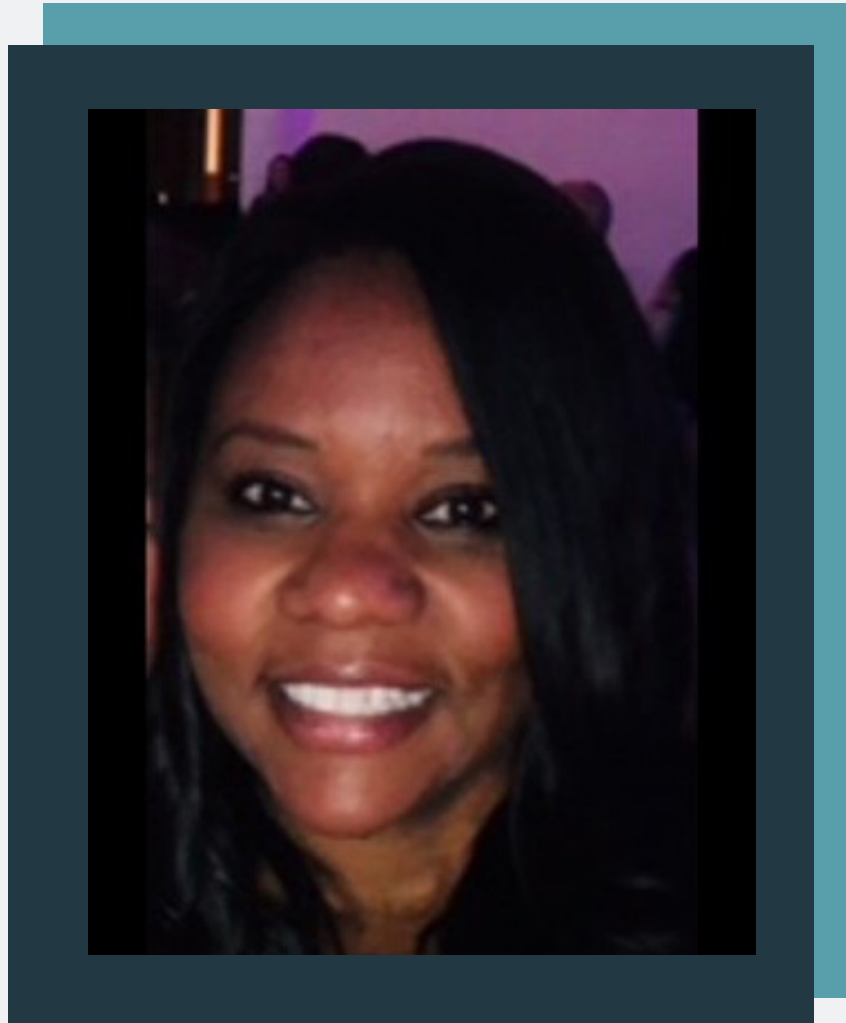




Michael Stone
Center for Disability & Elder Law

Some of my most rewarding professional experiences have been hosting workshops where we pair pro bono attorneys with clients in need. It is such a great combination: a valuable volunteer experience for the lawyer; a grateful client whose legal needs are met; a happy legal aid agency whose clients are able to receive timely, quality legal services in a controlled setting. When those lawyers tell me how impactful their service has been to their own lives, I think about how well the legal community has been served.

The Chicago Bar Association & The Chicago Bar Foundation's
2022 Pro Bono Week: Oct. 24-28

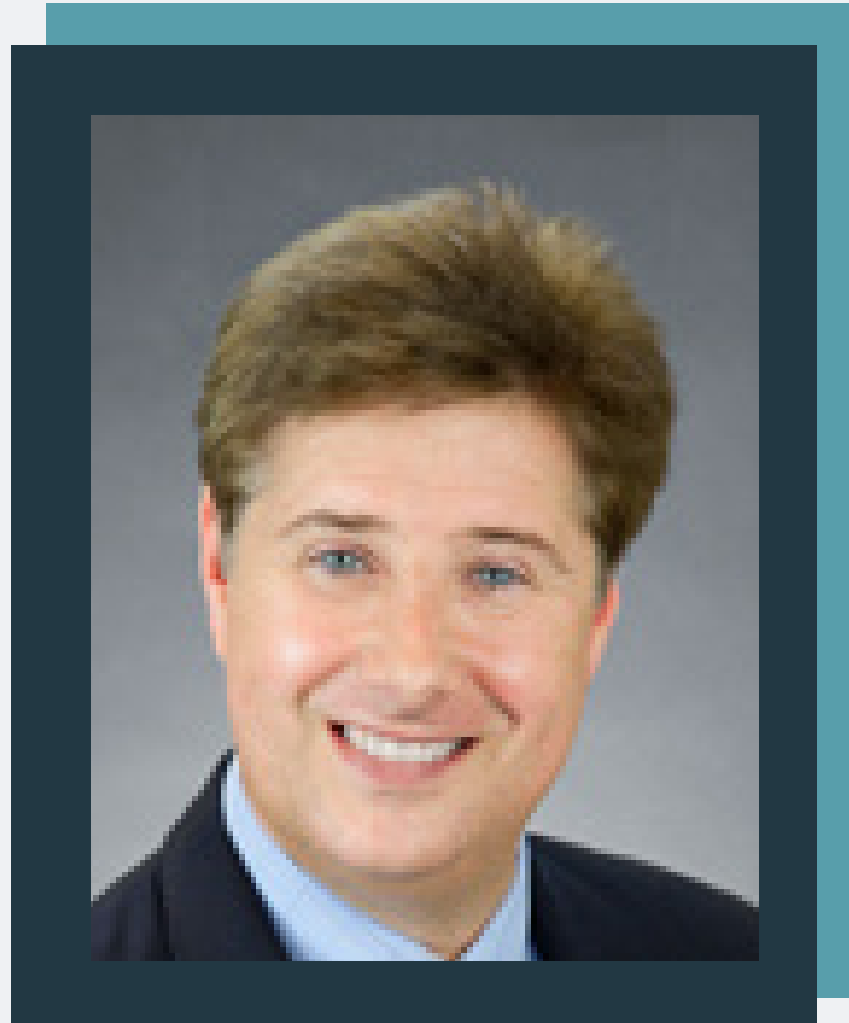


Chantal Kazay
Discover Financial Services

As a Pro Bono Co-Chair of Discover's Legal Department, I am extremely proud of the work we do. The business case for in-house lawyers doing pro bono work is clear: We must concern ourselves not only with the bottom line, but also with the greater public good. Everyone should have equal access to the legal justice system regardless of their race, creed, color or socioeconomic status.

One day an African American man waiting for service at a legal aid help desk saw me and believed he would win his case. Seeing an attorney of color legitimized the legal profession for him. I have a personal responsibility to provide pro bono to communities I have a shared group identity with who are wary of the judicial system. We all should strive to do what is right for those that are less fortunate.

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Matthew Walsh
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

Pro bono and giving back to our community are core values of our profession and our firm for good reason. It makes us better lawyers and many more people in our community are able to get the legal help they need as a result. I am proud to be one of the co-chairs of this year's Pro Bono Week to celebrate all the inspiring pro bono work Chicago lawyers do throughout the year.

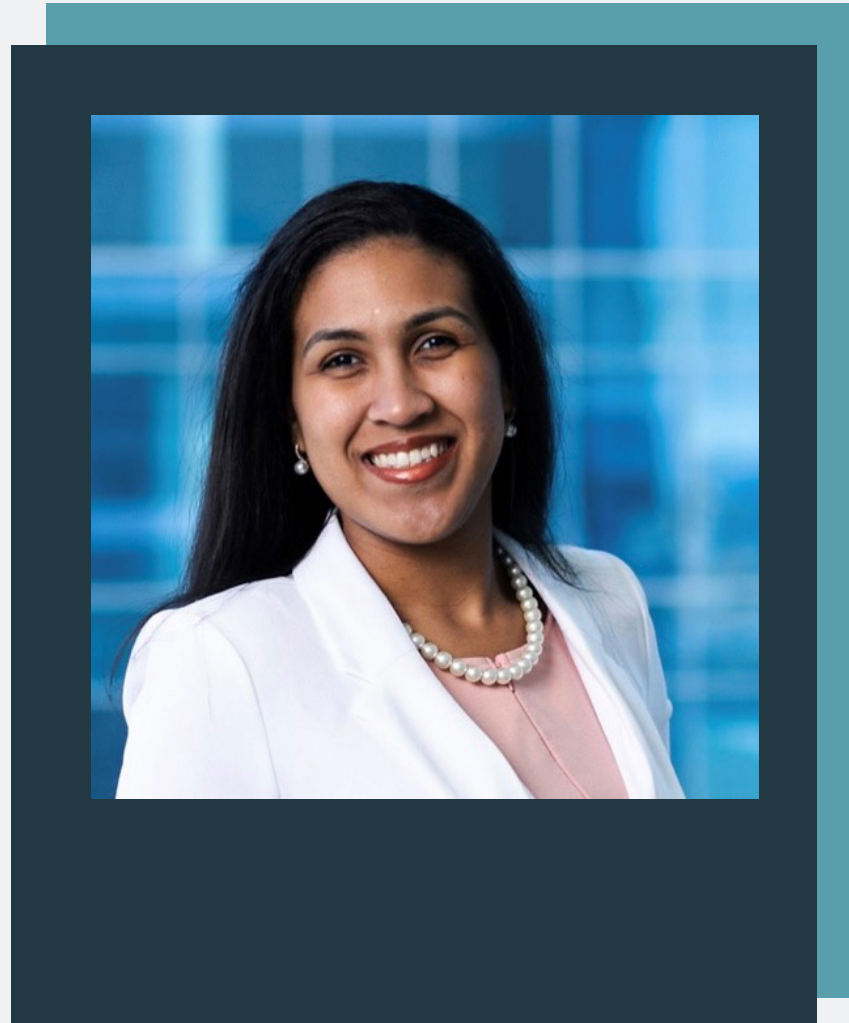
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Hon. Catherine Schneider
Circuit Court of Cook County

As a long-time legal aid lawyer, I learned that it's nearly impossible for people without lawyers to navigate our complex legal system. Now, as a judge I see self-represented litigants struggling every day. The court system has programs that help, but too many people encounter situations where the need for an attorney is critical. When litigants are represented, their chances of having a favorable outcome increase exponentially and the courts operate more smoothly and efficiently. Pro bono attorneys are an essential element to a well running court system.

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Shelisa Thomas
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

A recent pro bono success—the release of a wrongfully convicted individual after 20-years’ incarceration—demonstrates why I do this work.

My client had fallen victim to an imperfect justice system. Now he can parent in person. Now he can escape poverty and an environment plagued with incarceration, death, and drugs. Now he has resources at his disposal and advocates in his corner that give him a platform to disrupt generations of disadvantage and hardship.

Pro bono work is an important driver of my happiness because I can be the helpline that I and many others like me never had.

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M. Patrick Yingling
Reed Smith LLP

No one enters this profession as an excellent lawyer. True competence follows experience. Because of pro bono cases, lawyers need not wait to gain that experience. Each one of us can take on these cases. In the short run, you might achieve a favorable result for a deserving client. Over the long run, you will become the lawyer you want to be. This was true for me. I'm confident it will be true for anyone who devotes themselves to significant pro bono work.

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