

Pro Bono News

Special Edition 2013 Vol. 23 No. 2

Making a Difference Through Pro Bono

Seymour W. James, Jr.*
President, New York State Bar Association



James

Our theme at the New York State Bar Association this year is "Making a Difference." As attorneys, one of the most meaningful ways we can make a difference in our

communities is by serving people in need. Our ability to provide free legal assistance to people working to maintain basic life necessities is not only a professional duty, but a great privilege. It provides an opportunity to have a significant positive impact on the lives of individuals and families, and to support organizations that provide services to the poor.

Today, pro bono service is more important than ever. Lingering economic challenges continue to have a dramatic impact on the lives of individuals and the organizations that serve them, as well as our courts and our government as a whole. Many people face difficult legal issues related to economic hardship, and are unable to afford an attorney. At the same time, the economic crisis has led to massive cuts in funding for civil legal service providers. Pro bono service can make a tremendous

difference, not only in the lives of the people involved in life-changing legal matters, but also on the proper functioning of our entire justice system.

Every year, millions of New Yorkers are forced to navigate the civil justice system without any representation. People face home foreclosure proceedings, eviction, family court cases and other complex and life-changing legal matters, without a lawyer to turn to for help. With the growing unmet need for free legal representation, pro bono service plays a critical role in providing access to justice to low-income individuals and the working poor.

We know that pro bono alone can't adequately address the growing unmet need for free representation. That is why the State Bar will continue to urge lawmakers to provide sufficient funding for organizations that provide free legal services to the poor. But to the individuals and families who are able to benefit from pro bono service, a single attorney's contribution of time and energy can make all the difference in the world.

We are so grateful to those of you who have shared your talent and experience with people in need and are proud of your work. Each year, the State Bar recognizes our members who have gone above and beyond in providing pro bono representation

by designating them Empire State Counsel®. Our Empire State Counsel® program honors members who have performed 50 or more hours of pro bono activities during a calendar year. In 2012, 1,606 attorneys enrolled in the program, donating 294,218 hours of free legal services to people in need.

We appreciate the opportunity to recognize the many attorneys who represent our profession at its best, and we thank you for the good you do. If you believe you may be eligible for Empire State Counsel® honors, I encourage you to visit our website at www.nysba.org/probono to learn more and allow us to recognize your contributions.

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FOR PRO BONO

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An asterisk appears next to the name of NYSBA members who contributed to writing of an article or who worked on one of the many diverse legal projects highlighted in this issue.

Congratulations 2012 Empire State Counsel®!

Gloria Herron Arthur*, Director, Pro Bono Affairs



Herron Arthur

Those of you who labor on the front lines delivering civil legal services to the poor deeply appreciate the contributions of pro bono volunteers. Pro Bono attorneys are indispensable in the fight to ensure access to justice for our most vulnerable and needy residents. Most programs could not operate without pro bono volunteers. Despite the tremendous outpouring of pro bono support an astonishing 80% of low income persons' civil legal needs are unmet.

The Association's motto has long been "Do the public good. Do pro bono." The Association promotes pro bono participation through a variety of recruitment and recognition programs, like the Empire State Counsel® Program.

The Empire State Counsel® Program is the only NYSBA recognition program exclusively reserved for Association members who, during the calendar year, contribute 50 hours or more of free legal services to persons of limited financial means; or to an organization whose services are designed primarily to address the legal and other basic needs of persons of limited financial means; or provide free legal representation to an organization dedicated to increasing the availability of legal services to vulnerable and or low-income individuals.

Each Honoree receives a certificate suitable for framing and the signature Empire State Counsel® lapel pin. Honorees also may use the honorific title as a credential on their resume.

To enroll as an Empire State Counsel® is easy. Individual attorneys may complete the attorney verification form, law firm pro bono counsel, and

or volunteer lawyer project supervisors may submit a list of attorneys who meet the above criteria. The Department of Pro Bono Affairs verifies each applicant's status as a member of the Association. The 2013 Empire State Counsel® Program Verification form is available on-line now at www.nysba.org/probono.

This issue of the Pro Bono Newsletter is dedicated to the 2012 Empire State Counsel® Honorees. **1,606 Association members** earned the honorific designation of Empire State Counsel® and collectively contributed more than **294,000 hours** of free legal services during the past year. Since the program was first launched seven years ago in 2006, **8,503 Association members** have collectively donated close to **1.3 million pro bono hours!**

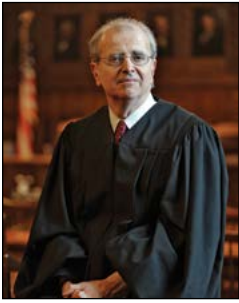
The Association's theme this year is "Making a Difference" and what a significant difference the Empire State Counsel® Honorees have made! Empire State Counsel® change their clients' lives; and in turn, their own lives are transformed. Inside this issue, some of the Empire State Counsel® share their pro bono experiences – lessons learned, experience gained and triumphs achieved! Some tackled asylum cases; others worked on significant impact litigation cases; while others learned it takes time, patience and persistence to earn a client's trust. Whether solo practitioners, law firm associates or law school professors — all agreed that the pro bono experience was worthwhile and worth repeating.

We are grateful also to the clients who shared their thoughts about their pro bono experience. Pro bono clients' – like all clients – value attorneys who listen to them, who take the time to answer their questions and who treat them with respect and dignity.

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The Importance of Pro Bono

Hon. Jonathan Lippman*, Chief Judge, State of New York



Lippman

Participating in events that recognize and celebrate the good works of members of our noble profession is always a delight for me, so I am pleased that this follow up to my remarks at the January “Justice for All” award luncheon will be included in the Special Edition of the Pro Bono Newsletter recognizing the contributions of the 2012 Empire State Counsel® Honorees.

The recent economic downturn has dramatically increased the need for civil legal services for low-income New Yorkers and simultaneously diminished resources available to meet that need, leading to a crisis in civil legal services for the poor. That means that the dedication of lawyers like the Empire State Counsel® Honorees has never been needed or appreciated more than it is today, so it is essential that we pay tribute to them for their generous contributions

of time to serving low-income, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals.

Several highlights about the 2012 Honorees were particularly encouraging. More than 20 firms were first-time Empire State Counsel® participants in 2012. Of the more than 1,000 individual Honorees, many performed significantly more than the qualifying 50-hour minimum of pro bono service, and some performed that number many times over. To give just two examples, 28 Solo Practitioner Honorees averaged more than 200 hours per attorney, and two individual recipients of Distinguished Awards donated more than a thousand hours each. Since the program’s inception in 2006, nearly 7,900 NYSBA members in the Empire State Counsel® Program have donated more than 1.18 million pro bono hours.

Even with the tremendous pro bono efforts of the New York Bar, and the greatly welcomed increases in public funding for civil legal services in New York in the last two years — \$40 million in the last Judiciary budget alone, and a request for \$55 million in the 2013-14 budget — we are

still meeting only 20 percent of the needs of low-income New Yorkers for civil legal services.

That realization has been the impetus for several recent initiatives designed to encourage pro bono services from all levels of the profession: for *all* lawyers, by increasing the Rules of Professional Conduct aspirational goal for pro bono legal services to the poor from 20 to 50 hours a year, and requiring pro bono reporting with each attorney’s biennial registration; for *senior* lawyers, by establishing the Attorney Emeritus program to make pro bono work more convenient; and for *lawyers-to-be*, by promulgating the 50-hour pro bono requirement for admission to the bar to instill a spirit of serving others they will carry with them throughout their professional lives.

I congratulate the Association and all the Program participants for their efforts over the past six years and I commend and applaud each and every Empire State Counsel® Honoree. I am confident that more and more members of this great Bar Association will be inspired by their example and answer the call to help.

Pro Bono Has Made Me a Better Attorney and Person

Allison B. Mullen Carrow*, Esq.
74 Pro Bono Hours Donated

When Southern Tier Legal Services asked me to take on my first pro bono client, I didn’t hesitate in saying yes. Volunteering has always been an integral part of my life, and representing those who cannot afford to hire an attorney seemed second-nature.

Each pro bono case has its own set of challenges. The one I come across on many occasions is the client’s questioning of your motives in agreeing to represent them. Some enter your office for their initial meeting with a precon-

ceived notion that the only reason you agreed to help them is because you feel sorry for them. Others believe that they will be just another file buried in your caseload since they cannot be included in your billable hours. Lastly, there are those who question your credentials and have the audacity to ask you if you are a “real attorney”. It takes some time, and possibly numerous conversations, but once you finally assure them that their worries are unfounded, the dynamics of the attorney-client rela-

tionship change to one where your client is ready to move forward with his or her legal matter.

Being actively involved in pro bono work has made me both a better attorney and person. The intricacies of some of my clients’ cases force me to become creative in the way that I handle all aspects of their matter, which, in turn, constantly improves my understanding and knowledge of my

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Client Testimonial

Jaclyn Natale

I was denied my unemployment insurance benefits after being let go from work 10 days before Christmas. I called the number for volunteer representation and was thrilled when Craig Carson^{*1} chose to work on my case. He called me personally the same day. We met face to face in the same week and talked about the details of my case. We stayed in touch over emails

and by phone conversations. He was always available to answer my questions or to put my mind at ease. Craig even took the time to write out possible questions so I would feel confident with my answers when it came time to be in the court room. Craig was very professional in the way he handled every situation that arose and made me feel confident before enter-

ing the court room. We won my case the first time we had court and we also won the second time when my employer took us back to court to try and sway the judge in his favor. Craig really went above and beyond my expectations and I would not hesitate in calling him for future services.

¹ Craig Diallo Carson donated 350 pro bono hours.

Entry Level Associate Rises to Challenges Presented by Immigration Case

Dorian Needham*, Associate, Ropes & Gray LLP
667 Pro Bono Hours



Needham

After four months as an associate at Ropes & Gray in New York City, and with one pro bono case under my belt, I felt ready to take on something bigger. I turned again

to Immigration Equality, a Ropes & Gray pro bono partner organization working toward equality under US immigration law for LGBT and HIV-positive individuals. They asked if I would represent a detained gay man facing deportation, and I jumped at the chance. I had no idea how large a challenge I'd assumed, or how much I'd learn from rising to it.

Twenty years earlier, my client had fled a childhood of homophobic abuse and entered the US illegally. Now, a late-night misstep had led to his detention and placement in deportation proceedings—and we had only six weeks to assemble a suitable claim for relief.

During that time, challenges abounded: the roads to New Jersey were often clogged with traffic; security measures at the jail disrupted meetings; the jail's only two private rooms for attorney meetings were often occupied; my client spoke only passable English; I could not telephone my client to reach him with questions or advice; other detainees started to make my client's life difficult when they saw how frequently his attorney visited; and my client had few friends with legal status who could testify on his behalf. On top of it all, I had never appeared in court before—so I had to get myself ready as well.

Every challenge, however, was tiny compared with what my client had gone through and now feared. And every challenge could not have felt more worthwhile when I sat in Immigration Court and heard a judge say that my client would be granted relief.

Four days later, I had the pleasure of meeting my client outside the jail and driving him back into the city. During that trip, and again when I helped him apply for a work permit, my client told me how much he had

appreciated my help. While he was grateful for my legal assistance, however, he was perhaps most thankful for the chance to have told his life's story—a story that he had long suppressed. In finally coming to terms with his past, he had found the strength to reshape his future, to make the best use of his now-legal status and to build a life he could be proud of.

I was—and still am—proud, too: of my client's strength; of the unwavering support that my firm showed me; and of the chance to help Immigration Equality do its invaluable work. This pride sits neatly alongside the more tangible skills I developed along the way, including helpful courtroom, motion practice and project management skills.

Not every pro bono case is as all-consuming as mine was. The rewards, however, both outstrip the drawbacks and grow in proportion to the challenges. I lost some sleep and a little free time—but, three pro bono cases later, I wouldn't change a thing.

Nixon Peabody Targets Gun Violence

Stacey Slater*¹, Pro Bono Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP



Tennant*

Nixon Peabody (NP) had demonstrated a strong commitment to using the law to reduce gun violence even before it felt the sting of gun violence first-hand on Christmas Eve 2012.

That morning, the NP community learned the shocking news that one of its own, Ted Scardino, a longtime member of the firm's Information Systems department in Rochester, was one of four volunteer firefighters shot in a premeditated ambush while responding to a fire in Webster, New York. Two of the firefighters died in the attack; Ted and another were injured.

NP partner David Tennant*², a 2012 Empire State Counsel and colleague of Ted's in NP's Rochester office, saw personally the after effects of gun violence when he volunteered to help the families of victims who died in the April 3, 2009, shooting at an immigration assistance center in Binghamton, New York, where a lone gunman killed 13 people before killing himself.



Trummer-Nogueras*

David provided free legal services to the victims' families as a member (and immediate past chair) of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Mass Disaster Response, a team of lawyers trained to respond to mass casualty events.

In addition to his committee work, in 2012, David, together with 2012 Empire State Counsel Lynette Trummer-Nogueras*³ and others, has led the firm's pro bono efforts to address gun violence working in partnership with Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (LCPGV), a national law center that provides legal and technical assistance in support of gun violence prevention. They have authored amicus briefs in litigation across the country, and in partnership with LCPGV, have analyzed the legality of state and local laws related to the regulation of firearms. Recognizing the firm's efforts, LCPGV gave Nixon Peabody its "Outstanding Pro Bono Contribution Award" in June 2012.

Over the past year, David, Lynette and their team submitted an amicus brief in one dispute pending before the Illinois Supreme Court, *People v. Aguilar*, in support of an Illinois state statute restricting public carry of firearms. More recently, they filed two amicus briefs in cases pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in support of California state licensing laws that permit public carry of concealed, loaded firearms upon a showing of good cause (*McKay v. Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, et al.*, and *Birdt v. Los Angeles Sheriffs Department, et al.*).

Their work on behalf of LCPGV and others has become even more critical given the recent mass shootings in Aurora, Colorado, and Newtown, Connecticut—and even in their own backyard near Rochester. "It's important that the rule of law be properly analyzed in court, understood by all stakeholders, including politicians and the public, and be heard above the shouting as we struggle to find solutions to gun violence," says David. "I'm humbled by the opportunity to play even a small part of this effort on behalf of our pro bono clients, and thankful for the chance to engage in such meaningful work."

1 Stacey Slater donated 100 pro bono hours.

2 David Tennant donated 161 pro bono hours.

3 Lynette Trummer-Nogueras donated 136 pro bono hours.

Pro Bono Has Made Me a Better Attorney and Person

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chosen craft. As a person, I've developed a greater awareness of how my actions truly affect others. Many pro bono clients simply want to know that you've heard their story and are doing whatever you can to make their life or death situation better. Every phone call, every letter to opposing counsel, every court appearance in which you are in attendance demonstrates to

them that you respect and value them as a human being.

I'd strongly encourage any attorney contemplating becoming involved with pro bono work to jump in and do it. I believe that we as attorneys have an obligation to help those in our society who cannot help themselves regardless of their specific situation. It's easy for us to forget about those

times in our lives when we were in need of assistance and someone generously reached out to us. One of the greatest feelings I've had in my legal career is the gratitude expressed by a pro bono client when you attain the result they desperately wanted. Every attorney should experience this phenomenon at least once in their career.

Corporate Attorney Tackles ERISA Claim

Kristin Roshelli*, Associate, Ropes & Gray LLP
337 Pro Bono Hours Donated



Roshelli

One of my first pro bono cases involved representing a pro se litigant in federal court with one of my colleagues. Our client, who was unable to read or write, had filed an ERISA

action seeking disability pension benefits. Until we were appointed as counsel, our client was relying on friends to help him draft documents for the court. Once appointed, we amended the complaint, served inter-

rogatories and prepared for depositions.

Our client was very sympathetic he had worked hard for his employer for decades before he was injured on the job and was terminated because he could no longer perform the physical demands of his position. On the eve of our discovery deadline, we reached a settlement. It was very rewarding to help him navigate the legal system and advocate on his behalf.

As a corporate health care attorney, I was out of my element litigating an ERISA case in federal court, but I enjoyed the challenge. It afforded me the opportunity to consult with other attorneys in the firm with whom I

don't typically interact. My colleague and I consulted with litigators, as well as attorneys in our Tax and Benefits Department. I learned new skills that I wouldn't have otherwise learned as a corporate attorney, and I was able to implement some of the knowledge I learned while clerking.

I would encourage other attorneys at large firms to step out of their comfort zone to represent pro bono clients. Although the learning curve can be steep, the resources available at a large law firm provide the support necessary to ensure that the client receives the best representation. It's a win-win situation for both the client and the attorney.

Pro Bono – Positively Changing Society One Case at a Time

Margaret M. Williams*, Assistant Dean for Career Services, Touro Law Center
80 Pro Bono Hours Donated



Williams

I did not have the opportunity to go to law school until I was 44 years old, so I still feel honored and privileged to be an attorney. I am currently the Assistant Dean for Career Services at Touro

Law Center, and I practiced matrimonial law in an AV rated law firm prior to accepting a position at Touro. My former boss, mentor and friend, Jim Winkler*, allowed me to handle some of the firm's pro bono cases. If it had not been for Jim, I would not have realized how fulfilling pro bono work could be. Despite my busy schedule at the law school, I continue to take one or two pro bono cases at a time. With few exceptions, my clients have been

a joy to work with. I am currently working on two pro bono matrimonial cases. When I told my clients about this article, they both readily agreed to provide a quotation:

"Margaret, I would like to take the opportunity to express my complete gratitude to all involved in the pro bono project. I am eternally thankful for not only for the representation, but the quality of care I receive from my attorney."

"Dear Margaret: You have made significant sacrifices due to the pro bono services you rendered on my behalf. You have given me confidence in the legal system from your dedication."

Everyone is aware of the difficult job market, and it is much harder for new graduates. When I counsel students and new graduates on the job search, I tell them about the positive impact that pro bono work has made on my life. While searching for their first job, I advise them to volunteer to

work with an attorney on pro bono cases. In addition to assisting those who are less fortunate, performing pro bono work is a great learning experience, allows them to build marketable skills, and meet other attorneys. The contacts they make often lead to full-time employment.

Despite what many may believe, there are not too many lawyers. Lawyers are needed now more than ever. There are simply not enough people who can afford legal representation. Self-represented litigants not only hurt themselves; they negatively impact attorneys and members of the judiciary by clogging the court system. Attorneys are uniquely suited to effect positive changes in our society — one case at a time. I hope all attorneys will utilize the education and skills we have been fortunate to obtain by considering taking just one pro bono case.

Morrison & Foerster Empire State Counsel® Produce Superstorm Sandy Helping Handbook

Jennifer K. Brown, Pro Bono Counsel, Morrison & Foerster

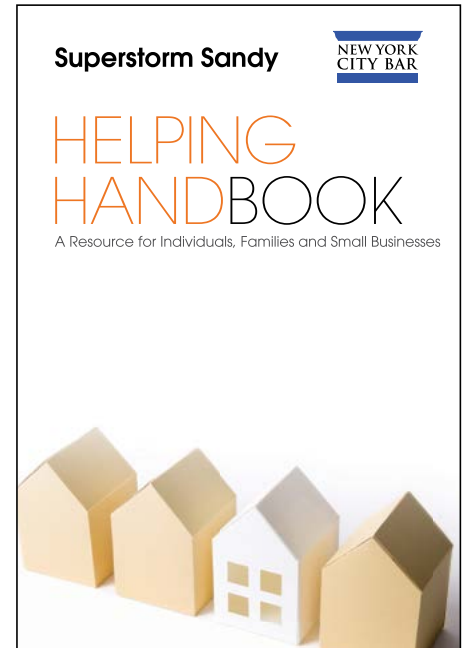
Soon after Superstorm Sandy swept across the New York region, Morrison & Foerster lawyers went to work on producing the *Superstorm Sandy Helping Handbook: A Resource for Individuals, Families and Small Businesses*. Several of the firm's 2012 Empire State Counsel® took the lead on this project, including two partners, Jamie Levitt* and J. Alexander Lawrence*, and associate Takeshi Miyamoto*. By November 21, 2012, the 46-page *Handbook* was posted on the MoFo website, where it remains available for downloading in English, Spanish, and Chinese (go to <http://www.mofo.com/hurricane-sandy/>).

The *Superstorm Sandy Helping Handbook* begins with sections on emergency resources and income supports such as Disaster Unemployment Assistance. Other chapters provide detailed information on longer-term issues, including FEMA programs, mortgage and foreclosure relief, insurance claims, small business assistance, and locating health, legal, and social services. The *Handbook* could be produced so quickly in part because it borrowed the structure and much of the content from a Disaster Assistance

Relief Manual compiled by Sarah Alba* of Legal Services NYC with assistance from The Legal Aid Society, for use by staff and volunteer lawyers assisting victims of the catastrophe.

The *Handbook* was published under the auspices of the New York City Bar Association. The communications firm RR Donnelley generously donated printing of 30,000 copies. The City Bar has been busily distributing copies of the *Handbook* to disaster relief centers and community organizations throughout the affected areas, making it a prime resource for individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that are dealing with all aspects of Sandy recovery. (Copies are still available; contact Carol Bockner or Dana Alamia at the New York City Bar Association, cbockner@nycbar.org or dalamia@nycbar.org.)

The *Superstorm Sandy Helping Handbook* continues a Morrison & Foerster tradition of disaster response that began with a Helping Handbook for victims of the September 11, 2001 tragedies, also produced in cooperation with the New York City Bar Association. The firm has also produced Helping Handbooks in response to



Hurricane Katrina and Southern California wildfires.

Altogether, eight of the firm's forty-six Empire State Counsel® contributed to the *Superstorm Sandy Helping Handbook*: Jamie Levitt*¹, J. Alexander Lawrence*², Takeshi Miyamoto*³, Luke Bagley*⁴, Jinyoung Choi*⁵, Daniel Hannon*⁶, Benjamin Smiley*⁷, and Jenny Wang*⁸.

- 1 Jamie Levitt donated 55 pro bono hours.
- 2 J. Alexander Lawrence donated 192 pro bono hours.
- 3 Takeshi Miyamoto donated 96 pro bono hours.
- 4 Luke Bagley donated 74 pro bono hours.
- 5 Jinyoung Choi donated 180 pro bono hours.
- 6 Daniel Hannon donated 142 pro bono hours.
- 7 Benjamin Smiley donated 97 pro bono hours.
- 8 Jennifer Wang donated 246 pro bono hours.

Foster Home Litigation¹

THE ISSUE: Beginning in April 2008, Davis Polk began working with the Legal Aid Society (“Legal Aid”) and Lawyers for Children (“LFC”) to investigate concerns that the City of New York and the Commissioner of the New York Administration for Children’s Services (together, “ACS”) were (a) discharging youth from the foster care system into homelessness or other unsuitable housing conditions; and (b) not supervising foster care youth until their 21st birthdays, as required by New York law.

THE ACTION: After investigating concerns and concluding that the City’s failures were longstanding and, absent litigation, unlikely to be reformed, Davis Polk and Legal Aid approached ACS in December 2008 to highlight ACS’s noncompliance with the law and to demand that ACS

change its practices. Davis Polk, Legal Aid, LFC and the City then engaged in over two years of negotiations over potential ways to restructure and reform ACS’s policies and procedures. Davis Polk, along with Legal Aid and LFC, filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of a class of foster care youth against the ACS.

THE OUTCOME: Following extensive negotiation, the parties reached a settlement, which provides substantial procedural protections, relief and oversight to prevent young people aging out of foster care from being discharged into homelessness or other unsuitable housing conditions. As part of the settlement, the City will maintain a unit devoted to the foster care population, initiate training for foster care agencies, significantly revise its procedures for helping youth find

stable housing and improve their access to services. ACS also agreed to provide a mechanism through which Legal Aid and LFC can monitor ACS’s compliance with the settlement and protection of foster care youth. On March 29, 2012, Justice Geoffrey D. Wright of the New York Supreme Court approved the settlement.

THE BOTTOM LINE: This settlement positively impacts thousands of youth currently in foster care in New York or who have been discharged from care but remain subject to ACS’s supervision.

THE TEAM: Davis Polk senior counsel James W.B. Benkard*², special counsel for pro bono Sharon Katz, associate Scott B. Luftglass and former associate David C. Pitluck.

1 This article was recently published in Davis Polk’s Pro Bono Matters Spring 2013 Edition and is reprinted with permission.

2 James W. B. Benkard donated 597 pro bono hours.

Congratulations 2012 Empire State Counsel®!

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Inside this issue is an article by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman. The legal services community owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Chief Judge who has made adequate funding of civil legal services a top priority of his administration. In addition, Judge Lippman also is a strong proponent of pro bono and we thank him for his words of support and congratulations to the 2012 Empire State Counsel®. We also deeply appreciate president Seymour James’ congratulatory message to the 2012 Empire State Counsel® Honorees. Inside this issue is the com-

plete list of 2012 Empire State Counsel and their law firms. These lists also are posted on the website.

Congratulations also to the law firms, legal services organizations and volunteer lawyer projects represented in this issue! Pro Bono collaborations among firms, providers and volunteer programs are vital in the on-going effort to narrow the justice gap. Firm friendly pro bono policies make it possible for associates to sign up for pro bono matters and encourage many to become Empire State Counsel®. Similarly, the guidance, supervision and

mentoring provided by law firms, legal services organizations and volunteer lawyer projects enable so many volunteers to stay the course even when the pro bono project took the volunteer out of her comfort zone.

If you already do pro bono we commend you and hope that you will plan to enroll next year as a 2013 distinguished Empire State Counsel® Honoree!

Warm regards,
Gloria Herron Arthur

Pro Bono: Carry the Message

Lawrence Zimmerman*, Senior Partner, Hiscock & Barclay LLP
141 Pro Bono Hours Donated



Zimmerman

I started practicing law in the mid-70's as an Assistant County Attorney for Broome County. I was assigned Family Court duty prosecuting JD's and handling a small but persis-

tent demand for orders of protection by women who were being abused by their partners. Then, the customary but wholly ineffective practice was to stipulate to mutual orders of protection.

One case involved a husband who had abandoned the marital residence, returned on random occasions to beat his wife and refused to pay child support. We took the case to trial and the husband was sentenced to 30 days. My client thanked me effusively and I naively thought the problem solved.

Several weeks later, I took my daughter to a community carnival. There, hand in hand, strolled my client with her abusive husband. I was surprised and disappointed to see them together again. I had yet to learn the dynamics of domestic violence and the complex reasons why some

victims return to their abusers. I knew the next Family Court intervention would bring even greater pain to my client.

Fast forward 35 years and I'm in private practice handling complex multi-million dollar commercial litigation congested with data and multiple expert witnesses. E-discovery has become the new blood sport. A desiccated world far, far away from the immediacy and empathy I felt for my earlier domestic violence clients.

My firm asked me to be in charge of promoting an ethos of doing pro bono work in our Albany office as part of our firm wide pro bono initiative; a daunting task. Of course, you can't promote if you don't do, so I signed up for the powerful annual CLE on domestic violence co-sponsored by The Legal Project and the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. There I learned the obstacles and fears domestic violence victims face and the patience required to represent them.

Family Court dockets are jammed, hearings rushed with no time for patrician, orderly presentation of fact and opinion. The waiting rooms are tense, filled with pent up anxiety awaiting galactic solutions to intractable problems. Support is often

adjudicated formulaically in achingly small amounts that have immense importance to my clients.

One case showed that perseverance is rewarded. My unmarried client gave birth to sickly premature babies. The boyfriend became abusive and denied paternity. After multiple proceedings, paternity was established and an order of protection and support were granted. Medical expenses mounted as did arrears in support. The father became increasingly evasive, abusive and refused to pay his full obligation. We commenced a violation proceeding and the stubborn father was sentenced to 30 days right out of the courtroom. The arrears were quickly paid and the father returned to work chastened and compliant.

Regardless of the outcome, this renewal of the humanity of practicing law in this arena is a respite from commercial litigation and is soul satisfying.

Far more importantly, each client is a reminder that thousands of people go unrepresented and are ground up in the system or simply assume that no relief is available as pain and tragedy unfold around them.

Work on Immigration Asylum Case Provides Invaluable Learning Experience While Positively Impacting Client's Life

Charlene A. Barker*, Litigation Associate, Fried Frank Shriver & Jacobson LLP
767 Pro Bono Hours Donated



Barker

I was able to take on an asylum matter for a client, Mr. A, from Haiti not long after I came to the firm. Working on Mr. A's asylum matter was an invaluable professional experience. Mr. A was referred to the firm from Human Rights First, as part of Fried Frank's ongoing partnership and broad commitment to immigration work. As a junior associate, I spent several weeks conducting interviews of Mr. A to tease out the details of his persecution and prepare him for his individual merits hearing. Through this process, I was able to both develop client interview skills and a rapport with Mr. A that proved essential in our representation of him. The level of responsibility I was given while representing Mr. A far exceeded my expectations, particularly in light of the fact that I was assigned to Mr. A's matter during my first six months at Fried Frank. In addition to working with

Mr. A, I also conducted telephonic interviews of witnesses and family members in Haiti, had primary responsibility for drafting the merits brief and a post-hearing brief, interviewed and selected an expert witness and conducted direct examination of Mr. A during the merits hearing.

After a merits hearing, post-trial briefing, and two post-hearing appearances, the Immigration Judge finally was ready to rule on Mr. A's application. The court had been concerned about whether we had adequately proven eligibility but ultimately decided that we had, and on March 28, 2013, we won a final grant of asylum for Mr. A. He had come to the United States in 2011 to escape the violence and persecution he faced for having expressed his political opinions against the then-government of Haiti. Mr. A is a 34-year-old father of two from Les Cayes, Haiti who hosted a political radio show on which he regularly expressed his negative political opinions about the government and encouraged listeners to call in and express their opinions about the then-upcoming 2010 elections. As a

result, Mr. A was harassed, physically attacked outside the radio station and beaten by Haitian government actors who threatened to kill him. Fearing for his life, Mr. A fled Haiti, where the political situation has been chronically unstable since the January 2010 earthquake. He was detained and placed in removal proceedings when he attempted to cross the border from Mexico. The Government has advised that it will not appeal the asylum grant.

Though my representation of Mr. A was professionally rewarding, it was also extremely gratifying to have the opportunity to help make such an important difference in Mr. A's life. I would highly recommend working on an immigration asylum matter because it provides an opportunity to gain valuable skills while doing work that positively impacts the lives of those who are often times in dire need of representation.

Fried Frank team: Special Counsel Jennifer L. Colyer supervised Ms. Barker and Stella Drevina, Pro Bono Coordinator, assisted on the case.

Asylum Case Presents Unexpected Challenges

Amanda C. Croushore*, Associate, Kaye Scholer LLP
100+ Pro Bono Hours Donated

Shortly after I began my second year as an associate at Kaye Scholer LLP, a few other associates and I took on a case in which we represented a 36-year-old woman who sought political asylum in the United States after fleeing her home country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Our client was the niece of a prominent politician in the DRC who founded his own political party. She became involved in his party and eventually worked as her uncle's executive assistant for some time. When her uncle died suddenly during a business trip in France, our client suspected that the DRC government was involved in his murder. Shortly thereafter, she was summoned by the national police and was interrogated and threatened. She and her family were put under surveillance and received additional threats. Her half-sister, with whom she lived, was raped and a short time later, disappeared. Our client felt that she was in danger too, and that she needed to flee.

This was a challenging asylum case for several reasons. First, the political party that our client's uncle established was allied with the governing party - not an opposition party - making political persecution a more difficult argument to advance. Second, our client did not suffer any physical harm directly and much of the intimidation she felt was implied or perceived, but not explicitly articulated. Finally, and most significantly, our client had no proof that the government was involved in her uncle's death or that she would have been in danger even if her suspicions to that effect were confirmed. However, our client was consistent in recounting her story each time we met to develop her asylum application, she was able to obtain at least one affidavit from a friend that confirmed parts of her story, and it was clear from talking to her that she was genuinely afraid of what might happen to her if she were forced to return to the DRC.

We hired an expert on the DRC to help us work through the weakest aspects of the case, and he turned out to be invaluable. The expert was able to confirm the objective parts of our client's story - e.g. that her uncle was indeed a political figure who died in Paris - in addition to helping us develop one of our strongest arguments. Namely, he explained to us that whether or not our client was actually in danger before she began suspecting the government of involvement in her uncle's death, the fact of her suspicion put her in danger.

Our client was denied asylum at the administrative interview, likely because she had misrepresented her employment title on a form she submitted to obtain a visa to come to the United States - a minor inconsistency but one that may have called into question her credibility in the asylum officer's mind. We were then referred to Immigration Court and assigned a judge who is notorious for granting very few asylum applications. Even though I was just a second year associate at the time, I was given the opportunity to lead our case - I asked our client questions on direct examination, interacted with the judge, and objected when the cross-examiner misstated testimony. The hearing went extremely well and our client came across as credible. The judge explicitly stated that he found persuasive our argument that our client was put into danger by suspecting the government of having been involved in the death of her uncle, whether or not her fear before that point was justified. He granted our client's asylum application from the bench.

This asylum case is the most rewarding matter I have worked on as a lawyer. I can imagine little more satisfying than knowing that you helped an individual obtain some level of stability after a traumatic experience and enabled them to start a new life in a country that is safe and full of opportunities. However, it came

with its own challenges that I did not anticipate. Our client continues to face insecurity: she struggles to communicate in English, making many daily tasks difficult, she has not been able to hold down a job, she has no steady source of income, she has suffered from psychological issues, and she has not been able to find a stable place to live or a support group she trusts. Realizing that getting asylum was not the end of our client's struggles was upsetting to me. I had worked so hard on preparing her asylum application that I naively believed that everything would be "fixed" after we won. Learning that was not the case was disappointing. And although I would love to be able to help our client with her personal issues, I have learned that it is important to keep my relationship with her professional and limited to immigration matters. Because, as much as I would like to, I cannot resolve all of our client's problems, and it is important for her to understand that. I continue to help our client with immigration matters - most recently by preparing her permanent residency application - and my hope is that by just being a reliable person in her life who picks up the phone when she calls and can periodically report on progress in her case, I am providing some small part of the support she needs.

I also feel a need to move on from this case so that I can use the skills and knowledge I obtained to help others seeking asylum in the United States. I have recently taken on a new asylum case, representing a transgendered woman from Mexico who suffered horrible harassment and abuse because of her sexual orientation. This time I am the supervising attorney on the case, which has provided me with a new level of personal and professional satisfaction: witnessing young associates gain important legal skills and understand how they can be applied to help those in need.

Photos from 2013 Justice for All Luncheon Honoring 2012 Empire State Counsel®





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Class Action Litigation Provides Opportunity for Associate to Advance Skills

Edward Timlin*, Associate, Shearman & Sterling LLP
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Timlin

Shearman & Sterling LLP became involved in *Butler v. Suffolk County*, 11-CV-2602 (JS) (GRB) (E.D.N.Y.) in late 2011. At the time, two colleagues and I were looking for a potentially

high impact pro bono case, both in the sense that it could protect the rights of a large number of people, and in the sense that it could advance the law in a challenging area. We got that chance in December 2011, when Eastern District of New York Judge Joanna Seybert appointed Shearman & Sterling LLP as pro bono counsel for fourteen detainees held in correctional facilities in Suffolk County, New York (the "Facilities"). Our fourteen clients, who asserted *pro se* claims for violations of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment, quickly grew to approximately 130, as other detainees filed similar complaints consolidated under our representation.

In the fifteen months since we were appointed, we have been able to advance the law and take large steps in protecting the rights of thousands, if not tens of thousands, of class members.

In April 2012, we filed our Class Action Complaint, which, like the pro se complaints, asserts that the deplorable conditions in the Facilities violate the Constitution. For example, the grossly inadequate plumbing system is so overburdened and decrepit that it can no longer generate enough water pressure to transport human waste from the toilets in individual cells out of the cellblock. Instead, waste from one detainee's toilet regularly spews from the toilets of his neighbors.

In March 2013, we defeated (for the most part) defendants' motion to dismiss and were granted certification of both injunctive and damages classes. The Court's recent rulings are critical and encouraging for at least two reasons. First, the Court agreed with us that, assuming the allegations in the Class Action Complaint are true, the conditions in the Facilities are an objective violation of the Constitution. Second, the certification of a damages class of incarcerated persons alleging Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment violations is a comparatively rare occurrence, but it is critical that such harms are redressed.

Although there is still a long way to go, we look forward to developing the facts needed to substantiate our allegations over the coming months. Even at this early stage, *Butler v. Suffolk County*

has proved to be meaningful and significant precedent on both class action issues and matters arising under the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996. If we are successful in causing the improvement of the conditions at the Facilities, either through settlement or injunctive relief, we will have ensured a quality of life consistent with the Constitution for over 1,500 people at any given time and an unknowable number of future detainees; if we obtain a financial settlement or damages award, we will have vindicated the rights of a notoriously underserved population through a remedy that is rarely achieved, but clearly warranted.

From a personal perspective, I have found that this case involves the same tasks and develops the skills that are required in my matters for corporate clients. I am grateful that *Butler v. Suffolk County* has provided countless opportunities for me and other associates on our team to advance our skills, whether in front of the court, working with clients, or in formulating overall litigation strategy. The fact that it is for an important cause, just makes it all that much more fulfilling.

New York City's Plan for the Provision of Indigent Defense¹

THE ISSUE: In 1965, the New York state legislature enacted Section 722 of the County Law in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the landmark case that held that states must provide indigent defense services. Among other alternatives, local governments may adopt a plan under which cases are assigned to a legal aid bureau or society; individual counsel furnished pursuant to a plan of a bar association ("18-B Attorneys"); or a combination of the two.

In 1965, the City of New York (the "City") promulgated a "combination" plan. Under that plan, the Legal Aid Society ("Legal Aid") would serve as the primary provider of indigent defense services and 18-B Attorneys would provide services when Legal Aid declined to represent a client because of "a conflict of interest or other appropriate reason."

Between 2008 and 2010, the City developed a new plan that was also a "combination" plan, which contemplated the use of both institutional providers and 18-B Attorneys. However, the revised plan also permitted institutional providers to receive case

assignments where another institutional provider had a conflict of interest. The City issued a Request for Proposal ("RFP") and Legal Aid bid for the right to represent clients in these so-called conflict cases.

THE ACTION: In 2010, various county bar associations, including the New York County Lawyers' Association and the Bronx County Bar Association ("Petitioners"), filed an Article 78 petition, challenging the City's authority to assign conflict cases to institutional providers. Davis Polk represented long-term pro bono client, Legal Aid, which intervened in the action to oppose the Petitioners' position.

The Petitioners argued that, under Section 722, the City may not assign conflict cases to institutional providers and that the City's revised plan was flawed in other respects. The City and Legal Aid argued that the City has discretion under the plain language of the statute to assign conflict cases to institutional providers and that the City's actions were otherwise proper.

In January 2011, Justice Anil C. Singh of the Supreme Court, New York County, rejected the Petition-

ers' arguments in relevant part and entered judgment for the City and Legal Aid. Justice Singh's opinion was affirmed in March 2012 by a divided First Department panel. The Petitioners appealed to the Court of Appeals, advancing similar arguments to those raised below.

THE OUTCOME: On October 30, 2012, the New York State Court of Appeals affirmed the ruling of the Appellate Division, First Department. The majority concluded that the City may assign conflict cases to institutional providers and that the City's revised plan was valid. In December 2012, the Court of Appeals summarily denied two motions to reargue.

THE BOTTOM LINE: As a result of the Court of Appeals ruling, Legal Aid anticipates being assigned thousands of conflict cases per year.

THE TEAM: Davis Polk senior counsel Daniel F. Kolb^{*2}, associates Lara Samet, Nicholas P. Stabile^{*3}, Edith Beerdsen and Kahlil C. Williams, former associates Daniel J. O'Neill, Andrew E. Krause, Jennifer Marcovitz, Alex A. Crohn and Heidi E. Reiner, and legal assistant Tracy M. Wright.

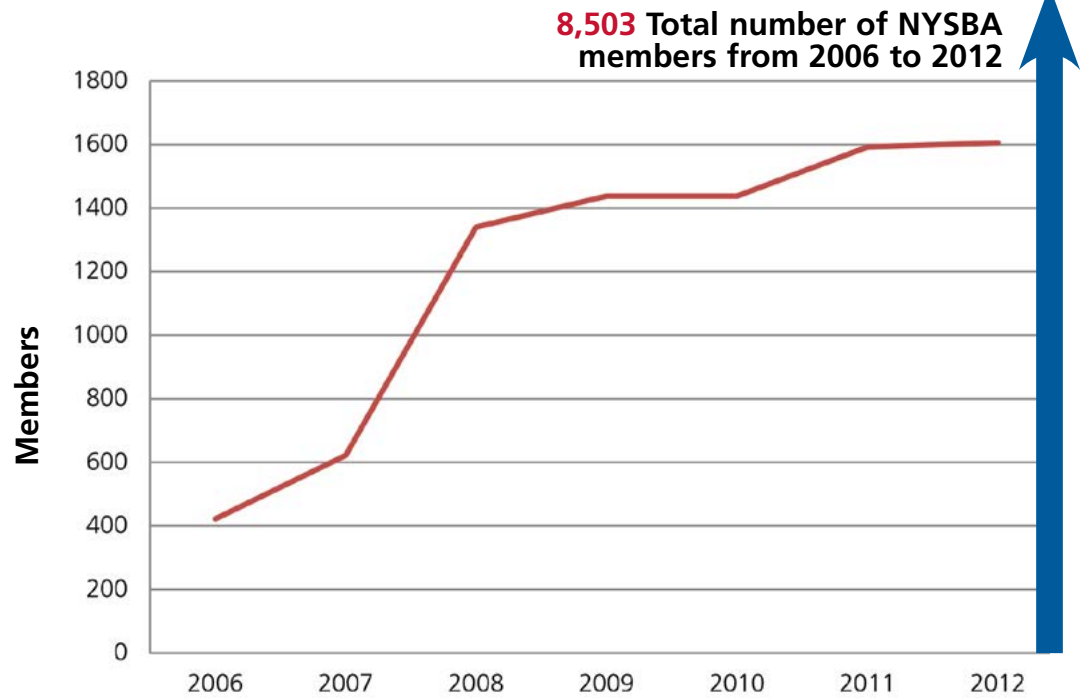
1 This article was first published in Davis Polk's Pro Bono Matters, Spring 2013 issue and is reprinted with permission.

2 Daniel F. Kolb donated 562 pro bono hours.

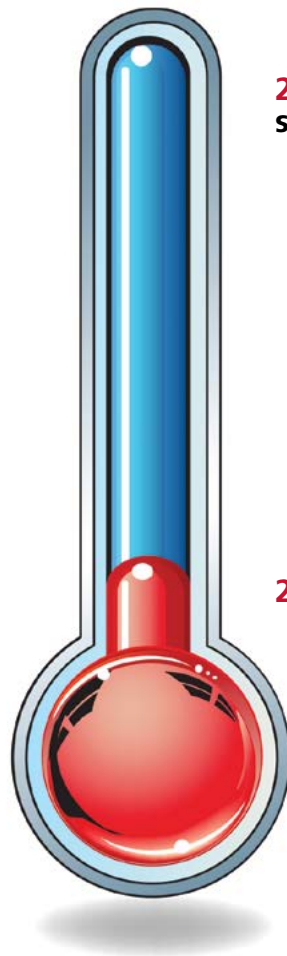
3 Nicolas P. Stabile donated 542 pro bono hours.

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A Case that Makes a Lawyer's Life Meaningful

**Peter Zimroth*, Partner, Arnold & Porter LLP
1,022 Pro Bono Hours Donated**

Arnold & Porter is leading a pro bono effort—together with Archer & Greiner, the Brennan Center, and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund—to challenge a newly enacted zoning law in Bridgewater, N.J., which was designed to block the development of a proposed mosque in that town. Recently I was asked to talk to a gathering of more than 200 Muslim supporters of the proposed mosque. The lawyers were being thanked for their pro bono effort, and I was asked to talk about the case and about why lawyers chose to undertake a case like this pro bono.

Speaking to this group, I was forced to confront the gap between my own deep faith in the ideals of American democracy and the evident injustice that was being done. There are 18 houses of worship in Bridgewater, none of them Islamic. The township had passed a new ordinance precisely to block the Al Falah Center. Many people at the gathering, including most poignantly, the children, asked a very simple question: if everyone else in our town can have a place of worship, why can't we?

At the same time, the experience was exhilarating because I saw how much lawyers can touch the lives of their clients and how we can help make this "a more perfect union." Although we had recently defeated the township's motion to dismiss the case, everyone well understood that there was a long way to go. Yet the gratitude was real, and it was warmly expressed. We were being thanked not because we had "won" but because we were so vigorously giving voice in court to their story. And we were showing how that story fits within the larger story of American democracy.

The following are my remarks:

"You may wonder why your lawyers have taken on this matter for free and have committed such significant

resources to the effort. There are many lawyers involved, and I cannot speak for all of them. Speaking for myself, I have been a lawyer for more than 40 years. I love what I do. This case crystallizes for me something that is very special about being a lawyer in this country in this legal system.

The name of the case itself says something important. '*Al Falah versus the Township of Bridgewater and the Town Council and the Town Planning Board.*' It says that in this country, we can require town officials to come to court and account for their behavior. They did not want to do that and asked the judge to dismiss our case. Just a few weeks ago, the judge refused. So now our case goes forward. And their actions will be held up to the light, and they will be judged to see whether they comported with two of the most important pillars of our democracy—religious tolerance and equal justice.

Al Falah will also tell its story, which it will be proud to do. Members of the community had been looking for a permanent home for religious worship for years. They found the perfect property, the old Redwood Inn that was being rented out as a banquet hall for weddings, political fundraisers, and religious worship, including some of yours.

The property came up for sale, a contract was signed, and Al Falah hired Archer & Greiner to guide it through the town's approval process. The goal was to make sure that the application met all the requirements of the zoning laws so that Al Falah could use the property as a house of worship without the need to apply for any variances. At the time, the property was zoned so that a house of worship was a permitted use on that property. Because traffic might be raised as an issue, Al Falah hired a traffic engineer who studied the traf-

fic patterns and concluded that, even at the times of most intensive use, the impact of the mosque would be minimal.

Al Falah met with town officials to discuss the project. The town hired its own traffic expert who agreed with Al Falah's traffic expert. Then the county also reviewed the plans and concluded that the impact on traffic patterns would be minimal.

During the meetings with town planning officials, they raised no significant issues that might have caused the rejection of the project. So, in January of this year, Al Falah filed its formal application to use the property as a mosque and prepared to participate in the public hearings which were part of the process.

These were expected to be routine. They were anything but.

Usually a handful of concerned neighbors would attend hearings like these. But some ill-informed people publicized the meeting and stirred up anti-Muslim prejudice. Four to 500 people came to the first scheduled meeting, so many that the hearing had to be cancelled and moved to another location weeks later. At the later public meetings even more people showed up. The hostility was palpable. Blatantly offensive words were uttered. There were death threats on the Internet.

Al Falah responded to these provocations with restraint and dignity. The township officials, however, as we will prove in court, caved under the pressure. They hastily acted so they would not have to approve Al Falah's application. They changed the zoning law so that a house of worship is no longer a permitted use on the Redwood Inn property.

After the zoning law was changed, Al Falah came to us, Arnold & Porter, through the Asian-American Legal Defense Fund and the Brennan Center

at NYU Law School, both of which are still working on the case with us.

In a case like this, one of the first things to address is: who will the plaintiffs be? To be a plaintiff is not an easy choice for a person to make. You subject yourself to questioning in the court process and, out of court, to hostility. Nonetheless, every person whom we asked to sign on did so. Every one of them understood the importance of standing up to be heard.

That decision links those brave people to an important part of American history, which is the continuing struggle to create “a more perfect union” — what the preamble of our Constitution says is its very purpose. Those who wrote our Constitution understood very well that people are not perfect and that our Constitution would not make us perfect. What is important is striving towards the goal—getting closer to the goal—the goal, in the words of the Constitution, of “establish[ing] Justice” and insuring the “Blessings of Liberty.”

Seventy four years after those words were written, and 87 years after we declared independence from Great Britain, one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln, made the same point in a speech less than 200 miles from Bridgewater, in Gettysburg, Pa.

He was consecrating a cemetery for the fallen soldiers who died in a very bloody battle during the Civil War. He said that this nation was “conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” He knew, in the midst of that terrible war, that that ideal had not been achieved. And so he asked the nation to dedicate itself to “the unfinished work” (that’s what he called it, the “unfinished work”) “which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.” And he asked the rest of the nation—those still living, and I think he was also talking to future generations, all of us—to dedicate ourselves to “the great task remaining” which was that there be “a new birth of freedom.”

Lincoln understood, like the founding fathers before him, that this coun-

try was not perfect but that what is important is the dedication, the commitment, to strive for the ideals of this democracy, to get closer to those ideals, even if we cannot achieve them with perfection.

And that is what this case is about, striving to reach the ideals of this country, to make the nation “more perfect.”

I don’t need to tell you how difficult that struggle is, especially now, after 9/11, and after real and justifiable concerns about terrorism have led in some quarters to unjustifiable bigotry against Muslims in general. But I do think it is important to say that, although the circumstances of each situation might be different, oth-

the willingness of people to sacrifice to make those words live.

Which brings me back to Al Falah and the plaintiffs and all their supporters. You have shown a willingness to put yourselves on the line. If you commit to trying to make this a more perfect union, you will achieve something very important regardless of the outcome of this particular case.

In fact you already have.

You have helped bring this community together to support the cause of religious freedom. You have shown skeptics that you can fight for your rights with dignity, with restraint, and within the best traditions of American law.

There are 18 houses of worship in Bridgewater, none of them Islamic. The township had passed a new ordinance precisely to block the Al Falah Center. Many people at the gathering, including most poignantly, the children, asked a very simple question: if everyone else in our town can have a place of worship, why can't we?

ers have faced difficult struggles.

They were faced by my people, the Jewish People, who saw many in this country turn their backs and revile us even as we were being incinerated in Europe.

They were faced by Japanese American citizens who were incarcerated in camps on the West Coast during the Second World War simply because they were of Japanese ancestry.

They were faced by black African-Americans whose ancestors were brought here in chains and who still must deal with that terrible legacy.

And although they may have taken different forms and with different levels of intensity, many immigrant groups have faced similar challenges.

In all these cases, progress has been made not simply because of the words in our Constitution or Lincoln’s words at Gettysburg. Those words would die if they did not live in the hearts of the people. And they would die without

Your case has brought your cause to the attention of allies and potential allies. The U.S. Department of Justice has opened an investigation into the behavior of the town officials. Some time before our case began, the Anti-Defamation League sponsored an interfaith coalition on mosques comprised of important Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim leaders. That group recently wrote a strong letter to the mayor of Bridgewater and the president of the town council supporting your case. And there are more supporters; and there will be still others added.

Of course, we lawyers appreciate the thanks you are giving us for undertaking this case. But no thank yous are required. A case like this is, after all, one of the things that makes our lives as lawyers most meaningful and fulfilling—by participating in your attempt to uphold the ideals of American democracy.”

Transgender Name Change Cases at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Kathleen Cochrane* and Siaw Ching Lee

In 2012, lawyers at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (“S&C”) worked with the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (“TLDEF”) on a pro bono basis to assist transgendered clients in changing their names to accord with their gender identity. S&C lawyers have partnered with TLDEF on the name change project for the last six years. Lawyers in our litigation group and general practice group have participated, as have a number of summer associates. 2012 proved to be a particularly eventful year, with nearly 20 name changes taken on by lawyers at S&C. The process of completing a name change involves working with the client to prepare the name change petition, conducting research into any judgments, liens or criminal charges in the client’s name, preparing the name change petition for filing and gather-

ing supporting materials. The lawyer then makes a court appearance with the client at which the lawyer assists in addressing any questions the judge has about the petition and the client’s reasons for seeking a name change.

While the process of obtaining a name change for a transgender client can be straightforward, we had several complicated cases in 2012 that provided interesting challenges to our lawyers. S&C associates Michael Reis* and Jeffrey Mason had a case in which the client’s name had previously been administratively changed in connection with a same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. We also assisted several clients with foreign birth certificates. In addition, we previously had a case where a minor sought to change her name to conform with her gender identity prior to receiving her high school diploma.

She anticipated needing to show her diploma to prospective employers after graduating and wanted the diploma to include her new name.

For us, the best part of our work with TLDEF and the name change project is assisting our clients to move beyond the label of a name that does not reflect who they are. Many clients have described feeling that their new name gives them a fresh start in life. It would be difficult for many of these clients to complete a name change on their own, so it feels especially rewarding to know that we can guide them throughout the process and help to make a small change in their lives. We hope to continue our involvement with the name change project in the coming years and to encourage other lawyers to join us in assisting pro bono transgendered clients.

Pro Bono Counsel: A Key Link Between Law Firms and Legal Services

Steven H. Schulman¹

According to the American Lawyer, the 200 top-grossing firms in the United States provided nearly 5 million hours of pro bono legal services in 2011 (2012 data will not be available until July), representing a substantial increase in these firms’ commitment to pro bono service over the past decade. Given this growth, large U.S. law firms have increasingly recognized the need for full-time lawyers to lead and manage their pro bono practices. In these days of dwindling funding for indigent legal services, pro bono counsel play an important role in providing private resources to keep the justice gap from becoming a yawning chasm.

Full-time law firm pro bono lawyers carry a variety of titles (Shearman & Sterling’s Saralyn Cohen* is “Pro Bono Counsel and Director of Pro Bono”; Amanda Smith at Morgan Lewis is simply “Pro Bono Partner”), and come

from a variety of backgrounds (Stroock Pro Bono Partner Kevin Curnin started his career as an associate at the firm; Simpson Thacher hired Harlene Katzman from Columbia Law School, where she was Assistant Dean for the Center of Public Interest Law; Weil’s Miriam Buhl* came from the Greater New York Chapter of the March of Dimes). In all, more than 100 lawyers work full-time in pro bono management roles in law firms, according to data collected by the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo), a membership organization comprised of full time, professional pro bono counsel and coordinators employed by major commercial law firms.

What these law firm pro bono lawyers have in common is the responsibility for developing pro bono matters for their firms, acting as key liaisons to the public interest community, and

motivating lawyers to take pro bono matters. In this role, pro bono counsel work directly with legal services organizations to solicit volunteers for a wide variety of matters. An organization like, for example, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, will contact one or more of the pro bono counsel in New York when it needs to staff a matter, trusting that the matter will be circulated to interested lawyers in the firm. Once a case is staffed, pro bono counsel serve as a consistent line of communication with the legal services organization, ensuring continuity of representation even if a lawyer working on a pro bono matter leaves the firm.

In addition to staffing more routine matters, pro bono counsel work closely with legal services organizations to understand critical community needs and develop innovative partnerships

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Pro Bono Work Provides Real World On Your Feet Learning Experience

Moira Hare*, Associate, Ropes & Gray LLP
174 Pro Bono Hours Donated



Hare

As a junior associate, it's not every day that I draft a petition, file it with the court, and then enter into settlement negotiations with opposing counsel. In fact, I'd never done any of these

things until I started working on my most recent pro bono case. That's the first thing I can say about pro bono work - it's definitely a real world, on your feet (or your phone), first-hand, legal learning experience.

This particular experience stemmed from a Section 8 housing subsidy case referred by the Legal Aid Society. The client required advocacy in dealing with the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) leased housing office, and potentially the filing of an Article 78 petition. Despite our inexperience with Article 78 proceedings (even if it was on the NY state bar exam, long erased from my memory), I, along with another junior associate, took on the case.

We met with the client, sat on the NYCHA customer service hotline, and went down to NYCHA to copy her tenant file pursuant to a FOIA request, all in an effort to untangle the pertinent facts of her situation. This took an unexpectedly long time and involved unforeseen frustrations - including, most memorably, the need to go around the corner to another office to obtain the change necessary to make photocopies of her file, page by page.

I, rather optimistically, assumed that once we spoke to someone of authority on the phone and explained the situation, and how there had clearly been an error and some miscommunication they would immediately take some kind of action to sort out this mess for our client. I turned out to be wrong, and we had to seek recourse in the court system.

I think rarely are clients perfect, doing exactly what you advise them to do, when you advise it, but sometimes pro bono work requires an emphatic reminder that the circumstances of your client may not mirror your own. Did I mention that our client was living in a homeless shelter?

While all clients have the ability to create stress with the expectations they hold for the work you do on their behalf, being responsible for helping someone find a solution to a very serious, real, immediate problem is a special kind of stress, even if it is not on a day-to-day basis. Usually I am somewhat insulated from client demands and problems. They filter down to me through a layer of partner and senior associates and mid-levels, and arrive in an antiseptic binder. In this case, our client just phoned for an update, with the implicit reminder that she wasn't sure where she'd be living next.

But in the end, was this case and the hopefully imminent positive resolution of it, one of the most satisfying things I've done in my brief career? Yes. We all have an interest in assuring that the bureaucratic institutions of our communities operate in a transparent and accountable manner. Maybe a little bit of our work on this case will contribute to that lofty goal, while the rest results in the humble goal of a permanent mailing address for our client.

Pro Bono Counsel: A Key Link Between Law Firms and Legal Services

Continued from page 28

to address those problems. Accordingly, pro bono counsel provide valuable insight into the law firm world for public interest lawyers looking to leverage these private resources to help their clients.

Inside their firms, many pro bono counsel act as practice managers, playing a role quite similar to the heads of litigation or mergers & acquisitions. Pro bono counsel are responsible for the strategic direction of their

firms' pro bono practices, the evaluation and approval of new matters, and the staffing (and re-staffing) of existing matters. Pro bono counsel ensure that the lawyers working within their practice group - often hundreds of lawyers every year, though typically only a few with more than several hundred hours - are properly evaluated and recognized for their work. Pro bono counsel also help promote their best pro bono lawyers, giving internal

firm awards and nominating them for external awards, including the Empire State Counsel® Program. While few, if any, lawyers take pro bono matters to achieve recognition, awards give prominence to lawyers' dedication to pro bono, helping pro bono counsel to recruit other lawyers to provide needed legal services to our communities' most vulnerable members.

¹ Steven H. Schulman is the President-Elect of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel, and is the Pro Bono Partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, responsible for managing the firm-wide pro bono practice, including in the firm's New York office.

Successful Asylum Application Reunites a Family

Steven C. Krause*, Associate, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
292 Pro Bono Hours Donated

Davis Polk represented Mr. C. E., a 41-year-old French-speaking native of the Republic of Congo, in connection with his successful asylum application in the United States.

Mr. E. was targeted for his political views. Prior to escaping from the Republic of Congo, he was abducted by state and paramilitary forces affiliated with the ruling party, once in 1998 and once in 2008. Subjected to brutal torture, including beatings and a near execution, Mr. E. suffered severe physical and emotional trauma. Mr. E.'s family was also targeted by members of the ruling party. In 1998, Mr. E.'s four sisters were murdered. His partner, the mother of his youngest child, was abducted and raped. She died attempting to abort the ensuing pregnancy.

Mr. E. arrived in New York City in March 2010, leaving his two young children in the custody of his pastor. We filed Mr. E.'s legal brief in March 2011, arguing that the severity of his past persecution and his well-founded fear that he would, on the basis of his past political beliefs, again be targeted and subjected to further detention, torture and possible execution, merited a grant of asylum. Mr. E. was granted asylum on May 3, 2011.

In 2012, we prepared his children's applications for derivative asylum and for visas. When Mr. E.'s pastor later became ill, the urgency to bring them here increased. We assisted Mr. E. in obtaining funding, and his children arrived just two weeks later.

That day, he sent us this message "A big thank you to all of the team. What you have done is too big for me, I have found my smile again. I am here with my children. I am living again."

We continue to provide his family with legal support. With our assistance, Mr. E. received his green card in 2012, and we will assist his children with their green card applications once they are eligible.

We are deeply moved by Mr. E., energized by his perseverance, warm heart and positive outlook. Having nurtured his trust and grown close with him, we are delighted to see him bloom into a cheerful, productive member of our New York community. To his lawyers, he feels more like family than a client!

Mr. E. was not the only one to benefit, though, as providing him with legal assistance was also a terrific opportunity for our lawyers to develop their skills and receive additional training.

Due to this experience, we have forged stronger ties with some of the other organizations assisting him, and have been compelled to further action. For example, the team collected toys and winter clothes for distribution in support of Bellevue's Survivors of Torture Program and Williamsbridge Family Inn, two programs that also aided Mr. E.

The Davis Polk team included counsel David B. Toscano, pro bono



From left to right: Davis Polk associate Steven C. Krause, Speak International translator Sarah Williams, Mr. C. E. and his two children.

coordinator Amy Rossabi, associates Steven C. Krause*, Arie Rubenstein¹ and Aaron M. Weil, legal assistant Sorina Delia Lazar, former associate Shingira Masanzu², former legal assistant Chelsea Zimmerman, and former summer associate Britton Kovachevich. Translation services were provided by Sarah Williams of Speak International.

1 Arie Rubenstein donated 125 pro bono hours

2 Shingira Masanzu donated 97 pro bono hours

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You can find the Opportunities Guide on the Pro Bono Net Web site at www.probono.net, through the New York State Bar Association Web site at www.nysba.org/probono, through the New York City Bar Justice Center's Web site at www.nycbar.org, and through the Volunteers of Legal Service Web site at www.volsprobono.org.



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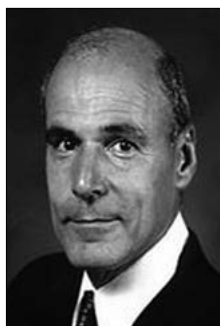
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Jerome Lawton

Donated 1,055 Hours

Counsel, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP



Jerome Lawton leads a program at Skadden's New York office to help Holocaust survivors file – and if need be follow up on – applications to obtain one-time payments, annual pensions, and increases to

existing pensions that are available to victims of Nazi persecution who were confined in European ghettos during World War II. Skadden, with Mr. Lawton acting as the fulcrum, is also the coordinating firm for several other New York firms that also assist victims to obtain relief under these programs. For the past five years, teams of Skadden lawyers and legal assistants have been meeting with survivors, filing applications, responding to questions from the German authorities, and appealing adverse decisions.

The Nazis began forming ghettos in 1939 by forcing Jews into contained sections of cities. The Jews confined to ghettos were usually moved within a short period of time to work camps or

to concentration camps (where they were forced to work for the Germans and often then murdered). Many of the survivor clients represented by Skadden lawyers were teenagers when their families were placed in ghettos after the war began. Because these young adults were able to work, they survived, whereas the vast majority of their parents were killed by the Nazis.

The "GGWP" program provides a one-time payment of 2,000 Euros to such "workers" who were confined to ghettos during the War. The "ZRBG" program provides a monthly pension and "back payment" to ghetto "workers" who meet the requisite standards. The payments to survivors are based on recent German legislation and court decisions that permit both a GGWP payment and the ZRBG payments to survivors who performed "voluntary" labor in Nazi-formed ghettos during World War II. For example, to qualify for a pension, an applicant must prove that (s)he "voluntarily" worked in a ghetto in a country occupied or incorporated by the Third Reich and received some form of compensation – such as an additional potato or scrap of food.

Because the relevant legislation, court decisions, and application process can be extremely confusing to unrepresented survivors, many of them declined to file claims or gave

up when their claims were denied, even though they needed additional financial assistance and could be entitled to compensation. Under Mr. Lawton's leadership, Skadden lawyers and legal assistants continue to provide the necessary assistance to enable such victims to file claims and receive the benefits to which they are entitled under these programs. The reparations payments that Holocaust survivors represented by Skadden's New York lawyers have obtained from the GGWP and ZRBG programs have exceeded \$100,000 annually.

Mr. Lawton has done an invaluable job in personally handling many cases for Holocaust survivors seeking payments from the German government, and in providing advice to numerous other lawyers in the New York office who are also representing Holocaust survivors – as well as in his coordinating efforts by lawyers at other law firms. Mr. Lawton and the lawyers he has mentored continue to secure substantial amounts for many of their clients – often, only after submitting appeals from initial adverse rulings. Mr. Lawton and others with whom he has worked were also instrumental in Chancellor Merkel's decision to eliminate the deadline for the filing of certain claims by Holocaust survivors.

Peter L. Zimroth

Donated 1,022 Hours

Partner, Arnold & Porter LLP



Peter Zimroth has been engaged in pro bono work throughout his career. Currently he serves as lead counsel to Al Falah Center, a Muslim congregation located in Bridgewater, New Jersey, in litigation against the Township of

Bridgewater for religious discrimination and civil rights violations under the federal and state constitutions and relevant statutes. After years of searching for a suitable site on which to establish a house of worship, day care, religious school and community center for congregants in the area, members of the Al Falah board identified a former banquet hall as an ideal location and worked with Township officials to develop a site plan for renovation that meet all zoning requirements. When opponents of the project fomented anti-Muslim hysteria, the Township officials rushed through changes to the local zoning laws, transforming Al Falah's proposed site, where a house of worship had been a conditionally permitted use for over 40 years, into one on which houses of worship are no longer a permitted use. Though the Township cited concerns over traffic, a traffic analysis had been prepared and showed that Al Falah's proposed plan will not adversely affect local traffic. Both a Township traffic consultant and a County official had reviewed the analysis and did not dispute its conclusions.

In July 2011, United States District Judge Joel Pisano denied the Township's motion to dismiss the complaint, finding that Al Falah Center's complaint presented a facial challenge to the zoning ordinance amendment

that could proceed in federal court. Following completion of discovery, United States District Judge Michael Shipp in November 2012 heard oral argument on Al Falah Center's motion for a preliminary injunction. A decision is pending. Mr. Zimroth argued both motions for Al Falah Center.

Mr. Zimroth leads the Arnold & Porter team in this representation. Arnold & Porter LLP serves as co-counsel with The Brennan Center for Justice, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Archer & Greiner. Without the support of pro bono counsel, Al Falah Center would not have been able to afford the costs of developing a mosque and Islamic community center and the costs of litigating its rights to do so.

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2012 Empire State Counsel® Program Eighty-One Attorneys Provided Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Ten Hours of Free Legal Service

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP is committed to the communities in which we practice, to those unable to afford legal representation, and to the legal profession itself. We seek to maintain this role of corporate and social leadership by supporting pro bono work and creating partnerships outside the Firm that promote legal justice and equality of conditions. The Firm regularly represents clients on a pro bono basis in significant matters and has also undertaken important community building and community service efforts. The Firm's lawyers work on a wide variety of pro bono matters that cover issues ranging from criminal appeals and constitutional law to asylum and domestic violence. In addition, our lawyers serve on boards of more than 300 not-for-profit philanthropic, cultural, educational and civic organizations.

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2012 Empire State Counsel® Program Seventy-Nine Attorneys Provided Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen Hours of Free Legal Service

Pro bono work has always been a core responsibility of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and its lawyers. Davis Polk has a long and distinguished history of providing pro bono legal services to those who could not otherwise obtain representation, and dedicates considerable resources to its pro bono program. Over the past year our work has included: representing low and middle-income homeowners against mortgage scammers, successfully defending Legal Aid in a case challenging the City's right to assign cases to other providers of indigent defense when conflicts arise; negotiating a settlement to avert homelessness in youths as they are discharged from foster care; aiding victims of domestic violence obtain divorces from their batterers; representing workers in wage and hour violations against their employers; obtaining U visa and green cards for many crime victims; gaining asylum for seven individuals fleeing persecution in their home countries; drafting policy papers on human rights issues; serving as counsel for four microfinance organizations; and providing IP, tax and corporate advice to numerous non-profit organizations.

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

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Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and affiliates strongly encourages its lawyers, summer associates, and legal assistants to do pro bono work for those individuals and groups unable to afford legal services. The firm is a charter signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, pledging to commit time equivalent to at least 3% of its annual billable hours to work on pro bono matters. In 2012, New York office lawyers and summer associates reached 5.3% of time billed. Firm wide, Skadden attorneys and summer associates recorded 146,451 hours of pro bono legal work in 2012.

Deeply ingrained in the firm's culture, our lawyers' and summer associates' pro bono work provides vital help to a wide variety of individuals and organizations in need of legal assistance. Skadden attorneys regularly assist those seeking asylum in the United States in their attempts to escape persecution due to religious or political beliefs, or sexual orientation. Attorneys also handle cases of wrongful imprisonment and prosecution, housing disputes, and family law, and frequently provide legal advice to non-profit organizations and artists. For the third consecutive year, Skadden was recognized as one of Law360's Pro Bono Firms of 2012, due to the firm's work on cases ranging from securing asylum for a Palestinian man who had been tortured by Hamas to having a death sentence for a Mississippi man vacated. In 2012, the firm received special awards from Lawyers' Alliance for New York (whose Cornerstone Award had never before been awarded twice to the same firm) and the Legal Aid Society.

Proskauer

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*2012 Empire State Counsel® Program
Eighty-Five Attorneys Provided Thirteen
Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Hours of
Free Legal Service*

Proskauer, founded in 1875, is an international law firm providing a wide variety of legal services to clients worldwide from offices in Beijing, Boca Raton, Boston, Chicago, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Paris, São Paulo, and Washington, DC.

Proskauer is proud of its robust pro bono program offering significant opportunities to lawyers at every level of experience in each of our offices and practice departments. The clients we help include community groups, refugees seeking asylum, domestic violence victims, artists and musicians, Holocaust survivors, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals among many others. Our lawyers have also played a crucial role in shaping important issues such as gender rights, voting rights, prisoner rights and religious freedoms.

Our motto is "Doing Well, by Doing Good." We believe that introducing associates to pro bono work early in their careers will help instill in them a commitment to integrating this work into their professional lives. We view pro bono as an opportunity to not only positively impact another life, but also for personal and professional development. Pro bono allows our lawyers to work together while making a difference in the communities where they live and work.

A significant number of our lawyers participate in our pro bono program, dedicating thousands of hours to pro bono clients each year. Lawyers take on pro bono matters according to their individual interests and can choose a case from any of the referral agencies with which the firm partners or they can suggest a matter of their own design.

We are thrilled and honored to be selected as the recipient of the Empire State Counsel Silver Supporter Award.

White & Case LLP

Bronze Sponsor

*2012 Empire State Counsel® Program
Forty-Nine Attorneys Provided Eleven
Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Seven
Hours of Free Legal Service*

White & Case has a long history of pro bono and is one of the largest providers of pro bono legal services in the world. In 2010 we named pro bono one of our 14 global practices. This step puts pro bono work on par with our commercial practices in the leadership, focus and management that we bring to bear. Under the leadership of Brussels partner and EU law litigator Ian Forrester, QC, our Global Pro Bono Practice focuses on three areas – providing access to justice, promoting the rule of law and serving the world's leading non-governmental organizations. More than 100 partners worldwide serve as Pro Bono Leaders who help guide and develop the practice.

Pro bono is the centerpiece of our social responsibility initiative, which we introduced in 2009. Our social responsibility programs also encompass our legal education work – such as our sponsorship of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition - and our volunteer programs, charitable contributions and Green Initiative.

One of the distinctive features of White & Case is its global footprint. An important aspect of our pro bono strategy is to offer cross-border projects that give all our lawyers the opportunity to work on international issues regardless of where they work. Half of our lawyers worldwide worked on a pro bono matter in 2012, giving on average about 74 hours of their time to important causes. They researched the penal practices in ten European countries that affect homeless people and communities. They surveyed laws and regulations in eight countries relating to domestic workers' rights and enforcement of standards to assess compliance with the ILO Convention 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers. They provided an overview of children's rights and

inhumane sentencing of children in nine countries.

The highlights of our work in 2012 were creating a human trafficking case law database and our criminal appeals initiative. In a project for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, more than 175 lawyers across 24 offices researched and summarized human trafficking case law in more than 150 countries to create a comprehensive, worldwide online database of human trafficking court cases. In the US, we increased our work on criminal appeals matters, expanding our practice from 4 matters in 2011 to 16 in 2012.

We believe pro bono work is an excellent way to accelerate a young lawyer's training and development. All first-year and summer associates are assigned at least one pro bono matter. We encourage all our lawyers to propose pro bono matters to the Firm.

To read more about our pro bono work and social responsibility initiatives, and to view our 2011 Social Responsibility Review, please visit www.whitecase.com/about/social-responsibility.

Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP

Bronze Sponsor

*2012 Empire State Counsel® Program
Forty-Nine Attorneys Provided Eleven
Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Seven
Hours of Free Legal Service*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has a deep commitment to pro bono that is an ingrained part of the firm's culture. Weil's pro bono program reflects the belief that providing free legal services to those most vulnerable and in need is an essential element of the firm's relationship with the community and a vital professional obligation of every Weil lawyer. Many of Weil's institutional clients share the firm's commitment and actively work with the firm on initiatives in a number of areas, including criminal justice reform, human rights, community and economic development, children's welfare, civil and constitutional rights, health and environmental issues, and asylum and immigration. Included in Weil's broad repertoire of pro bono service, the firm's New York attorneys devote many pro bono hours

to assisting small business owners, nonprofits and microentrepreneurs with the assistance of the New York City Bar Association's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project, Start Small Think Big, Lawyers Alliance for New York, Volunteers of Legal Service, New York Lawyers in the Public Interest, and other pro bono clearinghouses. In 2012, Weil hosted its seventh annual Not-for-Profit Board Governance Symposium to help charitable organizations better understand emerging best practices and regulatory developments and handle increased tensions and risks associated with our challenging economy, government regulations and effective not-for-profit governance. The firm's New York office also fields a powerful housing team in partnership with The Legal Aid Society through which attorneys from all departments represent low-income New Yorkers at risk of homelessness. In 2012, Weil joined Legal Aid on two major class actions to assert the rights of over 16,000 low-income families who were threatened with eviction. Weil is justifiably proud of its time spent on pro bono matters, which the firm calls "Our finest hours."

2012 Empire State Counsel® Photo Gallery

A. Thomas Levin

72 Pro Bono Hours



I perform pro bono because pro bono service is the obligation of every attorney, and a fair exchange for the privilege granted to each of us to practice our profession.

A civil society cannot function without everyone having access to the legal system, regardless of means or ability to pay. It is in the interests of all attorneys to make sure that such access is available to all.

Claire P. Gutekunst

55 Pro Bono Hours



Providing pro bono services is both personally and professionally rewarding. It lets me help people who need legal assistance to provide for their basic needs. It

also allows me to work with and learn from talented attorneys in new and challenging areas of law.

Jamie R. Dyce

250 Pro Bono Hours



I believe that every attorney has an obligation to perform pro bono services because we each possess a unique and special skill set which enables us to help others

in ways that we simply would not be able to without a law degree. The obligation, however, should not be

viewed as a burden. It is truly an honor to be able to provide assistance to those in need, and I view my ability to practice law as a gift that I choose to share.

Marilyn (Moriah) Tebor Shaw

95 Pro Bono Hours



I serve the public through pro bono legal work because I view my law license as a sacred trust given to me by the State of New York to practice law on behalf of

citizens of this State. As lawyers, we are in a unique position to help those less fortunate than ourselves navigate the vicissitudes of life as they relate to their legal affairs. I believe it is our obligation to do so whether or not people have the means to pay us for our services.

Most recently in 2012, I have been privileged to help through the efforts of the NYSBA to try and ease the hardship of New Yorkers downstate who have been affected by Superstorm Sandy. At times of natural disaster like this, it is so rewarding to be able to offer some assistance to people, who through no fault of their own find themselves in dire circumstances. This is what lawyers can do and, in my opinion, should do for the public. As Marian Wright Edelman said at my daughter's graduation from high school a number of years ago, "Community service is the rent we pay for living." That statement has remained with me as a great summation in words of what my parents, Lea and Leonard Tebor, and my legal mentor, J. Coyne O'Brien, Esq. of Rochester showed me with their deeds. I am grateful that my profession allows me to follow in all of their footsteps.

Reshma Shah

100+ Pro Bono Hours



I partake Pro Bono work because the legal field is so difficult to navigate especially for those who do not speak English as their first language, are

elderly or just do not have the means to hire counsel. In order for the justice system to work, everyone needs fair access to help. Attorneys who do pro bono work help create a more balanced world.

Major Guneet Chaudhary

70 Pro Bono Hours



I am an Ex-Cavalry officer of the Indian Army and an attorney. Being an Ex-Serviceman, I provide free legal services to former army personnel in civil matters

who cannot afford an attorney. I also do volunteer legal work on behalf of Indian women who have been divorced by their husbands or who have been sexually assaulted.

I consider it my moral duty to provide pro bono service to people who cannot afford the high cost of litigation in India.

Victor Stephen Ramirez

126 Pro Bono Hours



I am very honored to be recognized by my peers for the assistance I provide to our community. I am happy knowing that the people I help see me as a resource in the

community. Not only are we trying to help the community navigate the court system, but we are directly helping displaced families, abused women and children, non-English speakers and underprivileged individuals take action legally through our court system. I am proud to be a part of GE where we are encouraged to volunteer and make an impact to our local community.

Brandon T. Morris

68+ Pro Bono Hours



My pro bono work focuses principally on helping nonprofit organizations apply for and maintain tax exempt status. It is rewarding to assist these fledgling organiza-

tions in taking a major step achieving their charitable, educational, or other goals.

Michael J. Sciotti

125 Pro Bono Hours



It is simply the right thing to do!

Roberta Ann Arnone

50 Pro Bono Hours

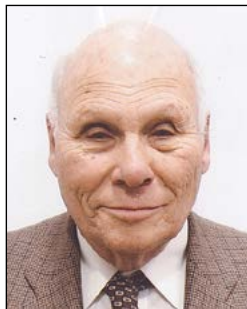


In these financially trying times, it is important to remember the working poor and middle class who routinely suffer so many expenses.

Anything we can do as lawyers to assist our neighbors and those generally ineligible for free services is helping to restore the promise of America.

Morton L. Gitter

550 Pro Bono Hours



Having retired after almost fifty years in practice, I continue as a volunteer attorney for the past five years with The Legal Aid Society, City Bar Justice Center, Queens

Volunteer Lawyers Project and other groups. It gives me immense personal satisfaction to help those who cannot afford a lawyer to deal with their personal problems such as credit card debt and related consumer matters, personal bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosures. I feel privileged in being able to make this contribution which is beneficial to the less fortunate and also enhances our profession.

Timothy W. Hoover

277 Pro Bono Hours



There is a continuing, vast unmet need for basic civil legal services for struggling New Yorkers. Every lawyer should do his or her part, and try to do more.

Robert Selya

52 Pro Bono Hours



Attorney Jimmy Lathrop* is the Director of the Brooklyn Bar Association's Foreclosure Intervention project. He recruited me and has mentored me since I volunteered for the Project in 2010. I am deeply grateful for his guidance.

Rachel Ehrlich Albanese

125 Pro Bono Hours



Quite simply, I like to perform pro bono service because it is rewarding for me on a personal level and for my clients. I like to be able to assist people who need help but can't afford it.

Peter J. Glennon

57 Pro Bono Hours



Performing pro bono work is not only a professional responsibility, but it is a personal responsibility and a civic duty. Without each other there is no community.

Raymond LaHoud

340 Pro Bono Hours



Serving the community through pro bono assistance is a bedrock principle when one is an attorney. My service is not only because I want to do it,

but, ethically, I, like all other attorneys am required to help others.

Emily Zhao
65+ Pro Bono Hours



I take the opportunity of providing pro bono assistance to persons in need of legal services who cannot afford them as not only an obligation,

but also as a privilege of being a licensed attorney.

Howard M. Adelsberg
74 Pro Bono Hours



Giving back to your fellow citizens who are in need is a civic duty. Society is better served when we help our neighbors. We should always strive to help those who

need assistance but are without means to pay for the help they need.

Andy I. Chen
115 Pro Bono Hours



I do pro bono work at a homeless shelter for military veterans. Many of the veterans feel that their legal problems are insurmountable; but in reality, for a

lawyer their problems are easily resolved. By helping them I gain experience and a veteran who has served our county can have a better life. I see it as a win-win situation.

Julian C. Glatt
420 Pro Bono Hours

As with many divorce attorneys the understanding that the system despite competent judges - is broken lingers; and the need to do something to restore faith in the system at an individual level is particularly acute. Doing pro bono gives mean the change to bring meaning to a client who is experiencing a difficult life.

J. Machelle Sweeting
50 Pro Bono Hours



"Justice, justice, shall thou pursue." The value of pro bono service is priceless. It gives a voice to the voiceless and access to our court system to those who might

otherwise be denied justice. Providing pro bono services allows the sign above the doorway of justice to read: "All may enter!"

Gary Elias
75 Pro Bono Hours



I donate my pro bono hours drafting Advanced Directives and Wills for military personnel being deployed overseas. I also perform this service for local

military families and retirees at Fort Hamilton Army base in Brooklyn. If a person can put themselves in harm's way, the least I can do is provide legal services.

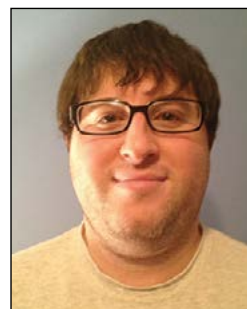
Kelechi Ogbuzuo
60+ Pro Bono Hours



I have a strong sense of justice and I believe that people in the pursuit of justice, should have the opportunity to be heard and should have informed legal

counsel. Volunteering is my way of contributing to my community, plus the experience is well worth the time.

Louis Brett Goldman
51 Pro Bono Hours



I have taken part in the New York State Unified Court's Access to Justice Program because I recognize that many New Yorkers do not have the resources to afford the

legal help that we all deserve. By volunteering in Housing Court help centers throughout New York, I have the opportunity to help pro se litigants understand their legal problems. More importantly, it gives the people a chance to talk with someone, especially someone that will hear their trials and tribulations, and help them figure out the best solution for their dilemmas.

N Y S B A

**DO THE
PUBLIC
GOOD**

**VOLUNTEER
FOR PRO BONO**



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
PRO BONO DEPARTMENT

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