

**Pro Bono Awards Presentation and Reception**

October 27, 2016  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Agenda**

Welcome

**New York State Courts Access to Justice Program Awards Presentation**

Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson  
Acting Justice, New York Supreme Court

**New York State Bar Association Awards Presentation**

Sharon Stern Gerstman  
President-elect, New York State Bar Association

**New York County Lawyers' Association Awards Presentation**

Carol A. Sigmond  
President, New York County Lawyers Association

October 21, 2016

For Immediate Release

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## Volunteers to be honored at 'Celebrate *Pro Bono*' Awards Ceremony on October 27<sup>th</sup>

In recognition of National Pro Bono Celebration Week, the NYS Courts Access to Justice Program, along with the New York State Bar Association and the New York County Lawyers Association, will present a pro bono awards ceremony at the New York City Civil Court on **Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 PM** to honor volunteer attorneys for their pro bono service.

The program will include remarks by representatives from the sponsoring organizations including:

- **Hon. Fern Fisher**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts and Director, New York State Courts Access to Justice Program;
- **Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson**, Acting Justice, New York Supreme Court
- **Sharon Stern Gerstman**, President-elect, New York State Bar Association
- **Carol A. Sigmond**, President, New York County Lawyers Association

The following award recipients will be honored for their outstanding pro bono service:

### **New York State Courts Access to Justice Program Award Honorees:**

William Brick  
William Richards  
Stella Hirsch  
Maria La Macchia  
Mahbubar Talukdar  
Barbara R. Mendelson  
Mary C. Pennisi  
VeNita LaNier  
Yscary Rodriguez  
Thomas Jeffrey Giles  
Stuart C. Adler  
Crystal A. Jackson  
Rina F. Lieberman  
Ann Elizabeth Lewis  
Vania Ming Tseng

**New York State Bar Association Award Honorees:**

Peter Lattanzio  
John Aerni  
Matthew Levy  
Larry Alexander  
John Bryant  
Robert Hilliard  
Elizabeth King  
Martin Schwartz

**New York County Lawyers' Association Honorees:**

Beverly J. Jones  
Patrick D. Gibson  
Mary G. Herms  
Jeffrey M. Dirmann  
Michael N. Fresco  
Niji Jain

Additional attorneys and law students will receive certificates for their distinguished pro bono service.

A Volunteer Opportunity Expo will also be held and attendees can meet representatives of court-sponsored programs, who will answer questions about volunteering opportunities.

The New York State Courts Access to Justice Program (<http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/nya2/>) strives to increase access, improve the delivery of justice and promote public confidence in the courts. The Access to Justice Program is dedicated to improving equal access to justice for New Yorkers of low-income and modest means who cannot afford an attorney by making it easier to navigate the court system.

The New York State Bar Association (<http://www.nysba.org/>) with 77,000 members, is the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. The Association's programs and activities have served the public and improved the justice system since its founding in 1876.

The New York County Lawyers Association ([www.nycla.org](http://www.nycla.org)) was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar associations in the country that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence and has continuously played an active role in legal developments and public policy.



## New York State Courts Access to Justice Program 2016 Pro Bono Service Honorees:

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### **New York State Courts Access to Justice Program Award Honorees:**

#### **Pro Bono Star Award**

William Brick, Esq.

#### **Plaques for Outstanding Service:**

##### **Guardian Ad Litem Program**

Thomas Jeffrey Giles

Stuart C. Adler, Esq.

##### **Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program**

Barbara R. Mendelson, Esq.

Mary C. Pennisi, Esq.

##### **Uncontested Divorce Program**

Maria La Macchia, Esq.

Mahbubar Talukdar, Esq.

##### **Housing Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program**

Crystal A. Jackson, Esq.

Rina F. Lieberman, Esq.

##### **Housing Volunteer Lawyer Program**

Ann Elizabeth Lewis, Esq.

Vania Ming Tseng, Esq.

**Consumer Debt Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program**

William Richards, Esq.

Stella Hirsch, Esq.

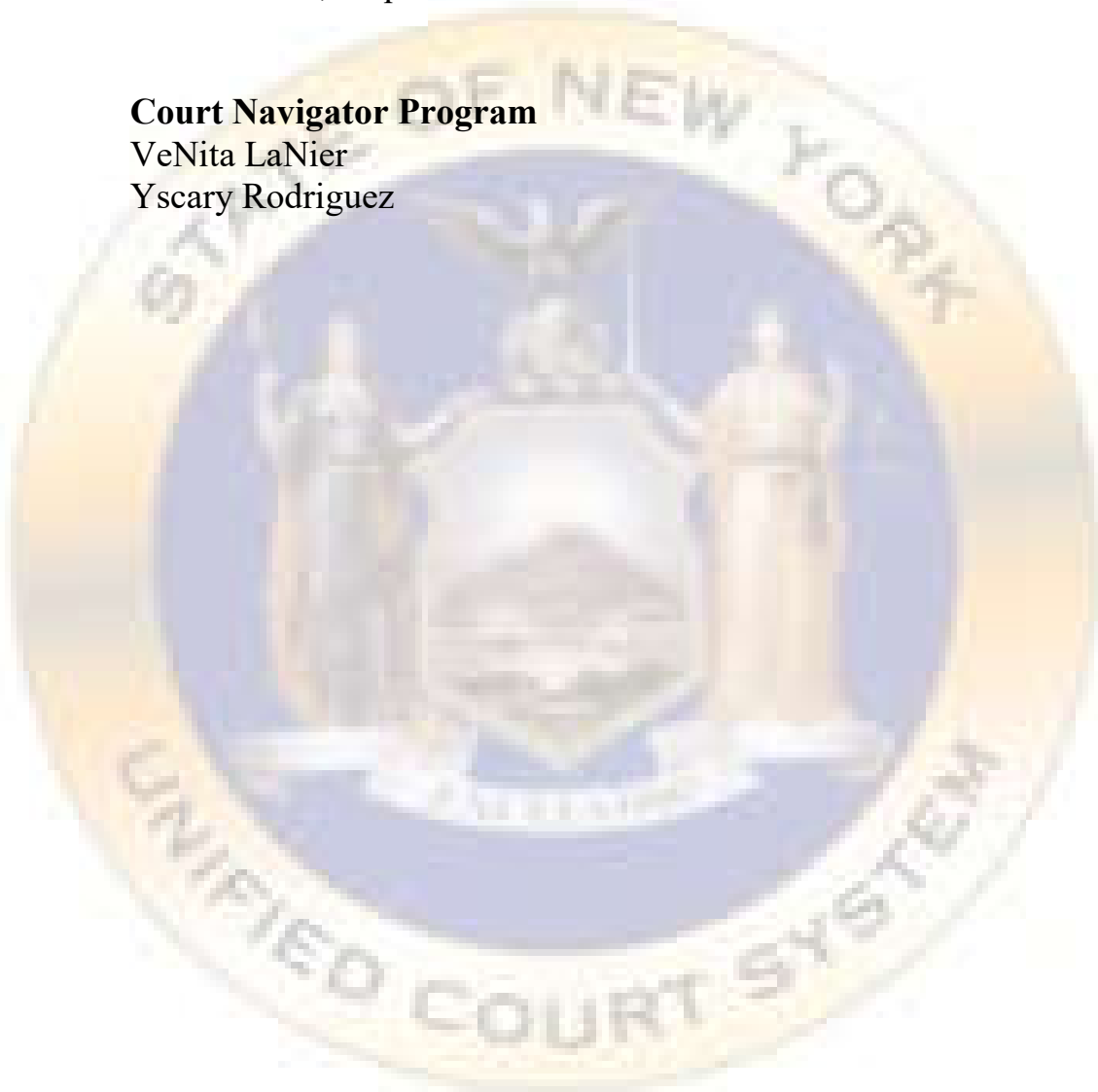
**Civil Court Volunteer Lawyer Program**

Stella Hirsch, Esq.

**Court Navigator Program**

VeNita LaNier

Yscary Rodriguez





The New York State Courts thanks the following individuals for their distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the 2016 Access To Justice Program

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## NAMES

Edward Acton, Esq.  
Emily Allen  
Alina Avaliani  
Ernesto Belzaguy, Esq.  
Randel Bueno  
Mary Callaghan, Esq.  
Jose Caraballo  
Brook Carrillo  
Della DeKay, Esq.  
Nicola DeMarco  
Brett Dolin, Esq.  
Paldon Dolma  
Phillip Dunn  
Ava Ferenci  
Rudy Ferreira  
Sheldon Fried, Esq.  
Shani Friedman  
Barbara Gager  
Katrina Glover  
Betty Ware Hayes  
Tranesa Houston  
Nelly Isaacson  
Julema Laforce  
Richard Landman, Esq.

Juanita Lasprilla, Esq.  
Jesse Levine, Esq.  
Efraim Lipschutz  
Charese Magwood  
Howard Malatzky, Esq.  
Tom McCarthy  
James Melendez  
Devora Nunez  
Mosunmola Ojo, Esq.  
David Oppliger, Esq.  
Wanda Ortiz  
Jamila Outlar  
David Patterson, esq.  
Veronica Paul  
Robert Peters, Esq.  
Joseph Primavera, Esq.  
Trishawn Raffington  
Laura Del Regno  
Jorge Rodriguez Ruiz  
Carl Schwartz  
Shabana Shahabuddin, Esq.  
Sophia Singh  
George Sole  
Syeda Tasmin, Esq.

Renata Thakurdyal  
Michael Valentine, Esq.  
Andres Valles, Esq.  
Natalia Varela, Esq.  
Priscilla Vidal  
Brian Wallace  
Isabelle D. Wedemeyer, Esq.  
Bart Wu, Esq.

