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Pro Bono Collaborative E-Newsletter (No. 9) (October 2011)

Roger Williams University School of Law

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National Pro Bono Celebration Week



National Pro Bono Celebration
October 23 - 29, 2011

Building on the extraordinary success of the annual National Pro Bono Celebrations in 2009 and 2010, the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service is sponsoring the Celebration again this year from October 23 through 29, 2011. *To See what's happening at RWU School of Law and around the country, visit the Rhode Island section of the ABA's website:*

<http://www.probono.net/celebrateprobono/events/location.2011-10-01.Rhode+Island>

Project Announcements and Updates

PBC Welcomes Whelan & Siket LLP

Whelan & Siket LLP has joined the PBC and taken on the Women's Center RI project. The firm is headed by Joe Whelan, Esq., a loyal friend and supporter of the PBC, and Meghan Siket, Esq., a longtime PBC attorney. We're thrilled to have this new firm on board.

Nixon Peabody LLP Teams Up with Coalition for the Homeless to Provide Expungement Advice, Counsel & Representation

The PBC Expungement Project with Nixon Peabody LLP recently held its first clinic at the RI Coalition for the Homeless offices in Pawtucket. Attorney Tim Baldwin and RWU Law 3L Jaime Rogers met with over 15 individuals and either helped them understand why their records were not eligible for expungement or agreed to assist them in getting their records expunged. The clinic was highlighted in a Providence Journal article on September 30. To read the article click [here](#).

Burns & Levinson LLP Joins the PBC and Takes On Two Pro Bono Projects

The Pro Bono Collaborative is thrilled to welcome the law firm of Burns &

Levinson LLP. The law firm will be working on two new projects: The OpenDoors Non-Profit Project and the Year Up Criminal Law and Employment Project. Burns & Levinson will be providing OpenDoors with advice and counsel relating to a newly purchased building that will act as the organization's main office and provide 19 units of permanent supportive housing. To learn more about this project and view photos, click [here](#).

The law firm will also provide presentations to Year Up students regarding expungement, criminal records and how these affect employment. The first presentation was held on September 27 to over 50 young adults. Richard Ratcliffe, Esq. of Ratcliffe Harten Burke & Galamaga LLP volunteered to lead this first presentation that was scheduled before Burns & Levinson LLP joined the PBC. Between Richard and former U.S. Attorney Robert Corrente, Esq. of Burns & Levinson LLP, these young adults were treated to a wealth of experience.

Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP will Assist Kinship Caregivers with Wills

Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP (formerly Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP) has signed on to assist the kinship caregivers with wills, powers of attorney and health proxies. Grand Divas is an organization of kinship caregivers who have taken on the daunting job of raising their children's children. Many of their members are elderly and concerned about how the children they're caring for will be provided for in the event of their death. An Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP attorney and an RWU law student will make a presentation and provide advice and counsel to the group on their options and the issues they should consider.

Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman LLP Helps Singing Out Against Hunger Acquire Non-Profit Status

Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman LLP is providing non-profit advice and counsel to Singing Out Against Hunger (SOAH), a Tiverton-based organization that raises money for local anti-hunger programs, primarily through an annual folk concert. The law firm and Nels Schnobrich, RWUSOL '13, will assist the organization in establishing their 501(c)(3) status and incorporating in RI. To learn more about this project and view photos click [here](#).

Rhode Island Legal Services Inc. Partners with Fuerza Laboral on a Wage Theft Project

On Tuesday evenings at Fuerza Laboral in Central Falls attorney Amy Retsinas Romero, Esq., a Skadden Fellow at Rhode Island Legal Services Inc., and two law students, John Reyes and Alexandra Hudd, are providing advice and counsel to low-income workers who are the victims of wage theft. To learn more

about this project and view photos click [here](#).

To learn more about the PBC:

- **News** - click [here](#)
- **Law Firms** - click [here](#)
- **Mandell Challenge Donors** - click [here](#)

THE
PRO BONO
COLLABORATIVE™

Annual Cocktail Party
2012

PBC Annual Cocktail Party
SAVE THE DATE:
Thursday May 31
5:30-7 p.m.
Please Mark Your Calendars