

FloridaProBono.org Newsletter

February 2009

Web Links

www.floridaprobono.org

www.floridalawhelp.org

Statewide Projects

[Florida Attorneys Saving Homes](#)

[Medicaid/DOAH/APD Tiers](#)

Local Projects

[Find your local legal aid/legal services pro bono project](#)

Training Calendar

Upcoming Live Training

March 6-Miami
[Probate & Guardianship](#)

March 11-Tampa
[Medicaid Waiver](#)

March 20-Orlando
[Human Trafficking](#)

April 7-Orlando
[Unemployment Compensation Basics](#)

On-Demand Training

[SavingHomes Webinars](#)
[SavingHomes Webcast](#)

[APD DOAH Webcasts](#)

[Foster Care Webinar](#)

[Family Law Webcasts](#)

Helpful Resources from the Florida Civil Legal Aid Community:

Florida's Children First presents [Transition: The Passage from Youth to Adulthood](#), a comprehensive guide to working with youth in foster care.

Check out the [Older Floridians Handbook](#) from the *Florida Justice Institute*

Florida's Children First and the ABA offer [Hearing Your Voice: A Guide to Your Dependency Court Case](#).

Florida Institutional Legal Services offers the [Florida Manual for Incarcerated Parents](#).

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County offers a [Know Your Rights manual for teens with a record of delinquency](#).

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid presents the [Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advocacy Handbook for Florida Lawyers](#)

Coordinators Honored

Your local legal aid Pro Bono Coordinator is an important part of the delivery of pro bono legal services to the poor. The group, organized as the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association, recently honored two of their own for outstanding service. Congrats to Paige Palmer & Ethel Wells. Click the photo below for more information about the Kay Meyers Pro Bono Coordinator Award.



Check out our [Pro Bono Opportunities Guide](#) in order to meet your own local Paige or Ethel.

Brevard Legal Aid Honors Volunteers

Brevard County Legal Aid recently hosted their Annual Pro Bono Awards and Recognition Gala at the Suntree Country Club in Melbourne. First District Court of Appeal Judge William A. Van Nortwick was the evening's special guest speaker. The Annual Gala, strongly supported by National City Bank and the Brevard Bar Foundation, recognized attorneys who have gone above and beyond to help the poor in Brevard. Attorney Scott Krasny was deservedly named Attorney of the Year. BCLA's Recognition Gala is considered one of the most important events in Brevard's Legal Circle.



Read much more about Brevard's appreciation for pro bono attorneys [here](#).

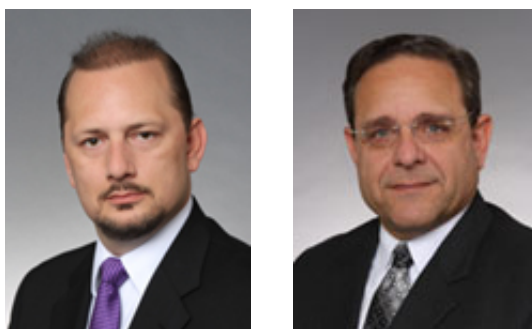
Truth in Lending Webinar

Lynn Drysdale, Esq., has recorded a new webinar on the topic of the federal Truth in Lending Act as part of our effort to support pro bono attorneys in the Florida Attorneys Saving Homes Project. Lynn, who works at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, is recognized expert in consumer rights. [Sign up](#) today for access to the training videos. If you've already signed up and have misplaced your password, [email Sheila Meehan](#).

The TILA training module is available [here](#).

Foley & Lardner Miami Pro Bono Profile

Foley & Lardner, LLP first opened its Miami office on December 7, 2007 and has grown to approximately 15 attorneys and 5 paralegals, along with numerous other people that are an integral part of their office. Since then, Foley & Lardner has had 100% participation by its attorneys and paralegals in pro-bono work.



Foley & Lardner LLP as a whole has a strong commitment to pro-bono work as evidenced by its national pro-bono committee, the goal of which is to have each office of the Firm represented in this committee by one or more of the local attorneys, and thereafter, having such local representative(s) of the national committee encourage each and every one of the lawyers and paralegals of their respective offices to participate in pro-bono work. After that, the local representatives report to the national committee on their progress. Mark Neuberger and Darin I. Zenov lead the pro-bono committee for the Miami office. [Continue reading...](#)

Panhandle Pro Bono Attorneys Profiled

Volunteers with North Florida Legal Services in both the Pensacola and Tallahassee areas were recently profiled in local media. Read about the good works of [Shari Thieman Greene](#) and [Twyla Sketchley](#).

Challenging Tier Assignments With the Agency for Persons with Disabilities

For the benefit of anyone new to the Newsletter, we're "re-running" the following information:

In 2007, the Legislature eliminated some services it provided to Florida's disabled population and imposed strict new caps on other services. In 2008, it required the assignment of people to programs with monetary caps which are insufficient to meet their health and safety needs.

Until recently, individuals who wanted to challenge the denial of benefits or reduction of these services could tell their stories in informal agency hearings. Now the cases go before a judge in the Department of Administrative Hearings - DOAH.

4200 applications for hearing are under review at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. These clients need representation at DOAH.

Please consider [signing up](#) as a volunteer to help these clients.

The first of two trainings was held on November 14 in Tallahassee and the second took place on December 19. These webcasts are designed to help legal services staff and volunteer attorneys to navigate these cases. [Webcasts of the training sessions are available](#).

The FloridaProBono.org Newsletter is published each month as a project of the statewide technology initiative. More information about our statewide websites can be found at www.floridaprobono.org and www.floridalawhelp.org. Content suggestions are welcome to Jimmy Midyette at jimmy@floridalegal.org. Be encouraged to forward this Newsletter to your colleagues and ask them to sign up.

This project is funded generously by the Legal Services Corporation & The Florida Bar Foundation.



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