

Lawyer Who Brought Legal Services to Cancer Patients Will Receive Award for Pro Bono Work

Phyllis C. Katz, a Richmond attorney who cofounded the Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC), will be given the 2008 Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award by the Virginia State Bar.

The award is bestowed by the VSB's Committee on Access to Legal Services to recognize dedication to development and delivery of pro bono services that benefit poor and underserved persons in Virginia. The award was named for a late U.S. Supreme Court associate justice from Richmond.

During two personal bouts of cancer, Katz "discovered that there were hundreds of patients in Central Virginia in a similar battle for whom the legal complexities of diagnosis, treatment, and survival were daunting, and who were not getting adequate legal advice due to ignorance, confusion, and/or financial condition," wrote C. Thomas Ebel, then-president of Sands Anderson Marks & Miller, which nominated her for the award. Katz practices in the firm's local government law practice group.

Katz and Ann C. Hodges, a University of Richmond law professor, founded LINC to

provide legal counsel to persons in that situation. Twelve years later, LINC has ninety volunteer attorneys throughout the state, Ebel wrote. More than three thousand low-income cancer patients have been guided through the crisis brought about by their cancer diagnosis.

Since Katz came to Virginia in 1978, her many other civic commitments include serving on boards for Housing Opportunities Made Equal, the Institute on Philanthropy at the UR School of Continuing Studies, Commonwealth Catholic Charities, the Massey Cancer Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, the YWCA of Richmond, and the American Cancer Society. Since 1997, she has taught classes in VCU's Especially for Nonprofit Organizations program and a course on nonprofit law at the UR School of Law.

"Few attorneys ever achieve this record in a lifetime . . .," Ebel wrote. "Over the decade she has worked beside me, she has remained a guiding light for pro bono work, and a number of our attorneys have found inspiration in her example, joining organizations around the state as pro bono



counsel and dispensing expert legal advice without charge."

Katz holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Rutgers University, a master's in urban and regional planning from Ohio University, and a law degree from UR.

The Powell Award will be presented during the VSB's Pro Bono and Access to Justice Conference on May 22, 2008, at the Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington.

Student Pro Bono Award Goes to George Mason University Law Student

Ashley R. Brott, a student at the George Mason University School of Law, has been selected to receive the Virginia State Bar's 2008 Oliver White Hill Student Pro Bono Award.

The award, named for a late Virginia civil rights litigator, recognizes a law student's commitment to uncompensated or minimally compensated pro bono work and other public service. It is bestowed by the VSB Committee on Access to Legal Services.

Brott is the first GMU student to have won the Hill Award.

Brott developed the LSNV-GMU Intake Initiative, a student-led program that helps Legal Services of Northern Virginia conduct intake interviews of applicants for legal assistance. Brott publicized the program, trained new volunteers, and supervised their work. She recruited about thirty volunteers who each pledged thirty-five hours to pro bono during the 2007-08 school year.

"The task may have seemed insurmountable to some — particularly to a full-time law student — but Ms. Brott was passionate about the need to motivate students and determined to tackle the job," Annamaria Nields, assis-



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Housing & Economic Development Partnerships Between Academia, Legal Services, and the Private Bar



**Thursday & Friday,
May 22–23, 2008**

Washington and Lee University
School of Law, Lexington VA

6.0 CLE (1.0 Ethics) Credits Pending Approval

Cosponsored by the VSB Special Committee on Access to Legal Services and the VSB Section on the Education of Lawyers. **Cost: \$35 for CLE text materials, lunch, & refreshments.** This event will be of special interest to the law school community, civil legal advocates, and attorneys curious about expanded reduced-fee and pro bono service opportunities.

REGISTRATION FORM

May 22–23, 2008 Pro Bono & Access to Justice Conference Washington & Lee University School of Law, Lexington, VA. Please fax (804) 775-0501 or mail this form to Joy Harvey, Virginia State Bar, 8th & Main Building, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, VA 23219.

Please reserve a space for me at the May Pro Bono & Access to Justice Conference. I have indicated below the sessions I plan to attend. Approval is pending for the Friday sessions for a total of 6.0 MCLE credits (including 1.0 ethics hours). Kindly assist our planning efforts by checking the events you expect to attend.

Thursday, May 22, 2008

7:30–9:30 PM **Pro Bono Awards—Ceremony & Reception**, Washington & Lee, School of Law, Lexington, VA

Friday, May 23, 2008—(CLE)

- 8:30–9:00 AM Registration
- 9:00–9:05 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:05–10:35 **Ethics/Professionalism Lecture**—The Evolving Role of Clinical Legal Education
- 10:35–10:45 Break
- 10:45–11:45 **Panel on Economic Development Partnerships**
- 11:45 AM–12:15 PM **Normative Expectations:** Cultural Literacy & Document Translations
- 12:15–1:00 Box Lunch Break with with Separate Hosted Interest Group “Tables”
- 1:00–2:30 **Predatory Lending & the Housing Crisis:** Point/Counterpoint Part I
- 2:30–2:40 Break
- 2:40–4:45 **Predatory Lending & the Housing Crisis:** Point/Counterpoint Part II

NAME (Please print or type)

FIRM/AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

Enclosed is the required \$25 registration fee for CLE text materials.

I will pay the required \$25 registration fee at the door.

I would like to order the optional lunch (\$10). Regular Vegetarian

If you wish to receive lunch, please check the box (even if you will be paying at the door) so that we may plan accordingly. If you do not order lunch, you may wish to bring a bag lunch as there are no restaurants nearby. For additional information, including ADA Access matters, please call VSB at (804) 775-0522 or 775-0548.

Fairfax Bar Recognizes Pro Bono Contributors

The Fairfax Bar Association presented its pro bono awards in February. The awards and recipients were:

James Keith Public Service Award —

Michael S. Dingman, a partner in the Falls Church office of Reed Smith LLP, was recognized for fifteen years of pro bono and public service work. Since January 1, 2004, he has logged almost 170 hours of pro bono time assisting poor clients at Legal Services of Northern Virginia—more than any other Fairfax attorney. He has represented individuals in uncontested divorces and other personal matters, and he has assisted clients in housing disputes since the Fairfax Bar's Pro Bono Program started its landlord-tenant panel in the 1990s.

Dingman also represents clients through the Christian Legal Services Pro Bono Program, negotiates leases and other

agreements for the Chantilly Youth Association, and has provided litigation services to RJP Housing, which develops residences for low-income people.

Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year —

Timothy J. Lyden, a partner in the McLean offices of Hogan & Hartson since 2000, has focused on helping residents of the Eleanor Kennedy Homeless Shelter in Fort Belvoir. He regularly visits the shelter to provide legal advice, referral, and extended representation. He and other attorneys have handled Social Security administrative hearing representations, immigration follow-up, Section 8 housing issues, lost retirement income matters, and assistance in obtaining criminal, birth, and drivers records.

Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year —

Cooley Godward Kronish LLP stepped in when the Fairfax Bar started a program

to provide free legal assistance by transactional and corporate lawyers to small emerging businesses with limited financial means. Cooley's Reston office also has represented immigrants in asylum cases and poor persons with litigation issues. The firm established nonprofits and assisted them with taxes, zoning, leasing, and other issues. In 2007, Reston office attorneys donated about four thousand hours to pro bono matters.

Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year —

Nrupa Jani has volunteered since 2006 at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center through the Fairfax Bar Pro Bono Program's neighborhood outreach. She interviews clients, analyzes their legal issues, and provides interpreting services for Spanish-speaking clients. Jani works for the American Institute for Research in Washington, D.C.

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tant dean for academic administration, wrote in a nomination letter.

Brott, who was raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature from the University of Colorado, and she is fluent in Spanish and French. An interest in conflict resolution led her to law school. Scheduled to graduate this May, she is considering international work, perhaps for a nonprofit that focuses on democracy building or legal reform.

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