Since its founding in 1990, The Brooklyn VLP has assisted tens of thousands of Brooklyn residents with quality legal services.
Allen & Overy is proud to support
Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project

Congratulations to Betty Whelchel for being honored with the Tradition of Excellence Award

Allen & Overy has the largest global reach of any major law firm. Our pro bono and community investment program uses the skills and time of our people around the world to find solutions to some of society’s most pressing issues.

Quick facts:

USD22.82m Value of our pro bono and community investment work
53% Percentage of our lawyers that recorded time on pro bono work
42,000 Hours spent on pro bono and community work by our lawyers globally
THE BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT
WELCOMES YOU TO THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA RECEPTION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

WELCOME

ANDREA BONINA
Mistress of Ceremonies

HEIDI LEE HENDERSON
Executive Director

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

HONORING

BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION

ALLAN L. GROPPER
Community Leadership Award

HENRY B. GUTMAN
Building Bridges Leadership Award

KAREN PATTON SEYMOUR
Dedication to Justice Award

SAMUEL W. SEYMOUR
Dedication to Justice Award

BETTY WHELCHEL
Tradition of Excellence Award

TD BANK CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARDS
PRESENTED BY:

ADAM ALSHAWISH

HONORING

FERNANDO A. BOHORQUEZ, JR.
BakerHostetler

MUHAMMAD U. FARIDI
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

GREGORY M. STARNER
White & Case LLP

CLOSING REMARKS
“The first duty of society is justice.”

*Alexander Hamilton*

---

**ABOUT THE VLP**

Since its founding in 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has maintained as its objective the practical realization of justice for the poor. Throughout Brooklyn’s disparate neighborhoods, poverty creates an urgent need for high quality legal assistance to obtain and preserve basic human rights through the fair and equal administration of justice in the courts.

During the past 12 months, the civil legal services provided by the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project benefitted over 10,000 Brooklyn individuals and families living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, assisting them to overcome life-altering legal challenges, including family breakdowns, overwhelming debt, threatened homelessness, and ongoing predatory practices that overwhelmingly target the poor, the elderly and the disabled. Recognizing that the pro bono commitment of the private bar can be most effective and efficient in accessing justice for the poor and supplementing the dedication of overwhelmed staffed legal service organizations, the VLP, during the past year, trained and supervised 400 volunteer attorneys, law students and other legal professionals who, with the support of the VLP, provided 10,900 hours of high quality, compassionate direct legal representation, advice and counsel and community education throughout Brooklyn.
Welcome to our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Tonight the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project celebrates and honors the work of nine extraordinary individual and one organization who have demonstrated a deep commitment to the public good and an understanding that justice must be the same without regard to economic status: Allan Gropper, retired bankruptcy judge for Southern District of New York, Henry Gutman, of counsel to Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Karen Patton Seymour and Samuel Seymour, partners at Sullivan & Cromwell, and Betty Whelchel, general counsel North America, BNP Paribas.

We also continue the tradition, started at our last event, of presenting the TD Bank Champion of Justice Awards to three remarkable attorneys: Fernando Bohorquez Jr. of Baker Hostetler, Muhammad Faridi of Patterson Belknap & Tyler and Gregory Starner of White & Case.

Last, we say a heartfelt thank you to the Brooklyn Bar Association who has been a loyal partner of the VLP since our inception in 1990, providing not only office space but encouragement, support and guidance.

On behalf of the VLP Board of Directors and the Staff and on behalf of those we serve, thank you for marking this important anniversary. We are grateful for your enthusiastic support of the VLP which inspires us every day to strive to fulfill our critical mission to provide all residents of Brooklyn with equal access to the legal system.

Enjoy the evening!

Heidi Lee Henderson
Executive Director
Committee Chair

Lynn E. Judell
Secretary and Development
GALA CO-CHAIRS

ROBERT ELLIOTT
BNP Paribas

STACEY R. FRIEDMAN
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

STEPHEN P. YOUNGER
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

EVENT COMMITTEE

WARREN H. COHN

JOSH A. GOLDBERG

SANDRA D. HAUSER

EDWARD JACOBS

SHARON KATZ

RICHARD A. KLASS

DEBORAH RENNER

NEIL STEINKAMP

REBECCA WOODLAND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAMES P. SLATTERY
President

LAWRENCE F. DIGIOVANNA
Vice President

LYNN E. JUDELL
Shechtman Halperin Savage, LLP
Secretary

GREGORY M. MESSER
Treasurer

RACHEL S. BLUMENTHAL
Bonina & Bonina P.C.

STEVEN D. COHN
Goldberg & Cohn

DAVID J. DOYAGA
Doyaga & Schaefer

FERN J. FINKEL

PAUL A. GOLINSKI
Cullen and Dykman LLP

TERRI G. LETICA

DOMENICK NAPOLETANO

MARTIN S. NEEDELMAN
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

STEPHEN Z. WILLIAMSON
Law Office of Steve Williamson, PLLC

REBECCA WOODLAND
Lonuzzi & Woodland, LLP

STEVEN ZELKOWITZ

STAFF

HEIDI LEE HENDERSON
Executive Director

JEN BRYAN
CLE Director

SIDNEY CHERUBIN
Director of Legal Services

WILLIAM T. FLYNN
Managing Attorney
Foreclosure Prevention Project

ROBERT JACOVETTI
Consumer Debt VLFD

MARCELO BOFF LORENZEN
Law Clerk

CHRISTOPHER L. MAMONE
Law Clerk

JOANNE REECE
Family Law Staff Attorney

NATALIE SUNA
Pro Bono Coordinator
Andrea Bonina graduated Brooklyn Law School in 1992 and thereafter joined the firm founded by her father, where she and her brother, John Bonina, remain partners today. As a Partner in the law firm of Bonina and Bonina, P.C., her practice has concentrated almost exclusively on Complex Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice matters.

Andrea Bonina served as the Brooklyn Bar Association President in 2010 - 2011. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project since 2010. Andrea was appointed to the Grievance Committee for the Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts in 2014. She represented the Brooklyn Bar Association as a Delegate to the NYSBA’s House of Delegates from 2008 to 2012, and will return to this position in June 2015.

She has presented lectures for the Appellate Division, Second Department, the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Nathan R. Sobel Kings County American Inns of Court, the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute, the Columbian Lawyers Association, First Department, and the Bay Ridge Lawyers Association.

Her decision to practice law is an outgrowth of her commitment to helping others. As Co-Chair of an annual fund-raising drive for St. Jude Children’s Hospital from 1992 through 2006, Andrea raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for children stricken with catastrophic diseases. She is also a founder and co-chair of the annual Liz Padilla Memorial 5K race to benefit the Brooklyn Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyer Project, which is in its tenth year. Her charitable work resulted in her being given the “Woman of Valor Award” by the Institute of Jewish Humanities.

Andrea has been married to Nick Foad for 19 years, and they have two teenaged sons.
Established in 1872, the Brooklyn Bar Association’s primary purpose is to promote professional competence among attorneys and increased respect for the legal system.

The Brooklyn Bar Association promotes access to the legal system through their Lawyer Referral Service which provides referrals for legal assistance in multiple practice areas. The Association advances leadership and promotes opportunities for success through networking events and through sections and committees, which focus on improvements in the practice of law. Continuing Legal Education provided by the Brooklyn Bar Association enhances the skills, competence and ethics of the legal community.

The Brooklyn Bar Association was founded on the belief that the administration of justice is achieved through the integrity, honor and courtesy of its members.
HONOREE

ALLAN L. GROPPER
Ret. United States Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court Judge

Allan L. Gropper was a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York from October 4, 2000 to January 9, 2015. Prior thereto he was a member of the law firm of White & Case and represented clients in connection with many of the nation’s largest Chapter 11 cases, including Manville Corporation, Texaco, LTV Corporation, Federated Department Stores/Allied Stores Corp, Maxwell Communications Corp., MGM, United States Lines, Pan American World Airways, and Waterman Steamship Corp. He was also active in international insolvencies and restructurings and was located in the White & Case Hong Kong office during the year 1999-2000.

He is an adjunct professor of law at Fordham Law School, a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School.
Hank Gutman is of counsel at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, where he created and until recently chaired the Intellectual Property Practice Group. Since the 1980’s, he has tried and argued appeals in a wide range of high-profile intellectual property cases in the technology and life sciences fields, including Lotus v. Borland (which he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court). Mr. Gutman is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, where from 2011 through 2014 he chaired the Complex Litigation Committee and served as Editor-in-Chief of “Anatomy of a Patent Case” (2nd Edition) (published jointly with the Federal Judicial Center). He is a past-chair of the Patent Litigation Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association and is a frequent lecturer on intellectual property issues.

Mr. Gutman has been appointed a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, where he is teaching a copyright course in the Spring 2015 term.

Mr. Gutman is also active in civic affairs in his native Brooklyn, where he is Chairman of the Board of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, responsible for promoting creative and technology driven jobs in New York City’s largest industrial park. Among his numerous other civic and not-for-profit endeavors, he has been deeply involved in the effort to build Brooklyn Bridge Park, where he serves on the Board of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation.

Mr. Gutman graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1972, with an A.B. in Political Science and received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1975. Following graduation he served as law clerk to the Hon. John F. Dooling, Jr., in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He has been in the private practice of law in New York City ever since.
Karen Patton Seymour is Co-Managing Partner of Sullivan & Cromwell’s Litigation Group. Her practice focuses on commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense and internal investigations. She also represents clients in complex federal and state civil litigation. Ms. Seymour has tried numerous jury and bench trials in federal court and argued many appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She has in-depth experience representing corporations and individuals outside of the United States in responding to U.S. inquiries and investigations, and assisting in complex international investigations. Ms. Seymour is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, two U.S. Courts of Appeal and the Court of Federal Claims, as well as the New York State Courts and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

From 2002-2004, Ms. Seymour served as the chief of the Criminal Division for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, where she supervised 165 federal prosecutors and oversaw all criminal investigations and prosecutions in the district, including the investigations of corporate fraud involving WorldCom, ImClone and Adelphia. She was lead trial counsel for the government in the prosecution of Martha Stewart and Peter Bacanovic. During her first tenure in the U.S. Attorney’s Office from 1990 to 1996, she prosecuted a wide variety of cases and served as Chief of the General Crimes Unit. Ms. Seymour frequently lectures on FCPA, corporate fraud, internal investigations, securities enforcement, business ethics and other topics.
Sam Seymour is Managing Partner of Sullivan & Cromwell’s Criminal Defense and Investigations Group. He specializes in white-collar criminal defense, regulatory enforcement matters and internal investigations. Mr. Seymour has represented clients in many high-profile investigations involving allegations of accounting fraud, securities fraud, foreign bribery, price-fixing, economic sanctions violations, money laundering and obstruction of justice. He represents individuals and institutions in enforcement matters across a broad range of financial and industrial business sectors worldwide. Mr. Seymour’s practice also encompasses commercial litigation and arbitration matters, including derivative cases, shareholder actions and complex contract disputes. Widely recognized for his professional achievements, Mr. Seymour has held leadership positions in numerous organizations serving the legal and educational communities. Mr. Seymour served as President of the New York City Bar Association (2010-2012). He is currently a Trustee of the Practising Law Institute. Mr. Seymour is a frequent speaker on legal enforcement issues, and authored the chapter “The Interplay Between Commercial Litigation and Criminal Proceedings” in the treatise Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts, Third Edition. Mr. Seymour served as an assistant U.S. attorney and deputy chief appellate attorney in the Southern District of New York from 1988 through 1991. Widely recognized for his professional achievements, Mr. Seymour is a member of numerous organizations serving the legal and educational communities. He formerly served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Packer Collegiate Institute.
Betty A. Whelchel is the General Counsel for BNP Paribas, CIB Americas. She is responsible for the legal coverage of the bank’s corporate and investment banking activities in the Americas and the management of its legal divisions located in the United States, Canada, Brazil and Argentina. Prior to joining BNP Paribas in September of 2005, Betty worked with Deutsche Bank AG from 1990 to 2004, first as Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. and then as global General Counsel for Deutsche Asset Management. From 1984 to 1990, Betty was an attorney with Shearman & Sterling, where she spent two years in Tokyo, and was admitted to the Japanese bar as a “gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi.” Betty began her career at the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an Attorney-Advisor in the Treasury Honors Program from 1981 to 1984. At the U.S. Treasury, among other things, she served as a staff attorney to the Depository Institutions Deregulation Committee, and worked on various efforts to rationalize regulation of U.S. and international financial markets. Betty is a 1981 graduate of Harvard Law School. She is a member of the New York and District of Columbia bars and of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (“ABCNY”). At ABCNY, she has served as Chair of the Foreign and Comparative Law Committee and as co-Chair of the Subcommittee on General Counsel for the Task Force on the Lawyer’s Role in Corporate Governance. Betty is currently on the Board and Executive Committee of the Institute of International Bankers. She has been active in industry efforts in respect of U.S. regulatory reform, with particular focus on its potential extraterritorial impact. Betty is a 2013 recipient of the Burton “Legend in the Law” Award and the 2013 Bronx Defenders Corporate Partner Award.
Fernando Bohorquez is a forward-thinking, problem-solving, and innovative attorney who handles commercial, intellectual property, and bankruptcy litigation and business disputes. Currently the Litigation Group Coordinator for BakerHostetler’s New York office, Fernando has deep knowledge and experience with all phases of civil litigation, managing large scale cases in high profile and pressure environments. He leverages these skills sets, as well as his networks inside and outside of the firm, to advise a variety of emerging tech startup and social media clients on business law, intellectual property, on-line advertising, and privacy and data security. He is a frequent speaker on social media and digital marketing, privacy and data security, electronic discovery, and law firm diversity initiatives and has published several articles and blogs on online advertising and marketing, Internet-related intellectual property issues, and electronic discovery, including regularly contributing to the firm’s Data Privacy Monitor and IP Intelligence blogs.

Fernando is very involved and invested in the startup community, representing and counseling various minority and female owned tech companies, serving as a leading member of the firm’s Emerging Company team, spearheading the firm’s sponsorship of the German Accelerator program in New York City, as well as the New York office’s collaboration with Civic Hall, and speaking at local law schools. Furthermore, Fernando is deeply committed to civic engagement and public service. Recognizing these efforts, the Mayor of New York City recently appointed Fernando to the Conflicts of Interest Board of New York, which oversees the ethics laws applicable to all New York City public servants. He serves on numerous non-profit boards, focusing his time on pipeline efforts developing and mentoring the next generation of leaders of color in the business and legal community. Consistent with these commitments, Fernando is a member and former co-chair of the New York office’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and is a former member and chair of the Mentor Committee.
Muhammad Faridi is an associate at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP’s litigation department. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, including disputes related to structured finance transactions, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud. He has handled a wide variety of litigation matters at various stages for large financial institutions, such as financial guarantors and hedge funds. His pro bono contributions include representation of homeless and runaway youth in a class action against New York City, various national organizations as amici in death penalty cases in appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, a death-row inmate in Missouri, and mentally disabled persons in housing court actions.

Muhammad has served as the chair of the New York City Bar Association’s capital punishment committee and on the board of directors of the Muslim Bar Association. He is also a member of the Federal Bar Council’s Inn of Court and will begin service on the New York City Bar Association’s executive committee this summer.

Muhammad has been recognized by several professional associations and organizations. He was the recipient of the New York State Bar Association’s 2014 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, highlighting his recognition by the Young Lawyers Section of the association for having rendered outstanding service to both the community and legal profession. Muhammad has also received The Legal Aid Society’s Pro Bono Publico Award and MFY Legal Services, Inc.’s Partner in Justice Award.

Muhammad is a graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the CUNY School of Law. From 2007 to 2008, Muhammad served as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Jack B. Weinstein of the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York.
Greg is a partner in the US Disputes Group at White & Case, with a broad range of experience in complex commercial disputes in United States federal and state courts, as well as in domestic and international arbitrations.

Greg has also gained significant experience representing debtors and creditors in some of the most complex bankruptcy proceedings of recent years. Notable cases include his representation of the investment group that bought the Texas Rangers baseball team from bankruptcy, as well as his representation of Major League Baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers Chapter 11 cases, and subsequent sale of the team. He also represented senior creditors in the Washington Mutual Chapter 11 proceedings.

In addition to his commercial litigation activities, Greg has also developed an extensive pro bono practice, representing low-income women in family law cases as well as criminal defendants in New York federal and state court appeals. He has also participated as part of the facility in the Kenya Women’s Advocacy Training Program, an enterprise co-sponsored by Lawyers Without Borders, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and the US Department of State.

Greg also acts as White & Case’s liaison with Her Justice, which provides pro bono representation of victims of domestic violence in contested and uncontested divorce matters, and serves on the Junior Advisory Board of Her Justice. He previously received a Commitment to Justice Award from Her Justice for his work with the organization.

In 2013, Greg was recognized as a “Rising Star” by the New York Law Journal.
GALA CO-CHAIR

ROBERT ELLIOTT

BNP Paribas

Robert Elliott is a Managing Director in the Legal Department, and Head of Litigation/Legal Investigations Group, for BNP Paribas, Americas. He is also Co-Head of the Bank’s Global Litigation Practice Group. Bob has more than 30 years of in-house experience representing financial institutions in all types of commercial, banking and securities-related litigation, regulatory enforcement proceedings, and investigative matters. He was Deputy Head of Litigation at then Chase Manhattan Bank, Global Head of Litigation at then Credit Suisse First Boston, and a senior litigator in JP Morgan Chase Capital Markets. Initially after graduating from Yale Law School, Bob served as law clerk for the Hon. Lee P. Gagliardi of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and then worked as a litigation associate in private practice with Breed, Abbott and Morgan before beginning his in-house career.
GALA CO-CHAIR

STACEY R. FRIEDMAN

General Counsel
Managing Director
Corporate & Investment Bank
J.P. Morgan

Stacey Friedman is General Counsel of J.P. Morgan’s Corporate & Investment Bank, an industry leader in investment banking, trading markets and investor services such as cash management, clearing and prime brokerage. In this role, Stacey has global responsibility for the line of business’ legal organization, including addressing reputational risk, regulatory change and client impacts in more than 100 countries.

Stacey joined J.P. Morgan in 2012 from Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, where she was a partner in the firm’s Litigation Group, working on complex commercial litigation, including securities, class action, derivatives, bankruptcy, antitrust and employment. In this role, Stacey spent a year working with JPMorgan Chase full time as one of the principal architects of the firm’s mortgage-backed securities litigation defense. Stacey also served as a key advisor to the firm in its acquisition of assets from Washington Mutual.

Stacey is one of the industry’s leading experts in securities litigation, and the investigations and enforcement proceedings relating to these matters. She brings tremendous experience working with the financial services industry and has represented numerous clients in federal and state litigation across complex commercial matters, including securities, class action, derivatives, bankruptcy, antitrust and employment litigation.

Prior to joining Sullivan & Cromwell, Stacey was a clerk for the Honorable Gary L. Taylor, United States District Court, Central District of California. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and J.D. from Duke University School of Law. Immediately before law school, she worked for Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Stacey currently resides in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, with her partner and two children.
GALA CO-CHAIR

STEPHEN P. YOUNGER
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

Stephen Younger, Past President of the New York State Bar Association, is a leading commercial litigator who is also well-known for his alternative dispute resolution work. Having been with Patterson Belknap since 1985, Mr. Younger has more than 30 years of experience as a commercial litigator. As a seasoned trial lawyer, he has tried many cases in federal and state court and before arbitration panels. He also frequently argues appeals, particularly in the appellate courts of New York. Based on his significant ADR experience, he is often called on to serve as an arbitrator or mediator in high-stake matters.

Mr. Younger’s clients include financial institutions, mutual funds, hedge funds, pension funds and venture capital firms involved in commercial, securities and real estate disputes. He has also developed an extensive practice representing Latin American companies in U.S.-related matters.

In addition to his previous role as State Bar President, Mr. Younger has sat on numerous New York State Bar Association committees. He is Past Chair of the New York State Bar Association’s Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, having previously served as Chair of its Securities Litigation Committee and of its ADR Committee. Mr. Younger also served as Chair of the New York State Bar Association’s Task Force on Nonlawyer Ownership of Law Firms. He is a member of the ABA’s House of Delegates, and chairs the ABA’s International Mediation Committee. He serves as the ABA’s representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a member of its Standing Committee on the American Judicial System and was Chair of the ABA Task Force on International Trade in Legal Services.

Mr. Younger was appointed to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Transition Committee and was also the Transition Director for Mr. Cuomo when he was the New York State Attorney General. He was also appointed to the Transition Committee for Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. Mr. Younger was counsel to the New York State Commission on Judicial Nominations which nominates New York’s Court of Appeals Judges, and is a member of the First Department Judicial Screening Committee.

Mr. Younger serves on the Board of Directors for the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, and previously served as the Chair of its Executive Advisory Committee for seven years. He is also a founding board member of the New York International Arbitration Center. He is on the Board of Directors of the Fund for Modern Courts and received the Fund’s John J. McCloy Award. He served on the Chief Judge’s Task Force on Commercial Litigation in the 21st Century, and currently serves on both the Chief Judge’s Commercial Division Advisory Council and the Advisory Committee to the New York County Commercial Division. He was formerly a member of the Chief Judge’s Advisory Committee on New York State Pro Bono Bar Admission Requirements. A long time Trustee of Albany Law School, Mr. Younger is Past President of its National Alumni Council.

Mr. Younger has spoken at more than 200 seminars and written over 30 articles in the fields of securities litigation, commercial arbitration and international dispute resolution.

Prior to joining Patterson Belknap, Mr. Younger served as Law Clerk to the Hon. Hugh R. Jones, Associate Judge for the New York Court of Appeals.
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

ALLEN & OVERY

SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP

CLEARY GOTTLieB

TD Bank
America’s Most Convenient Bank®

BakerHostetler

Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP

KRAMER LEVIN
KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

MAYER-BROWN

GREGORY M. MESSER

Skadden

Simpson Thacher

Karen Patton Seymour and Samuel W. Seymour

Law Office of Rachel S. Blumenfeld

Henry B. Gutman

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

SEYFARTH SHAW

Shearman & Sterling LLP

Spears & Imes LLP

Sidley Austin LLP

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project – 25th Anniversary Gala
“We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.”

Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

With deep gratitude, the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project salutes the National Grid Foundation for supporting the VLP’s National Grid Foundation Senior Legal Education and Assistance Program since 1999, touching the lives of thousands of Brooklyn seniors.

Brooklyn has the largest elderly population in New York City, 20% of whom live well below the Federal Poverty level. Many seniors have special needs making access to the justice system difficult. The VLP’s National Grid Foundation Senior Legal Education and Assistance Program empowers seniors by educating them about their legal rights through community education in their own neighborhoods and, when necessary to protect their rights and safety, by providing high-quality, compassionate legal pro bono representation.

nationalgrid
Foundation
Global Impact — Local Solutions
THE VLP GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
ONGOING SUPPORT FOR OUR PROGRAMS FROM
THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS

David Berg Foundation

IOLA Fund of the State of New York

nationalgrid
Foundation
Global Impact — Local Solutions

THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION
One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207  (518) 487-5650

New York City Council

New York Department of State

New York Office of the Attorney General

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

New York State Unified Court System,
Office of Court Administration
Thank you to everyone who has supported the VLP’s move to a new office. The VLP’s 44 Court Campaign helped make our move a reality.

A special thank you to our official office sponsors - your tremendous generosity has been essential to our expansion:

Anonymous

Terri and Nick Letica

The Rubin-Henry Foundation

James P. and Linda Slattery

Amy Samuelson & Steve Zelkowitz

44 Court Street, Suite 1206, Brooklyn, NY 11201
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 25th Annual Fundraising Gala of the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.

New Yorkers appreciate members of the legal community who engage in pro bono work that assists those who are economically disadvantaged. Each year, many residents of Brooklyn receive assistance through this altruistic program which provides legal representation and counsel they otherwise are not able to afford. Individuals and entire families continue to benefit from the generosity of attorneys who share their professional expertise and time to ensure the access of these vital services.

This occasion provides an opportunity to acknowledge your 25-year tradition of responsible service performed in the public interest. I join in applauding members of the Brooklyn Bar Association involved in the Volunteer Lawyers Project for their civic-inspired endeavors and commitment to reaching out and helping those in need.

With warmest regards and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to send greetings to everyone attending the Brooklyn Volunteers Lawyers Project’s 25th Annual Fundraising Gala. I would like to take this time to acknowledge Executive Director Heidi Henderson, who has proved her dedication to our democracy throughout her rich career.

I would also like to thank the Brooklyn Volunteers Lawyers Project for their commitment to the justice system, providing indispensable legal assistance to those who otherwise could not afford it. Our legal system is essential to everyone in our community and country, and the Brooklyn Volunteers Lawyers Project has dedicated 25 years to ensuring that our principles are upheld. It is my hope that your efforts inspire others to take part in actions large and small, public and private, to enhance the well-being of those in our community.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and many more years of continued success.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator
Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings and felicitations as you gather to celebrate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project's 25th Annual Fundraising Gala. For more than two decades the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has helped provide vital legal assistance to thousands of families and individuals across this great borough and I am pleased to take part as it recognizes its exemplary staff, and distinguished honorees on this momentous occasion.

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers project continues to offer the finest legal services to the underrepresented community. The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project remains resolute in its fight to ensure dignity to its clients while providing critical legal assistance for all Brooklynites. From guardianship to consumer debt litigation, BVLP maintains the highest quality legal services by maintaining pro bono attorneys from private bars to help those in need. I applaud the commitment and selflessness of each attorney who has assisted Brooklynites maintain control over their futures.

I would like to extend my congratulations to this year’s honorees: The Brooklyn Bar Association, recipient of the BVLP Partnership Award; Allan L. Gropper, Ret. U. S. Southern District, New York Bankruptcy Court Judge, recipient of the Community Leadership Award; Henry B. Gutman, Of Counsel, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, recipient of Building Bridges Leadership Award; Karen Patton Seymour and Samuel Seymour, Partners, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, recipients of the Dedication to Justice Award; Betty Wheelchel, General Counsel North America, BNP Paribas, recipient of the Tradition of Excellence Award. Furthermore I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the TD Bank Champion of Justice Award recipients: Fernando A. Bohorquez, Jr., of BakerHostetler, Muhammad U. Faridi of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, and Gregory M. Starner of White & Case. I applaud the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for its selfless leaders and their enduring commitment as champions of social justice and equality. Their humanitarian spirit inspires us all.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication on behalf of all New Yorkers. I hope the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project will continue its noble efforts for years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator
May 20, 2015

Greetings,

I would like to congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyer Project, as you celebrate your Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Fundraising Gala.

Your commitment to fulfilling the need for pro bono legal services demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the highest ideals of your profession and to the community in which you have provided these critical services. On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I want to thank you for your public service.

It is my hope that you will continue your service to the people of Brooklyn. I wish you much success in the future.

Sincerely,

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress
May, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
c/o Powered by Professionals
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my heartfelt best wishes to all that have gathered to celebrate the 25th Annual Fundraising Gala of the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP).

Like so many other institutions, your success is due in great part because of the dedication and support of the individuals that have gathered here tonight. To all members of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, congratulations on all of your important work. Since the 1990s, the VLP has provided critical pro-bono services to some of the most needy New Yorkers. We should all be proud of what the VLP has provided over 25 years of service.

The dedication and philanthropy continues to make a difference in our community and throughout New York. Once again, congratulations on your annual gala and 25 years of continued dedication to Brooklyn. May this celebration remind us all of the goodness the Volunteer Lawyers Project accomplishes each day and may we go forward in the future and continue in this way. With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Martin J. Golden
NY State Senator
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate President James P. Slattery, Executive Director Heidi Lee Henderson, Esq., staff members and supporters of the Brooklyn Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyers Project (BVLP) upon the occasion of their 25th Anniversary Gala.

For a quarter century, the BVLP has served those in need of civil legal assistance. On behalf of my constituents who would not have been able to navigate the legal system on their own, I commend this organization for their invaluable work.

I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to tonight’s distinguished honorees: Judge Allan L. Gropper, Henry B. Gutman, Karen Patton Seymour, Samuel W. Seymour and Betty Whelchel for their exceptional commitment to the public good and for their advocacy, leadership and service to the people of our great borough.

Congratulations again and best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District
May 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) on your 25th Annual Fundraising Gala on May 20, 2015.

I am aware that since 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has been committed to the concept that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of a lack of funds. As such, VLP provides free civil legal services to low-income Brooklyn residents.

The work of VLP has made the legal system accessible to low-income Brooklyn residents through pro bono involvement with the private bar on issues including Family Law, Consumer Law, Foreclosure Intervention as well as other important legal assistance programs.

Thank you for your dedication to the needs of Brooklyn residents and best wishes for a most successful Silver Anniversary Fundraising Gala.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
Member of Assembly

PJA/kis

Room 839, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248. (518) 455-3053
6605 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11219. (718) 232-9565
May 20, 2015

Dear BVLP Supporters,

With great pleasure I send my congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project. I celebrate all of the pro bono attorneys who, through the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, have provided critical legal assistance to thousands of individuals and families from Brooklyn’s poorest neighborhoods. Furthermore, I applaud the leadership and staff of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project in the tireless effort to ensure that no New Yorker is denied access to justice because of poverty.

I trust that the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project will continue to play a vital role in our community for many years to come.

Again, thank you and congratulations to you all!

Sincerely,

James F. Brennan
Member of Assembly
Executive Director Heidi Henderson  
Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project  
c/o Powered by Professionals  
1375 Broadway, 3rd floor  
New York, NY 10018

Dear Executive Director:

I offer my congratulations to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project which has reached its 25th year as a quality legal assistance service organization.

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which was established in 1990. The VLP has worked hard to make the legal system accessible to low-income Brooklyn residents through the pro bono involvement of the private bar.

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project is committed to the premise that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of poverty, and that the private bar can provide a powerful force to ensure equal access through its pro bono efforts.

I highly commend the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for their excellent program for low income New Yorkers. I believe that you have provided great service around the clock to those who are in need for many years. The value of such services to the many families who have been helped is incalculable.

I wish Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project many more years of success in helping many families, as we join with many other leaders for their 25th Annual Breakfast.

Very truly yours,

William Colton  
Member of Assembly
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest wishes to everyone gathered here in recognition of the Brooklyn Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyers Project’s (VLP) 25 years of dedicated pro bono legal services to thousands of members of our community, and counting.

As we celebrate this milestone, it is important to recognize the good work that the Brooklyn VLP has done throughout our community. With so many struggling to make ends meet, providing community members with the information, advice, and legal representation that they may otherwise not be able to afford is not only deserving of special recognition but also embodies the true spirit of philanthropy.

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, I was happy to partner with the Brooklyn VLP, which greatly helped affected residents in my community. Thousands of my constituents lost everything they owned, and the free service that VLP provided to them was invaluable.

Our community is better off today because of the Brooklyn Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyers Project. You have reached out to countless families and individuals in need, and you’ve vastly improved so many lives through your benevolence and compassion.

I wish Brooklyn VLP continued success in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Cymbrowitz
Member of Assembly
May 20, 2015

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Congratulations to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project in celebration of their 25th Annual Fundraising Gala.

Thank you for all of your hard work in making the legal system accessible to all Brooklyn residents. Your dedication is unparalleled – keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Lentol
February 19, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
c/o Powered by Professionals
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Attention: Heidi Henderson, Executive Director

Dear Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project,

As the New York State Assembly representative for the central Brooklyn communities of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights and parts of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, I write to enthusiastically thank your organization for its continued work within our communities.

I write to congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for 25 years of service and for displaying compassion and care to those in need by providing pro bono work from attorneys who help countless individuals and families throughout Brooklyn.

You serve as a beacon of hope to many, may you be blessed for your willingness to help others in need. I look forward to future opportunities to partner with you to better serve the communities of Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Hon. Walter T. Mosley, New York State Assembly, 57th District

WTM/nh
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to congratulate Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) and all its staff on the special occasion of its quarter of a century of services.

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project is to be celebrated for its commitment to provide low-income Brooklyn residents with free civil legal services. In doing so, your organization ultimately ensures that every New Yorker is given justice, regardless of their socio-economic status.

I hope this extraordinary organization will continue to be an integral part of our legal system for many years to come.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Michelle Schimel
Member of Assembly

MS:fz
May 20, 2015

Volunteer Lawyers Project
123 Remsen Street, 2nd floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

I am extremely pleased to recognize the quarter century of outstanding work done by the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project. I would also like to congratulate you on the occasion of your 25th Annual Fundraising Gala.

I salute your talented pro bono attorneys for their dedication and fine work in serving Brooklyn’s poorest communities, offering critical legal assistance to thousands of individuals and families who otherwise would not be able to afford legal representation.

I particularly acknowledge tonight’s honorees, including all of my colleagues in the Brooklyn Bar Association, as well as Judge Allan L. Gropper, my good friend Henry B. Gutman, Karen Patton Seymour, Samuel W. Seymour, and Betty Welchel. I also extend a congratulatory hand to tonight’s TD Bank Champions of Justice Award Recipients, Fernando Bohorquez, Jr., Muhammad U. Faridi, and Gregory M. Starner.

Warm congratulations on your years of service, and happy 25th anniversary.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon
Member of the Assembly
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

I am honored to welcome you to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project’s 25th Annual Gala.

Since its inception in 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has achieved justice for impoverished New Yorkers through pro bono civil legal work. The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has provided legal assistance to thousands of Brooklyn’s most deserving residents, restoring their dignity and preserving their fundamental rights. The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project’s dedication to our community is an inspiration to all New Yorkers.

I commend the Gala Committee for organizing a wonderful event, and the officers and board members of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for their tremendous leadership.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Aravella Simotas
New York State Assemblymember
36th District - Queens
April 30, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
44 Court Street, Suite 1206
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to you for 25 years of service to residents of Brooklyn that are most in need of legal services.

Brooklyn VLP’s commitment to providing access to justice to the indigent and elderly is commendable. Your staff and the team of volunteer lawyers that you recruit and train make a tremendous difference in the lives of Brooklyn’s communities. Difficult economic times and the significant unmet need for civil legal services in New York reinforce the importance of the services provided by your office.

I applaud Brooklyn VLP and its staff for their tireless work and their commitment to access to justice.

Sincerely,

Helene E. Weinstein, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project’s 25th Annual Fundraising Gala.

New Yorkers of every background and belief are united by our common sense of responsibility to lift each other up and leave no one behind. It is this spirit of service that drives the lawyers of the VLP to fight for justice and provide vital legal assistance to people from underserved communities across Brooklyn. By offering pro bono services to thousands of Brooklynites, this organization encourages individuals to regain their dignity and helps families chart a better, more promising course for the future. In our efforts to promote equality and build a more inclusive city, I am grateful for the work of VLP and commend the many lawyers who volunteer their time and talents to ensure that all our residents can rise together.

On behalf of our great city, I offer my best wishes for a wonderful gala and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
May 20, 2015

James P. Slattery
President
Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
44 Court Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Slattery:

Brooklyn has a time-honored tradition of paying tribute to those extraordinary individuals and organizations that are dedicated to upholding the law and protecting the rights of our citizens, and who work tirelessly to maintain and strengthen the vitality and effectiveness of the law, greatly contributing to the betterment of our borough and city. I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to you, Executive Director Heidi Lee Henderson, Esq., the Board of Directors, volunteers and supporters of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project as you gather on the joyous occasion of your 25th Anniversary Gala.

Since its founding in 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has assisted tens of thousands of Brooklyn residents with quality legal services to our most underserved neighborhoods. Dedicated to ensuring that all Brooklynites have access to top-quality legal services, the Volunteer Lawyers Project is truly one of Brooklyn’s most treasured organizations. The unwavering dedication and support that the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has given to our communities is truly remarkable.

On behalf of all 2.6 million Brooklynites, I salute you, President Slattery and Ms. Henderson, for the exemplary and steadfast leadership you have shown. I commend the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for their ongoing commitment to provide legal services for the community. Furthermore, I congratulate those distinguished individuals who have generously and selflessly supported the noble mission and work of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project through the years. Finally, I thank everyone for helping us move forward together as One Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President
May 20, 2015

Heidi Henderson
Executive Director
Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
44 Court Street, Suite 1206
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Greetings,

On behalf of the 35th Council District, I would like to congratulate the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary Gala. As a Member of the New York City Council, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize this organization for its steadfast commitment to expanding access to justice.

Through the hard work and dedication of your Board, staff, and volunteers, thousands of Brooklyn residents have received critical pro bono legal services to address personal matters pertaining to their family, housing, personal finance, and immigration status. With more than two decades of service to our community, the Project has made a lasting impact on the lives of everyday New Yorkers. I applaud you for your outstanding achievements and invaluable contributions to the Borough of Brooklyn and the City of New York.

In addition, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to this year’s honorees: Brooklyn Bar Association, Allan I. Gropper Henry B. Gutman, Karen Patton Seymour, Betty Whelchel, Fernando A. Bohorquez, Jr., Muhammed U. Faridi, and Gregory M. Starner. Thank you for your leadership, philanthropy, and continued advocacy!

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Yours in Partnership,

Laurest A. Cumbo
MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
March 31, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
123 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) as they celebrate their 2015 Annual Fundraising Gala.

The members of the Brooklyn VLP are committed to providing critical legal assistance to communities who do not have access to proper representation. I commend their hard work and commitment over the past twenty-five years, as they bring relief and support to many members of the community and advocate for justice in Brooklyn’s poorest neighborhoods.

The pro bono attorneys at Brooklyn VLP provide key services that have helped improve the quality of life for so many, and are a true testament to the altruistic spirit that we all aspire to become.

Once again, congratulations to the entire Brooklyn VLP team and the honorees at this year’s gala for their accomplishments. I know the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project will continue their admirable work for many years to come, and I look forward to working together as we improve lives in the City of New York.

Sincerely,

Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Council Member, 37th District
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate and send greetings to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP), as you celebrate your 25th Annual Fundraising Gala at Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Since 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has provided services to those in need of pro bono legal assistance. Thousands of individuals have benefitted from this vital service which is initiated by the most tenacious and experienced attorneys, who certainly cannot go unnoticed.

I would also wish to congratulate this evening’s honorees for their commitment to low income individuals and families who are otherwise unable to afford legal services in any regard. Justice Allen L. Gropper, Henry “Hank” Gutman, Karen Patton & Samuel W. Seymour, Betty Whelchel, Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr., Muhammad U. Faridi and Gregory M. Starner, thank you all for your invaluable service to this population.

This evening’s event is a sign of the great success the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has had in past years, and of greater things to come. I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson
Councilmember, 3rd District
May 20, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
123 Remsen St., 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project’s 25th Annual Fundraising Gala.

Established in 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) has worked to make the legal system accessible to low-income Brooklyn residents through the pro bono involvement of the private bar. Each VLP program has been established by identifying unmet legal needs in the community with the common goal of obtaining justice for the poor.

On behalf of the New York City Council, I commend the board and members of the Brooklyn VLP on 25 years of success and thank you for your continuing contributions to the City of New York.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Peter Koo
Council Member
20th District, Queens
May 20, 2015

Heidi Henderson
Executive Director
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, New York 10018

Dear Ms. Henderson:

I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project on the celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

From its inception in 1990, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has demonstrated a commitment to providing first-rate legal services to New Yorkers who otherwise are unable to afford legal representation. By providing pro bono legal services, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project ensures that every New Yorker has access to justice.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for all the great work that it does, and I wish you continued success.

Very truly yours,

Rory I. Lancman
April 27, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

To my friends at the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project:

It is with great pride that I write to congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) on 25 years of outstanding service to the community. The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has been a tremendous resource to many of my constituents and Brooklynnites in need of a broad spectrum of legal services. The Volunteer Lawyers Project’s pro bono attorneys have provided much-needed legal assistance to thousands of families and individuals from some of Brooklyn’s poorest neighborhoods.

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project provides services in family law, uncontested divorce clinic, elder law, senior programs, consumer law, foreclosure intervention, and Article 17A proceedings. The services provided by the VLP ensure that all members of our community get a fair say in our legal system and can access the quality legal representation to which they are entitled. It is for these reasons that I wish to say congratulations and offer my best wishes for continued success in seeking out justice for those in need.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Levin
Council Member, 33rd District
May 20, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for a remarkable 25 years of award-winning pro bono civil legal service.

The Volunteer Lawyers Project’s annual Fundraising Gala Celebration is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the outstanding volunteers who work on behalf of individuals throughout Brooklyn who might not have access to the legal system, either because of special needs or due to the restrictions of poverty.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge and commend Karen Patton Seymour & Samuel W. Seymour, Partners at Sullivan & Cromwell, as Dedication to Justice Award Honorees. Also, to Stephen Younger, a 2013 honoree as the Event Chair this year.

My heartfelt congratulations to all who have contributed to the success of the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, may your good work continue to benefit those in need and I extend my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Alan N. Maisel
Councilman, 46th District
March 18th, 2015

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
C/O Powered by Professionals
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (“VLP”) on the occasion of its 25th Annual Fundraising Gala. The VLP is exemplary and distinctive in that it provides free civil legal services to low-income Brooklyn residents in areas such as but not limited to Family Law, Consumer Law, Foreclosure Intervention and Elder Law.

I am proud to know that VLP is doing outstanding work in New York City, but even prouder of VLP's support and dedication to ensuring legal assistance to individuals with financial barriers. During its 25 years, VLP has been committed to the premise that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of poverty, and that the private bar can provide a powerful force to ensure equal access through its effective pro bono efforts. While the unmet legal needs of people have not waned, many organizations providing advocacy and legal assistance in the community have not withstood the test of time—I am grateful that VLP has. Congratulations and thank you.

Warm regards,

Rosie Mendez
NYC Councilmember, District 2
May 20, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) on the occasion of 25th Annual Gala. I commend VLP for its commitment to the premise that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of poverty, demonstrating that the private bar can provide a force to ensure equal access.

Since it was founded, the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project has provided free civil legal services to low-income residents in Brooklyn. The Council’s services are truly a vital component of the communities it serves.

I congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project on all its great work. Best wishes for a wonderful event!

Sincerely,

MARK S. WEPRIN
Council Member

MSW: NK
We are extending our congratulations and best wishes to the Honorable Allan L. Gropper on receiving the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project Community Leadership Award, in recognition of his years of service and commitment to the pro bono community. Your distinguished career as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Southern District of New York, Judge Gropper, has been complimented by a range of activities and endeavors that are truly extraordinary and have helped many in the indigent community. We thank you, Judge Gropper, for your tireless efforts on behalf of the indigent community.

Thank you Heidi, Jim, Sidney and the staff of the Volunteer Lawyers Project for their extraordinary, exceptional and endless efforts in improving the lives of the Brooklyn community.

With our sincerest congratulations and best wishes,

GREGORY M. MESSEr

Law Office of Gregory M. Messer
26 Court Street, Suite 2400
Brooklyn, New York 11242
718.858.1474
www.messer-law.com
We congratulate all of tonight’s honorees including our own

Betty Whelchel

on receiving VLP’s Tradition of Excellence Award and wish everyone a successful evening.
We are honored to receive the Dedication to Justice Award, and we congratulate the other distinguished honorees.

We are pleased to support the important work that the BVLP has done for the past 25 years. The program continues to make a meaningful difference for the residents of our community and represents the legal profession at its best.

Thank you for supporting the BVLP and for being a part of this evening.

KAREN AND SAM SEYMOUR
THE BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC.

PROUDLY RECOGNIZES

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

AND ACKNOWLEDGES ITS CONTINUED

PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE DEDICATED TO

SOLVING FUNDAMENTAL

PROBLEMS AFFECTING PEOPLE’S BASIC RIGHTS

BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION

FOUNDATION, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1962

avery eli okin, esq., cae

executive director

rebecca rose woodland

president
KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

Congratulates Honorees

Karen and Samuel Seymour
Partners, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Recipients of the Dedication to Justice Award

And Proudly Supports The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project

KRAMER LEVIN
KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

NEW YORK

1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212.715.9100

SILICON VALLEY

www.kramerlevin.com

PARIS
We proudly support

The Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project

and acknowledge its 25th Anniversary

Congratulations to Honorees

Allan L. Gropper
Henry B. Gutman
Karen Patton Seymour
Samuel W. Seymour
Betty Whelchel

and the

TD Bank Champion of Justice Awards Recipients

Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr.
Muhammad U. Faridi
Gregory M. Starner

~

Partnership Award Recipient

The Brooklyn Bar Association

www.bsfllp.com
Mayer Brown is proud to support the Brooklyn Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyers Project and its mission to improve access to justice for low-income Brooklyn residents.

We congratulate Betty Whelchel for this well-deserved recognition and applaud all of our friends at BNP Paribas for their dedication to pro bono causes.

MAYER • BROWN
Americas | Asia | Europe | www.mayerbrown.com
Dechert is a proud sponsor of the

Brooklyn Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project’s
25th Anniversary Gala

We salute all of this year’s honorees.

A global specialist law firm focused on sectors with the
greatest complexities and highest regulatory demands,
Dechert delivers practical commercial insight and deep legal
expertise to our clients’ most important matters. dechert.com
We Proudly Support

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project

and Congratulate

Hank Gutman

and His Fellow Honorees
Proskauer is proud to support the 

Brooklyn Bar Association 
Volunteer Lawyers Project 

and joins in honoring 

Betty Whelchel 
BNP Paribas 
recipient of the 
Tradition of Excellence Award
Skadden is proud to support the Brooklyn Volunteers Lawyer Project and congratulates Betty Welchel, recipient of the Tradition of Excellence Award, at VLP’s 25th Anniversary Fundraising Gala.
Even when we're closed.

Our arms are open.

At TD Bank, we're happy to support the things that bring our community together.

TD Bank
America's Most Convenient Bank®
1-888-751-9000 | www.tdbank.com

FDIC | TD Bank, N.A. | Equal Housing Lender
We are proud to continue our support for Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project and to celebrate its 25th Anniversary Gala.

We join in congratulating

Betty Whelchel
General Counsel North America
BNP Paribas

Muhammad U. Faridi
recipient of the TD Bank Champion of Justice Award

and all of tonight’s honorees.
Congratulations
To
Tonight’s Honorees
And
The Volunteer Lawyers Project

Lawrence F. DiGiovanna, Esq.
357 Bay Ridge Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11209
(718) 238-6900
www.LDiGiovanna.com
Congratulations to the VLP on its 25th Anniversary and to each of the honorees

Brooklyn Bar Association
   Allan L. Gropper
   Henry B. Gutman
   Karen Patton Seymour
   Samuel W. Seymour
   Betty Whelchel
   Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr.
   Muhammad U. Faridi
   Gregory M. Starner

Here’s hoping we’re even bigger and stronger when we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

JIM SLATTERY
Congratulations To

The Brooklyn Bar Association
Hon. Allen L. Gropper
Henry B. Gutman
Karen Patton Seymour
Samuel W. Seymour
Betty Whelchel

And the TD Bank “Champions of Justice”
Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr., Muhammad U. Faridi
and Gregory M. Starner

We applaud the outstanding contributions you have made to the legal community.

John Bonina  Andrea E. Bonina

Bonina & Bonina, P.C.
The Medlaw Team
16 Court Street - Suite 1800
Brooklyn, New York 11241
(718) 522-1786
(888) MED LAW1
www.medlaw1.com
AlixPartners is proud to support.

Brooklyn Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project’s
25th Anniversary Gala
Debevoise is pleased to support the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project.

We join in congratulating Karen and Sam Seymour, Betty Whelchel and all the esteemed honorees at this year’s gala.
I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Honorable Allan L. Gropper on receiving the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project Community Leadership Award, recognizing his exceptional, outstanding dedication and contributions to the indigent community. The recognition you are receiving today, Judge Gropper, is a testimony to the impact you have made on the lives of many. Your humility, devotion and dedication are an inspiration to us all.

I would like to thank Heidi, Jim, Sidney and the staff of the Volunteer Lawyers Project for their extraordinary, exceptional and endless efforts in improving the lives of the Brooklyn community.

With warm, best wishes, for continued success and happiness.

RACHEL S. BLUMENFELD

Law Office of Rachel S. Blumenfeld
26 Court Street, Suite 2220
Brooklyn, New York 11242
718.858.9600
www.blumenfeldbankruptcy.com
GODOSKY & GENTILE, PC

Wishes to Congratulate

All of This Year’s Honorees

And The

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

On its 25th Anniversary of Great Legal Service Volunteer Work in Brooklyn

Godosky & Gentile, PC
61 Broadway, Suite 2010
New York, NY 10006
212-742-9700
www.godoskygentile.com
KIPNES CROWLEY GROUP

CONGRATULATES HONOUREES:

ALLAN L. GROPPER
HENRY B. GUTMAN
KAREN PATTON SEYMOUR
SAMUEL W. SEYMOUR
BETTY WHELCHER

AND AWARD RECIPIENTS:

FERNANDO A. BOHORQUEZ, JR.
MUHAMMAD U. FARIDI
GREGORY M. STARNER

BROOKLYN VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT
25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

KIPNES CROWLEY GROUP

Trusted Advisors in Structured Settlements

50 Main Street, Suite 825
White Plains, NY 10606
Phone: (914) 390-3333
info@kipnescrowley.com
www.kipnescrowley.com
Dentons proudly sponsors the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project as it celebrates 25 years of providing equal access to justice for all.

We congratulate tonight's honorees:

**Brooklyn Bar Association**
Winner, Partnership Award

---

**Allan L. Gropper**
Ret. United States Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court Judge

**Henry B. Gutman**
Of Counsel, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

---

**Karen Patton Seymour**
Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

**Samuel W. Seymour**
Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

---

**Betty Whelchel**
General Counsel North America, BNP Paribas

Dentons. The Global Elite law firm created by Salans, FMC and SNR Denton.*

---

*dentons.com
© 2015 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.

We proudly support the Volunteer Lawyers Project as a critical service for our community.
The lawyers of Spears & Imes LLP
congratulate the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
on its 25th anniversary.

We proudly salute the Brooklyn Bar Association,
recipient of the Partnership Award, and the 2015 honorees:
The Brooklyn Bar Association
   Allan L. Gropper
   Henry B. Gutman
   Karen Patton Seymour
   Samuel W. Seymour, and
   Betty Whelchel.

SPEARS & IMES LLP
51 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010
www.spearsimes.com
CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THIS YEAR’S HONOREES

THE BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION

ALLAN L. GROPPER
HENRY B. GUTMAN
KAREN PATTON SEYMOUR
SAMUEL W. SEYMOUR
BETTY WHELCHEL

and

TD Bank Champion of Justice Award Recipients

FERNANDO A. BOHORQUEZ JR.
MUHAMMAD U. FARIDI
GREGORY M. STARNER

LYNN E. JUDELL, ESQ.
Shechtman Halperin Savage, LLP
One North Broadway, Suite 509
White Plains, New York 10601
914.946.1888
ljudell@shlawfirm.com
Congratulations to Betty Whelchel
For your Outstanding Contributions
To The Legal Profession,
Helping Others and Making this
World A Better Place!

Your friends at Seyfarth Shaw
BOB NOBILE
CLIFF FONSTEIN
RUSSELL SWAPP
FRED SINGERMAN
JASON BURRETT
Thank you to the BVLP for the extraordinary work it does every day and for including me in the distinguished group being honored tonight.

For 25 years the BVLP has fought to provide meaningful and effective access to the courts for the people in our community who need it most. I am honored to be able to play some small role in supporting those efforts.

Thanks to my friends and colleagues and to everyone else who has supported this Gala. Your generosity helps make BVLP’s work possible.

HANK GUTMAN
We are proud to join the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. in honoring Allan L. Gropper, Henry B. Gutman, Karen Patton Seymour, Samuel W. Seymour, Betty Whelchel.
Congratulations to the 25th Annual Gala Honorees

Allan L. Gropper

Henry B. Gutman

Karen Patton Seymour

Samuel W. Seymour

&

Betty Whelchel

Sweet Thoughts from the Eisenstadtts

SWEET’N LOW
ZERO CALORIE SWEETENER
Congratulations

to
Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr
and all the honorees
recognized by the
Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project for their
tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Brooklyn

Bederson salutes
the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project on
25 years of exemplary service

West Orange & Fairfield, New Jersey

www.bederson.com
Shearman & Sterling is proud to support the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project. We congratulate our alumna Betty Whelchel and all of this year’s distinguished honorees.
CONGRATULATIONS TO

HANK GUTMAN AND THE OTHER HONOREES

PETE RUEGGER
Congratulations to the Honorees

Betsy & Ken Plevan

Congratulations to all of the honorees.

From your friends at

Sal Monaco
Group Director - Senior Vice President
26 Court St. Brooklyn, NY 11242
(718) 290-1870
Best wishes and thanks to
Dr. Regina DiGiovanna and Lawrence F. DiGiovanna, Esq.,
for all you do for the Volunteer Lawyers Project and
the many other charitable endeavors you lead and support,
all of which make our Brooklyn community a better place to live.

We are all indebted to you!

Respectfully,

MARION AND BART VERDIRAME

Congratulations to the
Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
On their 25th Anniversary
For all the great work you do for the community!

Thank you to tonight’s honorees and co-chairs
for making the Gala such a huge success
Proud to sponsor the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project on its 25th Anniversary

www.RhythmInMotion.biz
THANK YOU TO OUR VIP FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

EMMET J. AGOGLIA

BAY RIDGE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

GOLDBERG & COHN LLP

MARJ & BILL COLEMAN

MARTIN E. CONNOR

STACEY FRIEDMAN

GRIMALDI & YEUNG LLP

LAW LIBRARY IN BROOKLYN

WILLIAM F. KUNTZ

TERRI & NICK LETICA

KLESTADT WINTERS JURELLER SOUTHARD & STEVENS LLP
THANK YOU TO THE EXTRAORDINARY STAFF OF THE VLP

HEIDI LEE HENDERSON
Executive Director

JEN BRYAN
CLE Director

SIDNEY CHERUBIN
Director of Legal Services

WILLIAM T. FLYNN
Managing Attorney, Foreclosure Prevention Project

ROBERT JACOVETTI
Consumer Debt VLFD

MARCELO BOFF LORENZEN
Law Clerk

CHRISTOPHER L. MAMONE
Law Clerk

JOANNE REECE
Family Law Staff Attorney

NATALIE SUNA
Pro Bono Coordinator

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
BROOKLYN VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT
Recent BVLP Events
proudly supports the
Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
and enthusiastically congratulates
Betty Whelchel
recipient of
VLP’s Tradition of Excellence Award
and her fellow honorees
We would like to congratulate our partners
Karen and Sam Seymour
and their co-honorees
Betty Whelchel
Allan L. Gropper
Henry B. Gutman
Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr.
Muhammad U. Faridi
and
Gregory M. Starner