

Steven E. Glink Inspires Dreams

News from the Pro Bono Center for Disability and Elder Law

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A group of "dream makers" gathered last week to celebrate the kick-off of the 2nd Annual Pro Bono Week. This program recognized pro bono leaders in the Chicago area. A heartfelt presentation was given by Atty. Steven Glink, who is a volunteer at the Pro Bono Center. For more than 25 years, Glink has provided legal counsel to students and parents in areas of school and special education law. Recently, the Illinois State Bar Association recognized him as a "Leading Lawyer" for his significant work.

Glink shared his commitment to level the playing fields between the "haves" and "have nots" through his volunteer work. He provided a compelling personal account about a special education and sexual abuse case he handled through the Pro Bono Center. Glink received the call about this case during the most traumatic time in his own life; as he was leaving his mother's funeral. Glink, inspired by her life, graciously accepted the opportunity to inspire the life of another. "It is what my mother would have wanted," Glink said. He also recognized that special education is an area in which very few attorneys practice.

The case involved a young mother's battle for her teen daughter who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, as a result of sexual abuse. The victim's mother was a strong advocate for her daughter. Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful in gaining an appropriate education program for her daughter. Through Glink's work, he helped the child secure an appropriate education plan. He also secured full financial support from the school system and through an Individual Care Grant (ICG) from the state. Glink highlighted a significant factor which led to this successful ending -- his attorney status.

In the kick-off ceremony for Pro Bono Week, Glink emphasized the strength of the legal community and its responsibility to help others. He stated, "Providing legal representation for the poor allows me to help others fulfill their dreams." He captivated the crowd, asking them to picture themselves in a new light --- as dream makers. Glink stated, "Attorneys are dream maker that's what we are."

Glink did more than just tell a story, he gave each attorney a new purpose. He ignited a renewed commitment to pro bono. Glink shared his vision in hopes that each day, attorneys awake in the spirit of pro bono -- "Each day you should ask yourselves, what difference am I going to make today?" Glink certainly lives in this light. He is highly committed to providing legal representation to individuals who cannot afford it. Attorney Glink continues to volunteer and hopes to inspire others through his work.

For more information regarding the Pro Bono Center for Disability and Elder Law, visit <http://probonocdel.org>.

