

# ProBonoNY

AN ACCESS TO JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE POOR

## NEWSLETTER

### For Local Action Committees

SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM, OFFICE OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA BING NEWTON, DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR JUSTICE INITIATIVES  
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### **Eighth District CLE Program** **By Amanda Warner**

The Eighth Judicial District Pro Bono Committee hosted a complimentary CLE program and cocktail reception at The Mansion on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, for all members of the District's bench and bar. The event was sponsored by the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Phillips Lytle LLP, and Hodgson Russ LLP. Attorneys attending the program who committed to taking a pro bono matter referred by one of the District's legal services agencies earned one free CLE credit in Ethics.

Hon. Sharon S. Townsend, District Administrative Judge and Co-chair of the Pro Bono Committee, gave the welcome and opening remarks about the committee and its developing plans, while Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, presented information on pro bono initiatives statewide. Kenneth A. Manning, partner at Phillips Lytle LLP and Co-chair of the Pro Bono Committee, discussed integrating pro bono work into private practice.

The program concluded with Roderick Quebral, Principal Counsel to the Eighth Judicial District Attorney Grievance Committee, discussing the implications for volunteer attorneys of the new Disciplinary Rule 5-101-a, addressing conflicts checking in the context of certain limited-scope pro bono service programs, as well as providing an update on his "Lawyers Behaving Badly" presentation—a review of notable disciplinary proceedings brought against attorneys in 2007 and 2008.

The event was well-attended by approximately eighty people, including several local judges. Forty-five of the attending attorneys committed to taking a pro bono case this year. The Committee plans to host similar programs during the coming year throughout the District.

### **Notes and Comments** **By John Ritchie**

Readers will note that I still intend this to be a monthly publication, but have again been forced to consolidate two issues into one, so this is the March-April issue, numbers 3 and 4 of the year.

Part of the difficulty is conflicting demands on my time, for which I apologize, but which I cannot always avoid. Partly, too, it's a lack of material. For one thing, I don't want to write too much myself—this is intended to be *your* newsletter, so mostly it should be written by *you*. Secondly, I want to avoid repeatedly asking the same people to provide articles. Though the pieces should be short and simple, it's still takes time to prepare something, and I don't want to make this a burden—plus, I like a little novelty.

So, let me again ask each of you to consider writing a little something for the Newsletter. I should note also that I expect we shall soon have a substantial increase in contributors and in topics for articles. We are on the verge of having three more highly active local action committees with funded pro bono coordinator positions. More about these developments in the next Newsletter. But there'll be plenty of new things to report on, and the article-writing opportunities can be more widely shared.

### **PRO BONO CONFERENCE IN BUFFALO, APRIL 25-26, 2008**

An exciting event: the Eighth District Pro Bono Committee, in partnership with The Baldy Center For Law & Social Policy at the Law School at SUNY Buffalo, is sponsoring a conference entitled **Private Lawyers and the Public Interest: The Evolving Role of Pro Bono in the Legal Profession.**

[Please see page 2 for more information.]

**Buffalo Conference**

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To be held April 24-26, the conference will feature prominent keynote speakers: Deborah Rhode, Stanford Law School, "Where is the Public in Lawyers' Public Service? Pro Bono and the Bottom Line," and Karen Mathis, immediate past president of the ABA, "A Second Season of Service." Members of the Eighth District Committee will be attending and participating; and, on Saturday morning, April 26, the Committee will be offering a 4-credit CLE program on handling matrimonial cases, free to attorneys who commit to handling at least one pro bono divorce within a year.

The opening reception and keynote address, late afternoon Thursday the 24th, will be held in the former Bank Lobby at the Main-Seneca Building, 237 Main Street in downtown Buffalo, and this session is free and open to the public. On Friday the 25th, there will be morning and afternoon CLE programs, 3 credits for each program, at a cost of \$75 for one 3-credit program, \$150 for both (a little less for members of the Erie County Bar or of the UB Law Alumni Association). The Friday programs, as well as the Saturday matrimonial program, will be in O'Brian Hall at UB Law School.

For more details, please see: <http://law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/probono.htm> or contact Amanda Warner, Eighth District Pro Bono Coordinator, at 716-847-0662, ext. 18, or [awarner@wnylc.com](mailto:awarner@wnylc.com). I plan to attend. Hope to see you there!