

## ABA/NLADA 2005 EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

### Microenterprise Pro Bono Projects and Business Law

**Description:** Learn how business pro bono lawyers can help create entrepreneurs and provide an economic impact in our client communities. Learn what business law providers have been doing to develop strategic alliances with micro-enterprise networks. Learn what benefits the client community has received from micro-enterprise related activities

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## **Bios:**

**Peter Carson** is a partner in the Bingham McCutchen's San Francisco office where he carries on a leveraged and corporate finance practice focused on representing banks, commercial finance lenders, debt funds and other institutional lenders as well as the firm's company and private equity clients in all aspects of complex debt and equity financings. Peter also is the vice-chair of Pro Bono Committee of the ABA's Business Law Section, and is on the boards or steering committees of several public interest and legal service organizations, including the boards of Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund and Bay Area Legal Aid.

**Jim Caleshu** graduated from Stanford Law School in 1965, where he served as a Revising Editor on the Law Review. Following graduation he served as a Bigelow Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School during the '65-'66 school year, teaching first year law students.

In 1966 he joined a San Francisco firm which became known as Pettit & Martin. He was admitted as a partner in 1972 and stayed at that firm until 1992. He left to become General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Polaris Aircraft Leasing Corporation, one of his clients. In 1994, Polaris' operations were merged with those of GE Capital Aviation Services in Stamford, Connecticut. Stamford being 3,000 miles away from his family, he left GECAS in late 1994 and returned as a partner in Pettit & Martin. Within three months Pettit & Martin elected to dissolve, for which decision Jim accepts no credit or blame. He thereupon joined Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro (now, Pillsbury Winthrop). In late 1997 Jim decided his interests lay elsewhere than in big firm practice and he moved to become the volunteer director of Legal Services for Entrepreneurs, a project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. Working with an LCCR intern, they created Legal Services for Entrepreneurs to provide transactional law services to low income individuals. Thanks primarily to the support of transactional attorneys in the Northern California bar, LSE has been able to provide much needed legal services to those who wanted to start or expand a business

**Andrew Foster** earned his B.A. from Rutgers University and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been a member of the faculty at Duke Law School since 2002 and is the founding director of the Law School's Community Enterprise Clinic. He also teaches courses in community development law and legal ethics. Before beginning his teaching career, Andrew practiced full-time with the law firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, PLLC

where he concentrated his practice in the areas of affordable housing, community development and nonprofit law. In addition to his work at the Law School, Andrew continues to maintain an active private practice through his own law firm, where he exclusively represents clients engaged in community revitalization work. Andrew also currently serves as the chair of the board of directors of NC LEAP, Inc., a new business law pro bono project serving microentrepreneurs in North Carolina.

**Laurie Hauber** (B.A. Harvard 1990; J.D. Boston College 1998), a Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor at Vanderbilt University Law School, launched the Community & Economic Development Clinic in conjunction with the law school in Spring 2004. Professor Hauber was the founder and director of the Economic Justice Project, a project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in Boston, which provides legal representation to low-income entrepreneurs operating in the local community. Professor Hauber served as corporate counsel at Cooley Godward LLP in San Francisco, and worked as a pro bono attorney for Legal Services for Entrepreneurs in San Francisco.

**Helen Smolinski** has been a staff attorney at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area since 2001. She is the Project Director of Legal Services for Entrepreneurs (LSE), an economic justice program that provides pro bono transactional services to low-income individuals starting microbusinesses. Ms. Smolinski has spoken nationally on the topics of the working poor and economic self-sufficiency. She was appointed recently to serve on the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Community Development's Small Business Loan Committee. Ms. Smolinski received her J.D. and Master's of Public Administration from Golden Gate University School of Law. She received her B.A., *cum laude*, in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the Lawyers' Committee, Ms. Smolinski was a tax associate in the estate and gift group of Deloitte & Touche LLP.