

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

A Tribute to

Pro Bono 2008



President's
Pro Bono
Service Awards





Honorable Ronald M. George

Chief Justice of California

It is a privilege to join in celebrating the recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards, the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, and the Jack Berman Award of Achievement. The individuals being honored embody the best of the legal profession: they have used their knowledge, skills, and expertise to assist those who otherwise might be unable to participate in our system of justice.

Legal aid providers perform extraordinary services for those who cannot afford counsel. The Judicial Branch and others have worked to increase funding through the Equal Access Fund, allowing attorneys to contribute to legal services when they pay their bar dues, and expanding opportunities to increase the sums generated by IOLTA accounts. But the need for legal services far outstrips resources. The pro bono contributions made by countless attorneys across California are essential.

Our system of justice must be accessible to all, or justice for each of us is at risk. These awards recognize some of those who have taken an extra step to make a difference. The cases they work on may involve broad policy issues such as disabled children's rights to school services, or entitlements to government assistance—or they may help a client retain custody of a child, fight an eviction, complete an adoption, resist deportation, or escape the cycle of domestic violence.

The combined legal aid and pro bono services provided by California's lawyers make our state a better place. We are indeed fortunate that so many lawyers selflessly step forward. Honoring them helps remind us that as members of the legal profession, each of us is obligated to work not simply for the bottom line, but for the improvement of the administration of justice for all.

On behalf of the entire California judicial branch, I congratulate each of these award winners. Thank you for inspiring us to do more.



Jeffrey Bleich

President, The State Bar of California, 2007-2008

The recipients of the State Bar's pro bono awards represent the very best of our legal profession. This year the State Bar honors extraordinary attorneys who have given their time, talent and passion to those who otherwise could not afford legal services. We congratulate not only the winners of the 2008 President's Pro Bono Service Awards, the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, and the Jack Berman Award for Achievement for Distinguished Services to the Profession and Public but also their friends and families who supported them in this work.

One of the great challenges in our justice system today, is that it offers too little justice to too many people. Two-thirds of Californians who need and are entitled to legal services cannot obtain legal advice and counsel. Their only hope is that all California lawyers will follow the lead of these honorees, and dedicate themselves to ensuring that our system serves not just paying clients, but every Californian whose rights depend on the State's courts. The lawyers here come from every type of legal practice—from solo and small firm lawyers to in-house counsel, public agency lawyers, and big multinational firms. What unites them is their commitment to championing a fair and accessible justice system.

On behalf of the entire State Bar, thank you for setting an example in the profession for us all by reminding us injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Thank you and congratulations.

President's Pro Bono Service Awards

The State Bar Board of Governors created the President's Pro Bono Service Awards in 1983 to provide statewide recognition of attorneys for outstanding provision of pro bono legal services to the poor. In 2001, the awards categories were reconfigured to fully ensure that attorneys from a variety of practice settings be recognized for their extraordinary provision of pro bono legal services to low-income persons or organizations whose primary purpose is to serve the poor.

The following factors are taken into consideration in the selection process:

- Breadth and impact of nominee's pro bono work
- Nominee's practice setting
- Nature of pro bono program through which the work is done
- Evidence of nominee's commitment to pro bono work
- Nature of services contributed

2008 Award Recipients

Corporate	<i>Ajay A. Patel</i>
Government.	<i>Kimberly K. Shean</i>
Small Law Firm	<i>Bennett & Erdman</i>
Medium Law Firm.	<i>Kenneth Klein, Foley & Lardner LLP, San Diego Office</i>
Large Law Firm	<i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Sacramento, San Francisco and Silicon Valley Offices</i>
Emeritus or Limited Active Practice Attorney	<i>Joseph A. Montoya</i>
Recently Admitted.	<i>Benjamin Kuhm</i>
Solo Practitioner	<i>Josef M. Dion</i>
Distinguished Pro Bono Service.	<i>Team of Four: Howrey LLP; Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP; Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP; Morrison & Foerster LLP</i>



Corporate

Ajay A. Patel, Los Angeles

Ajay Patel is Vice President at Sony Media Software and Services whose primary responsibilities revolve around technology and licensing of entertainment content for Sony's digital platforms. Not common for a corporate counsel attorney, he has a long history of providing and coordinating pro bono services. For the past six years he has served as the volunteer pro bono chair for the Southern California chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC). Under his leadership in 2007, he launched two key pro bono initiatives: *Street Law Program and Adoption Day*. Partnering with the University of Southern California Law School and the Los Angeles Unified School District, Mr. Patel organized a team of over 50 law students and 20 ACC volunteers to teach 60 inner city eighth graders Contracts 101, Sports Law, Entertainment Law and Education Law programs over the course of a Fall Semester. In collaboration with Public Counsel, he recruited and trained ACC's transactional lawyers for pro bono participation in an Adoption Day program that assisted over 20 families in finalizing uncontested adoptions. In addition to all of his numerous hours spent coordinating these two new programs, he donated even more through his direct participation in providing pro bono services.

Nominated by Bijay Vakil, McDermott Will & Emery



Small Law Firm

Bennett & Erdman, Los Angeles

Left to right: Roberta B. Bennett, Jeffrey W. Erdman, Wendy E. Hartman, David L. Gamblin, Julie S. Pearson, Adrienne M. Liebman, Sam E. Lucas

The law firm of Bennett & Erdman consists of seven attorneys led by Roberta Bennett and Jeffrey Erdman, longtime community advocates and activists for the lesbian and gay community. In addition to the many community organizations and bar associations the firm has supported, the firm has donated hundreds of hours of pro bono time to cases of everyday importance. As a firm that specializes in family law and domestic partnership issues, Bennett & Erdman worked with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on cases such as the Guardianship of Lita Ramos, brought successfully on behalf of Lydia Ramos to obtain legal guardianship of her 14 year old daughter after the death of the longtime partner who had carried the child. Most recently, Bennett & Erdman served as co-counsel in the successfully settled case of *McManamon v. Zara*, a novel parentage case brought in California to secure custody and visitation of two young children adopted only by the Petitioner's former partner during their long-term relationship in Michigan. A small firm with a lot to give, Bennett & Erdman have also taken the lead in organizing Southern California practitioners into a "Domestic Partnership Study Group," to ensure that attorneys representing Southern California's LGBT community remain informed on the rapidly changing legal situation for registered domestic partners.

Nominated by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund





Medium Law Firm

Kenneth Klein, Foley & Lardner LLP, San Diego Office

Kenneth Klein, a former Partner and Chair of the Pro Bono Committee at the San Diego office of Foley & Lardner; as well as a member of the Firm's National Pro Bono Committee, is now a law professor at California Western School of Law. While Mr. Klein's pro bono work in 2007 is not limited to the work done for victims of the 2007 wild fires in San Diego, it is the most extensive and ongoing to the present day. Mr. Klein lost his own home in the Cedar Fire in San Diego in 2003. In mid-October

2007 when wild fires ravaged homes in San Diego County, San Diego Council Member Brian Maienschein asked him to help the community recover again. Mr. Klein organized a desk at the disaster relief center providing mentoring, information and counseling on a wide variety of issues for several weeks, staffing the desk himself for scores of hours; simultaneously helped his firm host the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Hotline counseling fire victims; trained other lawyers providing pro bono services to fire victims with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program; became a panel speaker for United Policyholders' programs, an insured's advocacy group providing guidance to fire victims; and in conjunction with United Policyholders, drafted and disseminated white papers on governmental response to disasters, and lobbied for code reform to provide sufficient regulatory support to disaster victims. Through Mr. Klein's efforts, he personally met with and counseled over 200 fire victims and helped hundreds of citizens of San Diego County.

Nominated by Councilmember Brian Maienschein, Fifth District, City of San Diego



Government

Kimberly K. Shean, Ventura

Kimberly Shean is a Program Supervisor with the Ventura County Juvenile Probation Agency where she manages juvenile intervention programs that oversee 600 youth offenders and their families. Despite a long day in Oxnard with her full time job she drives 40 minutes to Fillmore in the evening to staff the Santa Clara Valley Legal Aid Clinic on Thursday nights in the rural community of Fillmore. In 2007 Ms. Shean donated approximately 100 hours applying her expertise in the areas of adolescent development

and juvenile law to families of farm workers, day laborers, and food service workers toiling for minimum wage. Her areas have expanded into landlord/tenant, consumer and family law. Ms. Shean embraces a systematic approach that encourages an investigation of the entire family system to look at ways of healthy and unhealthy behavior and to pose solutions. Approaching her advocacy with energy and optimism, she brings her collaborative skills and commitment to the Legal Aid Clinic and provides a natural partnership between government and legal access.

Nominated by Santa Clara Valley Legal Aid



Recently Admitted

Benjamin Kuhm, San Francisco

Benjamin Kuhm is a recent admittee and sole practitioner who integrates a significant amount of pro bono work into his practice focusing on family law and child custody issues. In 2007 he worked on nine active family law matters referred from the Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP), seven of which were new. Since joining the Bar in 2005, Mr. Kuhm became well known to the staff at VLSP, rarely saying no to helping a client and taking on many last-minute and challenging family law issues without hesitation.

His pro bono clients have been immigrants, victims of domestic violence and the elderly. What makes Mr. Kuhm unique as a pro bono attorney is that he strives to address the full range of matters affecting his client's abilities to regain a stable lives—often stepping in to help clients through the procedures and processes for applying for public assistance and disability programs. In addition to his pro bono work and to maintaining his solo practice, he also works as a reference law librarian with the San Francisco County Law Library helping the general public navigate through a maze of legal resources.

Nominated by Volunteer Legal Services Program, Bar Association of San Francisco



Large Law Firm

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Sacramento, San Francisco & Silicon Valley Offices

Left to right: Nancy Harris, San Francisco Office; Analea J. Patterson, Sacramento Office; and Neel Chatterjee, Silicon Valley Office

In 2007 Orrick's three Northern California offices donated an impressive 27,000 pro bono hours and handled 363 pro bono matters, 164 of which were new. Orrick offices have been very active and supportive of the Bar Association of San Francisco's (BASF) Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) "Community Organization Representation Project" (CORP) by providing a wide range of pro bono business law services to community nonprofit organizations serving low-income communities, allowing

these organizations to strengthen their infrastructure and organizational capacity. They have also donated thousands of hours through VLSP's Family Law and Guardianship Project, Courthouse Landlord/Tenant Project and clinics at Project Homeless Connect. Orrick handled several immigration and domestic violence pro bono matters with Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal). While nominated by VLSP and Bay Legal, Orrick's Northern California offices provided additional pro bono services through multiple legal services providers in Northern California such as the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County and the Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California—both of which strongly commend Orrick's local pro bono contributions in the areas of guardianship and a domestic violence collaborative.

Jointly nominated by Volunteer Legal Services Program, Bar Association of San Francisco and Bay Area Legal Aid



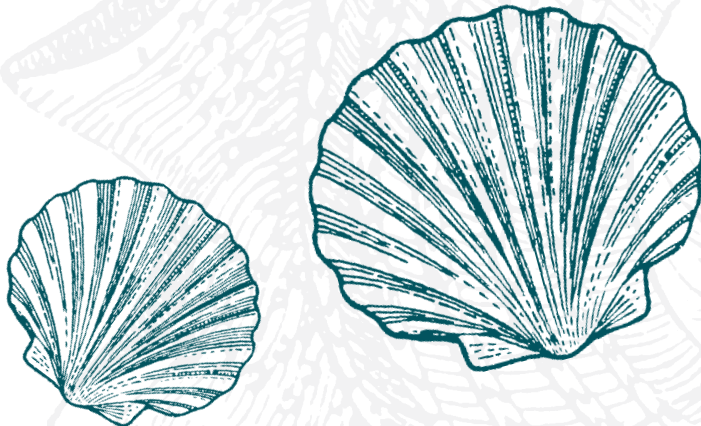
Emeritus or Limited Active Practice Attorney

Joseph A. Montoya, Sacramento

Joseph A. Montoya has been volunteering regularly as an Emeritus Attorney at Senior Legal Hotline, a program of Legal Services of Northern California, for the past 13 years, ever since he became one of the Hotline's first volunteers. In 2007 he worked on 73 cases helping low-income seniors with a host of issues such as debt collection, consumer disputes, contracts, scams, health care access and benefits, family law and elder abuse of all sorts. Mr. Montoya goes beyond serving the needs of those clients

calling into the Senior Legal Hotline by educating himself and his community through various trainings and workshops. He enthusiastically volunteers to speak to seniors in churches, community centers and other locations to provide community wide preventative education to help elderly Californians avoid legal problems. Prior to using his legal skills to help others, he served his country during WWII in the Army Infantry and after the war was a founding member of the Constabulary Corps. After returning to California he became the first in his family to graduate from college, let alone law school, and fulfilled a long legal career retiring as Chief Counsel of Caltrans.

Nominated by Senior Legal Hotline, Legal Services of Northern California





Solo Practitioner

Josef M. Dion, Westlake Village

Josef "Marc" Dion is a new admittee and sole practitioner attorney in Ventura County whose practice emphasizes family law. Through the Ventura County Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Program referrals, Mr. Dion provided hundreds of hours of pro bono service to multiple low-income family law clients who could not afford an attorney in their child custody and support cases. In a small county, such as Ventura, it is hard to get family law attorneys

to accept multiple pro bono assignments because these cases can continue for years, can be difficult and often require extra sensitivity to handle the clients' emotional involvement. Mr. Dion is one of the rare attorneys who accepts numerous assignments each year, even as a new and sole practitioner who is required to devote additional research and consultation to handle some of the more intricate aspects of the cases. Some of his other pro bono work involved landlord/tenant law and consumer matters. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Dion served as the Chief of Police in a small Colorado town. His experience and understanding of the "human condition" makes him particularly well suited for assisting people with family law and other emotionally charged matters.

Nominated by Ventura County Superior Court Self-Help Legal Access Center and Ventura County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program



Left to right: Genevieve Ramirez, Yuri Mikulka, Mansi Shah, Ryan Lindsey, Alex Jaramillo of Howrey LLP



Left to right: Joanna McCallum, Cristin Zeisler, Zoey Kohn, Brad Seiling, Rafa Gutiérrez (not pictured) of Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP



Left to right: Mark Gillett, Skye Donald, Teri Stein of Morrison & Foerster LLP



Rachel Wilkes of Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP

Distinguished Pro Bono Service

Team of Four: Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP; Howrey LLP; Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP and Morrison & Foerster LLP

This distinguished award is unique in that it includes teams of lawyers from four separate law firms: Howrey LLP; Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP; Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP; and Morrison & Foerster LLP. They are awarded together because teams from each firm responded to the same extraordinary situation involving HIV+ immigrant detainees who were being held at the San Pedro Detention Center on Terminal Island. Although they served different clients, the cases handled by this Team of Four share the common challenge of representing clients with a host of difficult and unpopular legal concerns compounded by unexpected, multiple relocations of their clients to remote immigration detention facilities. All of the matters handled by the Team were fraught with thorny and complicated scenarios demanding more time and services than anyone originally anticipated. Although the attorneys donating their time to these clients are all accomplished in their own practice areas, none of them had extensive previous experience in immigration or asylum cases with detained HIV-positive clients. And, yet the Team handled each new twist with care and competence. As the nominator wrote: "No lawyer likes to work in an unfamiliar legal area—the fact that these are all non immigration attorneys diligently working on cases that even the experts have been stymied by is a real testament to their dedication and skill."

Nominated by HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Inc. (HALSA)

Pro Bono California 2008

California Attorneys Make a Difference!

Whether newly admitted, retired, taking a break from practice, practicing in a government, corporate, academic setting or as a solo, you can make a significant difference in the lives of those who would not otherwise have access to the legal system. For more information about pro bono opportunities in your community, go to www.calbar.org/probonoresources or contact the State Bar of California Office of Legal Services, Access and Fairness Programs, Program Development Unit at 415.538.2219, 415.538.2267 or programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov.

Pro Bono Practice (formerly known as the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program)

If you are an attorney who is otherwise "retired" from the active practice of law, in a transition period or are taking a sabbatical from the practice or law, please consider making a difference by doing pro bono work by enrolling in the State Bar's Pro Bono Practice Program. The Pro Bono Practice Program is an updated version of the former Emeritus Attorney Program that waives the active status membership fee for eligible attorneys who do pro bono work exclusively with a Qualified Legal Services Program or a State Bar certified lawyer referral service (no fee panel). The nature and scope of the pro bono work varies with each program or LRS. For more information about the Pro Bono Practice Program, contact Michael Dayao at Michael.Dayao@calbar.ca.gov or 415-538-2328.

Pro Bono Resources for Attorneys

The State Bar of California's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services offers an online list of resources for attorneys, law students, law firms, judges, bar associations and others interested in pro bono. See: www.calbar.org/probonoresources

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The mission of the Program Development Unit is to develop and support efforts on a statewide basis that enhance and improve the delivery of legal services to low- and moderate-income Californians.



*The State Bar
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