

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY'S 2011 PRO BONO AWARDS



THE
LEGAL
AID
SOCIETY

MAKING THE CASE FOR HUMANITY



Wednesday,
November 9, 2011

PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at Espace

**Welcome from the Chairman of The Legal Aid Society
Richard J. Davis**

**Introduction of Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman
Richard J. Davis**

Remarks by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman

**Greetings from the President of The Legal Aid Society
Blaine (Fin) V. Fogg**

**Presentation of the 2011 Pro Bono Publico and Public Service Law Firm
Award to Shearman & Sterling LLP**

**Master of Ceremonies
Steven Banks
Attorney-in-Chief**

**Presentation of the 2011 Pro Bono Publico Awards
Chief Judge Lippman and Steven Banks**

*The Legal Aid Society expresses its appreciation to Espace
for hosting the 2011 Pro Bono Awards ceremony
and to William Curran of Curran Affairs.*

*The Pro Bono Staff includes Louis Sartori, Director;
Marlene Halpern, Supervising Attorney; Rachel Tassano, Pro Bono Administrator;
and Rosemary Hare-Bey, Pro Bono Coordinator*



THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY'S 2011 PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARDS

Presented by The Honorable Jonathan Lippman,
Chief Judge of the State of New York.

For more than 135 years, the major New York City law firms have served as partners with The Legal Aid Society in securing the fundamental legal rights of low-income New Yorkers in critical need of counsel but unable to afford it.

The Legal Aid Society's 2011 Pro Bono Publico Awards epitomize the enduring strength of this partnership, delivering life-changing legal assistance to our City's most vulnerable residents – for example, survivors of domestic violence, homeless and imminently homeless children and adults, immigrants, senior citizens, unemployed and low-wage workers, children and adults with disabilities and chronically ill children and adults, neglected or abused children, persons living with HIV/AIDS, New Yorkers wrongfully accused of crimes, and inmates in the jails on Rikers Island and prisoners in correctional facilities throughout the State of New York.

PRO BONO PUBLICO AND PUBLIC SERVICE LAW FIRM AWARD

Shearman & Sterling LLP is honored for its exceptional pro bono commitment to The Legal Aid Society and its clients. The firm is an exemplary pro bono partner, serving as co-counsel on a significant lawsuit on behalf of low-income workers, instituting an innovative law firm/corporate pro bono project to address the unmet legal needs of adults and children with disabilities, developing a unique public benefits advocacy program to represent public assistance recipients at Fair Hearings, and providing outstanding appellate counsel for adults accused of criminal conduct. The firm also has handled a variety of civil legal matters and has provided translation support to the Society's three Practices: Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Rights.

In a major federal class action affecting the rights of low-income employees, **Jaclyn Barnao, Colin Cassidy, Adam Hakki, Darren Ishmael, John Nathanson, Mojyoin Onijala** and **Carine Rubinetti**, are working with the Civil Practice's Employment Law Unit to address a pizza franchise's systemic failure to pay its delivery workers wages due them and to comply with State and federal labor laws. Coordinated by Pro Bono Director and Counsel **Saralyn Cohen** and **Denise Karamian**, the firm has partnered with **Credit Suisse** to establish a Supplemental Social Security Income Waiver Clinic, which

assists individuals with disabilities who are threatened with loss of crucial benefits due to alleged overpayments. This unique law firm/corporate pro bono project has contributed more than 1,550 hours of legal assistance on behalf of this vulnerable population, enabling them to maintain an independent, modest lifestyle despite their disability. In addition, **Brian Polovoy, Melissa Godwin, Josh Goodman, and Michael Haidas, Zachary Johnson and Tai Park** (formerly with the firm), teamed up with the Criminal Appeals Bureau and the Criminal Defense Practice, spearheading an investigation into the wrongful conviction of man who has spent 20 years in prison. Their efforts resulted in the vacatur of the conviction on grounds of newly discovered evidence and the inmate's eventual release.

INNOVATIVE CORPORATE/LAW FIRM/PARTNERSHIP

Credit Suisse is recognized for their commitment to protect vital Social Security Disability benefits for low-income New Yorkers with disabilities. **Andrew Hutcher and Andrew Lerner** of Credit Suisse have coordinated six SSI Waiver clinics at which teams of **Shearman Sterling LLP** and **Credit Suisse** attorneys and legal assistants assist individuals with disabilities who are threatened with loss of crucial benefits due to alleged overpayments. This unique corporate/law firm pro bono project has counseled 42 clients, expanding the Society's capacity to assist this population at risk of increased health care related needs.

(Staff: Anne Callagy and Jocelyne Martinez)

ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Externships provide exceptional client representation and pro bono assistance to The Legal Aid Society. During this past year, law firms offering deferred first year associates the opportunity to volunteer up to one year with public interest organizations augmented traditional externship programs. The Legal Aid Society recognizes the following firms for this innovative pro bono model: **Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP; Mayer Brown LLP; Proskauer Rose LLP; Ropes & Gray LLP; and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.**

The Legal Aid Society's Board firms also continued to support traditional externship programs. **Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP** continued their recently created criminal defense externship, joining **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP; and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**, whose long-standing externship programs continue to make an enormous difference in the Civil and Juvenile Rights Practices. **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP** completed the second year of the corporate externship with the Civil Practice's Community Development Project, and **White & Case LLP** has an extern program that provides a full-time attorney on a three-month rotation to work directly with the Society's General Counsel.

The **Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP Community Service Fellowship Program** enables incoming first-year associates to volunteer for one year at a public interest organization. During this past year, four Dewey externs expanded the capacity of the Community Development Project, served in the Civil, Juvenile Rights and Criminal Practices, and supported the work of the Society's General Counsel. They are **Melissa Causey, Rachel Stanton, Joy Wang** and **Jad Itani**.

(Staff: Magda Rosa Rios, Scott Rosenberg, Irwin Shaw, and Carolyn Silvers)

Dewey & LeBoeuf is also recognized for its steadfast representation of a long-term lawful permanent resident with extensive family ties in the United States. The successful legal team of **Catherine Archibald, Chad Denton, Riki King, Matthew Oxman, Eri-dania Perez** and **Jennifer Simon** enabled an immigrant client to retain her legal status and remain with her family.

(Staff: David Stern)

Megan Levine, a deferred **Mayer Brown LLP** associate, was a year-long extern with the Bronx Neighborhood Civil office.

(Staff: Lauren Donnelly)

Proskauer Rose LLP's deferred associate **Nicole Medham** provided exceptional service to the Employment Law Unit. In addition, **Seth Fier** of Proskauer successfully litigated the vacatur of a criminal sentence based on police misconduct.

(Staff: Karen Cacace, Shilpy Goswami, and Karen Kalikow)

Ropes & Gray LLP is honored for its extensive deferred first year associate program, which for the second year expanded the capacity of the Society to provide legal assistance. **Meredythe Ryan** assisted the Immigration Law Unit, **Mekhala Raghupathy** volunteered with the Queens Neighborhood Civil Office; and **Gretchen Reeser** worked with the Criminal Defense Practice.

(Staff: Maria Navarro, April Newbauer, and Irwin Shaw)

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP is honored for its long-standing externship program. **Fried, Frank** externs, **Thao Tran** and **Andrew Idrizovic**, provided invaluable assistance on a variety of matters for nonprofits, low-income small businesses, and HDFC housing cooperatives.

(Staff: Community Development Project)

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP is being honored for its long-standing tradition of providing externs in various practice areas who assist in the representation of a substantial number of clients. **Alicia Bove, Regina Gromen** and **Jennie Woltz** worked in the Juvenile Rights Practice; **Andrew Lichtenberg** has continued to work with the Immigration Law Unit's Detention Project; and **Eluard Alegre** did exceptional work as a full-fledged member of the Community Development Project.

(Staff: Community Development Project, Immigration Law Unit, & Juvenile Rights Practice)

Milbank attorneys also provided exceptional representation in a number of other matters. **Ranee Adipat, Kenneth Sanocki and Jeremy Steckel** are recognized for their outstanding assistance in an immigration case before the Federal District Court in the Southern District challenging the pattern and practice of the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services of erroneously denying naturalization applications of eligible lawful permanent residents. **Matthew Latterner** worked tirelessly on behalf of a 17-year-old youth languishing in jail who needed to access substantial funds in an infant compromise account to make bail.

(Staff: Olivia Cassin and Emily Ruben)

Jane Hanson and Bruce Kayle of **Milbank, Tweed** are honored for assisting The Legal Aid Society. Mr. Kayle is also recognized, along with **Joanna Grossman**, for extraordinary dedication in helping a senior struggling through the recession to settle her State tax debt of over \$20,000 for \$200.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg and the Low Income Taxpayer's Clinic)

Christophe Difo of **Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C.** volunteered as an extern with the Bronx Neighborhood Civil office

(Staff: Lauren Donnelly)

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CLIENTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Legal Aid Society's Criminal Practice is the largest public defender organization in the country and serves as the primary defender in New York City, handling some 240,000 cases annually. The Criminal Defense Pro Bono Project, which is housed in the Manhattan Criminal Defense Trial Office, provides additional and much needed legal resources to assist Legal Aid attorneys with their substantial caseloads. Volunteer lawyers allocate a third of their time over a nine-month period or serve as full-time externs for up to six months. The four law firms that participated in the project are recognized for their outstanding commitment to the representation of clients involved in the criminal justice system. They are **Cooley LLP; Davis Polk & Wardell LLP; Kramer Levin Naf-talis & Frankel LLP;** and **White & Case LLP.**

In addition to its outstanding work for Legal Aid clients involved in the criminal justice system, **Cooley LLP** has expanded the traditional boundaries of its excellent pro bono immigration practice to include preparation and filing of tax returns for immigrants seeking to stay in the United States. Led by partners **Lesse Castleberry** and **Alan Cohen**, a team of lawyers that included **Stanley Barsky, Maureen Hannon** and **Michael Schwartz** assisted in more than ten cases, traveled to immigration detention centers in New Jersey and upstate New York, and helped clients secure legal status.

*(Staff: Olivia Cassin, Yvonne Floyd-Mayers, Sarah Gillman, Shannon McKinnon,
Maria Navarro and David Stern)*

Tejal Shah of **Cooley** dedicated 30 percent of her time over the course of nine months to the defense of adults accused of criminal conduct. She is recognized for her conscientious and excellent representation of clients in misdemeanor matters and assistance with felony cases.

(Staff: Irwin Shaw)

Cooley Senior Partner **William Schwartz** and Associate **Rachel Kane** are recognized for their exceptional pro bono work as co-counsel with the Juvenile Rights Practice on *E.H. v. City of NY et al.*, a federal civil rights lawsuit charging police abuse of a 15-year-old girl.

(Staff: Christine Bella)

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP is recognized as one of the original firms that pioneered the Criminal Defense Pro Bono Project. For example, **Jennifer Diana** and **Darren LaVerne** (formerly with the firm and the Criminal Defense Project), won a reversal in a troubling one-witness identification case.

(Staff: David Crow, Richard Josselson, Irwin Shaw)

Theodore Ruthizer, Jennifer Raiola Danzo and **Stacy Hong** of **Kramer Levin** are honored for their service to The Legal Aid Society.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg)

EXPANSION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE COUNSEL

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP is recognized for its extraordinary commitment in providing a high-level legal team to assist The Legal Aid Society in conducting innovative data research and investigation in preparation for the implementation of the landmark State criminal defense case cap law to address the Criminal Practice's excessive criminal defense caseloads. The firm's groundbreaking work with the Society culminated in the formulation of a criminal case cap standard by Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau, which has improved the quality of criminal defense representation in New York City. The firm continues to invest substantial resources in the effort to analyze how best to structure the delivery of criminal defense and ancillary support services during the four-year phase-in of the new criminal case cap rule. The firm has also represented the Society in trial court and appellate litigation challenging the City's plan to allocate conflict cases to the Criminal Practice. The **Davis Polk** team includes **Daniel Kolb, Edith Beerdson, Alex Crohn** and **Nicholas Stabile**.

(Staff: Seymour James, William Gibney and Amanda Moretti)

Daniel Loss participated in the Criminal Defense Pro Bono Project, working as an extern. He is recognized for his conscientious and excellent representation of clients in misdemeanor matters and assistance with felony trials.

(Staff: Irwin Shaw)

Davis Polk also is recognized for its outstanding participation in the Rockefeller Re-Sentencing Project, representing numerous inmates seeking redress from draconian sentences.

(Staff: David Crow)

The firm is honored as co-counsel in class action litigation challenging the Administration of Children Services's failure to ensure that children aging out of foster care have stable and adequate housing. **James W.B. Benkard, Sharon Katz, Scott Luftglass** and **David Pitluck** comprise the excellent legal team working with the Juvenile Rights Practice.

(Staff: Tamara Steckler, Lisa Freeman, Karen Gutheil, Kimberly Forte)

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW LEADERSHIP AWARD

James Stillwaggon, Of Counsel at **White & Case LLP**, is recognized for his extraordinary contribution as a pro bono attorney, a leader of **White & Case's** outstanding pro bono programs and a constant source of support to The Legal Aid Society and its clients. Mr. Stillwaggon has been instrumental in expanding the firm's multifaceted pro bono partnership with the Society. Under his leadership, the firm has developed the Criminal Defense Pro Bono Project and the General Counsel Externship, and has worked collaboratively with the Immigration Unit to provide representation to unaccompanied immigrant youth.

(Staff: Pro Bono Practice)

CRIMINAL APPEALS

White & Case LLP is recognized for its many years as outstanding pro bono appellate counsel on a variety of matters with the Criminal Appeals Bureau. During the past year, **Louis O'Neill** provided outstanding counsel on a complex white collar appeal; **Andrew Lizotte**, a former extern with the Criminal Practice, and **Aditi Paranjpaye** have been diligently re-investigating a troubling Kings County felony conviction; **Brooke Sharpe** and **Alan Schindler**, also former Criminal Practice externs, as well as **Peter Moran**, are handling additional appeals.

(Staff: David Crow)

White & Case also is being honored for its long-standing General Counsel externship program, and its participation in the Criminal Defense Project. **Germaine Dunn**, a General Counsel extern, provided invaluable assistance on a full range of corporate, real estate, insurance, contract, and ethics issues. For example, **Sean Shecter** is recognized for his conscientious and excellent representation of clients in misdemeanor matters, including acting as second seat on a five-day trial, as a part-time volunteer attorney with the Criminal Defense Project. In addition, **Jennifer Oh**, a former extern with the Immigration Law Unit,

demonstrated exceptional litigation and client relationship skills in the successful representation of a permanent resident who had been in the United States since 1958.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg, Jojo Annobil, Sarah Gillman, Maria Navarro and Irwin Shaw)

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP won a rare new trial in a murder case on grounds of newly discovered evidence, and successfully defended the ruling on appeal. After the District Attorney declined to re-prosecute, our client was released from prison after serving 14 years. Presiding Partner **Evan Chesler** argued the appeal and the legal team was overseen by partners **Darin McAtee** and **Antony Ryan** and assisted by solo practitioner Thomas Hoffman's seven-year investigation of the case.

(Staff: David Crow, Steven Silberblatt, Elon Harpaz)

Arnold & Porter LLP is recognized for the firm's five-year appellate representation in which **Mark Kleyna** and **Alex Brophy** (formerly with the firm) have asked the Second Circuit to recognize that federal courts can consider new scientific developments to conclude that the trial court unreasonably applied U.S. Supreme Court standards for the admission of identification evidence.

(Staff: David Crow)

Kirkland & Ellis LLP is honored for outstanding representation on a criminal appeal. **Alexis Gorton** and **Yael Fischer** provided exceptional lawyering on diverse appellate arguments, investigation of a variety of outside-the-record materials, and advice on employment issues.

(Staff: David Crow)

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS AND LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES

The Legal Aid Society provides counsel to hundreds of low-income New Yorkers who are caught in the bureaucratic maze of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the federal Social Security Administration. Without legal representation, many of these clients would lose irreplaceable affordable housing or be denied subsistence benefits.

For more than 15 years, the law firm of **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates** has contributed pro bono services to increase the Society's capacity to represent this population at administrative hearings. Last year, 33 attorneys and numerous summer associates handled 30 NYCHA and Social Security Disability cases. The outstanding Skadden attorneys participating in this project include **Jeremy Berman, Katy Donlan, Shari Graham, Karen Hoffman Lent, Ashley Lott, Richard Rothblatt, Anna Salek, Erin Simmons, Manoj Viswanathan, Michael Welhouse, Kamali Willett** and **Delroy Wright**.

(Staff: The Civil Practice)

During their externships, **Emily Liu** and **Aaron Krawitz** of **Skadden, Arps** provided excellent representation to clients in the Civil Practice’s Harlem Community Law Office in a variety of litigated matters in diverse administrative and judicial forums.

(Staff: Karen Hambrick and Elizabeth Hay)

Brenna DeVaney of **Skadden, Arps** is recognized for her Citywide leadership in bringing together public interest law firms, the private bar, and corporations to develop pro bono best practices and expand access to justice for low-income New Yorkers.

(Staff: The Pro Bono Practice)

Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP is recognized for providing outstanding individual representation that served diverse client needs in the areas of housing, disability, and consumer law.

(Staff: The Pro Bono Practice)

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANT ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Several firms have provided pro bono assistance in the area of immigration matters in a variety of ways, including direct representation of immigrant adults who face deportation and of abandoned and abused youth who have no ties to their native countries, staffing an immigration hotline, and serving as co-counsel for complex litigation.

Latham & Watkins LLP has been the leading firm to represent abused, abandoned, and neglected immigrant youth who have no ties to their native country to obtain permanent legal status so they can remain in the United States. **Latham’s** team, led and supervised by **John Castiglione**, works with the Civil Practice’s Immigration Law Unit. **Jessalyn Garvey**, **Hayley Moore**, **John Molluzzo** and **Lillian Lardy** have represented immigrant youth in multiple cases and supervised new cases. **Melissa Baumgartner**, **Elana Cooper** and **Kelli Sussman** have provided tireless counsel for youth from Liberia, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, and **Spencer Ricks** spent countless hours towards the creation of a Special Immigrant Juvenile Status handbook.

Joseph Sorkin and **Jacqueline Yecies** of **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**, and **Jacob Waldman** and **Jessica Cherry** (formerly with the firm) provided zealous representation for a victim of domestic violence seeking cancellation of removal on an extremely contentious and difficult appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”). They successfully opposed the Department of Homeland Security appeal of the BIA’s cancellation of removal decision and the client has been issued a Permanent Resident Card.

(Staff: Shannon McKinnon)

Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP is recognized for staffing The Legal Aid Society's Detention Defense Hotline for detained immigrants. Each week, associates and paralegals answer calls and conduct phone interviews, providing indispensable assistance to the Civil Practice's Immigration Law Unit

(Staff: Maria Navarro)

Daniel Grossman, Kyle Leingang, Amanda Mayer and Eduardo Vidal of Hughes Hubbard are honored for their outstanding and comprehensive provision of transactional legal assistance to an immigrant owned, low-income start-up small business that sells edible flower fruit arrangements made from dehydrated organic tropical fruits. **Christine Fitzgerald** provided excellent legal counsel for a nonprofit social and economic justice organization on employment issues and trained its Board and Senior Management on non-discriminatory employment practices.

(Staff: Susan Chase and Rolando Gonzalez)

In addition to individual immigration assistance, **Hughes Hubbard & Reed** has been involved in a number of other initiatives. The firm has played an extraordinary role as co-counsel on *M.K.B. v. Eggleston*, a class action on behalf of immigrants wrongfully denied public benefits because of their immigration status. Although the settlement was due to expire in 2011, ongoing violations by the City and State defendants necessitated a court-ordered extension until February 2013. **Ronald Abramson, Betsy Pierce, Jesse James and Valerie Sorensen** have dedicated countless hours to this litigation on behalf of our clients. The continued assistance and support provided by the firm and legal team has been exceptional.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg and Susan Welber)

Reuben Borman and Sarah Cave of the firm are honored for their outstanding work as co-counsel with the Juvenile Rights Practice in *Rivera, et al. v. Mattingly, et al.*, a federal lawsuit challenging the unlawful removal of children from their kinship foster family and the excessive delay in returning them home.

(Staff: Lisa Freeman and Theresa Moser)

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP is honored for its strong partnership with our Northern Manhattan Immigrant Defense Project. **Juan Arteaga, Jocelyn Campanaro, Joan Flaherty, Paul Gluckow, Stephanie Mash, Dan Shin, Alberto Silva** (formerly with the firm), **Michael Silver, T. Alora Thomas and Amanda Wetzel** are recognized for their successful representation of lawful permanent residents who are now being permitted to remain in the United States. Their exceptional lawyering was on behalf of a mother with four U.S. citizen children, an abandoned Russian immigrant who grew up in foster care, a gentleman with severe disabilities, and a 71-year-old long-term lawful permanent resident with extensive U.S. family ties.

(Staff: Maria Navarro and Shannon McKinnon)

Simpson lawyers **Juan Arteaga, Kate Dominguez, Paul Gluckow, Rita Maxwell and MaryAnn Mindrum** (formerly with the firm) are recognized for their representation of a Dominican client who had lived in this country without legal status for some 20 years and was the sole provider for his twin teenage sons. The outstanding Simpson legal team convinced the immigration judge that the children would suffer “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship” if their father were to be deported to Dominican Republic.

(Staff: David Stern)

Simpson externs **Philip Buffa and Philip Russ** (formerly with the firm) expanded the outreach of the Civil Practice’s Community Development Project by assisting with trainings and workshops and focusing on corporate practices for nonprofits and low-income Harlem businesses.

(Staff: Community Development Project)

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP is recognized for the firm’s exceptional assistance on a noteworthy immigration case in which the U.S. District Court for the Southern District granted citizenship to a former Vietnam War veteran who had resided in the United States for more than 50 years. The published decision has received widespread attention due to its in-depth discussion of the “good moral character” requirement for US citizenship and will provide support for countless naturalization applicants in the future. The outstanding legal team was composed of **William Hughes, John McCarthy, Matthew Parham** (formerly with the firm) and **Heather Volik**.

(Staff: Amy Meselson)

PRISONERS’ RIGHTS PROJECT LITIGATION BENEFITS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP is recognized for its outstanding work as co-counsel with the Society’s Prisoners’ Rights Project in *Amador v. Andrews*, a class action on behalf of women prisoners who have been sexually abused by male correctional officers in the New York jails. After eight years of steadfast support, the legal team achieved a major victory in the Second Circuit, which ruled that the women’s claims were not moot, and rejected the State’s argument that plaintiffs could not challenge policies of inadequate training, supervision, and discipline of staff unless they have spelled them out in a prison grievance. The **Debevoise** team is led by partner **Maeve O’Connor** and includes **Charles Baxter, Stephanie Brannen, Svetlana Eisenberg, Christine Ford, Ashley Kelly, Maria Lapetina, Elizabeth Maxwell, Lauren Sypek, Robert Tebbenkamp, Amanda Ulrich, Sarah Wolf, Elizabeth Maxwell and Alison Mikkor** (formerly with the firm).

(Staff: Dori Lewis and Lisa Freeman)

In addition to **Debevoise & Plimpton**'s pro bono assistance in prisoners' rights matters, **Berglind Halldorsdottir Birkland** provided outstanding representation to a number of long-term permanent residents with strong ties to the United States.

(Staff: Olivia Cassin)

Alicia McCarthy from the firm is also recognized for assisting The Legal Aid Society.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg)

A legal team from **Hunton & Williams LLP** successfully settled a federal lawsuit brought on behalf of a prisoner who was assaulted by officers at Wende Correctional Facility and suffered severe multiple injuries. The team included **Dee Ann Dorsey, Sharon Mills, Paul Stephan IV, Scott Bernstein** and **Matthew Freimuth**. **Joseph Kelemen** of the Western New York Law Center, Inc., served as local counsel.

(Staff: John Boston and Milton Zelermyer)

Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP and the firm's attorney **Amy Penn** are recognized for their efforts in the Court of Claims on behalf of a prisoner who allegedly was stabbed with an ice pick by another inmate several times after advising prison officials that he was at risk because he had just "resigned" from gang membership.

(Staff: Dori Lewis)

Ronald Blum and **Nicole German** of **Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP** are honored for their tenacious representation of a prisoner with an exemplary record of rehabilitation on a difficult parole appeal.

(Staff: Dori Lewis)

Dechert LLP is recognized for its outstanding pro bono contributions to protect the rights of prisoners to receive adequate medical care and to provide persons with mental illness suffering from substance abuse with access to alternatives to incarceration. **David Hoffner** and **Yelena Shreyberg** are honored for their vigorous efforts as co-counsel with the Prisoners' Rights Project to preserve the 21-year consent judgment in *Milburn v. Goord*, a class action settlement to ensure that prisoners at Green Haven Correctional Facility receive appropriate medical care. The State has completed the re-retrofitting of the Unit for the Physically Disabled, enabling more than 20 wheelchair bound inmates to be housed — many closer to their homes — and affording them greater access to appropriate programmatic and medical services, including 24-hour nursing care.

(Staff: Dori Lewis)

Thomas Munno, Managing Partner of **Dechert**'s New York office, is honored for his zealous representation of a prisoner with a mental disability who had been fined for the condition of his property while he was incarcerated and had his collection of "vintage cars" removed by the locality without reasonable due process safeguards.

(Staff: John Boston)

George Wukoson of the firm is recognized for his exceptional representation of 16 indigent tenants with Section 8 vouchers who were being harmed and threatened with loss of their homes because of the illegal and discriminatory practices of their landlords' refusal to accept the subsidies.

(Staff Robert Desir and Judith Goldiner)

CAPITAL DEFENSE WORK

Dechert LLP and **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** are honored for their extraordinary commitment on two Alabama death penalty cases, adding vital legal and expert resources to supplement the pro bono work of The Legal Aid Society's attorneys.

Benjamin Rosenberg of **Dechert** and **Michael Goldman** (formerly with the firm) have worked tirelessly as co-counsel *State v. Casey McWhorter*, an appeal to Alabama's Court of Criminal appeals presenting complex claims of ineffective assistance of counsel at the penalty phase of the proceeding and vacatur of the conviction due to a juror withholding pertinent background information during the jury selection process.

(Staff: Robert Newman)

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has provided extraordinary resources on behalf of Derrick DeBruce, an inmate on Alabama's death row since 1992. **Weil's** legal team consists of **Carl Lobell, R. Bruce Rich, Elizabeth Weiswasser, Gregory Silbert, Adam Banks, Brian Chang, Aaron Huang, Kami Lizarraga, Lucy Muzzy, Danielle Rosenthal, Daniel Decker, June Lee** and **Jennifer Wu**. **Weil** is co-counsel on an appeal to the 11th Circuit on a strong claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. Moreover, the prison has initiated a reevaluation of Mr. DeBruce's medical treatment after the firm pursued legal remedies concerning inadequate medical care.

(Staff: Marlen Bodden, Joshua Goldfein, and Arthur Hopkirk)

AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP is also honored for its outstanding work as co-counsel with the Society's Civil Practice in *Zheng v. The City Of New York*, a class action to enjoin the City from cutting off Advantage rent subsidy payments, which it had guaranteed for one to two years to 16,000 formerly homeless families and individuals. The Advantage legal team, litigating at the trial and appellate level, obtained an initial class-wide temporary restraining order and then class certification on consent, represented the plaintiff class during a six-day trial, and secured an appellate injunction pending appeal that has prevented the Advantage tenants from facing eviction and having to re-enter the homeless shelter system. The legal team is led by partners **Konrad Cailteux** and **Debra Dandeneau**, and includes **Nicole Aliseo, Frank Grese, Jae Kim** (formerly with the

firm), **Isabella Lacayo, Adam Lavine, Arielle Lenza , Elizabeth McConville, Jesse Morris, Kyle Ortiz, Emily Pincow and Andrea Wilmer.**

Ronit Berkovich, Bruce Colbath, Stacey Harkey and Victoria Vron of Weil provided zealous and expedited counsel on the development of a proposed class action to address the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) termination of families from the Section 8 subsidy program without providing legally required notice and an opportunity to be heard. In addition, **Weil's** attorneys represented individual class members threatened with eviction because of the illegal policy. Their advocacy compelled NYCHA to provide all families terminated in 2010 for allegedly failing to allow their apartment to be inspected with a new opportunity for a hearing.

(Staff: Steven Banks, Jane Sujen Bock, Joshua Goldfein, Judith Goldiner, Lucy Newman and Cristina Schrum-Herrera)

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP also is honored for its wide-ranging deferred first year associate program, which, for the second year, expanded the capacity of the Society to provide legal assistance. **Stephen Kyriacou** (formerly with the firm) assisted the Criminal Appeals Bureau, **Kate Napalkova** volunteered with the Community Development Project, **Arielle Pankowski** worked with the Immigration Law Unit, and **Paul Overmyer** provided support to the Society's General Counsel.

(Staff: Stephen Falla-Riff, Rolando Gonzalez, Maria E. Navarro, Cristina Romero, Scott Rosenberg and Richard Joselson)

Adam Feit, John Goldman and Carlos Larkin of Weil have provided outstanding real estate assistance in a matrimonial case, which effectuated the transfer and recording of the marital property to the wife and provided the essential element for her to successfully and securely move on with her life.

(Staff: Emily Ruben)

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP is recognized for exceptional assistance to The Legal Aid Society in protecting the right to life-sustaining shelter for homeless New Yorkers. **Michael Bongiorno** and **Sarah Mohr** worked with the Society's Homeless Rights Project to provide representation to the Coalition for the Homeless in connection with the Coalition's advocacy on behalf of homeless single adult women and homeless single adult men.

(Staff: Steven Banks and Joshua Goldfein.)

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP is recognized for its work as co-counsel in class action litigation, *Moya Barahona v. Napolitano*, which challenged federally imposed filing fees for immigration and naturalization benefits. **Mary Eaton, Jeffrey Korn, Carissa Mann, Gregory Reid and Sarah Wastler** comprised the firm's outstanding legal team that advocated that certain fees improperly required applicants to pay for benefits that they did

not seek and that all of the fees improperly included costs that were unrelated to the cost of providing the requested services.

(Staff: Amy Meselson and Scott Rosenberg)

In addition, **Chaim Theil** (formerly with the firm) is honored for his representation of a nonprofit music arts organization that provides free classical and contemporary chamber music concerts on Roosevelt Island. His assistance enabled the organization to receive funding for music education for the community, many of whom are long-term patients at Roosevelt Hospital.

(Staff: Susan Chase)

Steven Klein, Matthew Kaplan and Jennifer Schanes of **Willkie** are recognized for their assistance to The Legal Aid Society.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg)

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP is recognized for its outstanding work on *Davis et al. v. the City of New York et al*, a class action lawsuit against the New York City Police Department and New York City Housing Authority challenging the NYPD trespass arrest procedure that has resulted in an increase in the number of illegal trespass arrests, particularly of tenants and visitors who have a legitimate reason to be on Public Housing grounds. The firm's excellent representation continues during discovery and motion practice, in which the plaintiffs prevailed against the City's summary judgment motion. Their advocacy has influenced the NYPD to change its patrol policy and training. **Michele Hirshman**, a Director of the Society, leads the **Paul, Weiss** team which is comprised of **Katharine Brooker, Jennifer Garrett, Michelle Huynh, Agnetha Jacob, Sojourner King, Tanya Leach, Jason Meizlish, Matthew Moses, Pamela Nwaoko, Angela Shannon, Damian Williams, Daniel Wolf, Devin Williams, Christina Blacken, Craig Davis** and **Melodie Eastmond** (formerly with the firm). The NAACP Legal Defense Fund Inc. is also co-counsel.

(Staff: William Gibney, Amanda Moretti, Nancy Rosenbloom, and Steven Wasserman)

In addition, **Paul, Weiss** is recognized for the firm's consistent lawyering on a large number of Rockefeller Re-Sentencing cases, representing numerous inmates seeking redress from draconian sentences.

(Staff: David Crow)

Aaron Crowell and **Winston Brownlow** of the firm provided outstanding representation for a politically active prisoner subjected to prison disciplinary proceedings that appear to have been motivated by the prison's habit of retaliating against inmates who exercise their First Amendment rights in ways that make the administration uncomfortable.

(Staff: John Boston and Milton Zelermyer)

SECOND ACTS® LEADERSHIP AWARD

Steven Rosenfeld, of Counsel to **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP** and a former President of The Legal Aid Society, is an exemplary model for continuing a lifetime of dedication to the law while serving the public good. Since 2009, Mr. Rosenfeld has volunteered two days weekly with the Manhattan office of the Juvenile Rights Practice, representing children who are the subject of abuse and neglect proceedings. He is the consummate lawyer, diligent and thoroughly prepared, treating each client as if he or she is his only one. His dedication to The Legal Aid Society's staff and clients is obvious from the enthusiasm he brings to each case and his total integration with staff.

(Staff: Carolyn Kalos)

SERVICE TO THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

- **MaryAnn Farella, Andrea Gendel** and **Todd Soloway** of **Pryor Cashman LLP**
- **Theodore A. Levine**, Director and former President of The Legal Aid Society, of **Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz**
- **A. Robert Pietrzak** of **Sidley Austin LLP**
- **Joshua Weiss** and **Peter Isajiw** of **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**

SAVING HOMES AND JOBS FOR LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS

Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto is recognized for its leadership in saving crucial Section 8 housing subsidies and public housing for low-income New Yorkers. The firm has committed significant resources to this endeavor and has built a sustainable Article 78 and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) defense practice. **Lisa Butler** and **Dana Lau** provided outstanding representation for a homebound tenant with disabilities who was wrongfully terminated from the Section 8 rent subsidy program. They successfully negotiated restoration of the subsidy and retroactive payments to the landlord to stave off eviction. **Leslie Kushner's** tenacious representation uncovered exculpatory evidence that proved the tenant's subsidy was erroneously terminated based upon a false allegation that she resided elsewhere for six months. **Brian O'Reilly's** diligent advocacy saved the NYCHA apartment of a temporary NYCHA employee who was wrongfully accused of an altercation with her supervisor.

(Staff: Carmine Annunziato, Ellen Davidson, Judith Goldiner and April Newbauer)

Fitzpatrick is also honored for its major contribution of time and legal resources to the clients and staff of the Community Development Project (CDP). The firm's attorneys are project mentors for CDP staff and provide comprehensive access to intellectual prop-

erty counsel. They have staffed client-based workshops presented in partnership with the Bronx Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Small Business Services, and Seedco, and they have represented nonprofit arts organizations and low-income entrepreneurs. The attorneys contributing to this pro bono effort are **Donald Curry, Jessica Hiney, Timothy Kelly, Gabrielle Markeson, Lawrence Perry, Nina Shreve** and **John Wakeley**.

(Staff: Community Development Project)

Kenneth Szeto and **John McKee** of **Fitzpatrick** are recognized for their relentless commitment to obtain a fair wage settlement for a building superintendent who worked 19 years without being paid any wages and whose total compensation was a rent-free apartment.

(Staff: Karen Cacace and Amy Hong)

Andrew Brunsdon and **Robert Radick** of **Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C.**, are honored for their outstanding advocacy that saved the apartment of a low-income tenant who was mistakenly terminated from the Section 8 subsidy program while she was on maternity leave.

(Staff: Carmine Annunziato)

Alexis Stone of **Cohen & Gresser LLP** successfully represented a domestic worker who was paid significantly below the minimum wage or proper overtime compensation, and was forced to sleep on the living room sofa.

(Staff: Karen Cacace and Amy Hong)

Allegra Fishel, Adam Klein, Carmelyn Malalis, Michael Scimone and **Dana Sussman** of **Outten & Golden LLP** are recognized for providing outstanding representation for a domestic worker who was trafficked into the United States by her employer and held in forced labor for a year and for a live-in superintendent who had not been paid fair wages for his labor.

(Staff: Richard Blum and Hollis Pftisch)

Michael Hinchon and **Allen Sattler** of **Mendes & Mount LLP** tirelessly represented five restaurant workers who were paid as little as \$120 a week for 70 hours of work. **Lorraine Sylvester** provided comprehensive advocacy for a tenant with disabilities terminated from Section 8 assistance because her illness prevented her from responding to agency inquiries and representing the tenant in Housing Court during the resolution of the housing subsidy dispute.

(Staff: Karen Cacace, Amy M. Hong, and April Newbauer)

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is recognized as outstanding pro bono counsel on employee plaintiff cases and as appellate counsel on a variety of projects with the Criminal Appeals Bureau. The legal team, consisting of **Nefertiti Alexander, Michael**

Clements, Liliane Diaba, Jamie Galvin, Thomas Moloney and Justin Outling has been providing excellent legal assistance for two domestic workers who were trafficked into the United States by their employers and held in forced labor for several years.

(Staff: Karen Cacace and Hollis Pfitsch)

Benjamin Daniels (formerly with the firm) is honored for his work with the Criminal Appeals Bureau.

(Staff: David Crow and Alex Axelrod)

Olivier De Moor, Heather Mackintosh Sims, Claudette Pulido and Gina Rebollar (formerly with Cleary) provided exemplary counsel to an East Harlem workers' cooperative comprised of seven low-income immigrant workers who are first-time small business owners. The Cleary team addressed special legal and cultural issues applicable to starting an immigrant-owned small business and the unique issues presented in creating a business premised on a cooperative model of ownership.

(Staff: Stephen Falla-Riff and Rolando Gonzalez)

Kathleen Meyers and Giselle Schuetz of the firm have volunteered three days a week with the Employment Unit, expanding the unit's capacity to assist clients. They have done an excellent job responding to a variety client requests and supporting the Unit's litigation needs.

(Staff: Karen Cacace)

CHANGING THE LIVES OF FOSTER CHILDREN, DETAINED TEENS, AND YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP is honored for the firm's outstanding pro bono efforts to meet the special education needs of children in foster care who are abused or neglected. For seven years, the firm has worked closely with the Kathryn A. McDonald Educational Advocacy Project of the Juvenile Rights Practice. For example, **Meghan Mulderig** and **Natasha Williams** provided diligent representation that secured Early Intervention and preschool special education services for three siblings in foster care and obtained enhanced services to meet her complex emotional, behavioral, and cognitive needs of the oldest child.

(Staff: Cara Chambers)

In addition, **Erica Wolff** and **Adam Keith** (formerly with the firm) successfully represented a granddaughter seeking to be deemed a remaining family member and tenant of record on her grandmother's New York City Housing Authority apartment. Their excellent advocacy won an unusual decision, in which a failure to appeal an earlier erroneous

denial of the request was excused due to the grandmother's illness.

(Staff: Carmine Annunziato)

Jennifer Ryan of **Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosel LLP** provided outstanding representation for a young foster child with significant cognitive and speech/language delays and assisted with the child's successful transition to kindergarten.

(Staff: Cara Chambers)

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is honored for its outstanding pro bono contributions to protect children by serving as co-counsel on *G. B. et al. v. Carrion et al.*, a federal civil rights class action lawsuit against the New York State Office of Children and Family Services charging that children confined in residential centers are subjected to unconstitutional and excessive force by members of the staff and are deprived of legally-required mental health services. Former Legal Aid Society Director **J. Peter Coll, Ayanna Lewis-Gruss, Rene Kathawala, Scott Roehm** and **Alison Roffi**, comprise the excellent legal team acting as co-counsel with the Juvenile Rights Practice.

(Staff: Christine Bella, Theresa Moser, Diana Shum, and Tamara Steckler)

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP is recognized for its exceptional work as co-counsel with the Juvenile Rights Practice in *A.M. et al. v. Mattingly*, a class action challenging the failure of the Administration for Children's Services to provide appropriate and less restrictive foster care placements for children ready to be discharged from acute care psychiatric hospitals. The injunctive claims and damages claims were successfully settled this year. **Lisa Cleary, Leonard Braman, Jordan Engelhardt, Kim Lakeman, William Schmedlin** and **Brian Sweet** comprise the superb legal team.

(Staff: Kimberly Forte, Karen Gutheil, Theresa Moser, and Diana Shum)

Joseph Abraham of the firm is recognized for his assistance to The Legal Aid Society.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg)

Drew Wintringham, a partner with **DLA Piper LLP (US)**, is honored for his consistent and outstanding contribution as a pro bono attorney with the Juvenile Rights Practice. He has represented a number of children who are the subject of abuse and neglect proceedings, including a medically fragile thirteen-year-old girl whose native Chinese family had failed to comprehend the teen's grave medical conditions.

(Staff: Mitchell Katz)

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

An increasing number of low-income families and individuals are forced out of their apartments and into the homeless system or other inadequate housing situations because

of unlivable conditions.

Jones Day is honored for dedicating significant resources in support of the Society's Adopt-a-Building project, which addresses the systemic nature of this problem through group representation that remedies uninhabitable conditions for all of the affected tenants residing in the building. The firm has affirmatively represented the Tenant's Association of a building and has defended three baseless retaliatory eviction proceedings. The outstanding legal team is overseen by partner **Michael Templeton** and consists of **Thomas Bassolino, Jennifer Del Medico, Sabrina Glimcher, I-Heng Hsu, Preston Imperatore, Amar Mehta, Lee Pollack, Eric Stephens** and **Joseph Strazzeri**.

(Staff: Alexandra Heinegg)

Helena Ajudua of the firm is recognized for her assistance to The Legal Aid Society.

(Staff: Scott Rosenberg)

Covington & Burling LLP is recognized for the exceptional counsel provided by **Mary Grendell** and **Michael Cummings** (formerly with the firm) that prevented the loss of an irreplaceable public housing apartment. Due to their skillful lawyering, the tenant was able to re-open a default judgment and keep her home.

(Staff: Carmine Annunziato)

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP is recognized for its continuing commitment to assisting tenants fighting to remain in affordable housing. In addition to a number of individual New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) matters handled by associates at the firm, partner and LAS Board Member **Gary Stein** provided invaluable assistance in the preparation of an appeal challenging the actions of the NYC Rent Guidelines Board.

(Staff: Judith Goldiner and Ellen Davidson)

Sonu Ray of **Stroock & Strook & Lavan LLP** created a novel legal theory that preserved the shelter placement of a homeless man with severe disabilities whom the City sought to eject from the shelter system to the streets in the dead of winter. The Society's Homeless Rights Project has relied on Mr. Ray's creative lawyering in similar cases.

(Staff: Homeless Rights Project)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Kaye Scholer LLP is recognized for its consistent leadership over a period of years in providing outstanding pro bono representation to Civil Practice clients with disabilities in Supplemental Social Security proceedings. **Larissa Eustice** coordinates and supervises the firm's disability practice, sharing her expertise and outstanding litigation skills with summer associates and other firm attorneys who provide crucial representation to low-income New Yorkers with disabilities.

(Staff: Anne Callagy and Jocelyne Martinez)

Beth Morales Singh of **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP** provided exceptional advocacy and secured Social Security Disability benefits for a middle-aged woman with a skeletal injury that limited her mobility and capacity to sit, stand, or walk.

(Staff: Lori Brooks)

REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES

Goodwin Procter LLP is recognized for its outstanding partnership with the Society’s Community Development Project (CDP). Through the leadership of **Thomas Meriam**, a member of the CDP Advisory Board, a multi-disciplinary team consisting of **Benjamin Keller, Jeffrey Klein, Tamar Gubins** and **Amanda Willis** provided a full range of corporate and intellectual property legal assistance for a low-income start-up small business owned by three young minority women.

(Staff: Rolando Gonzalez)

Thomas Meriam also is honored for providing legal advice and on corporate issues that were ancillary and a key factor to the economic resolution of a matrimonial proceeding.

(Staff: Josephine Flores)

William Lang of **Nixon Peabody LLP** provided outstanding real estate counsel for an immigrant-owned small business located in Washington Heights, negotiating two commercial leases with an extremely difficult landlord.

(Staff: Rolando Gonzalez)

PRO BONO SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY LAW PRACTICE

Michal Katcher has volunteered 20 hours a week for the past two years with the Bronx Neighborhood Office’s Family Law Unit, expanding the Unit’s capacity to assist clients. She has helped numerous immigrant survivors of domestic violence obtain legal status and conducts outreach once a week at the Family Justice Center.

(Staff: Marisol Arriaga, Natasha Ingram, Jack Newton, Marie Richardson, Laura Russell and Louis Ullrich)

Rebecca Molln volunteers two to three days a week with the Family Law Unit at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Office, expanding the Unit’s ability to represent domestic violence survivors. She is a passionate advocate who has provided effective representation on numerous matrimonial and family law cases.

(Staff: Emily Ruben)



MAKING THE CASE FOR HUMANITY

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