

# PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE MONTH



BY GAIL BRODER KATZ

## John N. Tasolides

The Safe Center Long Island (TSCLI) is proud to name John N. Tasolides, Esq. as the April 2017 Pro Bono Attorney of the Month. Since joining The Safe Center's *Pro Bono* Project in 2012, Mr. Tasolides has represented and/or consulted with ten clients. As a solo practitioner, he is to be commended for his outstanding efforts and contributions to helping victims of domestic abuse resolve their legal issues and move forward with their lives.

A majority of TSCLI's clients are seeking representation for matrimonial and family court matters, but the abuse touches all aspects of their lives, and so they are often in need of assistance in many different areas of the law. These may include post judgment enforcement actions, real estate issues, guardianship proceedings, criminal matters, consumer matters and bankruptcy, to name to just a few. As a general practitioner, Mr. Tasolides possesses a wealth of knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas of law and so has been an invaluable resource for the Project. He has drafted wills, reviewed mortgage documents, assisted in enforcing money judgments, and addressed sexual harassment claims. This is in addition to his *pro bono* representation of TSCLI clients in Family Court on Orders of Protection, Child and Spousal Support matters. John has never turned down a request to speak, consult with, or represent a TSCLI client.

Mr. Tasolides is not only an excellent attorney and litigator, he is also a kind and compassionate man. This is demonstrated in the way in which he deals with TSCLI clients who have reported that they felt safe knowing that they were in such capable hands. As a former prosecutor, John understands the issues of domestic abuse and knows he is dealing with people who are often in horrifically untenable situations. He has the ability to quickly grasp the situation and explain the issues and consequences to the clients in a clear and easily understandable fashion. He gives them a level of comfort and feeling of control over their situation. This further serves to empower them on the journey from victim to survivor.

Everyone has his or her own reason for choosing to perform volunteer work in their community. When the question was posed to Mr. Tasolides as to his motivation he replied most eloquently:

"I view the practice of law as a privilege and strongly believe one of the obligations of enjoying that privilege is to perform *pro bono* services. It is an obligation that you owe to the community in which you practice as well as to the profession of law. I try to fulfill that obligation in several ways."

"The first is by providing direct legal services to clients of the Safe Center. The women and children of the Safe Center have not only suffered

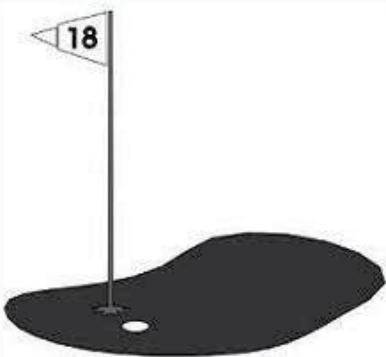
abuse at the hands of spouses, family members, and purported partners but also by the legal and public assistance systems meant to protect them. The lessons of courage and resiliency that I have learned from my Safe Center clients are far greater than any legal assistance that I have provided them."

"The second is by serving as a volunteer faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and at the Hofstra University School of Law Trial Advocacy Program helping attorneys and law students develop trial skills that they can use to serve the community. By doing so I hope to pass on the skills I have learned to the next generation of attorneys so that they can apply them to provide *pro bono* services to those who need but cannot afford them."

Mr. Tasolides holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology and Political Science from New York University and a Juris Doctor from the Hofstra University School of Law. He is a former Supervising Senior Trial attorney in the Homicide Bureau of the Kings County, New York District Attorney's office. John served as the office's DWI coordinator responsible for the screening of all DWI arrests county wide, as well as the training and supervision of attorneys in the trial of those matters, and as representative to the New York City Department of Transportation and New York State District Attorney's Legislative Lobby on DWI matters. He is admitted to practice before the Courts of the State of New York and the Federal District Court in both the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and presently conducts a general legal practice with a concentration in criminal defense and commercial litigation throughout the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Tasolides has written extensively on the topic of Driving While Intoxicated. His writings have been published by the New York State Bar Association and used throughout the state in their continuing legal education civil litigation training programs, as well as by the New York County Lawyers Asso-

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# NCBA Domus Open

Monday, June 19, 2017  
Eisenhower "The Red"

**Golf - \$195 pp**

**INCLUDES:**

driving range, green fees, gift, open bar & BBQ  
"PLUS"

Hot Dog, Soft Drink & Bag of Chips  
@ 9th Hole Snack Bar

**Open Bar & BBQ only - \$75**

# GOLF

**SCHEDULE**

12:00 p.m. - Registration

1:00 p.m. - Shotgun Start

5:30 p.m. - Open Bar & BBQ

(at the Carlton)

**Robert F. Schalk, Chair**  
**Daniel W. Russo, Vice Chair**



**For more information contact Jody Ratner 516-747-4070 x226**

## New Lawyers Get Together with Commercial Division Judges



NCBA's Judiciary/New Lawyer Lunch program continues to be one of the most popular social gatherings for new lawyers, as well as for the judges. The March 3rd lunch featured judges from the Commercial Division. Seated from left: Amanda Rose Green, Alexander Widell, New Lawyers Committee Co-Chair Jennifer Koo and Stacy Eves. Standing from left: Hon. Vito DeStefano, NCBA President Martha Krisel, Jamie Rosen, David Carl, Hon. Stephen Bucaria, Hon. Timothy Driscoll, Adina Phillips, Julia Gavrilov, Lee Riger and Michael Cardello III. Moritt Hock & Hamroff is sponsoring the Judiciary/New Lawyer lunches this year. If you'd like to attend, contact Donna Gerdik at [dgerdik@nassaubar.org](mailto:dgerdik@nassaubar.org).

### NCBA New Members

*We welcome the following new members*

#### Attorneys

Sam R. Baharvar

*Smith Sovik Kendrick & Sugnet, P.C.*

Jaime Bower

Nicole A. Donatich

*Frazer & Feldman, LLP*

Danielle Lambergh

*Berkman Bottger Newman  
& Rodd, LLP*

Nicole Lubell

Marilyn Schatz

#### Students

Ivana Bologna

Samuel Dobre

Alexandra Faver

Tinamarie Fisco

Katherine Lalor

Steven Stuts

Marie Elizabeth Villefranche

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ciation where he has also been a featured speaker at their criminal defense training program. He has been selected to the 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 list of New York Metro Super Lawyers.

Mr. Tasolides is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, Nassau County Bar Association Criminal Court Law and Procedure Committee, Nassau County Bar Association Solo/Small Firm Practitioners Committee, New York State Defenders Association and a Panel Member of the Assigned Counsel Defender Plan of Nassau County. He has also been a featured speaker at these organizations on a variety of topics including handling court cases and DWI cases. In addition, in 1990 Mr. Tasolides was a featured speaker at the Parents of Murdered Children, National Conference, speaking on, "What Really Happened to My Loved One?"; "Planting Seeds of Hope and Healing

Through Communication" a workshop on communication with prosecutors and law enforcement authorities.

Mr. Tasolides is a general practitioner and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table in a variety of areas of law. He is exceedingly generous in sharing his knowledge with TSCLI staff attorneys and in the excellent representation he provides to our clients. He has succeeded in his self-imposed goal to fulfill the obligation of being an attorney by performing pro bono service on a regular basis. Mr. Tasolides has more than earned the designation of *Pro Bono* Attorney of the month. Please join us in congratulating and thanking him for the fine work he has done and continues to do on behalf of TSCLI clients.

**Gail Broder Katz, Esq.** is the Pro Bono Project Coordinator for The Safe Center LI (formerly Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence.) She can be contacted at [GBroderKatz@tscli.org](mailto:GBroderKatz@tscli.org) or 516-465-4700 for information about the Project and how you can get involved.

## NCBA Sustaining Members 2016 - 2017

Every year thousands of attorneys renew their membership in the Nassau County Bar Association. In addition to dues, some members show their appreciation to the NCBA by making a special contribution and become a **Sustaining Member.**

The NCBA is grateful for these individuals who strongly value the Nassau County Bar Association's mission and its contributions for the betterment of the legal profession.

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**To become a Sustaining Member  
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