

18th Annual  
**Golden Gavel  
Awards**

February 24, 2026



Proskauer» For Good

# Pro Bono

## Parole Release Victory – Bobbi Cobaugh

For the past three years, a Proskauer team has represented Bobbi Cobaugh in her New York State parole proceedings. Bobbi served over two decades in state prison. While incarcerated, she devoted herself to therapy, rehabilitation and acceptance of responsibility, achieved extraordinary academic success, and maintained a near-spotless disciplinary record, completely turning her life around and embodying the rehabilitative goals of the New York State parole system. After numerous unsuccessful parole hearings, appeals, and Article 78 petitions, the team obtained a favorable Article 78 decision, and Bobbi was finally granted parole release in September 2025.

**Claire Abrahamson**

**Jake Butwin**

**Dakshina Chetti**

**Benjamin Childress**

**Courtland Cuevas**

**Sarah Ghivizzani**

**Alexander Guzy-Sprague**

**Catheryn Ibegbu**

**Michael Kratochvil**

**Gawa (Jiahua) Zeng**

## Asylum on Behalf of Ugandan Client

After nearly ten years, a team of Proskauer attorneys obtained a grant of asylum for our client, a gay man from Uganda. The team successfully demonstrated that the client has a well-founded fear of returning to Uganda because he experienced violence and persecution there on the basis of his sexual orientation.

**James Anderson**

**Victoria Grant**

**Benjamin Rubin**

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**Laura Stafford**  
**Hena Vora**  
**Emily Weber**

## Securing Disability Benefits for Eight-Year-Old Child

In September, a Proskauer team secured a favorable decision on a Social Security disability application for an eight-year-old boy with a rare heart condition. The client's monthly benefits had been improperly terminated, and the family, who were recently living in a shelter, relied on those crucial benefits for financial stability. The Administrative Law Judge adopted the team's analysis, finding that the child qualified to receive disability benefits and restoring them to his family to provide him needed care.

**James Anderson**  
**Sarah Carlson**  
**Andrew Higgins**  
**Elliot Stevens**  
**Saika Suzuki**

## Access to Children's Mental Health Services in New York

In 2022, a Proskauer team co-counseled with Disability Rights New York, Children's Rights and the National Health Law Program to file a federal class action challenging New York State's failure to provide Medicaid-eligible children with required home- and community-based mental health services. This year, the case resulted in a preliminary settlement requiring statewide expansion of mental health services, benefiting more than 2.5 million children enrolled in Medicaid. Proskauer played a central role in advancing the litigation and negotiating this landmark outcome.

**Aaliyah Brown**  
**Michael Beckwith**  
**Eric Chernus**  
**Adam Farbiarz**  
**Steven Holinstat**  
**Michael Menconi**  
**Susanna Nagorny**  
**Jacob Wonn**

## Landmark Settlement – Chicago Crosswalks

A Proskauer team achieved a major victory in its long-standing advocacy for blind and visually impaired pedestrians this year when the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois entered a comprehensive Remedial Plan Order requiring the City of Chicago to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals at all signalized intersections over a period of years, dramatically expanding access to safe, non-visual crossing information. The ruling followed six years of litigation brought by Proskauer and Disability Rights Advocates, alleging violations of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, and builds on a 2023 summary judgment decision finding the City in violation of federal law. In addition to mandating thousands of APS installations, the order requires prioritization of high-need intersections, ongoing maintenance, community engagement, and oversight by an independent monitor. This result will ensure meaningful, lasting access to Chicago's pedestrian infrastructure.

**Ray Alvarez**  
**Isaac Antoon**  
**Robert Linton**  
**Neil Shah**  
**Nigel Telman**  
**Edward Young**

## Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts

Proskauer lawyers work on various New York State Court committees and commissions to ensure that innovation in the courts advances access to justice. A team of Proskauer attorneys helped the Chief Judge's Advisory Committee on AI and the Court navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence while safeguarding fairness, transparency and public trust in the justice system. Their work has strengthened the Courts' ability to understand emerging technologies, anticipate legal and ethical challenges, and develop principled guidance for their responsible use.

**Kathie Duperval**  
**Brooke Gottlieb**  
**Meredith Lipson**  
**Michael Menconi**  
**Jonian Rafti**  
**Lily Wang Petrie**

## Gun Violence Prevention

As part of the Firm's sustained commitment to gun violence prevention, this year Proskauer attorneys conducted a comprehensive 50-state survey of firearm preemption laws for long-standing pro bono partner Sandy Hook Promise, creating a valuable resource that clarifies how state legal frameworks shape local authority over firearm regulation and will inform SHP's policy and advocacy strategy as it seeks to prevent gun violence.

**Matthew Crorey**  
**Malcolm Hochenberg**  
**John Ingrassia**  
**Dov Shore**  
**Matthew Westbrook**

## Supporting Mental Health Nonprofit

Over the past few years, Proskauer has provided extensive support to Project Healthy Minds, a nonprofit dedicated to breaking down the barriers that prevent people from finding and accessing life-changing mental health services, including through the world's first free digital mental health marketplace. The firm has provided a variety of different types of legal support, including employment advice, contract drafting, and reviewing and advising on several of the organization's key operational partnerships.

**Alexander Amir**  
**Matthew Crorey**  
**Mallory Hart**  
**Arielle Kobetz**  
**Caroline Rimmer**

## StreetSquash Youth Enrichment Program

StreetSquash is a nonprofit youth development organization founded in 1999 as the second urban squash program in the U.S. Through a comprehensive youth enrichment model, it combines academic tutoring, squash instruction, community service, college preparation, leadership development and mentoring to support young people. Proskauer attorneys are collaborating on a new initiative to combat food insecurity developed by the program's youth members.

**Jeffrey Horwitz**

*Pro Bono*

## Pro Bono – Special Recognition

These honorees deserve special recognition and thanks for their exceptional 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.

**Keith Barnett**  
**Kelly Curtis**  
**Joseph Drayton**  
**Robert Friedman**  
**Susan Goldfarb**  
**Daryn Grossman**  
**Stephen Hibbard**  
**Christina Kroll**  
**William Leggat**  
**Mary McNicholas**  
**Robert Pommer**  
**John Sedarous**  
**Elizabeth Shrieves**  
**Nicole Swanson**  
**Alan Teran**  
**Bryanna Wilbor**  
**Eamon Wizner**

# Corporate Social Responsibility

## Moot Court

Proskauer's Moot Court programs run in both our New York and Washington, D.C. offices. As part of the program, students deepen their understanding of legal reasoning while building soft skills such as oral advocacy, critical thinking, professionalism and collaborative problem solving, advancing their long term academic and career development. Proskauer lawyers in New York and Washington, D.C. actively support Moot Court programs by serving as judges, coaches, and mentors, dedicating their time and advocacy expertise to developing future lawyers. These volunteers help students strengthen oral advocacy, legal reasoning, and professional confidence. Their sustained engagement provides students with meaningful exposure to the practice of law and reflects Proskauer's commitment to mentorship, education, and service to the legal community.

**Erik Milch**

**Nathan Schuur**

**Emily Wakeman**

**Eamon Wizner**

## Local Leaders

Support from local leaders is invaluable to supporting our collective impact. These individuals forge meaningful relationships with community partners, identify local needs and help mobilize colleagues to contribute in meaningful ways. Through their leadership, they have helped students build skills needed for college and career success, individuals experiencing food insecurity access reliable nutrition and services, and community members facing economic or social challenges access programs that promote stability, opportunity and long term well-being.

**Katy Benson**  
**Leslie Bobb**  
**Casey Brandenberger**  
**Carrie Geldert**  
**Robert Harman**  
**Hannah Holley**  
**Lindsay Tertan**  
**Aurel Van Iderstine**

## Difference Makers

We recognize our colleagues who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to volunteerism throughout the year and whose support of programs focused on food insecurity, poverty, education, and veteran affairs has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many in our communities. Whether serving meals at a local soup kitchen, helping rehabilitate homes for low-income families, or working with students and military protégés to help prepare them for future education and careers, these individuals embody what it means to be a true “Difference Maker.”

**Kiki Cokorinos**  
**Matthew Cole**  
**Dorehn Coleman**  
**Melany Cruz Burgos**  
**Lee Dai**  
**Emily DeMeo**  
**Jeremiah Evans**  
**Sabrina Franconieri**  
**Douglas Frank**  
**Brooke Gottlieb**  
**Anne Halpern**  
**Colleen Hart**  
**John Ingrassia**  
**Courtney Kim**  
**Nancy Kim**  
**Shawn Ledingham Jr.**  
**Kit Lee-Demery**  
**Katrine Magas**  
**Nicole Magrini**  
**Maura McDonagh**  
**Brenna McLean**  
**Katelyn O'Brien**  
**Todd Ohlms**  
**Portia Proctor**  
**Brianna Reed**  
**Melena Say**  
**Doris Schwartzblat**  
**John Sedarous**  
**Andrew Solomon**  
**Nicole Swanson**  
**Lene Viculin**  
**Jacob Weinberg**  
**Jennifer Yang**

# Community Engagement & Inclusion

## Talent Development and Community Building

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

**Monica Arora**  
**Rob Chiu**  
**Kathie Duperval**  
**Jo Habenicht**  
**Steven Hurd**  
**Gloria Kim**  
**Jiyeon Kim**  
**Portia Proctor**  
**Andrea Rattner**  
**John Sedarous**

## Advancing Change

Awarded to individuals who have been engaged in significant ways in the advancement of community engagement and inclusion and through their actions have raised awareness of inclusion efforts of the Firm.

**Joseph Drayton**  
**Colleen Hart**  
**Camille Higonnet**  
**Jordan Horowitz**  
**Jin Joo**  
**Andrea Rattner**  
**Nigel Telman**

# Proskauer Impact

## Impact Award

Proskauer Impact is a firmwide initiative aimed at redefining the power of a law firm to advance social progress through the Firm's people, platforms, and partnerships. This inaugural award recognizes an individual whose leadership, sustained commitment, and hands-on contributions have been central to bringing the initiative to life. Through strategic vision and consistent engagement, the recipient has helped translate the Firm's values into meaningful action and measurable impact.

**Robert Shmalo**

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