

**NJVLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a registered New Jersey charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible to the amount allowable by law. There are many ways to donate to NJVLA. You can send a check to P.O. Box 1520, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. You can also donate securely using PayPal right from our website, [www.njvla.org](http://www.njvla.org). You can use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your search engine and designate NJVLA as your chosen charity. You can also contact your local United Way.**

**Mark your calendars! The New Jersey Law Journal will produce its third Celebration of Lawyers in the Arts on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, at Newark's NJPAC, to benefit NJVLA. This year will feature the Broadway musical "Pajama Game" in a semi-staged, concert version, with a pit orchestra. For more information, contact us at 856-627-0428 or [info@njvla.org](mailto:info@njvla.org).**

### IN THIS ISSUE

Thank you! Donation Acknowledgments	2
Kudos!	2
A Message from the Executive Director	2
In Memoriam: Hon. Alexander J. Menza	3
NJVLA Staff and Directors	4
NJVLA Services	4

## About NJVLA

New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Inc. (NJVLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides *pro bono* (free) legal referrals to organizations involved in culture or the arts and individuals involved in any creative or cultural endeavor, including music professionals, visual artists, dancers, filmmakers, and writers.

NJVLA matches artist and arts and cultural organization clients with volunteer attorneys who assist them with arts-related legal issues such as copyright, contracts between artists of

every discipline and other parties, taxes on artist royalties, organization formation, and real estate and landlord/tenant issues regarding studio and gallery space, as well as help them to resolve many other types of arts-related legal problems.

NJVLA also presents educational programs and provides speakers on a wide range of arts-related legal topics. Our website, [www.njvla.org](http://www.njvla.org), contains information on and links to a variety of other arts-related legal issues and ser-

vices. NJVLA is the recipient of grant awards from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and The IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.



## Attorneys Make Beautiful Music, Help NJVLA

On Saturday, March 31, 2007, musician-attorneys Stephen M. Kessler, Esq., and Andrew J. Podolski, Esq., performed at the Treehouse Coffee Shop in Collingswood, NJ, in a benefit that raised more than \$200 for NJVLA. Mr. Kessler, of the law firm of Flaster Greenberg in Cherry Hill, and Mr. Podolski, of Dilworth Paxson LLP, also in Cherry Hill, played two extended sets, featuring many Folk, Rock, and Celtic favorites,



nized with them on several numbers.

Megan McGlincy-Kessler, Stephen Kessler, Andrew Podolski, and Monica

Podolski (from left) perform at the Treehouse Coffee Shop. as well as several original pieces. Their spouses, Megan McGlincy-Kessler and Monica Podolski, harmo-

Podolski (from left) perform at the Treehouse Coffee Shop.

### NJVLA Board Member Receives Pro Bono Award

NJVLA Board member Peter L. Skolnik, Esq., with the award he received in recognition of his *pro bono* service at the Lowenstein Sandler PC *Pro Bono* Fair in Roseland, NJ, on October 5, 2006. With him are NJVLA Executive Director Tracey I. Batt, Esq., and Lowenstein Sandler *Pro Bono* Committee Chair Robert C. Boneberg, Esq. (right). Photograph by Barbara Schweiger, Esq.



## Thank you!

NJVLA gratefully acknowledges donations from the following individuals and organizations.

Lisa A. Batt  
Mark and Sandra Colatrella  
Jim Hely, Weiseman Hely DiGioia, P.A.  
Cynthia M. Jacob, Esq.  
Joshua S. Kanter and the Kanter Family Foundation  
Eve Biskind Klothen, Esq., and Kenneth Klothen  
Mark S. Melodia, Esq., and Reed Smith LLP  
Michael Norris  
Wilma Pomerantz  
Joy Rodino  
Sara Samson  
Giovanna Smargiassi  
Elizabeth Speidel  
Robert Steinbaum, Esq.  
Nicholas Stevens, Esq., Kelly D. Tennant and Starr, Gern, Davison & Rubin, PC  
Bill Sudia, Neighborhood Arts Center

In addition, many thanks to NJVLA client Karl Petry from Gold Castle Films for donating numerous DVD copies of Gold Castle Films productions, as well as promotional photos, for use as “thank you” gifts to NJVLA interns, externs, and volunteers. We have all enjoyed them very much. For more information on Gold Castle Films, visit <http://www.goldcastlefilms.com>.

Finally, we are very grateful to the New Jersey Law Journal; the offices of Starr, Gern, Davison & Rubin, PC; Seton Hall University School of Law; Rutgers School of Law-Camden; and Rutgers School of Law-Newark for generously providing us with office space.

## Kudos!

Congratulations to NJVLA Summer/Fall 2006 intern J. Brugh Lower! Brugh and his partner placed first overall in the Seton Hall University School of Law Eugene Gressman Moot Court Competition. They also won the award for having the Best Respondent Brief.

## A Message from the Executive Director

### Why *Pro Bono* Work Is Like Matzo Ball Soup

One of my professors at Cardozo once described his family as “Christmas Tree Jewish.” At first blush, I thought this was a perfect way to describe my family as well. When I was a child, we had the Christmas tree and the menorah in the same room. We hoped that the one would not set fire to the other. My parents worried that the rabbi would come to the house unannounced. Not enough to make us take down the tree, of course, but they worried. “Christmas Tree Jewish.” I liked it.

The more I thought about it, however, the more I decided that this was not quite the appropriate nomenclature. My family didn’t just celebrate another faith’s religious holiday because we didn’t want to be the only kids in the neighborhood without a Christmas tree. It was much deeper than that. My family would gather together as often as possible to celebrate any holiday of any religion or any nationality – as long as it involved food. We were not “Christmas Tree Jewish”; we were “Christmas *Cookie* Jewish.” In fact, we still are. A glass of eggnog in one hand, a plate of latkes in the other.

We are enthusiastically passing this wonderful, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-culinary tradition on to the next generation, namely my brother’s young daughter and son. And so, despite my more than 20 years of avowed Atheism, when my mother recently announced that we were having a family Seder for Easter dinner (following the family Easter egg hunt, of course), I had only one question: Will you be making matzo ball soup?

I love matzo ball soup. It is good for everything that ails you. It warms you inside and out. It can fill you up if the main course looks like it might be a little dry, or it can whet your appetite for more. With the proper amount of garlic, it can even make your cold feel better.

*Pro bono* work is a lot like matzo ball soup. I know from experience that it sometimes can feel as though law firm life is stealing your soul, bit by bit. For junior associates, clients are often faceless companies with whom the attorney has no direct contact, and day-to-day assignments are small issues representing tiny corners of much bigger pictures that the attorney never gets to see. For more senior attorneys, the problem can be the simple fact that the questions posed are always so complex. No client pays big-firm rates to ask simple questions.

*Pro bono* work is the matzo ball soup that can nurse you through personal and professional crises like these. Not getting enough client contact? Mediate a dispute. Worried that you will never understand the big picture? Be the attorney of record on a *pro bono* matter from beginning to end. Not foreseeing any opportunities to argue a motion in court? Accept a litigation or asylum matter. Need drafting practice? Help form a non-profit organization. Want to brush up on your negotiation skills? Represent a party in a contract formation. Need a little reassurance regarding your abilities as a lawyer? Accept a telephone consultation in a subject area you know thoroughly or review the terms of an existing agreement to explain rights and responsibilities. Always wanted to practice in a particular area of law but don’t get the opportunity in your current position? Accept a matter for an organization that provides that kind of service.

No client will ever thank you as directly or as profusely for your efforts and your expertise as a *pro bono* client will. The personal and professional satisfaction you receive from helping a real, flesh-and-blood person to resolve a \$500 dispute that means the difference between having and not having a roof over his or her head

*continued on page 3*

## In Memoriam

### Honorable Alexander J. Menza 1932-2007

**It is with deepest sadness that we report that NJVLA Board member and New Jersey State Council on the Arts Second Vice Chair, the Honorable Alexander J. Menza, passed away in his beloved Italy in March of this year. The following is a reminiscence from NJVLA extern Jennifer Constantinou.**

Recently, one of NJVLA's Board Members, the Honorable Alexander J. Menza, passed away. Judge Menza was a former Superior Court Judge, a State Senator, an Assemblyman, and an avid writer and playwright. I had the honor of knowing Judge Menza in an additional capacity: as my Professor for Civil Trial Practice last semester at Seton Hall School of Law.

During the course of the semester, I felt as though I had come to know Judge Menza extremely well. Each week, he would enter class with a smile, sometimes singing an Italian tune or a verse from an opera aria. Before beginning class, he always asked whether the students had *any* questions. He repeatedly emphasized that he was there not only to teach a course in Civil Trial Practice, but also to answer any and all questions that we had about life, the law, the inner workings of the judicial system – anything. He was an incredibly kind and gener-

ous man, who genuinely wanted to educate his students, prepare us for the future, and advise us with all of the knowledge and wisdom that he had acquired throughout his extensive life experiences.

Being a student in his class was a delight. His class was both entertaining and enriching, and for me, his teachings crystallized my position that I had chosen the right career path. I could see in his eyes and in his smile that he was a man who loved life. Judge Menza appreciated everything that the world had to offer and saw the beauty in all aspects of life. He motivated me with his profound love of the law and his sense of justice and fairness. He inspired me with his great love for the arts. It seemed nearly every week that he was rushing off to attend an off-Broadway play or an opera. Although he spoke of his struggles with his health, I never once observed a waning of his spirit, drive, or disposition – not even in the slightest. Instead, he laughed, told us of his latest endeavor, and enthusiastically asked for our opinions on the articles he was writing.

Judge Menza was highly regarded by his colleagues and students alike. I can recall one occasion when he took our class to the Union County Courthouse. He had only taken several steps inside



*Photograph courtesy of the New Jersey Law Journal*

the building when he was nearly engulfed by a sea of people, showering him with greetings and warm wishes! It was remarkable to see the kind of impact he had on everyone he knew, from his fellow judges to the bailiffs.

Judge Menza was a magnanimous and passionate individual with a wonderful outlook on life and a great sense of humor. I admired the way he spoke so lovingly of his family, and how he joked of how his elegant and graceful wife had “put up with him” for so many years! I always laughed when he smiled contently and spoke of his lake house, where he had a refrigerator full of meats and cheeses! Or, how he couldn't wait to see Italy again and walk along its beautiful streets.

I feel so privileged to have known Judge Menza. As I conclude my academic career and enter into the legal profession, the insightful lessons he taught will always be instilled in my mind. Judge Menza made an indelible impact on me and I will always remember him.

### Matzo Ball Soup *continued from page 2*

at the end of the day will rival anything you can get from resolving a \$500 million dispute for a corporate client.

Share your talents and your experience with someone less fortunate who needs your help. Find an organization dedicated to a cause about which you are passionate and volunteer your time and your efforts. Step outside your comfort zone. Challenge yourself. You will feel the warm glow, inside and out, that comes from receiving

genuine appreciation from a deserving person whom you have helped. You will feel full with the satisfaction of doing a good deed, and it will revitalize and reenergize you to do more, both in your regular job and on a *pro bono* basis.

In short, it will be good for everything that ails you. And you will be a better lawyer, and a better person, when you are done.

OK, I fibbed. I actually had two questions: Will you be making matzo ball soup, and will we be having chocolate bunnies for dessert?

By Tracey I. Batt, Esq.  
Executive Director

*This article first ran in the National Law Journal on April 23, 2007. Reprinted with permission of the National Law Journal.*



## STAFF AND DIRECTORS

**General Counsel:**  
Howard J. Schwartz, Esq.

**Interns and Student Volunteers:**

Deanna Bell  
Jennifer Elena Constantinou  
David Dodd  
Erik Gibson  
David Gratz  
Jacob Lehman  
Erin Mills  
Liza Montesano  
Michael Vincenti

**Executive Director:**

Tracey I. Batt, Esq.

**2007 Officers:**

Nicholas Stevens, Esq. - President  
Deborah Fennelly, Esq. - Vice President  
Siegmar Silber, Esq. - Secretary  
Pamela Labaj, Esq. - Treasurer

**Board Members:**

Frances V. Bouchoux, Esq.  
Kevin Harrington  
Cynthia Jacob, Esq.  
Professor Judson Jennings  
Eve Biskind Klothen, Esq.  
Paul McRae  
Mark S. Melodia, Esq.  
Linwood J. Oglesby  
Gregory J. Perry  
Peter L. Skolnik, Esq.  
Robert Steinbaum, Esq.

**New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts**

**P.O. Box 1520**

**Laurel Springs, New Jersey 08021**

**Phone: 856-627-0428**

**Fax: 856-627-0430**

**e-mail: [info@njvla.org](mailto:info@njvla.org)**

**Internet: [www.njvla.org](http://www.njvla.org)**

### NJVLA Services

The New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Inc. ("NJVLA") provides legal education, representation, and other legal services to the entire State's arts community, and in particular to low income artists and non-profit arts organizations.

NJVLA provides artists and arts and cultural organizations with referrals to volunteer attorneys who provide a range of services:



**The Legal Line:** An attorney discusses an arts-related legal issue with a client in a single 30-60 minute telephone consultation.



**The Law Fax:** An attorney reviews a short (three pages or fewer) legal document and discusses the contents with the client in a 30-60 minute telephone consultation.



**The Full Service Referral:** An attorney takes on a case for an artist or arts or cultural organization when an arts-related legal issue cannot be resolved in a single telephone call, such as litigation, negotiation, document drafting, and organization formation. The attorney's time is provided free, with the client responsible for any costs such as court fees. Please contact us to see if you qualify for this service.