

## Three SU2J Volunteers Receive "Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys in Arizona" Award from Arizona Bar Foundation

By Leslie Glaze



Step Up to Justice (SU2J) is pleased to announce that three of its volunteer attorneys (and PCBA members) – each representing a separate area of expertise – have been recognized by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education on their 2019 list of Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys in Arizona.



Kristy Clairmont, of Family Law Legal Consulting, PLLC, volunteered countless hours at SU2J's superior court clinic and in-house family clinics, spent nearly 100 hours securing safety for a victim of domestic violence and her children and worked with a team to revamp Pima County Family Law Forms.



Merle Joy Turchik, of Turchik Law Firm, P.C., offered employment advice at SU2J's federal court clinic and represented SU2J clients at administrative hearings in both employment discrimination and wrongful termination.



Angela Moore, of Moore, Masunas & Moore, P.L.L.C., advised SU2J clients in wills, probate, and estate matters, and served in court and in-house clinics, often at the last minute.

Michele Mirto, SU2J Executive Director, explained why SU2J nominated these three professionals for this special recognition. "These devoted volunteers restore our belief in the promise of equal access to justice for all Pima County residents – not just those who can afford legal representation. Through their countless hours of service, Kristy, Merle, and Angela resolved civil legal disputes for our clients and the children in their care, bringing about judgments that protect our clients' property, income, human rights, and safety. We honor their commitment to closing the justice gap for low-income individuals and families."

SU2J opened its doors to clients in March 2017 and since then, the organization has provided free civil legal services for low-income individuals and families in Pima County, powered by the talents of 187 volunteer attorneys with expertise in family law, minor guardianship, housing, bankruptcy, consumer protection, employment, and other civil legal matters.

Since 2001, the Foundation has honored attorneys with exceptional records of pro bono service to Arizonans without sufficient resources for legal representation. The Foundation announced its "Top 50" list earlier this spring, and presented the awards at their June 27th luncheon, during the State Bar of Arizona's annual convention.

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