



# Volunteer Lawyers for Appalachian Kentucky

Fall 2018



Glenda Harrison  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Access to Justice Commission

## 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.



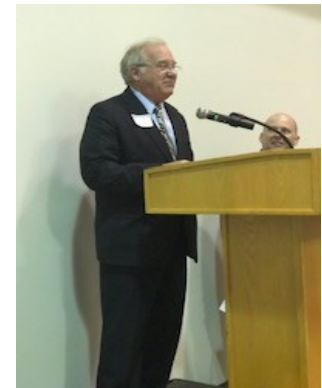
KY Supreme Court Justice Samuel Wright III (L), Robert Johns, AppalReD Executive Director (R)



(L to R) Mary Going, Pro Bono Director, Katherine Adams, Recipient of Distinguished Service Award, Robert Johns, AppalReD Executive Director

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.



Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Daniel Venters

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.



(L to R) Robert Johns, AppalReD Executive Director, Jill Haste, Recipient of Distinguished Service Award, Mary Going, Pro Bono Director

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



(L to R) Robert Johns, AppalReD Executive Director, Marsha Taylor, Recipient of Distinguished Service Award, Mary Going, Pro Bono Director

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AppalReD Legal Aid



## 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 Berkley 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.

### *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](mailto:maryg@ardfky.org) or Dana Branham at [danab@ardfky.org](mailto:danab@ardfky.org) for more information.

## 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
- Joshua Howard
- Ron Diddle
- Whitney Howard
- Howard & Howard, PLLC
- Keisha Caldwell Rice
- 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
- Clair Edwards
- Warren Keller

### 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)*

*(“Nick of Time Awards”, continued)*

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





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*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

