

FIRM ASSOCIATED

Phil Antis

Position: Gordon Arata McCollam Duplantis & Eagan member

Age: 39

Family: wife, Katie; children, Phillip and Charlie

Education: bachelor's degree in music, James Madison University; juris doctor, Tulane University

The Pro Bono Project started in New Orleans in 1986 as an initiative of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. It was designed to provide free, quality access to the city's civil court system for residents who would otherwise not have the resources to effectively represent themselves. Its mission is one that mirrors the values of New Orleans attorney Phil Antis.

Antis specializes in commercial litigation for Gordon, Arata, McCollom, Duplantis & Eagan and spearheads the firm's pro bono volunteer efforts.

"I love the big cases that have lots of moving parts and complex legal issues," Antis says, referring to his work on business and contract disputes. "But my pro bono cases have had the most impact on me. Those clients often have deep, life-altering problems. Being able to assist in some way helps to keep me grounded and gives me a great perspective on my own life-work balance."

Outside of the office, Antis is a member

and lay leader of Carrollton United Methodist Church, where he helps coordinate various community outreach efforts and hosted thousands of post-Hurricane Katrina volunteers who traveled to New Orleans.

Antis' passion for offering free legal services is part of a culture of service developed at Gordon Arata, where he has worked for 10 years.

"Jack Gordon, one of the founding members of Gordon Arata, always had a pro bono case on his desk," Antis said. "That had a lasting impact on me. I believe one of the most important things lawyers can do is to devote their time to giving legal services to those in need in their very own community. It's easy to give time to a few pro bono cases a year, but so few lawyers do it enough. We have the gifts to be a part of this great profession, and we should use those gifts to help those in need."

— *Mason Harrison*

