

17th Annual
**Golden Gavel
Awards**

February 27, 2025



Proskauer» For Good

Pro Bono

Meridian Heights Class Action Housing Litigation

In 2021, a Proskauer team co-counseled with the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs to file a class action lawsuit challenging horrific housing conditions and discrimination at the Meridian Heights housing property. Since then, Proskauer attorneys and staff have devoted substantial time to the matter, engaging in extensive discovery, motion practice, client management, and negotiation. This fall, the parties reached an agreement in principle to settle all claims brought in the litigation and provide a variety of relief to the class members. The Court preliminarily approved the settlement late last year, with a final approval hearing set for March.

Jordan Caloras

Massimo Capizzi

Robert Ennis

Ross Evans

Anna Fisher

Jonathan Gartner

Amy Gordon

Emma Keane

Shannon McGowan

Erik Milch

Angely Morel Espinal

Corey Rogoff

Refinancing Assistance for Child Welfare Nonprofit

Proskauer is proud to represent the Home for Little Wanderers, the oldest child welfare agency in the United States. The Home offers over 25 critical programs, including behavioral and mental health services, therapeutic residential care, family support, foster care and adoption, special education and programs for

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older youth transitioning out of the system, serving more than 15,000 children and family members annually. This year, a Proskauer team guided the Home through the repayment of debt commitments alongside the issuance of new Massachusetts development bonds and the execution of related credit facilities. The refinancing of the Home's debt obligations provides much needed liquidity for the Home to continue its important work for the greater Boston community.

Thomas Butler

Charles Dale

Ron Franklin

Seo Kyung (Rosa) Kim

Maggie Livingstone

Adam Nowicki

Julia Vitter

Supreme Court Victory for Department of Defense Employee

This past May, a Proskauer team succeeded in obtaining a 9-0 victory at the Supreme Court on behalf of Stuart Harrow, a former Department of Defense employee. Harrow had appealed to the Merits Systems Protection Board after a furlough in 2013, arguing he was entitled to lost pay. He lost and appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, but the Court dismissed his appeal as untimely, finding the statutory filing deadline to be jurisdictional and not able to be extended. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the deadline imposed on Mr. Harrow was not jurisdictional because Congress had not spoken with a clear statement

to overcome the presumption that time bars are non-jurisdictional and open to equitable tolling. The Court vacated the judgment and remanded the case back to the Federal Circuit, where Mr. Harrow can again pursue his claim.

Isaiah Anderson

Henrique Carneiro

Mark Harris

John Roberts

Eleanor Schroeder

Twinning Project

The Twinning Project, an organization founded in the United Kingdom, pairs sports teams with local correctional facilities, using sport to teach important life lessons and, in the process, help secure successful reentry for the participants. Thanks to a team of Proskauer lawyers, the organization now has a U.S. entity and is in the process of partnering with several professional soccer and basketball teams in the U.S.

Peter Cramer

Daniel Desatnik

Emma Lapin

Christine Lazatin

David Miller

Howie Miller

John Sedarous

Alexander Smith

Sarah Walsh

Delaware Voting Rights Litigation

In late 2023, a Proskauer team co-counseled with the ACLU Voting Rights Project, the ACLU of Delaware, and Shaw Keller LLP to file a

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federal lawsuit in Delaware seeking a preliminary injunction requiring the state to make voting available in jails and prisons in Delaware in the 2024 election. After suit was brought, the ACLU of Delaware met with the Delaware Departments of Corrections and Elections and was informed that the departments were working on coordinating an in-person DOE presence in at least some DOC facilities to help facilitate absentee voting, in addition to several other positive steps concerning rights restoration and administration of elections for incarcerated voters.

Godfre Blackman
Aaron Francis
Stephen Hibbard
Michael Lebowich
Angelo Monforte
Dixie Morrison
Roberta Preyer
Seth Victor

Achieving Asylum Victory on Behalf of Transgender Client

In December, after over four years of work, a Proskauer team obtained a grant of asylum for our client, an HIV-positive, transgender woman from Jamaica. The client fears returning to Jamaica because she experienced horrific violence and persecution on the basis of her sexuality and HIV+ status.

Peter Angelica
Timothy Burroughs
Kelly Landers Hawthorne
David Munkittrick
Susanna Nagorny
Portia Proctor
Emily Wakeman
Madison Wilson

Securing Discharge Upgrade on Behalf of Veteran Client

Since 2018, Proskauer has acted as pro bono legal counsel for a veteran who experienced racial discrimination during his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. The client was stationed at Camp Pendleton in the mid-1970s. At that time, members of the Ku Klux Klan (“KKK”) served openly and actively at Camp Pendleton. The client faced a pattern of severe harassment, beatings and threats of sexual harm and death by his immediate superior and others on his base, many of whom were active members of the KKK. In fear for his life and safety, he eventually went absent without leave, causing him to be unfavorably discharged from service. After years of work, a Proskauer team successfully obtained a discharge status upgrade for the client this past June. Following this good news, the client wrote: “It is evidently a labor of love to bring justice to those who have lost all hope of being heard. In my case, you gave me something I lost at the age of 22 years old . . . which, was my good name.”

Colin Cabral
Colleen Hart
Alyson Tocicki

London

Helping Children Access Immigration Status in the UK

Proskauer attorneys took on several matters representing children through Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) UK, which provides free legal help to young people and families navigating the UK immigration system.

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An estimated 215,000 undocumented children are living in the UK today, so the need for pro bono legal services is immense. Proskauer teams have already successfully secured British citizenship for five minors over the past year and have another 10+ cases currently ongoing.

Robert Gaut
Emily Carling
Charlotte Ahamed

Supporting Nonprofits

Through LawWorks and TrustLaw, two charities working in England and Wales to connect volunteer lawyers with people in need of legal advice, Proskauer teams have provided critical support to several nonprofits doing incredibly impactful work. Proskauer attorneys have worked on a variety of matters, including corporate governance, contract review, and numerous real estate and lease questions. Proskauer lawyers have also assisted charities directly with various commercial contract matters.

Vikki McKay
Benjamin Peacock
Rachel Lowe
Katie Bunce

Benefits Appeal Victory for Client with Daily Living and Mobility Needs

Earlier this year, a Proskauer team achieved success in a pro bono personal independence payment ("PIP") appeal case. PIP is a benefit awarded by the Department for Work & Pensions for people who have a disability which impacts their

mobility or ability to carry out certain daily tasks. Working with our charity partner, University House Legal Advice Centre, we assisted our client who suffers from a host of illnesses and disabilities in bringing an appeal to the First Tier Tribunal and secured a new PIP award at the highest available rate.

Paul Tannenbaum
Antonia George
Shameelah Khan

Pro Bono – Special Recognition

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

Farhaan Anjum
Cassandra Brewster
Aaliyah Brown
Rachael Gensheimer
Aliyah Kilpatrick
Shaina Maldonado
Kelly McMullon
Michael Menconi
Jonian Rafti
Elizabeth Shrieves
Gabren Webb

Corporate Social Responsibility

Education

Proskauer's education initiatives provide students with enrichment skills and concepts designed to meet their needs for college, careers and beyond. We recognize that education drives so many lifelong issues such as economic security, health, and housing. We design and teach enrichment workshops for high-achieving students from low-income communities and inspire future lawyers through our social justice classes. We also coach at-risk youth in our London office.

Isaiah Anderson
Godfre Blackman
Casey Brandenberger
Jamison Chung
Kiki Cokorinos
Sabrina Franconeri
Shawn Ledingham, Jr.
Jason Madden
Katelyn Myers
Libbie Osaben
Vildana Perdja
Stephen Pevsner
Ann Marie Prado
Portia Proctor
John Sedarous
Nicole Swanson
Jacob Weinberg
Eric Zilber

Moot Court

Proskauer has participated in the Mentor Moot Court Program for over 35 years. This is a partnership between Fordham University School of Law and The Justice Resource Center. We host students from Francis Lewis High School in our New York office during the fall and spring semesters. The students are provided a problem and meet with a group of associates throughout the semester who teach them about the law as it relates to the problem and coach the students on public speaking, professionalism, critical thinking, listening and a range of soft skills. Our volunteers work beyond the program and serve as mentors for the students as they navigate college and careers.

Peter Angelica
Michael Beckwith

Economic Empowerment for Women

Since 2015, Proskauer has supported economic empowerment for women through our corporate social responsibility programs with many of our not-for-profit partners. As part of these initiatives, we work with women on employment readiness, job skills training and introduce marketable skills on their path to economic independence and mobility.

Monica Arora
Rita Halabi
Anne Halpern
Katelyn Myers
Amanda Nussbaum

Community and Corporate Citizenship

We recognize our colleagues who collectively ensure our corporate social responsibility programs are administered and led across the country. They serve as liaisons for their offices and help reinforce our goals of economic opportunity, educational enrichment, and upward mobility for students and vulnerable members of our communities.

Kathryn Benson
Leslie Bobb
Carrie Geldert
Lindsey Tertan
Aurel Van Iderstine
Sheila Williams

Corporate Social Responsibility Leadership

Our corporate social responsibility initiatives take place across the country and in London. Our service continues to grow because of the extensive commitment of our volunteers. We recognize the leaders who ensure our impactful work supports high-achieving students from low-income communities, as well as vulnerable individuals and families in the communities where we live and work.

Monica Arora
Michael Callahan
Ron Franklin
Alexander Griffith
Colleen Hart
Jinyoung Joo
Dorothy Murray
Amanda Nussbaum
Natasha Wilson

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Talent Development and Community Building

Awarded to individuals who have demonstrated excellence through their efforts to increase diversity, inclusion, and equitable opportunities within the Firm. These recipients' actions have directly impacted the Firm's ability to attract, develop, motivate, and retain diverse talent. All of the below honorees have invested significant time, energy, and resources into creating inclusive, affirming spaces for diverse lawyers and staff members, advocating for their needs, and challenging the Firm to continuously prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion in meaningful ways.

Alicia Abboud
Stephen Boyko
Robert Chiu
David Duncan
Jorge Gonzalez
Jinyoung Joo
Katrine Magas
Sulaiman Malik
Carolyn Sarif-Killea
Hannah Silverman
Serena Warner

Advancing Change

Awarded to individuals who have been engaged in significant ways in the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion and through their actions have raised awareness of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion issues in the Firm.

Mel Cruz Burgos
Joseph Drayton

FirstGen Pilot Working Group:
(Alondra Munoz, Lucas Kowalczyk,
Olympia Karageorgiou and
Vinny Indelicato)

Imaan Gangi
Matthew Geduldig

PWA Co-Chairs:
(Jordan Horowitz, Charlotte Boylin,
Yomarie Habenicht, Lucie Rose)

Robert Shmalo

Excellence in Partnership

Awarded to an organization which recognizes that advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion requires true partnership and collaboration. This special recognition honors an organization that has worked alongside Proskauer to create impactful DEI initiatives, foster inclusive opportunities, and drive positive change. Through innovative programs and sustained engagement, this partnership exemplifies the power of collective action in shaping a brighter, more inclusive future.

Indhira Arrington,
Global Chief Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Officer at Ares Management
Corporation

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