Dear Friends,

As reflected on the following pages, the Pro Bono Program continues to grow and flourish, and you have been an integral part of the progress. An excellent example of how we have successfully come together to increase the availability of law-related services for underserved community members is the Veterans Law Center (VLC), at which over 100 clients have been served since its launch last November.

To ensure adequate training on professionalism and ethical issues, an online, interactive, first of its kind tutorial was created for UW law students engaging in pro bono activities. Other technological advances include newly developed online student timekeeping forms and a new database for collecting VLC statistics.

We also marked the end of our three-year AmeriCorps VISTA grant, saying goodbye to our final Service Member Jonathan Seok. To help ensure the continuity of the Pro Bono Program, a part-time program assistantship was established by UW Law School, and we welcomed in August our new coordinator, 3L student Alexandra Bentzen.

I feel honored to be a part of such a vibrant community that strives to provide access to legal resources to persons in need. Thank you for all that you do and for being a part of our program.

- Ann Zimmerman, Pro Bono Program Director
About the Pro Bono Program

The Pro Bono Program started in 2007 as the Pro Bono Partnership Project. Since then the structure of the program has changed to respond to increased student interest and to more effectively manage day-to-day operations. In 2011, Ann Zimmerman was hired as the Program Director. Zimmerman supervised two of the three full-time AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinators before the grant came to an end in the summer of 2013. Jonathan Seok was the final VISTA funded coordinator, serving from 2012 to 2013. Third-year law student Alexandra Bentzen has taken over from Seok as the program’s first part-time coordinator.

2012-2013 Pro Bono Program Highlights

- 100 student volunteers
- 5259.7 hours of recorded service
- Over 15 community partnerships
- Over 25 student volunteers participated in more than 1 opportunity
- Individual student volunteers contributed anywhere between 3 and 407 hours and participated in anywhere from 1 to 5 opportunities

First Anniversary Celebration

In November 2012 the Pro Bono Program, in partnership with the State Bar of Wisconsin, Dane County Veterans Service Office, Dane County Bar Association and Porchlight, Inc., celebrated the official launch of the Veterans Law Center (VLC). Since then, the VLC has served 100 veterans and their families on a walk-in basis at Madison’s City-County Building and Porchlight, providing information on a variety of civil legal needs as well as information about military benefits available to veterans.

The clinic has been a great success not only with the clients, but also with the volunteers. The VLC has trained and worked with over 50 attorney volunteers, 13 paralegal volunteers, as well as 116 law students. Most attorneys and paralegals volunteered on an individual basis while Axley Brynelson, L.L.C. and Hupy and Abraham, S.C. each sponsored a company VLC session. All of the work done by our volunteers would not have been possible without a Pro Bono Initiative grant from the State Bar of Wisconsin and generous gifts from Habush Habush & Rottier S. C. and Zion Lutheran Church.

Consider donating!

Gifts made to the Pro Bono Program support UW law students as well as the community organizations and individuals served through student efforts. Donate to the Pro Bono Program via check or online payment through the Economic Justice Institute: [law.wisc.edu/fjr/eji/giving.html](http://law.wisc.edu/fjr/eji/giving.html).
Indian Wills Caravan Alternative Winter Break

**What:** At the wills clinics, volunteer attorneys and 10 law students prepared over 75 wills and other estate planning documents at no charge for eligible tribal members. Attorneys David Armstrong of Wisconsin Judicare Inc., and Julie Short of Haskins Law LLC provided supervision for the trip participants. Students did the initial document drafting and also acted as witnesses when the attorneys signed the wills, healthcare directives and other documents.

**When:** The 2013 trip was over winter break from January 13 to 17.

**Where:** Native American reservations in Southwestern Wisconsin.

**Why:** "The Indian Wills Caravan was amazing because it provided the opportunity to interact and explain legal issues to real clients. Taking part in this trip allowed me to gain confidence in my ability to successfully talk with clients and help answer any legal questions or concerns they may have. For someone who is really interested in trusts and estates, the trip was a great experience and gave me insight into what a Trusts and Estates Attorney does on a regular basis." - Greg Vanevenhoven

Dane County TimeBank Youth Court

**What:** Youth Court sends kids in trouble to a jury of their peers rather than through the court system. A ticket or other formal consequence may be held in abeyance while the young person is given the chance to pursue this alternate course of action. The peer jury hears the case, then generally sentences youth to take part in activities that can help them succeed in the long run. These activities can include: writing letters of apology to victims or other restorative justice activities, life skills or mentoring programs, tutoring younger kids, and more. While the program is largely youth run, law students participate by acting as bailiffs and advocate judges during the proceedings.

**When:** Youth Court sessions are held once a month at each of the schools.

**Where:** The TimeBank Youth Court is now underway in Madison’s West, East, Memorial and LaFollette High Schools.

**Why:** "Youth Court is an amazing program because it’s a creative alternative to the criminal justice system for kids who need a second chance, and benefits everyone involved. I love helping the student jurors work through each case, and seeing both jurors and defendants walk away feeling that the sentence was fair. It’s a great feeling to know that I helped bring about that result as a volunteer." - Kimberly Hardtke

Dane County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

**What:** Dane County CASA trains, supports and supervises community-based volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children in the community and in the courts with the goal of establishing them in safe, permanent homes as soon as possible. Law student volunteer advocates meet weekly with families with children under a CHIPS, JJIPS or delinquency order. Students write reports for social workers, guardians at litem, attorneys and judges on the family’s progress and appear in court to advocate for the best interest of the child.

**When:** Law students make a yearlong commitment of approximately 2 hours per week. Prior to volunteering, students attend a 30-hour training, covering topics such as the Dane County legal system, cultural competency, domestic violence and other issues facing families in the system.

**Where:** Volunteers work at various locations throughout Dane County such as the family’s home or the child’s school. Additional work is performed at the CASA office and the Dane County Courthouse.

**Why:** "Volunteering with CASA gives me the opportunity to see how our legal system affects families firsthand - I get to see what helps and what hurts, and I think that adds a lot to my legal education. Plus it gives me an excuse for an hour a week to put down the books and go have fun with great kids who always greet me with hugs and smiles - it helps keep law school in perspective." - Cary Bloodworth

*Top left:* Law student Susa Lim helps clients draft wills and healthcare directives during the 2012 Indian Wills Caravan. *Bottom left:* Memorial High School Youth Court volunteers Kim Hardtke and Steve Hughes. *Right:* Law student Cary Bloodworth poses with Mary Beth Collins who at the time was the Executive Director of CASA.
Awards and Celebrations

Volunteers of the Semester

Lia Ocasio was the Pro Bono Program Volunteer of the Fall 2012 Semester for her work at Community Immigrant Law Center (CILC) as both the program coordinator and as a volunteer. She also showed great initiative by creating Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals Workshops (DACA), a new pro bono opportunity for law students and a new resource for the community.

The Pro Bono Program selected Cary Bloodworth as its Volunteer of the Spring 2013 Semester for her work with Dane County Court-Appointed Special Advocates. Bloodworth not only served as a CASA program participant, but she also led a volunteer recruitment effort at the Law School, which resulted in ten additional CASA volunteers.

Congratulations 2012-2013 Pro Bono Society Inductees!

Pro Bono Society inductees have completed a minimum of 35 hours of approved pro bono service.

Julie Anderson  Christine Lopez  Jerry Yang
Christopher August  Sarra Marie  Rukmini Vasupuram
Robert Brako  Monica Mark  Jessica Von Reyn
Melissa Burchell  Kathleen Marschman  Yujia Wei (LLM)
Erin Clark  Amber McReynolds  Chenhao Xin (LLM)
Jennifer Cunha  Jennifer Miller  Michael Yang
Daniel Erickson  Jessica Moeller  Hua Yao (LLM)
Lauren Fangmann  Jason Myatt
Kathryn Finley  Leigh Neville-Neil
Grant Gardner  Amber Raffee
Stephanie Hilton  Mackenzie Roach
Lisa Hirschman  Jacob Rome
Ian Howe  Christopher Schmidt
Douglas Huenink  Michael Solberg
Matthew Leffler  Elizabeth Stevens
Eva Legler (LLM)

Super Lawyer Pro Bono Award and State Bar of Wisconsin Outstanding Public Interest Law Student Award: Jennifer Cunha

Jennifer Cunha was awarded both the Outstanding Public Interest Law Student Award and the Super Lawyer Pro Bono award for her extensive pro bono work. While at the university, Cunha served as president of Legal Assistance for Disaster Relief (LADR), and participated in a number of academic clinical courses, successfully representing clients in a variety of areas.

Cunha joined LADR in 2010 and within a year was elected president. In the 2012 to 2013 school year 32 law students participated in LADR. Further, in 2012, Cunha contributed 250 hours of work to the Domestic Violence Immigration Clinic and almost 500 hours as an intern for the state public defender in rural northern Wisconsin. She also spent more than 50 hours volunteering with the law school’s Criminal Appeals Project.

DCBA Student Pro Bono Award: Lia Ocasio

Each year, the Dane County Bar Association celebrates and honors attorneys, law students, law firms and organizations providing pro bono legal services in Dane County. Lia Ocasio received the Student Pro Bono award from the DCBA.

Ocasio has participated in a wide variety of pro bono opportunities including the Unemployment Appeals Clinic, the Community Immigrant Law Center, the National Immigrant Justice Center, and a winter break service trip to New Orleans where Ocasio volunteered with AIDSLaw.

Leader in the Law: Ann Zimmerman

Ann Zimmerman, director of the Pro Bono Program, was named a 2013 Leaders in the Law honoree by Wisconsin Law Journal. Each year, the Leaders in the Law program recognizes Wisconsin attorneys, judges and educators who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision and expertise in the legal profession. Zimmerman, a Law School alumnus, was honored at a February reception in Milwaukee along with 25 other award recipients.

Clinical Teacher of the Year Award: Ben Kempinen

Prof. Ben Kempinen has been named the Law School’s 2012 Clinical Teacher of the Year. In 1976, Kempinen joined the Law School’s clinical faculty, and has directed the Frank J. Remington Center’s Prosecution Project since August 2000. He is also one of the Pro Bono Program faculty advisors.

Left: Students participate in the processional line up for graduation. Right: Pro Bono Program Faculty Advisor Marsha Mansfield, law student Jennifer Cunha & Attorney Jennifer Binkley.