<u>**G.A. v. M.J.**</u> (Mon. Co. Fam. Ct., 8/22).

MR. CORLETTA OBTAINS SUBSTANTIAL CHILD SUPPORT AWARD FOR *PRO BONO* CLIENT

Mr. Corletta often volunteers his time to local volunteer legal services organizations. He generally has at least one active case at all times for which he does not charge fees.

Such was the case in <u>**G.A. v. M.J.**</u> (Mon. Co. Fam. Ct., 8/22).

In that case, the client, while working, full-time, had a small child but was low income. The client had a valid child support claim against the other parent, who is self-employed and simply refused to pay. Every excuse was rendered, although the individual had substantial income as a truck driver.

Mr. Corletta aggressively pursued discovery and the other parent's tax and business records. He faced obstruction all the way; from both the other parent and opposing counsel, who even claimed that her client "didn't know how" to keep records, although self-employed.

Mr. Corletta finally obtained the requested information, obtained a Temporary Order for Support, and prepared for trial.

Mr. Corletta exposed the other parent as a deadbeat, who just did not want to pay, and actually went on public assistance to avoid paying while working "under the table".

Mr. Corletta persuasively argued that income should be "imputed" to the other parent based upon their last known employment and that they had the ability to earn income and pay child support. He also argued there was no good reason for the other parent to be unemployed, that they chose to be seld-employed, and that they had made no good faith effort to obtain regular employment when their self-employed income dried up.

Mr. Corletta prevailed and obtained not only current child support, but a substantial arrearage award of nearly $6,000.00. The client now has a baseline from which to work, and from which to pursue this child support scofflaw in the event they continue to fail to pay.

Mr. Corletta has devoted over 40 hours of time to this case, without charge, in order to obtain this very favorable award and result.