







SPECIAL REPORT

SEASON LIGHTS SOIRÈE & SILENT AUCTION

SHARON SIGESMUND PIERCE & STEPHEN PIERCE



Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities

at Touro University Nevada

invites you to help spread the light and support families affected by Autism.

Presenting the



to:



Star of the Center

Award to:



MONDAY

12/16/19

6 TO 8:30 P.M.

(Program begins at 6:45 p.m.)

AT THE HOME OF MICHAEL TANG

19 Hawk Ridge Drive Las Vegas, NV 89135

Purchase your tickets

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Holiday (dressy casual) attire Valet parking provided

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IMAGINE

you are a senior citizen living in your home and someone attempts to file a fraudulent guardianship over you. Or, you are a child in foster care and are separated from your little brother who you have slept next to every day of your life. You are a single mom with three kids and get ripped off by a car dealer. Or, you're a victim of domestic violence too frightened to obtain a protective order and in need of a custody order. What if you can't afford an attorney? What do you do?

You turn to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. The mission of Legal Aid Center is the preservation of access to justice and the provision of quality legal counsel, advice and representation for individuals who are unable to protect their rights because they cannot afford an attorney. We do so through dedicated staff attorneys and dedicated volunteer attorneys.

Because more than 700,000 individuals in Clark County qualify for free legal assistance, we analyze every application for help and select those families and individuals who are

most vulnerable and likely to lose everything if they do not get any assistance. And we continue to look for more funding to hire staff attorneys and to recruit more volunteer attorneys so we do not have to turn away people in need.

Who are our volunteers and what do they do? Look inside the following pages to find out. Lawyers in this community contributed more than 25,000 volunteer hours this year helping vulnerable individuals in our community. Some took one

case, some took nearly 20 cases. There were 1,973 active cases worked on last year. Some lawyers went to the courthouse to give free consultations once; some lawyers visited the courthouse every week to give free consultations. In this past year, nearly 4,000 people benefitted from free consultations from attorneys volunteering with our office. Some law firms donated a few hours of pro bono time; some law firms donated so much pro bono time that they

How can you help Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada? Please thank one of the heroes listed in this insert or come by our office and learn more about us. I'd love to share more about the organization we have built to serve the vulnerable in this community.

made the Pro Bono Heroes Club - donating a minimum of 20 hours and more per attorney.

Barbara E. Buckley, Esq.
Executive Director
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
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Las Vegas, NV 89104
www.lacsn.org











recognition of their hard work, dedication and ongoing commitment to helping the underserved in the Southern Nevada community, the following pages recognize attorneys who have given of their time. The staff and leadership at Legal Aid Center humbly thank these attorneys for ensuring access to justice is provided for people who have nowhere else to turn.





PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

Mary E. Bacon

Associate Attorney with Spencer Fane

This prestigious award recognizes a local attorney whose life and practice over the past year serve as a singular inspiration to others to embrace or renew a dedication to volunteerism on behalf of those in need.

Mary E. Bacon is a complex business litigation attorney with Spencer Fane. She practices in state and federal court, focusing on construction disputes, breach of contract matters and defending financial institutions. Despite a full caseload, Mary donated 221 hours of pro bono legal services to clients this past year and also volunteered for Ask-A-Lawyer sessions. Mary is committed to serving those in need and deserving of this award.

Snell & Wilmer

Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year

Snell & Wilmer

This year's Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award goes to a firm with a truly exemplary commitment to Legal Aid Center, pro bono services and access to justice.

Snell & Wilmer's attorneys contributed over 1,250 hours this year, an amazing number given their Las Vegas office has 39 attorneys.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is proud to recognize Snell & Wilmer for its commitment to pro bono service as a hallmark of professional responsibility.

Snell & Wilmer's Las Vegas office opened in 2001 and offers a full range of transactional, regulatory and litigation services.

Over the last year, there were 1,973 active cases including

750 new cases placed with

almost 600 pro bono attorneys in Southern Nevada.

Lied Awards

The Lied Awards are given in recognition of the Lied Foundation Trust, a foundation which has significantly contributed to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for nearly twenty years.

MOST PRO BONO HOURS BY A LAW FIRM

Holland & Hart

Over the past year this firm has consistently made pro bono service a firm priority and it is this culture of giving back to the community that makes Holland & Hart stand out as a pro bono leader. They donated 1,470 hours of pro bono legal work this past year.

MOST PRO BONO CASES BY A LAW FIRM

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie & The Dickerson Karacsonyi Law Group

These firms both accepted 26 new pro bono cases this past year across various areas of law including Children's Attorneys Project (CAP), appeals, consumer, landlord/tenant and probate.

MOST PRO BONO HOURS BY AN ATTORNEY

Dawn Hathaway Thoman

Dawn Hathaway Thoman has established herself as a pro bono force by donating 428 hours of time over the last pro bono year serving her CAP clients. This is the second consecutive year Dawn has received this award.

MOST PRO BONO CASES BY AN ATTORNEY

Marshal S. Willick
with Willick Law Group

Marshal S. Willick's exemplary dedication to serving Legal Aid Center clients is unmatched. This past year Marshal accepted 20 new cases from Legal Aid Center's Pro Bono Project. Legal Aid Center also recognizes Marshal as a long serving member of the Board of Directors. Marshal founded his namesake firm in 1985 and is dedicated to the field of family law. Attorneys with the firm practice in District and Federal Court at trial and appellate levels.

Volunteer attorneys contributed **over 25,000 hours** of direct representation time.

During the same period, pro bono attorneys **closed 677 matters** for Legal Aid Center clients.

LEGAL AID CENTER of Southern Nevada

WILLIAM S. BOYD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Southwest Gas

This award is given in honor of William Boyd, to commemorate his extraordinary service to our organization. Each year it honors a business or community leader who has been an outstanding supporter of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and pro bono services. In the 19 years of the Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon, this prestigious recognition has only been awarded four times before.

Southwest Gas is more than deserving of this award for being a champion and key patron of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for over a decade. Southwest Gas contributed significantly toward the building of Legal Aid Center's new headquarters. The company supports non-profits such as Legal Aid Center through its employee driven Fuel For Life program which helps raise awareness and directs charitable giving to operating funds. Southwest Gas also played a significant role in the organization's endowment campaign and has begun to include their attorneys in pro bono service.

JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

Honorable Richard F. Boulware

U.S. District Court
District of Nevada

This award is given in honor of former Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy Becker, one of the founders of the Pro Bono Project and a strong advocate for access to justice. The award recognizes a member of the judiciary who has given his or her time, energy and influence to encourage pro bono work and support access to justice.

Legal Aid Center is honored to present this award to Judge Richard F. Boulware of the United States District Court in Nevada. He is committed to improving access to justice for the community at large through his support of the Federal Pro Bono Program. Judge Boulware also contributed to a special training for Legal Aid Center staff attorneys to help them hone their trial skills to better advocate on behalf of clients.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Brittnie T. Watkins

Associate Attorney with Pisanelli Bice

This award is a special award that is not presented annually. It is reserved for someone who goes above and beyond in providing pro bono services, or support and assistance to pro bono and access to justice.

Brittnie T. Watkins embodies the hallmarks of this award because of her legal prowess and diligence. Brittnie is an associate attorney with Pisanelli Bice practicing in complex commercial litigation and appellate law.

This past year, she donated 288 hours of pro bono time and was successful at the federal district court level and before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of her clients.

Legal Aid Center assisted 125,000 last year.

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LEGAL AID CENTER of Southern Nevada

VINCE CONSUL MEMORIAL Pro Bono Award

Kevin L. Hernandez

This award is given in memory of Vince Consul. Vince was a pre-eminent attorney and long-time supporter of access to justice. Each year this award recognizes an attorney who made a substantial commitment to a client with a civil matter.

Kevin Hernandez, founder of the Law Office of Kevin L. Hernanez, cares about protecting clients from consumer fraud, identity theft, debt collection abuse and illegal credit reporting.

He is deserving of this award because he has demonstrated his commitment to pro bono by donating nearly 130 hours of time in addition to preparing and presenting a CLE on identity theft for the Legal Aid Center's volutneer and staff attorneys.

Louis Wiener Pro Bono Service Award

Shannon R. Wilson

Partner with Hutchison & Steffen

This award is given in memory of prominent Las Vegas attorney Louis Wiener for his dedication in helping victims of domestic violence. Louis was one of the first lawyers in Las Vegas who represented domestic violence victims on a pro bono basis.

Legal Aid Center recognizes Shannon R. Wilson with this award because of her substantial pro bono contributions representing such victims. Shannon is a partner at Hutchison & Steffen where she focuses on family law but she also practices administrative and regulatory law as well as insurance litigation.

Shannon donated 284 hours of pro bono time and helped out with Ask-A-Lawyer sessions this past year.

Myrna Williams Children's Pro Bono Award

Meng Zhong

Associate Attorney with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie

This award is given in honor of Myrna Williams, an instrumental force in the the Nevada Legislature and Nevada's counties. She advocated for the rights of women and legal representation for abused children in foster care. The Myrna Williams Award recognizes an attorney who made an extraordinary difference in the life of a child.

Meng Zhong is an exceptional volunteer who donated 95 hours representing abused and neglected children (CAP cases). He accepted four new cases this past year and volunteered at Ask-A-Lawyer sessions.

Meng is an associate attorney in the Intellectual Property Practice Group at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie. He handles IP litigation at the trial and appellate levels in Nevada and other jurisdictions.

Currently, **nearly 300 pro bono attorneys** represent

Clark County foster children in 436 child abuse and neglect (CAP) cases, augmenting the work of Legal Aid Center's staff attorneys to represent nearly 100 percent of the foster children in Clark County.

LEGAL AID CENTER of Southern Nevada

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION

Edgar Cervantes

Las Vegas is home to one of the best law schools in the nation - the William S. Boyd School of Law. Since its founding, the law school has demonstrated, through leadership of deans, faculty and student body, its commitment to public interest law and pro bono service. Legal Aid Center is fortunate to have a strong and long-lasting partnership with the law school. This award recognizes a law student who has made a substantial commitment to the community by doing public interest work and promoting access to justice.

Edgar Cervantes is a distinguished third year student at Boyd. He is an editor for the Nevada Law Journal, a public interest fellow, serves as the vice president of community involvement with the Public Interest Law Association and serves as the community service director for the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy.

ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY Commitment Award

Glenn C. Schepps

Legal Aid Center offers Ask-A-Lawyer sessions weekly, monthly and quarterly in the areas of family law, landlord/tenant, debt collection, small claims, foreclosure, probate, small business law, immigration, veterans and homelessness. These one-on-one sessions provide individuals who have legal issues with brief consultations with an attorney.

This award is given to Glenn Schepps for his commitment to the Ask-A-Lawyer program throughout the year.

Glenn covered an astounding 57 Ask-A-Lawyer sessions this past year, providing legal advice to individuals who cannot afford an attorney.

VOLUNTEER **EDUCATION** ADVOCATE AWARD

Leora Abrams

This award recognizes a non-attorney volunteer who has made a difference in the life of a child in the foster care system with special education needs. Children in foster care who are struggling in school because of developmental or behavioral issues are left on their own unless they have an educational advocate by their side. Legal Aid Center recruits and trains non-lawyers to fill this role because foster youth have no one else who will advocate on their behalf with the local school system.

Leora Abrams is an undergrad at UNLV, majoring in pre-med biology, and is applying for med school. She's in the honors program. Ms. Abrams became a volunteer education advocate a little over a year ago. Since she started she has been extremely involved and is always willing to help more students. In the last year she's taken over 20 cases. Leora has proven to be an exceptional advocate and communicates well with the school and foster team.

Nearly 400 attorneys

served nearly 4,000 clients through Legal Aid Center's Ask-a-Lawyer programs,

donating an incredible 1,750 hours of time.

LEGAL AID CENTER of Southern Nevada

100 Hours Club

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Dustun H. Holmes

Mona Kaveh Kristofer D. Leavitt Anat R. Levy Carl A. Lindstrom Michele T. Lobello Jason C. Makris Racheal H. Mastel Lisa A. McClane Michael T. McLoughlin Christopher R. Myers Dan F. Polsenberg Kristopher S. Pre Carrie J. Primas Lisa A. Rasmussen Ava M. Schaefer Bradley S. Schrager

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50 Hours Club

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Matthew Cecil Mena Zhona Patricia Lee Peter Peterson Racheal Ross Rachel Sloane Tygret Rochelle Harding-Roed Royi Moas Seth Ballstaedt Timothy Wiseman Brittany M. Llewellyn Dawn M. Lozano Amber N. Lunn Daniel J. McCain Patrick C. McDonnell Janet L. Merrill Raelene K. Palmer Eric M. Pepperman Sarah I. Perez Brandi M. Planet Corinne M. Price

Lynn Conant

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Michael D. Rawlins

LEGAL AID CENTER of Southern Nevada

Inaugural Associates Challenge

CONNOR Shea and Mark Starr, associates at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, launched the inaugural Associates Challenge in August. The challenge is a friendly competition between law firms to raise awareness on the unmet legal needs of the poor and vulnerable in Southern Nevada. The month-long challenge raised nearly \$40,000 for Legal Aid Center's Access to Justice Endowment campaign, ensuring that legal education classes, self-help centers, direct representation and access to justice are available for low income and vulnerable individuals throughout the community.

Shea and Starr wanted to encourage individual giving and develop a new generation of access to justice leaders among young lawyers. They invited Dickinson Wright, Fennemore Craig, Greenberg Traurig, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, Marquis Aurbach Coffing, McDonald Carano and Snell & Wilmer to join the first Associates Challenge in Las Vegas.



Connor Shea



Mark Starr

"It was important for us to bring the Associates Challenge to the Las Vegas area because it provides an opportunity to bring low-income individuals the legal resources they need. With Las Vegas being my hometown, it was especially important for me to do my part to support those who may not be able to support themselves," said Shea.

Associates at participating firms challenged each other, and their firm members, while other firm members got involved in the challenge by hosting raffles and special events. Starr and Shea plan to expand the competition for the 2020 Associates Challenge.

"We are thrilled with this year's results. Next year, we'd like to grow this event to help more people in our community. We plan to invite more firms and launch new ideas to encourage participation. Our hope is to make this a bigger success each year and continue the challenge for years to come," said Starr.



For information about promoting the attorneys at your firm to over 100,000 business leaders, or to learn more about the magazine's Legal Elite and Legal Opinion features, call 702.267.6327 or email connie@nevadabusiness.com.







Heroes Club

The aspirational goal in Nevada is for every lawyer to provide at least 20 hours of pro bono services per year. These law firms met and/or exceeded this goal by donating 20 pro bono hours or more per attorney.

Law Firms with

15+ Attorneys

Holland & Hart Garman Turner Gordon
Hutchison & Steffen Snell & Wilmer

Law Firms with

6-14 Attorneys

Armstrong Teasdale Pisanelli Bice Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Black & Lobello The Dickerson Karacsonyi Schulman & Rabkin Kemp Jones & Coulthard Law Group

Lombino Law Studio

Makris Legal Services

Lynn's Law

Law Firms with

1-5 Attorneys

Aldrich Law Firm Kainen Law Group Kevin E. Beck. Ltd. Amen Law Group Kristine K. Jensen, Ltd. Anat Levy & Associates Aguino Law Group Las Vegas Estate Planning & **Bailey Kennedy** Probate Lawyers Ballstaedt Law Firm Law Office of Alyssa Aklestad Law Office of Christine M. Owen Blackmon Law Group Brauer Driscoll Sun And Law Office of James J. Ream Associates Law Office of Julie A. Mersch Charles Schwab Law Office of Kevin L. Hernandez Claflin Law Law Office of Lisa Rasmussen Dawn M. Lozano. Ltd. Law Office of Nathalie Gottschalk Dias Law Group Law Office of Yvette Chevalier Douglas Crawford Law Law Offices of Christopher Cannon Golanics Law Law Offices of Donald E. Lowrey Goldsmith & Guymon Law Offices of Janice Brown Hamilton Law Law Offices of P. Sterling Kerr Hanratty Law Group Law Offices of Robert L. Hempen II Hartwell Thalacker Leavitt Legal Group Ireland Law Group Leavitt Legal Services

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725 E. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89104

PROBONO HEROES

Staff

PRO BONO PROJECT



L-R: Cindy Morales, Recruitment Coordinator

Elizabeth Gomez, Legal Assistant • Josie Techau, Volunteer Coordinator

Noah Malgeri, Esq., Pro Bono Project Director

Legal Aid Center's Pro Bono Project coordinates private attorneys who generously volunteer to provide free legal assistance to individuals who cannot afford an attorney. The team also works hard to provide ongoing continuing legal education (CLE) courses throughout the year, support luncheons for volunteers, training materials and other resources, along with special events to recognize pro bono attorneys.



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NIKKOLE **LIESSE**,MBA

Executive Director

With over 18 years of professional experience, Nikkole Liesse knows what it takes to achieve success. Having worked at UNLV for over seven years, she currently serves as the Executive Director of the Lee Business School Office of Online and Executive Education. In her role she oversees all department initiatives including strategic planning, student recruitment, student experience & curriculum, alumni relations and program marketing.

In fact, marketing is her area of expertise as she has worked extensively on the development and execution of multiple brand strategies; conducted extensive consumer and market research studies; and participated in cross-functional projects in both current and past roles. However, education is her true passion and driving force.

As a graduate of the UNLV EMBA program herself, Liesse now works to help others achieve their educational goals through the Executive MBA and Executive Certificate Program.

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Snell & Wilmer

























