

# OnTheTOWN

## 'Pro Bono' Week Oct. 25-31

The Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County Inc. and other area agencies and nonprofits auditioned law firms and solo practitioners to recruit lawyers for clinics and other *pro bono* services during Pro Bono Idol events held during national Pro Bono Week, Oct. 25 to 31.

The local contest was co-sponsored by the state courts' Access to Justice Program.

National *Pro Bono* Week was a project of the American Bar Association.

About 100 Harter Secrest & Emery LLP attorneys attended the VLSP's *Pro Bono* Idol presentation Oct. 26 and four other local nonprofits — the Arts &

Cultural Council, Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Catholic Charities of Wayne County and the Legal Society of Rochester — made brief presentations to encourage volunteer legal work on their behalf.

*Pro bono* also took center stage at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, which became the first court in the state to have an official policy on *pro bono* legal and volunteer services.

"The policy encourages volunteer activity so the entire staff can participate," Appellate Division, Fourth Department Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder said.

— Photos by Nora A. Jones



Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP attorney Robert Hooks talks with VLSP attorney Ann Williams.




Harter Secrest & Emery LLP attorneys pack a room to hear Pro Bono Idol presentations during national Pro Bono Week, Oct. 25-31.



Paul Nunes discusses the legal needs of the Arts & Cultural Council at Thomson Reuters.



Peter Mares of La Casa Residence makes his agency's case to Hiscock & Barclay LLP attorneys.



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Shown left to right are Mary Ross of Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, John Ritchie of the New York State Unified Court System Access to Justice Partnership, and Sheila Gaddis, executive director of Volunteer Legal Services Project Inc.



Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP attorneys enjoy boxed lunches during a Pro Bono Idol event.