



WINSTON
& STRAWN
LLP

2020–2021

Pro Bono Impact Report

Our Pro Bono Commitment and Impact

98%

OF WINSTON ATTORNEYS
CONTRIBUTED AT LEAST
20 PRO BONO HOURS
IN 2020

WINSTON CONTRIBUTED

80,000+

PRO BONO HOURS IN 2020

WINSTON INVESTED

25,000+

PRO BONO HOURS TO RACIAL
JUSTICE AND EQUITY MATTERS
IN 2020 AND 2021

WINSTON RANKED

14th

IN THE U.S.

17th

GLOBALLY

ON THE AMERICAN LAWYER 2021 PRO BONO SCORECARD

Winston Attorneys Step Up in Time of Need

As I think about the past two years and all that we've been through as a firm, a country, and a global community, I have never felt prouder to be part of Winston & Strawn.

Despite the ongoing challenges of working remotely, along with unprecedented client demand and crushing workloads, Winston attorneys stepped up in a very big way. At a time when it would have been easy to pull back, we actually leaned in and increased the number of pro bono hours we contributed to those in need.

And it's a good thing we did, because demand for pro bono services has never been greater. In 2020, we significantly increased our longstanding efforts to address racial injustice and inequity. We also responded to the dire economic challenges and life-threatening health concerns that the global COVID-19 pandemic created for so many people unable to afford legal representation. In addition, according to the United Nations, 82 million individuals—the highest number on record—have been displaced by persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations, significantly increasing demand for immigration- and asylum-related support.

In this report, you will find stories that describe how our pro bono work impacts the lives of our clients and makes the world we all inhabit just a little bit better. The stories we've highlighted in this report represent a tiny fraction of the pro bono work that we do—all of which is vitally important for those we serve who cannot afford to pay for our services.

I hope reading these stories will inspire you and give you hope as we look forward to a brighter future that is more just and fairer for all.

With gratitude,

AMANDA GROVES

PRO BONO COMMITTEE CHAIR

“The stories we've highlighted in this report represent a tiny fraction of the pro bono work that we do—all of which is vitally important for those we serve who cannot afford to pay for our services.”

AMANDA GROVES,
PRO BONO COMMITTEE CHAIR

Racial Justice and Equity

Combatting racial injustice and inequity is a longstanding focus of our pro bono practice. In the spring and summer of 2020, as we witnessed the shocking murder of George Floyd and injustice against so many of our fellow citizens who are Black or other racial/ethnic minorities, we decided we had to do more.

In September 2020, Winston & Strawn created the Racial Justice & Equity **CEASE Initiative**, under the leadership of Partners **Bryan Goldstein** and **Angela Smedley**. Our **CEASE Initiative** pledged 100,000 pro bono hours to advancing racial equity, with a focus on these key areas: **C**riminal justice, **E**ducation, **A**ccess to the political system, **S**ocial welfare, and **E**conomic justice.

This pledge doubles the percentage of pro bono hours Winston previously dedicated to racial justice and equity matters and represents a \$50 million investment over five years.

“Fighting racism and inequality demands clarity of purpose, practical experience, and sustained, focused effort. With the CEASE Initiative as our compass, we are building on Winston’s longstanding commitment to pro bono legal work to enact lasting change across a broad spectrum of need in the struggle for racial justice.”

TOM FITZGERALD, CHAIRMAN

WINSTON NEGOTIATES SETTLEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA TO HELP LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR

In a clear win for underrepresented students, Winston attorneys negotiated a historic settlement agreement with the University of California to stop using standardized test scores when making admission decisions and awarding scholarships.

In December 2019, a group of students, six nonprofit organizations, and Compton Unified School District filed civil rights lawsuits against the University of California Board of Regents and its president, Janet Napolitano. The lawsuits argued that the University's use of standardized test scores in admission and scholarship decisions violated the California Constitution and anti-discrimination statutes by creating barriers to higher education for students of color, students with disabilities, and students facing socioeconomic disadvantages.

In July 2020, the University adopted a "test-optional" policy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Winston and co-counsel filed and won a motion for a preliminary injunction against the use of tests because they were inaccessible to disabled students who required on-site accommodations not being offered due to the pandemic.

Plaintiffs then prevailed against the University's efforts to seek a stay of the preliminary injunction from the Court of Appeals.

During the next application cycle, when the University was temporarily precluded from using ACT and SAT test scores, it experienced a historic rise in applications from students of color—with Black applicants increasing by 22% and Latinx applicants by 12%.

Finally, in May 2021, the University of California Board of Regents approved a historic settlement agreement ending its use of standardized test scores.

“This momentous settlement with the University of California system has national implications and is a major step forward in the fight for educational equity.”

KATHERINE FARKAS, LOS ANGELES PARTNER

The Winston team that negotiated the settlement with the University of California included Los Angeles Partners **Katherine Farkas** and **Jeffrey Steinfeld**, Of Counsel **Gregory Ellis**, and Associate **Michael Lavetter**. ■

WINSTON SECURES PUBLIC ACCESS TO POLICE DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

A Winston team secured a complete denial and dismissal with prejudice of the Schenectady Police Benevolent Association's lawsuit seeking to prevent the release of an officer's disciplinary records.

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) submitted a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request for an officer's disciplinary records after he was recorded on video kneeling on a man in July 2020.

In response, the Schenectady Police Benevolent Association (PBA) filed an order to show cause and a temporary restraining order attempting to shield disclosure of the requested documents sought by the NYCLU and more than a dozen media organizations.

On behalf of the NYCLU, Winston sought and obtained intervener status in October 2020, and immediately filed an opposition to the Schenectady PBA's complaint. In addition, Winston submitted a second FOIL request seeking law enforcement disciplinary records, as well as records related to the use of force, stops, temporary detentions, field interviews, and civilian complaints.

On December 29, 2020, New York State Supreme Court Judge Mark Powers issued a decision in the NYCLU's favor and mandated that the officer's disciplinary records be disclosed. Judge Powers adopted Winston's arguments with respect to each of the Police Benevolent Association's claims and found that no privacy right exists for records related to the performance of public duties.

The court looked to the state legislature's intent in repealing Section 50-a, the law that had shielded police records from public disclosure. The court found that law enforcement disciplinary records should be afforded the "greatest permissible disclosure."

The court also summarily rejected the Police Benevolent Association's assertion that the public's right of access could be bargained away in collective bargaining agreements.

“This precedent-setting decision confirms that the repeal of Section 50-a and corresponding amendments to FOIL provide the public with a broad right of access to police disciplinary records. As Judge Powers set forth: There is no ambiguity in the new statutory scheme. We are proud to represent the NYCLU in its critical mission to increase police accountability.”

SOFIA ARGUELLO, NEW YORK PARTNER

The Winston team that worked on this matter included New York Partners **Sofia Arguello** and **Molly Donovan**, and Associates **Lauren Duxstad** and **Brett Waters**. ■

WINSTON HELPS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR BLACK TECH ENTREPRENEURS

Winston & Strawn played a pivotal role in the formation of Fifth Star Funds—a social enterprise that provides equitable access to early-stage venture capital and reinvests 100% of its returns.

Founded in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder, Fifth Star Funds fills a crucial need for Black business owners who face systemic funding inequities. In America, Black founders receive only 1% of the available venture capital compared to 77% for White-owned businesses.

Winston provided formation counsel, 501(c)(3) incorporation and tax guidance, and intellectual property advice to support Fifth Star Funds’ vital mission. The firm also provides pro bono legal services to the startups in which Fifth Star Funds invests.

The Winston team that supports Fifth Star Funds and the founders it invests in includes Chicago Partners **Jeff Huelskamp** and **Dennis Kelly**, Chicago Associate **Justin Trapp**, Dallas Associate **Ben Chrisman**, Houston Associate **Bradley Ratliff**, and San Francisco Associate **Irina Lyapis**. ■

“It’s exciting to play a key role in launching and sustaining this ground-breaking initiative that’s addressing racial bias and inequity head-on by providing early-stage capital to Black entrepreneurs.”

JEFF HUELSKAMP, CHICAGO PARTNER

CLIENT SENTENCED AS A MINOR TO 100 YEARS IN PRISON RECEIVES REDUCED SENTENCE

A Winston & Strawn team secured a reduced sentence for our client who was previously sentenced to 100 years in prison for a murder that he committed at the age of 16.

Winston represented him before the Seventh Circuit, which ruled that our client's prison term was unconstitutional because the trial court did not consider his youth when sentencing him to life without the possibility of parole.

Winston then represented our client in resentencing, which resulted in the Illinois Appellate Court reversing the trial court and substantially reducing his sentence based on his stellar record of rehabilitation while incarcerated.

As a result, rather than spending the rest of his life in prison, our client will now be released at the age of 41, in approximately five years.

This case was handled by Chicago Partner **Brian Nisbet** and Associate **Jack Leon**. ■

“This case is a perfect example of Winston’s commitment to our clients. Over several years, Winston was able to achieve an outstanding result for a deserving person who has dedicated himself to rehabilitation and improvement.”

BRIAN NISBET, CHICAGO PARTNER

“ If the Fifth Circuit affirms the decision not to adjudicate a case that seeks to prohibit a prosecutor’s office from maintaining a policy or custom of discrimination against Black jurors, it will contribute to the erosion of trust in the criminal justice system. Our clients are current and former prosecutors in Mississippi who understand that more than most. ”

**ANGELA SMEDLEY,
NEW YORK PARTNER**

AMICI PROSECUTORS CHALLENGE IMPROPER REMOVAL OF BLACK JURORS

A Winston team filed an amicus brief on behalf of a cadre of prosecutors in support of a lawsuit against a chief prosecutor in Mississippi who is notorious for his discriminatory striking of Black jurors from criminal trials.

Amici invoked their prosecutorial experience to show the U.S. Fifth Circuit that enjoining the District Attorney would not interfere with prosecutors’ day-to-day obligations. Equally important, amici emphasized that courts should condemn the removal of jurors based on race, to ensure the legitimacy of criminal prosecutions.

“This is a very important case that the trial court declined to hear on the merits because of concerns that doing so would disrupt criminal proceedings in the state courts,” said New York Partner Angela Smedley. “But this is the very type of case that the Supreme Court has said federal courts should hear.”

“If the Fifth Circuit affirms the decision not to adjudicate a case that seeks to prohibit a prosecutor’s office from maintaining a policy or custom of discrimination against Black jurors, it will contribute to the erosion of trust in the criminal justice system. Our clients are current and former prosecutors in Mississippi who understand that more than most,” Angela added.

“They understand that not hearing this important case on the merits would undermine faith in our criminal justice system and erode confidence in the judiciary, making the job of prosecutors everywhere more difficult. We were honored to have the opportunity to make that argument for them before the Fifth Circuit.”

The team was led by New York Partner **Angela Smedley** and included Chicago Associates **Rebecca Carter** and **Sean Suber**. ■

DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION CLINIC HELPS NORTH CAROLINIANS REGAIN AN ECONOMIC LIFELINE

Attorneys with Winston & Strawn and Bank of America joined forces to help economically vulnerable residents in North Carolina restore their suspended driver's licenses.

In North Carolina, if a person fails to appear in court to resolve a traffic ticket or fails to pay a traffic or criminal court debt, the State suspends their driver's license indefinitely, even when it is the person's first ticket or their first time failing to resolve a ticket.

For economically vulnerable residents, losing their driver's license can have particularly dire consequences because they often lose access to food, healthcare, and employment. Additionally, this law has a significant negative impact on Black residents, whose driver's licenses are suspended at a rate that is 400% higher than for white, non-Hispanic drivers.

This is the second year that Winston has participated in the Driver's License Restoration Project. In 2021, Winston and Bank of America attorneys helped

52 clients regain their ability to legally drive a car.

The Winston & Strawn attorneys who have participated in the Driver's License Restoration Project include Charlotte attorneys **Jason Bennett, Kobi Kennedy Brinson, John Cobb, Patrick Doerr, Justin Hamrick, Tanielle Henriques, Lindsey Kell, Jack Knight, Robby Lucas, Alan Stevens,** and **Alyson Traw,** Chicago Attorneys **Andrea Herman, Madalyn Brown,** and **Matt Costigan,** Dallas Attorneys **Michelle Boudreau** and **Matthew Olson,** Los Angeles Attorney **Amanda Groves,** New York Attorneys **Zain Maredia, Jason Pachter, Amanda Sewell, Christine Spletzer, Corey Tessler,** and **Ryan Walden,** and Washington, D.C. Attorneys **Neely Agin** and **T. Reed Stephens.** ■

“Suspending driver's licenses for unpaid court fines and fees in North Carolina disproportionately affects Black and African American drivers and those experiencing poverty.”

NORTH CAROLINA EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION





COVID-19 Response

Given our deep commitment to providing legal support to the most vulnerable in our communities, it's only natural that Winston & Strawn has been at the forefront of the fight to protect inmates from contracting COVID-19. In fact, early in the pandemic we won the first permanent injunction that required prisons to provide inmates with proper protection against the virus.

In addition to protecting inmates, we have helped numerous nonprofits and small businesses to access rent and other economic relief and to navigate unprecedented liability issues so they could continue to provide vital services to their communities.

Even now, nearly two years into the pandemic, Winston attorneys are actively engaged in COVID-19 relief efforts. We continue to help clients navigate the Paycheck Protection Program and secure pandemic-related tax credits. In addition, we remain involved in ongoing litigation to ensure that inmates, as well as school-age children with disabilities, are properly protected against COVID-19.

GERIATRIC PRISONERS GAIN PROTECTIONS AGAINST COVID-19

Winston & Strawn secured the country's first permanent injunction requiring a prison to provide robust COVID-19 protections.

After the longest-running pro bono trial Winston & Strawn has ever conducted, Winston attorneys ensured that vulnerable elderly and disabled inmates at the Wallace Pack Unit—a geriatric prison in Texas that houses 800 individuals age 65 or older—were granted greater access to hand soap, masks, and other personal protective equipment. The prisoners were also granted access to more frequent testing and the prison began enforcing social distancing and more frequent and thorough cleaning of shared surfaces.

During the four-week trial, which resulted in a permanent injunction, the federal district court found that the prison inmates were more credible than the warden and executives at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. In addition, the district court concluded the defendants were deliberately indifferent to the risks and harm to the inmates, and they violated both the Eighth Amendment and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Although the permanent injunction was overturned on appeal in the Fifth Circuit, the majority opinion recognized the positive impact Winston's litigation had on the lives of the inmates, stating, "We are firmly convinced that this litigation generally and the district court's careful management and expedited handling of the case played

“It has long been said that a society's worth can be judged by taking stock of its prisons. That is all the truer in this pandemic, where inmates everywhere have been rendered vulnerable and often powerless to protect themselves from harm. May we hope that our country's facilities serve as models rather than cautionary tales.”

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR IN HER DISSENT ON THE DENIAL OF APPLICATION TO VACATE STAY

a role in motivating prison officials into action and saved lives. Injunctive relief is forward looking, and given the Defendants' response, including actions taken on the eve of and during the trial, the permanent injunction is not warranted.”

The Winston team included Houston Partners **John Keville, Michael Murphy,** and **Denise Scofield,** Dallas Partner **Basheer Ghorayeb,** Houston Of Counsel **Brandon Duke,** Houston Associates **Michael French, Rob Green, Jason Rudloff,** and **Kyle Terao,** Chicago Associate **Michael Meneghini,** Washington, D.C. Associates **Spencer Churchill** and **Chanslor Gallenstein,** New York Paralegal **Bryan Widro,** and Chicago Graphic Presentation Designer **Joshua Ryder.** ■

WINSTON WINS PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN FIRST FEDERAL LAWSUIT TO CHALLENGE TEXAS BAN ON MASK MANDATES

Winston & Strawn, in partnership with Disability Rights Texas, won a federal lawsuit arguing that Texas Governor Greg Abbott's ban on mask mandates violates federal disability laws and forces children with disabilities to risk their lives to get an education. This is the first permanent injunction in the nation blocking a state-wide mask ban.

The lawsuit was filed in August 2021 on behalf of several students enrolled in the Texas public school system who have medical conditions that put them at great risk of serious complications or death if they contract COVID-19.

Following a bench trial in October, U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel issued a precedent-setting decision in favor of our clients that stops enforcement of Governor Greg Abbott's executive order prohibiting school districts from requiring masks.

Judge Yeakel stated that the Governor's order illegally excluded "disabled children from participating in and denies them the benefits of public schools' programs, services, and activities to which they are entitled."

"We are thrilled with the court's decision because no child should ever have to choose between risking their life or getting an education," said Dallas Partner Tom Melsheimer.

The Winston & Strawn team that worked on this matter includes Dallas Partners **Tom Melsheimer** and **Scott Thomas**, Chicago Partner **Linda Coberly**, Houston Of Counsel **Brandon Duke**, Dallas Of Counsels **Mike Gaddis** and **Renee Skinner**, Dallas Associates **William Fox** and **Alex Wolens**, Houston Associate **Rob Green**, Dallas Paralegals **Danielle Sloan** and **Jamie Vargo**, and Litigation Support Project Manager **Evan Pratt**. ■

“We are thrilled with the court's decision because no child should ever have to choose between risking their life or getting an education.”

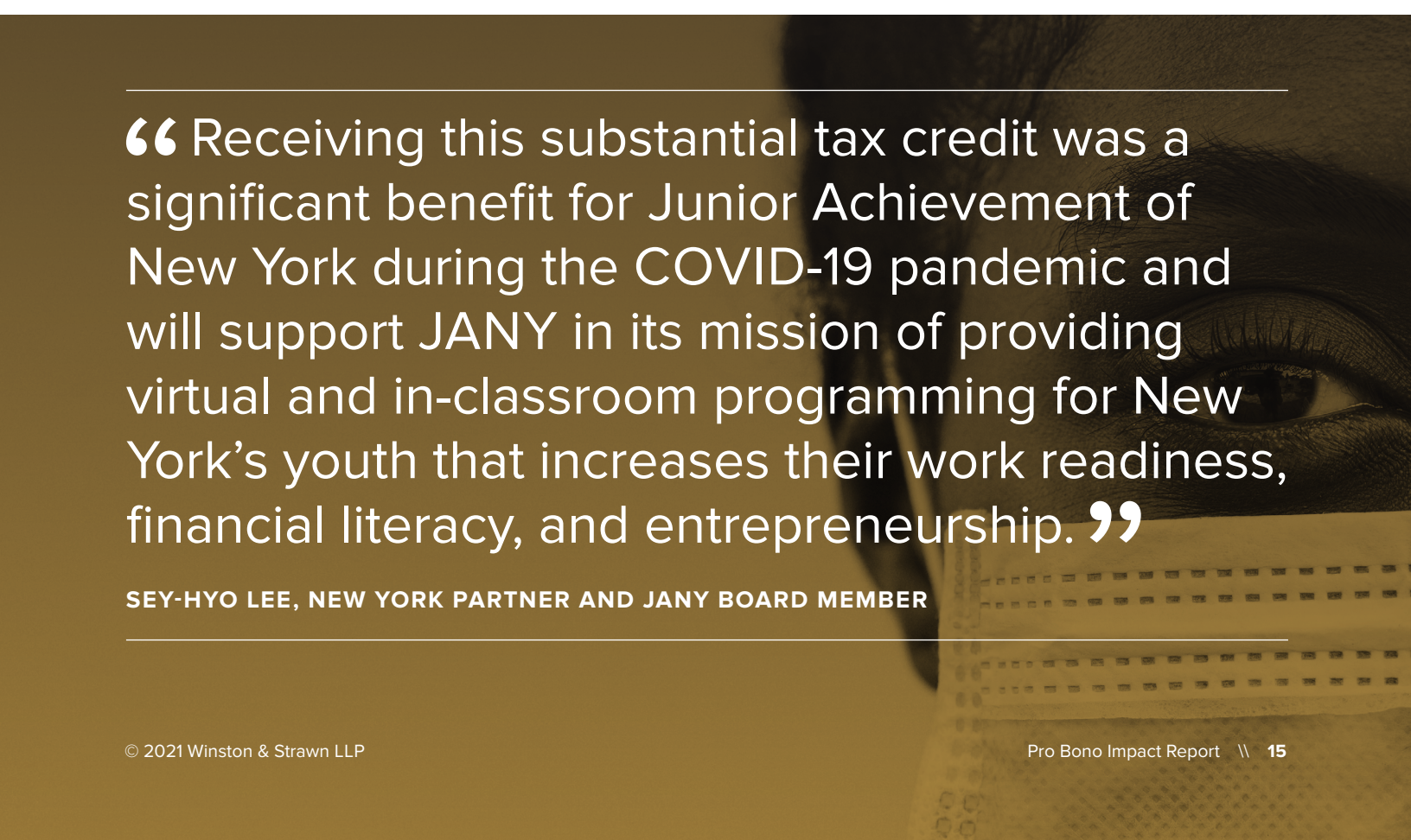
TOM MELSHEIMER, DALLAS PARTNER

WINSTON HELPS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL TAX CREDIT

Winston & Strawn advised Junior Achievement of New York, Inc. (JANY) on how to receive an employee-retention tax credit, even though it had obtained forgiveness of a Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan for the same year.

The opportunity arose when legislation changed the rules to allow a 2020 retention credit of up to \$5,000 per employee as long as the same wages used for the PPP loan forgiveness were not used as a basis for the credit. Winston & Strawn analyzed the two alternative criteria—gross receipts test and partial closure test—and determined that JANY qualified for the credit for two quarters.

New York Partner **Sey-Hyo Lee**, a member of JANY's board of directors, asked Washington, D.C. Partners **David Rogers** and **Ruth Wimer** to help JANY apply for the tax credits after hearing David and Ruth discuss the opportunity on an episode of Winston & Strawn's *Benefits Blast* podcast. Washington, D.C. Associate **Rebecca Miller** also worked on this matter. ■



“Receiving this substantial tax credit was a significant benefit for Junior Achievement of New York during the COVID-19 pandemic and will support JANY in its mission of providing virtual and in-classroom programming for New York’s youth that increases their work readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.”

SEY-HYO LEE, NEW YORK PARTNER AND JANY BOARD MEMBER

A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER SECURES A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The pandemic hit Celia Chen and her family hard. The owner of a thriving nail salon located in the heart of midtown Manhattan, COVID-19 caused Celia's business to grind to a halt and threatened her ability to provide for her family.

In March 2020, Celia was forced to temporarily close her salon in response to the government-mandated shutdown as COVID-19 tore through New York City. Once she was allowed to reopen, her loyal customers were no longer working in the nearby office buildings. Instead, they were now working remotely from home.

Compounding the business crisis she faced, Celia had become her family's sole source of support as her husband's travel agency had closed and his work as a Chinese/English tour guide was nonexistent due to the pandemic.

Celia and her husband found themselves unable to pay the rent for her salon and struggling to even put food on the table for their two young sons. That's when New York Partner **Bill Lang** stepped in to handle negotiations with her landlord. As a result, Celia's landlord released her from the remaining three years on her lease in exchange for a payment that was 40% less than he had initially demanded—saving Celia \$38,000.

With her lease canceled, Celia was able to relocate her nail salon to Murray Hill, an upscale residential neighborhood where her nail services are in high demand despite the ongoing pandemic. ■

“From something so negative came something so amazing for my business and my family. Bill Lang advocated on my behalf and helped me during the most challenging of times and I will be forever grateful.”

CELIA CHEN, WINSTON & STRAWN PRO BONO CLIENT





Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights

Winston & Strawn is proud to be a longstanding advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

While society and corporate America have made great strides in recognizing the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, far too many members of the community still experience prejudice and face discrimination—especially those who identify as transgender or in other non-binary ways.

That's why we're dedicated to fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and will remain so until we can claim an unequivocal and lasting victory.

WINSTON FIGHTS DISCRIMINATORY POLICING TARGETING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

In 2021, Winston & Strawn and The Legal Aid Society of New York secured an important court decision allowing an LGBTQ+ discrimination case against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to proceed to trial.

The federal lawsuit, filed in 2017 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, asserts that Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) officers routinely targeted men perceived to be members of the LGBTQ+ community and arrested them on baseless charges.

In the 2021 summary judgment decision, the court found that plaintiffs had “proffered evidence to establish that the PAPD officers had engaged in a pattern of policing specifically targeting men perceived as gay, bisexual, or otherwise gender non-conforming for arrest without probable cause on charges for Public Lewdness after using the Port Authority Bus Terminal men’s restrooms.”

The court also found that a jury could conclude this discriminatory pattern was the result of PAPD’s failure “to train or to supervise and discipline plainclothes officers, despite awareness of past issues.”

In addition to seeking compensatory damages, our clients are seeking significant changes to the way the Port Authority polices public restrooms and how its officers interact with members of the LGBTQ+ community.

“This decision affirms the discriminatory treatment our clients have been suffering for years at the hands of the Port Authority Police Department.”

MOLLY GRIFFARD, LEGAL FELLOW WITH THE COP ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

“We hope the court’s decision will encourage the Port Authority Police Department to meaningfully reevaluate the way it trains and supervises its officers and the way they engage with the diverse communities they interact with on a daily basis.”

SETH SPITZER, NEW YORK PARTNER

The Winston team working on this matter includes; New York Partners **Michael Elkin, Seth Spitzer,** and **Matthew Stark,** New York Associates **Allison Skopec, Michelle Tuma,** and **Jack Cartwright,** San Francisco Associate **Cesie Alvarez,** Washington, D.C. Associate **David Houck,** New York Docket Attorney **Lane Lerner,** and New York Paralegals **Karen Forte** and **Robert Skridul.** ■

LGBTQ+ WORKERS GAIN PROTECTIONS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION FOR FIRST TIME UNDER TEXAS STATE LAW

In March 2021, the Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals ruled that a Texas state law prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sex also provides protections for LGBTQ+ workers.

A Winston & Strawn team represented the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) on briefs and in oral argument as amicus before the Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals and addressed the scope of protections against discrimination for LGBTQ+ workers under Texas state law.

The Texas appeals court's ruling was consistent with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Bostock v.*

Clayton County, which determined that discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by federal law.

The Winston team included Dallas Partner **Natalie Arbaugh**, Chicago Partner **Kyle Gann**, Dallas Associate **Claire Dial**, and New York Associate **Patrick Opdyke**. ■

“We are proud to have worked alongside the dedicated litigation team at The Human Rights Campaign throughout the duration of this appeals process and could not be more satisfied with the court's opinion. The law is clear—the *Bostock* ruling must be applied in every state without explicit non-discrimination statutes, just as it was today in Texas.”

NATALIE ARBAUGH, DALLAS PARTNER

TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS RECEIVE IDENTITY-AFFIRMING SUPPORT THROUGH THE NAME CHANGE PROJECT

Transgender individuals face numerous challenges, many of which are life-threatening. They are four times more likely to live below the poverty line than the average American and the average life expectancy of a transgender Black woman is only 35 years.

Transgender individuals also face a long list of daily indignities and insults when they are simply trying to board a flight, check into a hotel, or order an alcoholic beverage and their government-issued ID does not match their gender identification. In fact, the U.S. Transgender Survey found that 32% of transgender individuals with ID photos and names that don't match their appearance reported being verbally harassed, denied benefits or services, asked to leave, or even assaulted.

Unfortunately, the process of legally changing one's name is usually time-consuming and complicated. And all too often, it is also cost-prohibitive for transgender individuals.

To help address these significant day-to-day challenges, Winston & Strawn collaborates with the Transgender Legal Defense Fund and its Name Change Project to connect low-income individuals with pro bono attorneys who can help them navigate the name change process and represent them in court when necessary.

Since 2019, Winston & Strawn attorneys have helped nearly 30 transgender individuals complete the identity-affirming and life-changing process of having an ID that matches their gender identity.

“It's an immense privilege to use our legal expertise in a way that has such a profound impact on the lives of our transgender clients. Without Winston's help navigating what is most often an incredibly daunting process, most of our clients would not be able to obtain a new government-issued ID that matches their gender identity.”

BRYAN GOLDSTEIN, NEW YORK PARTNER

The attorneys working with the Name Change Project include New York Partners **Dominick DeChiara, Bryan Goldstein, Tara Greenberg,** and **Scott Naidech**, New York Associates **Sean Anderson, Megan Fitzgerald, Lola Longe, Jason Pachter, Ben Popeck, Jay Wexler,** and **Ekaterina Wyn Jones**, New York Practice Attorney **Jason Lipkin**, and Chicago Partner **Olga Loy.** ■



Advancing Human Rights

Winston is a fierce advocate for human rights, whether we're leading the charge to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, addressing the root causes of mass incarceration, ensuring housing security, or protecting against human trafficking. We are also steadfast supporters of numerous, global NGOs, that are on the front lines, fighting to eradicate poverty, homelessness, and discrimination in its myriad forms.

The heart and soul of our human rights work, however, is the support we provide to those fleeing persecution, violence, and often the threat of death in their homeland. Many of those who seek protection in the U.S. face daunting challenges navigating the complex and sometimes hostile asylum process. Moreover, asylees are not entitled to legal representation. Winston helps fill this void and, at any given time, we actively represent as many as 200 clients seeking immigration relief.

WINSTON TEAM OVERCOMES IMMENSE OBSTACLES TO SECURE ASYLUM FOR MOTHER AND SON FLEEING POLITICAL PERSECUTION

Our client, a former government attorney in Venezuela, fled Venezuela with her four-year-old son after facing severe political persecution for speaking up about rampant corruption, brutality, and illegal schemes perpetrated by government officials.

Our client and her son sought political asylum at the Port of Entry in Brownsville, Texas but under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Migrant Protection Protocol Program (MPP) they were sent back to Mexico to await their immigration hearing.

The Migrant Protection Protocol Program—commonly called the Remain in Mexico Program—presents numerous obstacles that can prevent asylum seekers from obtaining meaningful access to legal counsel. For instance, under MPP, asylum seekers cannot enter the United States, and communicating with their legal counsel via phone or Internet is extremely challenging due to poor connectivity in Mexico.

Undaunted by these challenges, the Winston team crossed the border and spent several days in a high-risk zone in Mexico preparing our client for her hearing—often working without access to electricity.

At her hearing, our client successfully met the burden of proof and demonstrated she had suffered past harm and persecution related to her political beliefs. As a result, the immigration judge rendered an

“The situation on the U.S.-Mexico border is incredibly challenging and heartbreaking. The minimum we can do as lawyers is to pledge to seek basic justice for the many asylum seekers. I am incredibly proud of the team’s commitment and our significant results.”

JULISSA REYNOSO PANTALEÓN, FORMER NEW YORK PARTNER

exceedingly rare decision to grant her entry into the United States. Under MPP, the success rate of asylum cases has fallen to less than 1%.

The Winston team that worked on this matter was led by former New York Partner **Julissa Reynoso Pantaleón**, who is currently serving as chief of staff to First Lady Jill Biden. Julissa was assisted by San Francisco Associates **Rachel Busch** and **Dillon Kellerman**. ■

VENEZUELAN FATHER REUNITED WITH DAUGHTER WHO WAS ABDUCTED BY HER MOTHER AND BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES

In a federal trial victory, Winston & Strawn won the return of our client's child and set precedent under the Hague Convention in an international abduction case.

In July 2018, the child's mother abducted her from Venezuela and brought her to Houston, Texas and refused to return with the child as ordered by the Venezuelan courts. The father then filed applications, pursuant to the Hague Convention, with the Venezuelan Central Authority and the U.S. Department of State seeking the return of his daughter.

The U.S. Department of State referred this matter to Winston & Strawn in May 2020. Winston then filed this case with the Southern District of Texas and, within one day, secured a temporary restraining order barring the mother and child from fleeing the jurisdiction and ordering the mother to turn over their passports to the court. In addition, Winston obtained the right for our client to speak with his daughter, without any impediments, for the first time in more than a year. The court also granted a preliminary injunction mandating that the terms of the temporary restraining order continue until a decision on the merits was made.

At trial, the court found for our client on every issue presented and ordered the immediate return of the child to her father.

The Winston team also set precedent by successfully arguing that the "well-settled" defense under the Hague Convention was not applicable because our client filed his Hague

Convention application with the United States Department of State within one year of his daughter being abducted. The "well-settled" defense would have permitted the child's mother to keep her in Houston because the child had been living in the United States for more than one year. To achieve this victory, Winston convinced the court that the State Department qualifies as an "administrative authority" under the Hague Convention.

“For me, it has been an honor to be represented by you. I know the arduous effort and the hours of dedication that you have given to my case. I value that very much. There is no money, no thanks or words that pay for the excellent work you have done. I want to congratulate you from the depths of my being and my heart.”

ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ ZAORAL, WINSTON & STRAWN CLIENT

The Winston team included Houston Partner **Paula Hinton** and Associates **M. Imad Khan** and **Renee Wilkerson**, San Francisco Associates **Rachel Busch** and **Yarden Kakon**, Dallas Associate **William Fox**, New York Foreign Legal Advisor **Rodolfo Herrera-Moro**, and Houston Senior **Paralegal Nita Moore**, and Paralegal **Sabrina Sotelo**. ■

ERITREAN REFUGEE FLEEING VIOLENT RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL PERSECUTION RECEIVES ASYLUM

After Winston & Strawn filed numerous affidavits, testimony, and other evidence on our client's behalf, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services finally granted his application for asylum four years later.

Our client arrived in the United States in May 2017 seeking asylum from the State of Eritrea—an African nation that Human Rights Watch considers one of the most repressive in the world.

The government of Eritrea's persecution of our client began while he was serving in the military and was falsely accused of being a Pentecostal Christian—a religion that is outlawed in the country. As punishment, he was beaten and made to perform hard labor in extreme desert conditions.

Four years later, a government security official ordered our client to spy on his employer, a global tobacco company. After refusing to spy on his employer, he was arrested, beaten, and held in solitary confinement for six months.

He was arrested a second time after requesting a visa to visit a friend in

the United States. This time, he was beaten and imprisoned for two months. Following his release from prison, his wife and children fled to Ethiopia to live with his wife's family, and he eventually made his way to Chicago, where he filed for asylum.

“This victory ensures our client can lawfully remain in the United States, safe from the persecution and violence he endured in Eritrea. It also allows his wife and children—who are of Tigray descent—to file for derivative asylum and hopefully escape the increasing violence in the region against Tigray persons,” said Chicago Associate Alexander Kontopoulos.

The Winston team that worked on this matter includes Chicago Partner **Nolan Bolduc** and Chicago Associate **Alexander Kontopoulos.** ■

“This victory ensures our client can lawfully remain in the United States, safe from the persecution and violence he endured in Eritrea.”

ALEXANDER KONTOPOULOS, CHICAGO ASSOCIATE

WINSTON HELPS UK FOUNDATION THAT FIGHTS POVERTY IN AFRICA OBTAIN FAVORABLE CHARITY STATUS

A Winston team secured a significant financial victory for Life Child Foundation UK by persuading the Charity Commission for England and Wales to grant it charitable registration status.

Life Child Foundation UK supports orphaned and vulnerable children throughout Africa by making grants to the Life Child International Trust, a partner organization registered in South Africa. More than 1,100 children receive ongoing educational, health and nutritional support as a result of the charity's efforts.

The Charity Commission initially rejected Life Child UK's application to register as a charity on the grounds that a UK charity could not simply act as a fundraiser for a related charity outside of the UK. The Charity Commission adopted this stance despite the fact that other UK charities operate the same way as Life Child Foundation.

The Winston team worked closely with Life Child UK to successfully persuade the Charity Commission of the inconsistency of its approach. Consequently, the Charity Commission reversed its decision and granted Life Child UK charitable registration status.

The Winston team included London Partners **Daniel Meagher** and **Zoë Ashcroft**, Associate **Matthew Williams**, and Trainee Solicitor **Carrie Elkington**. ■

“Life Child International Trust, together with its sister charities, helps children and communities across sub-Saharan Africa through offering educational and health care support.”

DANIEL MEAGHER, LONDON PARTNER

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