

Three for Three

Three Questions for Three Loyola Alumni
Who Are Dedicated to Pro Bono Work



Michael Geibelson '95

Partner & Member of the Executive Board
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP
Loyola Law School Pro Bono Award
Recipient—2005

1 } What was the determining factor in your decision to attend Loyola in pursuit of your law degree?

When I considered law schools, what I was looking for was an opportunity to have a practical experience and training. Looking at the different opportunities, it became clear to me that Loyola not only had a number of very fine trial lawyers who were graduates but also created opportunities for its students to go work at the superior court and in the district attorney's office, which I really thought were going to compel me to go into trial work. And that is what I have done.

2 } What role did Loyola play in encouraging your focus in practicing public interest law?

From my early days in the Public Interest Law Foundation and the opportunities to get out in the community, particularly the clinical programs that existed on campus, I knew there was the opportunity to do good along with doing well as a lawyer. Early on in my time as a law student I was introduced to the Disability Rights Legal Center, which was housed on campus, and I started getting involved in the Cancer Legal Resource Center. A number of people in my family have cancer, so I knew that it was something I wanted to lend my advocacy skills to.

3 } How did you get involved with pro bono work?

Our firm has helped finalize hundreds of adoptions and guardianships by assisting families with the necessary paper work and appearing at the hearings to adopt and secure the guardianship of their relatives and foster children. In addition, our office's two pro bono coordinators are both graduates of Loyola, Bernice Conn '92 and Ed Lodgen '91. With their guiding hand through all of the firm's activities, there have always been opportunities to find something that is meaningful to you. I have worked with Loyola's Cancer Legal Resource Center for several years, and that all started with my interest in cancer issues. People would call and seek out advice on how to get what they were entitled to, in terms of insurance or something else, as a result of a cancer diagnosis. It led to me representing people with disabilities who have been discriminated against in one way or another.