

THE DAILY RECORD

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How do you measure a year? 525,600 minutes?

BY GRETA K. KOLCON

Daily Record Columnist

The lyrics of the long-running Broadway musical "Rent" ask whether you measure a year "in daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife."

GRAWA members recently managed to take in "Rent" after statewide committee and board meetings of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) in New York City.

Our WBASNY delegates considered many issues, including the restructuring of the courts and recent hearings addressing court reform; the WBASNY survey of state and local government offices on availability of parental and family leave, childcare and part-time and flextime positions for attorneys; a request for comments on the American Psychological Association's Proposed Guidelines for Child Custody in Divorce Proceedings; the upcoming WBASNY program co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of New York State on the effects of war on women around the world; and the recent meeting of WBASNY's International Women Rights Committee with a delegation of Iraqi law students and law professors to discuss women's issues.

Still, on the plane back to Rochester, I was left with Broadway song lyrics running through my head: "525,600 minutes. How do you measure a year?"

Beyond the billable hour

One of the greatest challenges for private practitioners is our current system of measuring economic value for legal service by the billable hour. As such, attorneys break down their time for clients into tenths of hours. Sometimes we fail to step back and look at the bigger picture when it comes to measuring time spent outside of billable hours.

GRAWA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



GRETA K. KOLCON

Give .01 percent of a year to the Campaign For Justice

The 2007 Campaign For Justice begins its calling campaign on Nov. 13, with additional calling times on Nov. 14, 17 and 27. The campaign continues to be a collaborative event of Volunteer Legal Services Project (VLSP), the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC) and the Legal Aid Society of Rochester (LASROC). Money raised from this important annual campaign allows legal services to be delivered to thousands of our region's low-income clients with serious legal problems.

The Campaign for Justice needs support from all of us, including assistance with the calling campaign. GRAWA members have been asked to each donate just .01 percent of their year by spending one hour making calls.

If you cannot participate as a caller, support the campaign when you receive a call. Consider pledging an amount at least equal to your hourly billing rate for one hour of your time. (Call Sheila Gaddis at (585) 295-5700 to volunteer.)

Allocate more of your year to service

The Nathaniel Award reception and presentation will be held on Nov. 20 at the Memorial Art Gallery and will honor six finalists who have gone above and beyond their everyday duties to make significant contributions to the administration of justice.

GRAWA joins *The Daily Record* in saluting the Bivona Child Advocacy Center; June M. Castellano, Esq.; Hon. Gail A. Donofrio; Monroe County Family Court Children's Center; Hon. John C. Ninfo on behalf of the CARE Program; and Hon. Elizabeth W. Pine for their service. Join the celebration and be inspired to reconsider how you allocate your 525,600 minutes each year. (Call [585] 232-6920 to attend.)

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