

PRO BONO HONOR ROLL



The State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Commission extend a special thanks to the following attorneys who generously accepted cases in February 2013, through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Nevada Legal Services and Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans.

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BOLD honors multiple cases accepted and/or sessions conducted within the month.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



MARIA MASKALL

For seasoned lawyers, public service through pro bono work likely comes as second nature. For younger lawyers, pro bono cases help them gain awareness of the issues facing families in Clark County while building up a portfolio of invaluable experience. For Maria Maskall, it's been a win-win situation. "I think it's human nature to want to help people. Helping those less fortunate is one of the greatest honors we have as lawyers. I feel privileged to be able to assist Nevada families in an effort to make their lives better."

Maskall started working with the Pro Bono Project in 1999, and recalls how one of her first pro bono cases touched her heart. An elderly woman needed assistance navigating the court system, to gain custody of her granddaughter, after the child's mother was shot by the father. Assisting this family taught Maskall how humbling it can be to positively affect a child's life. Helping this family stay together and making its members' lives a little bit easier during such a traumatic time made Maskall value her education more than she ever thought possible.

Maskall feels fortunate to work with a firm that encourages its lawyers to stretch beyond themselves and do pro bono work. Lee, Hernandez, Landrum, Garofalo & Blake is a proponent of access to justice, encourages its lawyers to participate in pro bono work and credits lawyers' billable hours with a portion of the time spent on pro bono work. In fact, the Lee firm earned the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Pro Bono Firm of the Year award in 2005.

Maskall encourages all lawyers to participate in pro bono work. Besides learning new skills, she hopes that everyone can experience the feeling of having made a difference in someone's life. Sometimes, it's to a greater extent than others, but it's always rewarding. ■