Proskauer

Proskauer Honors Public Service and Community Engagement at the 18th Annual Golden Gavel Awards

Proskauer For Good on **June 10, 2026**

On May 28th, the Proskauer community gathered for the 18th Annual Golden Gavel Awards ceremony to celebrate and honor those lawyers and staff members who went far above and beyond to contribute to the Firm's pro bono, corporate social responsibility, and inclusion efforts in 2025. Congratulations and thank you to the following colleagues for their extraordinary and inspiring commitment to public service.

PRO BONO

Parole Release Victory

For the past three years, a Proskauer team has represented a client in her New York State parole proceedings. The client served over two decades in state prison. While incarcerated, she devoted herself to therapy, rehabilitation, and acceptance of responsibility, achieved extraordinary academic success, and maintained a near-spotless disciplinary record, completely turning her life around. After numerous unsuccessful parole hearings, appeals, and Article 78 petitions, the team obtained a favorable Article 78 decision, and the client was finally granted parole release in September 2025.

Claire Abrahamson – New York, Associate, Litigation

Jake Butwin – New York, Associate, Litigation

Dakshïna Chetti – New York, Associate, Litigation

Benjamin Childress – New York, Associate, Corporate

Courtland Cuevas – Los Angeles, Associate, Litigation

Sarah Ghivizzani – Washington, DC, Associate, Litigation

Alexander Guzy-Sprague– Washington, DC, Associate, Litigation

Catheryn Ibegbu – New York, Project Assistant, Litigation

Michael Kratochvil – New York, Associate, Labor

Gawa (Jiahua) Zeng– London, Associate, Tax

Asylum

After nearly ten years, a team of Proskauer attorneys obtained a grant of asylum for a client. The team successfully demonstrated that the client has a well-founded fear of returning to his home country because he experienced violence and persecution there on the basis of his sexual orientation.

James Anderson – Boston, Senior Counsel, Litigation

Victoria Grant – Boston, Associate, Corporate

Benjamin Rubin – Boston, Partner, Corporate

Laura Stafford – Boston, Partner, Litigation

Hena Vora – New York, Associate, Litigation

Emily Weber – Boston, Associate, Corporate

Securing Disability Benefits for Eight-Year-Old Child

In September 2025, a Proskauer team secured a favorable decision on a Social Security disability application for an eight-year-old boy with a rare heart condition. The client's monthly benefits were improperly terminated, and the family, who recently lived in a shelter, relied on those crucial benefits for financial stability. The Administrative Law Judge adopted the team's analysis, finding that the child qualified to receive disability benefits and restoring them to his family to provide him with needed care.

James Anderson – Boston, Senior Counsel, Litigation

Sarah Carlson – Boston, Associate, Real Estate

Andrew Higgins – Boston, Associate, Corporate

Elliot Stevens – New York, Associate, Litigation

Saika Suzuki – Boston, Associate, Corporate

Access to Children's Mental Health Services in New York

In 2022, a Proskauer team co-counseled with Disability Rights New York, Children's Rights, and the National Health Law Program to file a federal class action challenging New York State's failure to provide Medicaid-eligible children with required home- and community-based mental health services. In 2025, the case resulted in a settlement requiring statewide expansion of mental health services, benefitting more than 2.5 million children enrolled in Medicaid.

Aaliyah Brown – New York, Paralegal, Corporate

Michael Beckwith – New York, Associate, Litigation

Eric Chernus – Boston, eDiscovery Project Manager, Knowledge and Change Management

Adam Farbiarz – New York, Senior Counsel, Litigation

Steven Holinstat – New York, Partner, Litigation

Michael Menconi – New York, Associate, Corporate

Susanna Nagorny – New York, Paralegal, Litigation

Jacob Wonn – New York, Associate, Private Client Services

Chicago Crosswalks

A Proskauer team achieved a major victory in its longstanding advocacy for blind and visually impaired pedestrians this year when the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois entered a comprehensive Remedial Plan Order requiring the City of Chicago to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals at all signalized intersections over a period of years, dramatically expanding access to safe, nonvisual crossing information. The ruling followed six years of litigation brought by Proskauer and Disability Rights Advocates, alleging violations of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, and builds on a 2023 summary judgment decision finding the City in violation of federal law. In addition to mandating thousands of APS installations, the order requires prioritization of high-need intersections, ongoing maintenance, community engagement, and oversight by an independent monitor.

Ray Alvarez – Chicago, Associate, Corporate

Isaac Antoon – National, Associate Director of eDiscovery Services, Knowledge and Change Management

Robert Linton – Los Angeles, Senior Paralegal, Labor

Neil Shah – New York, Senior Counsel, Labor

Nigel Telman – Chicago, Partner, Labor

Edward Young – Chicago, Senior Counsel, Labor

Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts

Proskauer lawyers work on various New York State Court committees and commissions to advances access to justice. A team of Proskauer attorneys helped the Chief Judge's Advisory Committee on AI and the Court navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence while safeguarding fairness, transparency, and public trust in the justice system. Their work has strengthened the Courts' ability to understand emerging technologies, anticipate legal and ethical challenges, and develop principled guidance for their responsible use.

Kathie Duperval – New York, Associate, Corporate

Brooke Gottlieb – New York, Assistant General Counsel

Meredith Lipson – New York, Associate, Corporate

Michael Menconi – New York, Associate, Corporate

Jonian Rafti – New York, Associate, Corporate

Lily Wang Petrie – New York, Associate, Corporate

Gun Violence Prevention

In 2025, Proskauer attorneys conducted extensive legal research for partners in the gun violence prevention space.

Matthew Crorey – New York, Special Finance Counsel, Corporate

Malcolm Hochenberg – New York, Partner, Tax

John Ingrassia – Washington, DC, Partner, Corporate

Dov Shore – New York, Project Assistant, Corporate

Matthew Westbrook – Washington, DC, Senior Counsel, Corporate

Supporting Mental Health Non-profit

Over the past several years, Proskauer has provided extensive support to a non-profit focused on expanding access to critical mental health services. This work encompassed a range of legal services, including employment advice, contract drafting, and reviewing and advising on several of the organization's key operational partnerships.

Matthew Crorey – New York, Special Finance Counsel, Corporate

Mallory Hart – New Orleans, Associate, Labor

Arielle Kobetz – New York, Associate, Labor

Caroline Rimmer – New York, Associate, Corporate

Youth Enrichment Program

StreetSquash is a non-profit youth development organization founded in 1999 as the second urban squash program in the U.S. Through a comprehensive youth enrichment model, it combines academic tutoring, squash instruction, community service, college preparation, leadership development, and mentoring to support young people. Proskauer is proud to partner with this wonderful organization.

Jeffrey Horwitz – New York, Partner, Corporate

Pro Bono –Special Recognition

These honorees deserve special recognition and thanks for their exceptional contributions to the pro bono program. Their tireless work has increased the scope and impact of Proskauer's pro bono work, as well as helped countless clients and causes.

Keith Barnett – Boston, Partner, Real Estate

Kelly Curtis – Los Angeles, Senior Counsel, Litigation

Joseph Drayton – New York, Partner, Litigation

Susan Goldfarb – Los Angeles, Special Finance Counsel, Corporate

Daryn Grossman – New York, Partner, Corporate

Stephen Hibbard – Los Angeles, Partner, Litigation

Christina Kroll – Los Angeles, Associate, Litigation

William Leggat – New York, Project Assistant, Tax

Mary McNicholas – New York, Associate, Tax

Robert Pommer – Washington, DC, Partner, Litigation

John Sedarous – New York, Associate, Corporate

Elizabeth Shrieves – Washington, DC, Associate, Litigation

Nicole Swanson – New York, Associate, Litigation

Alan Teran – Boca Raton, Associate, Litigation

Bryanna Wilbor – New York, Associate, Corporate

Eamon Wizner – New York, Associate, Litigation

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Moot Court

Proskauer's moot court programs run in both our New York and Washington, D.C. offices. As part of the program, students deepen their understanding of legal reasoning while building soft skills such as oral advocacy, critical thinking, professionalism, and collaborative problem solving, advancing their long-term academic and career development. Proskauer lawyers in New York and Washington, D.C. actively support Moot Court programs by serving as judges, coaches, and mentors, dedicating their time and advocacy expertise to developing future lawyers. These volunteers help students strengthen oral advocacy, legal reasoning, and professional confidence. Their sustained engagement provides students with meaningful exposure to the practice of law and reflects Proskauer's commitment to mentorship, education, and service to the legal community.

Erik Milch – Washington, DC, Partner, Litigation

Nathan Schuur – Washington, DC, Partner, Corporate

Emily Wakeman – Washington, DC, Associate, Litigation

Eamon Wizner – New York, Associate, Litigation

Local Leaders

Support from local leaders is invaluable to supporting our collective impact. These individuals forge meaningful relationships with community partners, identify local needs, and help mobilize colleagues to contribute in meaningful ways. Through their leadership, students have built the skills needed for college and career success, individuals experiencing food insecurity have gained access reliable nutrition and services, and community members facing economic or social challenges have been connected with programs that promote stability, opportunity, and long-term well-being.

Katy Benson – New Orleans, Office Manager, Human Resources

Leslie Bobb – Chicago, Office Manager, Human Resources

Casey Brandenberger – Los Angeles, Associate Director of Legal Recruiting and Professional Development, Practice Management

Carrie Geldert – Boca Raton, Office Manager, Human Resources

Robert Harman – Washington, DC, Office Administrator, Human Resources

Hannah Holley – Charlotte, Office Manager, Human Resources

Aurel Van Iderstine – Los Angeles, Office Administrator, Human Resources

Difference Makers

We recognize our colleagues who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to volunteerism throughout the year and whose support of programs focused on food insecurity, poverty, education, and veterans' affairs has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many in our communities. Whether serving meals at a local soup kitchen, helping rehabilitate homes for low-income families, or working with students and military protégés as they prepare for future educational and career opportunities, these individuals embody what it means to be a true "Difference Maker."

Kiki Cokorinos – New York, Training and Development Supervisor, Human Resources

Matthew Cole – Chicago, Associate, Corporate

Dorehn Coleman – New York, Associate, Corporate

Melany Cruz Burgos – New York, Associate Director of Training and Development, Practice Management

Lee Dai – New York, Senior Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis, Finance

Emily DeMeo – New York, Internal Audit Supervisor, General Counsel's Office

Jeremiah Evans – New York, Associate, Corporate

Sabrina Franconeri – New York, Director of Training and Development, Human Resources

Douglas Frank – Los Angeles, Partner, Real Estate

Brooke Gottlieb – New York, Assistant General Counsel

Anne Halpern – New York, Senior Project Manager, Knowledge and Change Management

Colleen Hart – Los Angeles, Partner, Tax

John Ingrassia – Washington, DC, Partner, Corporate

Courtney Kim – Los Angeles, Associate, Corporate

Nancy Kim – New York, Director of Lateral Recruiting, Practice Management

Shawn Ledingham Jr. – Los Angeles, Partner, Litigation

Kit Lee-Demery – New York, Senior Manager of Physical Security, Resilience Management

Katrine Magas – Los Angeles, Senior Counsel, Tax

Nicole Magrini – New York, Associate Director of Paralegal Services, Practice Management

Maura McDonagh – New York, US Controller, Finance

Brenna McLean – Chicago, Associate, Labor & Employment

Katelyn O'Brien – New York, Associate, Litigation

Todd Ohlms – Chicago, Partner, Litigation

Portia Proctor – Los Angeles, Associate, Litigation

Brianna Reed – Boston, Senior Counsel, Tax

Melena Say – Washington, DC, Legal Recruiting Coordinator, Practice Management

Doris Schwartzblat – New York, Senior Project Manager, Knowledge and Change Management

John Sedarous – New York, Associate, Corporate

Andrew Solomon – New York, Associate Director of Business Services Recruiting, Human Resources

Nicole Swanson – New York, Associate, Litigation

Lene Viculin – Lost Angeles, Senior Paralegal, Private Client Services

Jennifer Yang – New York, Partner, Litigation

Talent Development and Community Building

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence through their efforts to increase community engagement and inclusion opportunities within the Firm. These recipients' actions have directly impacted the Firm's ability to attract, develop, motivate, and retain talent from all backgrounds and experiences. All of the honorees below have invested significant time, energy, and resources into creating inclusive, affirming spaces for our lawyers and staff members, advocating for their needs, and challenging the Firm to continuously prioritize inclusion in meaningful ways.

Monica Arora – New York, Partner, Private Funds

Rob Chiu – New York / London, Associate, Corporate

Kathie Duperval – New York, Associate, Corporate

Yomarie Habenicht – Washington, DC, Associate, Tax

Steven Hurd – New York, Partner, Labor

Gloria Kim – New York, Associate, Corporate

Jiyoon Kim – New York, Associate, Corporate

Portia Proctor – Los Angeles, Associate, Litigation

Andrea Rattner – New York, Partner, Tax

John Sedarous – New York, Associate, Corporate

Advancing Change

This award recognizes individuals who have been engaged in significant ways in the advancement of community engagement and inclusion and through their actions have raised awareness of the Firm's inclusion efforts.

Joseph Drayton – New York, Partner, Litigation

Colleen Hart – Los Angeles, Partner, Tax

Camille Higonnet – Boston, Partner, Corporate

Jordan Horowitz – New York, Associate, Corporate

Andrea Rattner – New York, Partner, Tax

Nigel Telman – Chicago, Partner, Labor

PROSKAUER IMPACT

Impact Award

Proskauer Impact is a firmwide initiative aimed at redefining the power of a law firm to advance social progress through the Firm's people, platforms, and partnerships. This inaugural award recognizes an individual whose leadership, sustained commitment, and hands-on contributions have been central to bringing the initiative to life. Through strategic vision and consistent engagement, the recipient has helped translate the Firm's values into meaningful action and measurable impact.

Robert Shmalo – New York, Partner, Real Estate

Related Professionals

???**Adam Farbiarz**
Senior Counsel

???**Alan S. Teran, Ph.D.**
Associate

???**Alexander Guzy-Sprague**

Associate

??Andrea S. Rattner

Partner

??Andrew Higgins

Associate

??Arielle E. Kobetz

Associate

??Benjamin E. Rubin

Partner

??Benjamin G. Childress

Associate

??Brenna McLean

Associate

??Brianna L. Reed

Senior Counsel

??Brooke G. Gottlieb

Assistant General Counsel

??Camille Higonnet

Partner

??Caroline E. Rimmer

Associate

??Christina Kroll

Associate

??Claire N. Abrahamson

Associate

??Colleen Hart

Partner

??Courtland Cuevas

Associate

??Courtney P. Kim

Associate

???Dakshina H. Chetti

Associate

???Daryn A. Grossman

Partner

???Eamon Wizner

Associate

???Edward C. Young

Senior Counsel

???Elizabeth C. Shrieves

Associate

???Elliot R. Stevens

Senior Counsel

???Emily Weber

Associate

???Emily W. Stevens

Associate

???Erik Milch

Partner

???Gawa (Jiahua) Zeng

Associate

???Hena M. Vora

Associate

???Jacob E. Wonn

Associate

???Jake R. Butwin

Associate

???James Anderson

Partner

???Jennifer Yang

Partner

???John R. Ingrassia

Partner

???John M. Sedarous

Associate

???Jonian Rafti

Associate

???Jordan M. Horowitz

Associate

???Joseph Drayton

Partner

???Katelyn R. O'Brien

Partner

???Kathie Duperval

Associate

???Keith R. Barnett

Partner

???Kelly Curtis

Senior Counsel

???L. Jiyoon Kim

Associate

???Laura Stafford

Partner

???Lily (Xinyue) Wang Petrie

Associate

???Malcolm S. Hochenberg

Partner

???Mallory Knudsen Hart

Associate

???Matthew J. Westbrook

Senior Counsel

???Matthew Crorey

Special Finance Counsel

???Matthew Cole

Associate

???Meredith Lipson

Associate

???Michael J. Menconi

Associate

???Michael S. Kratochvil

Associate

???Monica Arora

Partner

???Nathan R. Schuur

Partner

???Neil V. Shah

Senior Counsel

???Nicole O. Swanson

Associate

???Nigel F. Telman

Partner

???Portia S. Proctor

Associate

???Ray Alvarez

Associate

???Robert Pommer

Partner

???Robert H. Chiu

Associate

???Robert C. Shmalo

Partner

???Saika Suzuki

Associate

???Sarah W. Ghivizzani

Associate

???Shawn S. Ledingham, Jr.

Partner

???Stephen Hibbard

Partner

???Steven D. Hurd

Partner

???Steven H. Holinstat

Partner

???Susan R. Goldfarb

Special Finance Counsel

???Todd J. Ohlms

Partner

???Victoria Grant

Senior Counsel

???Yomarie S. Habenicht

Senior Counsel

???William C. Silverman

Pro Bono Partner