



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

Helen Keller

The American Bar Association announced the first national Pro Bono celebration for the month of October in 2009 and Ohio bar associations, including Akron, have embraced this celebration by highlighting their long-standing pro bono work and related opportunities.

As a result of the Akron Bar's recent strategic planning process, our pro bono activities were recently realigned into the reformed Access to Justice ("ATJ") Committee. Led by chair and immediate past president of the Akron Bar, Larry Scanlon, the ATJ committee is co-chaired by Doug Godshall and Darcy Jay.

At last month's ATJ Committee meeting, a few items were discussed that highlight the activities of Pro Bono month:

Jennifer van Dulman of Community Legal Aid Services reminds us of an upcoming pro bono event in which all Akron lawyers can participate. Sponsored by Community Legal Aid Services, the "Call for Change" is a helpline event that provides a convenient way to make a big difference in the lives of Legal Aid clients. As a volunteer, you can select what days you can place calls, your hours of availability, the number of clients that you will serve, the types of cases that you will handle, and the practice counties. [Click here](#) for complete information.

Jane Taylor, Director of Pro Bono and Communications for the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and Akron Bar Past President, provides

the following information in follow-up to the ATJ September meeting. Rule changes to increase pro hac vice attorney fees and voluntary attorney registration add-on went into effect July 1. Jane notes that the pro hac vice registration fee doesn't really apply to Akron Bar members as it is paid by out-of-state attorneys. The \$150 annual fee was increased to \$300, with the increase pledged entirely to fund "civil legal aid services for low-income or disadvantaged populations in Ohio." Starting with the biennial attorney registration in 2017, the attorney registration form will have a voluntary check off where an attorney can opt in to paying an additional \$50 which will likewise go to fund "civil legal aid services for low-income or disadvantaged populations in Ohio." [Click here](#) for the Court News Ohio story about these two rule changes.

Jane also noted that a new attorney registration category, emeritus pro bono, was created effective September 15. An attorney who has at least 15 years in practice, no recent disciplinary actions or disbarment out of state, and is on either active or inactive status, can transition to emeritus pro bono and do pro bono work under the supervision of a pro bono organization.

The emeritus pro bono attorney still has to do the full complement of CLE, but the registration fee drops to \$75.

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Finally, Jane noted that the CLE credit for pro bono rule went into effect a few years ago. So, a lawyer doing pro bono work for a recognized organization (e.g., bar association, legal aid) may earn one CLE credit for every six hours of pro bono work, up to six CLE credits per biennium. The pro bono work has to be assigned and verified by the organization, and the CLE credits are then reported to the Court like any other CLE provider.

And, our future continues to be bright. As a significant example, Joann Sahl, associate clinical professor of law at The University of Akron School of Law, noted that, since 2010, Akron Law students have donated more than 28,000 hours of community and pro bono service.

There is so much more about Akron's pro bono history and future than can be contained in one article. Please consider your personal commitment to pro bono. You are one!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Meg".

Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic  
Akron Bar Association President