

Carmody Named Inaugural Adams and Reese National Appleseed Senior Pro Bono Fellow



"The people of Appleseed are my heroes for the work they do every day to help the powerless. That's what this is about – leveraging our privilege to help the powerless, and that's why Appleseed appeals to me for this fellowship."

Richard P. Carmody
Adams and Reese National Appleseed
Senior Pro Bono Fellow

Richard P. Carmody, a leading bankruptcy law attorney with the law firm of Adams and Reese, has been named the inaugural Adams and Reese

Senior Pro Bono Fellow in a new fellowship program recently launched by the firm. The new program offers senior attorneys the opportunity to effect change by devoting a significant portion of their working hours to pro bono ventures while continuing to serve clientele through traditional practice. For the 2016 fellowship program, Carmody will work with National Appleseed and its network of 17 social justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico. To recognize this commitment, Adams and Reese has made a generous \$10,000 donation

to National Appleseed. [Read more](#)



National Appleseed President Bert Brandenburg accepts a \$10,000 contribution from Adams and Reese to National Appleseed to help fund the firm's inaugural Adams and Reese National Appleseed Senior Pro Bono Fellow, Richard Carmody. The check was presented by Washington, D.C. Partner Jeff Brooks.



Retired Justice Harry Lemmon of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Adams and Reese Partner [Jeff Richardson](#), Louisiana Appleseed Executive Director Christy Kane, Adams and Reese Partner [Martin Stern](#) with Irving Warshauer.

Partners Receive Good Apple Award for Pro Bono Work That Led To Creation of Louisiana Supreme Court Rule

Adams and Reese New Orleans Partners [Martin A. Stern](#), [Jeffrey E. Richardson](#), and Of Counsel [Ronald J. Sholes](#) received a Good Apple Award from Louisiana Appleseed at the non-profit organization's seventh annual Good Apple Gala. Stern, Richardson and Sholes were honored together with retired Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Harry T. Lemmon for their research and advocacy to encourage the Supreme Court of Louisiana to create a court rule allowing continuing legal education (CLE) credit for attorneys who perform pro bono work to help indigent clients. [Read more](#)

Partners Receive LSBA Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice

Adams and Reese New Orleans Partners [Martin A. Stern](#), [Jeffrey E. Richardson](#), and Of Counsel [Ronald J. Sholes](#) are recipients of the Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice for their pro bono work with Louisiana Appleseed and having conducted exceptional outreach activities that support the goals and purposes of the judicial branch.

Welcome Annie Lemoine, Summer 2016 LSBA Access to Justice Developing Leadership Intern

In the spirit of building the next generation of Louisiana Access to Justice leaders, Adams and Reese is proud to welcome Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Student Annie Lemoine as its inaugural Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice (ATJ) Developing Leadership Intern. Lemoine, a second-year law student, was selected out of numerous, excellent Loyola Law applicants to participate in the first-year program, a first of its kind in the country created by the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). For the duration of the five-week-long internship, Lemoine will work directly with judges and legal service providers to gain knowledge pertaining to the unmet civil legal needs of Louisiana's indigent population.

Adams and Reese is one of four prominent New Orleans law firms sponsoring the [Summer 2016 ATJ Developing Leadership Intern Program](#). Held over a five-week period from May 23 to June 24, 2016, the program offers a rising 2L law student from each of Louisiana's four law schools the opportunity to learn about Louisiana's civil justice community first-hand. Each week, the interns will focus on the various civil legal needs of low-income people, the ways in which organizations within the justice community address those needs, and how ATJ services increase the quality of life of those served. Each of the four sponsoring law firms, which include Adams and Reese, Baker Donelson, Jones Walker and Phelps Dunbar, contributed \$2,500 to the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission to support the program. [Read more](#)





Partner Jim Dickson
President of the St. Petersburg Community Law Program

Partner Dickson Crusades for St. Petersburg Community Law Program



For many years, St. Petersburg Partner **Jim Dickson** has dedicated many pro bono hours working with St. Petersburg's Community Law Program (CLP), the primary source of free legal aid

services in the St. Petersburg area. Last October, Dickson was elected to serve as President of the 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, continuing his and the organization's collective crusade to ensure access to justice for low-income individuals in Pinellas County, Florida. [Read more](#)

Partner Laura Rose Featured in Portico Jackson Magazine

Jackson Partner **Laura Rose** was featured in a January 2016 Portico Jackson article highlighting the pro bono experiences of Jackson area attorneys. Rose discusses her passion for pro bono work. "It gives me the opportunity to work with people in need, but can't normally get my services," she said in the piece. "I love all the details of pro bono work, whether it's probating an estate or establishing a guardianship or conservatorship. I also admire other attorneys who are willing to tackle pro bono work." [Read more](#)



Jacksonville Attorneys Provide Legal Aid To Seniors, Military Reservists

Jacksonville Litigation Associates **Jamie Olinto**, **James Floyd Jr.** and **Angela Grewal** participated in several Advanced Directives for Seniors and Military Reservists events in collaboration with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA). JALA is a non-profit organization that assists low-income individuals in the Jacksonville community by providing free quality legal representation in a variety of service areas.



Jacksonville attorneys **James Floyd, Jr.**, **Jamie Olinto** and **Angela Grewal** working with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.

At JALA's Advanced Directives events, teams of attorneys, law students and paralegals create and execute advance directive documents for low-income seniors and military reservists, including living wills, designations of health care surrogates and medical powers of attorney. The Jacksonville attorneys reported that the people they assisted were very grateful for the guidance they received. They came away feeling reassured and empowered, knowing that their wishes would be honored. [Read more](#)

New Orleans Attorneys Provide Pro Bono Representation to Orleans Public Defenders Office

Three New Orleans attorneys will represent the Orleans Public Defenders (OPD) office on a pro bono basis in connection with a class-action lawsuit filed against OPD in January. The lawsuit came on the heels of OPD's announcement that it would begin refusing certain felony cases due to lack of funding and a shortage of attorneys qualified to provide competent defense in the cases. OPD announced it would instead focus on cases involving lesser felonies. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of indigent defendants in the Federal Middle District Court of Louisiana, alleges that the lack of legal representation violates defendants' Sixth Amendment rights. Partner Justin Schmidt, Associate Jennifer Barriere and Pro Bono Paladin Mark Surprenant will represent OPD on a pro bono basis in the lawsuit. [Read more](#)

Congratulations to Our 2015 CA&RE Award Recipients

Congratulations to our 2015 CA&RE (Caring Adams and Reese Employees) Pro Bono Award recipients who were honored by the firm in December. New Orleans Of Counsel Ron Sholes received the 2015 CA&RE of the Year Award and Partner Philip Franco and Associate Justin Boron each received 2015 CA&RE Appreciation Awards. The annual CA&RE Pro Bono Awards recognize attorneys throughout the firm who best demonstrate the spirit of pro bono giving.

Attorney Pro Bono Service: Boards and Committees

- Rob Bethea**
Epworth Children's Home, Pro Bono Tax Counsel
- Richard Carmody**
Adams and Reese National Appleeed Senior Pro Bono Fellow
American College of Bankruptcy Foundation, Pro Bono Committee Member; National Appleeed, Assistant in Communication and Understanding of Consumer Commercial Law Issues
- Jim Dickson**
Community Law Program Inc., Board President
- Ira Gonzalez**
New Orleans Pro Bono Project, Board of Directors
- Scott Hetrick**
South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program, Board President
- Matt Jackson**
American Bar Association, Military Pro Bono Project Committee; South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program, Board of Directors
- Stephanie Martin**
The Florida Bar, Pro Bono Committee Member
- Margaret Myers**
The ALS Association Tennessee Chapter, Pro Bono Advisor
- Jannae Rogers**
American Bar Association Military Pro Bono Project Committee, Firm Liaison
- Anne Russell**
South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Anne Russell**
Cheekwood Museum of Art and Botanical Gardens, Pro Bono Legal Counsel
- Martin Stern**
Louisiana Appleeed, Board of Directors
- Mark Surprenant**
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Board of Directors; Louisiana Access to Justice Commission, Board of Directors; and New Orleans Pro Bono Project, Resource Development Committee.

Good Neighbor Award
Partner **Patty McMurray** and paralegal **Laurie Anders**.

Good Neighbor Award for Pro Bono

Adams and Reese's Baton Rouge office was the recipient of the first Downtown Good Neighbor Award presented by Rev. David Melville. Adams and Reese attorneys **Robert Wooley**, **Patty McMurray**, **Johnny Lyle** and **Ryan Smithweck** and paralegal **Laurie Anders** handled pro bono matters for the church. [Read more](#)



Pro Bono Around the Firm

Below are mentions of the some of the pro bono work being performed by our attorneys:

Pro Bono Out In Front Newsletter

Mark Surprenant
Adams and Reese Partner
and Pro Bono Paladin

Please send any comments and pro bono successes to:
mark.surprenant@arlaw.com
wanda.miller@arlaw.com or
ashley.roe@arlaw.com

Pro Bono Committee

CHAIR - Mark Surprenant

Baton Rouge -
Patty McMurray

Birmingham -
Richard Carmody

Columbia -
Cliff Moore

Houston -
Alex Cosculluela

Jackson -
Laura Rose

Jacksonville -
TBA

Memphis -
Ben Fox

Mobile -
Scott Hetrick

Nashville -
Margaret Myers

New Orleans -
Martin Stern

Sarasota -
Ryan Owen

St. Petersburg -
Jim Dickson

Tampa -
Eric Partlow

Washington, DC -
Jeff Brooks

Baton Rouge

Attorneys in Baton Rouge have volunteered at several pro bono events and clinics through the Baton Rouge Bar Association Pro Bono Project's Ask-A-Lawyer and Thirst for Justice programs.

Birmingham

Birmingham Of Counsel Richard Carmody has been named the Adams and Reese National Appleseed Senior Pro Bono Fellow continuing to assist the organization in communicating consumer commercial law issues to the nonprofit's network of 17 public interest justice centers in the United States and Mexico.

Columbia

Columbia attorneys have hosted two pro bono-thons this year through South Carolina Bar Public Services Division using a new interface that allows questions from the community to be asked and answered in real-time.

Houston

Houston attorneys continue to work on several pro bono assignments through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program providing legal services in civil matters for Houston's needy citizens who cannot get help through other legal aid programs and is based on income eligibility..

Jackson

Jackson Partner Laura Rose and Associate Ben Morgan collaborated on a pro bono case that ultimately restored guardianship to a mother who had been struggling. "Things had settled back down to a normal family situation, and we were able to help maneuver it through the courts, so that everything came out happily in the end," Rose explained. "It was very gratifying."

Jacksonville

Jacksonville Litigation Partner Tim Volpe represented the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) in an eminent domain proceeding. Their efforts were integral to achieving just compensation for the taking of the property. The funds paid to JHS are now being applied to the construction of a new facility to replace the shelter that burned down in 2007. St. Petersburg Partner Jim Dickson also aided JHS in its efforts to construct their new facility by representing the shelter in contract negotiations with construction contractors.

Memphis

Memphis attorneys continue to work on several pro bono matters through Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. (MALS), helping provide free legal assistance, community education and representation in civil matters to several counties throughout Tennessee.

Mobile

Mobile Partner Jannea Rogers serves as the firm liaison to the ABA Military Pro Bono Project which accepts case referrals from military attorneys to provide service members legal assistance. The Project is also the platform for Operation Stand-By, through which military attorneys may seek attorney-to-attorney guidance.

Nashville

Nashville attorneys continue to work through the Nashville Pro Bono Program, which is coordinated by the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and The Cumberlands, helping to aid low-income families in numerous civil cases.

New Orleans

Pro Bono Paladin Mark Surprenant received the Louisiana State Bar Association's 2015/2016 President's Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions that have made a substantial impact on the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and the legal profession. He also received an LSBA Pro Bono Century Award on May 24, 2016 for donating more than 100 hours of pro bono service in 2015 with the LSBA.

Sarasota

Sarasota Partner in Charge Jason Gaskill and Special Counsel Laura Bauman successfully defeated an attempted hostile takeover of a local conservation not-for-profit Board by its former executive director. The volunteer members of the Board were faced with various fiduciary allegations and an attempted injunction action. As a result of the approximately 150 hours of pro bono work performed by Gaskill and Bauman, the not-for-profit Board uncovered substantial discrepancies in the financial records provided by the executive director. Ultimately, the executive director was removed, and the attorneys successfully facilitated the unification of two distinct factions into a single cohesive Board of Directors.

St. Petersburg

Through pro bono services, Partners Andrew McBride and Jim Dickson obtained a judgment and collected \$5,000 for an elderly resident who had sold his car to a relative who subsequently refused to pay. In a separate pro bono matter, Dickson obtained a determination of no probable cause by the Florida Commission on Ethics for a claimed ethics violation brought against a local city commissioner. The commissioner had served as executive director of a neighborhood family center, which received funds from the city.

Tampa

Attorneys in Tampa continued working with the Are You Safe organization to provide legal representation for indigent victims of domestic violence, assisted in securing permission for the expansion of a local school and secured a successful appeal to correct an erroneous ruling on back child support for a disabled parent. Work has also begun working with Wills for Heroes and the local Guardian *ad Litem* program.

Washington, DC

Jeff Brooks, Washington, DC Partner is working with Mark Surprenant, New Orleans Partner and Pro Bono Paladin, on a task for the Louisiana Access to Justice Committee to help secure appropriate funding in Congress for the Legal Services Corporation, which provides free legal services to low-income individuals and families across Louisiana and elsewhere in the country.

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For additional information, please see the firm website at www.adamsandree.com.

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