

ACC STL Chapter Participates in 2019 National Pro Bono Week

Members provide year-round pro bono support through variety of projects and events

National Pro Bono Week is October 20-26, 2019, and extends throughout the month of October. A significant number of Association of Corporate Counsel-St Louis (ACC-STL) members volunteer and participate in pro bono events and programs throughout the year organized by the Chapter.

The 2019 ACC STL Pro Bono Committee Co-Chairpersons are Patricia Duft, Vice President, Legal, Medtronics; and Paula Finlay, Assistant Vice President, Senior Legal Counsel, Labor & Employment, AT&T.

“We are thrilled to have the level of involvement, dedication and commitment from our members. There is a great and varied need for legal counsel for different communities. We want to do our part to help the St. Louis community thrive by serving individuals, families and small business owners who need legal guidance,” said Paula.

Upcoming local events to participate in 2019 National Pro Bono this month include:

- **October 17** – Legal Services collaboration with the St. Louis County Library. ACC STL members will present on steps to take for starting a business.
- **October 24** – The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) “Celebrate Pro Bono 2019.” This is a free event open to attorneys that offers training to support the ACC STL clinic at Legal Services, and enable members to take on other representations. To register, please click on the following link, <https://www.bamsl.org/index.cfm?pg=events&evAction=showDetail&eid=73739&evSubAction=listAll>

The ACC STL Pro Bono Committee provides opportunities for members to get involved throughout the year. Patricia explained that the volunteer activities fall into one of two categories: pro bono and community service.

“Our committee identifies pro bono opportunities and community service opportunities throughout the St. Louis region because we want to offer our members a well-rounded volunteer experience. From our recent survey results, we learned that a variety of volunteer opportunities is a key draw for members to become active with the Chapter,” said Paula.

Highlights of ACC STL members’ pro bono involvement from October 2018 to present include:

- **October 2018** - Nonprofit Clinic at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (<http://lsem.org>) (ongoing)
- **December 2018** - Nonprofit Clinic at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (ongoing)
- **February 2019** - Nonprofit Clinic at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (ongoing)

- **March 2019** – Business Legal Clinic for small business owners and entrepreneurs in coordination with Legal Services and Thompson Coburn (<https://www.thompsoncoburn.com/>), an event sponsor, at University of Missouri – St. Louis ([http:// http://www.umsl.edu/](http://http://www.umsl.edu/)). Roundtable discussions were held with Thompson Coburn and ACC-STL attorneys, and followed by legal clinic sessions with clients who had questions on individual small business matters.
- **March 2019** – ACC-STL was a “2019 Justice For All Ball” Gold-Level Sponsor. This is one of Legal Services biggest fund-raisers of the year.



- **April 2019** – National Healthcare Decisions Day in partnership with Husch Blackwell (<http://huschblackwell.com>), Legal Services, and Family Care Health Center where volunteers offered a free legal clinic to assist low-income individuals in Missouri with Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare and Healthcare Directive forms.
- **May 2019** -- Veterans Wills Clinic where volunteers filled every volunteer slot and helped 40 veterans and spouses with free legal counsel on wills, living wills and power of attorney valued at \$35,000 or less. The ACC-STL partnered with the Veteran Justice Outreach Program, the VA St. Louis Healthcare System, and Missouri Attorney General’s Office Military Assistance Team.

If you are interested in learning more about pro bono and community service volunteer opportunities through the ACC STL Chapter, or you are interested in serving on the Pro Bono committee, please contact Sue Wagner, ACC STL chapter administrator, at 314.416.0404 or accstl@qabs.com.

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In August, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri selected Washington University Office of General Counsel as one of its 2019 "For The Common Good" award recipients for the Gerald R. Ortvals Law Practice Award. Several of ACC STL members who work for the Washington University Office of General Counsel were present to accept the award.

