

PRO BONO AWARDS – PRESENTED BY 603 LEGAL AID

L. Jonathan Ross Award: *This award was named for Jon Ross in 1988 to recognize his work on the state and national level to mobilize bar leaders to support civil legal services for the poor along with his unsurpassed leadership and dedication to pro bono legal services.*

Rory Parnell

Rory Parnell is a partner at Michels & McKay. He serves as vice chair of 603LA, co-chair of the 603LA Pro Bono Committee, and serves on the 603LA finance and executive committees. He also serves as president of The Bridge Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that helps those in the communities of Lincoln and North Woodstock.

Rory is a strong and vocal proponent of pro bono in New Hampshire and his leadership and dedication to pro bono legal services is a model for attorneys statewide.

Shortly after his admission to the Bar in 2012, Rory took his first pro bono case. Since then, he has taken 54 cases, logging over 430 hours of donated time. In 2013, he was named a Pro Bono Rising Star, and further committed himself to expanding pro bono by joining the Board of Directors at the then New Hampshire Pro Bono Referral Program. He has also received the 2017 Robert Kirby Award for his signifi-



cant contributions to the Bar and the 2020 Distinguished Service to Pro Bono Award.

In 2021, Rory was part of the transition team that helped the Pro Bono Referral Program and the Legal Advice and Referral Center merge, and he ushered in the era of 603 Legal Aid (603LA) as a founding member of the Board of Directors. He also serves on the NHBA's Lawyer Referral Service Committee and participates in the Free Legal Answers program.

Distinguished Service to Pro Bono: *This award is presented to a person or organization who has provided consistent support to the Pro Bono Program over many years. This award aims to recognize the unsung heroes of the Pro Bono Program.*

Nicholas Brodich

Nick Brodich took his first pro bono case in 1999, and since then he has assisted 47 individuals across a wide spectrum of legal issues, donating over 250 hours of his time in direct representation. This time does not include the hours he spent over the years helping 603 Legal Aid set up successful criminal record annulment clinics, opening up a pathway for low-income individuals to clear their criminal records and improve



their opportunities for housing, education, and employment. Nick regularly mentors law students and new lawyers and instills in them the spirit of public service and using the power of being an attorney to help those who need it the most.

Nick began his legal career with the New Hampshire Public Defender in the fall of 1988 and remained there for six years before going into private practice. He has been with Tarbell & Brodich, PA, since 2007.

His current practice primarily consists of criminal defense matters, both at the circuit courts and the superior courts, as well as motor vehicle administrative law and domestic violence proceedings. He is also regularly involved with probation and parole hearings.

Joseph Prieto

Joe is a lifelong resident of New Hampshire and a graduate of the University of New Hampshire School of Law in 2001. Joe began his legal career as a trial attorney with the New Hampshire Public Defender. In 2011, after 10 years at the Public Defender, Joe opened his own practice and has focused primarily on criminal defense, landlord-tenant, family, and collections cases. When Joe went into private practice, he continued to try to balance the scales of justice in favor of low-income individuals by joining the pro bono panel. Joe has volunteered at pro bono criminal record annulment clinics, assisting nearly 20 individuals. In 2023, Joe donated over 120 hours assisting one client in annulling over 60 criminal charges from his record. On the side, Attorney Prieto has spent time as an adjunct professor at NHTI and UNH as well as a member of the Manchester Zoning Board.



Mark Anderson

While pro bono at 603 Legal Aid is focused primarily on attorneys who volunteer their time in the interest of closing the access to justice gap, it is important to recognize our non-attorney volunteers who do so much to improve the lives of low-income individuals. To this end, Mark Anderson is a prime example of how non-attorneys, in this case a Certified Public Accountant, can do so much to advance the goals and mission of



603 Legal Aid and improve outcomes for our clients.

In 1994, Mark started his private practice which continues to this day. He began volunteering his accounting skills in 2005 with the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Project and continued that work until 2010. It was this work that that opened his eyes to the value of tax skills, especially for lower-income folks. In 2013, Barb Heggie, the Supervising Attorney of 603 Legal Aid's Low-Income Taxpayer Project, recruited Mark to expand his pro bono work.

Since joining the panel in 2013, Mark has assisted 18 taxpayers in finding their way out of IRS problems, donating over 167 hours of his time. Mark is also very involved in the immigrant community, helping recent immigrants, especially refugees, with all matters that they face, including green card and citizenship applications, and directing them to 603 Legal Aid when legal problems become apparent. Mark's dedication to improving outcomes for low-income taxpayers facing daunting odds and the overwhelming bureaucracy of the IRS is incredible.

Rising Star Award: *Rising Stars make valuable contributions during their first five years as attorneys and help ensure that the Pro Bono Program fulfills its commitment to equal justice for the low-income and disadvantaged throughout the Granite State.*

Kolbie Daemon

Kolbie is an associate in the Tax Department of McLane Middleton. In this role, Kolbie advises individuals, families, and fiduciaries on estate and income tax planning and wealth preservation strategies. Kolbie began her pro bono practice with the Low-Income Taxpayer Project in 2019, mere months after joining McLane, and since then has donated over 125 hours of her time helping low-income taxpayers with their IRS controversies.

Kolbie was an instrumental piece of the LITP's placement of nine cases with McLane in the fall of 2023. Tax law is complicated, the IRS is difficult to navigate, and low-income individuals are at a significant disadvantage when it comes to dealing with these problems. While Kolbie is still early in her career, the fact that she has shown dedication to providing pro bono services to these individuals the entire time she has been practicing is commendable.



SOLACE is Where You Find It... With Our Members

SOLACE (Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel All Concern Encouraged) helps with the immediate unmet needs of those who have suffered a significant loss, illness, or injury. Individuals eligible for assistance through this program include attorneys, judges, courthouse employees, firm employees, and families of anyone in the NH legal community.

Requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the SOLACE program chair.

If the request meets the program's criteria, the affected individual/family will be contacted for permission to send out an e-mail on their behalf to NHBA members. Members using SOLACE may request, and be assured of, anonymity.

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