

# A B BUSINESS C COMMITMENT.....

# UPDATE

FALL/WINTER 2004

## 2005 National Public Service Awards

The American Bar Association Business Law Section Pro Bono Committee is seeking nominations for its National Public Service Award. Nominations are due to the Business Law Section office by February 7, 2005. For more information, [http://www.buslaw.org/cgi-bin/controlpanel.cgi?committee=CL600000&info=National\\_Public\\_Service\\_Award](http://www.buslaw.org/cgi-bin/controlpanel.cgi?committee=CL600000&info=National_Public_Service_Award) or contact Nhu Ly at [lyn@staff.abanet.org](mailto:lyn@staff.abanet.org) or 312-988-6710.

The committee presents two awards - one recognizing the pro bono contributions of an individual and one recognizing those of a firm/company. The awards will be presented on April 1, 2005 at the Section's Spring Meeting to be held in Nashville, Tennessee. The National Public Service Award was initiated in 1994 as part of the Sections's pro bono project, A Business Commitment (ABC). The National Public Service Award recognizes significant pro bono legal services that demonstrate a commitment to providing services to the poor in a business context, and recognizes the achievements resulting from the public service work for the clients and the client groups represented. The recipients of the award will have undertaken significant public service projects that provided free business law representation to the poor or to an organization that predominantly serves the poor, or improves the provision of such services.

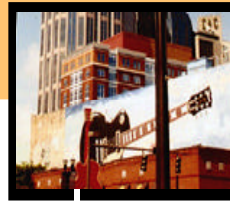
Nominations must be submitted on-line.

## Business Law Today – Pro Bono In Action

If you wish to write a 600 word article on pro bono for the dedicated column in BLT the guidelines are at <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw/bit/index.html>. Submissions should be sent to: [Khopkins@rp-lawgroup.com](mailto:Khopkins@rp-lawgroup.com)

## ABC Web-site

ABC is a national clearinghouse for information on starting and operating a business law pro bono project. To assist Section members and others interested in promoting pro bono opportunities for business lawyers, the Committee on Pro Bono has redone the committee's website <http://www.buslaw.org/cgi-bin/controlpanel.cgi?committee=CL600000>



Nashville, TN

## Mark Your Calendars

**April 1st is Business Law Pro Bono Day**

### Section of Business Law

#### Spring Meeting

March 31 - April 3, 2005  
Nashville, TN

#### Pro Bono Breakfast

Friday, April 1, 2005  
7:30 - 9:00AM  
Renaissance - Nashville Hotel

The Planning Committee has invited representatives from four Tennessee business pro bono initiatives to showcase their pro bono projects. Becky Rhodes, Access to Justice Director of the Tennessee State Bar, will discuss the work of the Lawyers & Philanthropy project; Mary Neil Price, a partner at the Nashville office of Miller & Martin, will discuss the impact of Sarbanes Oxley on non-profits; Laurie Hauber, Director of the CED clinic at Vanderbilt Law School will outline the clinical work being done; and Neil McBride, General Counsel of Legal Aid society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland will present the work being done by the Community Tax Clinics.

#### Pro Bono Committee Meeting

Friday, April 1, 2005  
9:00 - 11:30AM  
Renaissance Nashville Hotel

Following the breakfast, the Committee will have their business meeting open to all attendees. At this meeting we will be joined by the co-chairs of the CED Committee; the co-chairs of the Business and Corporation Litigation Pro Bono Subcommittee and the co-chairs of the Business Bankruptcy Pro Bono Subcommittee as well as liaisons from other BLS Committees.

(see Section Luncheon pg.2)

(Mark Your Calendars con'td from pg.1)

**Section Luncheon**

Friday, April 1, 2005  
Noon  
Renaissance Nashville Hotel

The Annual Section Luncheon will feature the presentation of the National Public Service Awards Nominations are due to the Business Law Section office by February 7, 2005. For more information, contact Nhu Ly at [lynhu@staff.abanet.org](mailto:lynhu@staff.abanet.org)

**Pro Bono Workshop**

Friday, April 1, 2005  
2:30- 4:30 PM  
Renaissance Nashville Hotel

The Pro Bono Committee and the Pro Bono Subcommittee of the Business and Corporation Litigation Committee are sponsoring a CLE workshop entitled:

**In-House Counsels' Perspectives on Pro Bono.**  
Panelists for this workshop include:

Lucy Helm, Corporate Counsel, Starbucks, Seattle, WA  
Kendall Butterworth, Corporate Counsel, BellSouth, Atlanta, GA



**Special Recognition**

ABC thanks the 2002 National Public Service Award winner Goodwin Procter LLP and Carolyn Rosenthal, Director of Pro Bono for volunteering to print this edition of the ABC UPDATE.

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**2005 Equal Justice Conference  
Celebrating the Pro Bono & Legal Services  
Partnership Business Pro Bono Track**

May 6, 2005  
Austin, TX

ABC will sponsor a Business Law Pro Bono Track at the 2005 Equal Justice Conference. Tentative plans include the following sessions:

***Bridging the Gap Between Legal Services and Business Pro Bono***

Our host program Texas C-BAR will share with us the work they have been doing and how they operate from a LSC funded program, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid.

Cynthia Bast, Chair of TX C-BAR,  
Frances Leos Martinez, Director of TX C-BAR,  
David Hall, Director of TX Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA)

***Starting up a Business Law Pro Bono Program***

The different ways business pro bono programs have started are as varied as the program's clients. A variety of panelists will describe how their programs were started and the obstacles they overcame.

***Marketing Business Law Pro Bono Projects to Meet Urban and Rural Needs***

One of the challenges of business pro bono is how to connect to groups that are making a real difference in the community. Urban and rural panelists will discuss various kinds of outreach techniques, intake criteria and proven marketing procedures.

***Microenterprise & Business Pro Bono Law***

Business pro bono lawyers are helping to create entrepreneurs and provide an economic impact in client communities. Representatives from micro-enterprise networks will discuss the strategic alliances they have developed with business pro bono providers.

***Core Capacities***

Experienced pro bono providers will discuss the core capacities that every pro bono business provider must have and the benchmarks to developing a successful program with sufficient resources; supportive case management systems; systemic client outreach; proactive training programs; and effective volunteer recruitment.