

VLSP and Northern District Court Honor Federal Pro Bono Project Volunteers

October 3, 2012 – San Francisco – The Bar Association of San Francisco’s Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) and the Northern District Court of California hosted a reception on Tuesday, October 2, celebrating the Federal Pro Bono Project. The Federal Pro Bono Project offers a wide range of legal services to pro se litigants in federal court, including arranging pro bono counsel for litigants who are referred for appointment of counsel by the Court. The Project offers full and limited scope opportunities, and there are many opportunities for trial experience.

Several awards were presented to project volunteers. Magistrate Judge Spero presented an Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award to Fenwick & West for its tireless work representing a minor child whose father died while in custody at San Quentin. Judge Seeborg presented an Outstanding Public Service Award to Caroline Mitchell of Jones Day for her work assisting with prisoner civil rights cases, both placement of those matters and serving as a mentor. And Chief Judge Wilken presented the Outstanding Law Firm in Pro Bono Service Award to Morrison & Foerster, who took on three full scope cases and one limited scope case through the project in just the past year.

In addition to providing a valuable service to pro se litigants and the Court, many attorneys find that volunteering is a great way to develop federal court experience.

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The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) is a nonprofit voluntary membership organization of over 8,000 attorneys, law students and legal professionals in the Bay Area. Founded in 1872, BASF is one of the largest and most dynamic metropolitan bar associations in the U.S., with a long and distinguished record of community action, public service and service to the legal profession.