



Larry David, JD 2004 *Pro Bono Attorney*

“I retired and went to law school,” muses Larry David, a 2004 Concord Law School graduate who, in 2008, was selected as an Angel Award winner by the editors of California Lawyer for “his commitment to pro bono work fighting for the rights of the most vulnerable.” In 2007 Larry won the Hon. Benjamin Aranda III Outstanding Public Service Award for his volunteer work with the L.A. County Bar Association’s Barristers Domestic Violence Project, for which he continues to volunteer his time.

“I spend one day a month at each of the two LA. County Bar Association offices where I help people to fill out complicated paperwork,” says Larry. “For example, just to apply for a restraining order requires between 20 and 27 pages.” In addition to his work at the frontlines, Larry spends another 15-20 hours a week researching, writing motions, and arguing in court for a number of pro-bono cases he takes on involving domestic violence, conservatorships, unlawful detainer, and debt collection defense. The remainder of his time is spent in private practice where he handles general law, contracts, and family law cases.

Larry, who led a highly successful career in sales and marketing before moving into law acknowledges, “I spent my business life trying to make money, and now I am grateful for the opportunity to help others.”

What is his advice to other fledgling attorneys? “Volunteering is a great way to get yourself exposed and get some real-world experience, which is what you need when first starting out in practice,” he advises. “You can’t be shy. You need to network. You can tie-in with people who are already in practice and do their grunt work just to get the experience.”

Now that he’s been practicing several years, Larry admits to having greater empathy for people. “I’ve always been involved in my community—often much to the chagrin of city councils in the cities where I’ve lived—but when working as an attorney I realize that people rely on me for making big decisions in their lives. It’s a heavy burden.”

Larry is amazed at the journey he has made—even in his retirement. His volunteerism has won him recognition at the highest levels of the state bar and several news articles have been written about him. He was also appointed to the Board of Trustees of Kaplan University, Concord’s parent institution. As Larry puts it, “Little did I know that a legal education would lead to so much more.”