

Just Dealings

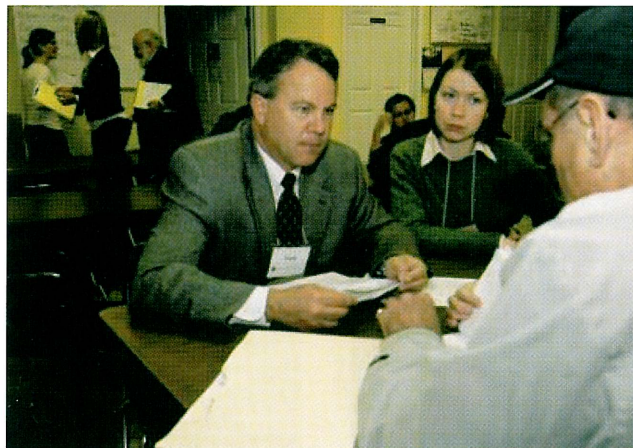
THE OHIO LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

ULMER & BERNE AWARDED OLAF'S 2008 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Ulmer & Berne LLP is the recipient of the 2008 OLAF Presidential Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual, firm, or organization that has provided outstanding leadership in the delivery of pro bono legal services in the state of Ohio. The recipient is chosen by the president of the OLAF board of trustees.

Ulmer & Berne, a state-wide law firm with offices in Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, as well as Chicago, is celebrating during 2008 the centennial anniversary of its founding during 2008. The firm chose to commemorate the anniversary with community service and civic activities. In 2007 the firm contributed nearly 5,300 hours in community and pro bono service.

In honor of its 100 years, the firm presented a gift of \$100,000 to Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to benefit Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP). Because the firm wanted its gift to support the legal aid programs in every Ohio community in which the firm works and lives, the gift was shared with Legal Aid Society of Columbus and Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati. The gift is the single largest gift received by Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.



F. Thomas Vickers, Partner and Chair of Ulmer & Berne's Construction Litigation Group, with Corena Larimer, a first year law student at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, assisting a clinic client.

The gift flows from strong firm participation in Cleveland Legal Aid's VLP. According to Ann Porath, VLP Managing Attorney whose position is identified as the "Ulmer & Berne Anniversary Position" for 2008, "What is so wonderful is that it is not just about the money and about Cleveland. The donation is great, of

course, but the donation came about because Ulmer & Berne sees the importance of pro bono and steps up to do it."

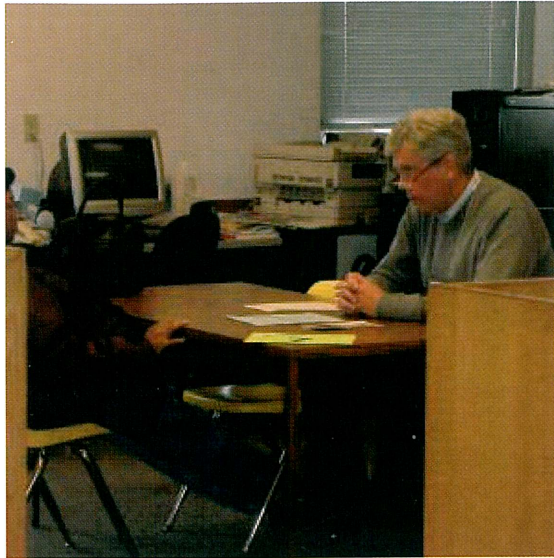
Ulmer & Berne lawyers from varying practice groups and across personal demographics participate in VLP. Firm lawyers accept direct referral of pro bono cases in addition to staffing pro bono clinics.

"The gift was a natural evolution of the way we do things," said Harold (Kip)

Reader, the firm's Managing Partner. "It was a natural thing for the firm and a perfect opportunity."

Yank Ulmer and Joe Berne founded the firm in Cleveland in 1908, after graduating together from Western Reserve University Law School. The two lawyers shared one desk and one phone. The firm now has 180 lawyers, with its largest office in Cleveland.

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Ulmer & Berne Managing Partner Kip Reader with clinic client.

About Ulmer & Berne

Established 100 years ago, Ulmer & Berne LLP is one of Ohio's largest law firms and has over 180 attorneys in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Chicago. The firm has been ranked two years in a row as a Fortune 500 Go-To Law Firm®. In 2007, the firm was recognized as one of 85 US law firms that "delivers the best value for the dollar." For more information, visit www.ulmer.com.

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ATTORNEYS

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Each of its four offices serves its local community. Cincinnati Partner Michael Marrero is a long time member of the board of Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and served as its president for three years.

Even Managing Partner Reader finds time to participate in VLP Clinics. "Clients are very appreciative and very focused on what you have to say," he said. "It is also obvious that what you have to say is going to be put to use."

"It gives you a warm feeling that you've helped someone out – that's all there is to it. It's that simple."

Reader is also impressed with Cleveland Legal Aid's effective use of resources and its impact across the state of Ohio. On a more personal level, Reader said he knows the lawyers at Cleveland Legal Aid and has great respect for both their work and their commitment. "These are very good lawyers doing very good work,

who could earn two to three times more than what they're earning at Legal Aid."

The Award is to be presented by OLAF board president Julie Davis during the Council of Delegates and General Assembly Meeting at the Ohio State Bar Association Annual Convention, held this year in mid-May at the Columbus Convention Center. The Award will be accepted by Alexander M. Andrews, Partner-In-Charge of Ulmer & Berne's Columbus office.

2008 marks the thirteenth year in which the Presidential Award has been given. Last year's recipient was Richard W. Pogue, who was recognized for his work as chair of the OLAF board committee responsible for developing the Foundation's recommendations to the Supreme Court of Ohio concerning aspirational goals for voluntary pro bono service by Ohio's lawyers.

By Jane Taylor, OLAF Associate Director for Pro Bono

Past OLAF Presidential Award Recipients

Richard W. Pogue (2007); The Honorable W. Scott Oelslager (2006); The Honorable Walter Herbert Rice and David A. Kutik (2005); Diana Thimmig (2004); Richard Cordray (2003); Greater Cincinnati Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation and Magistrate Stephanie Clark of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas (2002); Attorney General Betty Montgomery (2001); Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (2000); Sternberg, Newman, Shifrin & Associates of Akron, Barkan & Neff of Columbus, and Gilliam & Ireland of Dayton (1999); Denis Murphy (1998); Bill Weisenberg, Government Affairs Director, Ohio State Bar Association (1997); and, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, Columbus (1996).