

Health Law Advocates *Legal Network Update*

Lawyers of the Month

Holland & Knight

This month we give special acknowledgment to the longstanding and enormously effective participation of **Holland & Knight** and its attorneys in HLA's Pro Bono Legal Network.

For several years, attorneys from **Holland & Knight** have been among the most active participants in the Legal Network. They have assisted low-income clients gain access to desperately needed health coverage and bolstered HLA's educational programming by hosting and participating in legal trainings. **Holland & Knight** has also been a generous financial supporter of HLA.

Jeffrey Mittleman, a partner at **Holland & Knight** has worked to coordinate the firm's extensive involvement with HLA and represented clients referred by HLA. Two very recent cases handled by **Holland & Knight** lawyers demonstrate their effectiveness.

Elizabeth Sanghavi, an associate with **Holland & Knight**, represented **S.K.** a young man from Cambridge, who works for a relatively low wage at two community health centers. He could not get health insurance through either of his employers, but a state agency falsely

Dear *Pro Bono* Legal Network Members,

HLA provides a list of health law attorneys in various practice areas to members of the public who contact HLA with legal problems but earn too much to be eligible for HLA pro bono services. We advise callers to inquire with attorneys on the list about their fees.

If you would like your name to appear on the referral list please reply to this email.

We ask attorneys on the list to accept at least one pro bono referral from HLA per year.

Thank you!

**** Cases Available for Referral ****

If you wish to accept or discuss a specific referral matter reply to this email or call Matt Selig at 617-338-5241 x2986.

We have 2 cases available for referral today.

S.K. -- S.K., a 26 year old Arlington woman with a disability, has health insurance coverage from Medicare and an HMO. Over the past few years, **S.K.** has required health care for various diagnoses. Even though she has two health plans, **S.K.'s** insurers have denied coverage for numerous treatments on the basis that her other health plan was liable. **S.K. needs an attorney to assist her in gaining insurance coverage for her outstanding medical debt and to advise her on coordinating her health plan benefits for the future.**

believed he could get employer sponsored insurance and, on that basis, found him ineligible for a government subsidized plan. **S.K.** was unable, after substantial efforts, to reverse the state's decision. **Elizabeth** took on the case and helped **S.K.** navigate a very difficult to penetrate enrollment system.

Ultimately, **Elizabeth** was successful in winning eligibility in the subsidized health plan for **S.K.** He will now be able to enroll and have coverage for needed health care.

Jonathan Anderman, an associate at the firm, represented **D.H.**, a low-income 54 year old from Western Mass. with developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy and grand mal seizures. **D.H.** was prescribed a brand name medication and was paying a \$20 copay every two weeks. When a generic version of the medication came out, **D.H.**'s health plan began charging him an unaffordable \$167 copay every two weeks to stay on the brand name medication. However, the generic version of the medication was not effective for **D.H.** **Jonathan** helped **D.H.** appeal to his insurer and present clinical evidence that the generic medication did not help **D.H.** The insurer agreed and reinstated the \$20 copay for **D.H.**

HLA salutes the attorneys at **Holland & Knight** for their outstanding service on behalf of vulnerable clients facing obstacles to life-sustaining medical care. Thank you **Holland & Knight!!!**

Save the Date!

HLA's Annual Benefit Breakfast

L.P. -- L.P. a 46 year old Ashland woman, recently lost her job and continued her and her wife's health insurance coverage through a COBRA health plan. In July, **L.P.** and her wife were informed by their health plan administrator that their COBRA coverage was terminated back to May 31, that they were not eligible for a federal government program to help pay COBRA premiums because they were a same-sex couple and that they were no longer eligible for a COBRA plan at all. **L.P. needs an attorney to assist her and her spouse in attempting to reinstate their health care benefits.**

*** Special Thanks ***

Thank you to Attorney LeeAnn Modestino for accepting the case of **M.A.**, a Framingham woman with cancer who has approximately \$5,000 in medical bills from cancer treatment. **M.A.** may have been improperly denied information on applying for a government program that would have covered her bills.

*** Success Stories ***

Kim Troland of Robinson & Cole, LLP successfully represented **P.M.** a 51 year old Boston man who lost his insurance coverage last Fall, fell ill and incurred substantial bills for a four day hospital stay including 2 days in the ICU. **P.M.** had been enrolled in an HMO but could no longer afford the premiums. **P.M.** also was eligible for secondary coverage in a government-sponsored plan because of a disability. **P.M.** had lost his government sponsored plan in the Fall as well because the state agency had made errors in a review of his eligibility. **Attorney Troland** represented **P.M.** before a state administrative appeals agency and won retroactive coverage in the government-sponsored plan so it will cover **P.M.**'s hospital bills and other out of pocket costs.

Elizabeth Sanghavi of Holland & Knight, LLP successfully represented **S.K.**, a 34 year old Cambridge man who works in the health care sector. **S.K.**'s income level is low enough to make him eligible for a government-sponsored plan. However, he he had been deemed ineligible because a state agency believed he had access to insurance through his

**Tuesday
November 10
2009**

**Sheraton Boston
Hotel**

For more information
about becoming an
event sponsor or
purchasing tickets call
617-338-5241

Thank you very much
for your support.

We hope to see you
there!

**HLA Pro Bono
Legal Network
Listserve**

Last year HLA launched
the *Pro Bono Legal
Network Listserve!*

The Listserve is now being
used by *Pro Bono* Legal
Network members to seek
and give advice on HLA
referral matters from
fellow Legal Network
members.

Once you join the
Listserve, HLA will send
you guidelines for using
the Listserve.

employer, which he did not. **Attorney Sanghavi** represented **S.K.** in communications with the state agency to demonstrate and his eligibility and expedite an eligibility determination for the publicly subsidized health plan. **S.K.** will now be able to enroll in the health plan.

Legal Network Members,

**Thank you very much for your steadfast support of HLA's
Legal Network!**

**If you have not been able to accept a case in recent
months, we would greatly appreciate it if you could accept
a *pro bono* referral from HLA in the near future.**

**If you are looking for a particular type of case to handle,
please let me know and we would be happy to identify a
case in your interest area.**

- Matt



**Matt Selig
HLA Acting Director**

**The HLA Legal Network Update is sent to attorneys on
the first and third Monday of each month.**

Please Contact Matt Selig with any questions at selig@hla-inc.org or
617-338-5241 x2986.

www.healthlawadvocates.org

To join the Listserve [click here](#)
