

Public Service Recognition Committee  
Gurdon H. Buck, Chair

Annual Report

This year the Public Service Recognition Committee launched two significant initiatives: The first was the establishment of a "Distinguished Service Honor Roll." This honor roll was established to recognize the many lawyers who have undertaken important *pro bono publico* services that did not fall within the Law Works For People emphasis of the CBA Pro Bono Committee. Under Rule 6.1 of Connecticut's Rules of Professional Conduct, there are a number of categories of *pro bono*. The Pro Bono Committee has focused its efforts at the most needy of those categories, civil representation for the very needy persons whose income limit is defined by the Federal Legal Services Corporation income limits, (approximately 125% of the Federal poverty level with adjustments). Through its very successful, Law Works for People Program, lawyers provide legal service through Connecticut's legal aid societies, to these very needy and desperately under-served population. These lawyers are rewarded with CLE tuition and recognition on The Law Works for People Honor Roll.

However Rule 6.1 recognizes a number of other worthy causes that are not covered by the Law Works for People standards. These include criminal law representation for the needy, civil law representation for the needy whose income exceeds the Federal limits, legal services for the institutions of justice and the law, discounted services for the needy, administration of pro bono services and service for the promotion of the interests of justice and the bar.

The Distinguished Service Honor Roll of fifty lawyers who provided such non-Law Works for People, pro bono service was selected from the nominations from bar members, bar committees and charitable and community organizations that were served by lawyers providing pro bono legal services through and by them. The Honor Roll will be published and each honoree has received a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Committee.

The second initiative; "Lawyers for The People, and People for the Law" was established pursuant to an expansion of the committee's charge by the CBA House of Delegates in March, 2002. The initiative was to select and recognize two individuals who were providing distinguished service that was law related, but not qualified as *pro bono publico*. This award would be announced on Law Day. The first award would recognize a single individual who was not a lawyer, but on a non-professional basis provided significant service to the institutions of justice and the law. The second award would recognize a single lawyer who provided substantial, non-professional, non legal service to the community or the health and welfare of the citizens of Connecticut.

Solicitation of nominations has been made to the bar over the Internet, and the committee selected its first honorees in April, attorney Brian Danforth and Edward Gilberto.