

## **PRESS RELEASE**

December 15, 2015

Office of the Chief Judge  
Madison County Courthouse  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Contact: Judge Barb Crowder  
(618) 296-4576

*For immediate release:*

### **Lawyers Donate Time and Advice**

The end of the 2015 calendar year has been a busy time for the lawyers in Madison County who donate time for free legal appointments to the low-income residents and for those who provide training to these lawyers. The Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee believes that this season of thanks and celebration is the perfect time to recognize those who donated time in the months of October, November and December to educate others about the legal system.

"Our lawyers gave two days of free legal appointments to Veterans in November and also scheduled appointments for people in need of legal information and education. The volunteer attorneys are an asset to this community," noted Judge Barb Crowder, Chair of the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee.

Attorneys from Madison County continue to provide free appointments in the Legal Advice Center in the Madison County courthouse. Twenty-seven attorneys met with low-income individuals during the months of October, November and thru mid-December to answer their legal questions free of charge.

Volunteers were:

Will Asa, Erin Beavers, Rob Bas, Beth Bauer, Brenda Baum, Michele Berkel, Amanda Bradley, Carol Cagle, George Filcoff, Jr., Mary Albert Fritz, Christopher Hunter, Christine Kovach, Justin Mattea, Amy Meyer, Bryant Michael, Ian Murphy, Terry O'Leary, Erin Reilly, Jennifer Shaw, Kathy Smith, Frederick Steiger, Christopher Threlkeld, Suzanne Vogel, Michael Wesley, Joe Whyte, Mary Beth Williams, and Audra Zobrist.

The Pro Bono committee also provides free continuing legal education to the attorneys who are doing volunteer work. The committee appreciates both the lawyers doing the pro bono work and the lawyers donating their time to train others. The attorneys hosted a free all-day seminar about the new family laws going into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Attorneys Jennifer Shaw and Leslie Wood helped organize the seminar and were

speakers on multiple topics. Associate Judge Maureen Schuette also helped with the planning and spoke about the new child-related changes. Assistant State's Attorney Tyler Wilke talked about the parentage act changes. Kristen Strieker from Sherer Law Office and Andrea Neubauer from Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation discussed parenting plans. Kathy Buckley, from Taliana, Buckley and Asa, spoke on removal and mediation in family cases. Derek Filcoff discussed temporary relief issues. Several young lawyers spoke on pro bono opportunities for young lawyers: Dustin Maguire, Bridget Buckley and Chelsea Hubbard participated in that panel.

The Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee reminds all residents of Madison County that free legal appointments to low income individuals who do not have attorneys are available by appointment on any legal subject except criminal law, including but not limited to subjects such as family law or areas such as debt collection, landlord tenant, small claims, or any other civil area of law. Those free appointments are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Free real estate clinic appointments are the second and fourth Wednesday morning of each month and are handled by Recorder of Deeds Amy Meyer. No appointments will be held the fourth week of December due to holiday schedules. All appointments are for those of limited incomes who do not have attorneys and qualifying information will need to be provided. To make an appointment or to volunteer, call 618-296-5921 or e-mail Pro Bono Coordinator Angela Wille at [anwille@co.madison.il.us](mailto:anwille@co.madison.il.us).