



Catholic Charities

Legal Network

Newsletter | Fall 2018

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Director's letter



Recently, I was walking past the homeless being served a hot meal outside our headquarters and could not help but feel the gratitude of those getting much needed sustenance. We often sense a similar bonding with those in need of our Catholic Charities Legal Network services, especially during the intake and referral process. Frankly, it seems

hardly adequate for me to say, "Thank you" for making these client relationships possible. Your support for the Legal Network is simply vital in our serving so many low-income individuals and families in the District of Columbia and its surrounding Maryland counties.

You know, this has been a special time of celebration for the Network, as we honored Gerard E. Mitchell, Ari Q. Fitzgerald, and the firms of Jones Day and Drinker, Biddle, & Reath LLP at the recent John Carroll Society Red Mass Brunch on September 30, 2018. We also raised more than \$97,000 in donations and pledges through our 15th annual golf tournament held on October 1, 2018. Many thanks to our Committee and to Kelly Thompson for their hard work ensuring the event's success.

This has also been a time of transition for the Network, as John E. McCarthy's (Crowell & Moring LLP) term as Advisory Council Chair ended on October 1, 2018. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to John for his unwavering dedication as Chair and are thankful that

he will continue to serve on our Council as Immediate Past Chair for the next 12 months. We are excited to welcome James P. Gillespie, of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, as our new Advisory Council Chair. James has already added great value to our program having served on our Council and worked to increase our donor and grantor base. We also thank the other members of our Council whose terms have recently ended.

While we are grateful for their support, and yours, I must say my mind keeps wandering back to those wondering about their next meal... and, those among them needing the Network's help in getting their derailed lives back on track. To that end, we will always need volunteers, both to take cases on a *pro bono* basis, and to serve as mentors across practice areas. So, please do feel free to consult the latest list of *pro bono* opportunities attached.

Again, thank you. We cannot do the good works we endeavor to do without you!

Sincerely,

James D. Bishop, Esq.,
Director,
Catholic Charities Legal Network

Advisory Council welcome



It is with great anticipation of meeting future challenges that we welcome **James P. Gillespie** as Chairperson of our 19-member Advisory Council. Amid a career spanning more than two decades, he will serve us in this key leadership position until October, 2020. Jim is currently a litigation partner in Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he has served as lead trial and appellate counsel in a wide variety of complex commercial and class action litigation matters for numerous Fortune 100 companies. Jim obtained his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School, where he graduated cum laude and was Editor of the Notre Dame Law Review. He served as a law clerk for the Hon. George E. MacKinnon of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.



Miguel Eaton is a Jones Day partner and Duke Law grad who litigates as well as counsels corporate clients on complex employee benefits issues involving a wide range of scenarios, including mergers, bankruptcies, class actions and government investigations. He is a former law clerk to the Hon. James C. Dever III, U.S. Dist. Ct, Eastern Dist. of North Carolina. A special "Oorah!" and "thanks for serving" to the Annapolis undergrad and former U.S. Marine!



Kraig Long is a one-time SEC litigator and now a principal with Miles & Stockbridge P.C., where he focuses on defending employers in diverse employment matters, including discrimination, wrongful discharge, disability, family leave, wage-and-hour claims, non-competition agreements and harassment. Kraig earned his J.D. with honors from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.



Stephen J. Obermeier is a partner in Wiley Rein LLP, where he has litigated a wide range of complex business disputes in federal and state courts as well as before administrative agencies and arbitrators. A former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern Dist. of Va., Steve had also clerked for the Hon. Karen LeCraft Henderson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Dist. of Columbia Circuit. He graduated from Vanderbilt Law School, Order of the Coif, and was managing editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review.

Our newest Advisory Council members first terms run until October, 2021.

Intern Sidney bound



Congratulations to Robert Michael Smith, a Catholic Charities Legal Network fellow who recently started his new job as a litigation associate in the D.C. office of Sidley Austin LLP. The University of Virginia School of Law graduate says he's excited about the many professional opportunities a Sidley career has to offer. Especially "empowering," he notes, is the firm's "free market system" for fledgling attorneys

and the hope it will provide assignments in the same impressive range of cases he had as a summer intern there ... e.g., a criminal appeal, national security matter, free speech case, and other commercial disputes.

Also likely will be Robert's continued volunteering for Sidley's prodigious pro bono caseload, having already

had the opportunity as a summer associate to work on a religious liberty appeal involving a public Ten Commandments display.

In fact, that commitment to "selfless service" marked Robert's three-month fellowship this fall with the Legal Network as it did his time as an undergrad at Dartmouth, where he served as Grand Knight of the local Knights of Columbus council and president of Vita Clamantis, the school's pro-life group. "In a short period of time, we've come to rely on Robert's remarkable judgment in coordinating our substantial case intake and referral program," said Legal Network Director James Bishop. "Only a very talented person could have picked up the subtle yet complicated, practical as well as legal, nuances of the job," he added. And yet, Robert says it was a genuine pleasure: "I've enjoyed this rare opportunity to interact with people who need help and to translate their needs into a legal narrative for other volunteer attorneys. It's my Catholic faith that motivates me to fulfill the Legal Network's mission."

Jones Day's well-trusted partner



Fernand A. Lavalée is a man who wears many hats ... and, each very well. As a nationally recognized government regulation partner at Jones Day's Washington, D.C. office, the one-time Army Infantry Officer takes on some of the most complex legal issues facing modern businesses in a wide range of industries that work hand in hand with Uncle Sam. Global companies

and government agencies now turn to him for advice on such arcane yet increasingly familiar topics as, cybersecurity, information technology, patent rights and life sciences. "So many folks trust this man," explained Catholic Charities Legal Network's Director James Bishop. "And, we're right there with the DOD gratefully picking Fern's busy brain whenever he is available," he adds with a wink.

Recently, Fern completed his term as a member of the Legal Network's Advisory Council. Since 2013, he cites his biggest achievements on the council as including participation in last year's launch of the Susan D. Mona Center in Prince George's County where the satellite office is already recording significant impact on the surrounding community's most needful. "We

planned long and hard to project our services into that community within the Archdiocese," Fern noted. He says he's also excited about the establishment of the Legal Network's ID Card Project, which is designed to help the homeless pull together those documents typically needed to obtain gainful employment. "It offers ways for attorneys to do a lot of good for those in need without always making a significant time commitment to any one case." Yet, in a larger sense, Fern says he is most grateful about the ongoing vitality of the Legal Network's various efforts under his watch to bring legal representation "to the underserved in our community."

There's yet another hat to consider. That is, like many Jones Day partners, Fern "takes very seriously" mentoring his junior colleagues, including showing them how pro bono work helps them grow as lawyers as well as persons. The potential harvest is plentiful, he suggests. For example, Fern credits Jones Day Associate Robin Overby as being a major contributor to Legal Network's ID Card Project and praises her for subsequent commitment to his firm's flag ship "Loredo Project," which provides nation-wide legal representation to unaccompanied minors of foreign or undocumented individuals. After all, he concluded, making a "real difference" through pro bono representations is "part of any attorney's professional obligation. It's fundamental to the Rule of Law and a bed rock of our pluralistic society."

15th Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, October 1st, Catholic Charities Legal Network held its 15th Annual Golf Tournament at Belle Haven Country Club. Participants had a marvelous time honoring as well as celebrating our 29-year legacy of providing civil legal service's to those most in need. This year's winners in the 18-hole "scramble" were:



First place, from Williams & Connolly with a score of 56, was the foursome of (L to R) Vincent Rucker, Andre Jackson, Tom Kelly(NP) & Mike Riordan(NP).
Pictured with:
James P. Gillespie and James Bishop



Second place, from Groom Law Group, with a score of 60, was the foursome of (L to R) Stephen Saxon, Jon Breyfogle, Brigen Winters & Burke Hayes.
Pictured with:
James P. Gillespie and James Bishop



Third place, from Winston & Strawn, with a score of 61, was the team of (L to R) Steve Ogletree, Desiree Razon, Mike Kelley
Pictured with:
James P. Gillespie and James Bishop

The men's longest drive distinction was claimed by Mike Kelly who walloped a 297 drive; while the women's longest drive honor went to Desiree Razon who sailed one 263 yards. The closest to the pin approach shot by a female was notched by Desiree Razon at 5 ft 2 in; while the closest to the pin men's approach shot went to Robert Kovsky at 7 ft 5 in.



Tim Burke, Special Guest, 2-time World Long Drive Champion, sponsored by TransPerfect

A special thanks to our tournament sponsors

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KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Our sincere thanks to those who attended, as well as our volunteers, staff and sponsors whose efforts raised over

\$97,000

and otherwise made this event an unqualified success.

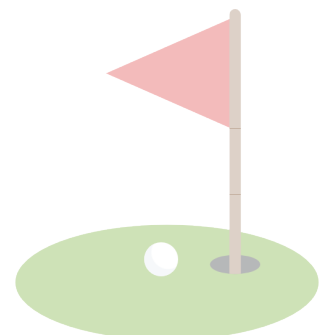
Special thanks to the golf tournament committee for the time and effort they graciously committed:

Joseph Krauss of Hogan Lovells US LLP,
Golf Tournament Chair

Maria O. Jones of Miller & Chevalier, Chartered

John E. McCarthy of Crowell & Moring LLP

Mark Minich Jr. and John Minich of CBRE,
and Courtney Carroccio.



Special Council thanks



Special thanks to John E. McCarthy Jr. of Crowell & Moring LLP, who is now the Advisory Council's Immediate Past Chairperson and Ex Officio Member after recently finishing a remarkable term as its Chairperson. "John was as prodigious in his taking on *pro bono* cases as he was in helping

us raise needed funds for the projects serving our poor and underrepresented," Director James D. Bishop said. "But, we'd be remiss in not also remembering that John was instrumental in

helping us launch our Susan D. Mona Center and newest satellite office in Prince George's County," he said.

It's with deep gratitude," added Mr. Bishop, "that we also thank the six members also departing from the Council after their terms expired this October." They are: Kristine Dunne Maher, General Counsel of Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School; Michael J. Goecke, Principal with the firm of Lerch, Early & Brewer; Robert E. Grant, Managing Partner of Furey Doolan & Abell LLP; Fernand A. Lavallee, Partner with Jones Day; William E. Lawler III, Partner with Vinson & Elkins LLP; and William E. Rice, Counsel with King & Spalding LLP.



His Magistrate on Radio America

Catholic Charities Legal Network's long-time volunteer, the Hon. Jorge Vila, recently appeared on Radio America's weekly programming to foster awareness of courtroom resources available to the local Spanish-speaking community. Also appearing with the DC Superior Court magistrate on the October 23 broadcast to discuss the DC Catholic Charities' special outreach programs were Sonia Aquino, an administrative assistant for its DC Medical Clinic, and the Legal Network's own bilingual paralegal Blanca Lopez.

Prior to being appointed as a magistrate judge on June 26, 2017, Judge Vila was a member of the DC Bar and the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect's Attorney Panel, also having worked as an investigator and attorney for indigent defendants as part of the Criminal Justice Act Panel.

Maryland Office seeks attorney

The Catholic Charities Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington is seeking an attorney with exceptional people, advocacy and leadership skills to help staff our Temple Hills, MD location. Managing a wide variety of cases as well as coordinating a diverse staff and volunteer pool are all part of the job description. Perfect for team players looking to serve our under-represented and low-income residents. Active Maryland license and one year of practice experience required; being DC barred a plus.

A detailed announcement and online application can be found here: www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/mdattorney

Those interested in this opportunity may also contact:

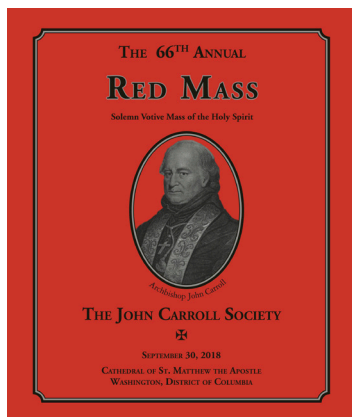
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WE INVEST IN JUSTICE

The generous support of the DC Bar Foundation and individual, corporate and law firm donors enables our Catholic Charities Legal Network team to continue to offer the highest quality *pro bono* civil legal services to our clients. Thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the clients we serve.



66th Annual Red Mass

As is the John Carroll Society's ("JCS") tradition, the 66th Annual Red Mass celebrating members of the legal profession's good works was well attended by members of the Catholic Charities Legal Network, as well as prominent members of the DC legal community. In attendance at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle were 3 members of the Supreme Court: Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Clarence Thomas, and Justice Stephen Breyer. Also present were U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Solicitor General Noel Francisco. "I think the Holy Spirit was in the church," Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, told Catholic News Service following the Mass. In alluding to today's most troubling legal as well as ethical controversies, the chaplain of the JCS added there "could not be a better time, both in our church and nation, to benefit from the healing power the Holy Spirit."

John Carroll Society Awards

The JCS's Annual Red Mass Brunch immediately following the services featured the recognition of two local attorneys and two law firms for their exceptional representation of the poor. This year's *Pro Bono* Legal Service Awards for outstanding volunteer service to low-income individuals in the Washington region were: Ari Q. Fitzgerald; Gerard E. Mitchell; the firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; and Jones Day. Those individuals and firms honored at the Mayflower Hotel gala on Sunday, September 30 are volunteers with the Catholic Charities Legal Network.



Mr. Fitzgerald is a partner with Hogan Lovells US LLP who served as a member of CCLN's Advisory Council from 2011 to 2017. Among other things, he helped Catholic Charities expand its services in to Prince George's County at the new and already busy Susan D. Mona Center.

Mr. Mitchell is a partner at Stein Mitchell Cipollone Beato & Missner LLP who volunteered to handle a daunting case referred to him by the Legal Network, resulting in the successful defense of a complex personal injury case.

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP was recognized for its attorneys' unstinting in-person intake for the Legal Network for the past five years. Particularly noted was the firm's DC partner in charge, Maureen Donahue Hardwick, who has vigorously promoted *pro bono* work among the firm's DC attorneys, and Thomas J. Kelly, a firm partner and Legal Network Advisory Council member who devoted many hours of time this year successfully representing a *pro bono* client in DC's Superior Court.

Jones Day attorneys have likewise been active contributors to the Legal Network. Partner, Fernand A. Lavallee served on the Advisory Council since 2013 and notably helped with the expansion of services to the new Susan D. Mona Center in Prince George's County. Mr. Lavallee and associate Robin Overby also worked on a high-profile initiative to provide professional help to the homeless and others unable to locate vital identification documents. *See related article on Pg.3*

CCLN Annual Report preview

The Catholic Charities Legal Network's soon to be released Annual Report for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will include some revealing statistics about the breadth and depth of its services to the underrepresented and poor. For instance, the Legal Network's 700 individual attorneys and their more than 45 law firms assisted over 3,707 clients in Washington, D.C. and its surrounding Maryland counties. Moreover, the CCLN's Docket System recorded 558 cases that were opened during the last 12 months in many practice areas.

