

OnTheTOWN

Ethics in the afternoon

Faced with rising client demand, the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County Inc. recently enlisted the help of local judges to recruit more volunteer attorneys.

Seven judges answered the call — Gail A. Donofrio, Joan S. Kohout, Patricia D. Marks, Thomas Rainbow Morse, Elizabeth W. Pine, John R. Schwartz and Thomas A.

Stander — and, joined by the Fourth Department's Grievance Committee' chief counsel, Gregory J. Huether, presented "Ethics in the Afternoon," an MCLE-accredited legal seminar.

Held April 16 at the Rochester Plaza Hotel, the event drew more than 100 attorneys, who attended for free upon pledging two hours of service to VLSP,

according to Linda Kostin, coordinator for the Seventh Judicial District's *Pro Bono* Action Now program.

Appellate Division, Fourth Department Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder and Seventh Judicial District Administrative Judge Thomas M. Van Strydonck were among the presenters.

"It's one way that the judges can give something back to the community," Judge Van Strydonck, who discussed ethics in settlement negotiations at the MCLE, said.

Other panelists included Monroe County Surrogate Edmund A. Calvaruso, Judge Morse and attorneys Brian J. Barney, Michael J. Cooney and Andrea E. Tomaino.

Solo practitioner John F. Speranza offered advice for dealing ethically with

difficult judges based on the new Rules of Professional Conduct and the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Former appellate justice Robert J. Lunn, of The Lunn Trotto Law Firm, addressed lawyers' responsibilities regarding lawyer trust accounts.

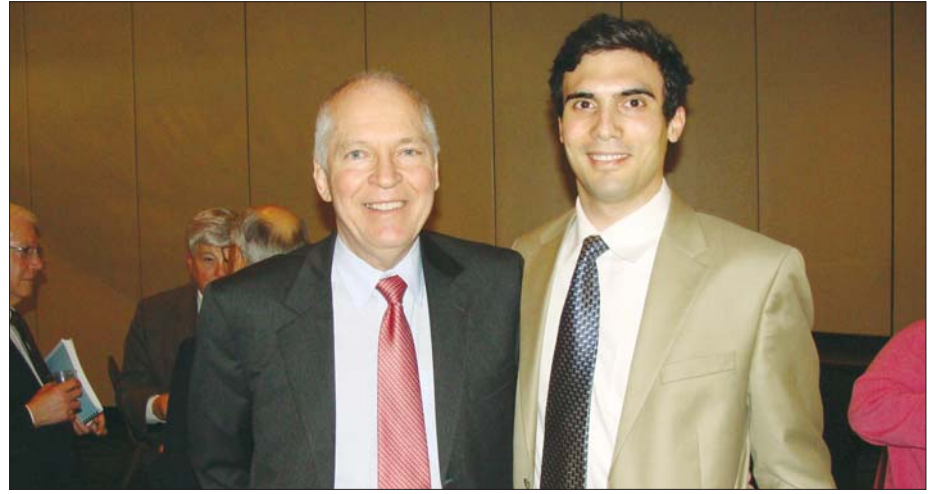
Monroe County Bar Association President T. Andrew Brown moderated the panel.

"Given the recent change in the ethics rules, it was good to have Presiding Justice Scudder and the other panelists discuss ethics issues," said Harold Kurland, a partner at Ward Norris Heller & Reidy LLP and a member of VLSP's board of directors.

— Photos by Nora A. Jones



Monroe County Bar Association President T. Andrew Brown and Monroe County Family Court Judge Dandrea Ruhlmann



Former Appellate Division Justice Robert J. Lunn (right) is shown with his new law partner, Christopher Trotto, of The Lunn Trotto Law Firm in Greece.



Appellate Division, Fourth Department Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder (left) talked with Sheila Gaddis (center), executive director of the Volunteer Legal Services Project, and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher of the New York City Courts.

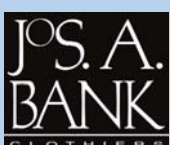


Shown from left are Monroe County Supreme Court Justice Thomas Stander, a program coordinator; Harold Kurland, a member of VLSP's board of directors, and Louise Spinelli, continuing legal education coordinator for the Monroe County Bar Association.

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