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Please contact:
Katy Borowski
Office: 414-276-5933
kborowski@milwbar.org



MILWAUKEE BAR ASSOCIATION TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL PRO BONO WORK

Awards to be made as part of National Pro Bono Celebration

Milwaukee, October 16, 2009 – As part of a national effort to recognize and encourage pro bono work, the American Bar Association is sponsoring National Pro Bono Week, October 25-31. The Milwaukee Bar Association (MBA) will kick-off a local celebration by recognizing individuals and organizations whose volunteer legal work on behalf of the poor and underserved has made an impact in the local community.

The award recipients will be honored at the MBA's 6th Annual State of the Court Luncheon at **noon on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at the Wisconsin Club, Milwaukee**. In addition to recognizing pro bono efforts in the community, this luncheon provides members of the MBA an opportunity to hear directly from court leaders on issues facing the court and the impact these issues have on the Milwaukee legal community. The luncheon is traditionally attended by approximately 300 members of the Milwaukee legal community.

The Milwaukee Bar Association is pleased to announce the recipients of its inaugural *Pro Bono Publico* awards:

Hon. Michael J. Skwierawski – for his vision to create the Milwaukee Justice Center and his tireless efforts to advance the Justice Center as a permanent, funded place, staffed by the MBA and Clerk of Circuit Court, where people struggling in the court system can be helped by pro bono lawyers.

Quarles & Brady LLP – for the firm's leadership in the area of providing pro bono service and the over 15,000 hours of pro bono service this year to persons or issues affecting Milwaukee's poor.

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Law Department – for this department of in-house lawyers who created a formal Pro Bono Policy and for the hundreds of hours the 81 lawyers and paralegals contribute to the Milwaukee community.

Meghan O'Connor – for this law student's outstanding pro bono work, including her work as student coordinator of the Legal and Medical Partnership for Families pro bono clinic.

The selection committee evaluated dozens of nominations employing general criteria as follows: developing innovative ways to deliver volunteer legal services or improve access to justice, participating in activities that provide legal services to the poor or increase access to justice, and working on legislation that increases access to justice.

About the Milwaukee Bar Association

Established in 1858, the Milwaukee Bar Association is the fifth oldest bar association in the country. The MBA aids in the administration of justice, promotes high standards of learning and professional conduct, provides opportunities for law-related community service and fosters collegiality within the legal community. For more information, visit www.milwbar.org.

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