



Our recent Pro Bono Attorney honorees tell us why they do the work:

John Bermingham, Esq. (*Garden City, N.Y.*) was recognized for his tremendous long-term dedication to the clients he represents in Landlord-Tenant Court through the Volunteer Lawyer's Attorney of the Day Project. Since 2014, Mr. Bermingham has assisted 43 needy clients, volunteering more than 60 hours of his time this past year. His motivation? "There is almost always a satisfactory outcome, a chance to do some good. It's incredibly rewarding to be that advocate."



Edward Flood, Esq. (*Smithtown, N.Y.*) For the past three years, Mr. Flood has vigorously represented his pro bono clients, victims of domestic violence, in divorce proceedings. What's the payback? "I saw my clients break this cycle of dependency and start to stand up for themselves. It's a really rewarding thing to witness."



Scott Schneider (*Hicksville, N.Y.*) a veteran pro bono attorney, he has consistently provided clients with Chapter 7 bankruptcy assistance since 1994. Over the past decade, Schneider has helped over 120 indigent Nassau County residents discharge their debts. "These individuals are among the most vulnerable in our society. They are precisely the ones who need my assistance the most to achieve peace of mind."



Eve Nowack, Esq. (*Huntington, N.Y.*) - Ms. Nowak is a loyal volunteer, regularly devoting time to the Project (over 250 hours during the past 12 months alone), responding to many of the hundreds of calls

lighting up the Project's switchboard each week. "I've been very lucky to have a good life. I wanted to get involved again after raising my children to give back and do something good. Public service is in my blood!"



Maria Scheuring-Elbert, Esq. - (*Smithtown, N.Y.*) has represented several of the Pro Bono Project's divorce clients. Having devoted so much of her time with an exceptional commitment to serving her community, she is very deserving of this recognition. She says she got involved because, "I knew I eventually wanted to do legal work that empowered people who felt trapped by their circumstances."



Joseph Tonetti, Esq. (*Smithtown, N.Y.*) has taken on a substantial amount of pro bono work, defending clients in personal injury cases free of charge. He firmly believes, "If attorneys don't engage in pro bono work, then people with meritorious claims won't have access to the system. Without it, people become disenfranchised."