Posner Pro Bono Exchange

On April 29, 2016, 101 law students were recognized for performing 50 or more hours of pro bono service during their law school careers; students who achieve 120 or more hours received special recognition. These hours are entirely voluntary, the students receiving neither monetary compensation nor academic credit. The event also remembers Gene Posner, L’36: the Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation generously supports the Law School’s public service work.

This year’s event featured Martha Bergmark (pictured above), the executive director of Voices for Civil Justice, a national organization serving as a communications hub for civil legal aid. In an exchange with Mike Gousha, Distinguished Fellow in Law and Public Policy, Ms. Bergmark provided the students with reflections on the legal profession’s struggle to bridge the gap between those who can pay for representation and those who cannot.

Marquette Law Students are encouraged to think of their pro bono contributions during law school as a starting point to a career filled with steady pro bono work. The recorded discussion with Bergmark is online.

Save the Date

June 22nd at 7:00 PM: MJC Run for Justice at Veteran’s Park. Additional information, including registration, is available here.

June 23rd at 5:00 PM: Wisconsin Law Journal Women in the Law Event at the Pfister. Additional information, including registration, is available here.

June 23rd at 5:00 PM: Centro Legal Gala. Additional information, including registration, is available here.

July 14th at 12:00 PM: MVLC Attorney Training at Marquette Law School. Additional information, including registration, is available here. Training can also be completed anytime online.

August 30th at 12:00 PM: MVLC Student Training at Marquette Law School. Additional information, including registration, is available here. Training can also be completed anytime online.
Volunteer Spotlights

Volunteer Attorney Spotlight
Pam Stokke-Ceci’s position as Assistant General Counsel for Badger Meter, Inc. is not her first with the company. Badger Meter created this position for her in 2014 after 27 years of service in roles ranging from engineering to municipal contracting, and the completion of her J.D.—the realization of a 20-year dream. For the full spotlight, visit the MVLC website.

Student Advisory Board Member Spotlight
Melissa Maldonado is a rising 3L at Marquette. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she majored in Accounting and minored in Information and Decision Sciences. While in law school, Melissa has been a member of both the Pro Bono Society and the Student Advisory Board for the MVLC. After law school, Melissa is interested in pursuing a career in tax law. Melissa is an avid runner and enjoys spending her free time with her family.

Referral Update for Clients that Purchased a Stolen Car in Good Faith

When a client comes into the clinic and has purchased a car in good faith that turn out to be stolen, they should be referred to Officer Jeff Thiele at the number and address below. He is a one person unit that handles this type of case in Milwaukee County and has the procedures in place that a client will need to remedy the situation. Look for other updates of this nature on the laptops at the clinics.

Recent Changes to Pro Bono in Wisconsin

“Attorneys will be able to get up to six continuing legal education credits per reporting period for doing qualified pro bono work, under a petition that was recently adopted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The petition, filed by the State Bar of Wisconsin in 2015, also expands pro bono opportunities for Wisconsin-based in-house counsel attorneys who are registered with the Board of Bar Examiners, but do not possess a Wisconsin law license.

The court also adopted a so-called cy pres petition, submitted by the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission, which will require a portion of unclaimed class action awards (residual funds) to be diverted to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, which supports legal services to low-income and indigent persons.”

The MVLC records your pro bono hours and can send you a record of your hours anytime. Attorneys who provide over fifty hours a year are encouraged to self-report to the Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society. For more information and to report your hours, visit the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission website. For more information on these exciting changes to pro bono, visit this WisBar news article.

PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, DAVID KARP, & LAW SCHOOL STUDENT, BRADLEY SUITERS:

“The students and attorney were wonderful – kind patient and super helpful with all the forms. Everyone explained things clearly. This is a wonderful service. I feel so much better knowing what to do.”