The New York City Bar Association’s Pro Bono & Legal Services Committee [1991-2001]

Chairs: Mark Geoffrey Cunha, Thomas J. Moloney, John S. Kiernan, and James H. R. Windels

- Publication of Pro Bono Opportunities: A Guide for Lawyers in New York City

- Pro Bono Leadership Conference, bringing together 160 lawyers who led pro bono efforts at their firms or corporations. The conference morphed into a working group of the Pro Bono Chairs of many NYC firms.

- Expansion of institutionalized pro bono into smaller firms and corporate legal departments in the City.

- Pro Bono Consortium Night, providing an opportunity for attorneys to meet informally with representatives of more than 60 different pro bono organizations and to learn about pro bono projects in which they might participate.

- Lead the NYC firms to step up to the Pro Bono Institute challenge of dedicating 5% of firm billings to pro bono work.

- Developed recommendations for mandatory pro bono requirements at law schools and for mandatory reporting by lawyers of the amount of pro bono work they did and the amount of money they contributed to legal services organizations.

- At a time when legal service providers were under siege both in terms of their funding and in terms of restrictions on the scope of their representation of their indigent clients, including, but not limited to, their ability to sue the government on their clients behalf: The Committee devoted a great deal of efforts towards supporting these organizations from unjustified attacks and also towards exploring alternative sources of legal service funding.

- Developed criteria for Bar Association recommendations for nominating directors for Legal Services boards and also selected a number of the directors for those boards.