

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA Law Library Offers Free Classes and Workshops In Celebration of Pro Bono Week October 21-26

Los Angeles, October 2, 2013 – LA Law Library is once again joining the national celebration of Pro Bono Week. From October 21-26, 2013, the Law Library calendar is packed with free workshops, information sessions and services for the public, as well as volunteer recognition events and continuing legal education classes for lawyers who want to learn more about volunteer public service.

Whether they have questions about how to collect money owed to them, need help finding old court records or are trying to understand the meaning of a contract, people are getting help from the Library and its many legal service partners. Ralph Stahlberg, Senior Reference Librarian, notes that the Law Library helps tens of thousands of residents a year get answers to legal questions. He adds, “No matter how many people come through the door, though, some stories stand out: the single mother who needed assistance with SSI benefits for her incapacitated adult daughter, the patron whose lawyer had taken his money without providing any service or the tenant whose landlord turned off his utilities and was desperate for help.”

They all need help. And the response to just a little information, assistance and encouragement is remarkable. The thank you note from one grateful patron sums it up succinctly: **“I have renewed hope!”**

Nationwide, Pro Bono Week showcases the great difference that pro bono services make and highlights the growing need for free and low-cost legal aid for those facing legal problems that affect basic living conditions such as housing, government benefits, immigration issues, family safety and consumer debt.

The public is invited to help celebrate Pro Bono Week by attending or volunteering for one or more of these remarkable Pro Bono Week events! For more information and to see a complete description of the events and services, please contact: 213.784.7372, e-mail: probonoweb@lalawlibrary.org or visit: probonoweb.lalawlibrary.org.

Sponsors for Pro Bono Week include the Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library, Thomson Reuters and Continuing Education of the Bar.

More Programming Details....

Events at LA Law Library during the week, include:

- **Pro Bono Week Reception** – On Thursday, October 24, from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM join us for an evening of mingling and conversation while enjoying the boogie woogie sounds of Gary S. Greene, Esq. and his Big Band of Barristers. Sample delicious hors d'oeuvres and seasonal wines while enjoying the concert. Open to the public!
- **Medical / Legal Partnerships and Vulnerable Populations** – This Continuing Legal Education course discusses the medical/legal partnership (MLP) model of legal services delivery and how MLP's address the needs of vulnerable populations in the changing health care environment.
- **Free Consumer Law Clinic** – Business specialists and litigators who serve on Public Counsel Law Center's pro bono panel will mentor Los Angeles area law students in providing free legal assistance to the general public on credit card debt, bill collectors and other consumer law issues.

- **“Vulnerable Populations” In-Service Training for Public Librarians - This workshop will** introduce librarians from the greater Los Angeles area to referral resources for vulnerable populations and will concentrate on: the homeless, at-risk youth, LGBT youth, low-income seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and mental health issues, financially distressed homeowners and access to public benefits.
- **Free MCLE series** – Free series of three Continuing Legal Education courses focused on “hot topics” in the legal community. The first in the series is a panel discussion on collaborative family law presented by a family law expert, financial expert and a mental health professional. The second program will look at the ethical and risk management issues related to unbundled legal services. The final topic in the series is comprehensive immigration reform with a focus on the prevention of consumer fraud in immigration.
- **Free Expungement Training 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm** – Join the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) for a free hour of CLE and learn how to assist community members with cleaning up their criminal records.
- **SoCal Pro Bono Managers’ National Pro Bono Celebration and CLE Event** – A distinguished panel of law school deans, attorneys and judges will lead a dialogue on how LA’s legal community can respond to the growing challenges of ensuring that low-income individuals and families with legal problems can access justice.
- **Pro Bono Thank You Reception** – Open to the Public! Gary Greene, Esq. and his Big Band of Barristers will be performing, to celebrate the week’s events.
- **Trial Preparation Class for Law School Students** – Open to all area law school students, this class is designed to help law students understand how to prepare for trial and appear before a judge. Presented by a panel of judges from LA Superior Court.

About the LA Law Library (www.lalawlibrary.org)

Located in downtown Los Angeles, at 1st Street and Broadway, just steps away from both the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Courthouse, the LA Law Library is a global leader in providing state-of-the-art legal research and services. With nearly one million volume equivalents of Federal and State materials, a comprehensive California collection and one of the nation’s largest foreign and international law collections, the LA Law Library is the second largest public law library in the United States.

About the Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library (<http://www.friendsoflacll.org/>)

Supported by the private sector, Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library is dedicated to raising funds for the LA Law Library. Established in 1891, the LA Law Library is a vital civic institution that serves not only judges, attorneys and government officials but also individuals and self-represented litigants. Friends’ activities raise the visibility of the Law Library and provide a needed, additional base of financial support. Proceeds from past events have been used to expand access, upgrade technology and provide services to the self-represented.

About Thomson Reuters (<http://thomsonreuters.com/>)

Thomson Reuters is the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. We combine industry expertise with innovative technology to deliver critical information to leading decision makers in the financial and risk, legal, tax and accounting, intellectual property and science and media markets, powered by the world's most trusted news organization. With headquarters in New York and major operations in London and Eagan, Minnesota, Thomson Reuters employs approximately 60,000 people and operates in over 100 countries. Thomson Reuters shares are listed on the Toronto and New York Stock Exchanges. For more information, go to www.thomsonreuters.com.

About Continuing Education of the Bar (<http://ceb.com/aboutceb/welcome.asp>)

Continuing Education of the Bar • California (CEB) is a program of the University of California that is cosponsored by the State Bar of California. Founded in 1947 with the mandate to cultivate the professional development of California lawyers, CEB was the first organization to offer formal Continuing Legal Education (CLE) in the state.

For more information, please contact:

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