



Contact

William C. Silverman

Pro Bono Partner

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William C. Silverman is a partner responsible for leading Proskauer's global pro bono efforts, which provide assistance to individual clients and nonprofit organizations in litigation as well as transactional matters. He focuses on identifying and securing pro bono opportunities and partnerships for Proskauer lawyers and ensuring widespread participation in these projects.

Bill has robust private and public sector experience and a strong criminal and civil background. He has worked extensively on government investigations and white collar criminal matters, as well as complex civil litigation in federal and state courts. He also served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he led criminal investigations, conducted trials and handled Second Circuit appeals.

Throughout his career, Bill has dedicated himself to the promotion of equal access to justice through pro bono service, particularly in the area of family court, anti-trafficking, and immigration.

Bill spearheaded a partnership among several law firms, corporations and the New York City Family Court to provide free legal advice to pro se litigants. The New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program now has more than 400 volunteer attorneys from 40 major firms and corporations. Bill also co-authored a groundbreaking [report](#) for the New York City Bar Association and the Fund For

Modern Courts on how COVID-19 impacted the New York City Family Court. Bill is currently serving as co-chair of the Court Modernization Action Committee (CMAC), a working group of judicial, bar, and community leaders formed to support and advise the New York State Court System in implementing technology to increase efficiency and enhance equal access to justice. He also serves on New York's Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts.

Bill serves as counsel to the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition. In that capacity he has been a strong advocate for changes in the law and public policy to protect victims of human trafficking and bring perpetrators to justice. He also represents individual clients in this area, including a successful federal lawsuit brought on behalf of a trafficking victim against her traffickers. For his work, he was named by domestic violence nonprofit Sanctuary For Families as one of [“New York’s New Abolitionists.”](#)

Bill has been recognized for his public service with the James Duane Award from the Bench and Bar of the Southern District of New York (2026); the Abely Pro Bono Leadership Award from Sanctuary For Families and Columbia Law School (2019); the Special Leadership Award for All-Around Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility & the Law from City & State Reports (2015); the Commitment to Justice Award for Outstanding Partner from inMotion (2008); and the Matthew G. Leonard Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Achievement from MFY Legal Services (2007).

Outside of his work at the Firm, Bill serves on various not-for-profit boards. Bill is chair of RISE Partnership, an organization dedicated to ensuring the successful reentry of men and women on federal supervised release into society, and formerly served as chair of the Fund for Modern Courts, a nonpartisan citizen organization devoted to improving the New York State courts.

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[Practices](#)

Litigation

[Education](#)

New York University School of Law, J.D.

cum laude

Notes & Comments Editor, *New York University Law Review*

Brown University, B.A.

Admissions & Qualifications

New York

Clerkships

U.S. District Court, New York, Southern District - Hon. Louis L. Stanton

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

U.S. District Court, New York, Eastern District

U.S. District Court, New York, Southern District

Memberships

Chairman, The Fund for Modern Courts

Co-Chairman, RISE Partnership

Member, Board of Directors, Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

Counsel, New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition

Consultant, The New York State Commission on Parental Legal Representation

Member, The President's Committee on Access to Justice, New York State Bar

Association

Awards & Recognition

The Legal 500 United States 2016

New York Super Lawyers 2015-2025

Best Lawyers in America 2019-2024

Sanctuary For Families and Columbia Law School, Abely Pro Bono Leadership Award, 2019

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, 2017 Gala Honoree

The Legal Aid Society's 2016 Pro Bono Publico Award

City & State Reports, Award for All-Around Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility & the Law, 2015

Sanctuary For Families, Above and Beyond Award for Excellence in Pro Bono

Service, 2008 and 2015

Sanctuary For Families and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition, New York's New Abolitionists, 2014

HerJustice (inMotion), Commitment to Justice Award for Outstanding Partner, 2008

MFY Legal Services, Matthew G. Leonard Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Achievement, 2007

U.S. Department of Justice, Director's Award for Superior Performance, 2001