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Art of Lawyering exhibit encourages VLSP support

By **NORA A. JONES**
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Volunteer Legal Services Project Inc. once again gathered the creative works by lawyers, paralegals and professional affiliates to host the opening of the 2011 Art of Lawyering Exhibit on Oct. 6. With more than 125 items up for bid, the opening reception drew a wide range of guests and some competitive bidding.

The silent auction runs through Nov. 16, so there is still time to see the artwork, which will remain on display at VLSP's offices on the fifth floor of the Telesca Center for Justice. Within a few days, the auction items will also be viewable online at the VLSP website, with the addition of email bidding.

The inaugural Art of Lawyering exhibit took place in 2007, which was also the debut of an all-attorney jazz ensemble called Special Counsel. The band came back for the 2009 exhibit and played again last week — with a couple substitutes, but still featuring attorneys Anthony Piazza and Jonathan Feldman.

In addition to a broad array of paintings, photographs, jewelry, pottery and textile creations,

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VLSP staff paused for a photo. (From left): Mary Beth Conway, Mary Connors, Donna Hall, Connie Doherty, Julie Petroske, Sheila Gaddis, Bob Houser, Marlene Attardo, Melanie Shiree and Linda Kostin.



Melanie Wolk, Judge Karen Morris and Jeremy Wolk tour the exhibit to bid on their favorites.

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several certificates were also up for bid, including a “thread-painting” class, two very interesting dinner party opportunities, and a vacation rental property.

“There’s really something for everyone,” noted Linda Kostin, VLSP *Pro Bono* Coordinator who organized this year’s Art of Lawyer-ing initiative. “With the jewelry workshop, we were able to add as many as 50 items to the auction — including pendants by Monroe County Bar Association President Bryan Hetherington and former MCBA President Harold Kurland. Keeping in mind the upcoming holidays, and the financial benefit to VLSP, we hope to raise \$7,500 by the close of the auction.”

The auction close date coincides with the annual VLSP Campaign for Justice Phon-a-thon. Those helping to make calls on Nov. 15 and 16 will likely create some of the final bidding competition on this year’s hot items.

— *Photos by Nora A. Jones*



Photographer Larry Merrill stopped by the exhibit to talk about his work. In addition to the two pieces up for auction here, Merrill currently has an exhibit in San Francisco.

Pottery created by Eileen Buholtz is among the items for auction.



Special Counsel provided entertainment throughout the evening.