

Pro Bono for the Soul

By DANIEL J. HORGAN

I bet most of us have read one or many *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books written by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. The books are filled with short stories that open the heart and rekindle the spirit. They involve true stories about ordinary people having extraordinary experiences. I kept a copy of the original book on my nightstand when I first started practicing law, relying on the stories to pick my spirits up after a tough day or week at the office; a disappointing verdict or rejection for a sought-after job opening. The stories helped me deal with the vicissitudes of practicing law and allowed time for reflection and hopefully gratitude about how fortunate I have been in my legal career. I firmly believe that participating in pro bono programs give lawyers a chance to really make

a difference in the lives of people who are struggling and in dire need of our legal abilities. In return, it makes us happy and feeling good about how we choose, in part, to use our legal skills and training. This year's CBA treasurer, David M. Moore, a solo practitioner in Simsbury, has devoted many hours of pro bono services throughout his 30 plus year career. He recently told me that his pro bono work has included winning pardons for two clients and that feeling of joy and accomplishment trumped his Connecticut Supreme Court oral argument wins and his obtaining settlements on behalf of several victims of sexual assault against St. Francis Hospital and Dr. Reardon. David recently participated in the CBA's virtual pro bono clinics and said, "the few hours we as lawyers give to clients par-

ticipating in these clinics is so rewarding. We are a beacon of light to these people and knowing you have helped them through a very difficult legal problem when they have nowhere else to go is one of the best feelings you can experience."

CBA members who participated in the virtual clinics that took place on October 26, 27, and 28th that serviced over 30 clients were:

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| Hon. M. Nawaz Wahla | Theodore W. Heiser |
| Justin M. Ahern | Abram Heisler |
| John H. Aldrich | Isis M. Irizarry |
| Paula Bennett | Maurice Maitland |
| Nicole Bikakis | Dennis P. McMahon |
| Joshua Devine | Hilary B. Miller |
| Wendy D. DiChristina | David M. Moore |
| Maria A. Dornfried | Julie A. Moscato |
| Cassandra L. Dulepski | Basam Nabulsi |
| Vasiliki P. Filippakos | Deborah Noonan |
| Marc T. Finer | Erin O'Neil-Baker |
| Paul Garlinghouse | Ashley E. Palma |
| | Sarah Poriss |

Thank you to all the lawyers and staff who are participating in the CBA's pro bono programs. We are not asking for you to devote endless hours of free work for we all know how busy a lawyer's life is; just a few hours here and there—just a few spoonfuls of pro bono—you can make a difference and it is good for your soul. ■



Daniel J. Horgan is the CBA president-elect and chair of its Pro Bono Committee. He is an experienced litigator with Horgan Law Office in New London.

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