

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 areas of family court, anti-trafficking, and criminal reentry.

Bill served as lead counsel on behalf of three legal services organizations challenging New York State's "Host Homes" regulations, which created an unauthorized shadow foster care system. In a unanimous decision, the New York

Court of Appeals struck down the regulations for failure to provide important safeguards, including appointment of counsel and judicial oversight. 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, and formerly served as chair of the Fund for Modern Courts, a nonpartisan citizen organization devoted to improving the New York State courts.

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, RISE Partnership

Co-Chair, New York Court Modernization Action Committee

Member, Board of Directors, The Fund For Modern Courts

Member, Board of Directors, Family Legal Care

Member, New York State Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts

Counsel, New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition

Awards & Recognition

New York Super Lawyers 2015-2025

Best Lawyers in America 2019-2027

James Duane Award from the Bench and Bar of the Southern District of New York (2026)

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