

Pro Bono Attorney of the Month- Alexander Pabst

by Dana Aronow, J.D.

This month Nassau Suffolk Law Services' Volunteer Lawyer's Project (VLP) proudly shines a spotlight on Alexander C. Pabst, Esq. We name him our Pro Bono Attorney of the Month in recognition of his hard work and dedication providing pro bono representation to low income Nassau residents who are facing eviction and desperately in need of legal assistance.

Pabst received his undergraduate degree from Fairfield University in 2001 and graduated from St. John's School of Law in 2009. He discovered his passion for landlord tenant law while working for a real estate company and attending law school at the same time. He assisted in every phase of the litigation process including preparing witnesses for trial, drafting motions and preparing standard business records used at trial. As his understanding and knowledge in this area grew, so too did his interest and enthusiasm for this area of law.

Today Mr. Pabst is an associate in the firm Alizio & Galfunt LLP, where he continues to focus in the area of landlord tenant law. Alizio and Galfunt LLP practices in commercial and residential real estate with a focus in landlord tenant law as well as commercial litigation.

With the uppermost thought to giving back to the community by taking on pro bono cases, his first introduction to the VLP occurred when he found himself on the "other side of the negotiating table" from the VLP and Roberta Scoll, who coordinates the Attorney of the Day Project. After learning about Landlord/Tenant Attorney of the Day Project's vital services, he decided that volunteering through this program would be an excellent way to use his expertise and fulfill his desire to take on pro bono cases.

By volunteering to represent tenants who qualify for VLP representation, Ms. Scoll states, "I believe that Alexander has gained invaluable knowledge in settling cases from both the landlord and tenant's perspective. This broad knowledge and experience has enabled him to provide his clients with a more realistic and clearer understanding of what to expect throughout their case." She sees Alexander Pabst as one of the rare breed of attorneys who look at the humanistic approach to resolving issues in Landlord/Tenant Court to see where there is gray, rather than black or white, in order to negotiate a settlement between the parties. According to Ms. Scoll, the Attorney of the Day Program is fortunate that Mr. Pabst has agreed to be a participant in the program and she is grateful for the time he has given to help make it successful. She also appreciates the firm of Alizio and Galfunt for generously "loaning" him out to the program.

Mr. Pabst believes that "understanding is the key to help become the best [advocate] and while an attorney 'always fights for his/her client',

experience representing both sides helps create a better perception of a client's genuine concern." When asked to express his most rewarding moment as a Pro Bono attorney for the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Mr. Pabst simply explained that "all of his cases have been equally rewarding". The sense of satisfaction comes from assisting an indigent client to resolve their housing issue by providing them with guidance and understanding of the laws, terminology, and procedures involved in a case. This is especially true when such knowledge and understanding could be the difference between retaining or losing their housing.

In addition to practicing law, Pabst enjoys spending quality time with his family and friends. His compassion for others has deservedly earned Alexander Pabst the title of Pro Bono Attorney of the Month and he will certainly continue to be an asset to the law profession, the VLP and our community for years to come.

***The Volunteer Lawyers Project** is a joint effort of **Nassau Suffolk Law Services** and the **Nassau County Bar Association**, who, for many years, have joined resources toward the goal of providing free legal assistance to Nassau County residents who are dealing with economic hardship. **Nassau Suffolk Law Services** is a non profit civil legal services agency, receiving federal, state and local funding to provide free legal assistance to Long Islanders, primarily in the areas of benefits advocacy, homelessness prevention (foreclosure and eviction defense), access to health care, and services to special populations such as domestic violence victims, disabled, and adult home residents. The provision of free services is prioritized based on financial need and funding is often inadequate in these areas. Furthermore, there is no funding for the general provision of **matrimonial or bankruptcy representation**, therefore the demand for pro bono assistance is the greatest in these areas. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Biller, Esq. 516-292-8100, ext. 3136.*