

WHAT IF?

CHANGING LIVES
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

PRO BONO ANNUAL REPORT 2013



ASIA OFFICES
Advising on environmental law through the ABA Rule of Law Initiative



PHOENIX
Collaborating with the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project

DENVER
Joining the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network

DALLAS
Resolving homeowners' conflicts to support low-income residents

MADISON
Advocating for prisoners' civil rights in the Western District of Wisconsin

CHICAGO
Obtaining a fresh start for people with criminal records

WASHINGTON D.C.
Assisting seniors through Legal Counsel for the Elderly

NEW YORK
Counseling clients in the Consumer Bankruptcy Project, NYC Bar Justice Center

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRO BONO COUNSEL

BY SOME MEASURE, OUR PRO BONO ACHIEVEMENTS EASILY TRANSLATE INTO NUMBERS. IN 2013, Perkins Coie attorneys performed more than 54,000 pro bono hours, marking our strongest year ever.

To put that into perspective, this represents six years' worth of hours. Combine that time with the contributions of our legal staff and the value aggregates to more than \$20 million. For the sixth consecutive year, we met our goals as a signatory to the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge with more than 3.6 percent of our total billable hours devoted to pro bono matters.

While these numbers underscore the strength and depth of our pro bono program, it is about so much more than hours as anyone who has participated in even the smallest pro bono project knows. Our work is about the desire to protect the rights of disadvantaged individuals, to preserve the rule of law and to improve the communities in which we live and work.

In thinking about what drives our pro bono efforts, I asked "What If?" What if our firm and others like us did not donate huge hours and resources towards large impact cases? Would we still be able to bring about systemic change? What if we didn't stand up for an immigrant who has escaped persecution and is seeking a life free of violence? Would she still see the possibility of freedom? Throughout this report, we answer some of these questions by sharing the accomplishments of our pro bono volunteers.

In 2013, we were involved in a number of larger matters that garnered national attention. In Washington, we helped to change a malfunctioning indigent defense system. In California, we helped to secure freedom for a woman who had spent half her life in prison for a crime committed as a young victim herself. From helping an elderly widow in New York with her bankruptcy challenge to assisting people in Chicago with troubled pasts to clear records, we also worked on untold smaller and less publicized matters no less important to the affected clients. Across the country we represented low-income immigrants, victims of domestic violence, veterans, Holocaust survivors, microentrepreneurs and many others who, without legal assistance, would be unable to move forward toward safety and security. We also guided numerous nonprofits along the way.

What if Perkins Coie could help to change lives and transform communities? We do. I am proud to present this annual report highlighting some of the great work we have done.

Leah Medway

Leah Medway



MESSAGE FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER

PERKINS COIE HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY SINCE WE FIRST OPENED OUR DOORS MORE THAN 100 years ago, but our commitment to our communities is unwavering. And with the growth of our firm we have the benefit of considerable resources to devote to important causes.

Whether serving on boards of nonprofits, performing community service or providing legal counsel to needy individuals and organizations, our attorneys and staff find ways to help others who cannot fully help themselves.

We recently experienced several noteworthy successes and are excited to share those with you. We are equally proud of the matters we do not win. For even in those situations, we fight for those who otherwise would not stand a chance at receiving justice. And sometimes through these tough cases we can ultimately help bring about systemic change.

As I reflect upon my 28 years as Managing Partner of Perkins Coie, our pro bono commitment is one I look on with great pride, and I appreciate the long-lasting impact we have made nationwide. It is part of the Perkins Coie legacy and contributes to our ranking as one of the best places to work in America.

We are counsel to great companies and we believe that through equal justice we will all be better off. It is a conviction I hold close to my heart and am grateful to have witnessed in action during my service to the firm. I hope you will be as inspired as I was as you read about the amazing work our attorneys and legal staff have put forth through our pro bono program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Giles" followed by a horizontal line.

Bob Giles

PROMOTING COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE at the heart of the American economy and their viability influences neighborhoods nationwide. Perkins Coie's pro bono efforts include advising locally owned businesses that create strong and vibrant neighborhoods. This work includes representing low-income individuals seeking to start businesses and improve their own lives and their communities. We also spend considerable time advising our nonprofit community partners on their varied legal needs. Attorneys from nearly every practice group assist these community partners to launch, operate and fulfill their missions successfully.



What If Small Businesses Could Get Big Help?

PERKINS COIE ASSISTED AN ARTIST TO RECOVER HIS PAINTINGS

The interests of commerce and art are often seen as divergent and oppositional, an experience that was true for abstract artist Gus Jones, Jr.

In 2010, Jones consigned eight original works of art to Chicago's Luxe Life Auctions Inc., which displayed the work in its retail storefront and on its website. Several years later, Luxe Life filed for bankruptcy and the Chapter 7 trustee informed Jones that his property would be returned upon payment of an administrative fee. Unable to pay the fee to retrieve his paintings, Jones asked Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA) for pro bono legal assistance.

Perkins Coie has had several pro bono matters referred by LCA, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Chicago. It is among the only pro bono legal service agencies available to artists in Illinois, and delivers legal aid to artists and art organizations financially unable to retain quality legal representation.

A Persuasive Workout Recovers a Lifetime of Creations

Chicago financial restructuring and bankruptcy attorney Eric Walker volunteered to deploy his workout negotiation skills to prevent Jones's work from winding up the collateral damage of an insolvent business. Walker succeeded in locating all eight paintings and entered into negotiations with the Chapter 7 trustee, eventually convincing the trustee to return the artwork to Jones *free of charge*.

While the \$800 fee the trustee levied on Jones was a relatively modest amount, it was more than he could pay and beyond the means of most artists, underscoring the significance of private attorneys volunteering their services. "Art is essential in society and we need to recognize the contributions, creativity, and at times vulnerability, of our artists," said Walker.

Jones expressed his gratitude for the return of his paintings. Two pieces of the recovered artwork are currently on display in the Chicago office and "serve as a constant and inspirational reminder of the importance of protecting the arts," said Walker.



Paintings created by Gus Jones, Jr. (r) a pro bono client of Eric Walker (l), displayed in our Chicago office.

A HOT DOG CART VENDOR SERVES UP JUSTICE

HOT DOGS SERVED WITH A SMILE FROM A PUSH CART ON A BUSTLING street corner in Manhattan have long been Eliana Jaramillo's livelihood. A licensed food vendor, 65-year-old Jaramillo has sold frankfurters from the same site in Times Square since she immigrated to the United States from Bolivia more than three decades ago.

One sunny afternoon, police officers forced Jaramillo to stop selling hot dogs to the long line of waiting customers so the police could confiscate her cart. Despite Jaramillo's protests and valid license to sell hot dogs, the officers seized her cart and all of its contents, including her purse and cell phone. According to Jaramillo, she received no explanation from the police as to why they took her cart or where she could retrieve it or her personal belongings. After running to multiple police precincts, she was able to retrieve her phone and purse, but it took more than a week to retrieve the cart. Upon retrieval, she discovered that the police had destroyed or discarded the cart's contents, including Jaramillo's entire food inventory.



The Urban Justice Center (UJC) describes the treatment of Jaramillo as indicative of New York City's "aggressive 'quality of life' crackdown." UJC, whose mission is to protect citizens like Jaramillo by providing quality legal representation for marginalized New Yorkers, called Perkins Coie shortly before trial to vigorously advocate Jaramillo's rights.

A \$20,000 Offer She Could Refuse

Sometimes it's not about the money, but rather what is right. The city had previously offered Jaramillo \$20,000 to settle the lawsuit. She refused it. Instead, she asked for an apology, something the city and its police never do as a matter of policy. New York attorney Gary Eisenberg and D.C. attorney Edward Thomas tried Jaramillo's case before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Per Eisenberg, "Mrs. Jaramillo wanted vindication that she had been wronged, and that the police had acted unconstitutionally."

Jaramillo had her day in court and won. Although the award was significantly less than the previous settlement offer, she considered it the real victory.

Sean Basinski, founder and director of UJC's "Street Vendor Project" saw how the situation "wasn't about money at all" for Jaramillo. She wanted to force the police officers to be present for the duration of the trial and to hear when a federal judge told them, on the public record, that they had violated her rights.

The trial and its outcome have a wider meaning. "Street vendors are a fixture in NYC and an essential part of the vibrancy and character of the city," said Eisenberg, who even wore a tie purchased from a street vendor during opening statements. He was pleased the trial helped to unify the street vendor community, many of whom left their pushcarts behind to attend the trial in communal protest.



NYC hot dog vendor Eliana Jaramillo displays the check she received from the jury award in her case against the city.

ENSURING THAT A REFUGEE CONTROLS HER DESTINY

AMERICA IS A NATION FORGED BY IMMIGRANTS WHOSE DRIVE TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING BETTER FOR themselves and their families defines the “American Dream.” Unfortunately, the road to success often has roadblocks, as one refugee from Iraq, our client T.S., discovered.

A single mother of four children, T.S. met a business partner and together they opened an Iraqi grocery market and restaurant. As the venture progressed, our client’s partner would not allow her to participate in the business and abruptly ceased all distributions to her, including payment of a seed-capital loan T.S. contributed. Frightened by the risk of losing everything yet propelled by a strong desire for self-reliance, T.S. sought help from Idaho-based MicroEnterprise Training & Assistance (META).

META specializes in supporting, launching and growing local businesses run by immigrants, refugees, minorities and the underprivileged. As part of Perkins Coie’s participation in META, Boise attorney Matthew Purcell met with T.S. She was struggling to feed her family and pay her bills, and sought the firm’s help to resolve the business dispute and obtain the return of her original investment.

Purcell commenced negotiations and managed to persuade our client’s business partner to repay her loan in full and pay her 50 percent of all company distributions. “Thank you from deep in my heart, *shukran jazeelan*, as we say in my country,” said T.S. in appreciation of our effort in achieving her financial recovery.

TAG TEAMING TO HELP SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS REALIZE THEIR POTENTIALS

IN NEW YORK, PERKINS COIE ATTORNEYS DONATED THEIR TIME AND KNOW-HOW TO HELP SMALL businesses succeed by participating in the City Bar Justice Center Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project (NELP). The team, led by N.Y. attorney and organizer Richard Ross, included Sean Connery, Shan Haider, Michael Fruchter, Dennis Hopkins, Tina Moss and Ronald Sarubbi. They worked in conjunction with investment bank Goldman Sachs to conduct a NELP clinic on starting and operating a business. In the clinic, they illustrated to clients some of the practical aspects of entity formation, potential risks, capitalization requirements and tax ramifications inherent in the various entity structures.

NELP provides low- to mid-income microentrepreneurs with the legal counsel needed to ensure their businesses are on solid ground in the future. Participating in NELP is “an important way for individuals and families to move beyond low-wage jobs and into the middle class,” said Sarubbi.

Partnering with more than 15 community-based organizations, NELP has assisted more than 4,000 clients. NELP’s New York clinic is similar to additional clinics conducted across the country and supported through Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program in which several Perkins Coie attorneys have participated. Dallas attorney Ann Marie Painter and Los Angeles attorneys Don Karl and Frank Grant are among those who guided underserved small business owners. The participants were selected via >>



a competitive application process and our attorneys shared presentations on labor and employment law and conducted one-on-one counseling sessions on legal topics unique to these business owners.

Perkins Coie is proud to serve as a catalyst for business opportunity and growth throughout the region and around the world. As Ross said, “It takes more than a leap of faith, positive thinking and hard work to succeed today—it is a privilege and pleasure to provide new entrepreneurs without means to hire an attorney with a competitive edge.”



PROTECTING NONPROFITS IN TIMES OF NEED

MAINTAINING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INCLUDES ADDRESSING THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACED by all individuals. A critical component of community wellness is connecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals, whose health concerns are frequently disregarded, to the resources they need.

Verbena Health, Perkins Coie’s pro bono nonprofit client since 2008, filled this void in Seattle’s health services industry in the Capitol Hill neighborhood for nearly two decades. In 2008, its former executive director, Mo Malkin, was discovered to have embezzled more than \$100,000 of Verbena’s funds and spent the money on cruise ship vacations, gambling and personal use. The loss of this amount of money contributed to Verbena terminating its eight employees and closing its doors.

In 2011, Perkins Coie obtained a summary judgment order in King County (Seattle) Superior Court requiring Malkin to pay a judgment in excess of \$80,000. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the civil judgment against Malkin in July 2013 and federal prosecutors used the civil case as a roadmap. In December 2013, with the assistance of Perkins Coie, federal prosecutors charged Malkin in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington with three counts of wire fraud for her role in the theft. Malkin ultimately pled guilty.

“Malkin single-handedly bankrupted Verbena and refused to cooperate in the civil lawsuit filed against her,” said Seattle attorney Karen Brunton Bloom in reaction to the appeal. “Malkin remains unapologetic and has not attempted to reimburse Verbena and its donors.”

Bloom argued the summary judgment motion and the appeal, and was joined by other members of the pro bono team: Seattle attorneys Alan Smith and James Williams, Seattle paralegal Kiyomi Robinson, and Chicago attorney Jade Lambert, who deposed Malkin in our Chicago office.



HELPING DEVELOPING NATIONS WITH THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE

A PALO ALTO-BASED TEAM OF PATENT ATTORNEYS PROVIDED PRO BONO COUNSEL TO VillageTech Solutions (VTS), a nonprofit organization that develops affordable and relevant technology solutions to increase such basic facilities as electricity and transportation in developing countries. Our attorneys took over a provisional patent application for VTS's Looma project, which introduces "audio-visual technology...to village schools that have never seen electricity, computers, or in some cases, even books." The Perkins Coie team interviewed the engineers and project managers, filed patent and trademark applications for the Looma device and established an intellectual property strategy for the company. The team included Palo Alto attorneys Brian Coleman and Shih-Yo Cheng, with assistance from paralegal Bryan Zhang.



Teachers in the Dhading District of Nepal use VillageTech's Looma for the first time, seen above, to enhance classroom instruction to their students in this predominantly farmland area.



BRENT BULLOCK

PARTNER | *Portland*

"An hour or two of legal advice and service to someone in need who can't otherwise afford a lawyer can have a much greater relative impact on someone's life than a multimillion-dollar deal."



Q This award recognizes your success expanding Perkins Coie's role in Lewis & Clark Law School's Small Business Legal Clinic (SBLC) for the past five years. Why is this important to you?

Every lawyer has an obligation to give back. Only a limited number of people can provide the services we as lawyers do. The firm's commitment of resources to SBLC has helped to turn it into a model program. For example, the clinic provided a way for our client, Intel, to increase in-house attorneys' pro bono participation. We helped establish a local landscaping company and advised a nonprofit dental mobile organization that treats uninsured children in Portland. Increasing financial stability and opportunities in our communities is important to me.

Q Business lawyers are not typically associated with pro bono. What role can they play?

Low-income entrepreneurs and nonprofits need our help. When I chaired the Business Law Section of the Oregon State Bar, I was proud to have expanded pro bono opportunities beyond primarily litigation. Pro bono helps newer business lawyers gain listening and problem-solving skills, allowing them to become leaders and take control of a deal or issue. Not every lawyer is comfortable leaving his or her areas of expertise or going to court. There are meaningful options for skilled business lawyers to make a difference.

Q Your M&A deals are time consuming. Any advice to business lawyers on fitting pro bono into their schedules?

You have an obligation to help in your community. Your skills are unique and you will learn from it and feel good. An hour or two of legal advice and service to someone in need who can't otherwise afford a lawyer can have a much greater relative impact on someone's life than a multimillion-dollar deal.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF A NONPROFIT

FOOD INSTABILITY AND HUNGER REMAIN A HARSH REALITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. PERKINS COIE attorneys are participating in pro bono efforts to increase the security and strength of organizations helping the working poor and underfed throughout Oregon's Columbia River Gorge.

A pro bono team assisted FISH Food Bank (FISH), an organization that grew out of a local ecumenical society that has provided emergency food and supplies in the Columbia River Gorge for more than four decades. When FISH became financially self-sustaining, Perkins Coie counseled the organization to achieve nonprofit status.

The FISH legal team was led by Portland attorney Erick Haynie and included Portland attorneys Michael Robinson, Brendan Crowley, Darren Nakata and Austin Highberger, and paralegal Debi Bergstrom with guidance from Seattle attorney and nonprofit tax expert Lorri Dunsmore. They assisted FISH with its vision to develop a regional food distribution center for the poor in this rural area.

Toward this end, the team worked with FISH to secure the necessary land use entitlements to construct the new food distribution center. They assisted FISH with negotiating and drafting the necessary leasehold and operating agreements to allow the new building to be constructed on a local church property, as well as helped the organization establish itself as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Construction of the new facility is set to begin in the fall of 2014.

“They assisted FISH with its vision to develop a regional food distribution center for the poor in this rural area.”

PROVIDING AN ADVANTAGE FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

LED BY BELLEVUE/SEATTLE ATTORNEYS BRUCE DICK AND LORRI DUNSMORE, PERKINS COIE ASSISTED Tessera, a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit corporation dedicated to serving young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Perkins Coie pro bono team negotiated and closed a series of transactions

valued at more than \$7 million with Seattle Children's Hospital to establish the new Seattle Children's Alyssa Burnett Adult Life Center. The center will provide ongoing educational, social and recreational opportunities geared toward developing critical life skills and promoting health and wellness for young adults living with ASD and other developmental disabilities.



PROTECTING CONSTITUTIONAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, Perkins Coie has fought to preserve and protect civil and constitutional rights. Our attorneys advocate on behalf of individuals deprived of civil rights and civil liberties and the nonprofit organizations that serve them. We represent these clients on a wide range of issues before state courts up to the country's highest court and have succeeded in bringing about systemic change as well as helping to improve the paths of our individual clients.



What If We Could Fix a Justice System in a State of Crisis?

THE RESURRECTION OF GIDEON'S TRUMPET

Working on behalf of a class of indigent criminal defendants in the cities of Mt. Vernon and Burlington, Washington, Perkins Coie achieved a major victory in a class action lawsuit. The resulting *Wilbur* ruling, issued in December 2013, upholds the mandate of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case establishing the right to effective counsel for all people accused of a crime and facing a loss of liberty.

As providence would have it, the *Wilbur* ruling came in the 50th anniversary year of the landmark *Gideon* case.

Wilbur prompted media interest and action by the U.S. Department of Justice, which for the first time in history filed a statement of interest endorsing the concept of public defender caseload limits. In its coverage of the historic event, *The New York Times* noted that U.S. Attorney General Holder referred to America's indigent defense systems as existing in a "state of crisis," and the attorney general persistently highlighted the shortcomings of the public defense system as a national problem, in contrast to how it is usually characterized as a state-level concern.

The greater significance of *Wilbur* was noted by the presiding judge, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Lasnik, in his decision: "The notes of freedom and liberty that emerged from Gideon's trumpet a half a century ago cannot survive if that trumpet is muted and dented by harsh fiscal measures that reduce the promise to a hollow shell of a hallowed right."

Seattle partner James Williams led the Perkins Coie team, which worked in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, Toby Marshall of Terrell Marshall Daudt & Willie PLLC and Matthew Zuchetto of The Scott Law >>



PROGRESS REPORT

GRANT COUNTY'S PUBLIC DEFENSE SYSTEM IMPROVES

The Wilbur victory joins similar contributions Perkins Coie has made to changing the criminal justice system. In 2013, we saw the impact of our nine-year representation of a class of indigent defendants in Grant County, Washington.

Perkins Coie attorneys joined co-counsel from the ACLU-WA, Columbia Legal Services and Garvey Schubert Barer in a 2004 lawsuit alleging that Grant County's felony public defense system violated indigent defendants' right to counsel under the U.S. and Washington constitutions. The ensuing settlement called for a seven-year monitorship of the county's public defense system.

Perkins Coie continued to represent the class throughout this period, and with its recent conclusion, changes in the system are now evident. Specific improvements in the quality of representation include: lower caseloads; more qualified public defense attorneys; improved training and supervision; a tracking system to ensure caseload limits; newly hired attorneys, director and supervisor; increased visits to jailed clients; and an effective complaint system for public defense clients.

"These shifts in the public defense system are encouraging. The lawsuit, settlement and monitorship have produced measurable improvement in the quality of justice for indigent defendants, which is gratifying," said Seattle attorney Breena Roos, who collaborated with attorney David Taylor on the case.

**CRISIS IN
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
Mt. Vernon and
Burlington, WA

400

ANNUAL ALLOWED
CASELOAD
PER FULL-TIME
PUBLIC DEFENDER

1,000

ACTUAL ANNUAL
CASELOAD
PER PART-TIME
PUBLIC DEFENDER

< 30

TYPICAL MINUTES
SPENT
PER CASE BY
PUBLIC DEFENDERS

0

AVERAGE PRIVATE
COUNSEL MEETINGS
WITH ACCUSED
PRE-PLEADING

Group. Williams expressed the group's sense of achievement in transforming the practices of an entire system to ensure equal access to justice. Additional members of the Perkins Coie pro bono team during the three years of the case included Seattle attorneys Breena Roos, J. Camille Fisher and David Steele, paralegal Joel Higa, legal secretaries Carol Kness and Joyce Norville, and word processor Chris Knowlden.

“Actual Innocence Could Conceivably Go Unnoticed and Unchampioned”

The class action suit, filed in 2011 and heard in a June 2013 bench trial, depicted an overloaded and dysfunctional defense system. Assertions included individual public defenders with caseloads that exceeded limits set by the Washington State Bar Association by more than double, often reaching beyond 1,000 per year, per attorney. The suit also alleged that the cities' public defense attorneys failed to reasonably investigate or spend sufficient time on their clients' cases, which effectively forced defendants to accept plea deals.

In his ruling, Judge Lasnik described the system's decline into “little more than a ‘meet and plead’ system.” He found that indigent criminal defendants in the two cities were systematically deprived of the assistance of counsel at critical stages of the prosecution, in violation of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. The extent of failure meant “actual innocence could conceivably go unnoticed and unchampioned,” wrote Judge Lasnik in his opinion.

The court also found that municipal policymakers made deliberate choices regarding the funding, contracting and monitoring of the public defense system that directly and predictably caused the deprivation. To redress this violation of rights, the court required the cities to hire a supervisor and the court will maintain jurisdiction for the next three years as reforms are made.

Observing the wider impact of our pro bono effort, Sarah A. Dunne, Legal Director of the ACLU of Washington Foundation, said, “For close to a decade, Perkins Coie has voluntarily participated in groundbreaking advocacy to reform felony and misdemeanor indigent defense in Washington state and expended significant resources without compensation to accomplish lasting, systemic reform.”



WILBUR TEAM (l to r) Chris Knowlden, David Steele, Carol Kness, James Williams, Breana Roos, J. Camille Fisher. Not pictured: Joel Higa and Joyce Norville.

Q The *Wilbur* case challenged the status quo of the misdemeanor public defense system. Why did you want to be involved?

DAVID STEELE: This was not an average pro bono case. There was an opportunity to change how states and cities operate and for a federal judge to set a precedent on an important constitutional issue.

BREANA ROOS: We don't have that many opportunities to achieve justice in this way. It was the only public defense systemic case to go to trial. It was game changing.

Q You all refer to *Wilbur* as an opportunity. What was the opportunity?

CHRIS KNOWLDEN: This was a chance to be a part of something that was bigger than our everyday lives. James always has interesting cases and is good about recognizing everyone's contribution. It makes you want to join the team.

CAMILLE FISHER: We go to law school not necessarily for the big paycheck but to help people and our pro bono program allows us to do that. We all liked each other and when you enjoy working with other teammates, you want to produce good work and make them proud.

Q Your team coalesced for this case. Any secrets behind your successful collaboration?

JAMES WILLIAMS: Mass communication, organization and inclusion. At times it may have felt like over communication.

We created an email listserv and built consensus on everything, including with the ACLU and other firms, around every strategic action. If we were not unanimous, we would not act.

ROOS: I view pro bono the same as my other cases. That's how James and the firm view it and that contributed to our success.

Q What impact did the case have on you?

CAROL KNESS: It gives me great pleasure to work with people who are so enthusiastic about helping individuals who are in need.

WILLIAMS: I think this may be the most important case I've ever worked on in terms of its impact. What kept me up at night was wondering what would happen to the thousands of people in the misdemeanor criminal system if the judge ruled the other way. It would have been a huge burden if we lost.

Q Any lessons from the experience?

STEELE: My research work as a summer associate on *Wilbur* taught me so much. It influenced my decision to join the firm and inspired me to commit to more pro bono cases.

WILLIAMS: Perkins Coie is best suited for high-impact, systemic-change pro bono litigation. We can really make a difference. I am a former JAG prosecutor and learned about pro bono after joining the firm. I felt compelled to follow the tradition; these cases are part of our collective DNA.

KNOWLDEN: I sometimes envision *Wilbur* cited in a brief and we will be able to say that we were a part of that.

A PRISONER'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM CHANGES THE LAW

WHEN 35-YEAR-OLD SARA KRUZAN WALKED OUT OF A CENTRAL California prison on October 31, 2013, it was cause for celebration for a swell of supporters, legislators and advocates, including the Perkins Coie pro bono legal team that had fought for her freedom for the previous seven years.



Sara Kruzan enjoying her new life as a free woman.

Kruzan's release occurred 19 years after she was sentenced as a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole for killing a 36-year-old man who had sexually abused her since she was 11 and trafficked her as a prostitute since she was 13. At the time of the shooting, Kruzan was barely 16.

Perkins Coie attorneys became involved in 2007 when they agreed to represent Kruzan in seeking habeas corpus relief and clemency pursuant to California law applicable to victims of intimate partner abuse. The pro bono team persevered through the many turns of the case, which eventually led to a June 2013 hearing before the California Board of Parole Hearings and Kruzan's autumn release.

Throughout her incarceration, Kruzan was an exemplary inmate. Her case sparked a national conversation about juvenile sentencing and child sex trafficking. She became a role model for state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, whose legislation to ease life sentences for juveniles became California law in January 2013. Kruzan and her family have expressed gratitude to the people instrumental in securing her freedom. "I am moved beyond words by the incredible support shown to me by so many people and am very grateful for the chance to contribute to the world in a positive way," Kruzan said.

"After spending more than half of her life in prison, Sara is adjusting to a new world. We are proud to have played a role in achieving justice and freeing her," said Seattle attorney Marc Boman who, along with Los Angeles attorney, Ron McIntire, helped to guide the pro bono team, which also included Los Angeles attorney Melora Garrison, Seattle attorney Kelly Moser, former Perkins Coie associate Michael Teter and

private attorney Pat Arthur. McIntire said that the experience was "immensely gratifying for the whole team, to have fought for Sara for so long and to finally see her a free woman." The team also included legal secretaries Sharon Jones, Kathy Stevens and Teresa McLain.



CELEBRATING FREEDOM: (l to r) Marc Boman, Melora Garrison, Michael Teter, Sara Kruzan, Pat Arthur, Kelly Moser and Ron McIntire.



BRENDA HORN

LEGAL SECRETARY | *Madison*

"Working on civil rights and capital cases that we've handled in Madison, cases based throughout the country, broadens my experience."



Q&A

Q You've worked on nearly 20 pro bono cases during your five years with the firm, including prisoners' rights and capital cases. Why do you do this work?

I have always been passionate about civil rights and making a difference in a person's life. Sometimes it is just about giving a prisoner hope. By forging bonds with correctional facilities and courts, I help to increase prisoners' access to justice and support our cases.

Q Does pro bono help your career?

The legal knowledge I gain creates a great foundation for growth. Working on civil rights and capital cases that we've handled in Madison, cases based throughout the country, broadens my experience. It also allows me to work with individuals outside of my regular areas.

Q You've shown pro bono work is not just for attorneys. How can staff contribute?

Staff can serve an essential role in pro bono work, such as collection of documents, organization of background and timeline materials, coordinating and scheduling depositions, and forming vital relationships. Also, strengthening bonds within our communities is beneficial to our firm's billable work.

Q In addition, you are a Make-a-Wish wish granter. Why is community service important to you?

I started volunteering in third grade at the nursing home where my mom used to work. She passed away when I was in second grade and it helped me stay connected to her. I have always enjoyed helping people. Being able to have a positive impact on someone's life, even in a small way, is very meaningful to me. Everything I give, I get back in so many ways.

CREATING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SECOND CHANCE

MOTIVATED BY THE POWER A SECOND CHANCE CAN PROVIDE, IN SEPTEMBER 2013 A TEAM OF ATTORNEYS from the Chicago office attended the first IMPACT Chicago Second Chances legal clinic to assist individuals who are not eligible for expungement or sealing of their criminal records to apply either for certificates of good conduct or healthcare waivers. These alternative forms of relief lift statutory barriers that otherwise prevent individuals with criminal records from pursuing many fields of employment. They help clients to secure professional licenses, find employment, and in some cases, pursue degrees in higher education by allowing them to participate in clinical work.

The clinic lasted about half a day, starting with training by Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA). Immediately following the training, attorneys worked in pairs to assist clients with preparing paperwork. Perkins Coie attorneys in attendance at the inaugural IMPACT clinic were Joel Levin, Heather Boice, Furqan Mohammed, Jaime Willis, Jeannil Boji and Jade Lambert.

Since then, Perkins attorneys have participated in two additional IMPACT clinics: a second “alternative relief” clinic and a clinic for clients seeking executive clemency from the governor. Chicago attorneys Deborah Gutfeld, Bates Larson, Kate Stetsko, Joel Levin and Jade Lambert participated in those clinics.

IMPACT Chicago is part of a pro bono partnership between law firms across the city, the Chicago Bar Foundation, and several legal services agencies—including CGLA—focused on assisting individuals who face barriers to employment because they have criminal records. IMPACT Chicago resulted from a 2012 meeting between Vice President Joe Biden and representatives of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo) which focused on access to justice issues. From this meeting was born IMPACT, the acronym for Involving More Pro Bono Attorneys in our Community Together, which Vice President Biden strongly encouraged firms to pursue (see pg. 31). The IMPACT Chicago program will play an important role in helping Illinois residents with criminal records gain access to employment, housing and educational opportunities that were previously denied to them because of criminal records.



Participating in an IMPACT/Second Chance Project legal clinic are Chicago attorneys Joel Levin and Jaime Willis.

“The IMPACT Chicago program will play an important role in helping Illinois residents with criminal records.”



Chicago attorneys Jeannil Boji (l) and Jade Lambert (r) counsel a client at an IMPACT/Second Chance Project legal clinic.

FIRM'S GUANTÁNAMO BAY WORK RESULTS IN CLIENT'S RETURN TO HOMELAND

PERKINS COIE CONTINUES ITS ACTIVE ROLE IN ADVOCATING FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW IN the case of Guantánamo Bay detainees. The plight of one detainee, our client Noor Uthman Muhammed from Sudan, was thrust into the media spotlight in 2013 by the government's protracted delay in honoring a plea bargain that was supposed to lead to Noor's release from prison and repatriation to his native Sudan.

"There is nothing simple about Guantánamo, but in Noor's case the basic issue boiled down to one: Will the government honor its word? Ultimately it did, after some needed prodding by us," said Phoenix attorney Howard Cabot, who led the defense of Noor's case for the past five years. In December 2013, Noor was released from Guantánamo Bay and returned to Sudan, marking the culmination of untold pro bono hours contributed by Perkins Coie attorneys. Additional team members included Phoenix attorneys Phil Higdon, Joshua Crum, Rusty Crandell and John Gray, and paralegal Bea Stam.

"The prospect that Mr. Noor...would not be released had threatened to undermine the ability of military prosecutors to persuade detainees to plead guilty and serve as potential witnesses in more important cases," wrote *The New York Times*. The case's high profile, critical public opinion and unpopular client caused Cabot to take stock of his commitment at times. As he reflected, "You need to have a tough skin, and you have to have confidence that what you are seeking to protect is worth the criticism that may come your way because these rights are important enough."

PREVAILING ON A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CHALLENGE

BETWEEN 1995 AND 2010, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR immigration offenses has increased more than 800%. During that time, the federal government made a little-noticed policy decision to house most low-security non-citizen inmates in privately operated prisons that are highly secretive and are subject to practically no public oversight. Immigration and civil rights groups have raised concerns about conditions worsening upon privatization.

When Portland attorney Stephen Raher joined Perkins Coie in 2011, the new lawyer had already been researching and addressing this issue, specifically the business law aspects of the privatization of correctional facilities. In the course of his research, he made a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) about its contractual relationships with for-profit companies operating correctional facilities for undocumented immigrants. The BOP's reluctance to share unredacted documents eventually led to litigation, and in 2013, the district court ordered BOP to produce numerous procurement documents previously shielded from public disclosure.

Portland attorney Erick Haynie helped Raher with all aspects of the case and the litigation resulted in several important written opinions concerning the intersection of FOIA, the Federal Records Act and government outsourcing.



ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

THE IMMIGRANTS THAT our attorneys help come from every corner of the world. Working on their behalf, we appear in Immigration Court, before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. We secure grants of asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, deferred action for childhood arrivals, and visas for victims of crime. Our work in this area has become a major focus of our pro bono program and has earned us recognition at the local and national level.





JEFFREY C. MINZEL
COUNSEL | *Seattle*

"These young adults were raised in the United States and face grave risks, such as human traffickers and homelessness, if deported."



Q&A

Q More than 50 attorneys in the firm have volunteered at the DACA clinics you helped launch, and the award reflects your success. Why is this important to you?

By serving others, we serve ourselves. Few could argue successfully that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is not a just cause. These young adults were raised in the United States and face grave risks, such as human traffickers and homelessness, if deported. Though the decision to come here was not their own, they can't lawfully work and fear being separated from their families. One DACA client spent his 15th birthday, the first moment he was eligible to apply, at the clinic because deportation so frightened him and his family. These innocent children need and deserve our help.

Q As an ERISA attorney, how does pro bono work support your career?

I joined Perkins Coie in 2009 and my practice is specialized. My pro bono work has provided me with opportunities to meet other lawyers in the firm outside my practice, including firm leaders, and it has resulted in new matters in my practice.

Q Any advice to young lawyers on fitting pro bono into their careers?

It is a necessity. The firm values it and strongly encourages it. In addition to the humanitarian reasons, it helps you to meet other attorneys, and to acquire and broaden your skills.

Q You've been a lifelong volunteer and even ran your own nonprofit. Is there another pro bono effort you'd like to work on?

I am excited about the immigration reforms being debated in Congress. When such reform is passed, I would like to see Perkins Coie offer an immigration legal clinic and expand our DACA clinic model to assist more immigrants in new paths to citizenship.

What If We Could Provide Young Immigrants with a Brighter Future?

CREATING A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR DESERVING YOUTH

Serving as a beacon of hope for immigrants and refugees from more than 100 countries, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) has been helping thousands of immigrants and refugees in Washington State navigate the complexities of the United States immigration system so they can apply for asylum or other forms of relief from removal since 1984.

Perkins Coie and NWIRP have a long-standing partnership that expanded with the launch of our in-house Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clinics to help undocumented immigrant youth seeking deferred action.



Begun in 2012, DACA is a temporary form of immigration protection that helps prevent deportation of young people brought to the United States illegally as children and allows them to get a work permit for two years. Without this legal status, many of these youth would become vulnerable to being sent to a country they have never lived in and to gangs who prey on these newly arrived young people deported due to no fault of their own.

Since the clinic's inception in November 2012, firm attorneys have guided more than 350 applicants in more than 30 clinics seeking deferred action. "The entire experience—from deciphering confusion on eligibility, to alleviating fear and creating hope for these young people and their families—has been tremendously gratifying," said attorney Stewart Landefeld.



(l to r) Perkins Coie attorneys Nick Gellert, Jeff Minzel and Pro Bono Counsel Leah Medway accept the 2013 Amicus Award from NWIRP Executive Director Jorge Baron.

The clinics have been organized by Seattle attorney Jeffrey Minzel and Jessica Flesner, his secretary. Flesner has kept the clinics running and organized by coordinating schedules, volunteers and communications. She has attended every legal clinic, working with clients, NWIRP staff attorneys and Perkins Coie volunteer attorneys. "Jessica has gone above and beyond with coordinating these clinics and is one of the principal reasons for their success," said Pro Bono Counsel Leah Medway.

The firm's commitment to host these semimonthly clinics and its other pro bono efforts in support of indigent immigrant populations, including our lawsuit against the U.S. Border Patrol with NWIRP and the ACLU-WA (see page 29), were the reasons cited by NWIRP in selecting the firm as its 2013 Amicus Award recipient.

SECURING A T-VISA FILLS A NEW YEAR WITH HOPE

AFTER FLEEING DEATH THREATS FROM GANGS IN EL SALVADOR, 24-YEAR-OLD J. R. found himself the victim of a human trafficking ring. J.R. was held captive in Texas and forced to work while his captors attempted to extort money from his family. While his captors were transporting J.R. one day, their vehicle was pulled over in a routine traffic stop, and J.R. was taken into the custody of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Colorado.

Acting on a referral from the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, Denver attorneys Michael Sink and Elizabeth Banzhoff represented J.R. They assisted in securing his release from custody and made an application for T nonimmigrant status (T-Visa). The T-Visa is available for victims of human trafficking and permits them to stay in the United States for up to four years, at the end of which they may apply for permanent residency.

The good news for J.R. came in time for the holidays—his application was granted shortly before Christmas, and he now may stay and work in the United States. In addition to her other assistance on this matter, legal secretary Cecily Winmill literally went the extra mile when she drove our client through a snowstorm to have his photos taken for the application. “Working as a team, we did what we could to create a chance for this young man to rebuild his future and it was a privilege to be able to help transform his life for the better,” said Sink.



AN UNRELENTING LITIGATOR SECURES AN ASYLUM SEEKER'S RELEASE IN ARIZONA

THE VICTIM OF SEVERE AND PROLONGED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE HANDS OF HER HUSBAND AND HIS “business” associates, R.L. fled Guatemala and sought asylum in the United States. She was detained by authorities and came to the attention of former Perkins Coie Phoenix attorney Jack Vincent through our partnership with the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project.

Vincent, with help from Phoenix attorney Daniel Barr, began representing R.L. in September 2011, at which time his client had been detained for approximately a year in Eloy, Arizona. According to the Florence Project, the Immigration Court has denied nearly all of the domestic violence-based asylum cases in Eloy. Vincent took on this challenge and submitted numerous requests for parole and for prosecutorial discretion during R.L.'s case. Many of the requests were rejected, yet the commercial litigator was relentless in his commitment to his client. Vincent continued in attempting to secure a supervised release for R.L. Each request was met with rejection despite evidence detailing the deterioration of R.L.'s mental and physical health.

After the attorney and his client had been through several rounds before the immigration judge and Board of Immigration Appeals, Vincent achieved an interim victory in 2013 >>

“While my client’s case is far from resolved...at least she won’t be fighting for her future from inside a cell.”

when he obtained his client's release after 34 months of detention. She is residing with a host family while her appeal is pending and hopes to be reunited with her children in the United States one day.

For his effort, Vincent received recognition as one of the Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys in the state from the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education, which cited his "excellent lawyering and overall commitment" to his client and case. "While my client's case is far from resolved and the outcome is uncertain, at least she won't be fighting for her future from inside a cell," said Vincent.

FINDING A PLACE FOR A WAR VICTIM TO HEAL

THE LACK OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE IN WAR-TORN IRAQ ADDED TO THE SUFFERING EXPERIENCED BY people seriously injured in the conflict. One victim was K.A, who was a 16-year-old in Fallujah when a stray bullet from U.S. troops hit him and paralyzed him from the chest down. To gain access to the level of medical resources and treatment he needed, K.A.'s family moved him to Amman, Jordan. However, his injuries and related complications required even more sophisticated attention and while K.A. was still in Jordan, the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project became aware of his plight and asked Perkins Coie to intervene.

Our team stepped up and petitioned the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to classify K.A. as a refugee, as a first step to qualify him for resettlement. UNHCR approved the request and then referred him for resettlement to the United States, which was ultimately approved. Upon his arrival in California in July 2013, K.A. was admitted to the hospital, where he remains for treatment. As his health improves, a sponsor organization is helping K.A. adjust to life in the United States and is helping him learn English.



Seattle attorneys Aubri Goldsby and William Green took control of K.A.'s matter. Goldsby and Green report that the young man is happy to be in California and is grateful for the peace of mind his family gained knowing that he is receiving proper treatment and is surrounded by caring people.



AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES PERKINS COIE

IN JUNE 2013, THE AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA) PRESENTED Perkins Coie with its 2013 Michael Maggio Memorial Pro Bono Award for outstanding efforts in providing pro bono representation in the immigration field. This was our first recognition from this national association, which advocates for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, and was based on our work across the country in a broad array of cases helping asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, and immigrant youth. Among the work we were recognized for was our efforts in Phoenix to improve the treatment of asylum seekers based on domestic violence and our large-scale assistance to immigrant youth.



"I am so pleased to see Perkins Coie recognized by AILA for its exceptional pro bono service and long-standing dedication and commitment to immigrant rights," said Thalassa Kingsnorth, pro bono program director of the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Phoenix and one of several pro bono partners nominating the firm for the AILA honor.

PREVAILING IN THE NINTH CIRCUIT PRO BONO PROGRAM

PHOENIX ASSOCIATE ANDY GAONA FOUND SUCCESS BEFORE THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH Circuit in his representation of R.C., a legal permanent resident of the United States. Gaona is among several attorneys firmwide who participate in that court's pro bono program. R.C. was convicted of operating a chop shop under California law and was charged by the government as removable for having committed an "aggravated felony." In a previous petition for review, the Ninth Circuit had determined that R.C.'s conviction was not an "aggravated felony," but on remand, the Executive Office for Immigration Review effectively ignored that holding and again ordered R.C.'s removal. Gaona argued his client's case before the same panel that considered his previous petition for review and persuaded the panel to remand the case to the agency to allow R.C. to seek discretionary relief from removal.



PROTECTING OUR BORDERS WITHOUT SACRIFICING CITIZENS' RIGHTS

IN THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION CONCERNING THE SECURITY OF

America's borders, the focus is most often on the southern perimeters. The attention shifted north in 2013 when Perkins Coie pro bono attorneys, together with immigration and civil rights advocacy groups, filed a class-action lawsuit alleging the unconstitutionality of the U.S. Border Patrol's practices in stopping vehicles along Washington's water boundary with Canada on the Olympic Peninsula. The suit alleged that the Border Patrol was stopping vehicles without individualized suspicion of wrongdoing or unauthorized entry.

The three named plaintiffs in the lawsuit were all U.S. citizens who experienced stops and interrogations by border agents that they claimed to be without basis because the Border Patrol had no evidence that they did not have legal immigration status or had committed a crime. One plaintiff, a correctional officer, was stopped as he headed home from work in uniform. Another plaintiff was stopped multiple times. The lawsuit claimed that these and other persons of color were unjustly stopped and such suspicionless stops exceeded the Border Patrol's legal powers in violation of the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizures.

The Perkins Coie team, in partnership with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the ACLU-WA, helped achieve a settlement that included two important elements that are intended to prevent future Border Patrol violations of this nature: re-training agents on Fourth Amendment protections and providing the advocacy groups with the records of traffic stops that the Border Patrol makes during the 18 months following the agreement.

In the settlement, which received considerable media coverage, there was no monetary award, nor did the Border Patrol admit any wrongdoing. Yet the outcome achieved the clients' goals of improving the Border Patrol's practices. "Residents of the Olympic Peninsula, or anywhere, cannot be stopped simply because of the color of their skin just because they happen to be near a border. This settlement helps protect the rights of everyone, especially minorities, throughout the Peninsula," said Seattle attorney Nicholas Gellert. He worked on this case with Seattle attorneys Brendan Peters, Steven Merriman, Javier Garcia (now in Los Angeles) and paralegal Cynthia Brown.

“Residents of the Olympic Peninsula, or anywhere, cannot be stopped simply because of the color of their skin just because they happen to be near a border.”



SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED

A **SIGNIFICANT PORTION** of our pro bono commitment in family law involves advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence. In the past year, we have helped abused and neglected children find safe homes, assisted in adoptions that have achieved permanency for children and created new loving families, safeguarded victims of abuse from all corners of the world, and helped to uphold the rights of parents in diverse families. These are some of the most meaningful and life-altering representations that Perkins Coie attorneys handle in their careers.



What If Families in Crisis Had a Helping Hand?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IMPACT PROJECT: A SEATTLE COLLABORATION EXPANDS ACCESS TO PROTECTION

Sometimes, more is more. That is the impetus behind the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo) IMPACT project. IMPACT stands for Involving More Pro Bono Attorneys in our Communities Together. IMPACT resulted from a meeting between APBCo firms and Vice President Joseph Biden, who convened a meeting in 2012. The participants committed to a long-term project to improve law firm efforts to expand access to justice, and the vice president commended their commitment to increasing pro bono services.



APBCo IMPACT projects have blossomed within the past year, and Perkins Coie attorneys have participated in several programs nationwide. Our Chicago attorneys volunteered at the Chicago IMPACT/Second Chance Project clinic (see pg. 20) to help individuals facing barriers to employment because of past criminal records. In the Bay Area, we volunteered with one of the Bay Area Rural Justice Collaborative legal clinics. In Seattle, we helped to create and develop an IMPACT project focused on improving assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Legal resources for domestic violence survivors are limited. Last year there were 695 reported domestic violence assaults in Seattle, a 51-percent increase from four years ago. The vast majority of the victims who went to court did so without an attorney.

Many deserving victims are denied their request for a domestic violence protection order. The reasons may include victims' language barriers, their inability to navigate the legal system, their fear of confronting their abusers in court, or their failure to properly argue their cases in court. Motivated by the need for additional resources and the call to action within the APBCo community, a group of law firms and nonprofit organizations collaborated to help fill the gaps in legal support for these victims of violence.

Increasing Access to Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Perkins Coie Seattle attorney Judy Jennison and firmwide Pro Bono Counsel Leah Medway joined with APBCo colleagues at Foster Pepper PLLC and Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, as well as representatives from the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Northwest Justice Project and King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Advocates, to create the Domestic Violence Impact Project (DVIP). The purpose of DVIP is to expand services to clients seeking protection from domestic violence and to assess and develop ways to make systemic change in advocacy for these victims.

The main work of DVIP to date has been the creation of "in-shelter" clinics. These clinics aim to educate and prepare victims to go into court and win their protection orders, or if they are in the process of appealing >>

a denial, work with them to bring their best case forward. In the monthly clinics we have hosted since July 2013, we have been working with local domestic violence advocates such as LifeWire and New Beginnings, as well as supporting the work of other DVIP members. Seattle legal staff supervisor April Campbell coordinates the monthly clinics.

Collaborative efforts such as DVIP help fill an unmet need and start to level the playing field for victims and their children. “In creating this project and volunteering directly in the shelter clinics, I have seen firsthand the need for assistance and how grateful the survivors and their advocates are for our legal guidance,” said Medway.

AN ABUSE VICTIM INSPIRES A LESSON IN HOPE AND COURAGE

THE HURDLES TO LEAVING AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP CAN BE DAUNTING AND THEY were exacerbated for N.D., a woman victimized by her husband of more than 20 years with whom she had several children. In its description of her situation, Washington’s King County Family Court Services called N.D.’s case especially disturbing.

Working on a referral from the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Seattle attorney Austin Rainwater, with supervision from Judy Jennison and Michael Scoville, handled N.D.’s year-long case and secured vital protections for her and her children. The resulting settlement, reached on the eve of trial, provides N.D. with full custody of her minor children, a long-term protection order against her husband, lifetime maintenance and limited, supervised visitations between the children and their father.

Our client expressed her deep gratitude to Rainwater for making her feel safe for the first time in her adult life. By fighting for her, he showed her that she and her children deserve to be safe and happy. For Rainwater, the case offered an unexpected lesson. “Despite the extreme nature of the abuse she endured over several decades, my client has somehow managed to stay optimistic about the future and plans to use the teaching certificate she recently earned,” said Rainwater. “She has already been a teacher to me and the other attorneys at the firm—her strength and perseverance are an inspiration.”



APPELLATE VICTORY AFFIRMS CLIENT’S RIGHTS IN SAME-SEX ADOPTION

WE HELPED TO RESOLVE A TANGLED, SIX-YEAR LITIGATION IN A SAME-SEX ADOPTION CASE ON BEHALF OF D.G., who defended her rights in a second-parent adoption of three children from China. In October 2013, the Michigan Court of Appeals, per curiam, affirmed a trial court ruling that was favorable to our client. At issue was the validity and enforceability in Michigan of Illinois second-parent adoptions by a same-sex couple. The court found that the Illinois adoptions were valid and would be recognized in Michigan. Chicago attorney Debra Bernard argued the appeal, and Chicago attorney David Gold provided assistance on the brief and oral argument preparation. “Hopefully, the court of appeals decision will provide the stability and permanence that the three children deserve,” said Bernard.



ANCHORAGE OFFICE RECOGNIZED AS CATALYST IN PRO BONO SERVICES

HUNDREDS OF LOW-INCOME ALASKANS IN NEED OF LEGAL HELP ARE TURNED AWAY each year by social service charities and nonprofits, such as the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, due to insufficient resources. Perkins Coie has provided numerous pro bono services for Alaskans in need over the years, for which we recently received recognition.



Partner Danielle Ryman receiving the award from John Skidmore, Assistant Attorney General of Alaska.

Anchorage attorney Danielle Ryman, who serves as chair of the office’s pro bono committee, received the Third Annual Alaska Attorney General’s Award for Pro Bono Service in a presentation ceremony that coincided with the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

According to Alaska Bar Association Pro Bono Director Krista Scully, “Danielle has steadfastly and often courageously stepped into the arena of pro bono service for domestic violence victims simply because she felt that it was the right thing to do.”

For our strong history of pro bono service in a wide variety of areas, our Anchorage office was also honored last year by the Alaska Bar Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Pro Bono. Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Dana Fabe said in her presentation comments, “The story of Perkins Coie can’t be told in bullet points because it’s about their leadership of being both catalysts and change makers . . . Perkins Coie has been generous in both time and money to ensure that the critical legal needs of the less fortunate are met.”



(l to r) Anchorage Partners Michael Kreger and Thomas Daniel with Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Dana Fabe.

HELPING THE ELDERLY AND UNDERSERVED

WE HAVE LONG fought for the rights of individuals who are too young, too old or otherwise unable to fight for themselves. Whether fighting against abuse, advocating for benefits or simply trying to help elderly individuals with personal planning, Perkins Coie is focused on aiding these populations.



What If We Safeguard the Laws that Protect the Elderly?

CHAMPIONING THE HOUSING RIGHTS OF SENIORS

Known as one of the most desirable and safest communities in the nation, the City of Thousand Oaks, California is an affluent suburb situated between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. The city is also home to the Ranch Mobile Home Park, developed exclusively for low-income senior citizens in the mid-1970s.

At the time of its development, and again in 1984, the city enacted specific rent protections for ranch residents to ensure its affordability to low-income senior citizens. These rent protections were recognized in 2000, 2008, and as recently as 2010. However, in 2011, the city eliminated the special rent protections through an amendment to its Mobile Home Park Rent Stabilization Ordinance. The ranch owner has instituted three rent increases since October 2011. If the four more possible rent hikes are made, rents will effectively double over seven years.

"We all moved in here in reliance on the rent restrictions that have been in place since 1977," said resident Jim Wolf in a statement to the *Ventura County Star*. "Now we are struggling to remain in our homes because the city changed the rules for no reason other than the apparent greed of the park's owners." A majority of the ranch residents are disabled, the average age is 80 and the average income per resident totals approximately \$1,000 per month.



Ranch Mobile Home Park has been a haven for low-income seniors for the past 30 years. Rent restrictions were supposed to be in place "in perpetuity."



Ranch resident Joan Osborne, a Holocaust survivor, is fighting possible rent hikes of more than 250 percent over the next seven years.

Distressed about their future, the residents contacted our longtime pro bono partner, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, which asked Perkins Coie to partner with it to uphold the residents' rights. Additional pro bono participants include Horvitz & Levy LLP, attorney Chandra Gehri Spencer, and the public interest law firms California Rural Legal Assistance and Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Holding a City and Property Owner to Their Promises

During the more than two years we have worked on behalf of the mobile home park residents, we have achieved a number of successes in litigation as we work towards a solution for them. Currently, our Los Angeles attorneys represent residents in two related lawsuits. The Senior Alliance for Empowerment is also a named plaintiff.

In *Rampersad, et al. v. City of Thousand Oaks*, the city is the sole defendant. The residents seek a ruling that the ordinance amendment amounts to >>

an unconstitutional taking without compensation and that the city's conduct constitutes unlawful housing discrimination. In *Sqrow, et al. v. A.V.M.G.H. Five-The Ranch, LP*, we represent the residents in a class action against the owner of the ranch alleging a breach in contractual promises to abide by the terms of the rent restrictions and promises that rents would not rise by more than a nominal amount. This second case began after the city and ranch owner stridently resisted being deposed.

Los Angeles attorney Lester Brown is leading our pro bono team in these ongoing ranch lawsuits. Additional team members include James Bernald, Amir Gamliel, Catherine Grech, Thomas McMahon, Benjamin Soffer, paralegals Sharon K. Grisham and Kenneth Ragsac, and secretary Cynthia Mejia.



HELPING SURVIVING SPOUSES MOVE FORWARD

THE DEATH OF A SPOUSE CAN TRIGGER VULNERABILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY THAT CREATE LIFE-threatening circumstances. In two matters we recently handled, Perkins Coie assisted senior citizens in recovering from the dramatic setbacks suffered by the loss of loved ones.

Taking to Task an Abusive and Corrupt Caretaker

In the San Francisco Bay Area, we represent R.Y., a 71-year old disabled retiree who suffers from cognitive impairment and memory lapses. After his wife died several years ago, like many seniors, he was alone and vulnerable to exploitation. A man representing himself as a caretaker offered to assist R.Y., initially performing minor tasks, such as driving our client to medical appointments. Gradually, he induced R.Y. to turn over control of more and more of his financial affairs, gaining access to his bank accounts, credit cards and 401(k) account.

The caretaker took full advantage of R.Y.—he moved into his home, used R.Y.'s money to fund a lavish lifestyle that included a luxury car, a personal trainer, travel and \$80,000 tuition for his wife. Ultimately, the caretaker spent substantially all of R.Y.'s life savings and ran up more than \$85,000 of credit card debt, before moving out in October 2012.

Working closely with Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSL) and the City of Berkeley Police Department, Perkins Coie San Francisco attorneys Geoffrey Robinson and Michael Young gathered information that led the Alameda County District Attorney to file charges of criminal fraud and elder abuse against the caretaker, which are currently pending. Together with CCSL, we filed a parallel civil action against the caretaker and his wife for financial elder abuse, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and deceit. The case is currently pending in Alameda County Superior Court.

To prevent future harm, our team also obtained a conservatorship of R.Y.'s estate with a financial fiduciary, who agreed to act as conservator on a pro bono basis, to help protect our client's remaining income.

Assisting a Widow to Remain in Her Home

During the economic downturn, loan modifications were difficult to obtain for even the most "desirable" borrowers. It was particularly challenging for senior citizens, many of whom are on fixed incomes, yet must shoulder rising tax bills and daily expenses. That was the case for one 80-year-old widow, M.E., living in >>

a co-op unit in New York. She faced foreclosure on her home because she could no longer afford to repay a loan secured by her co-op.

Prior to her husband's death, M.E. readily met payments on the 2007 loan, which has an above-market 9.9-percent interest rate. However, she struggled after his death and when she filed her fourth pro se bankruptcy, the judge intervened and, working through the New York City Bar Justice Center, Consumer Bankruptcy Project, contacted Perkins Coie.

The pro bono team, which includes New York attorneys Schuyler Carroll, Shan A. Haider and Sean Connery and Chicago attorney Charles Gibbs, discovered that despite our client paying tens of thousands of dollars over the years, the total owed was approximately \$450,000 on a \$300,000 note. Notably, the value of the co-op unit is upward of \$700,000.

Our initial steps in taking on M.E.'s case included objecting to the bank's motion seeking to terminate the automatic stay. The court ruled in our client's favor. The bank's motion to terminate was predicated on procedural technicalities, and the court stated that it would not throw an 80-year-old woman on the street based on her missteps in navigating highly technical procedural requirements. The Perkins Coie team is seeking to increase our client's leverage, help her to maintain control over negotiations with the bank or allow her to control a sale process on the way to a successful resolution.

A NONAGENARIAN RECOVERS ON A FAILED INVESTMENT

IN 2003, GINO PAPERINI, A THEN 81-YEAR-OLD RETIRED APPLIANCE SALESMAN, INVESTED A third of his savings—the money he received from his parents' estate—in a California investment company. The company promised returns of 10 percent per year as well as the opportunity to cash in on an exciting portfolio of new insurance products and transactions. Ten years later, the promised payments stopped and a stream of IOUs and broken promises had taken their place. Paperini, who was desperate to get his money back, came to Perkins Coie through a local church group.

Portland attorneys Nathan Christensen, Gabrielle Richards and Stephen English formed a team to help Paperini. They filed a securities fraud and elder abuse claim against the company and its principals, investigated the company's purported dealings, and negotiated stipulated judgments from the company and the principals for the full return of Paperini's investment plus interest. To date, our client has recovered more than \$15,000, with the right to collect an additional \$100,000 or more. "The problem of elder abuse is one that is growing in our society and we were happy to be able to give Gino peace of mind that he would not end up a burden on his son," said English.



Portland attorneys helped 91-year-old Gino Paperini recover his losses incurred from an investment fraud.



UPHOLDING HOUSING AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

SAFE AND DECENT living conditions are among the most basic of human needs. Perkins Coie is dedicated to preventing homelessness where we can and to helping those facing housing insecurity. We represent individuals and nonprofit organizations focused on providing affordable housing and other essential services. Often financial insecurity leads to housing insecurity and our attorneys also advocate for the rights of individuals as consumers. Whether through impact litigation, advice at legal clinics, direct service to individuals or transactional assistance, our attorneys and staff provided much-needed help in this area.



What If We Could Cut Through Red Tape to Support Consumers?

UNTANGLING ACCESS TO BENEFITS IN A BANKRUPTCY

Since 2011, New York attorney Jeffrey Vanacore has represented A.F., a lifetime diabetic who has been unable to find stable work for the last few years. Following the death of his wife, who worked at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, A.F. expected to receive his wife's retirement benefits. However, the benefits became entangled in bankruptcy and bureaucratic issues.

A further complication involved A.F.'s sister-in-law, who staked a claim to the benefits. The insurance company sided with the sister-in-law and refused to release funds to our client. We filed suit in New York State Supreme Court and Vanacore was supervised by New York attorney Schuyler Carroll and assisted by Seattle ERISA attorneys Jeffrey Minzel and Vicky Chen.



We received the case upon a referral from the City Bar Justice Center's Consumer Bankruptcy Project in response to a request from the Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York, Cecelia Morris. At the conclusion of a year-long battle, the bankruptcy court ruled in our client's favor

and required the insurance company to release all funds to him. An additional part of our representation included persuading our client's previous counsel to waive its demand for a \$10,000 fee.

“When I told our client he had won, he broke down crying.”

“When I told our client he had won, he broke down crying. I think it was a good crying, more like relief that this part of his life is done,” said Vanacore.

SOLVING SMALL HOUSING CONFLICTS YIELDS MAJOR RESULTS

SOMETIMES THE RESOLUTION OF EVEN A MINOR DISPUTE CAN HAVE A disproportionately positive impact for clients caught up in the struggle, as illustrated by two matters recently handled by professionals in our Dallas office.



Securing Repairs for a Low-Income Homeowner

Dallas attorneys Kelly Hine, Wyatt Maxwell, and Rocio Garcia, with the support of paralegal Kristine Farmer, assisted in lifting a heavy burden for a working single mother in the Dallas area. She had purchased a “new” home from a builder specializing in low-income housing, only to discover that the structure had sat vacant for several years before the sale and the builder had failed to disclose significant problems with the house’s foundation. The homeowner asked the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) to help her hold the builder accountable for these latent construction defects. DVAP, a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, is dedicated to increasing and enhancing pro bono legal services to the poor in Dallas.

DVAP referred the case to Perkins Coie and our Dallas team negotiated a settlement with the builder to fund the necessary repairs, allowing our client to feel safer and more secure in her home.

Resolving a Deed Dispute

The Hine/Maxwell/Garcia pro bono team additionally helped a DVAP-referred client, J.K., who found himself mired in a sticky deed dispute. Twenty years prior, J.K.’s spouse had sold a single-family, separate-property residence to the plaintiff in the current dispute. The home sale was seller-financed using a 20-year payment plan. At closing, plaintiff took possession of the home, but title was not to be transferred until J.K.’s spouse received the last monthly installment.

When 20 years passed and the final payment was due, a dispute arose between the buyer and seller on the number of payments made. Further complicating the dispute, J.K.’s spouse had died intestate the prior year, leaving questions as to who held title to the residence: J.K. or the couple’s six children. Although J.K. had kept no records of payments received, and the plaintiff had documented the payments with regularity, we were able to address the title and probate considerations and also brokered a favorable resolution for our client.

THE VICTIM OF A SCAM REGAINS HER HOME

DURING THE HOUSING DOWNTURN, STRUGGLING HOMEOWNERS DESPERATE TO MODIFY THEIR LOANS

became prey to scams that inflicted injury upon injury. One unfortunate victim was M.C., a resident of South Los Angeles, who lost her job, fell behind on payments and defaulted on her mortgage. As the bank commenced foreclosure, agents for a loan modification company approached M.C. at her home.

The company told her that they could negotiate with the bank to cancel the foreclosure and to reduce her mortgage payments in half. They claimed to have hundreds of clients, which provided them with the leverage to renegotiate the mortgage to 20-50 cents on the dollar.

Wanting to keep her home, M.C. engaged the loan modification agency and signed a quitclaim deed to transfer her home to a trust owned and controlled by owners of the loan modification company. They instructed M.C. to stop paying the bank and instead pay one half of her mortgage payments to the trust. By doing so, the company turned her into a tenant of her own property.

As M.C. later discovered, the loan modification company never negotiated with the bank. Instead, the two brothers behind the fraudulent scheme spent her money on trips to Las Vegas, cars and other luxuries. M.C. lost title to her home and became one of the approximately 200 Southern California victims duped by this company. With few resources left, M.C. turned to pro bono powerhouse Public Counsel, which in turn reached out to Perkins Coie.

Arguing in Los Angeles Superior Court, our team successfully convinced the court that our client was an innocent victim and signed the quitclaim deed by fraudulent inducement. The court agreed and entered an order cancelling the fraudulent instrument, the quitclaim deed, which effectively gave M.C. the title back to her home.

“The criminal aspect of this case differed from our usual representations, and we are pleased to have played a role in righting this wrong for our client,” said Los Angeles attorney Jeffrey Goodfried, who represented M.C. along with attorneys Ron McIntire and Oliver Gold.



A HELPING HAND FOR A SURVIVOR

THE A.T.L.A.S.S.T. INITIATIVE IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN Family Services, law firms and community groups. Its focus is on helping survivors of human trafficking resolve legal challenges that stem from their exploitation. Clients in the program receive assistance in areas such as immigration, criminal records, family law, housing and public benefits. In one case, Chicago paralegal Rosa Ravelo and Chicago attorneys Kathleen Stetsko and Caryn Trombino, with guidance from Patrick Collins, helped a trafficking survivor to file a personal Chapter 7 bankruptcy and eventually discharge her debts.

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IS a global imperative and firmwide value. In addition to their regular practices, attorneys in the firm's Environment, Energy & Resources group handle an increasingly large number of matters for nonprofits and even individuals seeking help with public rights issues, such as the preservation of marine life and sustainable development.



What If We Could Protect Drinking Water?

HELPING CHINA SHAPE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) is an international program that promotes the development of law by working with in-country partners to build sustainable institutions and societies. The ROLI Asia division strives to promote good governance and public interest advocacy, as well as initiatives that specifically address emerging environmental governance concerns in China.

Known for the strength of its environmental practice, Perkins Coie was asked by ROLI China to provide legal analysis pertaining to the current hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) waste problem within Chinese borders. Most commonly associated with the movie “Erin Brockovich,” Cr(VI) is a carcinogen associated with cancers of the lung, nasal passages and sinus cavities. Cr(VI) is known to have caused contamination in the United States and now poses a threat to the well-being of the Chinese people.

A Chinese government investigation revealed that much of the millions of tons of chromium slag in China is being stockpiled rather than properly disposed of. To address this mounting problem, our team is providing guidance on the U.S. experience with Cr(VI) waste management; the U.S. legal regulatory scheme for safe transport, storage, management and disposal of Cr(VI); and international best practices for the same.

“The goal of the project is to help China develop environmental law on this subject to help solve the growing threat that Cr(VI) waste poses to the people and environment of China, but to do this by giving them a clear concise summary of the many ways the U.S. regulates that substance so that they can develop their own regulations,” said Portland attorney Tom Lindley, who leads the cross-discipline pro bono team. He is assisted on the ground by Shanghai attorney Fabiola Suwanto and in the United States by Bellevue attorney Pam Anderson. The team also includes attorneys and staff from five other firm offices.



FINDING A WIN-WIN SOLUTION TO A BROWNFIELDS CHALLENGE

PERKINS COIE PORTLAND ATTORNEYS KIRSTEN DAY AND POLLY HAMPTON REPRESENTED AN ELDERLY widow of limited means, O.W., who inherited a heavily contaminated, improperly zoned and highly problematic property after her husband's death. The vacant property, which her husband had hoped to redevelop as a retail space, formerly housed a dry-cleaning business and was wrought with serious environmental problems due to improper disposal of cleaning chemicals during the 1950-1980s.

Oregon established a Dry Cleaner Program in 1995 that permits the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to assess fees to ensure dry cleaners operate in an environmentally sound manner. The DEQ may regulate dry cleaners and have them fund cleanup of past contamination. According to the DEQ, the widow's property qualified for an immediate state-funded removal action, and the resulting environmental lien for DEQ's remediation costs, estimated to be more than \$100,000, represented a major financial hardship for our client.



When we became aware of O.W.'s challenges, we worked to implement an effective solution. We found a buyer to purchase, remediate and redevelop the ailing real estate. Then, we spearheaded months of negotiations with the DEQ, the City of Portland Brownfield Program and the buyer of the property to eventually close the sale.

In addition to the relief that our client experienced, the outcome was a success on several levels. According to Hampton, "The hard work paid off in a win-win for all parties: relief from liability, productive reuse of an abandoned property, and improved protection of human health and the urban environment."

HELPING SUSTAIN A CEQA CHALLENGE TO ATTAIN SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

THE CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS AND FILLING BUILT-UP URBAN areas, or infill communities, in the Bay Area include the need for environmentally conscious and socially responsible development. A San Francisco pro bono team, led by attorney Geoffrey Robinson, is currently representing several nonprofits, including the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) and the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California, focused on achieving those goals.

These organizations were concerned about air quality regulations adopted by the local air board, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). They feared that the regulations would have the unintended consequence of inhibiting development of urban, transit-oriented housing affordable to low-income households, including families with children, senior citizens and special needs populations.

On behalf of CCLR and the other nonprofits, we filed an amicus brief asking the California Court of Appeal whether the air quality studies required by BAAQMD were unnecessary under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The appellate court declined to reach this issue and upheld the regulations on other grounds. Undeterred, we then filed amicus letters on behalf of these organizations in the California Supreme Court urging the court to grant review of the case and to decide the issue the court of appeal had declined to reach. The California Supreme Court granted review of the case, limited to the issue on which we sought review, and we expect a decision in 2014.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

PERKINS COIE'S PRO BONO and community service commitments share the core value of giving. Employees gave their time and support in grass-roots activities, programs and projects across our offices nationwide. This year, we continued our generations-deep connection to those in military service, including working with legal service providers such as the ABA Military Pro Bono Project and the National Veterans Legal Services Program, as well as numerous shows of support firmwide.



Perkins Coie's Jennifer Pollack (l) and Jessica Griffith (r) present fundraiser contributions to Jan Burnham, board member of Soldier's Best Friend.

What If We Show Soldiers and Veterans Our Gratitude?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

HONORING AND EXPRESSING THANKS TO MILITARY VETERANS AND ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS, FROM World War I to Afghanistan, took place across the firm. Our Boise office reached out to patients of the Boise VA Medical Center as part of its Veterans Day commemoration. Staff members collected and delivered care packages to the medical center. Military ties run strong in our Boise office, including for receptionist Ashley DeLeon, who organized the office event. Her father, U.S. Army Col. Robin DeLeon, is a physician who joined the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school as a combat medic and serves as Assistant Chief of Rehabilitation at the Boise VA Medical Center.

In Phoenix, the Veterans Committee showed its support. On Veterans Day, it organized a delivery of thank you cards to the area VA Medical Center. Earlier in the fall, the committee hosted a Halloween bake-sale fundraiser for Soldier's Best Friend. This organization provides U.S. military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury with a trained service or therapeutic companion dog. Veterans Committee members Jessica Griffith and Jennifer Pollack attended a training session to watch the veterans and their new canine companions in action.

Seattle headquarters celebrated our troops at a social that included the Perkins Coie Carolers singing patriotic songs and a presentation from Operation Holiday Stockings, one of several military-focused groups we support. The nonprofit helps add cheer for troops stationed overseas by creating and sending hand-knit holiday stockings to our military members serving in war zones.

BRIEFINGS

U.S. COURT DELIVERS PRECEDENT-SETTING JUSTICE TO A RAPE VICTIM

A landmark decision favorable to our client, a rape victim, was obtained in a case being handled by Madison attorneys Christopher Hanewicz, David Jones and Truscenialyn Brooks. Our client, Australian Catherine Jane Fisher, was raped by U.S. Navy sailor Bloke Deans in Yokosuka, Japan. Deans left the country and the Japanese courts were unable to enforce the 3 million yen (roughly \$30,000) ruling ordered by



Pro bono client Catherine Fisher and Madison attorney Chris Hanewicz.

a Tokyo court against him. In November 2013, a Milwaukee County Circuit Court enforced the judgment against Deans, who now lives in Milwaukee. The verdict sets new precedent by enforcing a foreign judgment for rape in a U.S. court. “We are very proud to have represented Ms. Fisher in her tireless efforts to finally recognize a judgment to which she has long been entitled,” said Hanewicz, who led the pro bono team.

SUPPLYING SUPPORT FOR STARDUST BUILDING SUPPLIES

Phoenix attorneys Jennifer Understahl, Liana Spendlove and Beth Understahl recently advised the nonprofit Stardust Building Supplies on its lease of space in Glendale, Arizona for a new building-materials thrift store. Stardust encourages reusing and repurposing building materials and diverting demolition waste from landfills caused by the remodeling of homes and offices. They run several building-materials thrift stores in the Phoenix area, which sell donated building materials, appliances and other supplies at deep discounts, providing a resource to low-income families and individuals. Stardust uses the proceeds from its stores to help such community programs as Angels on Call and Gifts in Kind, which help provide housewares and building supplies to individuals and families in need.

HAGUE CONVENTION PROTECTIONS OBTAINED FOR A FAMILY

International parental child abductions are complex cases and Perkins Coie has helped several families in dangerous cross-border custody battles. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was intended to prevent parents from gaining a jurisdictional advantage in child-custody proceedings by unilaterally removing a child from his or her home country. In a recent case referred by the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Seattle attorneys Todd Rosencrans, David Lassen, Erin Fraser and Daniel Ridlon represented a client and a minor child in a three-day bench trial and effectively argued that certain exceptions recognized by the Convention applied and allowed them to remain in the United States.

A COMMITMENT TO CAPITAL CASES

Pro bono commitments to capital cases are often multiyear, complex challenges, such as our representation of Washington State Penitentiary death row inmate Darold Stenson. Perkins Coie, led by Seattle attorney Sherilyn Peterson, has represented Stenson on a pro bono basis since June 2008. Stenson was six days away from execution when the firm obtained a stay of his execution. Thereafter, as his criminal attorneys challenged his conviction with Perkins Coie’s assistance, Peterson successfully brought a civil constitutional challenge to Washington’s execution protocol and the state department of corrections changed its protocol.

In May 2012, the Washington Supreme Court reversed Stenson’s 1994 capital murder conviction. His case was remanded for a new trial and Peterson was appointed as one of his lawyers for the criminal retrial. After a six-week trial in 2013, multiple juror holdouts apparently questioned Stenson’s guilt but they eventually agreed with the majority. However, the trial team achieved a significant victory when the prosecutor abandoned her initial demand for the death penalty, so the recent conviction resulted in life in prison, not death.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Attorneys in our Washington, D.C. and Phoenix offices scored a major Supreme Court victory in *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*, a lawsuit challenging Arizona's requirement that an individual seeking to register to vote in Arizona must provide proof of citizenship. The requirement had led the state to reject tens of thousands of voter registration applications from eligible voters. In a 7-2 decision authored by Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court ruled in favor of our clients and affirmed Congress's authority to broadly regulate federal elections. The Court found that Arizona's registration requirement was preempted by federal law, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The Perkins Coie team in the



multiyear representation was led by Washington, D.C. attorney Karl Sandstrom and included Phoenix attorneys Amelia Gerlicher, James Ahlers and Jacob Robertson, and former firm attorneys Rhonda Barnes and Jim Barton, along with critical support from administrative staff in both offices.

AT RISK: THE RIGHT TO PROTEST



Perkins Coie represents Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, an organization of individuals who have protested against nuclear weapons for the past 30 years from a location outside the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Washington. At the end of 2013, we filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Apel* to uphold the organization's constitutional right to free speech. Perkins Coie team members include Boise attorneys Christine Salmi and Kelly Cameron and Seattle attorneys Randy Tyler and Eric Miller. A decision from the Court is expected in 2014.

ASSISTING D.C. RESIDENTS

Every month attorneys from the Washington, D.C. office staff the Consumer Law Resource Center (CLRC) which is run by the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program. During 2013, Perkins Coie volunteers provided more than 150 hours at the CLRC, which is housed inside the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The D.C. office's commitment resulted in assisting more than 222 people, many of whom reside in the district. Our attorneys assisted pro se individuals in completing pleadings and court forms, addressed consumer issues and provided resources and information on legal concerns.

2013

54,500

PRO BONO
HOURS

1,023

PRO BONO
MATTERS

934

ATTORNEYS
FIRMWIDE

19

OFFICES
U.S. AND ASIA

RECOGNIZING PRO BONO LEADERS

2013
AWARDS

PERKINS COIE AND our attorneys and staff receive awards and recognition each year for the effectiveness and commitment of our pro bono representations and community service efforts. Although our primary reward is seeing the changes we can help accomplish and the gratitude our pro bono clients often express, we also greatly appreciate the accolades and recognitions.

Pro Bono Award Winners

ABA Section of Litigation John
Minor Wisdom Public Service and
Professionalism Award

Alaska Bar Association Lifetime
Achievement Award for Pro Bono

American Civil Liberties Union of
Oregon 2013 Recognition

American Immigration Lawyers
Association 2013 Michael Maggio
Memorial Pro Bono Award

Arizona Foundation for Legal
Services and Education Top 50
Pro Bono Attorneys
Awarded to Jack Vincent

Century City Bar Association
Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year

Equality Arizona Human Rights
Award (Corporate)

Justice at Stake Ally of the
Courts Award

King County Bar Association
President's Award
Awarded to K.M. Das

The Moyer Foundation's
Scott Malbray Time, Talent &
Treasure Award

National Crime Victim Law
Institute, Pro Bono of the
Year Award

National Legal Aid and
Defender Association,
Beacon of Justice Award

Northwest Immigrant Rights
Project Amicus Award

Public Counsel's Adoptions Project
Volunteer of the Year
Awarded to Lauren Sliger

Refugee Women's Alliance
Community Impact Award

Seattle Met Magazine's Light a
Fire Award for Extraordinary Pro
Bono Contribution

Third Annual Alaska Attorney
General's Award for Pro Bono
Service
Awarded to Danielle Ryman

Urban League of Portland
*Outstanding pro bono work
recognition to Pat Simpson and
Perkins Coie*

Washington State Paralegal
Association Paralegal
Pro Bono Award
Awarded to Jane Frissell

AWARD SPOTLIGHT

Upholding the Rights of a Foster Child to Form a New Family

WHEN LOS ANGELES ATTORNEY LAUREN SLIGER RECEIVED HER VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT FROM THE Public Counsel Adoptions Project to finalize the adoption of a teenage girl who had been placed with her adopting family since she was an infant, Lauren's research revealed interesting information. The girl's medical condition qualified the adopting family for 10 years of retroactive funding and the amount due should have been paid at a higher rate than previously disbursed. However, this conflicted with Los Angeles County's policy to approve only 18 months of retroactive benefits.

To fight for her client's rights, Sliger presented the case in an Administrative Fair Hearing. Not only was the hearing required, but due to the novel argument the county presented in attempting to justify its denial of the funding, the Administrative Law Judge required a supplemental appeal brief from the adopting family. Sliger's superb advocacy won the case and the family will receive 10 years of retroactive payments totaling more than \$30,000.

The victory will also benefit other children in the system and the families who adopt them. "Lauren's brief has served as a model for use by other pro bono attorneys faced with the same argument, helping countless other families in Los Angeles County," said Public Counsel Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Karen Ullman.

In recognition of her extraordinary work for this family and others, Public Counsel recognized Sliger as a 2013 Pro Bono Hero during its annual award ceremony. Sliger said, "I appreciate being given the opportunity to help both my client and other adopting families in L.A. County."



Lauren Sliger was named Public Counsel's Adoptions Project Volunteer of the Year.

Seattle Met Light a Fire Award

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRM'S LONGTIME SUPPORT OF LEGAL VOICE, THE WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS organization, *Seattle Met* recognized Perkins Coie with its 2013 Light a Fire Award for Extraordinary Pro Bono contribution.

The magazine noted our ongoing work with Legal Voice on a case involving two Olympia pharmacists and a pharmacy owner suing on the legal requirement to sell over-the-counter emergency contraception (*Stormans*). The magazine also mentioned our defense of a nonbiological lesbian parent's right to guardianship, among other cases. Legal Voice's Janet Chung estimated the firm has donated more than \$1 million in billable hours to the pharmacy case alone. She said, "Our entire model depends on volunteer lawyers. . . Without generous attorneys like those at Perkins Coie there would be no one to defend these women."



Seattle attorney Tom Boeder, (center), who has led litigation in the Stormans case, accepts Seattle Met's Light a Fire Award for Extraordinary Pro Bono Contribution on behalf of the firm.

PRO BONO LEADERSHIP AWARDS

In 2001, the firm created the Perkins Coie Pro Bono Leadership Award to annually recognize lawyers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to providing pro bono services to our clients. In acknowledgment of the increased depth and breadth of our pro bono work, in 2011 we expanded this award to recognize multiple categories of volunteers, including partner, associate/counsel, team/project and staff. Award winners have the opportunity to direct a \$750 charitable contribution to the legal service organization of their choice.

Leadership Award Winners

PARTNER AWARD

Brent Bullock

SEE PAGE 12

ASSOCIATE/COUNSEL AWARD

Jeffrey C. Minzel

SEE PAGE 24

TEAM PROJECT AWARD

WILBUR TEAM

James Williams

Breana Roos

J. Camille Fisher

David Steele

Joel Higa

Carol Kness

Joyce Norville

Chris Knowlden

SEE PAGE 17

STAFF AWARD

Brenda Horn

SEE PAGE 19

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

The Pro Bono Committee recognizes selected staff members with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Visa gift card for their extraordinary work in support of the firm's pro bono efforts in 2013. We know that many other members of our staff also provided valuable support on behalf of our pro bono clients. We thank all of you for your dedication and support.

Certificate of Appreciation Recipients

Valentina Barei

Cathy Biro

April Campbell

Elaine Cherry

Jessica Flesner

Delana Freouf

Jane Frissell

Jose Gamez

Sharon Grisham

Lorna Holland

Mark Just

Stephanie Lawson

Pip Masion

Jessica Matamoros

Helen Mays

Carol McPherson

Cynthia Mejia

Kimball Mullins

Lisa Neal

Sharon Neilson

Julie Pambianco

Sergio Perez

Rosa Ravelo

Susan Roberts

Martha Rosario

David Sebba

Eric Sisson

Bea Stam

Ivone Valenzuela

Marchand Waldal

Jason Walter

Kristen Watson

Clair Wendt

CONTRIBUTORS DONATING MORE THAN 50 HOURS OF SERVICE

The Pro Bono Committee would like to thank the following Perkins Coie lawyers and paralegals who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services to our clients in 2013:

James A. Ahlers	Ulrike B. Connelly	Zane A. Gilmer	Jade R. Lambert Routson	Gretchen M. Paine	Tara K. Seracka
Geraldine M. Alexis	Sean M. Connery	David J. Gold	Kirstin E. Larson	Julie R. Pambianco	Rebecca K. Setlow
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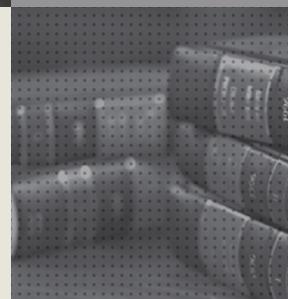


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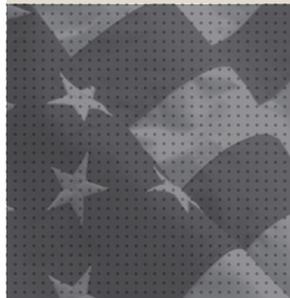
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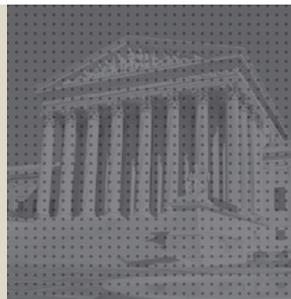


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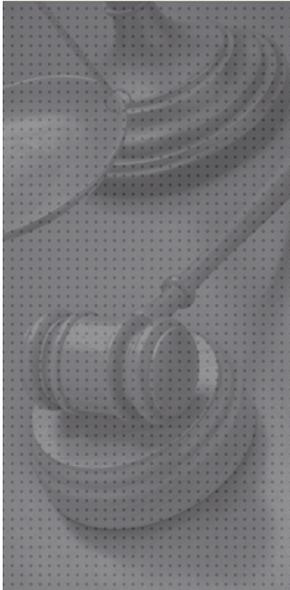
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