

16th Annual
**Golden Gavel
Awards**

February 21, 2024



Proskauer» For Good

Pro Bono

Death Row Inmate Representation

This year, Proskauer's 35-year pro bono representation of a death row inmate, J.B. Parker, came to a successful conclusion when the 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida sentenced him to life in prison with the possibility of parole. An estimated more than 100 Proskauer lawyers have worked on Mr. Parker's case for over three decades, involving a stay of execution, a re-sentencing trial in 2000, numerous post-conviction motions and extensive pre-trial discovery and litigation. Before a second re-sentencing trial scheduled to take place in 2023, the State of Florida conceded that it would no longer seek the death penalty.

James Anderson

Henrique Carneiro

Dakshina Chetti

Jeremiah Evans

Joan Hoffman

Lucas Kowalczyk

Omobolaji Oluwasola

John Roberts

Hena Vora

Settlement in Prisoner Rights Litigation

A Proskauer team negotiated a significant settlement in a civil rights case on behalf of a prisoner in a correctional center, who sued several defendants for failure to provide adequate medical care for his serious medical needs. The team argued that defendants' unreasonable delays and refusal to provide appropriate medical care and treatment for plaintiff's rotator cuff tear in his right shoulder and lateral meniscus tear in his right knee were in violation of the law. After the

plaintiff's claim survived a motion for summary judgment, the parties agreed to settle, resulting in a substantial award to plaintiff. The Court thanked the Proskauer team for its service, noting that the attorneys on the matter "do the profession and Proskauer Rose proud."

Godfre Blackman
Sara Gothard
Edna Guerrasio
Steven Pearlman
Shanice Smith-Banks

Protecting and Preserving Voting Rights

In the run-up to the 2024 elections, Proskauer's commitment to voting rights has never been stronger or more critical. In 2023, among many other voting rights and election-related projects, Proskauer teams submitted amicus briefs in two pivotal voting rights cases.

Gerrymandering in South Carolina

Last summer a team filed an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court in *Alexander v. The South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP* on behalf of 30 historians and legal scholars specializing in the history of the Southern United States with a focus on South Carolina, race relations and election laws. The brief highlighted the strong resemblance between a racially gerrymandered map drawn in 1882 and the racially gerrymandered map enacted in 2022, both cutting out Black voting centers from the district at issue. The two gerrymanders, 140 years apart, both had the same intentions and the same results — to diminish the political

influence of Black voters and the political parties that they favored.

Godfre Blackman
Michael Guggenheim
Joan Hoffman
Emily Kline
John Roberts
Reut Samuels
Dietrich Snell
Daniel Wesson

Voter Prosecution in Florida

A Proskauer team filed an amicus brief on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU Foundation of Florida, the Brennan Center for Justice and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the Third District Court of Appeal of Florida in *Florida v. Miller*. Ronald Miller was arrested in 2022 for registering to vote while ineligible. Unbeknownst to Mr. Miller, his prior felony conviction prevented him from registering and voting legally. The amicus brief argued that Miller's prosecution and other similar ones reflected an unlawful expansion of Florida's Office of Statewide Prosecution. It also highlighted Florida's failure to properly administer its voting rights restoration system and the resulting chilling effect among disproportionately Black voters in Florida.

Isaiah Anderson
Laura Bergman
Alexander Blutman
Richard Corn
Jay Jensen
Karen Molloy
Angelo Monforte
Myron Rumeld
Matthew Triggs

The Hip Hop Museum

The Hip Hop Museum, located in the Bronx, will provide a space for audiences, artists and technology to converge, creating unparalleled educational and entertainment experiences around the hip hop culture of the past, present and future. Its mission is to celebrate and preserve the history of local and global hip hop music and culture to inspire, empower and promote understanding. The museum is expected to open later this year. Proskauer teams have spent hundreds of hours helping The Hip Hop Museum with a variety of different projects, including contract reviews, real estate matters, media and intellectual property advice and employment matters.

Oludolapo Akinkugbe
Brianna Arscott Grant
Peter Cramer
Gregory Dewire
Jason Finger
Jordan Horowitz
Stephanie McIntyre
David Miller
Adam Nowicki
Margo Richard
Theresa Smith
Amy Williams
Will Wyman

Asylum Victory

In February, a Proskauer team obtained a grant of asylum for our client, a bisexual man from Ghana who was brutally beaten by a homophobic mob. The Ghanaian police refused to assist him, and instead interrogated him about his sexual orientation and told him that he should be imprisoned because being

gay was illegal in Ghana. Proskauer took the case in 2019 and represented the client at his asylum hearing in February 2023, at which the Immigration Judge stated that the claim was credible, well-documented and well-prepared, and convinced the attorney representing U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement ("ICE") to stipulate that our client deserved asylum and that ICE would waive its right to appeal. The client was overjoyed upon receiving asylum, and Proskauer is now assisting him with his green card application.

Alon Elhanan
Rebecca Fishbein
Jordan Glassberg
Pinchos Goldberg
Joseph O'Keefe
Nikhil Sadaranganey
Jeff Warshafsky

London

Helping Children Access Immigration Status

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. 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 submitted fee waiver applications on behalf of two applicants, both of which were approved by the government, and are now awaiting decisions on those applicants' full citizenship applications.

Robert Gaut

Serving Nonprofits

Through LawWorks, a charity working in England and Wales to connect volunteer lawyers with people in need of legal advice who are not eligible for legal aid and cannot afford to pay and with the nonprofit organizations that support them, 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

Vikki McKay
Benjamin Peacock

Benefits Appeal Victory

In April, a Proskauer team took on a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) appeal for a client who relies on government benefits to allow her to complete her basic daily living tasks due to a variety of physical and mental health conditions. On an extremely condensed timeline, the team prepared a compelling case and succeeded in securing PIP for the client for a five-year period at an enhanced rate, the best possible outcome. The client was thrilled with the result, which affords her significant relief and greatly helps to meet her needs.

Julia Bihary
Rory Buttle
Erica Chen

Paris

Serving Nonprofits

Proskauer attorneys in the Paris office continued to provide critical pro bono assistance to several nonprofits doing important work.

This year, a team provided significant corporate governance assistance to LOBA, an organization supporting women who were victims of sexual violence. The team also helped LOBA negotiate an important partnership agreement and navigate a tricky employment situation involving ownership of key IP rights. Proskauer attorneys also worked closely with YES Akademie, which enables underprivileged youth to gain self-confidence and succeed in school. The team provided assistance with corporate governance, contract negotiations and small business trainings.

Stephanie Martinier
Hugo Monteiro Vieira

Corporate Social Responsibility

Education

Proskauer's **education initiatives** provide our students with enrichment skills and concepts designed to meet the students' needs for college, careers and beyond. We recognize that education drives so many lifelong issues such as wealth, health and housing. We inspire future lawyers, provide economic empowerment for under-represented individuals and design and teach enrichment workshops for high-achieving students from low-income communities across the country. We coach at-risk youth in our London office and prepare advocates and leaders through our social justice classes across the U.S. We recognize the volunteers noted below.

Alicia Abboud
Tara Brailey
Daniel Brennan
Jinyoung Joo
Aryian Kohandel Shirazi
Szeman Lam
Katelyn Myers
Libbie Osaben
Stephen Pevsner
Andrew Solomon
Nicole Swanson

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 in our offices during the fall and spring semesters. The students are provided a problem and meet with a group of amazing 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 associate mentors work beyond the program and serve as mentors for the students as they navigate college and careers. We recognize:

Isaiah Anderson
Raymond Arroyo
Alexander Blutman
Alisha Bruce
Timothy Burroughs
Jake Butwin
Hannah Morris
Scott Tan

Corporate Social Responsibility Leadership

Our corporate social responsibility initiatives are run 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 vulnerable and under-represented individuals and families in the communities where we live and work.

Kathryn Benson
Leslie Bobb
Penelope Pint
Lindsey Tertan
Aurel Van Iderstine
Natasha Wilson

Economic Empowerment for Women

Since 2015, Proskauer has supported economic empowerment for women with many of our nonprofit partners and through our programs. We train women and introduce marketable skills so they can increase their incomes and support their families. We recognize the individuals below for their leadership.

Monica Arora
Colleen Hart
Amanda Nussbaum

Pro Bono and CSR: Special Recognition

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

Christopher Ahn
Andrew Bettwy
Julia Bihary
Jamison Chung
Laura Fant
Ron Franklin
Mykwain Gainey
Alexander Griffith
David Hanna
Whitney Phelps
Corey Rogoff
Bradley Ruskin
Allison Sullivan

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Talent Development and Community Building

This award is given 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.

Michelle Annese

Margaret Dale

Grant Darwin

Keisha-Ann Gray

Yomarie Habenicht

Adam Lupion

Katrine Magas

Vikki McKay

David Miller

Seetha Ramachandran

Lucie Rose

Catherine Sear

Olivia Short

Kristina Trauger

Advancing Change

This award is given 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.

Alicia Abboud

Ehud Barak

Aaliyah Brown

Margaret Dale

Jennifer Hicks

Camille Higonnet

Steven Holinstat

Philip Kaminski

Olympia Karageorgiou

Aliyah Kilpatrick

David Pratt

Robert Shmalo

David Teigman

Nigel Telman

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Award

This award is given to an individual who has actively engaged in fostering an inclusive culture that is free from bias and who has served as a role model for others. This recipient has acted as a sponsor and ally in championing gender equity and has worked to remove barriers and improve the working experience and engagement levels of women in the Firm.

Kate Gold

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