

# 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

[Dakshina 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 advance 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 – Los 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**

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#### **???** 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

??**Bryanna Wilbor**

Associate

??**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

**?? Dorehn Coleman**

Associate

**?? Douglas B. Frank**

Partner

**?? Eamon Wizner**

Associate

**?? Edward C. Young**

Senior Counsel

**?? Elizabeth C. Shrieves**

Associate

**?? Elliot R. Stevens**

Associate

**?? Emily Weber**

Associate

**?? Emily Wakeman**

Associate

**?? Erik Milch**

Partner

**?? Gawa (Jiahua) Zeng**

Associate

**?? Gloria H. Kim**

Associate

**?? Hena M. Vora**

Associate

**?? Jacob E. Wonn**

Associate

**???) Jake R. Butwin**

Associate

**???) James Anderson**

Senior Counsel

**???) Jennifer Yang**

Partner

**???) Jeremiah K. Evans**

Associate

**???) 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

**???) Katrine Magas**

Senior Counsel

**???) Keith R. Barnett**

Partner

**???) Kelly Curtis**

Senior Counsel

**???) L. Jiyeon Kim**

Associate

**???) Laura Stafford**

Partner

**???** Lily (Xinyue) Wang Petrie

Associate

**???** Malcolm S. Hochenberg

Partner

**???** Mallory Knudsen Hart

Associate

**???** Mary McNicholas

Associate

**???** Matthew J. Westbrook

Senior Counsel

**???** Matthew Crorey

Special Finance Counsel

**???** Matthew Cole

Associate

**???** Meredith Lipson

Associate

**???** Michael R. Beckwith

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

**???** **Sarah Carlson**

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**

Associate

**???** **Yomarie S. Habenicht**

Associate