

## **Pro Bono Corner**

### **Thank you!**

Our thanks this month to **Richard White**, who was able to help a senior citizen with a variety of legal issues. Thank you, Richard!!

### **Think Spring!**

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#### **Annual Law Day Run Against Domestic Violence**

The Albany County Bar Association's 16th Annual Law Day Run Against Domestic Violence will be held on April 23, 2010 at 6:15 p.m.

We would like this Run to be bigger and better than ever! If you are interested in being part of the committee, or volunteering to assist at the boathouse on April 23rd, please contact the ACBA's office, 445-7691. We'd love to have you be part of this worthwhile event!

Due to the generosity of many sponsors, our 15th Annual Law Day Run was able to raise in excess of \$15,000 to benefit local shelters offering costly and much-needed assistance to victims of domestic violence. This year's goal is to surpass last year's accomplishment. Depending on your level of sponsorship, your company name will be listed in our Law Day materials as follows:

**\$250 level - Patron Sponsor -a quarter-page advertisement in the Law Day Run Program.**

**\$500 level - Corporate Sponsor your company's name on the Law Day Run T-shirts, together with a quarter-page advertisement in the Law Day Run Program.**

**\$1000 level - Distinguished Sponsor In addition to the T-shirt and Program listing, a corporate banner, provided by you, will be hung from the boathouse, where the start and finish lines are located.**

Please contact Barbara Davis, 445-7691, or send your check made payable to: Law Day Run Against Domestic Violence, to the Albany County Bar Association, The Stedman House, 1 Lodge Street, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12207. Your patronage is greatly appreciated! This is a tax deductible donation!

For our Run Application – please visit our website at [www.albanycountybar.com](http://www.albanycountybar.com)

### **Foreclosure Clinic and Training**

The Empire Justice Center is creating a new program – a free monthly clinic – for homeowners. The new legal clinic will link homeowners in default with pro bono lawyers and counselors in one-on-one consultation sessions. The clinics will provide brief consultations to homeowners who are experiencing problems with their mortgages, but are not yet in the foreclosure process.

Therefore, on April 6<sup>th</sup> the Empire Justice Center, along with the ACBA, the Legal Aid Society, The Legal Project and the New York State Bar Association, will be co-sponsoring a training on foreclosure prevention. Attendees will be asked to staff one clinic in exchange for the free training. A flyer has been included on page 11 with full information on the program, CLE, and registration.

### **IOLA**

This year the Interest on Lawyer Accounts (IOLA) awarded nearly \$6.5 million in grant funds to civil legal services agencies throughout New York State. Due to historically low interest rates, IOLA funds have had to be decreased by close to \$25 million. In order for funding to rise in the coming year, it is imperative that the legal community help IOLA by ensuring that accounts return the best possible interest yields. If you find that another bank offers better interest rates on IOLA accounts, ask your bank to match that rate. Also be sure that your bank does not impose “service fees” on IOLA accounts. These fees potentially diminish much needed funds from already underfunded programs. For your convenience, IOLA lists banks and the interest rates on the website at <http://iola.org/banks/index.html>. We urge our members to visit this site and to get the most possible revenue out of your IOLA accounts.

### **Attorney Emeritus Program**

The new *Attorney Emeritus* status took effect January 1, 2010, and was created by the Administrative Board of the Courts, consisting of Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and the four Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions. “Attorney Emeritus” status applies to lawyers retired from the practice of law who agree to provide at least 30 hours of pro bono annually under the auspices of qualified legal services providers, bar associations and court-sponsored programs. The ACBA is proud to be part of this program and we hope that retired attorneys will consider providing their expertise to community members who cannot afford legal services. Detailed information about the program is available online at <http://courts.state.ny.us/attorneys/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml> . Please think about signing up today.