

Winston & Strawn's

PRO BONO REPORTER

Volume 18

AWARDS AND HONORS

APPEALS

EDUCATION

FAMILY LAW

IMMIGRATION

INMATE CIVIL RIGHTS

POST CONVICTION

PUBLIC BENEFITS

VETERANS

LEGAL NEEDS OF NONPROFITS

PUBLIC INTEREST/LEADERSHIP

WINSTON
& STRAWN
LLP

PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Kimball Anderson, *Chairman Emeritus*

Steven Atlee

Susan Berkwitt

Wilder Kendric Berry

Eric Bloom

Matt Costigan

Lisa Cottle

Krista Enns

Amanda Groves, *Chair*

Barry Hart

Jérôme Herbet

Doressia Hutton

Larry Kern

Dave Koropp

Thomas Lane

Wood Lay

Michael Moser

Jeff Phillips

Pejman Sharifi

Elizabeth Timkovich

May Wall

Matthew Walsh

Greg McConnell, *Pro Bono Counsel*

Maria Kutnick, *Pro Bono Coordinator*



FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Volume 18 of the firm's Pro Bono Reporter. You will notice several changes to the format and style of this year's edition. Perhaps most notably, the "From the Chair" is authored by someone other than Kimball Anderson. This past fall Kimball became chair *emeritus* of the Pro Bono Committee and I was appointed chair. Following in Kimball's footsteps is an exciting challenge and I look forward to building on to the great pro bono program that he helped create. It's a testament to Kimball's efforts that in his last year as chair, the firm achieved its highest-ever pro bono ranking by *The American Lawyer* (18th), a fitting way to close out a 28-year span as chair.

My immersion into the firm's pro bono efforts has helped me better understand the tremendous amount of work that goes into developing and supporting work for nearly 900 lawyers across the globe. As a former board member of a Bay Area legal aid organization, I understood that firms like ours work closely with legal aid groups to secure clients, but I was amazed to learn that

Winston has developed a network of more than 150 agencies around the world that supply us with case opportunities. I also did not fully grasp the important role that the firm's foundation has played in developing those relationships by promoting the financial well-being of these critical partners, who continually struggle to raise funds as they serve the poorest in our communities.

attorneys. Corporate group chair Dom DeChiara set a goal that 100% of corporate associates meet the firm's pro bono objectives. There is no magic sauce in becoming a top-rate pro bono firm. It's leadership and effort.

The truly fantastic thing about this success is the significant difference our efforts make in the lives of our clients and the communities in

.....

There is no magic sauce in becoming a top-rate pro bono firm. It's leadership and effort.

.....

But what has most impressed me is the active engagement and support of firm leadership for pro bono. Tom Fitzgerald personally challenged all partners at this year's Partner Conference to meet the firm's 35-hour objective and has continually urged both partners and associates to seek out opportunities. Litigation group chair Jim Hurst asked that all litigators strive to meet the 35 hour objective and has offered follow-up encouragement to many litigation

which we live. This is a difficult time. Poverty rates are on the rise and the need for legal assistance insatiable. More than 44 million U.S. citizens live below the poverty line, 1/3 of them are children. Many of them have legal needs that will go unmet. You can make a difference; you only need to take a step forward.

- Amanda Groves

AWARDS AND HONORS

Paris Office Receives Prestigious Honor at the First Pro Bono Awards at the Paris Bar Ceremony

The Paris office received an award for the best pro bono action carried out abroad by a law firm at the first Pro Bono Awards of the Paris Bar. The award highlights how Winston & Strawn Paris—through Zanmi Lasanté-PARIS, a nonprofit organization founded by **Patrick Murray** and his wife **Christine Murray**—has for many years assisted in the economic development of Haiti. Most recently, the firm has aided the citizens of Haiti in their efforts to recover from the devastating earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince in January 2010. Other Paris office lawyers have devoted substantial time to pro bono projects supporting Zanmi Lasanté- PARIS, including **Jerome Herbet**, **Olena Vlasjuk**, and **Julie Cittadini**.



New York Employment Group Honored By Community and Housing Organization for 15 Years of Pro Bono Service

Southside Housing Development Fund honored the New York Office's labor team for 15 years of service, going back to predecessor firm Whitman Breed. Based in Brooklyn, Southside is a provider of housing and community programs for low-income residents. Over the years, Winston attorneys have assisted with numerous employment and labor relations matters, including collective bargaining negotiations, a strike, and employee policies and relations. Attorneys **Deborah Jagoda**, **Stephen Sheinfeld**, **Bill Sunkel**, and **Erin Dittus** have provided invaluable assistance to this client.

Peter Perkowski Receives Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project Volunteer of the Year Award

Los Angeles partner **Peter Perkowski** was recognized by Public Counsel as its Immigrants' Rights Project Volunteer of the Year. Peter has represented numerous asylum seekers during the last 12 years, including a Colombian woman facing imputed political persecution, a young man who fled anti-gay violence by gangs in Guatemala, and a gay Mexican man who was physically and sexually abused while in the Mexican military.



Houston Team Receives the Texas Civil Rights Project 2012 Kristi Couvillon Pro Bono Hero Award

The Houston team of partner **Casey Berger**, associate **Trey Mahoney**, and former associate Kyril Talanov were among those selected to receive the Texas Civil Rights Project 2012 Kristi Couvillon Pro Bono Hero Award. The team represented a Native American prisoner who alleged the state infringed on his right to freely practice Native American worship ceremonies while imprisoned.



The Family Defense Center Honors Kathleen Barry and Her Father

The Family Defense Center (FDC) honored of counsel **Kathleen Barry** and her father George Barry, a retired tax consultant and regular volunteer at FDC offices, with a "Father-Daughter" recognition award for their tireless advocacy on behalf of their clients.

APPEALS

Houston - Chicago Team Secures Significant Victory in a Case Closely Watched by Domestic Violence Advocates

A team of attorneys, including **Jim Hurst**, **Melinda Patterson**, **Sam Park**, and **Teresa Chen**, secured a significant victory for a client in a child custody dispute over her toddler. During the two-year period that the client and her ex-boyfriend lived together, he was physically and emotionally violent toward her. Ignoring evidence of that abuse, the trial court awarded the father unsupervised visitations, concluding that our client's allegations of domestic violence were "exaggerated." On appeal, the team successfully argued that the district court not only misconstrued the law (using an "endanger seriously" standard rather than "best interests"), but also abused its discretion in ignoring the devastating effects of domestic violence on the child under both standards.

Melinda Patterson



EDUCATION

New York Team Secures Full Tuition Payment for Special Needs 12th Grader

New York associates **Lilli Scalettar** and **Desiree Ripo** successfully represented a learning disabled student and her father in connection with their challenge to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and school placement offered by the New York City Department of Education (DOE). At a contested hearing, the team challenged that the proposed IEP did not meet the student's required educational setting, and failed to provide an adequate student-teacher ratio classroom, individual counseling, and significant independent living skills training. The hearing officer agreed, and held that the child was entitled to attend a private school for the 2011-2012 school year at DOE expense.

Firm's High Participation Rate Drives Stellar Pro Bono Ranking by The American Lawyer

Spurred on by the leadership of managing partner **Tom Fitzgerald** and practice group leaders **Jim Hurst** and **Dom DeChiara**, more U.S. attorneys contributed to the pro bono practice than ever before and resulted in the firm's highest *The American Lawyer* pro bono ranking of 18. More than 68% of all U.S. attorneys contributed 20 pro bono hours, and U.S. attorneys averaged 89 pro bono hours. U.S. **associates** actively joined the effort with more than 85% participation at the 20-hour level. Every domestic office increased its participation rate, with the **San Francisco** office leading the way for the second year in a row with 84% of attorneys providing at least 20 pro bono hours. Nearly every practice group increased its participation rate.



Tom Fitzgerald



Jim Hurst



Dom DeChiara

FAMILY LAW

Los Angeles Attorneys Pave the Way for Adoption of Foster Care Children

Under the guidance of associate **Elizabeth Kwon** and the supervision of partner **Anna Segobia Masters**, attorneys in the Los Angeles office finalized the adoptions of seven foster care children waiting for permanent placement with their families. All cases involved children who were abused or neglected. The attorneys also provided advocacy services to the parents to ensure that they were receiving medical cards, developmental services, correct amounts of adoption assistance payments, and other assistance for their children. Participating attorneys included: **Jason Campbell**, **David Dalke**, **Stephanie Leonard**, **Jenna Logoluso**, **Ian Nomura**, **Shawn Obi**, and **Edward Son**.



Chicago Team Gains Successful Settlement for Mother in Hague Convention Appointment

Partner **Dan Rubinstein**, assisted by associate **Giovanni Angles** and former associate **Keith Pozulp**, was appointed by a Chicago federal court to represent a citizen of Guatemala in connection with a custody petition filed by her mother under the *Hague Convention*. The *Hague Convention* was created to ensure the prompt return of children who have been abducted from their country of habitual residence or wrongfully retained in a contracting state. The client's mother sought to establish the validity of an order entered by a Guatemalan court, which she contended gave her legal custody of our client's two daughters (her granddaughters). Our client denied that the Guatemalan order conferred custody to her mother and asserted that her mother had effectively abducted the children and endangered them by living with her in Guatemala. After the team conducted a four-day trial, the parties ultimately agreed to a settlement, which carefully addressed the concerns for the two girls and set forth that custody should ultimately be granted to our client.



*Partner **Dan Rubinstein** received the Northern District of Illinois Excellence in Pro Bono Service Award for his work on this matter and handling other appointments made by the Court.*

Team Wins Client Custody of her Daughter in Two-week Trial

After a two week trial, a Chicago team prevailed in a lengthy custody battle securing their client sole custody of her 11-year old daughter. The team worked closely with our client to handle numerous issues involving the safety and well-being of the child. They handled numerous emergency motions and responded to a constant influx of motions and maneuvers by the child's father and his constantly changing cast of lawyers. Effective direct and cross-examinations resulted in the court's determination that the father was not credible and that our client was committed to developing a healthy and loving relationship between the child and both parents. Partner **Erik Snapp** led the team. Associates **Sara Gilloon** and **Robine Morrison** also participated at trial, with invaluable assistance from associates **Lucas Pendry** and **Jason Pesick**, and paralegal **Nora Bouacha**. Also providing extensive support during our representation were associates **Kristin Palmer** and **Tyler Johannes**.



IMMIGRATION

San Francisco Team Secures Asylum on Appeal for LGBT Cameroonian

Diana Hughes and **Jeanifer Parsigian** obtained withholding of removal for a Cameroonian man fleeing persecution on account of his sexual orientation. The client had been arrested, detained, and physically and sexually assaulted in Cameroon. He filed for asylum and appeared pro se at his deportation hearing, during which the Immigration Judge and government attorney repeatedly asked him inappropriate questions regarding his sexual orientation that reflected a deep misunderstanding of LGBT issues. The team represented the client at the appellate level, where the Board found that the Judge's determination that the client lacked credibility was "clearly erroneous." They also credited the client's testimony regarding his persecution at the hands of the authorities in Cameroon – where homosexuality is a criminal offense – and granted relief rather than remanding for new proceedings.

Jeanifer Parsigian



New York Team Secures Historic Settlement for Latino Clients Subjected to Warrantless Searches

A Winston team secured a historic settlement for Latino victims of unlawful warrantless home raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The settlement requires new national policies for ICE agents conducting warrantless home operations and \$1 million in damages and fees. In addition, several plaintiffs received immigration relief.

The plaintiffs in the case were 22 New York men, women, and children, several with lawful status, who in 2006 and 2007 were the victims of warrantless home raids by ICE. These pre-dawn hour raids typically involved a dozen agents surrounding a home, pounding on doors, shining flashlights through windows, and demanding or forcing entry. Among other changes, the policy revisions created by the settlement require ICE agents to seek explicit consent to enter or search a private residence in a language understood by the resident whenever feasible and consent to enter the outside areas of homes where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Agents must not conduct protective sweeps through the homes without an articulable suspicion of danger.

The team was spearheaded by partners **Aldo Badini**, **Kelly Librera**, and **George Mastoris** and included associates **Lee Pepper**, **Matt Stark**, **Leslieann Cachola**, **Bianca Forde**, **Diana Hughes**, **Meg Ciavarella**, **Franco Cuadro**, **Corina Bogaciu**, and **Elizabeth Cate**, as well as paralegals **Jennifer Kenna**, **Justin Grunfeld**, and **Sarah Walkowitz**. Public interest agencies LatinoJustice PRLDEF and the Center for Constitutional Rights were co-counsel.



Aldo Badini



Kelly Librera



George Mastoris

Crystal Johnson Wins Asylum for Guinean Victim of Female Genital Mutilation

New York associate **Crystal Johnson** won asylum in deportation proceedings for a 62-year-old woman from Guinea who was a victim of female genital mutilation as a young child. The client had also been imprisoned and tortured after the Guinean government accused her of being a spy because as young adult she had received three years of Jewish education and vocational training with an NGO. After the client was released, she became an outcast in her community, having been branded a traitor and a spy, and faced ongoing threats of torture from the government's secret police force. Fearing for her life, she resettled in the Ivory Coast but was also persecuted there as a foreigner.



Firm Attorneys and Paralegals Assist Immigrant Youth Secure Deferred Action

Attorneys and paralegals in several offices assisted eligible immigrant youth apply for relief under the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA). The immigrant youth clients, who entered the United States as young children and graduated or are currently enrolled in school, are eligible for "deferred action" or protection from deportation and employment authorization. Participating partners, associates, and paralegals include: **Shivani Bautista, Dania Becker, Leslieann Cachola, Teresa Chen, John Christopher, Darwin Conner, Matt Costigan, Megan Devaney, Michelle Munoz Durk, Averil Edwards, Andrew Harris, Jennifer Hays, Jin Huang, Maureen Lane, David Luger, James Lerner, Shannon May, Patricia Mollica, Sharick Naqi, Dana Schaffner, and Christopher Wilson**; and paralegals **Ann Marie Calacci, Michelle Kallick, Renee Kries, and Nancy Wertheimer**.



Charlotte Office Initiates U-visa Effort

Several Charlotte attorneys helped launch a new U-visa project in that office which will help address a tremendous unmet need in the community. Through this project, volunteers will assist non-citizen victims of serious crimes who have assisted law enforcement authorities in its investigation or prosecution. U-visa applicants must demonstrate that they have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse resulting from a qualifying criminal activity, and must also present evidence that they possess information about the criminal activity or have been helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. Participating volunteers include **David Batty, Phoebe Coddington, Gonzalo Frias, Luciona Johnson, Morgan Stewart, Elizabeth Timkovich, and Aaron Weiner**.



New York Team Secures U-Visa for Argentinean Victim of Domestic Violence

Associates **Jessica Sonpal** and **Iris Lichtman**, under the supervision of **Susan Berkwitt**, represented a young immigrant from Argentina in her effort to obtain a U-visa under the Violence Against Women Act. Our client was the victim of substantial physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her partner and after a particularly vicious fight, she called the police and her partner was arrested. She immediately filed for an order of protection and moved with her children to a shelter. She cooperated with the family court, police, and district attorney's office in her former partner's prosecution. Due to this cooperation, she was eligible for a U-visa and in just three short months her petition was approved.

INMATE CIVIL RIGHTS

Los Angeles Team Wins Class Status for Disabled Prisoners Seeking Accommodations

Stephen Smerek



A Los Angeles team, including partner **Stephen Smerek** and associate **Jason Hamilton**, in collaboration with the ACLU of Southern California, Disability Rights California, and Disability Rights Legal Center, won class status for a group of disabled inmates with mobility impairments seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The class includes all prisoners who are in the L.A. County Jail and need accommodations, and all future prisoners with disabilities, a group that could potentially number thousands of men and women. The lawsuit argues that the jail is not wheelchair accessible and that inmates with mobility impairments also experience discrimination because they are denied access to jail programs.

Chicago Team Defeats Exhaustion Defense at Evidentiary Hearing

Associates **Michael Bergerson** and **Andrew Yahkind**, supervised by partner **Julie Bauer** and supported by paralegal **Ken Berry**, secured a victory for our client, an Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) inmate, at an evidentiary “Pavey” hearing — a pre-trial preliminary process for addressing any affirmative defense of failure to exhaust for inmates in the Seventh Circuit. The team successfully argued that our client properly submitted and appealed a grievance under IDOC’s grievance procedures before filing suit in federal court and thus should be permitted to proceed to trial on his underlying claim that guards violated his civil rights. They presented an opening argument, cross-examined three IDOC employees, and elicited the client’s narrative on direct examination.

Team Gains Favorable Settlement for Frostbitten Inmates

Joanna Cornwell



Attorneys **Mike Baniak**, **Kevin Warner**, and **Joanna Cornwell**, with assistance from paralegal **Ken Berry**, secured a substantial settlement in a section 1983 matter for several inmates who were subjected to below freezing temperatures and injured by frostbite. On a frigid December morning, the inmates were escorted to the correctional center yard by two correctional employees in zero degree weather and locked out for two-and-a-half hours. Three of the inmates incurred frostbite from which they are unlikely to ever recover. The case proceeded all the way to trial after six depositions, an expert report, summary judgment motions, and more.

POST-CONVICTION

Washington Team Secures Release of a Man Wrongly Convicted in Capital Murder Case

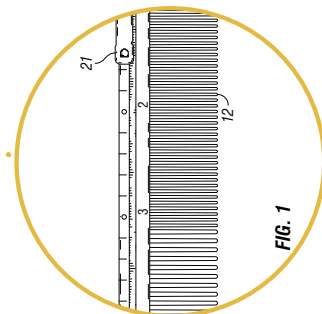
Partner **Elizabeth Papez** and Chicago partner **David Koropp**, assisted by former associates Jacob Loshin, Eric Nitz, and Wemi Peters, helped free their wrongfully convicted client, David Boyce, who was released from a Virginia prison after serving 22 years for a 1991 first degree murder conviction.

Boyce was convicted in the 1990 stabbing death and robbery of his roommate in a Newport News hotel. None of the biological evidence recovered at the scene of the murder matched Boyce. At trial, the prosecution relied on testimony of a hotel clerk, who stated that he saw a “long-haired man” near the room where the murder took place, and on a crime scene technician, who claimed that Boyce had “almost shoulder length hair” on the day he was arrested.

Despite Boyce’s repeated requests, the prosecution denied having any evidence helpful to his defense. However, unbeknownst to Boyce; the police had taken a picture the day he was arrested that showed he had short hair. After years of post-conviction proceedings, in 2008 the state finally admitted to having the picture. Despite this evidence, in 2010 a Virginia circuit court refused to overturn Boyce’s conviction, holding that even though Boyce’s constitutional rights had been violated, he was not entitled to relief because as the subject of the photograph he had knowledge of its existence and thus filed his post-conviction claim too late. This holding was affirmed by both the Virginia appellate court and the Virginia Supreme Court. In March 2013, Boyce’s federal petition for *habeas corpus* was granted, holding that the prosecution failed to turn over critical evidence in violation of Boyce’s constitutional rights, and finding Boyce’s claims were timely. Boyce was subsequently released in April 2013.

The Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project recognized the team for its success in securing Boyce’s habeas relief and release from prison at its annual awards luncheon.

Elizabeth Papez



Chicago Team Successfully Challenges Guilty Plea for One of the “Dixmoor Five” Exonorees

A team led by partner **David Koropp** and including associates **Matt Barnes** and **Scott Sakiyama** secured a post-conviction victory for client Jonathan Barr, when a Cook County Circuit Court judge granted his post-conviction petition to withdraw a guilty plea on the grounds that the plea violated due process.

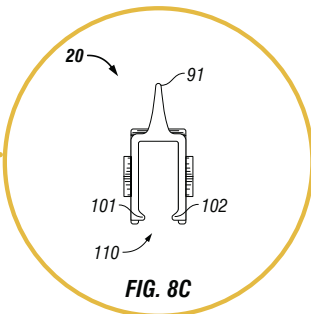


Barr was one of the “Dixmoor Five,” five teenagers who were wrongly convicted of the 1991 murder and rape of a 14-year-old girl in Dixmoor, Illinois. In 1995, while being held in a juvenile correctional facility and awaiting trial in the murder case, Barr and several other inmates were accused by a fellow inmate of committing repeated sexual assaults. In 1997, Barr was wrongly convicted at trial of the murder and rape and was sentenced to 85 years in prison. Knowing that evidence of this conviction would be included at the trial of the still-pending sexual assault charges, Barr pled guilty to those charges in 1998 and was sentenced to 18 years.

In 2011, after a lengthy court battle, Barr was exonerated from the 1991 rape and murder by DNA evidence, but his guilty plea to the 1995 charges remained in effect. In February 2012, the team filed a post-conviction petition, arguing that Barr’s guilty plea violated due process. We argued that the plea was involuntary and unknowing because, at the time of the plea, Barr was under a reasonable misapprehension of fact that his murder/rape conviction was valid. The court vacated Barr’s conviction and allowed Barr to withdraw his guilty plea. At the hearing announcing the decision, the court apologized to Barr on behalf of the State for the State’s actions. The State recently announced it will continue prosecuting the charges against Barr.

Houston Team Helps Barber-Inventor Seek Patent for “Shape-up” Tool

Houston associates **Dustin Edwards** and **Melinda Lackey** are assisting a DC-based small business owner and barber secure patent protection for his invention of a styling comb. The basis for patenting the device is that it “provides a user (barber) with a precise measurement of a haircut or style, particularly an outline or “shape-up,” on one side of one’s head to allow for its accurate reproduction on the other side of the same head,” and it also “provides the user the ability to cut hair at a constant or predetermined set of measurements, such as at an angle, where certain proportions are to be maintained even if they are not mirror images on either side of the head.” The patent application has been submitted and is currently pending with the U.S. Patent Office.



Dustin Edwards



Melinda Lackey

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Letkewicz Wins Remand for Woman Denied Disability Benefits

Chicago associate **Chris Letkewicz** won a remand for a disabled client who was wrongfully denied disability benefits. The judge remanded the case back to the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, asking the Department to supplement the record with new evidence and asking them to hold a new hearing based on the supplementation of the record. The thrust of the argument was that our client had been receiving Home Services Program services for 14 straight years at the time of the appeal and that she was not getting better nor was she getting additional non-HSP resources. The judge was receptive to the argument and found it counterintuitive that she was getting better and no longer needed the services and added that if it were up to him at the first instance, she would continue to receive services.

Firm Saves Client from Hundreds of Trademark and Copyright Infringement Claims

A federal jury found in favor of our client, Chapterhouse Studios, ruling that it could continue to make and sell add-ons for the popular *Warhammer 40,000* game. Games Workshop makes *Warhammer 40,000*, a tabletop battle game that works with armies of miniature figures and vehicles. Our client, a two-person company based out of a garage in Texas, sells customized add-on parts for the figures and vehicles.

Games Workshop claimed our client violated more than 200 copyrights and trademarks, which threatened to force our client out of business. Games Workshop had used similar bullying tactics in the past, going after individuals and small companies, knowing that they could fold under the expense and burden of a lawsuit. Over the course of the lawsuit, the Winston team chipped away at Games Workshop's claim. At trial, the team showed that Games Workshop was overreaching, and could not use copyright and trademark law to block the market for custom add-ons for their popular war games. The jury agreed, saving Chapterhouse from bankruptcy and confirming that it could continue to sell add-on products and continue to refer to Games Workshop's trademarks when it does so.

The trial team consisted of partners **Imron Aly** and **Jennifer Golinveaux**; associates **Bryce Cooper** and **Tom Kearney**; and paralegals **Lauren Weidner** and **Caralyn Tansey**. Attorneys **Katie Boyle**, **Eric Mersmann**, **Joon Oh**, **John Raffensberger**, **Fritz Shadley**, and **Zack Sorman** also contributed to this win for our client.



Imron Aly



Jennifer Golinveaux



VETERANS

Firm Leads Effort to Assist Military Veterans Discharged Pursuant to (Repealed) “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Policy

Winston & Strawn has partnered with Outserve-SLDN and two other large firms to create a new “discharge upgrade project” to help military veterans discharged under the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) policy, which was repealed in 2012. Through this project, volunteers are working with veterans to correct discharge records and address the harms they experienced through DADT discharges, such as diminished access to veterans benefits that they might otherwise qualify for, barriers to future employment, and forcing them to be “out” about their sexual orientation in any situation where they are required to submit proof of their military service. In addition, many veterans discharged under these repealed regulations consider their discharges a dignitary harm and a loss of personal honor. Participating attorneys include **Caroline Camic**, **Cyrus Frelinghuysen**, **Ian Nomura**, **Andrew G. Smith**, **Zach Sorman**, and **Michael Woods**.

Cyrus Frelinghuysen



Houston Attorneys Staff Veterans Legal Advice Clinic

In response to the high demand to provide pro bono service to veterans, the Houston office has joined the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program free legal advice clinic for veterans. HVLP holds a free legal advice clinic every Friday afternoon for veterans, and the spouses of deceased veterans at a local VA Hospital. Volunteer attorneys meet with veterans in need of legal assistance for 20 to 30 minutes apiece, providing counsel and advice, and helping HVLP determine the necessary next step for the client. Attorneys participating in the initial effort include partner **Jeff Phillips** and associates **Rich McCarty** and **Andrew Ward**.

Rich McCarty



SERVING THE LEGAL NEEDS OF NONPROFITS

San Francisco Team Merges Prominent Organizations Serving the Blind

Partner **Jim Topinka**, with assistance from associates **Christine Hoefliger**, **Dan Hardin**, and **Steve Flores** and paralegal **Josephine Chan**, assisted in the merger of our client, the Hatlen Center for the Blind, with Junior Blind of America. The Hatlen Center was founded by Dr. Philip Hatlen in 1972 as one of the first schools in the world designed to teach independent living to the visually impaired. Hatlen's groundbreaking approach requires students to live on their own, pay their own bills, and cook their own food. Today, Hatlen is a nationally renowned institution, and its methods are considered to be the most effective way to teach independence to people who are visually impaired. Junior Blind provides services to children and adults who are blind, visually impaired, or multi-disabled to achieve independence. JBA's services include education, transition programs, and recreation services. The organizations came together based on their historical positive relations, common vision, and the desire to gain economic efficiencies and expand services to current and potential clients.



Firm Paralegals Lead and Provide Extraordinary Support to Numerous Pro Bono Causes

It has always been the case that the firm's paralegals have actively supported the pro bono practice. Last year 57% of paralegals contributed 20 or more pro bono hours and as a group paralegals averaged 77 pro bono hours per person. In virtually every pro bono matter that firm attorneys undertake, one or more paralegals contribute substantial and valuable time to the client representation. The historic Aguilar settlement, for example, was facilitated by **Jennifer Kenna**, **Justin Grunfeld**, and **Sarah Walkowitz**. In the last year alone, three cases have gone to trial (Games Workshop, Sarr Custody, and Gorton Section 1983) and the trial teams were ably assisted by paralegal teams including, respectively, **Lauren Weidner** and **Caralyn Tansey**; **Nora Bouacha**; **Melodie Butler** and **Todd Montague**.

Paralegals also lead and drive certain projects that were developed with their expertise in mind. **Ken Berry** virtually single-handedly won the parole for an inmate who had been serving an "indeterminate" sentence since 1975. **George Dragicevich**, **Greg Skogg**, and **Lauren Weidner** manage the tremendous exonoree data flow for the Innocence Record. [**Gloria Camisa** even volunteered to "speak Jersey" to secure from a New Jersey agency an important exonoree file that had eluded us for years.] A team of 17 paralegals assisted the Chicago Justice Project analyze crime data and police coverage in the City of Chicago. Chicago paralegals **Michelle Kallick**, **Renee Kries**, **Ann Marie Calacci**, and **Nancy Wertheimer** participated in Fall and Spring "DACA" clinics assisting undocumented youth secure deferred action. These efforts and others have served numerous clients and allowed firm attorneys to accomplish their pro bono objectives.



Melodie Butler



Michelle Kallick

Charlotte Attorneys Merge Workforce Training Organizations

Charlotte attorneys **David Batty** and **Patrick Strubbe** represented the Urban League of the Central Carolinas in its merger with a non-profit job training organization, Jacob's Ladder. The combined entity will continue as the Urban League and emerges as the leading non-profit workforce development and empowerment organization in the Charlotte region. The merger presented several unusual legal challenges, including the preservation of existing funding arrangements with diverse government, charitable, and corporate sources, and the negotiation of a combined governance/operational plan for non-profits with overlapping but distinct missions. The Winston team negotiated the merger agreement, prepared the necessary consents and resolutions, and counseled the Urban League board at length concerning the various steps needed to complete the transaction. The merger strengthens the job training and empowerment resources available to underserved communities in Charlotte.

Patrick Strubbe



New York Finance Team Closes for Community Development Lender

A team led by **Darwin Connor** and including associate **Stephen Gardner** assisted the Chicago Community Loan Fund, a community development financial institution, close a loan to a non-profit developing low-income housing in the amount of \$445,000. The loan will be used to refinance the bridge for TIF financing and is secured by an assignment of the TIF Bond Revenue, assets of developer, and a corporate guaranty.

Darwin Connor



San Francisco Team Assists Non-Profit Provide Energy Efficiency to Low-Income Housing Facilities

A team spearheaded by **Lisa Cottle** assisted Affordable Community Energy (ACE) in developing a form Power Purchase and Sale and Energy Services Performance Agreement for use in connection with a broad energy conservation and sustainability program for low-income housing facilities. ACE is a for-profit subsidiary of Hispanic Housing Development Corporation, a non-profit organization that helps create affordable housing in Chicago's Latino neighborhoods. ACE intends to be a full-service provider of energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements for the affordable multi-family developments.

Lisa Cottle



Chicago M&A Team Merges Two Agencies Serving Developmentally Disabled Individuals

Chicago corporate attorneys **Oscar David** and **Emily Mraz** led a team of attorneys representing our client Seguin Services, Inc., in its merger with United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago. The two merged entities were among the largest agencies in the Chicago area serving the developmentally disabled and will continue this mission through the newly formed entity, United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago. Assisting the corporate team were several attorneys in the corporate, employment, employee benefits, litigation and real estate groups, including partners **Barry Hart** and **Maureen Rurka**; and associates **Caroline Camic**, **Dan Fazio**, **Steve Flores**, **Francesca Guerrero** and Justin Podjasek.

Mental Health Social Service Agency Secures Consolidation Loan with Assistance from Real Estate Team

Pillars, Inc. is a Chicago-area non-profit that provides communities with quality mental health services, social services, and education for people of all ages. A New York-Chicago team, including associates **Katherine Czech** and **Justin Podjasek**, and partners **Jeffrey Elkin** and **Jim Lukas**, assisted Pillars close on a loan offered by a quasi-governmental lender that consolidated various mortgage-secured loans at a favorable rate.

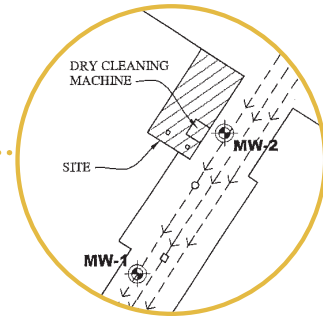
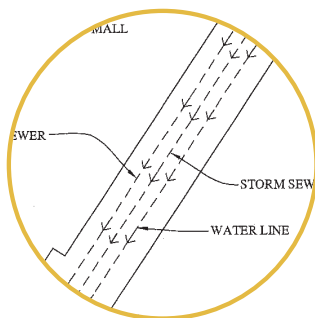
Employee Benefits and Employment Team Counsels Skid Row Homeless Shelter

A team of attorneys in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago counseled the Union Rescue Mission on challenging issues concerning eligibility for the organization's benefits plans and related employment counseling. Union Rescue Mission is a private, Christian, homeless shelter in downtown Los Angeles's skid row. It is the largest, private, homeless shelter in the United States. The team included partners **Mark Weisberg** and **Linda Hoseman**, of counsel **Tony Borrego** and **Jennifer Rappoport**, and associates **Andrew Skowronski**, **Edward Son**, and **Steve Flores**.



Washington Team Unites Organizations Striving for LGBT Equality in the Military

A team of Washington, D.C. attorneys, including partner **Barry Hart** and associates **Francesca Guerrero** and **Ralph Pantony**, assisted our client Servicemembers Legal Defense Network in its merger with OutServe. Both groups, which were leaders in the fight against the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, announced their intention to merge into a single organization by this October, just over one year after the repeal of the military ban took effect. The newly created organization, Outserve-SLDN, will continue to represent actively serving military and veterans, as well as fight to achieve full LGBT equality in the military.



PUBLIC INTEREST/LEADERSHIP

Jeffrey Kessler — Legal Aid Society of New York

New York partner **Jeffrey Kessler** joined the board of the Legal Aid Society of New York, the oldest and largest legal services organization in the nation.



Amanda Groves — Legal Services of Southern Piedmont

Charlotte partner **Amanda Groves** joined the board of Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, the largest legal services provider in the Charlotte area.

Susan Alker — Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law

Los Angeles partner **Susan Alker** continues her position on the board of directors of the Harriet Buhai Center, one of the largest non-profit organizations providing family law services in the state of California.



May Wall — D.C. Bar Foundation Advisory Committee

Washington, D.C. partner **May Wall** joined the Advisory Committee of the D.C. Bar Foundation, the leading private funder of civil legal services in the District.

William Lang — Legal Aid Society/Community Development Project

New York real estate partner **William Lang** renewed his involvement in the advisory committee of the Legal Aid Society of New York's Community Development Project (CDP). The CDP provides support for low-income not-for-profit organizations, low-income entrepreneurs, and low-income housing cooperatives.

Team Secures Client Dismissal in Unprecedented Environmental Litigation

In what may be the first pro bono representation in a case filed under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Cleanup, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), a San Francisco team secured a dismissal through settlement for our client, an indigent, ailing 88-year-old woman in hospice care.

Our client had operated a dry-cleaning business that was later discovered to be the source of contamination in the soil and groundwater. The current property owner sought \$500,000 for the clean-up. Because our client had limited liability exposure, and was without means to pay damages or insurance protecting the property, the team fought hard to secure a global settlement by which the client and her husband's estate were dismissed with prejudice and fully released from all present and future claims in the action by all parties. The team was led by San Francisco associates **Matthew Narensky**, **Noelle Formosa**, and **Alvina Wong**, with invaluable assistance from San Francisco associate **Yelitza Dunham**, San Francisco paralegal **David Rosenthal**, and former San Francisco associates Leda Mouallem and Laura Guillen. Charlotte partner **Amanda Groves** supervised.



Matthew Narensky



Noelle Formosa



Alvina Wong



6

THE NUMBER OF MERGERS UNDERTAKEN BY FIRM
ATTORNEYS DURING LAST 12 MONTHS

18

FIRM'S RANKING IN *THE AMERICAN LAWYER*
PRO BONO RANKINGS

75

GOAL FOR PERCENTAGE OF ATTORNEYS THAT
ACHIEVE 20 PRO BONO HOURS IN 2013

28

YEARS KIMBALL ANDERSON SERVED AS CHAIR
OF THE FIRM'S PRO BONO COMMITTEE

1

YEAR SERVED BY SECOND-LONGEST TENURED
PRO BONO COMMITTEE CHAIR, AMANDA GROVES

A series of five dotted blue lines of varying lengths and slopes extend from the left edge of the page towards a central yellow circle. The lines are composed of small, evenly spaced dots.

2013

PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

FIRM TAKES LEAD ROLE IN NATIONAL PROJECT LAUNCHED IN RESPONSE TO MEETING WITH VICE-PRESIDENT BIDEN

Firm pro bono leaders **Kimball Anderson** and **Greg McConnell** (pictured below) were on hand to meet with Vice President Joe Biden to discuss the implementation of the IMPACT (Involving More Pro bono Attorneys in our Communities Together) Project. Vice President Biden convened the meeting in September 2012 and brought several large law firms together to focus on issues of access to justice and the role of pro bono attorneys in the delivery of legal services to the poor. Of particular interest was the development of innovative collaborations between law firms, legal services organizations, bar associations and the judiciary. The Vice President urged the firms to expand the delivery of legal services to the underserved through local initiatives. The resulting IMPACT program is a long-term effort to design innovative and sustainable solutions that will increase access to free legal services. IMPACT efforts have already taken root in eight urban centers: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Greg McConnell and **Maria Kutnick** have taken a lead role in developing IMPACT/Chicago, a partnership between law firms across the city, the Chicago Bar Foundation, and several legal services agencies (including Cabrini Green Legal Aid, the Chicago Legal Clinic, the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, the Legal Assistance Foundation, and the Shriver Center) that is focused on assisting the nearly 4 million people in Illinois who have some sort of criminal record, either as a result of an arrest or conviction. These records create barriers to employment, housing, and other services. IMPACT/Chicago will organize volunteer attorneys and paralegals to assist persons seeking to turn their lives around by taking the available legal steps to rehabilitate their recorded involvement with the criminal justice system.



Kimball Anderson (center) and Greg McConnell (far left) in meeting with Vice-President Biden (far right)