

Biographies of Keynote Speaker, Presenter and Facilitators

Keynote Speaker

Claire Parins is currently the Director of Content Management & Training at the Illinois Tech Center for Law & the Public Interest where she is helping design and manage three websites: www.IllinoisLawHelp.org, www.IllinoisLegalAid.org, and www.IllinoisProBono.org. Before joining ITC, Claire was the Director of the ABA's Rural Pro Bono Delivery Project. As director of that Project, she worked to generate new resources, ideas, and volunteers for low-income clients living in rural areas. The Project evaluated 178 proposals in two grant rounds and then distributed and managed small grants to 13 recipients from a variety of organizations across the country. Ms. Parins also worked at the National Center on Poverty Law where she supervised the development and launch of www.povertylaw.org, and practiced employment and environmental law at Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon in Chicago. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Ms. Parins is the author of the article, *Presence and Partnerships: Delivering Pro Bono Legal Services in Rural Communities*, Mar-Apr. 2002 Clearinghouse Review.

Presenter

Sharon E. Goldsmith is the Executive Director and founder of the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc. The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland is currently the only statewide support center for pro bono legal services in the United States. Prior to joining the Pro Bono Resource Center, Ms. Goldsmith was a litigation attorney for the law firm of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston where among other practice areas, she litigated personal injury cases and litigated pro bono domestic violence cases from the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and the House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. Ms. Goldsmith has also served as a Judicial Law Clerk in the Circuit Court for Baltimore for Judge John Carroll Byrnes and as a Law Clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice. Her public service activities include: co-founding the Jewish Legal Services Clinic; serving as an executive committee member of the National Association of Pro Bono Coordinators; and coordinating and presenting at ABA Pro Bono Conferences. Ms. Goldsmith is the recipient of the ABA Affiliate Outreach Project Award for Pro Bono Opportunities Fair. Ms. Goldsmith graduated from George Washington University National Law Center in 1985 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1981.

Facilitators

Elizabeth A. Hendy is employed as a Staff Attorney at Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes in Geneva, NY, practicing primarily in the area of family law. Prior to her work with Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes in Geneva, she was a Student Intern at Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled, and Disadvantaged of Western New York in Buffalo from 1986 to 1988. Ms. Hendy was assigned to the IV-D Child Support Demonstration Project from 1988 to 1994, providing representation to custodial parents in the trial courts up to the Court of Appeals level (*Graby v. Graby*, 87 NY 2d 606). From 1994 through the present, she also has been the coordinator of the Finger Lakes Volunteer Lawyer Service, the office's private attorney pro bono program. In 1996 she organized and administered a successful pro-se divorce "clinic" with the cooperation of local bar associations and the Ontario County Supreme Court, which has since been expanded to serve three counties. This program has been very successful in efficiently providing high demand services to a large number of clients. This program currently operates every other month in three rural counties for a total of 16 clinics annually, and served over 125 clients in the year 2001. In 2001 and 2002 she served as one of the trainers for New York's statewide "Child Support Training for IV-D Attorneys".

Ms. Hendy received her Juris Doctor degree in 1988 from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Dennis A. Kaufman is the executive director of Legal Services of Central New York, Inc. in Syracuse, New York. Mr. Kaufman served as the director of the American Bar Association's Center for Pro Bono. In that position, he consulted with state and local bar associations and legal services programs to improve the pro bono delivery of civil legal assistance to the poor. Mr. Kaufman also served as the executive director of Western Kentucky Legal Services. He has worked as an attorney for Prisoner's Legal Services of New York and the New York Public Interest Research Group. In addition, he has engaged in the private practice of law.

Mr. Kaufman is currently an adjunct professor at the Syracuse University College of Law teaching Poverty Law and Policy. He is a graduate of Union College and Albany Law School.

Susan L. Patnode is the Executive Director of the Rural Law Center of New York, Inc. The Rural Law Center is a non-profit, legal services organization working collaboratively at state, county and town levels through direct services and local, community-based coalitions and partnerships to meet the needs of New York's low-income, rural population. At the Rural Law Center, Ms. Patnode has been responsible for the design and execution of several nationally-recognized, innovative program models. They include the "Judges' Best Practices CLE/Pro Bono Project", the "New Facts of Life Preventive Legal Education Workshops for Teens", "Wheels to Work", a rural model car donation program for TANF households, and "Wired for the Workforce" providing computers and training for low income workers. The Center's

work also includes programs that address issues of rural housing and pro bono support for micro enterprise.

Ms. Patnode is currently an adjunct faculty member at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, where she offers courses in Family Law, Social Services Law and Women and the Law. Prior to her work with the Rural Law Center, Ms. Patnode worked as a legal services attorney, as well as in her own private practice concentrating in Family Law. She is a certified arbitrator and mediator, and is an active participant and trainer in rural community mediation.

Ms. Patnode is an active member of professional associations, committees and advisory boards on the county, state and national levels. She is a frequent speaker and panelist on issues and strategies relating to the legal needs of low-income, rural clients. She has authored manuals, client workbooks and guides, as well as academic articles, including the bio-critical entry for "Sarah Weddington" in Significant Contemporary American Feminists from Greenwood Press (1999).

Ms. Patnode received her J.D. from Vermont Law School, and during her law school career, worked for Families USA, a national advocacy organization in Washington, DC. She has an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Masters Degree in Education and has worked previously in private and public schools as both teacher and Director of Development.

C. Kenneth Perri became the Executive Director of the Monroe County Legal Assistance Corporation/Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes, with offices in Rochester and Geneva, on October 1, 2002. From July 1986 until then, he served as the managing attorney of the Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes, which provides civil legal services to low income people in five rural counties--Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates. As managing attorney, Mr. Perri provided supervision to a staff presently comprised of eight other attorneys, four paralegals and three support staff. LAFL's projects target services to low income people at risk of homelessness, to those facing problems with government benefits programs and to those with family law problems, particularly survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Perri has supervised the administration of the Finger Lakes Volunteer Lawyer Service, which provides services to Finger Lakes area residents through a standing panel of volunteer lawyers, as well as through pro se matrimonial clinics which operate in three counties.

Mr. Perri received his J.D. from Boston University School of Law and received a B.A. in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Prior to coming to Geneva, Mr. Perri was employed by the Legal Services Corporation of Alabama, serving as a staff attorney from 1982 to 1984 and then as a supervising attorney from 1984 to 1986 in the Dothan regional office.