



MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FROM: MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
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Local Nonprofit receives nearly \$320,000 plus from Monroe County Bar Association

Stroudsburg, PA — **Monroe County Bar Association** has presented another \$80,000 contribution to **North Penn Legal Services** taking the four-year funding total to nearly \$320,000. Funds presented will continue to subsidize the Stroudsburg office, dedicated to providing free civil legal services to low income families in Monroe and Pike Counties, costs for professional staff July 2017 through June 2018.

The contribution enables North Penn to continue to retain full-time attorney Caitlin Humphreys dedicated to Monroe County. Stroudsburg’s Managing Attorney Jim Butz, represents clients in both counties. Without the support, Butz would bear the burden of absorbing both regions and pro-bono capabilities would suffer leaving very little legal aid to either county.

“The **Monroe County Bar Association** is extremely pleased to again be able to provide funding to assist **North Penn Legal Services** to engage a full-time staff attorney and part-time administrative assistant dedicated to providing legal representation to those residents of Monroe County least able to afford it,” stated **Monroe County Bar Association** President Tim McManus.

North Penn Legal Services Executive Director Vicki Coyle commented, “Annually, the **Monroe County Bar Association** has been the single largest charitable donor to support civil legal aid in the 20 counties serviced by **North Penn Legal Services**,” reporting more than 900 cases accommodated since adding attorney Humphreys on board.

While financial assistance is critical, **MCBA’s** role stems beyond revenue resourcing establishing programs such as MCBA’s **Modest Means Program (MMP)** and collaboratively working with **North Penn** by holding clinics for low income individuals and families in key legal service areas such as Custody and Expungements.

Launched last October, the **Modest Means Program** is designed to assist county residents in lower income brackets that **North Penn** is unable to service. Qualified clients may be able to obtain a lawyer to represent them, in a limited scope, with specific legal issues. Included are those that affect one’s ability to be employed like a suspended driver’s license or criminal record that may be expunged. Representation for simple divorces, child support and custody is also available within **MMP’s** pre-set guidelines; along with matters such as home foreclosure, tenant representation, collections and Chapter 7 Bankruptcy. Simple and living wills, plus Powers of Attorney add to covered issues.

Working out of **MCBA** offices since 2013, the **Commission on Economic Opportunity’s (CEO)** has provided mortgage foreclosure mitigation counseling for more than 200 Monroe County families. Housing Counselor Neal Tarulli provides a detailed review of each case and

prepares for submission a comprehensive loan modification to the lender. CEO's success rate in obtaining approvals for modifications exceeds 75%.

Indicating the need to offer pro-bono benefits is evident to **Monroe County Bar Association**, Vice President Mark Primrose vows, "As long as we [MCBA] have the funds to do it [fund North Penn Legal Services] we'll continue to do it."

For additional direction on these and other Monroe County Bar Association services visit MonroeBar.org or call 570-424-7288.

For further comment:

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(from left) North Penn Legal Services Attorney Caitlin Humphreys joins Executive Director Vicki Coyle to accept another \$80,000 contribution from Monroe County Bar Association President Tim McManus and Vice President Mark Primrose