Three lawyers, a law firm and a corporate legal department will receive the 2003 American Bar Association Pro Bono Publico Award during the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco at a noon luncheon on Monday, Aug. 11 at the Moscone Center. ABA President Alfred P. Carlton Jr. will host the Pro Bono Publico Awards luncheon, and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown will be the keynote speaker.

The ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service established the award in 1984 to recognize lawyers, law firms and other legal institutions for extraordinary or noteworthy contributions to extending free legal services to the poor and disadvantaged.

Receiving awards will be:

**Kimball Anderson**, partner at Winston & Strawn in Chicago. Mr. Anderson has devoted much of his thirty-year career to helping expand access to justice through direct pro bono representation, advocacy for procedural fairness and contribution of his own money and time toward improving the legal system. His direct pro bono work focuses on helping those who have confronted procedural injustice, and he has helped to exonerate many wrongfully convicted clients. He led the private bar’s efforts in 2002 to persuade then Illinois Gov. George Ryan to review the fairness of the Illinois death penalty and commute the death sentences of all Illinois death row inmates. He was instrumental in leading his law firm to adopt an individual attorney pledge to undertake a minimum of 35 hours of pro bono work as a supplement to the firm’s existing participation in the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge. Also in 2002 Mr. Anderson and his wife, Karen, created a loan forgiveness program with a $100,000 donation to the Chicago Bar Foundation to establish the Anderson Public Interest Fellowship. Each year the fellowship will honor and assist one outstanding law school graduate, who has decided to pursue a law career in public service, by helping to repay the graduate’s law school debts.

**Mary Pat Toups** of Laguna Woods, Calif. Ms. Toups has spent her legal career in pro bono service. Since being admitted to the California Bar in 1974, she has been a volunteer lawyer at the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and the Public Defenders Office at the Orange County Juvenile Court. She has worked pro bono at the Volunteer Attorneys Office of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where she represented abused children. She has worked as a volunteer lawyer on the American Association of Retired Person’s legal hotline, and serves as a volunteer lawyer to senior citizens at the Senior Citizens Legal Advocacy Program of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County. In addition to the many hours of free legal service she provides, Ms. Toups publishes a column in the Laguna Woods News, “Legal Issues for Seniors,” which explains elder law to readers.

**Jacqueline M. Valdespino** of Coconut Grove, Fla. Ms. Valdespino is the recipient of this year’s ABA Ann Liechty Pro Bono Child Custody Award, presented in memory of a former Pro Bono Publico Award recipient to honor a lawyer who has provided outstanding free legal services to children in custody cases. Valdespino has dedicated her 16-
The Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) has a former ABA Pro Bono Publico Award recipient at its helm this year. Jim Baillie, who received the award in 1984, the first year the awards were given, assumed the office of MSBA president on July 1, 2003. His first official act as bar president was to convene a group of top leaders of Minnesota law firms and in-house legal departments to issue a challenge for increasing pro bono activity in their organizations.

Mr. Baillie hopes that during his presidency, the MSBA will adopt a business law pro bono program similar to the one sponsored by the ABA’s Section of Business Law, “A Business Commit- ment, The ABC Project.” The Project provides business lawyers with opportunities to make pro bono contributions by volunteering their special skills and legal expertise to community-based groups that cannot afford to hire a lawyer. Mr. Baillie has had intimate involvement with the ABC Project through his role as the former chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the ABA’s Section of Business Law.

According to Mr. Baillie, he received the ABA Pro Bono Publico Award on behalf of many people involved in pro bono efforts in Minnesota prior to 1984. He believes that he symbolized their activities and leadership as a group. After receiving the award, his pro bono leadership grew more extensive. Among other things, he served on the Minnesota Supreme Court Legal Services Advisory Committee (LSAC) from 1984-90, chairing the committee the final three years. In 1991, he was appointed to the ABA’s Standing Committee on Lawyer’s Public Service Responsibility (now the Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service) and served as chair from 1993 through 1996.

As a member and chair of the ABA’s Pro Bono Committee, he helped bring about significant changes in the stature of pro bono in the legal community on a national scale. As a result of the Committee’s work during his tenure, the ABA adopted significant revisions to Model Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 (the pro bono publico rule); Standards for Programs Providing Civil Pro Bono Legal Services to Persons of Limited Means; and provisions in the law school accreditation standards pertaining to pro bono. Although Mr. Baillie’s role was demanding, he found it very rewarding to be a part of important efforts that he knew would make a long-term contribution.

In 1992, he established the Minnesota Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project with the help of local bankruptcy judges, the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court and the local Volunteer Lawyers Network. It became a model for other cities and states around the country. In 1999, he edited the ABA Section of Litigation and Section of Business Law publication, “How to Begin a Pro Bono Program in Your Bankruptcy Court: A Starter Kit for Lawyers and Judges.”

Mr. Baillie held the position of President of the Hennepin County Bar Association in 1996-97. In 1999, he received the John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award from the ABA Litigation Section. This award goes to lawyers who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of justice in their communities, ensuring that the legal system is open and available to all.

Mr. Baillie cannot pinpoint his initial motivation for participating in pro bono activities. He always thought that being a lawyer meant being involved in providing legal services to people who couldn’t afford them. While in law school, he expected pro bono would be part of his career, but he didn’t expect then that it would occupy the large part it has.

Mainly, he participates in pro bono through bar leadership. He believes that bar leaders can make progress by influencing the culture of the legal profession. Bar leaders have the opportunity to facilitate the delivery of legal services to the poor in a way that Mr. Baillie finds gratifying. He also provides direct pro bono representation in bankruptcy matters. Each year, he has provided at least 50 hours of direct representation to clients, helping to stabilize financial situations, protecting their assets and negotiating debt restructuring.

Mr. Baillie’s lengthy string of accomplishments and honors show that he has zealously taken ownership of his responsibility as a lawyer to provide legal services to those unable to pay. His ambitious goals combined with his refined leadership skills make for one dynamic pro bono advocate.

Nevada Supreme Court makes annual pro bono reporting mandatory

In May 2003, the Nevada Supreme Court approved an amendment to its Rule 191 to require all members of the bar to submit annual reports on their pro bono service. Nevada is now the third state in the country, following Florida and Maryland, to require annual reporting of pro bono service. In addition to making reporting a requirement, the Nevada rule amendment adds “service in law-related education sponsored by the Nevada Bar Association” to its list of recommended pro bono service.

The rule asks lawyers to contribute a minimum of twenty (20) hours annually of free pro bono services; or sixty (60) hours of services at reduced fees to persons of limited means; or a minimum of $500 yearly to organizations providing pro bono services. Nevada has a unified bar, and the report forms will be provided by the state bar with the members’ fee statements.
2003 Equal Justice Conference

Nearly 700 civil legal services advocates, pro bono coordinators, and their supporters and allies gathered in Portland, Oregon in April for the 2003 Equal Justice Conference. Co-sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the conference brought together a broad coalition of legal services providers, private attorneys, judges, corporate counsel, government attorneys and others linked by a common commitment to equal access to justice for the poor.

At the core of the conference were over 80 substantive programs covering a wide range of topics of interest to conference participants. In-depth programming was offered on funding for legal services, delivering services through hotlines and pro se programs, involving the judiciary in supporting pro bono, holistic delivery models, racial justice and dozens of other topics.

Delivering the keynote address at the opening plenary, David Hall, professor of law at Northeastern University in Boston, focused on the conference theme: The Power of Partnerships. He weaved together the ideas of creating justice communities, protecting the poor, and being imbued with a passion for justice.

Hall observed that “We can do great things, but we cannot do them alone. Our license does not empower us to perform magic, but it does empower us to heal. Healing is a collective process that first involves those we serve, and those who can directly and indirectly impact their situation and lives.” “The power of partnerships,” Hall noted, “is not just the enhanced power and possibility to transform the lives and conditions of our clients; it is also the enhanced power and possibility to transform the practice of law and lawyers.”

Publico Awards

(continued from page 1)

year legal career to enhancing the lives of children through the delivery of quality free legal services to children in child custody proceedings. She has served as a guardian ad litem in numerous family and matrimonial cases, and in 1997 was named as the Put Something Back organization’s Guardian Ad Litem of the year. Since 1992, when she established her own law practice, Valdespino has accepted 33 pro bono guardian ad litem assignments, to which she has dedicated nearly 2,000 hours of work. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Child Abuse Prevention Program in Miami and as a mentor in the Florida Bar Family Law Section Mentor Program.

Latham & Watkins, an international law firm with more than 1,400 lawyers in 20 offices worldwide, has a longstanding commitment to providing pro bono legal services, financial support and volunteer time to charitable organizations and to individuals throughout the world. It has established a project to address the critical legal needs of unaccompanied refugee children. Through its Child Refugee Project, the firm’s lawyers have provided direct representation to dozens of children. Latham & Watkins also has engaged in many reform efforts to improve the legal system’s means of addressing the legal needs of refugee children. It is a founding member of the Law Firm Pro Bono Project and is a signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge—a commitment to devote an annual average of 60 hours per lawyer to free legal representation. In 2002 Latham & Watkins provided more than 131,000 hours.

The Legal Division of Pfizer Inc. has a long record of pro bono work, which it formalized in 2001 by establishing its in-house pro bono program. The unique program features a full-time legal division staff position dedicated to the delivery of pro bono services, the first corporate law offices to do so. Among the division’s innovative efforts is the seminar program it launched in 2001 on “Strategic Legal Thinking for Not-for-Profit Executives.” In a short time, the Pfizer program has become a recognized leader in providing pro bono legal service to New York’s not-for-profits. Lawyers, paralegals and others in Pfizer’s legal division are encouraged to participate in pro bono projects. In 2002, 13 Pfizer lawyers and four other Pfizer professionals in their New York headquarters provided pro bono expertise to a number of individuals and not-for-profit organizations.

The sixth annual Equal Justice Conference will be held April 15-17, 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia. See www.equaljusticeconference.org for more information.
Center for Pro Bono publishes *Rural Pro Bono Delivery: A Guide to Pro Bono Legal Services in Rural Areas*

The *Guide* is designed as a resource for legal services providers, bar associations and volunteer lawyer programs looking for ways to serve clients in rural areas and strengthen the support system for the advocates who help rural clients. It contains much useful information, including an analysis of the barriers to rural legal services delivery, examples of strategies that have been used successfully by many projects, and links to other rural resources. The *Guide* is available at www.abaprobono.org.

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Center for Pro Bono Announces the Online Accessibility of its *Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs*

The *Directory* provides current information on law school public interest and pro bono programs and curricula. The *Directory* is designed to help both prospective law students interested in public interest and pro bono programs find the law school that best matches their interest. The *Directory* is also designed to assist individual law schools seeking to develop stronger pro bono and public interest programs. Law schools were surveyed over the winter of 2002 for information on relevant programs, and 151 of the 187 ABA-accredited law schools completed and returned at least one survey. The “How to Use” section of the *Directory* contains tips for searching the directory and includes information on how to update a school’s listing. To use the *Directory*, visit www.abaprobono.org/lawschools. For more information, contact Catherine M. Dunn, dunnc@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5775.

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ABA Releases *State LRAP Tool Kit*

The ABA Commission on Loan Repayment and Forgiveness recently released the *State LRAP Tool Kit: A Resource Guide for Creating State Loan Repayment Assistance Programs for Public Service Lawyers*. The Tool Kit contains a wealth of information about creating loan repayment assistance or forgiveness programs (“LRAPs”) for lawyers pursuing public service legal careers. Currently, there are eight statewide LRAPs. The Commission designed the Tool Kit to encourage and support the creation of additional programs. The Tool Kit includes information about the existing programs, sample LRAP legislation with an analysis, guidance on creating an independent nonprofit organization to administer a program and other resources to assist in the creation of these programs.

The Tool Kit is available in a print version (while supplies last) or as a free download at www.abalegalservices.org/lrap. For more information, contact Dina Merrell at merrelld@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5773.

ABA Child Custody Pro Bono Project Launches New Resources on Pro Bono Web Site

The ABA Child Custody Pro Bono Project has added several new resources to its web site. The new resources include:

- The results of a 51-jurisdiction research project on the laws regarding representing children in custody cases
- A Directory of programs providing pro bono representation to children in custody cases
- A Report regarding the status of the representation of children in custody cases
- A searchable electronic library of the Child Custody Resource Library, which contains free materials on child custody for legal service and pro bono programs and attorneys
- The Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Children in Custody Cases, recently approved by the ABA Family Law Section

The site can be found at this web address: www.abachildcustodyproject.org

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New Additions

Catherine Dunn recently joined the ABA Center for Pro Bono as an Assistant Staff Counsel. Although her main concentration will be to provide support to pro bono program managers, she will also focus on small and mid-size law firms, community economic development and law schools, and participate in the Equal Justice Conference planning. Catherine, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, is a former associate at Schiff Hardin & Waite in Chicago and was very active in the firm’s pro bono activities. While at Schiff, Catherine worked on a number of pro bono domestic relations and asylum matters. She also clerked for a Supreme Court Justice in Wisconsin.

You may reach Catherine at 312/988-5775 or dunnc@staff.abanet.org.

Marilyn Smith recently joined the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service as Assistant Committee Counsel. She is assigned to special projects, including pro bono policy, pro bono reporting, pro bono professional service rules and judicial involvement in pro bono. She will also participate in planning the Equal Justice Conference. Marilyn, a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, is a former associate at Arnold & Porter and a former assistant counsel at Shorebank Corporation. You may reach her at 312-988-5748 or smithma@staff.abanet.org.

www.abachildcustodyproject.org

For more information about these resources, contact Project Director Linda rio, lrio@staff.abanet.org

ATTENTION: We are always curious and eager to hear news from your lives and your communities about new pro bono initiatives. We would be happy to share your pro bono thoughts and questions in our next issue of *Pro Bono Connection*. Please email us at: smithma@staff.abanet.org