

Joseph A. Sullivan, Esq.

Mr. Sullivan, an experienced litigator and pro bono attorney, is Special counsel and Director of pro bono programs at Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia. He manages Pepper's firm-wide pro bono program and supervises and coordinates all aspects of the delivery of pro bono legal services, including the internal reach and effectiveness of the programs, as well as outreach to bar associations, public interest law firms, business entities and community organizations. Mr. Sullivan also actively participates in pro bono engagements. He serves on the boards of Community Legal Services, Philadelphia Legal Assistance, the Homeless Advocacy Project (ex officio and as past president), and Inn Dwelling (a community development organization for which he is board chairman).

Mr. Sullivan is also an active board member of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, and Friends of Farmworkers. He is a past counsel to the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and he has served as an independent counsel to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and as a legal advisor to the Philadelphia School Reform Commission. In 2010, Mr. Sullivan was presented with the Philadelphia Bar Association Fidelity Award, recognizing significant accomplishments in improving the administration of justice. He is a recipient of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Louis J. Goffman Award (the highest honor for pro bono service) and its Pro Bono Award for Philadelphia County.

Mr. Sullivan joined Pepper from Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis in Philadelphia, where he was counsel and served as an administrator of that firm's Litigation Services Department and director of its pro bono program. Mr. Sullivan is a 1987 graduate of Columbia Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. After law school, he spent two years clerking for the Honorable Anna Diggs Taylor of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Mr. Sullivan received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University in 1980.

Merril L. Zebe, Esq.

Since 2003, Merrill L. Zebe, has served as the Public Interest Coordinator for the Philadelphia Bar Association. Merrill provides staff support for the Delivery of Legal Services Committee and the Civil Gideon and Access to Justice Task Force. Ms. Zebe also provided significant staff support for the Pennsylvania Civil Legal Justice Coalition, which organized statewide hearings in 2013 and produced a report on the civil justice gap crisis in 2014. In March 2014, she received the Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network in recognition of her outstanding commitment to equal justice for all.

Ms. Zebe received a B.S.W. degree from Temple University in 1976 and a J.D. degree from the University of Santa Clara Law School in 1980. She is an experienced public interest attorney and previously worked as a legal advocate at Community Legal Services Society, Inc., in Wilmington, Delaware, for thirteen years. Ms. Zebe also served as a Director of Development for several nonprofit agencies in the greater Delaware Valley area.

NEW YORK RESOURCES

New York City Housing Right to Counsel Legislation and Creation of Office of Civil Justice

- A New York City Council bill (known as Proposed Int. No. 214-A) was introduced in 2014 that would guarantee a right to counsel for low-income individuals in eviction and foreclosure proceedings in New York City. Proposed Int. No. 214-A is available at <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1687978&GUID=29A4594B-9E8A-4C5E-A797-96BDC4F64F80>
- A report prepared for the New York City Bar Association by Stout Risius Ross, Inc., entitled *The Financial Cost and Benefits of Establishing a Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings Under Intro 214-A* (March 16, 2016), found that the pending New York City legislation known as Intro 214- A, which would provide a right to counsel in NYC eviction and mortgage foreclosure cases, would save the city a total of approximately \$320 million from reducing shelter costs, preserving regulated, affordable apartments, eliminating city services that are often provided because of evictions, such as emergency room care and law enforcement. The study estimates that providing counsel to eligible New Yorkers would cost \$191 million annually. The report is available at http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/SRR_Report_Financial_Cost_and_Benefits_of_Establishing_a_Right_to_Counsel_in_Eviction_Proceedings.pdf. A summary of this report is available at https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/righttocounselnyc/pages/23/attachments/original/1460160961/SRR_report_two_pager_FINAL.pdf?1460160961.
- New York City Office of Civil Justice: In June 2015, the New York City Council approved legislation creating an Office of Civil Justice in the Mayor's Office that is responsible for overseeing all aspects of civil justice programs. The office is charged with advising and assisting the mayor in each area as it relates to civil justice, including, but not limited to, the planning and implementation of civil justice programs, coordination of agencies that implement these programs, reviewing and advising the mayor on the budgetary costs associated with civil programs as well as developing, studying and making recommendations in all civil justice matters that affect New York City. A copy of the legislation is available at <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2253270&GUID=023D2B73-AEF0-4B03-AE14-61167A8431C8&Options=&Search=>
- For more information, visit the website of the Right to Counsel Coalition of NYC at <http://www.righttocounselnyc.org/> or the website of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel at http://www.civilrighttocounsel.org/major_developments/894. See also New York City Press Release (January 28, 2016) announcing the creation of the Office of Civil Justice available at <http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/108-16/mayor-bill-de-blasio-city-council-speaker-melissa-mark-viverito-creation-office-of>
- For more information about the creation of the New York City Office of Civil Justice, see Erika Wang, *How We Got Here: City Creates New Office of Civil Justice*, Gotham Gazette (June 16, 2015), available at <http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/government/5773-how-we-got-here-city-creates-new-office-of-civil-justic>

