica Seger Bula
Vance G. Camisa
David A. Cohen
Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson
Susan M. Corcoran
Philip P. Crowley
Justin B. Cutlip
Dale C. Fredston
David R. Fritz
Brian M. Ginsburg
Stephen C. Greene
Michael R. Hekle
Michael J. Hughes
Robert Hurwich
Diane Iglesias
David G. Islinger
Theresa A. Kelly
Jonathan M. Kozak
Rosemary K. Leitz
Rachel S. Lieberman
Mimi M. Lines
William J. Manning
George Nichols
Toni Anne Nichols
Kyle Odin
David K. Richter
Laurence Rickles
Barry L. Salkin
Carl Schiessl
Michael J. Soltis
F. Scott Wilson

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  - F. Humera Ahmed
  - Swati Mehta Akula
  - Leen Al-Almi
  - David L. Albin
  - Brian Alexander
  - Sean W. Alford
  - Jamal B. Al-Haj
  - Joshua Allen
  - Elizabeth A. Alquist
  - Norman Alt
  - Kate Amin
  - Priya Amin
  - Holly H. Amorosano
  - Jedediah Ande
  - Jason M. Anderman
  - Brett M. Anders
  - Paul Andersen
  - Paul Anderson
  - Robert J. Anderson
  - Ryan Anderson
  - Leonard A. Arce
  - Carol Archer Boboris
  - Nancy J. Aronincia
  - Jeffrey B. Aris
  - Avery B. Armas
  - Matthew J. Armstrong
  - Natasha Arora
  - Sami Asaad
  - Brian Ashton
  - Jonathan H. Ashfor
  - Keane E. Aures
  - Christopher Avocelli
  - Ashiq Aziz

- **B**
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  - Emiliano Baidenbaum
  - Brian J. Bailey
  - Scott M. Baird
  - William R. Baker III
  - Karen L. Baldwin
  - Kristen M. Bandura
  - David M. Barker
  - Katherine Barberi Goldstein
  - Christopher R. Barclay
  - Virginia Barclay
  - Brett Barocas
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  - Allan S. Bloom
  - Bryan Elliot Bloom
  - Niamh Marie Blumentals
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  - Christopher James Capone
  - Ross A. Carbone
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  - Barbara A. Casey
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  - Peter Chadwick
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  - Kathleen Chastaine
  - Tracey L. Chernewt
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  - Joann Cutz
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FaithActs, Family Promise, Acts 4 Ministry, Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

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