Spotlight on Pro Bono

By Erin Noelle Guven, Esq.

Hello members of the WCBA and welcome back to "Spotlight on Pro Bono." Let's start off our beautiful Westchester County spring season with a tribute to a law firm that is not only a recognized leader in its field, but also is an example of a firm that gives back to our community through extensive pro bono work, Littman Krooks LLP.

WCBA member Bernie Krooks is a leading expert in elder law, and his accomplishments are known to many and are way too numerous to list here! For the purposes of this column, I'd like to focus on my favorite of Mr. Krooks' many attributes: his commitment to pro bono. As managing attorney of Littman Krooks, Mr. Krooks makes a concerted effort to provide pro bono services to the elderly and the disabled who would not otherwise have access to the important services that the firm provides. Whether fighting off a petition seeking to unfairly institutionalize an elderly client or drafting desperately necessary special needs trusts for disabled clients too poor to afford an attorney, Mr. Krooks, his partners and associates can always be counted on to do more than their part to provide access to the justice system for those in need.

The best thing about referring a pro bono case to Littman Krooks is that there is absolutely no doubt that the case will be handled with the utmost skill and professionalism. Additionally, Littman Krooks has succeeded in developing a law firm culture in which its attorneys not only possess the requisite high level of skill, but also excel at providing compassionate representation to disabled, elderly and special needs clients.

A perfect example of this mix of intelligence and compassion can be found in associate Adrienne Arkontaky. No stranger to the world of pro bono (Ms. Arkontaky was previously employed as a pro bono coordinator at a large Manhattan firm), Ms. Arkontaky is never too busy to give advice, lend an ear or tackle the difficult cases-always with intelligence and gentility. For my peace of mind whenever I refer a pro bono case to Littman Krooks, as well as for the peace of mind that Littman Krooks provides to all its pro bono clients, I thank you.

As always, if you are interested in seeing your pro bono program in print, voluteering on a pro bono case or you would like to honor a colleague who has been doing pro bono work, please contact me at 914-949-1305, ext. 116 or e-mail at eguven@lshv.org. I look forward to hearing from you and I'll see you next month! ■

Marc J. Wachtell, Esq. Christopher E. Rao, Esq.

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