

# Help Make a Difference on May 12—Join us on Volunteer Day 2007



**Tracey L. Turnbull**

Chair | CBA Justice for All Committee

Tracey L. Turnbull is a partner with Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP.

Her practice areas include litigation in antitrust, commercial disputes, employment and product liability. She can be reached at [tturnbull@porterwright.com](mailto:tturnbull@porterwright.com) or (216) 443-2539.

On Saturday, May 12, volunteers from the Cleveland Bar Association and City Year Cleveland will once again roll up their sleeves and work together to improve one of Cleveland's communities during the annual "Volunteer Day."

Last year, City Year and the CBA teamed up and with the assistance of more than 500 volunteers and completed several projects in Ward 17, the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. In 2006, City Year Cleveland celebrated the completion of more than 1 million service hours. City Year Cleveland consists of about 60 corps members who commit to providing 10 months of full-time community service while undergoing extensive leadership training. The City Year Cleveland corps focus their efforts on tutoring and mentoring students as well as beautifying the city. This year the City Year Cleveland team will be led by Brianna Schultz, Chris Keeney and Sylvia Rodlan and will help to serve Wards 15 and 16, which represent the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods. These two neighborhoods include a steadily increasing population of senior citizens and the work performed will help narrow the intergenerational gap between Cleveland's youth and senior citizens while improving the residents' quality of life.

"We are grateful Ward 16 will be included in this year's Volunteer Day for two main reasons: increasing needs and diminishing resources. While Cleveland's Old Brooklyn Neighborhood is a stable neighborhood, its population is aging," explained Councilman Kevin Kelley of Ward 16 of the meaning of this effort to his residents. "Many of the services requested by elderly residents, such as home maintenance, painting and landscaping, are services that the city does not have the resources to provide. Further, our parks and green spaces are in need of more attention than the city can provide."

JUSTICE FOR ALL  
**VOLUNTEER DAY 2007**  
SATURDAY, MAY 12

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY YEAR CLEVELAND

**What better reason for getting out of bed on a Saturday morning?**

"Participating in Volunteer Day is a personally rewarding experience. We all work hard every day, but it is extremely gratifying to spend a day volunteering and know that everything accomplished is for the greater good."

- Meggan A. Rawlin, Volunteer Day Committee Co-Chair

For questions about Volunteer Day, please contact Mary Groth, director of pro bono and community programs at (216) 696-3525 ext. 5004 or [mgroth@clevelandbar.org](mailto:mgroth@clevelandbar.org).

The CBA's team will be led by **Julianne Kurdila** of the city of Cleveland Law Department; **Nathan Wheatley** of Calfee Halter & Griswold; and **Meggan Rawlin** of Jones Day. Wheatley and Rawlin co-chaired this event last year and graciously returned to lead the cause again with the assistance of Julianne Kurdila.

"Volunteer Day provides the Cleveland legal community with the opportunity to have a direct and highly visible positive impact on the community," Wheatley explained. "It gives us all a chance to go out into the community, as a team, and work side-by-side for the benefit of others." Kurdila further noted that Volunteer Day "provides an opportunity for lawyers [and other members of the legal community] to get to know other professionals outside of their place of work or practice area. This year, we hope to serve the citizens of the Old Brooklyn and Brighton neighborhoods, including the senior community, by providing long-term sustainable projects that the citizens can maintain after we leave the neighborhoods."

Once again, Volunteer Day will feature a diverse range of large group projects. These projects involve not only physical service, but also afford volunteers the opportunity to provide legal advice in a Legal Aid Clinic and/or participate in community educational programs. The service projects will be located throughout the two wards and will include the following: neighborhood beautification (i.e., general landscaping and clean up, flower planting and graffiti removal) in the main thoroughfares of Pearl Road, Broadview Road, Memphis Avenue, Denison Avenue and State Road; mural painting, garden cultivation and grounds clean up at the Crestview Apartments; vegetation maintenance on the Treadway Creek Towpath Trail; gardening in an OSU Extension Community Garden and assisting neighborhood seniors with basic home maintenance and yard work.

"Volunteer Day fills a very real gap between the needs of Cleveland's neighborhoods and the availability of resources," said Councilman Kelley. "I hope that as a result of Volunteer Day, some of our elderly residents who have invested in homes, raised families, and lived their lives in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood will be less burdened by basic home maintenance projects. And I hope that the work on green spaces and commercial corridors will inspire a renewed pride in the neighborhood." What better reason for getting out of bed on a Saturday morning? ☺

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Steve Fazio



"You will not regret the experience. In fact you will want to do it again." That's what Steve Fazio told his associates at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P. in recruiting volunteers for the Legal Aid Brief Advice & Referral Clinic. "Within a day or two following the neighborhood brief advice clinic, attorneys were asking when they could volunteer again," says Steve, whose generous spirit has earned him a place in this month's Justice For All Volunteer Spotlight.

Steve's volunteer experience began when he was asked to recruit volunteers for a Legal Aid Brief Advice & Referral Clinic. Squire, Sanders & Dempsey holds a long association with the Cleveland Bar Association and Legal Aid. In fact, a number of partners who either started their careers or spent extended periods with Legal Aid. That level of commitment by firm leadership and strong institutional support made the current pro bono opportunity an "easy sell" for Steve.

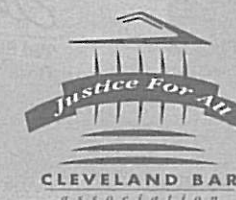
In June 2006, the first Brief Advice Clinic staffed by Squire, Sanders & Dempsey was held at the Helen S. Brown Center in East Cleveland. Nearly a dozen attorneys from the firm staffed the drop-in legal clinic, which was one in an ongoing series of neighborhood clinics sponsored by Legal Aid. Volunteers ranging from partners to summer associates spent the morning providing general advice, information and referrals to low income people with civil legal issues, including divorce, contracts and bankruptcy, as well as problems with public benefit systems.

"This was a great opportunity to step forward and volunteer," states Steve. "We were able to use our knowledge and point people in the right direction without taking on the commitment of long-term cases." Steve knew that in working with Legal Aid, the outcome for his volunteers would be positive due to Legal Aid's well-organized and knowledgeable staff, who were on hand to provide expertise in areas of law that might be unfamiliar to a volunteer attorney.

Steve views Cleveland as fortunate to have a legal community that is robust and sophisticated. He encourages Cleveland attorneys to participate in pro bono opportunities. "No lawyer got here by themselves. They stand on the shoulders of those who came before. That leaves us with an obligation to give back - an obligation that's easily discharged through Legal Aid, the Cleveland Bar Association and other community organizations," remarks Steve.

Like others who have volunteered, Steve has come to understand that "you get more than you give." Many low-income people just need someone to sit down with in order to gather their resources to solve a problem. Steve was struck at how much those individuals appreciated his service. "Once you experience that, you get the bug," says Steve who is looking forward to upcoming Brief Advice & Referral Clinic.

If you or your firm would like to volunteer at an upcoming neighborhood clinic, please contact Howard Strain, the Jones Day Pro Bono Fellow at Legal Aid - (216) 861-5198. ☺



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