



THE BROWARD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION COMMENDS PRO-BONO AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY AND COAST TO COAST LEGAL AID OF SOUTH FLORIDA ANNOUNCE ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AND LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

Broward Lawyers Care, the pro bono project of Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) has announced the recipients of their 2013 Attorney of the Year and Law Firm of the Year Awards – David S. Bazerman, Esq. and GrayRobinson, P.A., respectively.

As the state of the economy has worsened over the past few years, the growing, desperate need for volunteer legal assistance to the poor and disadvantaged has exploded. These awards honor attorneys who recognize that need and have committed themselves to serving the community.

David S. Bazerman, Esq. is a volunteer attorney who created and now directs the Tracey McPharlin Pro Bono Dependency Project at Legal Aid Service of Broward County.

In just two years Dave has recruited, trained and supported over 100 pro bono attorneys who have represented 70 abused, neglected and abandoned – dependent - children in Broward County. Dave launched this Program in response to the critical need for dependent children to be represented in juvenile court proceedings that will have a profound and lasting impact on their lives. Florida is one of a handful of states that fail to provide attorneys for dependent children, thereby leaving them vulnerable to the failures and vagaries of an overworked and underfunded child welfare system.

Dave's dedication and compassion for those in need is truly admirable. When asked why he does pro bono work he said: "My pro bono legal work has afforded me the privilege of working with and making a difference in the lives of many remarkable children who have overcome horrible abuse by their parents and institutional neglect by the state to become valuable members of our society. Now, through the Tracey McPharlin Dependency Pro Bono Project, I am able to reach out to my colleagues and expand pro bono representation to the most at risk dependent children so they are safe and have a voice in court and their rights are protected."

GrayRobinson, P.A. has made contributions in many ways to pro bono efforts in Broward County. Members of this firm participate in numerous community and service activities and the firm's leadership has a strong sense of community responsibility and giving back – both to the legal community and to various non profits in Broward County.

Members serve and have served as directors and officers of charitable organizations



Morrie Levine, Board Chair, Legal Aid/Coast to Coast and Tom Loffredo, Ft. Lauderdale Office Managing Partner, GrayRobinson, Law Firm of the year

such as Children's Home Society, Ghost Light Society, Junior Achievement, Leadership Broward Foundation, Crimestoppers, Make-A-Wish Foundation, United Way, The FLITE Center, Take Stock in Children and many others. They also have been actively involved for many years in leadership roles with Florida Legal Services, the Florida Bar Foundation and The Florida Bar.

GrayRobinson is a strong supporter of Legal Aid and Coast to Coast, showing great commitment to the organizations when they agreed to be the first law firm to assist with the Broward Lawyers Care Advice and Counsel Hotline. In 2012, they dedicated an afternoon each quarter to the Hotline, and they have continued that commitment in 2013.

In addition to providing advice and counsel for clients, attorneys at GrayRobinson also handle regular pro bono cases. One attorney has been known to call and ask for a "new" case as soon as she finishes with a case, and she has been doing so since at least 2007! In 2012, the firm donated literally hundreds of pro bono hours.

Pro bono is clearly part of their culture and value system, as explained by Tom Loffredo, managing partner of the Ft. Lauderdale office, "The lawyers at GrayRobinson recognize their obligation to our community to be leaders in helping those who lack the resources to obtain legal assistance, especially during such trying economic times. Working with legal aid clients has allowed GrayRobinson to fulfill this pro bono commitment, while striving to make a difference in the lives of those who most need our help. GrayRobinson is proud to be an avid supporter of Legal Aid Service of Broward County and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, and is honored to be named Law Firm of the Year."

The firm also has supported Legal Aid and Coast to Coast's annual FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD fundraiser and is a supporter of NEXT. Tom Loffredo accepted the Law Firm of Year Award on behalf of GrayRobinson.

The official awards will be presented at the 12th Annual FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD gala on September 27, 2013, at the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina. FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD is an annual fundraiser for Legal Aid Service of Broward County and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida. Proceeds benefit families and individuals in gaining access to equal justice. For more information, contact Kathleen Thomsen, Regional Director of Development, Legal Aid Service of Broward County at 954-736-2429 or development@legalaid.org.



Morrie Levine, Board Chair, Legal Aid/Coast to Coast and David Bazerman, Attorney of the Year.

LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit law firm established in 1974. Our mission is to provide high quality free civil legal advice, representation and education to the poor of Broward County so as to improve the lifestyle and living conditions of the low-income community and to encourage self-sufficiency.

COAST TO COAST LEGAL AID OF SOUTH FLORIDA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit law firm established in 2003 and funded, in part, by the Legal Services Corporation. Our mission is to improve the lives of low income persons in our community through advocacy, education, representation and empowerment.

BROWARD LAWYERS CARE is the pro bono unit within Legal Aid Service of Broward County and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida and is the recognized pro bono program in Broward County, Florida. Broward Lawyers Care (BLC) was formed in 1983 by a joint effort of the Broward County Bar and Legal Aid. BLC enables busy attorneys to make a difference in their community.

The BCBA will be featuring and highlighting the activities of its members every month in the Daily Business Review. To submit information, contact Braulio Rosa at 954-832-3620