

# Local attorneys recognized for doing pro bono work

The Ashtabula County Bar Association and The Legal Aid Society in Ashtabula County acknowledge several attorneys for their agreement to participate in the 2006 pro bono project.

The attorneys volunteering included Jerome Lemire, H. Valentine Holz II, Jason Fairchild, Jane Timonere, Philip Cordova, Gary Pasqualone, Kyle Smith, David Per Due, Virginia Miller, Pamela Houston, Nicholas Iarocci, Mark Andrews, Jeffrey Ford, David Pontius, Samuel Altier, Michael Meaney, David McCombs, James Sartini, William Bobulsky, Jonathan Winer and Duane Dubsky.

The Ohio State Bar

Association highlights pro bono work as a top priority. The volunteer program in Ashtabula County is a collaborative effort between Legal Aid and the bar association. The program expands legal services for the poor. A recent study of legal needs in Ohio found that an estimated 83 percent of the legal problems experienced by the poor fail to get legal attention.

The Ashtabula County Bar Association and Legal Aid are offering a continuing legal education (CLE) class on ethics, professionalism and substance abuse, free of charge, to their pro bono volunteers. The CLE will take place Dec. 9 at the Geneva

Lodge and Conference Center in Geneva-on-the-Lake. The bar association's annual meeting and holiday dinner will follow the class.

David J. Dodson, managing attorney of The Legal Aid Society in Ashtabula County, points out that the ability of the poor to obtain representation may mean the difference between keeping a family together and homelessness.

"The need for legal services is one that all lawyers can understand because it may mean the difference between a life of hope and one of hopelessness for the poor."