2021 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Tuesday, September 14, 2021





PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

Andrew Cohn, Esq. Chair, VLP Board of Directors

Keynote Speaker

Kim Janey, Acting Mayor of Boston
Introduced by BBA President, Deborah Manus, Esq.

Video Slideshow: Volunteer Impact

Remarks from our Executive Director

Joanna Allison, Esq. Executive Director, VLP

Guest Speaker

Cynthia Wheeling, Former VLP Client

Gideon's Trumpet Award

Presented by Hon. Edward M. Ginsburg (Ret.)

Denis Maguire Awards

Presented by Emelia Andres Pro Bono Manager, VLP

Thank You

William Roberts, Esq. Vice-Chair, VLP Board of Directors

Closing Remarks



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is proud to support

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and the

2021 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

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"Nothing can stop
the power of a committed
and determined people
to make a difference
in our society."

-John Lewis

WilmerHale supports

the VLP 2021 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Congratulations to the honorees.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KIM JANEY

ACTING MAYOR OF BOSTON

Kim Janey is the 55th Mayor of Boston. She was sworn-in as the first woman and the first Black mayor in the City's history on March 24, 2021. Mayor Janey is leading Boston through the COVID-19 pandemic with a citywide agenda for recovery, reopening and renewal.

A proud fourth-generation Roxbury resident,
Mayor Janey comes from a long line of educators,
entrepreneurs, artists, and advocates. Mayor Janey
was raised with values that guide her to this day:
the importance of education, the power of community
organizing, and the fundamental principles of equity and justice.

Mayor Janey became a mother in high school and worked hard to give her daughter everything she needed to succeed. In her role at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Mayor Janey championed systemic policy reforms to increase equity, excellence, access, and opportunity in Boston Public Schools.

Prior to becoming Mayor in 2021, Janey made history in 2017 when she was elected to the Boston City Council as the first woman to represent District 7, which includes Roxbury and parts of the South End, Dorchester, and the Fenway. In 2020, she was elected by her peers as President of the Boston City Council.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Gideon's Trumpet Award

The Gideon's Trumpet Award was established in 2003 to honor the outstanding work of a member of the pro bono panel of VLP's Senior Partners for Justice project. The award is named after the book Gideon's Trumpet by Anthony Lewis, which chronicles the establishment of the right to counsel in criminal cases at all levels of the American judicial system. The award honors those striving to provide similar access to justice in civil matters.

Denis Maguire Pro Bono Award

Denis Maguire, who served as the treasurer of both the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) and Boston Bar Association, personified the commitment to public interest for which Boston lawyers are noted. VLP established the Denis Maguire Pro Bono Award in 1989 to honor the work of outstanding members of its pro bono panel and to commemorate Denis Maguire's commitment to VLP and access to justice through pro bono efforts.

GIDEON'S TRUMPET AWARD

HON. DAVID G. SACKS (RET.)

SENIOR PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE (SPJ)



Since my January 2020 retirement as a Probate and Family Court judge, my pro bono work has spanned several programs and counties. I work closely with Judge Ginsburg and VLP staff to arrange speakers for monthly state-wide Zoom meetings for the Senior Partners for Justice (SPJ), and I'm also involved in the current planning for a hopeful return to in-person SPJ luncheons in Springfield, MA.

Most recently, I've been helping facilitate SPJ's transition in Western Mass to its new position as a collaborative effort between the Hampden County Bar Association and Community Legal Aid. This newly joined effort, now called the Hampden County Conciliation Project, has provided me with the opportunity to help clients in virtual conciliation and as part of the project's "ask a lawyer" telephone service.

As a conciliator and telephone responder, it has been tremendously rewarding to help parties with my perspective from 33 years as a judge. In retirement, I am delighted to continue efforts to recruit and retain volunteer attorneys to provide their critical expertise in pro bono cases. Based on the positive experiences of the past year, I will be serving as an Access to Justice Fellow.

I look forward to continuing my endeavors to enhance the vital work of SPJ-West, and further collaborating with Judge Ginsburg.

Thank you!

DENIS MAGUIRE AWARDS



SHARON V. JONES, ESQ.

LAW OFFICES OF SHARON V. JONES

VLP was the first organization that I volunteered with once I started my solo practice. Since joining, I have volunteered with VLP in several capacities. I have represented tenants and landlords in eviction cases during the COVID-19

pandemic, volunteered at the Family Law and SERV clinics, and have reviewed guardianship reports with clients. One aspect of volunteering that stands out to me as particularly impactful is the ability to provide elderly landlords advice to help prevent evictions. I'm so glad that I am available to help others, and I am grateful VLP is around to help individuals with their legal matters.



TED PAPADAPOULOS, ESQ.

ASHTON LAW PC

My hope with volunteering is to give clients a sense of calm and understanding. I try to provide a roadmap for my clients' goals: avoiding obstacles and charting a path that hopefully allows all parties to reach beneficial,

informed outcomes.

Helping those in need of legal representation is a great way to perform a civic duty, sharpen your skills as an attorney, and establish a good report with the housing court staff and the judges. Working cooperatively with opposing counsel to come to amicable terms both sides can work with is unbelievably rewarding!

DENIS MAGUIRE AWARDS



JOSEPH N. D'ANTUONO, ESQ.

LAW OFFICES OF JOSEPH N. D'ANTUONO

At VLP, I have been afforded the opportunity to work with tenants facing eviction and low-income landlords, along with taking cases in the Guardianship clinic and helping clients in the Consumer Debt Defense unit. Volunteering has

allowed me to connect with and help people hit hard by the pandemic. All of the cases I have taken have given me a great sense of pride, and my clients have always been extremely grateful and often overwhelmed with relief after connecting with VLP.

One of my earliest cases in the housing unit will always keep a special place within me. A grandmother facing eviction had lost her income because of the pandemic and had already been suffering from some severe pre-existing medical issues. During our virtual meetings, she took the time to show me the conditions in her apartment, and I was astounded by the horrible plumbing conditions she was forced to deal with on a daily basis. We were able to help her obtain rental assistance and assert her legal right to stay in her home while the terrible conditions in her apartment were addressed.

I choose to volunteer with VLP because it is an incredible resource for low-income people who have encountered extreme difficulties in their lives, often through no fault of their own. Money should never be an obstacle to equal access to justice. I'll never forget that grandmother's response after helping her when she asked, "Why do you do this? You're attorneys. Why are you helping me for free?" I smiled and replied, "It's just what the VLP does."

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IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we inform you Tim Lee, longtime VLP board member and staunch advocate for folks battling mental illness, passed away earlier this year in July.

We received several messages from those lucky enough to work with Tim, and the words "kind" and "thoughtful" showed up in every single one. Tim led his life with wisdom, consideration, and patience.

To quote one of Tim's colleagues:

"I was always impressed with Tim's commitment to helping people that society has turned its back on.

He was a true champion for the unfortunate."

In Tim's memory, let us continue our work and let us never forget to stay kind and thoughtful.



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