

and Justice for All

Volunteer Lawyers
for Justice
Taking Cases. Changing Lives.

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

From the Executive Director



Hello friends,

It is hard to imagine that Labor Day is already upon us, as it has already been an amazingly busy and impactful year at VLJ. We welcomed five tremendously talented new trustees to our board; several have been long-term volunteers, and all are committed to VLJ's mission of providing free legal services to low-income families in New Jersey.

Our fundraising team headed up a successful Summer Soirée and campaign to provide criminal background checks to our clients seeking expungement who are not able to afford the cost of reports. Our volunteers and our staff are doing incredible legal advocacy for our clients, and special recognition goes out to Diana Onuschak who began at VLJ six years ago as a legal assistant, is now VLJ's

Director of Administration and Community Involvement, and is the glue that keeps the whole organization afloat.

We are already busy preparing for National Pro Bono Week (October 20-26) and our Arts & Eats for Justice dinner on November 13th. We are thrilled to be honoring Eisai Inc. and the Giantomasi family for their tremendous support of our work. Enjoy those final days of summer and we can't wait to celebrate with you in November!

Sincerely,

Cathy Keenan

VLJ Welcomes New Board Members

VLJ is thrilled to welcome the following trustees:



Hon. Marianna Espinosa
(Ret.)
Of Counsel
Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks
Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins



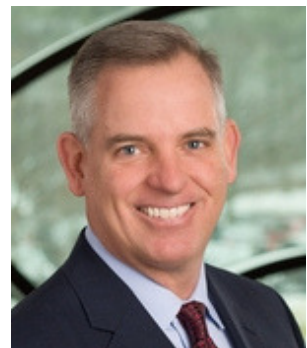
Peter Harvey, Esq.
Partner
Patterson Belknap
Webb & Tyler



Jessica Hodkinson, Esq.
General Counsel
Panasonic Corporation
of North America



Nicholas Insua, Esq.
Shareholder
Anderson Kill



Erik Sandstedt, Esq.
Member of the Firm
Chiesa Shahinian &
Giantomasi

Volunteer of the Month



This month, VLJ recognizes Amy Woltman from Prudential for her exemplary pro bono work. Amy has volunteered with VLJ for three years, becoming one of the most dedicated volunteers at both the Tenancy and Consumer Law Programs. She has personally helped more than 50 low-income clients in need of legal services.

Amy is a Vice President of Compliance for LEAP and Financial Wellness at Prudential. Amy is committed to giving back to her community and in addition to her work with VLJ, she is a board member for the Sound Start Babies Foundation, a nonprofit that helps to subsidize early intervention programs for children under the age of three with hearing loss.

Volunteering with the Tenancy and Consumer Law Programs allows Amy to venture outside of her comfort zone. According to Amy, the wide range of legal issues she sees at VLJ clinics is one of the benefits of volunteering. "It's good practice at getting comfortable being uncomfortable." Thanks, Amy, for your valuable service!

Read more about Amy's pro bono service on our website, www.vljnj.org!

Good News

- VLJ launched a successful expungement campaign from July 15th to 26th to raise money for criminal record reports. Thanks to donors like you, we raised \$4,650 to help over 100 clients get one step closer to clearing their records! This is truly life-changing. Thank you!
- Meghan* is a trafficking survivor who had a traumatic childhood made worse by homelessness and mental illness. Her trafficker forced her to commit crimes against her will, leading to a prostitution charge with an outstanding warrant. Volunteer attorney Jack Feinstein successfully argued for the warrant to be vacated and the open matter be dismissed in municipal court. Now Meghan is sober, employed, and working with a therapist and various social programs to improve the life of her and her young daughter. We are incredibly proud of Meghan and very thankful to Jack for his advocacy!



National Pro Bono Week!

Be on the lookout for ways you can get involved with VLJ during National Pro Bono Week, October 20-26!

Summer Soirée Success!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored, attended, and donated to the 2019 Summer Soirée presented by TSG Reporting! With your help, we were able to make this year's event the most successful to date.

Our Generation Now Committee, led by Kelly Lloyd Lankford (Dentons) and Kaitlyn Stone (Drinker Biddle & Reath), hosted the Soirée, which featured a rousing testimonial from volunteer Stephanie Pisko from McCarter & English. It was a great night to connect with old friends, meet new contacts, and learn about VLJ's mission.

And with your help, we raised over \$29,000 to support VLJ's programs! Thank you!

Be sure to check out the photos on our website - www.vljnj.org/summer-soiree

Have You Considered Your Legacy?

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice has introduced a Planned Giving Program for those interested in leaving a legacy gift to VLJ.

Please consider a gift of stock, life insurance, IRA rollover, or a bequest.

For more information, please call Jaclyn Kramer at 973-755-4120.



Left to Right: David Himelfarb, Joann Lytle, Michelle Movahed, Firmwide Managing Partner Joe Boccassini, McCarter Chairman Mike Kelly, Ryan Richman, Susan Feeney, and Lori Shyavitz.

Congratulations McCarter & English!

Please join VLJ in congratulating McCarter & English for receiving the American Bar Association's top pro bono honor, the Pro Bono Publico Award, on Saturday, August 10th.

Since its founding, McCarter & English has been committed to serving low-income people and communities, and last year alone the firm's attorneys dedicated 16,903 hours to help level the legal playing field. While those numbers are impressive, it is the firm's documented history of identifying critical unmet legal needs in their communities, their collaborative partnerships with legal services providers, and their history of responding to the legal needs of their neighbors with innovative solutions that makes them so deserving of this honor.

A big round of applause to Joe Boccassini (Firmwide Managing Partner), Mike Kelly (Chairman), Michelle Movahed (Partner, and head of McCarter's pro bono practice), Geoffrey Rosamond (Partner, VLJ trustee, and long-term VLJ volunteer), and all of the McCarter attorneys who make the time to prioritize providing pro bono work to those in need. We are fortunate to be able to count McCarter & English as partners and friends.

Save the Date!

VLJ's Arts & Eats for Justice Gala
is on November 13th!

ARTS EATS *for* Justice 2019

A Benefit for Volunteer Lawyers for Justice
Valley Regency | November 13 | 5:30 PM

Honoring: Eisai Inc. and The Giantomasi Family
(Francis J. Giantomasi, Gemma Giantomasi Diaco, and Francis M. Giantomasi)

Hosted by: Paul J. Fishman

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