Project HEAL Wins National Charitable Services Award

At a banquet in Atlanta, Georgia on February 13, 2013, Project HEAL, a program of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute, was named a 2012 Program of Excellence as part of the Hospital偿s Service Awards, a national program sponsored by Jackson Healthcare.

HEAL (which stands for Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) is Maryland’s only onsite medical-legal partnership and operates on Kennedy Krieger Institute’s main campus in Baltimore with a small staff of attorneys and law students. It offers parents and children with disabilities free advocacy and legal services in special education matters, denial of public benefits, simple family law, and housing matters.

HEAL and the other nine honorees each received $10,000 to continue their service.

“Project HEAL is a bright light, within the hospital community, of programs that are working in impactful ways,” said Charles R. Evans, the chairman of the awards program.

“This program is invaluable to the many families at Kennedy Krieger facing a variety of legal challenges with limited financial means,” said Maureen van Stone, Director of Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger. “The $10,000 award will be instrumental in ensuring that we can help even more children to receive the education and services that they need.”

According to statistics from the program, HEAL averages more than 80 cases a year. It also provides limited representation to more than 330 families per year and consults with more than 300 health care professionals per year.

Jackson Healthcare instituted the Hospital Charitable Service Awards in 2010 to identify leading community health service programs, share their stories, and make them models for other programs. This year’s ten honorees were selected from a national pool of 191 nominees. Each nominee had to demonstrate excellence in the following five criteria areas: community impact, innovation, collaboration, transferability, and leading practice.

By Nicholas Clash

As MSBA prepares to make long overdue major changes to updates both the look and functionality of the MSBA website, there is still a wealth of information available to Bar members on the site.

Here are some of the highlights of our member resources:

- Member Benefits
- MSBA provides its members with discounted services or products that can help aid and support practitioners and their firms. There are many items listed on the member benefits page. Since many of the benefits are for MSBA members only, you will need to log in to get the pass code to benefit from some of these vendors. You can also get information on all the vendor benefits that the MSBA offers and contact information.

- Law Office Management Assistance (LOMA)
- This department is the help desk for solo and small firm practitioners throughout the state. Questions can range from law practice management to technology. The LOMA department provides guidance and information to our members, especially to new or experienced solo and small firm practitioners. Contact the office at (410) 685-7878, ext. 3038. If LOMA cannot answer all your questions, LOMA can find someone who can. The department offers a wide range of informational packets and resource guides for solo and small firm practitioners. LOMA also provides law practice videos and helpful articles to help you with your law practice.

- Legal Career Center
- This is the centralized location where employers and lawyers meet online. Members can search and review thousands of legal positions. Members can also post their resume online for employers and recruiters

Submit a “Letter to the Editor” to Patrick Jandy, 520 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, or e-mail pjandy@msba.org

MSBA.org – Online Resource for Success

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are now being accepted for the 29th annual H. Vernon Eney Endowment Fund Award. The award is presented by the Maryland Bar Foundation to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in working to improve government and the administration of justice. Nominees should exhibit the four principal characteristics which distinguished Mr. Eney’s career: excellence in the law, bar leadership, community leadership, and enormous capacity for work.

The H. Vernon Eney Endowment Fund Award was created in 1984 as a tribute to Vernon Eney, whose selfless dedication resulted in significant changes in government at the state and local levels.

To nominate a judge, lawyer, government official, or volunteer to receive the 2013 Eney Award, send a letter and detailed description of the nominee’s contributions and activities, by May 3, 2013, to Maryland Bar Foundation, H. Vernon Eney Award Committee, Maryland Bar Foundation, 520 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

The award will be presented at the Maryland Bar Foundation Fellows Meeting to be held in connection with the Maryland State Bar Association’s Annual Meeting on June 13, 2013, in Ocean City, Maryland.

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