

Raising the Bar with Support of the Judiciary:

Judge Joan Synenberg

"Feeling good as a lawyer is about giving to someone who needs your help," comments The Honorable Joan Synenberg of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. As Eighth District Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association *Pro Bono* Task Force, Judge Synenberg has given her utmost support to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and the activities of *Pro Bono* Week.

During last year's *Pro Bono* Week, Judge Synenberg, along with Judge Richard Ambrose, provided 90 volunteer lawyers with CLE instruction and a panel discussion that included Bob Tobik from the The Office of the Public Defender. Afterwards, they walked the attorneys over to Legal Aid where each lawyer was paired with a pre-screened, eligible client.

"As lawyers we can help those in need, protect people, defend the poor, and be an advocate for those who are voiceless. I don't think there is anything that could possibly be as satisfying for a lawyer as sharing what we do professionally with people who would otherwise be unable to receive legal representation," says Judge Synenberg.

Judge Synenberg also takes pride in helping to lead the 2010 Fugitive Safe Surrender program, where nearly 7,500 people turned themselves in on outstanding warrants. "We reached deep into the legal community and had a great outpouring of volunteer criminal and civil lawyers. I have never seen people so grateful as the clients who received assistance from these volunteer lawyers."

She believes, "Lawyers' finest hours are when they can reach out for the greater good."

