AppalReD Hosts Pro Bono Recognition Luncheons

AppalReD recently celebrated the generosity and hard work of its pro bono attorneys at two October luncheons, one at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset on October 10th, and the other at the Wilkinson Stumbo Convention Center in Prestonsburg on October 12th.

These events, aligned with National Pro Bono Recognition Week and in concert with events held by Kentucky’s three other civil legal aid programs, also recognized the efforts of two members of Kentucky’s Supreme Court in supporting civil legal aid. These Special Recognition awards were given to Justice Daniel Venters in Somerset, and to Justice Samuel Wright III in Prestonsburg.

Glenda Harrison, Executive Director of the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission, spoke of the recent history of the Commission and its work with the Kentucky Supreme Court to foster increased access to the legal system for low-income individuals and families.

At the luncheon, AppalReD presented Certificates of Recognition to all volunteer attorneys who had represented AppalReD clients during 2017 and 2018, as well as “Nick of Time” awards to all who have represented former clients of Eric C. Conn in the recent disability fraud scheme. Distinguished Service Awards, given for an “above and beyond” level of volunteer service, were presented to Marsha Taylor and Jill Haste in Somerset and to Katherine Adams in Prestonsburg.

The venues and food for both locations were great, and VLAK appreciates all the effort that went into making these events successful!
Attorneys and Law Students Needed!

VLAK is in need of attorneys throughout our service region to accept pro bono and reduced-fee civil cases for direct representation, as well as to assist with pro se clinics (where law students are also welcome and needed!) at sites throughout the region. New and varied opportunities are developing as we speak. Malpractice insurance is provided. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve your community, please contact Mary Going at maryg@ardfky.org or Dana Branham at danab@ardfky.org for more information.

Pro Se

VLAK conducted six pro se clinics for uncontested divorce clients during 2018: in Prestonsburg (twice), Hazard, Barbourville, Somerset and Richmond, serving a total of 93 clients throughout the year. Although we are continually “tweaking” the process to make it smoother, we have found these clinics to be very successful in meeting the needs of our clients and reducing stress on the court system. Although AppalReD also offers “pro se divorce packets” on our website and through the mail, both with an extensive set of instructions, the feedback we receive from clients and from the Circuit clerks is that pro se filings seem to be far more accurate and problem-free when completed during a clinic. The vast majority of clinic clients have been successful in obtaining a decree of dissolution as a result of the clinic.

Many of our clinics have had the benefit of participation by law students spending their spring or fall breaks with AppalReD. During 2018, law students from the University of Notre Dame and the University of California at Berkeley assisted with clinics in Hazard and Prestonsburg. Clinics in Richmond, Somerset and Barbourville were assisted by summer law clerks from a variety of law schools. All students are supervised by a Kentucky-licensed attorney (usually the Pro Bono Director) who provides training in family law prior to the clinic. Feedback from the students has been generally very positive, as these clinics provide an opportunity for hands-on legal experience, as well as a chance for personal interaction with individuals experiencing the challenges of life in Appalachia. Law students this year have also had the opportunity to present information about Powers of Attorney in Kentucky to two senior citizen centers in our service area, and to travel to the Mud Creek Clinic to speak with Eula Hall, a pioneer in providing medical and social services in eastern Kentucky.

We continue to develop and improve pro se materials for the AppalReD website and welcome suggestions for appropriate forms and information. We also welcome the participation of our volunteer attorneys, especially in our pro se clinics, which could benefit greatly from the expertise of these attorneys and offer an option for less time-intensive service to our clients.

Extended Representation

VLAK attorneys continue to provide extended representation to those whose cases, due to the large number of applicants for AppalReD’s services, cannot be absorbed by AppalReD staff attorneys. As of this writing, VLAK’s pro bono and “low bono” (contract) attorneys are currently working on a total of 136 extended service cases throughout our 37-county service area, primarily in the areas of divorce, custody, and bankruptcy. We are in the process of actively recruiting volunteer attorneys, both experienced and newly licensed, throughout the region. We are exploring a variety of training and mentoring opportunities, and hope to expand our service availability, particularly in our more rural counties.
Volunteer Awards

At recent Pro Bono Recognition luncheons (see page 1), awards Certificates of Recognition were awarded to VLAK attorneys who represented AppalReD clients during 2017 and 2018. They are as follows:

- Amber Sisco
- Mary Beth Wesley
- Daryle Ronning
- Don Bailey
- Janet Blackowski
- Jessie Moberg
- Jill Haste
- Josh Howard
- Ron Diddle
- Whitney Howard
- Howard & Howard, PLLC
- Lois Renfro Morris
- Marsha Taylor
- Matt Hagar
- Monica Lacy
- Robert Brown
- Bruce Orwin
- Roy Fugitt
- Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley
- Stella House
- Stephen Freeman
- Steven Bailey
- Susan Ham
- Kevin Slone
- Katherine Adams
- Jessica Burke
- Karen Alfano
- Gary Little
- Claire Edwards
- Warren Keller

“Nick of Time” awards were given to these and to those who accepted cases from the initial 2015 set of notices. These awards were given to:

- Adrienne Jarvis
- Alden Cole
- Amy Condon
- Amy Foster
- Andrea K. Welker
- Angela Call
- Ann Atkinson
- Annette Rutkowski
- Arnold Turner
- Ashley Maxwell
- Ashley N. Ervin
- Barry Schultz Law Office
- Ben Misko
- Bethany Hukill
- Bill Gottlieb
- Bill Slone
- Blythe Glemming
- Bob Ewald
- Brandon May
- Carol Avard
- Carol Herdmann
- Carrie Link
- Charles Hall
- Charles Martin
- Cherie Hinkle
- Christopher Herrin
- Christine Hedges
- Christopher Bush
- Christopher Douglas
- Christopher Jenkins
- Claudette Patton
- Craig Housman
- Cristina Mansfield
- Crystal Rouse
- D. Tyler Roberts
- Damian Leone
- Dan Emery
- Dan Rosen
- Danielle Rodriguez
- Danny Smith
- Daryle Ronning
- David Axinn
- Debra Shifrin
- Dennis Fox
- Derek Humfleet
- Derrick Arrowood
- Diane Sauer
- Edwin Anderson
- Elizabeth Bett
- Elizabeth Warren
- Ericka Drake
- Ervin Brown
- Evan Smith
- Falin Jensen
- Francesca Zeltmann
- Gregory Schmitt
- Heath Hixson
- Issac Nelson
- Evan Ramos
- Jacqueline Heyman
- James Kerr
- James Rowan
- Jan Dils
- Janice Binder
- Jeffrey Lichtman
- Jenny Kaufmann
- Jerry Alford
- Jim Schiff
- Joe Crexzenco
- Joe Lane
- Joe Wolfe
- Joel Fenton
- John Abaray
- John Earl Hunt
- John Goss
- John Morgan
- John Nicholson
- John Sowards
- John Tackett
- Julie Burkett
- Julie McCormack
- Katherine Kendall
- Katherine Niven
- Kathy Willetts
- Keith Ryan
- Kenneth Collins
- Kevin Kerr
- Kevin Linder
- Laraclay Parker
- Laura McNally-Levine
- Lee Turner
- Margorie McDiarmid
- Marjorie Portnoy
- Mark Abell
- Mark Bunch
- Mark Morgan
- Mark Reeves
- Mark Rouse
- Marsha Taylor
- Martin Keane
- Mary Kopko
- Matt Tatman
- Maureen Cleary
- Maurice Maitland
- Michael O’Hara
- Michael Stidham
- Mike Bowling
- Mike Taylor
- Molly Burke
- Monica Savidge
- Ned Pillersdorf
- Nicholas Feden
- Nicholas Maggard
- Nick Ortiz
- Nike Fisher
- Page Beets
- Pam May
- Rebecca Doerr
- Rhonda Hatfield-Jeffers
- Richard Dawahare
- Rigoberto Vindoiola
- Robert Reilman
- Robert Savoy
- Ronald Cox
- Ryan Mosley
- Sarah Eyberg
- Sarah Woods
- Scott Collins
- Scott Scurfield
- Shameka O’Neil
- Shann Fauver
- Shea Yoakums
- Stacey Dembo
- Stefanie Ebbens-Kingsley
- Stephon Freeman
- Steve Sanders
- Steven Bailey
- Stuart Barasch
- Subrena Whitt
- Sue Harris
- Sue Wassserkrug
- Susan Toler
- Suzanne Graves
- Suzanne Harris
- Tamara Caldas
- Ted Smith
- Terry LaPorte
- Thad Murphy
- Tim Cook
- Tom Albin
- Trevor Andrew Smith
- Vicki Corr
- Virginia Anggelis
- Virginia Meagher
- Warren Keller
- Will Dickey
- Will Matthews

Eric C. Conn Fraud Crisis

As of this writing, VLAK has placed approximately 200 “Conn 2.0” (new clients who received notices from Social Security in 2018) cases with volunteer attorneys throughout the nation. At the recent Pro Bono Recognition luncheons,

(continued above)
Volunteer Lawyers for Appalachian Kentucky is an entity of Appalachian Research & Defense Fund of KY. Its mission is to supplement AppalReD Legal Aid’s resources by engaging the private bar in providing access to high quality legal representation, advice and other assistance in civil legal matters to those in its service area who because of their low income would otherwise be without such support.

VLAK serves the following counties in eastern and south-central Kentucky: Adair, Bell, Breathitt, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Estill, Floyd, Garrard, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, McCreary, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, Monroe, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe.

To ease another’s heartache is to forget one’s own.

Abraham Lincoln