

COMMUNITY SERVICE*2/1/2005****Neighborhood Legal Services Association:
Lawyers on Loan Project***

Linda Varrenti Hernandez

Attorney Linda Varrenti Hernandez considers herself lucky. Although she hoped ultimately to do public service work, she initially accepted a position as an associate at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote in 2001. Through Linda's persistence and the firm's commitment to pro bono work, Linda became one of two attorneys in the inaugural year (2004–2005) of the Lawyers on Loan Project, placing attorneys with Neighborhood Legal Service Association (NLSA) on "loan" to work with NLSA staff attorneys for one year. Linda works shoulder-to-shoulder with NLSA lawyers providing services to low-income clients, victims of domestic violence, and the elderly.

Linda says that Dickie McCamey's support is critical to the project. With full access to the firm's resources, she can assist NLSA attorneys in their often under-appreciated efforts.

NLSA hopes other firms will match Dickie McCamey's efforts in future years of the program. Volunteers can anticipate an enriching experience including courtroom work, which often eludes new and mid-level associates. "I've come to understand the dedication of the NLSA attorneys, and the importance of their efforts. This is an enormously rewarding project, and I believe all involved would deem the program a success," says Linda.