

Southern Arizona Legal Aid's
Volunteer Lawyers Program

Annual Awards 2010



Welcome

Dean Christoffel

VLP Presentation and Lunch

Awards Presentation

Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch

Attorneys of the Month

<i>January</i>	Kristen Green
<i>February</i>	Patricia Green
<i>March</i>	Biagio Gingo
<i>April</i>	Amy Farrell Matheson
<i>May</i>	Rob Ferrier
<i>June</i>	Sarah Crotty
<i>July</i>	Kate McMillan
<i>August</i>	Kristen Klotz
<i>September</i>	Bryan Daum
<i>October</i>	Stephen Gonzalez
<i>November</i>	Charles Giddings
<i>December</i>	William Poorten



Stacy Rupprecht Butler Law Student

Jessica Sizemore

Interpretation/Translation Services

Aime Dominguez

Millie Crawford Legal Assistant

Lynn Pers Krcmaric

Award of Appreciation

Pima County Law Library Staff

Mary Ann O'Neil | Sheila Sher | Harry Anifantakis

Chris Nakamura Arizona Community Legal Assistance Award

Mary Beth Savel

Lifesaver

Nathan Parkey

Distinguished Service

Hon. Wayne Yehling

Attorney of the Year

Denice Shepherd

Law Firm of the Year

DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C.

A little over a year ago, my husband and I became parents. Like most parents of small children, we are often exhausted, harried, and struggling to balance our home and professional lives. In fact, I sometimes feel as if I can't seem to put two sentences together without major pauses or just defaulting to, "You know what I mean don't you?" (Not the best quality in a lawyer!) But, despite the overwhelming workload and major life restructuring parenthood has brought us, the joy of participating in our son's growth could not be more rewarding or satisfying.

In many ways, the work of the volunteer lawyer is the same. The past year has been challenging for so many people. People who have worked at the same job for decades are no longer employed, people have lost their homes, their benefits, and are finding it difficult to find a means to sustain themselves and their family. But the volunteer lawyers in Southern Arizona have risen to meet these needs in a profound way. Yes, we are surrounded by more poor and desperate people than ever before. But, in response, grace and generosity have abounded all the more! I simply marvel at the generosity of our volunteers, who will donate 7,000 hours this year to help clients who could not otherwise afford legal assistance. I am amazed by the staunch commitment to pro bono services that the legal community has made. Volunteers will staff over 500 clinics in substantive areas that range from minor guardianship to debt collection and bankruptcy to domestic relations. This year volunteer lawyers and law students will assist over 4000 clients through the VLP. This reflects a 20 percent increase over the number of clients assisted by volunteers in 2009. This is remarkable. Lawyers like you have selflessly given their time to participate in something larger than themselves, to impact lives and change futures. Lawyers like you have sacrificed their personal and professional commitments to serve the powerless, right wrongs, and fulfill the promise of the legal profession's long-standing commitment to the under served. I feel so honored to work with the VLP and witness your generosity every day. Thank you for inspiring me and thank you for helping so many people in need.

Sincerely,

Michele Mirto

Director, Attorney at Law

Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys in Arizona – Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education

- Annie Barrett
- John Barrett
- Dean Christoffel
- Darren Clausen
- Michael Coker
- Cheryl Copperstone
- Robert Ferrier
- Erin Fox
- Biagio Gingo
- Christopher Hitchcock
- John Kelliher, Jr.
- Denice Shepherd
- Jeremy Sohn
- Jon Trachta
- Rudy Valenzuela
- James A. Whitehill

Legal Services Corporation Honors two from the Old Pueblo



The Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) held their quarterly meeting in Tucson in April. During their visit the Board took time out to honor six pro bono attorneys from around the state. The group included two volunteers from SALA’s service area. The two attorneys, Dean Christoffel and Alyce Pennington, were recognized at a reception held at the State Bar of Arizona office in downtown Tucson.



The National Association of Pro Bono Professionals (NAPBPro) Honors Fred Dardis



The National Association of Pro Bono Professionals (NAPBPro) honored Commissioner Fred Dardis with the *2010 William Reece Smith Jr. Special Services to Pro Bono Award*. The award is presented annually to an individual to recognize the efforts of those who, on a national, regional, or statewide basis, bring about innovations, generate support for, provide assistance to or have other positive influence on the systems or work of the pro bono professionals and volunteer attorneys. Commissioner Dardis was nominated for this award for his innovative ideas, leadership and commitment to the delivery of pro bono services. Commissioner Dardis has been a relentless advocate for Southern Arizona Legal Aid’s Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) for more than twenty years. The award was presented to Commissioner Dardis at the American Bar Association’s Equal Justice Conference in May.

Students of the Month

- Jan Kristi Whitaker-Trinks
- Feb Petra Emerson
- Mar Timothy Bearese
- April Lauren Gizinski
- May Ryan Thomsen
- June Elizabeth Pocock
- July Grant Stratton
- Aug Ashley Silberhorn
- Sep Aysha Shen
- Oct Adriana Jimenez
- Nov Katey Anderson-Sanchez
- Dec Matt Lara

2010 Highlights

Number of Volunteer attorneys	1285
Number of Volunteer students	131
Number of hours donated	6,594 (<i>donated value = \$1,319,000</i>)
Number of clients assisted	2008 – 2167
	2009 – 3083
	2010 – 4010 (<i>projected</i>)

2010 Staff and Advisory Board

VLP Staff

Anthony Young, *Executive Director, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.*
Randi Burnett, *Attorney at Law/VLP Student Coordinator*
Socorro Diaz, *Program Coordinator*
Michele Mirto, *Attorney at Law/VLP Program Director*
Claudia Ochoa, *Administrative Assistant*
Baudelina de Ramirez, *Administrative Assistant*
Diane Wangelin, *Administrative Assistant*

VLP Advisory Board

Hon. Fred Dardis *Co-Chair*
Tom Roberts *Co-Chair*

Hon. Gus Aragon
Hon. Hector Campoy
Todd Jackson
Hon. Karen Nygaard
Luis Ochoa
Alyce Pennington
Juan Perez-Medrano
Stephen Portell
Stacy Rupprecht Butler
Heather Strickland
Hon. Bernardo Velasco

For more info about VLP programs and for a current list of volunteer attorneys, visit www.vlparizona.org

VLP is a program of Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.



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