

The Presidents Reception



JUNE 23, 2022

Honoring Incoming D.C. Bar President

Ellen M. Jakovic

Benefiting the

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PROGRAM

Welcome

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Program Accomplishments and Recognition of 2022 Pro Bono Awardees

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D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center Executive Director

Remarks

Chad T. Sarchio

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TOGETHER, WE TRANSFORM LIVES



Since 1978, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center has recruited, trained, and mobilized volunteer lawyers to serve our District neighbors who cannot afford a lawyer.

Our legal clinics, resource centers, and projects help more than 20,000 members of our community each year through free legal services to individuals, nonprofit safety-net organizations, and small businesses.

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center protects the rights of low-income tenants, parents seeking to preserve their families, immigrants at risk of deportation, people in need of vital public benefits, and other D.C. residents who need help asserting their rights and navigating the courts.

With the support of our generous partners, volunteers, and donors, we are committed to ensuring equal access to justice in the District of Columbia.

Thanks to you, the Pro Bono Center will:

- Match D.C. residents with pro bono lawyers to help clients avoid eviction, reach equitable child custody agreements, file for bankruptcy, and access vital disability benefits
- Provide same day representation and pro se assistance to tenants facing eviction
- Strengthen community-based organizations and small businesses with pro bono counsel, legal training, and other resources to help them overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic
- Provide parents and caregivers immediate free legal advice or representation in custody, child support, parentage, and divorce cases
- Connect individuals with pro bono lawyers for advice and referral on civil legal matters including eviction and unsafe housing conditions, wrongful termination, debt collection, probate, divorce, child custody, immigration, asylum, and bankruptcy
- Deliver high quality training from subject matter experts to prepare volunteer lawyers to ethically, effectively, and compassionately represent pro bono clients

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, not D.C. Bar license fees.

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SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP

In 2021 Skadden's Washington, D.C., office continued its long tradition of devoting thousands of pro bono hours to helping the neediest residents of the District of Columbia. More than 87 percent of the firm's D.C. lawyers worked on a wide variety of pro bono projects, spending more than 36,000 hours or the equivalent of more than 9 percent of their billable time.

Skadden lawyers represented many D.C. residents in D.C. Superior Court on landlord-tenant, family law, domestic violence, and criminal matters, among others. In 2021 more than 150 D.C. office lawyers and legal professionals provided immigration representation in approximately 70 separate immigration matters. Transactional attorneys provided guidance to a number of local nonprofit organizations and collaborated with D.C. advocacy groups on several projects. As one of the pilot firms that helped launch the Landlord Tenant Resource Center in 2004, Skadden regularly staffs the center with three lawyers. Skadden volunteers continued to fulfill their commitment to this important community service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, seamlessly transitioning to virtual assistance.

While much of Skadden's D.C. office pro bono work is focused on local matters, its lawyers also devoted substantial time to several high-profile, high-impact pro bono cases in 2021, including a Fourth Amendment case that won a unanimous victory in the U.S. Supreme Court.

LAURA N. RINALDI PRO BONO LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

CASSANDRA RASMUSSEN

In addition to her work while previously employed as an associate at King & Spalding on behalf of drug and medical device companies, Cassandra (Cassie) Rasmussen volunteered more than 480 pro bono hours in 2021. In 2020 she contributed more than 190 hours representing District residents in pro bono matters involving Social Security disability benefits, asylum, child custody, and civil protective orders. She has collaborated with the D.C. Bar Advocacy & Justice Clinic, the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. At the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, Rasmussen has dedicated 415 hours of pro bono service over the past four years, serving its Legal Help Line and Family Law and Protection Order Clinics.

ABOUT THE LAURA N. RINALDI AWARD

The D.C. Bar's annual award for exceptional pro bono service by a lawyer is named in memory of Laura N. Rinaldi, a treasured former member of the Pro Bono Center staff. Laura was a dedicated, talented managing attorney who dramatically improved the lives of D.C. residents living in poverty through legal assistance in public benefits, health care, immigration, special education, and housing matters. A trailblazer, Laura helped to start one of the first medical-legal partnerships in the country. Laura's memory continues to inspire her Pro Bono Center colleagues, as well as the entire the legal services community.



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