

Pro Bono & Justice

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

Stephen Says....

Summer, 2019

Dear Friends:

I hope you all had a wonderful summer!

As we begin to gear up for the Fall, we send you this Newsletter as an update to the ongoing works of the Section and of our progress for the 2020 Annual Meeting. In this Newsletter, you will find a book review, survey results and more.

We have lined up an incredible panel for our 2020 Annual Meeting. Below is information about the program.

Pro Bono and Public Service: Pillars of Democracy and the Legal Profession

Lawyers have an obligation to uphold the rule of law and be the guardians of our legal system and society. Pro bono and public service are essential elements to the profession remaining a profession – helping those who cannot help themselves. These historical roles of the lawyer have been critical in protecting our society through cases for individual clients, serving as advisors for non-profit organizations, or serving in public office. Moreover, this service is not just good for clients and society, it is also good for the lawyer doing it.

However, these traditional roles face modern challenges. This session will discuss funding issues that the Legal Services Corporation and state Access to Justice Commissions face, how defunding them may affect pro bono around the country, and how legal education can help. Finally, this session will provide some practical tips and sample programs that attendees can implement at their home schools.

Scheduled panelists:

- Betty Balli Torres, Executive Director of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation
- David Bienvenu, Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service
- Darcy Meals, Assistant Director of Center for Access to Justice at Georgia State University College of Law
- Jim Sandman, President of the Legal Services Corporation

Our Section's program has landed a pretty good spot on the schedule: 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 4th. Given our lineup, I think this is good news! We are scheduled for the very heart of the Annual Meeting, so I hope that we will have a full room for such an important discussion.

I hope that you are as excited about our upcoming program as I am. Looking forward to seeing you in D.C. – both for the program and the fellowship.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. If you have any suggestions for this newsletter, I (and Pam Robinson) would love to hear them.

Stephen Rispoli

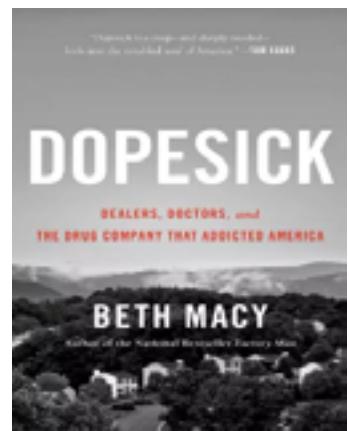


Books We Love

Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America by Beth Macy

New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2018. 308p. \$17.99, paperback. Also available in hardcover, large print, e-book, audiobook CD, or e-audiobook.

Reviewed by Eve Ross*



Journalist Beth Macy stayed in close touch with several addicted people and their families in the Roanoke, Virginia area, from 2012 through 2018, in order to weave their stories into this detailed, readable, and compassionate window onto the opioid epidemic.

Macy touches on numerous attempts to respond to the crisis through community education, agency regulation, civil suits, drug busts, criminal trials, prison sentences, residential rehab, family members' tough love, and more. She quotes a public health professor, Robert Pack: "There are systems in place to address the problems, but none of them are working together." (p.259)

Through it all, the personal stories are deeply moving, particularly as families memorialize in the most touching ways their loved ones who die of overdose. And the statistics provide a compelling reason to continue learning more about opioid drug addiction. Drug overdose is "the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of fifty, more than guns or car accidents, at a rate higher than the HIV epidemic at its peak." (p.5)

*Eve Ross, 2019. Reference Librarian, Law Library, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina.

Section Leadership

Chair, Stephen Rispoli, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Pro Bono Programs
Baylor Law 254.710.3927 (Cell) 956.371.4350 E-Mail: Stephen_Rispoli@Baylor.edu

Chair-Elect: Sande Buhai, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
Phone: (213) 736-1156 E-mail: sande.buhai@lls.edu

Secretary / Awards Committee: Kiva Zytnick
Phone: (856) 225-6263 E-mail: zytnick@cua.edu

Finance Chair: Bridget Fuselier, Baylor University School of Law
Phone: (254) 710-3861 E-mail: bridget_fuselier@baylor.edu

Communications Chair: Pam Robinson, University of South Carolina School of Law
Phone: (803) 777-3405 Email: robinspd@law.sc.edu

Immediate Past Chair: Jennifer Tschirch, Georgetown University Law Center
Phone: (202) 661-6641 E-mail: Jennifer.Tschirch@law.georgetown.edu

Executive Committee Member: Janet M. Heppard, University of Houston Law Center
Phone: (713) 743-2093 E-mail: jheppard@uh.edu



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

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 Stephen Rispoli

CELEBRATE PRO BONO

www.celebrateprobono.org

How Will You Celebrate Pro Bono in 2019?

2019 marks the 11th Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono. We need your help to keep the momentum going and make this year's Celebration a success by shining a national spotlight on the pro bono work of America's lawyers!



The [ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service](#) invites you to plan and participate in events focused on domestic violence as part of the 2019 National Celebration of Pro Bono. The repercussions of domestic, sexual, and stalking violence are numerous and heartbreaking. Survivors need assistance in matters such as protective orders, custody, child support, and many other areas. A lawyer's assistance is critical to help survivors heal, regain stability, and move forward with their lives. Research shows that the availability of civil legal services in a community greatly reduces the likelihood of domestic violence. Pro bono assistance is critical because the supply of attorneys available to assist in domestic violence matters is well below the demand.

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!

Celebrate Pro Bono at Your School!

- Work with a local provider to host a clinic for survivors of domestic violence. Students can assist with paperwork for orders or protection or other legal needs.
- 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](#)!

Visit our [Resources](#) section for additional ideas and information! Contact the [ABA's Center for Pro Bono](#) to help facilitate your planning.

Do Good. Do Justice. Do Pro Bono.



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



Get the latest news on the Listserv. Simply add yourself to the Section on the AALS Website!

Information on the Annual Meeting Service Project as well as Conference and hotel registration will be coming soon!

Calendar of Events

National Pro Bono and Public Interest Calendar of Events

2019

October 18-19, 2019

Equal Justice Works Conference
Arlington, VA

2020

January 2-5, 2020

AALS Annual Meeting and Conference
Washington, DC

April 28-May 1, 2020

NALP Conference
Montreal, Canada

May 7-9, 2020

ABA Equal Justice Conference
Atlanta, GA

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

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

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

PSJD-Public Service Job Directory
<http://www.psjd.org>

Hot Tip!

Starting a new project and need poverty data? Once you start researching, are you quickly overwhelmed? Would you like something easy to use, intuitive and interactive? Try this Atlantic article!

["How Do Rich Neighborhoods Exist So Close to Poor Ones?"](#)

There is an interactive map of this research here: <https://www.opportunityatlas.org/>



RESULTS

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

QUESTION: What do you do in the summer that helps renew your spirit before the start of the new academic year?

Use as many vacation days as possible!

PRO BONO REPRESENTATION/VOLUNTEER....go to beach, spend time with friends and family, write scholarship

An entirely different daily rhythm--when to start work at home, when to get to campus; I work remotely more and use the opportunity to work remotely in some beautiful place, like Oregon, Massachusetts. And of course, pure vacation.

I spend time working on some crafting projects that gets my creative juices flowing.

sleep :) and read materials that are helpful to me and that can be helpful to introduce to students.

Riding my bicycle 200+ miles per week.

Attend academic conferences, ending with SEALS; take some time away from the computer; enjoy the sunshine more

During the summer, I visit the nonprofits with which we partner during the academic year to engage students in pro bono work. They do SUCH inspiring work!

Take a lot of vacation. Meet with pro bono supervisors, and try to take them to lunch or coffee. I find that the social time really helps build the relationship, and leads to discussions about possible new and interesting projects.

Go to the beach. Water is truly calming.

Unfortunately, I have yet to implement summer self-care activities with this purpose in mind. Since being hired on at the law school in July 2016, several staff exits each academic year have prioritized staffing and department needs over the summer months versus individual self-care. On a more positive note, recent inter-department transitions will allow me to plan for and implement best practices going forward so very much looking forward to hearing what others may have to share on this!

Work from home more often!

Go to the Delaware shore and stare at the water.

Spend time with my family, and spend time in the sun!

Tackle some of the more interesting—but set aside due to lack of time—

Shut down from social media for an extended period of time, preferably many times zones away!

The following colleagues responded and hopefully are refreshed and ready to start a new semester!

Glory McLaughlin, Alabama

Tiffany R. Paige, Mississippi College School of Law, tpaige@mc.edu

Inge Van der Cruyssen, Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Joan Heminway, The University of Tennessee College of Law, jheminwa@tennessee.edu

Mike Winn, Stanford Law School

Anna Davis, UCI Law, adavis@law.uci.edu

Melinda Saran, University at Buffalo School of Law

Leslie Becker Wilson, UMass Law

Eliza Vorenberg, Roger Williams University School of Law, evorenberg@rwu.edu

Greg Zlotnick, St. Mary's Law, gzlotnick@stmarytx.edu

University of Richmond School of Law

Allison Standard Constance, UNC School of Law

Pamela Robinson, University of South Carolina

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 network 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!

Name: Kiva K. Zytnick

Title: Pro Bono Coordinator

School: The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law

Please give a brief description of your school pro bono program or efforts?

And your role in making things happen.

The mission of CUA Law's Pro Bono Program is to help students develop the public service ethos they will need as a future lawyers by facilitating pro bono opportunities and celebrating the pro bono contributions of the CUA Law community. As the Pro Bono Coordinator, I connect students with pro bono opportunities, develop relationships and projects with legal service organizations, track student pro bono participation, promote the Pro Bono Program, host trainings and info sessions, collaborate with student leaders, and more! As a member of CUA Law's Office of Career and Professional Development, I also advise students interested in pursuing public interest legal careers, public interest fellowships, and clerkships.



Why do you think this job is important?

Lawyers have a professional and ethical responsibility to use their legal skills to advance the public interest and increase access to justice. This duty begins in law school. Being the Pro Bono Coordinator at CUA Law is important, in part, because it is my job to instill this pro bono ethic in the next generation of lawyers, whether they are seeking a public interest career or not.

What special skills or attributes to you bring to it?

My background includes time working for a civil rights organization, a big law firm, a federal judge, and the Department of Justice. I hope this variety of experience helps me connect with students regardless of their career goals and match them with rewarding pro bono opportunities.

Who is your go-to person when you need advice on law school pro bono matters?

I am very lucky to have a wonderful community of fellow pro bono professionals in DC to seek advice from. Jen Tschirch (Georgetown), Angie McCarthy (American), David Johnson (GW) and I meet annually, and they are always just an email or call away. And of course Aoife Delargy Lowe (now at Equal Justice Works), who preceded me in this job, has generously received the brunt of my questions since I began just over a year ago.

Do you have a favorite quote? Is yes, will you share it with us.

One of my favorite quotes is from Desmond Tutu: “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

Will you share something about yourself that your colleagues might not know about you? Your hobbies? Cat or dog person? Favorite place on Earth? What makes you laugh?

One of my favorite places is the summer camp I spent many years at when I was young. It is on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, right on the water. No matter where I go in the world, no sunsets compare to the ones I saw there! I am looking forward to my two little girls enjoying it too when they get older.



**“Do your little bit of good where you are;
it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”**