



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Bonnie A. Sullivan**

Executive Director

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

410-539-6800 or [bonnie@mvlslaw.org](mailto:bonnie@mvlslaw.org)

## **MVLS Volunteers Wayne Clark and Barbara Bechberger Receive Maryland Pro Bono Service Award**

BALTIMORE— Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) is pleased to announce that volunteers Wayne Clark and Barbara Bechberger will be awarded Maryland Pro Bono Service Awards. The Maryland Pro Bono Service Awards are statewide awards honoring outstanding attorneys and non-attorneys who have made a significant contribution to the delivery of pro bono civil legal services to Maryland's poor.

Wayne Clark, principal with The Law Office of Wayne L. Clark in Ellicott City, will receive the Lee A. Caplan Award. The Lee A. Caplan Award is presented to a solo or small firm practitioner who has rendered pro bono services over many years. Since 2011, Mr. Clark has accepted 23 complex bankruptcy, foreclosure, and predatory lending cases from MVLS. He also mentors MVLS staff and other volunteers on the nuances of working cases where bankruptcy and foreclosure law intersect. Mr. Clark focuses his law firm's practice on loan modifications, mediation hearings, debt relief, short sales, taxes resulting from deficiencies, and Chapter 13 protection. His business model is to maintain a 50% pro bono practice, whereby half the cases he accepts are pro bono cases.

Barbara Bechberger, principal with The Law Office of Barbara Bechberger in Newburg, MD, will receive the Judge Robert M. Bell Award, which is presented to an individual who has distinguished her/himself as an exemplar of pro bono service, going above and beyond the average pro bono commitment for at least 5 years. Ms. Bechberger has been on MVLS' volunteer panel for 22 years and has handled 68 pro bono cases - including some Judicare Project cases which involve contested family law matters. She consistently demonstrates her willingness to take the most difficult cases – including working with victims of domestic violence. Ms. Bechberger is a counselor in the truest sense of the word.

Mr. Clark and Ms. Bechberger will receive their awards at the Maryland State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Ocean City on June 14, 2014.

Founded in 1981, MVLS is the largest provider of pro bono civil legal services in Maryland. Last year, 815 volunteer lawyers provided legal assistance to nearly 3,000 low-income Marylanders. MVLS volunteers represent clients in a wide range of cases, including foreclosure, landlord/tenant, consumer rights, family law, denial of public benefits, wills, and tax disputes.

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