VOLUNTEERING TO ENHANCE YOUR CAREER

Presented by the American Bar Association ABA Career Center and Center for Professional Development
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Volunteering to Enhance Your Career

December 12, 2014 | 1PM EST

Faculty Bios

Jessica Ryckman is the Deputy Director of Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB), a Non-Governmental Organization based in the United States that promotes the rule of law abroad. She manages LWOB’s programming in several regions, including sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to working with LWOB, Jessica was an associate in the Defense and National Security group at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in Washington D.C. She is a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and the University of Michigan.

Adam Friedl is Pro Bono Net’s Program and Special Initiatives Manager. He was the Coordinating Attorney for New York Appleseed’s Volunteer Lawyer for the Day - Consumer Credit Project. He has also worked as a staff attorney at The Family Center and as Acting Director of the Public Interest Center at St. John’s University School of Law. Before law school, Adam was a case manager working with immigrant communities in the South Bronx and his native Oklahoma. He received his B.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Tulsa, and his J.D., cum laude, from Cardozo School of Law.
Kathy Morris is the moderator of the American Bar Association’s monthly Free Career Advice Series. A former criminal defense attorney, she has taught law, pioneered professional development initiatives in law firms, and in 2000, launched the original Career Resource Center of the ABA. She counsels law students, lawyers, law schools, and law firms through her longstanding practice Under Advisement, Ltd., www.underadvisement.com.

She received her JD from Northeastern in Boston in 1975 and her BA in 1971 from the University of Michigan.

Program Agenda

• Top Issues
• Tips on the Topic
• Participant Questions
• Agree/Disagree
• More Participant Questions
• Takeaways
• ABA Resources
Top Issues

• Why Volunteer
• Options for Volunteering
• Concerns about Committing

Tips on the Topic

• Don’t hold back
• It never hurts to expand your network
• Start your career...or the holiday season...on the right foot
• Sign for as much or as little time as you have
Questions?


Volunteering to Enhance Your Career

6

Agree/Disagree

There are more pro bono opportunities for litigators than for transactional lawyers.

Volunteering to Enhance Your Career

7
Agree/Disagree

It’s best to handle a matter or project from beginning to conclusion.

More Participant Questions?

?  ?
?  ?
?  ?  ?
Takeaways

- Think broadly about learning the potential of volunteering
- Solo practitioners can gain special benefits from volunteering
- Enjoy sharing knowledge and learning something new
- Finding the right opportunity will be smoother than you think
Visit www.ambar.org/advice to register for our next Free Career Advice Series Program:

**Trial Tips from Practice Masters**
January 9, 2015  1:00 to 2:00 PM ET

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**2015 Free Career Advice Series Webinars**

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www.ambar.org/careers
The Importance of Being Present

By Jake Hertz on October 28th, 2014

In honor of National Celebrate Pro Bono Week, Pro Bono Net has lined up a variety of guest bloggers from law firms, legal aid organizations and elsewhere to share their pro bono ideas and experiences. Visit the Celebrate Pro Bono site to learn more about Celebrate Pro Bono.

Below, we are pleased to present a guest post from Malorie Medellin, a third year associate at Latham & Watkins.

Like all new associates, I was nervous when I began my legal career three years ago. My own insecurities in my first real job made each assignment difficult. In order to avoid my discomforts and self-doubts I focused on working hard and completing each task quickly and thoroughly. I pursued my work in a discrete, obligatory manner, addressing the issues at hand and moving on. My focus was the finish line.

Then I took on my first asylum case. I had no idea when I volunteered to work on this case that it would become such a formative milestone for me. It was a new type of law with a new type of client. I was not dealing with a contractual dispute or commercial litigant, instead my client was a young man who had endured unspeakable hardship and was trying to stay in the United States. With this case, the finish line seemed uncertain, and that uncertainty left ample room for fear and anxiety.

It was then that I realized my self-doubts and fears affected my ability to truly be present in the moment. True, I had always worked hard on every task on every case, but mentally a part of me always pined for that moment of completion. With this case I saw for the first time that the part of me holding out for the finish line, was affecting my ability to cope in the present and, more importantly, to truly be there for my client.

Releasing myself from this mentality enabled me to reach my greatest potential as a lawyer. Overcoming my insecurities allowed me to face all possible outcomes. I realized that staying present sometimes meant sitting and listening to my client’s story—allowing them to get it all out without trying to skip steps or jump to conclusions. It meant that I might not always have an answer right away, but that didn’t mean I couldn’t seek out the answer effectively.

Most of all, my asylum case has taught me about endurance—the calm and steady kind that gets you through anything. My client has taught me how to be courageous, how to be present in the face of your fears and not turn away. So now, I don’t just focus on the finish line, I look around, I take it in, and I am present. And I rest easy knowing that no matter what the outcome, I will be there for my client every step of the way.

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Pro Bono for the Courageous: Working with Human Trafficking Survivors

By Jake Hertz on October 29th, 2014

In honor of National Celebrate Pro Bono Week, Pro Bono Net has lined up a variety of guest bloggers from law firms, legal aid organizations and elsewhere to share their pro bono ideas and experiences. Visit the Celebrate Pro Bono site to learn more about Celebrate Pro Bono.

Below, we are pleased to present a guest post from Audrey Roofeh, the Training and Technical Assistance Director at Polaris and a Pro Bono Net partner on the Human Trafficking Legal Access Center.

Since 2011, I’ve worked at Polaris, a leading non-profit organization in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery and restore freedom to survivors. When I started, I worked at the hotline that we operate, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Every day, we got calls from people living in trafficking situations across the country, looking for help. Sometimes it would be a farmworker whose boss seized his passport, wouldn’t pay him for his work and told him if he left he’d get busted by immigration authorities. Other times the call would come from a brave teenager who’d had enough of her abusive pimp and wanted to find a way out of the life. There were all sorts of calls in between, from women held in domestic servitude, young men in traveling sales crews, and others.

What I learned from these calls was that a lot of the time what a survivor of human trafficking is looking for involves the help of a good lawyer. Many survivors of trafficking work without getting paid and need help seeking back wages. Some are from foreign countries and, despite being trafficked in the U.S., want to stay here and need help applying for immigration remedies like a T or U visa. Others have rap sheets with prostitution-related crimes on their record – arrests that happened while they were victims of sex trafficking – and want to have those convictions vacated so they can move on with their life.

What I’ve seen at Polaris is that the legal needs of trafficking survivors have a wide range, from the above issues to family law, juvenile justice, and even tax issues, calling for various kinds of legal expertise. When we’re able to connect a survivor of trafficking to an attorney who can help right a wrong, those attorneys work to empower survivors to build a strong, sustainable life after their trafficking situation. Seeing that survivors of trafficking get pro bono legal assistance is a great feeling.

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International Pro Bono Opportunities

- Lawyers Without Borders (www.lwob.org)
- Appleseed (www.appleseednetwork.org)
- International Senior Lawyers Project (www.ilsp.org)
- ABA-UNDP International Legal Resource Center (www.ambar.org/ilrc)
- Advocates for International Development (www.a4id.org)
- TrustLaw (www.trust.org/services/trustlaw-connect/)
- Pro Bono Institute (Law firms) (www.probonoinst.org)
- International Bar Association’s International Pro Bono (www.internationalprobono.com/)
- PILnet (www.pilnet.org)

“I get a lot of people who say to me ‘I don’t have any international law experience, so I’m not sure I could volunteer.’ Some projects will benefit from expertise, but often the law is more similar than different and most organizations will support you and have experts on staff to help with questions. So, it shouldn’t be a barrier to entry.

Jessica Ryckman, Lawyers Without Borders