

ABA/ NLADA 2007 Equal Justice Conference

Non-traditional Pro Bono: New Ideas for Involving Attorneys

Peter Arakas
LEGO System Inc.
555 Taylor Rd
PO Box 1600
Enfield, CT 06083-1600
(860) 763-6612
Peter.arakas@america.lego.com

Russell Butler
Executive Director
Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center
1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
rbutler@mdcrimevictims.org

Meg Garvin
Director of Programs
National Crime Victim Law Institute
Lewis & Clark Law School
10015 SW Terwilliger Blvd
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 768-6953

Robin Runge
Director
ABA Commission on Domestic Violence
740 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 662-8637
RungeR@staff.abanet.org

Brief Description: This workshop will spotlight out-of-the-ordinary models for involving attorneys in pro bono. Models will include pro bono attorneys assisting domestic violence survivors in employment matters and assisting crime victims in upholding their rights. Come and be inspired to develop your own inventive pro bono project to address clients' unmet needs.

Topical Outline:

- I. “Out of the ordinary” models of pro bono involvement.
 - a. Victims’ rights programs.
 - b. Employment law assistance for survivors of domestic violence
 - c. Truancy intervention project

- II. Reasons to develop a non-traditional pro bono project/initiative?
 - a. Client needs
 - i. Take a more holistic look at and approach to serving needs
 - ii. Is a piece of the client services puzzle missing?
 - b. Tap into an underutilized attorney resource
 - i. Volunteers on panel that don’t get involved because lack of substantive expertise
 - ii. Appeal to different personal interests (children, domestic violence, etc.)

- III. What are the challenges?
 - a. Training volunteers when there is little existing expertise in the legal community, e.g. victims’ rights
 - b. Building partnerships and groundwork before launching a project
 - c. Finding the time to start something new

- IV. What are the rewards?
 - a. Serving client needs that previously went unmet
 - b. Educating attorneys and the broader community about an issue
 - c. Involving attorneys in pro bono who previously did not get involved

Notes: