

# Pro Bono & Justice

A periodic publication of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities

News from Jennifer!

Fall, 2018

Happy Pro Bono Week, albeit a bit early!

While every week is a pro bono week, really (right?!), it's wonderful that the ABA initiated what this year will be the 10th Annual National Pro Bono Celebration from October 21 – 27. Read on about some of the exciting events taking place on law school campuses around the country. We hope it serves as inspiration!

At a time when we can all benefit from a sense of community and support, please take note of these upcoming opportunities to gather and learn from one another. On October 24, just prior to the NALP Public Service Mini-Conference, a group of pro bono and public interest law colleagues will convene in DC to discuss how we can be most supportive of our students and ourselves. We will report back following this dialogue in the hopes that others benefit and that the conversation continues in other fora.

And you still have plenty of time to take advantage of early bird registration for the 2019 AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans from January 2 – 6. Our Section is fittingly co-sponsoring with the new Leadership Section on two programs focused on helping students forge paths that yield meaningful engagement and the critical importance of preparing them to be resilient leaders during such challenging times. We'll also be getting out into the community through a service project co-sponsored by the Poverty Law Section, so please check that box if you can join us at the Ozanam Inn.

Along the leadership theme, the Pro Bono & Public Service Opportunities Section will elect its new officers at the 2019 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, please email me at [jt1133@georgetown.edu](mailto:jt1133@georgetown.edu). Now more than ever we need your energy and creativity to be the best mentors and advocates we can for one another and for our students.

I'll close with a reminder that the members of this Section are an incredible network of support. In recent conversations with colleagues around the U.S., I have felt the shared burden of dismay and anger in the face of unprecedented personal and political adversity. I'm buoyed by the knowledge that we are all working to help developing public interest advocates forge their respective paths. Please be sure you've submitted your contact info to the Section's Member Directory via <https://goo.gl/forms/RdkVM0rUCAkj0NFh1> so that we can all reach out whenever we need a reminder of the strength and resilience of our community.

Warmly,  
Jen

Do Good. Do Justice. Do Pro Bono.

# Drinan and Rhode Award Recipients

On behalf of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities, I am delighted to announce the winners of the Deborah L. Rhode and Father Robert Drinan Awards, selected from an impressive slate of nominees.

The [Deborah L. Rhode Award](#), to a full-time faculty member or dean who has made an outstanding contribution to increasing pro bono and public service in the law school setting through scholarship, leadership, or service, will be presented to [Vivian I. Neptune-Rivera](#), Dean of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. Dean Neptune-Rivera will be honored for greatly expanding pro bono, clinical and doctrinal opportunities focused on access to justice, including, inter alia, the Centre for Integral Support for Victims, which provides services to the elderly and victims of human trafficking and is funded by Puerto Rico's Department of Justice; establishing new community relationships that increase public service; advocating for affordable tuition with the philosophy that "access to justice begins with access to legal education;" and zealously and creatively attending to the legal needs of Puerto Rican people and to the personal well-being of her students in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Dean Neptune-Rivera's nominators described that without power and water in a hot and humid climate, no one was more instrumental in making sure that students would be educated, clinics would remain open, and that a sense of commitment to the community would be maintained than Dean Neptune, who established an open air Dean's office, so that all could meet with her and see that legal education was alive and functioning

The [Father Robert Drinan Award](#), which will be presented to [Louis S. Rulli](#) Practice Professor of Law and Director of the Gittis Center for Clinical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, recognizes a professional faculty or staff member at a law school who has forwarded the ethic of pro bono service through personal service, program design or management. Professor Rulli has used his position as a clinical professor and leader to push for law school attention to public service and pro bono as part of law school culture and academic expectations not just at Penn but across the nation. He has been involved in every aspect of law school support for public service, from student loan policy to fellowships to academic courses to actually doing the hands on legal work to benefit vulnerable Americans. He teaches and generously makes himself available as a mentor and support for law students who are figuring out how to move into public service, he pushes law school administrators to keep public interest law in mind at all times, he models the scrupulous advocacy that young lawyers can do by pursuing projects such as his leadership on ending abuses in civil forfeiture and pursuing civil right to counsel, and he writes about his work and visions so that others across the nation can benefit from his wisdom and experience.

The Awards will be presented at the Section's meeting on Thursday, January 3, 2019 from 1:30 – 3:15 PM,

## Current Section Leadership

Chairs: Jennifer Tschirch (Georgetown University) [Jennifer.Tschirch@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Tschirch@law.georgetown.edu)

Chair-Elect: Stephen Rispoli (Baylor University) [Stephen\\_Rispoli@baylor.edu](mailto:Stephen_Rispoli@baylor.edu)

Secretary/Awards Chair: Jill Friedman (Rutgers Law School) [jillfrie@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:jillfrie@camden.rutgers.edu)

Treasurer: Bridget Fuselier (Baylor) [Bridget\\_Fuselier@baylor.edu](mailto:Bridget_Fuselier@baylor.edu)

Publications/Communications: Pam Robinson (University of South Carolina) [Robinspd@law.sc.edu](mailto:Robinspd@law.sc.edu)

Immediate Past Chair: Tara Casey (University of Richmond) & Tom Schoenherr (Fordham University)  
[tcasey@richmond.edu](mailto:tcasey@richmond.edu) [tschoenherr@fordham.edu](mailto:tschoenherr@fordham.edu)

At Large: Sande Buhai (Loyola LA): [buhais@lls.edu](mailto:buhais@lls.edu) Sam Halpert(NALP) [shalpert@nalp.org](mailto:shalpert@nalp.org);

Janet Heppard (Houston) [jheppard@central.uh.edu](mailto:jheppard@central.uh.edu); Nura Maznavi (Chicago) [nmaznavi@uchicago.edu](mailto:nmaznavi@uchicago.edu)

# AALS 2019 Annual Meeting - Section Involvement

Registration for the AALS Annual Meeting is now open! Visit <https://am.aals.org>. Register by November 14th to take advantage of the early bird rates.

To assist with your planning, please note the following *AALS Section on Pro Bono & Public Service Opportunities* programming taking place in New Orleans:

Thursday, January 3, 1:30 - 3:15 pm

[3320] Encouraging and Empowering the Next Generation of Public Interest and Pro Bono Leaders  
Co-Sponsored by the Leadership Section

A critical role of law schools is redefining what it means to be a lawyer. While many believe that 'real' lawyering means litigating cases, this session will explore ways to guide students looking for a different path: policy advocacy, restorative justice, community lawyering, social entrepreneurship, pro bono, public interest organization leadership, and more. Lawyers are more satisfied when they are meaningfully engaged. As leaders, we help students identify their values and how they can effectuate them through experiences, resources, and relationships. This session will examine how students seek alternative paths in their careers, discuss creative ways to help them explore pathways consistent with their values and provide ideas attendees can translate into action. As we help students build bridges between their coursework and legal careers, we can help them forge paths into uncharted territory.

## Speakers

Diane Chin, Stanford Law School

Alanah Odoms Hebert, ACLU of Louisiana

William P. Quigley, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

A'Niya Robinson, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

## Moderator

Susan B. Schechter, University of California, Berkeley School of Law

## Facilitators

Janet M. Heppard, University of Houston Law Center

Laila L. Hlass, Tulane University Law School

Nura Maznavi, The University of Chicago Law School

Stephen Rispoli, Baylor University School of Law

Pamela D. Robinson, University of South Carolina School of Law

Thomas J. Schoenherr, Fordham University School of Law

Tara Casey, The University of Richmond School of Law

Friday, January 4, 12:45 - 3:00 pm    Service project at Ozanam Inn  
Co-Sponsored by the Poverty Law Section

Ozanam Inn is a non-profit, direct service agency serving the homeless and needy of greater New Orleans. While the Inn's immediate priority is to offer aid and comfort by providing for basic needs like food, shelter and clothing, they also offer case management and counseling to help move individuals from homelessness to independent living. Volunteers will serve a midday meal at the Inn, which is walking distance from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

continued on next page

# AALS 2019 Annual Meeting - Section Involvement

Saturday, January 5, 8:30 - 10:15 am

Leadership in Times of Challenge

Co-Sponsored by the Pro Bono & Public Service Opportunities and Professional Responsibility Sections

American lawyers have long held leadership positions in both the public and private sector, but few have had formal training for their roles. This panel will explore challenges facing contemporary lawyer leaders, strategies to address them, and what legal education can do to more intentionally and effectively prepare graduates for leadership responsibilities.

## Speakers

Mr. Stephen B. Bright, Southern Center for Human Rights

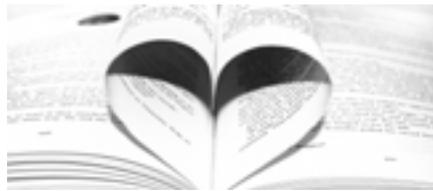
Garry W. Jenkins, University of Minnesota Law School

Robert C. Post, Yale Law School

Kellye Y. Testy, Law School Admission Council

## Moderator

Deborah L. Rhode, Stanford Law School



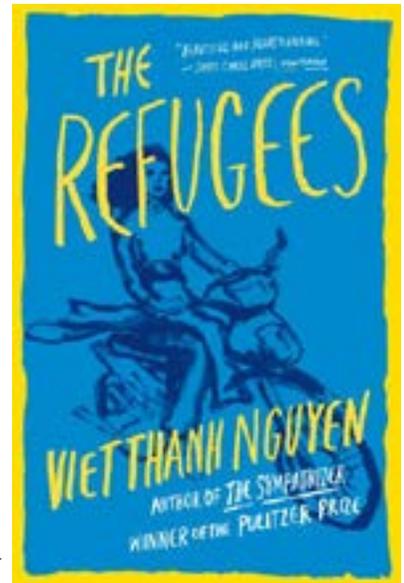
## Books We Love

### The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen

New York: Grove Atlantic, 2017. 240p. \$16.00, paperback. Also available in hardcover, e-book, and audiobook. Reviewed by Eve Ross\*

*The Refugees* is a collection of eight short stories by Viet Nguyen, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his 2015 novel, *The Sympathizer*. Each story includes at least one character who sought to leave Vietnam as a refugee, although the legal process of resettlement is not the main focus of every tale. The stories weave in themes of identity, family ties, community ties, survivor guilt, culture shock, lingering consequences of the Vietnam War, as well as deceit and fraud.

Recent studies suggest that reading fiction correlates with greater ability to understand what other people are feeling. Pro bono student-lawyers assisting refugees would benefit greatly from glimpses into the messy, human, intimate, touching, fictional lives depicted in *The Refugees*.



\*Eve Ross, 2018. Reference Librarian, Law Library, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina.

Editor's Note: Viet Thanh Nguyen is an award winning author and cultural critic. In addition to Pulitzer Prize he was awarded a 2018 McArthur Foundation "Genius Award". He teaches at the University of Southern California. Additional information may be found at: <https://vietnguyen.info/author-viet-thanh-nguyen>



## Collaboration Corner

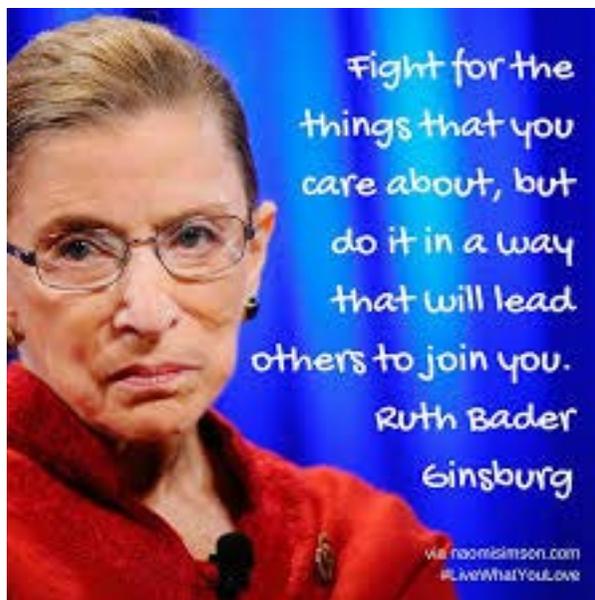
Welcome to the *Pro Bono Collaboration Corner*. AALS members have come together with representatives from NALP, Equal Justice Works (EJW), the ABA Center for Pro Bono, and the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) to share information on law school pro bono. The goal is to provide our greater communities with news, events, conference recaps, and more so that we are not working in parallel or at cross-purposes.

The *Collaboration Corner* group urges every Section member to participate in the upcoming Membership Survey. The information from the Survey will greatly assist schools who are trying to foster a greater public interest culture while providing a valuable resource for keeping all of us connected.

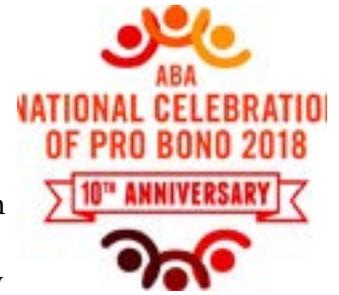
Efforts to meet informally prior to each of the main public interest and pro bono conferences are being implemented. If you are attending one of these conferences and would like to connect with colleagues, contact Sam Halpert at [shalpert@nalp.org](mailto:shalpert@nalp.org)

**On October 24, we will hold the first convening of a Law School Public Interest Ally/Advisor/Academic/Advocate gathering. We are doing this just prior to the NALP Public Service Mini-Conference and Equal Justice Works Career Fair in order to capitalize on some of you being in DC for those events. We will talk about ways in which we can more effectively collaborate across offices, how and when we can make the most of contact with students, and what we can do to better support ourselves.**

**If you can join us and haven't already registered, please do so at <https://tinyurl.com/y889oddx>. We will share notes from our discussion in the next newsletter. If you have any input or questions, please email Jen ([jt1133@georgetown.edu](mailto:jt1133@georgetown.edu)) and/or Sue ([sschechter@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:sschechter@law.berkeley.edu)).**



# 10th Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono October 21-27, 2018



The 10th Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono is October 21-27, 2018. How are you planning to celebrate pro bono at your law school? The National Celebration of Pro Bono is a great opportunity to introduce law students at your school to the importance of pro bono and to highlight the great pro bono work being done by law students. Are you unsure of how to celebrate pro bono at your school?

Here are some suggestions!

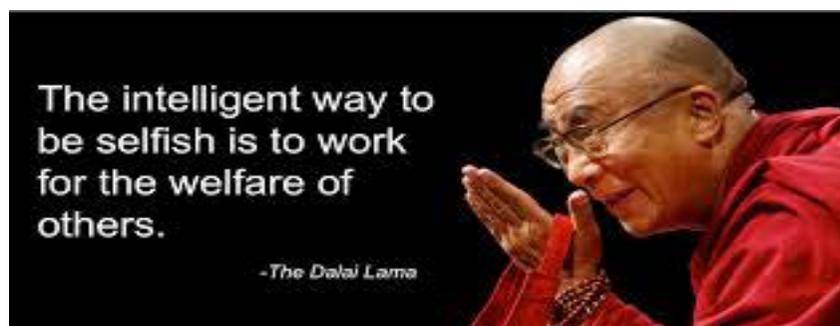
- Does your state have ABA Free Legal Answers? Host a question-a-thon where law students can answer questions with attorney assistance and supervision! Order pizza and spend a few hours doing pro bono via the free virtual legal advice clinic.
- Host a pro bono fair or pro bono information session where students can learn about the pro bono opportunities at your school.
- Feature law students on your website, blog, or social media pages sharing their pro bono stories. Tweet out students' favorite ways to do pro bono and how it has made a difference for them and others. Hashtag it with #celebrateprobono.
- Host a reception to recognize your law students' pro bono efforts. Check out the National Celebration Store for promotional items to recognize your volunteers!
- Host a lunch panel with students or pro bono organizations highlighting pro bono opportunities and ways that students can get involved.

If you need additional planning assistance, check out past events that other law schools have held during the National Celebration here!

Contact [celebrateprobono@americanbar.org](mailto:celebrateprobono@americanbar.org) for additional assistance. We can't wait to see what you have planned for 2018!

**Do Good. Do Justice. Do Pro Bono.**

Sponsored by the [Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service](#)



**Have you updated your law school's information in the  
ABA Directory of Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs?**

Check it out and send in your updates!

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono\\_public\\_service/resources/directory\\_of\\_law\\_school\\_public\\_interest\\_pro\\_bono\\_programs/lawschool\\_directory\\_home.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service/resources/directory_of_law_school_public_interest_pro_bono_programs/lawschool_directory_home.html)

# National Pro Bono and Public Interest Calendar of Events

## 2018

**October 26, 27, 2018**

**Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair  
Arlington, VA**

## 2019

**January 2-6, 2019**

**AALS Annual Meeting  
New Orleans, LA**

**April 9-12, 2019**

**NALP Conference  
San Diego, CA**

**May 3-7, 2019**

**AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education  
San Francisco, CA**

**May 9-11, 2019**

**ABA Equal Justice Conference  
Louisville, KY**

AALS -Association for American Law Schools  
<http://www.aals.org>

ABA- American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono\\_public\\_service.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service.html)

EJW- Equal Justice Works  
<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org>

NALP- National Association for Law Placement  
<http://www.nalp.org>



# RESULTS

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Periodically the Section will post a Survey question on the Listserv, results will be published in the next newsletter

## PopUp Survey Question #9

Is your law school participating in the ABA Center on Pro Bono 10th Annual Pro Bono Celebration?      yes, 57% No, 26% Unsure, 17%

### If yes, how will you celebrate?

We will celebrate with a week of public interest programming; the culmination will be a gala celebration honoring Susan L. Burke, a social justice warrior whose work on holding the military accountable for sexual assault and rape was featured in the Academy Award-nominated "Invisible War."

*Jill Friedman, Rutgers Law School, Associate Dean, [jill.friedman@rutgers.edu](mailto:jill.friedman@rutgers.edu)*

A week of activities - lunch with panel of speakers, tabling in the atrium, several pro bono projects, etc.

*Eden Harrington, Univ. of Texas School of Law*

Appreciation event for law students (Coffee and Pro Dough-no); tentative large-scale pro bono event with multiple area partners.

*Greg Zlotnick; St. Mary's Law; Director of Pro Bono Programs; [gzlotnick@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gzlotnick@stmarytx.edu)*

One event per day: Coffee, bagels, and logging pro bono hours on Monday, a lunchtime panel presentation, pop up pro bono- where students can do an hour long project during lunch, pro bono trainings, and a Friday afternoon project working on reviewing records for expungement

*Allison Standard, Director of Pro Bono Initiatives, UNC School of Law*

Student Fellows are putting on various panels and special pop-up editions of our pro bono clinics

*Unknown*

We are fortunate in DC to have a high concentration of legal services providers, law schools, and law firms in close proximity. We have a committee representing all facets of the legal community that puts together an annual series of projects and events in recognition of the Annual Pro Bono Celebration. This year's DC Pro Bono Week will offer opportunities for students to volunteer and learn alongside practitioners at events that include a records sealing clinic, veterans pro bono legal clinics, a small business clinic, an immigration clinic in conjunction with the Equal Justice Works Conference, a Coding for Justice session, an Election Protection panel, and a medical-legal partnership clinic visit. We'll be sure to highlight students' participation via social media throughout the week. If you'd like to learn more, please visit <https://wclawyers.org/events/dc-pro-bono-week/>.

*Jen Tschirch, Georgetown Law*

With pro bono legal service project events, a screening of a movie about local children with incarcerated parents, a quiz with giveaways and a cupcake reception

*Eliza Vorenberg, Director of Pro Bono & Community partnerships, Roger Williams University School of Law, [evorenberg@rwu.edu](mailto:evorenberg@rwu.edu)*

Lawyers in practice speakers on campus including Lee Gelernt from the ACLU and alumni from the Climate Justice Project, state bar awards ceremony, training to volunteer on election day, staff community service week at local Salvation Army and children's nonprofits

*Harvard Law School*

Hosting our annual "Pro Bono Volunteer Fair" which is a table-top only event that students circulate through to pick up information on government and nonprofit organizations seeking legal interns

*Leslie Becker Wilson, University of Massachusetts School of Law, [leslie.becker.wilson@umassd.edu](mailto:leslie.becker.wilson@umassd.edu)*

As part of our Law School's recognition of Pro Bono Week, we will distribute Law School Pro Bono mugs to students who register for our pro bono program. We will also have posters recognizing faculty, students, and alum who engage in pro bono work.

*Annie Smith, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, Director of Pro Bono and Community Engagement, [abs006@uark.edu](mailto:abs006@uark.edu)*

For the ABA Pro Bono Week, Georgia State plans on hosting a panel of attorneys with a passion for Pro Bono work, a Public Interest networking event, and highlighting current Pro Bono student volunteers.

*Darcy Meals, Georgia State University College of Law, Center for Access to Justice, [dmeals@gsu.edu](mailto:dmeals@gsu.edu)*

In addition to displaying the Governor and Chief Justices' Proclamations we will hold a Friday Blitz, with the SC Bar Pro Bono Program, responding to questions posted on the [www.SC.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://www.SC.FreeLegalAnswers.org). The members of the Pro Bono Board and Alumni Advisory Council will hold a "Meet n' Sweet" combination of a bake sale to support a local charity and a time to talk pro bono!

*Pamela Robinson, University of South School of Law, [Robinspd@law.sc.edu](mailto:Robinspd@law.sc.edu)*

Do Good.  
Do Justice.  
Do Pro Bono.



Interested in more engagement with the Section?  
Join in for the *Quarterly Call*

Watch the Listserv for details/ Information on website

# Meet a Colleague

Pro bono leaders are spread across the entire country! You may know the leaders in your state, city or community. Expand your networking by learning a bit about a fellow leader. In each Newsletter we will introduce you to one of your colleagues through a short Q & A. Learn about what makes them tick!

## Jill Friedman



Associate Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest  
Rutgers Law School

**Please give a brief description of your school pro bono program or efforts? And your role in making things happen.** *Rutgers Law School is committed to providing students with meaningful pro bono opportunities that instill an ethic of service, while providing much needed legal assistance to the broader community. Through the program, our students develop skills in professional responsibility, problem-solving, and leadership, while also internalizing an ethic of service*

*that is central to the legal profession. Moreover, through their engagement in our pro bono program, our students enhance their legal knowledge and professional networks. The goal is for all Rutgers Law School students to develop the skills and inclination to work for social justice throughout their careers, whether in a public interest setting or through pro bono work. I oversee these pro bono opportunities on our two campuses in Camden and Newark, NJ. I also run our public interest program, which includes alternative spring break, various recognition programs, loan repayment assistance, the Maida Public Interest Fellowships Program (summer stipends and post-graduate public interest fellowships) and our Social Justice Scholars Program. I also teach year-round, which I love.*

**Why do you think this job is important?** *There is a world of need out there. Lawyers can make a true difference in people's lives by caring about injustice and working to change things. We get to excite students about helping real people with real problems, and prepare them to prioritize this work throughout their careers. We also hold the key to gratification: helping people in need makes you feel good about yourself and your life.*

**What special skills or attributes to you bring to it?** *I am passionate and bossy, and I'm never too proud to steal other people's good ideas. I try to be open-minded too.*

**Who is your go-to person when you need advice on law school pro bono matters?** *My colleagues Pam Mertssock-Wolfe (the Director of our Program), Susan Feathers (our Assistant Dean on the Newark campus), and Professors Katie Eyer and Joanne Gottesman are deeply experienced and tremendously wise. I turn to them, to my friend and predecessor Eve Biskind Klothen, and to my many friends in the Philadelphia public interest legal community – especially Arlene Rivera Finkelstein, at Penn, who is very generous.*

**Do you have a favorite quote?** *Life is good.*

**Will you share something about yourself that your colleagues might not know about you?** *When I'm not busy telling him all the things he's doing wrong, my husband Jeff and I love to play ball with our Labradoodle Maggie, who is The Best Dog in the Whole Wide World. I also spend a lot of time stalking our adult children. And I happen to make very good chocolate chip cookies.*

