October 2013

Dear Friend of the Pro Bono Collaborative,

Next week is National Pro Bono Celebration Week. We are thrilled to be celebrating the amazing pro bono work that has been done through the law firms, law students and community organizations that, together, are the Pro Bono Collaborative.

In this newsletter you'll learn about some fabulous events happening next week in honor of Pro Bono Celebration Week, as well as new Pro Bono Collaborative projects and ongoing pro bono project updates.

Also, for those of you who do not already know, we are excited to announce that the Pro Bono Collaborative has been fully integrated into the newly reorganized Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education at RWU School of Law. More on that soon.

Best,
Eliza & Suzy
P.S. Looking ahead, please **SAVE THE DATE of May 29, 2014** for the 5th Annual PBC Fundraising Cocktail Reception.

### Pro Bono Celebration Week Events

**Shayana Kadidal: Surveillance & Civil Liberties**  
Monday, October 21, 2013 - 4:45 p.m. in Room 262  
RSVP to feinsteincenter@rwu.edu

Shayana Kadidal is Senior Managing Attorney of the Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York City. In his eight years at the Center, Shayana has worked on a number of significant cases in the wake of 9/11, including the Center’s challenges to the detention of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay (among them torture victim Mohammed al Qahtani and former CIA ghost detainee Majid Khan), which have twice reached the Supreme Court, and several cases arising out of the post-9/11 domestic immigration sweeps. He is also counsel in CCR’s legal challenges to the “material support” statute (decided by the Supreme Court last term), to the low rates of black firefighter hiring in New York City, and to the NSA’s warrantless surveillance program.

**Film Night: "American Winter"**  
Tuesday, October 22, 2013 - 5:45 p.m. in Room 283  
RSVP to feinsteincenter@rwu.edu

Join Dean Logan, APIL and the Feinstein Center as we view the gripping documentary, "American Winter." The film presents a
snapshot of the state of our society as it exists for millions of Americans across the country. The film follows eight Oregon families battling to keep their heads above water while facing overwhelming financial challenges and a shrinking social safety net. The devastating effects of the mortgage lending crisis, soaring unemployment, a broken healthcare system, and budget cuts to the social services are presented through the eyes of these families, all falling into poverty for the first time and struggling to keep their kids fed, clothed, and with a roof over their heads. After the film there will be a Q&A via Skype with Chuck Sheketoff, Executive Director at the Oregon Center for Public Policy, who is featured prominently in the film. Please bring an item of canned food. We will donate these canned goods to Bristol Good Neighbors Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry and Day Shelter.

Thank you to all of our partners who will be providing pro bono legal services through our many projects during Pro Bono Celebration Week:


10/18/13: Street Law at Blackstone Academy - Dianne Baron, Esq. (attorney project coordinator), Lauren Campbell (RWU Law 2015) and Donnelly Roberts (RWU Law 2015).


Pro Bono Collaborative Project News:

Sargent Center Wills and Guardianship Project - In spring 2013, the law firm of Edwards Wildman LLP began a partnership with the Sargent Center’s Regional Resource Center to provide presentations and "mini-clinics" on issues involving simple wills, guardianship and alternatives to guardianship. The first presentation was held in April and over 20 people attended. A three-part series begins on October 16th.
**Year Up Project** - On October 2, Christopher Ayers, Esq. of *Burns & Levinson LLP* provided a criminal rights and expungement presentation to over 65 students of *Year Up*.

**Labor and Employment for Non-Profits** - On September 17th, Meghan Siket, Esq. of *Whelan Kinder & Siket LLP* provided a presentation on labor and employment best practices for non-profit managers at the *Rhode Island Foundation*. The presentation was interesting, practical and full of useful information. Representatives from 25 local non-profit organizations benefited from Meghan’s wisdom and advice.

**Khadarlis Expungement Project** - On October 18th, the law firm of *Nixon Peabody LLP* will host an expungement legal presentation and clinic at *Khadarlis* in the Lillian Feinstein Senior Center in Providence.

**Public Interest Law Center Project** - This fall, six RWU Law students signed on to assist the firm of *DeLuca & Weizenbaum Ltd.* in conducting the research necessary to the firm’s development of a public interest law center. Law students are looking into a variety of jurisdictional and subject matter areas.

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In addition to these projects, the Pro Bono Collaborative has added three projects that, in the past, were primarily student driven projects. We are thrilled to bring these great projects under the Pro Bono Collaborative umbrella:
ACI Prison Civil Legal Advice & Counsel Clinic Project - Each Wednesday night during the fall semester, seven law students and attorney Stephen Miller go into the ACI medium security facility and provide brief advice and counsel to inmates on civil matters. The law students receive a unique opportunity to hone their interviewing skills, while inmates receive the rare opportunity to speak with an attorney and law students.

Street Law - RWU Law has been involved in the national Street Law Program for many years. This year, through the coordination of attorney Dianne Baron, we have law students working with students and young people at Central High School, Blackstone Academy, Community Prep, Providence YMCA and Youth Pride. Throughout the year, RWU Law students will provide legal education on a variety of topics to each of their partnering schools/organizations.

Volunteer Tax Income Project (VITA) - Law students will be working with East Bay Community Action Program to provide tax preparation assistance to low-income Rhode Islanders from January through April 2014. This year, we are also hoping to host an all day tax preparation fair at RWU Law staffed almost entirely by RWU Law students.

Join a Pro Bono Collaborative Project:

Immigrant Children’s Project (SIJS and DACA) - The Pro Bono Collaborative is looking for a law firm or 2-3 attorneys from different law firms who would like to work on our new Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Project which has grown out of our Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Project with immigration attorney Hans Bremer. The Pro Bono Collaborative will provide all training and Hans Bremer, an experienced immigration attorney, will walk each attorney through every step of his or her first SIJ case. For more information, please contact Suzy Harrington-Steppen at (401) 254-4559 or sharrington-steppen@rwu.edu.
Interested in Individual Pro Bono Case Referrals?
If you are interested in taking individual pro bono case referrals the Volunteer Lawyers Program of the RI Bar Association can always use your help! Please contact John H. Ellis VLP Coordinator at jellis@ribar.com or 421-7758 ext.103

Donate to the Pro Bono Collaborative
The Pro Bono Collaborative needs your help. If you would like to make a financial contribution you can donate online or via mail:

Make a donation online: GIVE ONLINE (please note your contribution is for the "PBC") or
Make a donation by mail- Please make checks payable to: "The Pro Bono Collaborative." Send checks to: The Pro Bono Collaborative, RWU School of Law, 10 Metacom Avenue, Bristol, RI 02809

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