



WTP

WhitefordTaylorPreston^{LLP}

2005

PRO BONO &
COMMUNITY

SERVICE

REPORT

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

A Message from our Managing Partner



Since its founding in 1933, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston has fostered a proud tradition of pro bono service – a tradition that deserves to be celebrated and valued. In that spirit, I am pleased to present our first Pro Bono and Community Service Report. While this report reflects on the past year, it is a culmination of a history of pro bono legal service that is at the core of our firm's values.

Last year, our firm took significant steps to enhance our pro bono efforts. Most importantly, the partnership elected Jim Rosner to be the firm's pro bono partner. As our firm's first pro bono partner, Jim is also one of the few pro bono partners in any firm across the country. This enhanced focus will allow Whiteford, Taylor & Preston to make a greater contribution to meeting the need for legal services in the community at large.

This annual report highlights many of the specific projects that our attorneys, paralegals and staff have participated in throughout the community. While this report can detail only a fraction of these projects, I am proud of our firm's continued emphasis on pro bono work and look forward to reporting to you each year on our progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert J. Mezzanotte, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Albert J. Mezzanotte, Jr.
Managing Partner

A Message from our Pro Bono Partner



Last May, the firm extended its long-term commitment to pro bono legal service when the partnership elected me to be its first part-time pro bono partner. As a result, I devote 50% of my professional time to working with attorneys in the firm to significantly increase our pro bono legal services.

For many years, we have performed pro bono legal services for clients who have been referred by organizations, such as Homestretch, Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services, House of Ruth, Homeless Persons Representation Project, Sandtown Habitat for Humanity, Maryland Disability Law Center and The Arc of Baltimore. Due to the firm's commitment to significantly increase pro bono legal services, we have both expanded services to existing legal service provider clients and developed programs to serve new pro bono clients. In the last year, we have more than doubled the quantity of our pro bono legal services.

Over the last several months, we have initiated two firm-wide signature projects that many attorneys and staff members will work on in the coming months. Our business signature project is a partnership with the Legal Aid Bureau and attorneys in our Business Department will work on complex redevelopment projects, that will provide housing for low income citizens. Our second signature project is a partnership with Maryland Disability Law Center, Legal Aid Bureau and the Maryland Association of Paralegals. Attorneys and staff will provide pro bono legal representation to qualified children in school suspension and expulsion proceedings in five targeted elementary schools. The goal is to help at-risk children obtain the support needed to stay in school and complete their education.

In addition to our signature projects, we have expanded our services to Sandtown Habitat for Humanity for whom we now provide a full range of pro bono legal services. Seventeen of our attorneys have represented Sandtown Habitat for Humanity in a wide range of legal services. Likewise, we have expanded our legal services to The Arc of Baltimore, the Community Law Center and to Project 5000, which is part of Mayor Martin O'Malley's efforts to reclaim abandoned Baltimore City properties in order to revitalize decaying neighborhoods. In November, nine of our attorneys and one paralegal received training by Human Rights First and we are now representing clients in asylum cases. This January, in partnership with the Prince George's County Law Foundation, several attorneys in our Washington, D.C. office received training from the Maryland Disability Law Center to represent families in special education cases. We further broadened the scope of our pro bono legal services when attorneys in our Intellectual Property Department, in partnership with By Kids For Kids, began representing child inventors in patent proceedings.

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston is committed to continuing to provide quality pro bono legal representation to the communities we serve.

James F. Rosner
Pro Bono Partner

2004 was a banner year for pro bono service at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston.

Pro bono participation among attorneys and paralegals increased by 10% over 2003 while pro bono hours climbed by 44% over the previous year's total. The firm, meanwhile, eclipsed the 4,000-hour mark in total pro bono hours. The median commitment from an attorney participating in pro bono was 19.2 hours. Not included in the above numbers is an additional 1,849.2 hours of firm-wide service in matters recognized by the Court of Appeals of Maryland as pro bono matters but which are not included within WTP's definition of pro bono service.

Top 10 Pro Bono Clients (FY 2004)	Hours
Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services	388.1
Human Rights First	214.1
Maryland Association of Retarded Citizens	189.2
City of Baltimore (Project 5000)	187.9
Sandtown Habitat for Humanity	137.4
House of Ruth	84.9
Maryland Disability Law Center	83.9
Baltimore Association of Retarded Citizens	71.8
St. Michael's Outreach Center	47.1
Homeless Persons Representation Project	46.5

PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS (FY 2004)	
Lawyers participating in pro bono:	98
Legal assistants* participating in pro bono:	20
New pro bono matters opened:	141
Lawyers who billed greater than 50 pro bono hours:	23
Lawyers who billed between 20 and 50 pro bono hours:	25
Summer associate pro bono hours:	33.0
Total firm pro bono hours:	4,024.8

* Total includes five (5) summer associates

Pro Bono Involvement Through Legal Services Programs

THE HOUSE OF RUTH

Under the leadership and guidance of **Pamela Conover**, a partner in the Business Litigation section of the Baltimore office, WTP attorneys worked with the House of Ruth, an organization founded in 1977 by a coalition of women's organizations, religious groups, providers and elected officials to provide a safe haven for Maryland's victims of domestic violence. The House of Ruth legal clinics handle an average of 1,500 cases per year. Representation is provided with regard to civil protective order hearings, child custody and support matters, divorces, guardianships, and landlord tenant actions.

By providing assistance to these individuals, the House of Ruth and WTP work together to promote awareness of domestic violence. WTP attorneys and staff have assisted victims of domestic violence with regard to various legal issues including obtaining protective orders and representing petitioners in appeals.

Erika Alsid, Christopher Conoscenti, Ellen Hagigh, Nichole Hatcher, Kristin Herber, Ranak Jasani, Mimi Keys, Andrea Leahy-Fuckeck, Kristen Lober, Gail Spielberger.

SANDTOWN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WTP attorneys and staff have worked with Sandtown Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian housing organization in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore with the purpose of rebuilding vacant housing in Sandtown, increasing



homeownership and improving the health of the community. Sandtown Habitat rehabilitates and builds houses in partnership with the homeowners using mostly volunteer labor and private funding, selling the completed homes at cost to low-income families on a 20-year mortgage with no interest charged. Payments go into a revolving fund which in turn helps to finance other homes in the community. Habitat's first two hundred homes have been completed using this model.

Philip Barnes, Robert Carney, Audra Cathell, Jack Evans, Mustafa Kamal, Dino La Fiandra, Damian Mark, Kathleen McCrudden, William Pearce, Joseph Pokempner, Susan Roberts, James Rosner, Joseph Schaller, Dennis Shaffer, James Shoemaker, Dena Terra, Jennifer Tittsworth, Joseph Ward.

PROJECT 5000

In the Summer of 2002, Baltimore City Mayor Martin O'Malley announced a bold initiative to clear title on at least 5,000 of the 14,000 abandoned homes and vacant lots currently within the City limits. Under this program known as Project 5000, once title is cleared either through foreclosure of the equity of redemption of the tax certificates held by the City or by condemnation, blocks of property are made available to developers for rehabilitation or new construction. This ambitious proposal for rejuvenation of some of the most severely blighted areas could only be accomplished through pro bono assistance from the private bar to undertake the massive caseload. Since 2002, the Real Estate section of WTP has handled over 50 pro bono Project 5000 cases and has successfully completed foreclosure on at least seventeen properties, while many more cases are being guided by WTP through cumbersome court procedures. This public/private partnership of legal effort has proved very beneficial to Baltimore's renaissance and will continue to grow throughout 2005.

Susan Bassett, Priscilla Carroll, Edward Lee, Joseph Schaller, Shannon Sentman, James Shoemaker.

HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT

The Homeless Persons Representation Project ("HPRP"), through a combination of staff and pro bono attorneys, provides general legal representation to individuals who have become homeless or who are in imminent danger of becoming homeless. WTP attorneys have provided pro bono representation

of HPRP clientele for over 10 years, handling a diverse spectrum of legal matters ranging from divorce and child custody, public benefits, landlord-tenant, immigration, and expungement cases. Additionally, through HPRP's "Adopt a Shelter" program, WTP attorneys provide monthly outreach to designated homeless shelters in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Erika Alsid, Susan Bassett, Jonathan Claiborne, Jesse Cox, Emily Daneker, Edwin Fee, Jr., Raymond Marshall, Frank Mastro.

MARYLAND DISABILITY LAW CENTER

Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) is a statewide legal advocacy organization charged with protecting the rights of people with disabilities. WTP attorneys have represented many families in special education cases referred by MDLC. In addition, WTP attorneys are working in partnership with MDLC on a number of matters including representing students in our Children's Signature Project and several legislative initiatives that will benefit individuals with disabilities.

Barbara Ayres, Edwin Fee, Jr., John Hayden, III, Francis Leary, Darlene Ramsey, Aristia Young.

"Here at New Song and Sandtown Habitat for Humanity we love working with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston! Jack Evans and numerous other attorneys from WTP have provided us with quick and effective legal services, and we have always been treated with the utmost respect and provided with an excellent quality of service even though we are a nonprofit organization receiving pro bono services."

*Allan M. Tibbels
Director, Sandtown Habitat
for Humanity*

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE (“MVLS”)

MVLS is the state’s largest provider of pro bono legal assistance in civil cases. WTP attorneys have worked on a wide variety of MVLS cases, including areas such as family law, consumer disputes, tax, auto torts, and bankruptcy.

Susan Bassett, Thomas Beach, III, Edward Buxbaum, John Carlton, Mary Claire Chesshire, Pamela Conover, Brett Ehman, Edwin Fee, Jr., Beth Gasiorowski, John Hayden, III, Howard Feldman, Stephen Fruin, Ranak Jasani, Mimi Keys, Gary Kuc, Dino La Fiandra, Tina LePore, Kristen Lober, Paul Madden, Damian Mark, Karen Moore, Elise Morris, Kristen Perry, Darlene Ramsey, Cynthia Rodgers-Waire, James Shoemaker, Gail Spielberger, Aryeh Stein, Ilana Subar, Dena Terra.

POST-CONVICTION ASSISTANCE

On January 6, 2004, Allen Harper-El wrote letters to several managing partners of Baltimore-area law firms seeking pro bono representation. Mr. Harper-El explained that, after spending approximately twenty years in prison, he was in desperate need of post-conviction assistance.

Albert Mezzanotte, Jr., WTP’s managing partner, requested that Whiteford attorneys provide assistance. **Raymond Marshall** and **Kenneth June**, litigation associates in the Towson office, offered to volunteer their knowledge and time. At an initial meeting, Ray and Ken learned that due to various issues, including a failure to properly process confinement papers, Mr. Harper-El’s chances for parole and admittance into institutional rehabilitation and treatment programs had been significantly jeopardized. As a result of this failure, Mr. Harper-El would not have been eligible for parole until he reached his mid-seventies.

Impressed with Mr. Harper-El’s internal triumph over adversity and tragedy, Ray and Ken began their involvement in the case. On May 14, 2004, the Baltimore City Circuit Court heard oral argument regarding Mr. Harper-El’s petition. On that date, after approximately twenty-two years in prison, Mr. Harper-El was granted modification of his sentence.



From Left - Ray Marshall, Ken June and Mr. Harper-El

Pro Bono Involvement Through Community Service

BRIDESMAID'S BINGO

My Sister's Place, located in Baltimore City, is a day program for homeless women and children. The services provided include a safe, secure environment, children's activities, referrals to shelters and other resources, breakfast and a light dinner, use of shower and laundry facilities, access to telephone and mail, case management and life skills workshops. A committee of approximately twenty people, including WTP partners **M. Natalie McSherry** and **Judith Ensor** and legal administrative assistant **Rose Marie Alcarese**, have worked to help My Sister's Place with its day to day needs, such as obtaining food and supplies, but the bulk of the committee's time has been spent on its now annual fundraiser known as "Bridesmaid's Bingo." The name was chosen not only to provide a fun and colorful theme for the evening, but to acknowledge that the women being served by My Sister's Place might sometimes have the feeling of being "always a bridesmaid, never a bride." For this particular event, the committee enlisted the assistance of numerous others, including WTP partners **James Rosner** and **James Chason**, associate **Joseph Ward** and legal administrative assistant **Kathy Composto**.

A sell-out crowd attended the most recent event, where over \$25,000 was raised. In the past year, My Sister's Place has provided case management, support services and life skills workshops for almost eight hundred homeless women and children.

M. Natalie McSherry, a partner in the Medical Malpractice section of the Towson office, serves as Vice President of the Board of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

John Hayden, III, a partner in the Corporate section of the Towson office, serves on the Baltimore County School Board and was recently appointed as President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Thomas Beach, III, a partner in the Baltimore office serves on the Advisory Board of the Dick Gelfman Ride Across Maryland that coordinates a motorcycle ride from various points to Ocean City, MD to raise money to support the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pro Bono Recognition

H. Vernon Eney Endowment Fund Award –

On June 17, 2004, the Maryland Bar Foundation presented the H. Vernon Eney Endowment Fund Award to **Wilbur D. "Woody" Preston**. The Eney Award was established in 1984 as a tribute to H. Vernon Eney, whose talent, energy, and dedication resulted in significant positive changes in government (at both state and local levels) and the system of justice in Maryland.

Rebuilding Together Baltimore Award –

Each year leading legal and business professionals in the greater Baltimore area pick up hammers, shovels and paint brushes to help low-income homeowners. In 2004, Rebuilding Together recognized **Kevin Hroblak** for his service as one of the longest running house and skill captains in the Baltimore Chapter by presenting him with the 2004 Hard Hat Award.

Stanley S. Herr Award for Advocacy Leadership –

On May 5, 2004, **James Rosner** was awarded the Stanley S. Herr Award for Advocacy Leadership by The Arc of Baltimore. The Herr Award is bestowed upon an individual who has made a career of advocacy for individuals with disabilities and other disadvantaged persons and who has demonstrated scholarship and leadership in that role, thereby spawning new generations of advocates to carry on the important work started by Mr. Herr.

Thomas Fericot Memorial Award – Recognizing a professional who displays commitment to, and understanding of, persons with mental retardation and whose professional endeavors are characterized with excellence, The Arc of Baltimore named **Edwin Fee, Jr.**, a partner in the Towson office, the 2004 recipient of the Thomas Fericot Memorial Award.

James F. Rosner Award – Each year, The Arc of Baltimore presents the James F. Rosner Award to the University of Maryland Law School student who best exemplifies commitment and dedication to persons with disabilities. In 2004, the James F. Rosner Award was presented to **Antoinette McRae**, an associate in the Technology and Intellectual Property section of the Baltimore Office.

Award for the Advancement of the Rights of the Disadvantaged – During a reception honoring leaders of Maryland's legal and judicial communities held at Maryland State House on September 28, 2004, **James Rosner** was honored by the Fellows of the Maryland State Bar Association for his extensive efforts in defending the rights of the disadvantaged.

Maryland Leadership in Law Award – Each year, the *Daily Record* honors 24 Marylanders who have significantly and consistently contributed to the legal profession. Among those honored in 2004 for their outstanding service to the legal profession were WTP partners **Dana Petersen Moore** and **James Rosner**.



Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Pro Bono Award – On May 13, 2004, the Virginia State Bar Association presented the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Pro Bono Award to the Volunteer Attorneys of the Fairfax Bar Pro Bono Program, including **Alisa Wrase, Jane Dudley, Michael Gartner and Andrew Terrell** of WTP's Washington D.C. office for their longstanding efforts on behalf of Homestretch, a nonprofit organization that assists homeless families.

2004 WTP Pro Bono Awards – Each year, WTP shows its continuing support and recognition of pro bono service by honoring a partner and an associate for exemplary service to the pro bono community. In 2004, WTP honored **Jack Evans and Mimi Keys**. Jack was honored for his long-standing service to Sandtown Habitat for Humanity. Mimi was honored for her service on the firm's Pro Bono Committee as well as for assisting in numerous pro bono matters.

50 Hours of Pro Bono Service Award – During its Annual Pro Bono Award Ceremony, WTP recognized those attorneys who performed at least 50 hours of pro bono legal service. Attorneys honored in 2004 were: **Erika Alsid, Ward Coe, III, Pamela Conover, Robert Earle, Jack Evans, Kristin Herber, Mimi Keys, Raymond Marshall, Karen Moore, Dana Petersen Moore, Gary Posner, James Rosner, Joseph Schaller, and Gail Spielberger**.

2004-2005 Pro Bono
Committee Members

James F. Rosner, Chair

Erika Alsid

Barbara L. Ayres

Ward B. Coe, III

Maureen E. Cones

Pamela M. Conover

Michelle L. Deschenes

Sharvani Dalal-Dheini

Jane Dudley

Jack Evans

Edwin G. Fee, Jr.

Ann Garfinkle

Nichole Hatcher

Kristin P. Herber

Ranak K. Jasani

Mary Ellen Keys

Gary W. Kuc

Andrea Leahy-Fuchek

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Karen Moore

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Gail D. Spielberg

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