



RHODE ISLAND Bar Association

Public Service Matters

January 2014

A Newsletter About the Rhode Island Bar Association's

Lawyer Referral Service,
Legal Information & Referral
Service for the Elderly,
Volunteer Lawyer Program and
US Armed Forces Legal Services
Project



*Foreclosure Prevention and
Defense for Homeowners and
Tenants (clockwise) Nancy
Garcia Ponte, Esq.; Stephen M.
Miller, Esq.; Jeffrey C. Ankrom,
Esq.; Christopher M. Lefebvre,
Esq.*

Thank You to all of our
Volunteer CLE Speakers

*Jeffrey C. Ankrom, Jr., Esq.
Carolyn R. Barone, Esq.*

A Roadmap to Loan Modification and Loss Mitigation

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 28,
2014 - 12-3 pm**

Don't miss out on this CLE seminar offered by the Bar Association's Foreclosure Prevention Project in conjunction with Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. The available programs for loan modification and eligibility requirements, along with how to prepare applications and deal with denials, will be discussed by the panelists. The Honorable Diane Finkle will present recent changes and requirements in the US Bankruptcy Court's Loss Mitigation program. She will also discuss how to initiate loss mitigation in bankruptcy as well as the related timeline and typical issues that arise during the loss mitigation process.

This three credit seminar is **FREE** of charge to all members of the Bar Association's pro bono programs who agree to accept a pro bono case related to foreclosure/foreclosure issues. Mentors and or paralegal assistance will be available upon request.

It is easy to join if you are not already a member! To take advantage of this excellent opportunity, please call 401-421-7758 or 421-7799 for further details or email jellis@ribar.com or eking@ribar.com.

Lori J. Giarrusso, Esq.
Janet Gilligan, Esq.
Richard Jessup, Jr., Esq.
Christopher M. Lefebvre, Esq.
Barbara L. Margolis, Esq.
Stephen M. Miller, Esq.
Nancy Garcia Ponte, Esq.
Peter Sangiovanni, Jr., Esq.
Elizabeth W. Segovis, Esq.



2013 Channel 10 Ask-A-Lawyer
Family Law Panel (l-r)
Christine Anne Borzilleri, Esq.;
Jonathan F. Whaley, Esq.;
Molly Kapstein Cote, Esq.;
Edythe C. Warren, Esq.



2013 Channel 10 Ask-A-Lawyer
Foreclosure Law Panel (l-r)
Peter C. Tashjian, Esq.;
Stephen M. Miller, Esq.;
Christopher M. Lefebvre, Esq.;
Dawn M. Vigue Thurston, Esq.

Thank You!

A special thank you goes out to all our LRS members listed below who donated their time and expertise to be involved in legal clinics and Ask A Lawyer

Practice Visibility Join the Lawyer Referral Service

The Lawyer Referral Service is an inexpensive avenue to increase your client base and community visibility. The LRS provides unique opportunities for increasing your business while you provide an important public service within your community. Also, you may be interested in the legal clinic and Ask A Lawyer opportunities. Please note new members of the Bar Association receive their first six months of membership **FREE**.

Applications and more detailed program information may be found on our website www.ribar.com in the Members Only section. This information may also be requested by contacting Susan Fontaine at 401-421-7799 or email sfontaine@ribar.com.

Changing Lives

Addressing Unmet Legal Needs

Thank you for providing clients in great need of legal assistance the gift of your expertise through your

Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program, Pro Bono Program for the Elderly, US Armed Forces Legal Services Project and our Lawyer Referral Service/Reduced Fee Program. Every day many requests for legal assistance are received.

This Association is extremely grateful for your public service commitment and your ongoing support of the delivery of legal assistance to thousands of citizens every year. ***You are providing justice and hope for so many who have nowhere else to turn. The following quotes are taken from recent letters sent by clients to their volunteer attorneys and the Bar Association.***

Always remember you have saved at least one life in your lifetime.

I can honestly say I could never find a more

programs for our seniors in 2013. This year over 21 community outreach programs were made available to our senior population through the dedication of our volunteer attorneys.

Kristen A. Carron, Esq.

*William E. George, Esq.
Patricia E. Giammarco, Esq.
Mark B. Laroche, Esq.
Christopher M. Lefebvre, Esq.
Frank J. Manni, Esq.
Thomas M. Petronio, Esq.
Elizabeth Silberman Phillips, Esq.
Joseph M. Proietta, Esq.
David F. Reilly, Esq.
James V. Solis, Esq.
David J. Strachman, Esq.*

Serving our Citizens

11,374 citizens directly requested assistance from the Bar Association's Public Service programs in 2013! Of this number, 3,187 qualified for Reduced Fee Services and 1,598 for Pro Bono assistance. 6,589 plus potential clients requested referrals through our regular fee Lawyer Referral Service. The continuing critical need for these programs is highlighted by these numbers. Please note that these statistics do not take into account hundreds of our citizens who were provided with help and information to locate the community resource better suited to their needs.

selfless person. Thank you.

If you are not already a member of a public service program and would like to receive information, or if you have any questions or need further details, please contact Susan Fontaine at sfontaine@ribar.com or 401-421-7799.

Public Service Mediation Partnership

Divorce Mediation Clinic

In an ongoing partnership between the Bar Association's Pro Bono programs and Roger Williams University School of Law's Mediation Clinic, a family law mediation clinic was held this past November, successfully providing pro bono aid to many low income couples who had nowhere else to turn for legal assistance. All couples that participated were then placed with a volunteer attorney to complete the court process. This cooperative effort is held on a Saturday and is an effective and efficient method twice a year of serving our low income clients who are interested in mediating their case. A spring clinic is tentatively planned for March 29, 2014.



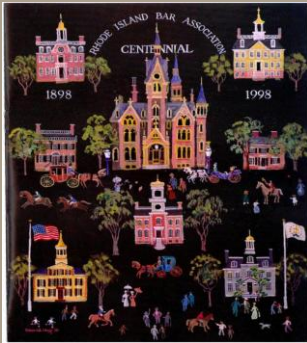
2013 Spring & Fall Divorce Mediation Clinics with Roger Williams Law School and Rhode Island Bar Association Volunteer Attorneys

Thank You & Appreciation

Just One Of Many

Necesitamos Su Ayuda!

Whether you are a new or longstanding member of a public service program we would greatly appreciate knowing if you are willing to take cases for non-English speaking clients. We have a special need for attorneys who can provide language resources, especially for Spanish speaking clients. Also, if you can communicate in sign language for the deaf, please let us know by contacting Elisa King at 401-421-7799 or eking@ribar.com.



This past December a new Visitor's Center and Gift Shop was opened at the Rhode Island State House. We were asked by Deputy Secretary Paul F. Caranci to sell on consignment, at the gift shop, the limited edition Maxwell Mays prints of the Rhode Island Courthouses commissioned by the Bar Association for the 1998 Centennial. Any and all funds

Raydeana Roderick-Akinbola contacted the Volunteer Lawyer Program for assistance, and she was interested in attending the fall 2013 Mediation Clinic offered in conjunction with the Roger Williams University School of Law. Given her willingness to contact her spouse to participate in mediation, this couple successfully reached an agreement. Raydeana was then placed with Volunteer Lawyer Program member Attorney Deborah Gonzalez of Gonzalez Law Offices, Inc., in East Providence to finalize her family law matter. Raydeana let the staff know that she was extremely pleased with the mediation process/representation and stated, "The mediators and my attorney have made a tough situation much less stressful, and I hope that you will let all involved in these programs know of my appreciation."



(l-r) Attorney Deborah Gonzalez and Volunteer Lawyer Program

Client Raydeana Roderick-Akinbola

Serving Those Less Fortunate

Many Ways To Help

Your Bar Association's Pro Bono programs offer a variety of opportunities in a RANGE OF PRACTICE AREAS, and levels of time commitment. ***Are you interested in Serving our Seniors or War Veterans & Active Military personnel? Are you interested in providing access to justice for our neediest citizens and their families?*** We are happy to discuss each of the volunteer programs and opportunities that are available.

Once you join the program of your choice, you will determine when to accept a case and interview the client. Benefits of

received by the Bar Association from the sales will be directed to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation. These limited edition prints, perfect for your office, are also available to attorneys willing to join a public service program and accept a pro bono case. If you are already a volunteer and willing to accept a new case, please call us if you would like a limited edition signed print at no charge. (They are currently for sale at the State House for \$200.00.)

participating include qualifying for FREE CLE seminars, gaining experience, reimbursement of various litigation costs, access to mentor attorneys and appreciation and recognition by your Bar Association.

Applications and more detailed program information for the Volunteer Lawyer Program, Pro Bono Program for the Elderly or US Armed Forces Legal Project Services is located on the Bar Association's website www.ribar.com in the Members Only section. You may also contact the staff reflected above for further details.

CLE COUPONS

Have you reported your hours of pro bono service?

If you are already a member of the Volunteer Lawyer Program, US Armed Forces Legal Services Project or Pro Bono Program for the Elderly and have contributed 30 or more hours during 2013 please notify the public services staff. You will then receive coupons for attending either three one-credit "Food for Thought" seminars or one three-credit seminar. These coupons are valid through December 31, 2014 and must be used for Bar Association seminars. Thank you for providing legal assistance to those in greatest need!!

