



Pro Bono Publico Award Reception
November 15, 2006

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend a reception honoring recipients of the inaugural First Judicial District Pro Bono Publico Award. The reception will begin at 4:00 PM on November 15, 2006 in the Bonavitacola Law Library on the 6th floor of City Hall. The document attached provides some background regarding the award and identifies this year's recipients. Please join us.

President Judge C. Darnell Jones
Court of Common Pleas

President Judge Louis J. Presentza
Municipal Court

Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald, III
Court of Common Pleas – Trial Division

Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty
Court of Common Pleas – Family Court

Administrative Judge Joseph O'Keefe
Court of Common Pleas – Orphans Court

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Pro Bono Initiative
2006

In the Fall of 2005, Tobey Oxholm, Esquire, Chief Counsel of Drexel University, approached Judge James J. Fitzgerald, III, Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Trial Division asking if the judiciary would consider developing a program to promote pro bono work by the practicing bar in Philadelphia. Judge Fitzgerald contacted Judge Anne Lazarus, who has done extensive work in this area, and asked if she would consider chairing a committee to look into such a program and she agreed. A task force was formed that included:

Administrative Judge Kevin Dougherty
Court of Common Pleas – Family Court

Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald, III
Court of Common Pleas – Trial Division

Judge Idee Fox
Court of Common Pleas – Family Court

Judge Gary Glazer
Court of Common Pleas – Trial Division

Judge Ronald Merriweather
Municipal Court

Judge Lillian Ransom
Court of Common Pleas – Trial Division

Judge Annette Rizzo
Court of Common Pleas – Trial Division

Sharon Browning, Esquire
VIP

Carl (Tobey) Oxholm, Esquire
Chief Counsel – Drexel University

Thomas Zemaitis, Esquire
Pepper Hamilton

P. Karen Blackburn
Court Administrative Officer

The task force met regularly throughout the year. Members of the group presented an outline of the work that was being done to the National Bar Association's Pro Bono Conference, which was held in Philadelphia in March, 2006.

The task force's work this year will culminate with a reception to be held on November 15, 2006 in the Bonavitacola Law Library to honor recipients of the first annual First Judicial District Pro Bono Publico Award, which is being presented to an attorney from each division of the District whose pro bono work has been recognized by the judiciary as exemplary. The recipients are being recognized for their work on a single case, the length and depth of service, or for his or her willingness to take the hardest cases upon the least notice. Recipients of this year's award include:

Court of Common Pleas
Trial Division – Civil

Daniel T. McWilliams

Court of Common Pleas
Trial Division – Criminal

Berto M. Elmore

Court of Common Pleas
Family Court

Arthur B. Jarrett

Orphans Court

Anne Maxwell