

15th Annual
**Golden Gavel
Awards**

February 8, 2023



Proskauer» For Good

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Pro Bono

Reuniting Father and Daughter

Through the Southern District of New York's "Re-entry through Intensive Supervision and Employment" (RISE) Court, our lawyers provide legal assistance to individuals recently released from federal custody, helping them to successfully re-enter society. We represent a RISE participant whose overriding goal upon leaving prison was to spend more time with his 12-year-old daughter who lived with her grandmother. When the grandmother — without our client's consent — decided to move his daughter out of New York, Proskauer successfully filed emergency papers in Family Court. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of this team, father and daughter are now building a life together.

Alisha Bruce
Sydney Juliano

Court Reform

The Pandemic Practices Working Group was formed to conduct a thorough evaluation of court practices implemented by New York State Courts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The effort was undertaken with extensive cooperation of the New York Courts, though it is an independent project of The Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts, which was formed in June 2020 to study and make recommendations to improve access to justice. All told, the Working Group heard testimony from more than 300 people and organizations — their insights provide the backbone and primary source material for a compelling report that will be issued soon.

Pro Bono

Proskauer was one of two law firms spearheading this effort and drafting the report.

Wilderness Castillo-Dobson
Portia Proctor
Nicole Swanson

Estate Planning

Proskauer partnered with Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) and in-house lawyers from MetLife to provide wills, powers of attorney, and other essential life planning documents to 16 residents of Selis Manor, a special needs housing and community facility space that serves visually impaired individuals of limited means. The estate planning documents prepared are intended to ensure that the residents' dying wishes will be fulfilled, and enable trusted individuals to make financial and health decisions on their behalf when they are no longer able to make such decisions. This project was particularly rewarding as volunteers helped a vulnerable population with a limited ability to self-advocate and gained insight into the challenges individuals with vision impairment face every day.

Nathaniel Birdsall
Kimberly Braun
Stephanie Heilborn
Henry Leibowitz
Emily Lewis
Ephrat Orgel
Nikhil Sadaranganey
Jonathan Schwartz
Tara Shecter
Elias Tsouristakis
Peter Tucci
Jacob Wonn

Impact Litigation

Advocating for Visually-Impaired Pedestrians in Chicago

In September 2019, Proskauer filed a class action lawsuit in federal court challenging the City of Chicago's systemic failure to provide accessible crosswalk signals for people with vision impairments. As of February 2022, only about 20 of the City's approximately 2,800 signalized intersections were accessible to pedestrians with visual disabilities. In other words, of the intersections that the City deemed unsafe for pedestrians absent a crossing signal, only about half of one percent are accessible for visually-disabled persons. This past year, the team – along with co-counsel Disability Rights Advocates, a nationwide nonprofit disability rights legal center – obtained class certification.

Alyssa Cook
Natasha Petrov
Nigel Telman
Dakota Treece
Edward Young

Impact Litigation

Safe Public Housing

Through enforcement of a court-approved consent decree in *Baez v. NYCHA*, 13 Civ. 8916 (S.D.N.Y.), Proskauer has made substantial progress over the past year in implementing oversight and accountability systems to ensure that the more than 400,000 New Yorkers who live in public housing, particularly those with respiratory illnesses, have thorough

and immediate remediation of mold and excessive moisture in their homes.

Julia Alonzo
Griffin Asnis
Godfre Blackman
Danielle Brooks
Benjamin Eisenberg
Yena Hong
Scott Kamen
David Picon
Genesis Sanchez Tavarez
Shanice Smith-Banks

Justice for Victim of Elder Abuse

After a three-day bench trial, this team successfully obtained a judgment from the Orange County California Superior Court in favor of our client whose son used a power of attorney to transfer ownership of the family home to himself without our client's knowledge or consent. At trial, half a dozen family witnesses came forward to testify on behalf of either father or son, with family members deeply divided as a result of this dispute. The Court ruled in favor of our client on all of his claims, finding that his son had committed elder abuse, wrongfully took title to his home, and breached an oral agreement to pay rent while occupying the property. In the judgment, the Court returned ownership of the disputed residential property to our client.

Anthony Oncidi
Morgan Peterson
Wesley Shelton

Nonprofit Assistance in Brazil

Proskauer serves as pro bono counsel to Instituto Recicleiros (Recicleiros), a Brazilian non-profit organization. Recicleiros identifies communities throughout Brazil that do not have adequate recycling programs but do have a significant number of impoverished individuals who have begun informally acting as waste collectors in order to sell recyclable materials themselves.

Recicleiros incubates recycling cooperatives in these communities and trains the waste collectors to operate the cooperatives, thereby providing technical training and formal jobs to marginalized and vulnerable individuals. These cooperatives act as sorting units for recyclable materials and sell the sorted materials to private companies to reuse in their production processes. Once Recicleiros deems these sorting units economically self-sufficient, Recicleiros donates the units to the members of the cooperative, thereby promoting the social and economic independence of their members.

Antonio Piccirillo

Nonprofit Assistance in Paris

Proskauer supports several non-profit organizations in Paris through substantial pro bono work in various areas including labor & employment, data privacy, intellectual property, transactional work, and non-profit governance. These organizations include the following:

Pro Bono

- Première Urgence provides assistance to victims of natural disasters, war, and economic collapse. They run more than 20 projects per year, across more than 20 countries.
- Loba supports women who were victims of sexual violence, helping them to rebuild their lives, in particular through dance.
- Passerelles et Compétences connects non-profit organizations expressing specific needs for support with individuals willing to volunteer their skills and know-how.
- Yes Akademia enables underprivileged youth to gain self-confidence and to succeed in school.

Nicolas Léger
Mathilde Pépin
Doriane Shannon

Pro Bono Spotlight The Los Angeles County Bar Association

Counsel for Justice (CFJ) — the pro bono arm of the Los Angeles County Bar Association — provides vitally important civil legal services to the indigent. The recent efforts of Proskauer volunteers, who have provided critical support to CFJ projects for many years, are recognized here.

The CFJ Immigration Project provides legal advice and help preparing work permit renewals, DACA forms, green cards, naturalization and adjustment of status applications, and family petitions. In the past year, the following Proskauer volunteers have been instrumental in helping the immigration project handle

the influx of clients relating to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:

Katrine Magas
Ekaterina Napalkova

CFJ's Domestic Violence Project provides legal information, assists in the preparation of legal documents, and makes referrals to other service providers. In the past year, the following Proskauer volunteers have provided critical help to victims of domestic violence:

Landon Crawl
Susan Goldfarb
Emma Lapin

The Veterans Project helps veterans of limited means with discharge upgrades, clearing outstanding tickets and warrants, reinstating drivers' licenses, expunging criminal records, and removing barriers to housing, employment, healthcare and education. Proskauer has supported the monthly veterans' clinic at Patriotic Hall for the past ten years. The following Proskauer volunteers have gone above and beyond helping veterans this past year:

Ariel Brotman
Colin Cabral
David Gobel
Alyson Tocicki

Reproductive Rights

In light of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* finding that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee a right to abortion, several organizations that provide funds to patients seeking abortion care sought advice from Proskauer concerning risks they might face going forward with their work, including if they provide funds to out-of-state individuals. The team met with each of the clients individually to understand their operations and to listen to their specific concerns. Team members then reviewed state laws across the country to identify alternative courses of action based on the applicable fund's risk tolerance. The team is continuing to monitor developments in the law and provide advice.

Alicia Abboud

Margaret Dale

Konstantinos Karamanakis

Rachel Kessler

Ekaterina Napalkova

Michelle Ovanesian

Makenzie Way

Pro Bono – Special Recognition

These honorees deserve special recognition and thanks for their roles in increasing the scope and reach of the pro bono program.

Anna Brodskaya

Peter Cramer

Shannon McGowan

Omobolaji Oluwasola

Corporate Social Responsibility

Education

Proskauer's education programs offer a wide range of activities designed by our corporate social responsibility team and led by our employees in collaboration with our nonprofit and school partners to support academic achievement and prepare students for further education and careers. We are pleased to inform and influence the next generation through our programs on racial justice, immigration, gun safety, voting rights, and criminal justice reform. Our partners in social justice include, but are not limited to, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League, Bottom Line Boston, Fresh Air Fund and our Adopt-a-School partners in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. Improving educational outcomes and expanding development opportunities for students is the focus of our enrichment programs. These workshops leverage the expertise of our lawyers and staff to successfully help students develop new skills, build relationships, and identify new career paths and passions – inspiring our future leaders to realize their full potential.

Casey Brandenberger
Bryan Cruz
William Dalsen

Gilbert Desroches
Yena Hong
Szeman Lam
Jason Madden
Natasha Marshall
Alexandra Oxyer
Stephen Pevsner
Portia Proctor
Elizabeth Proujansky
Jana Ruthberg
Laura Stafford
Lindsey Tertan
Jason Vives
Makenzie Way

Corporate Social Responsibility Special Recognition

The individuals below have greatly expanded the Firm's capacity to serve vulnerable communities and champion important social justice causes.

Alexander Griffith
Colleen Hart
Amanda Nussbaum

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 business services professionals, advocating for their needs, and challenging the Firm to continuously prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion in meaningful ways.

Monica Arora
Elisabeth Baltay
Steven Burwell
Robert Chiu
Michael Ellis
Camille Higonnet
Brittnee Johnson
Jinyoung Joo
Timothy Karcher
Paul Lazdowski
Nicole Magrini
Catherine Sear
Nigel Telman

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.

Tosin Adeyeri
Jennifer Rigterink
Allison Saltstein
Robert Shmalo
Hannah Silverman

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Fellowship

Godfre Blackman is the Firm's 2022-2023 NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) Fellow. As part of the Firm's Collaborate for Change initiative, Proskauer created a fellowship for one of our associates to work directly with the LDF on strategic matters focusing on eliminating disparities and achieving racial justice and equality.

Godfre Blackman

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Award

Awarded to individuals who are actively engaged in fostering an inclusive culture that is free from bias and serve as role models for others. A recipient acts as a sponsor or ally in championing gender equity and works to remove barriers and improve the working experience and engagement levels of women in the Firm.

Lauren Boglivi
Yomarie Habenicht
Lucie Rose

