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For Immediate Release

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Volunteers to be honored at 'Celebrate *Pro Bono*' Awards Ceremony on October 27th

In recognition of National Pro Bono Celebration Week, the NYS Courts Access to Justice Program, along with the New York State Bar Association and the New York County Lawyers Association, will present a pro bono awards ceremony at the New York City Civil Court on **Thursday, October 27th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM** to honor volunteer attorneys for their pro bono service.

The program will include remarks by representatives from the sponsoring organizations including:

- **Hon. Fern Fisher**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts and Director, New York State Courts Access to Justice Program;
- **Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson**, Acting Justice, New York Supreme Court
- **Sharon Stern Gerstman**, President-elect, New York State Bar Association
- **Carol A. Sigmond**, President, New York County Lawyers Association

The following award recipients will be honored for their outstanding pro bono service:

New York State Courts Access to Justice Program Award Honorees:

William Brick
William Richards
Stella Hirsch
Maria La Macchia
Mahbubar Talukdar
Barbara R. Mendelson
Mary C. Pennisi
VeNita LaNier
Yscary Rodriguez
Thomas Jeffrey Giles
Stuart C. Adler
Crystal A. Jackson
Rina F. Lieberman
Ann Elizabeth Lewis
Vania Ming Tseng

New York State Bar Association Award Honorees:

Peter Lattanzio
John Aerni
Matthew Levy
Larry Alexander
John Bryant
Robert Hilliard
Elizabeth King
Martin Schwartz

New York County Lawyers' Association Honorees:

Beverly J. Jones
Patrick D. Gibson
Mary G. Herms
Jeffrey M. Dirmann
Michael N. Fresco
Niji Jain

Additional attorneys and law students will receive certificates for their distinguished pro bono service.

A Volunteer Opportunity Expo will also be held and attendees can meet representatives of court-sponsored programs, who will answer questions about volunteering opportunities.

The New York State Courts Access to Justice Program (<http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/nya2/>) strives to increase access, improve the delivery of justice and promote public confidence in the courts. The Access to Justice Program is dedicated to improving equal access to justice for New Yorkers of low-income and modest means who cannot afford an attorney by making it easier to navigate the court system.

The New York State Bar Association (<http://www.nysba.org/>) with 77,000 members, is the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. The Association's programs and activities have served the public and improved the justice system since its founding in 1876.

The New York County Lawyers Association (www.nycla.org) was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar associations in the country that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence and has continuously played an active role in legal developments and public policy.