

Pro Bono and Community Service

OVERVIEW

Our commitment to public service and pro bono legal work is deep and abiding. In 2008 alone, the Firm devoted more than 60,000 hours to pro bono projects, and our efforts have been recognized with awards from such distinguished organizations as The Legal Aid Society, the New York State Bar Association, inMotion, Sanctuary for Families, Volunteers of Legal Service, the United Federation of Teachers, Immigration Equality, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Lawyers Alliance for New York and the City Bar Justice Center. The Firm's commitment to pro bono activities, human rights and community service is further illustrated by its sponsorship of a number of year-long Public Service Fellowships, up to six split-summer associate Public Interest Fellowships and several externships at legal services organizations.

We approach our pro bono projects with the same commitment to excellence as we do all our work, and credit our lawyers' contributions on these matters equally with other engagements. We have handled matters as diverse as representing a tribe of indigenous peoples in Nicaragua in proceedings before the Inter-American Court of Justice, representing the Campaign for Fiscal Equity in efforts to remedy the gross inadequacies of New York City Public schools, challenging a California regulation which prevented seniors with mental health disabilities from accessing or remaining in housing best suited to their needs, representing former prosecutors appearing as amici curiae before the United States Supreme Court in connection with efforts to ensure fairness during jury deliberations concerning the imposition of a death sentence on a criminal defendant, and counseling the New York Public Library in a historic transaction with Google to digitize books and make them available online.

Commitment to community service is a defining characteristic of Simpson Thacher. Lawyers and other employees at all levels at the Firm make significant contributions to legal service programs, government and not-for-profit groups throughout the year. Many Simpson Thacher lawyers serve on the boards of non-profit entities and act as advisors to public interest organizations. Simpson Thacher employees regularly engage in community service projects such as assisting mock trial teams at New York City high schools, reading to local elementary school children and running a legal advocacy training course for New York City high school students. The Firm participates in 11 different employment programs to provide minority and disadvantaged youth with summer and academic year jobs.

We have long relationships with a number of organizations for whom we regularly perform pro bono work, including: The Legal Aid Society, a number of offices of Legal Services for New York City, Human Rights First, The City Bar Justice Center, inMotion, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, Legal Services for Children, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the Office of the Appellate

Defender, the Natural Resources Defense Council, New Visions for Public Schools, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Doctors Without Borders, Robin Hood Foundation, the Lawyers Alliance for New York, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. In addition to these ongoing relationships, we represent a wide variety of individuals and organizations on special or one-time pro bono matters, including those relating to civil and human rights, the environment, education and the arts. Beyond our high-profile projects and work for major community service organizations, many of our pro bono efforts are on behalf of indigent individuals, assisting them in obtaining the basic necessities of life, including housing, public benefits and freedom from abusive spouses. Pro bono projects are regularly handled directly by associates, and summer associates have played significant roles in many of our most important efforts.

The Firm's Pro Bono Counsel and its Pro Bono Committee of partners ensure that all our lawyers are kept apprised of the many opportunities for pro bono work, offer support and guidance, and solicit proposals for new pro bono projects.

SIGNIFICANT PRO BONO ENGAGEMENTS

Pro Bono Efforts on Behalf of New York City Schoolchildren

The Firm has represented the Campaign for Fiscal Equity since 1995 in efforts to remedy the gross inadequacies in the New York City public schools and to ensure that all New York City children receive a constitutionally adequate education. The Firm – which has devoted more than \$20 million in time and disbursements to this matter – represented the Campaign for Fiscal Equity through a seven-month trial and numerous appeals, and obtained a landmark ruling from the State's highest court affirming that the New York City school system did not provide students with the opportunity to obtain a sound basic education as required by the state constitution. As a result of efforts on this case, billions of additional dollars have been – and will be – made available to support the education of New York City school children.

Pro Bono Efforts on Behalf of Immigrants Seeking Asylum or in Removal Proceedings

The Firm's three immigration projects assist a wide variety of clients seeking legal status in the United States. Through the Asylum Project, Simpson Thacher lawyers have spent thousands of hours representing individuals seeking asylum in the United States in order to escape torture and other forms of persecution in their home countries. Clients come from a wide variety of countries throughout Africa, Southeast Asia, South America, the Middle East and Russia. Through the Firm's Immigrant Removal Defense Project, Simpson Thacher lawyers provide pro bono legal assistance to detained immigrants facing deportation. Simpson Thacher lawyers also participate in the KIND (Kids In Need of Defense) Project, representing unaccompanied children fleeing abuse, mistreatment, torture and trafficking, in immigration court and in transactional proceedings with agencies like the U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Service.

Pro Bono Efforts on Behalf of Struggling Micro-entrepreneurs

The Firm has partnered with Seedco - a not-for-profit organization that provides free business consulting for micro-entrepreneurs in New York - to provide fledgling small businesses with pro bono legal services. As part of this program, Simpson Thacher lawyers staff legal clinics for small businesses, represent micro-entrepreneurs in contract and lease negotiations, assist in incorporating small not-for-profit corporations, and teach seminars on various legal issues relevant to micro-entrepreneurs. In 2009, the Firm launched a Spanish legal clinic for small businesses which will target the Spanish-speaking small business community.

Pro Bono Efforts on Behalf of Doctors Without Borders

The Firm has performed significant pro bono work on behalf of Doctors Without Borders USA. Doctors Without Borders - recipient of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize - delivers emergency aid to victims of armed conflict, epidemics, disasters, and social or geographical isolation. Simpson Thacher has provided pro bono legal services to Doctors Without Borders in matters involving, among other things, exempt organization law, intellectual property, corporate law and litigation. In the wake of the December 2004 Tsunami disaster, Simpson Thacher provided advice to Doctors Without Borders on a number of matters, including public communications (e.g., website disclosures regarding use of donated funds), commercial co-venture contracts and use of restricted funds.

Alliance with Bushwick Schools

Recognizing that a family's legal problems can impact a child's ability to stay or thrive in school, the Firm has initiated an innovative pro bono program to provide legal services to families of high school students in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Simpson Thacher attorneys staff monthly clinics and work with students' families to address civil legal problems such as housing, immigration and public benefits disputes.

Pro Bono Efforts on Behalf of Guantanamo Detainees

The Firm, as co-counsel with the Center for Constitutional Rights, represents two Saudi citizens detained at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in connection with their petitions for writs of habeas corpus in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The Firm also submitted an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of its clients and more than 300 other detainees.

OTHER CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANT PRO BONO ENGAGEMENTS

Additionally, Simpson Thacher attorneys have worked on an extraordinary range of pro bono matters, including:

- Representing battered women in seeking orders of protection, in obtaining child support payments and in divorce proceedings.
- Representing low income tenants in housing court to preclude evictions and to obtain basic building services such as heat and hot water.
- Providing corporate and tax counsel to a wide range of non-profit organizations, including organizations devoted to reforming schools, providing health care to impoverished areas and improving legal services for the poor.
- Representing defendants in appeals of criminal convictions.
- Providing corporate counsel to community development organizations undertaking the economic revitalization of poor and underserved neighborhoods.
- Representing environmental organizations seeking to protect endangered species and to protect the nation's wilderness areas.
- Filing amicus briefs on behalf of several organizations in a variety of cases – both in domestic and international courts – involving constitutional, civil and human rights issues.
- Representing clients challenging discrimination in the affordable housing market.
- Representing the victims of other forms of discrimination and prejudice in numerous forums throughout the country.

CLIENT ORGANIZATIONS & OTHER PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

In addition to major impact pro bono litigation, Simpson Thacher undertakes a wide variety of other pro bono activities. The Firm has participated on a pro bono basis in matters involving:

International Human Rights

Simpson Thacher lawyers have participated in a number of international human rights projects for a variety of NGO's around the world, and particularly in Latin America. Recent examples include:

- The Firm represented an indigenous community in Nicaragua before the Inter-American Court which resulted in a key precedent in international law in recognizing the rights of indigenous communities to their traditionally occupied lands by expanding traditional protection of individual property rights to communities.
- The Firm assisted an Argentine NGO in research covering several jurisdictions regarding the potential responsibility of non-state actors in facilitating human rights violations.
- The Firm assisted a Chilean NGO in advocating for more generous deductibility of donations to NGOs in order to facilitate the development of private philanthropy and civil society.
- The Firm assisted Oxfam America, and several indigenous rights organizations in Peru, in its dialogue with the Peruvian government over new forestry legislation and its effect on indigenous land rights.
- The Firm assisted the Rainforest Foundation in connection with providing resources to indigenous communities that have been approached or are interested in establishing claims for carbon credits in connection with reforestation projects and avoided deforestation projects.

Legal Services for the Poor

More than half of the Firm's pro bono commitment goes toward representing the poor in legal matters, including benefit and assistance issues, consumer fraud and landlord-tenant disputes. Simpson Thacher has accepted hundreds of referrals in the past few years from numerous legal service agencies and individuals.

inMotion

Simpson Thacher lawyers provide legal assistance through this organization to clients who are victims of domestic violence. The Firm provides legal representation of all kinds, but generally obtains orders of protection, facilitates support payments to ensure housing and food for mothers and their children, resolves child custody issues, and helps clients obtain divorces from abusive spouses.

Not-for-Profit Corporate and Tax Advice

We have handled matters involving, among others, New Visions for Public Schools, the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, the Robin Hood Foundation and the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The Firm has a long history of public service ranging from distinguished government service to leadership of charitable organizations. The Firm encourages all of its attorneys to serve their communities and the public good. In furtherance of this commitment, the Firm offers fellowships each year to summer associates to enable them to devote part of their summer to a public interest law project. Simpson Thacher's Public Interest Fellowship Program awards summer associates the opportunity to spend the last four to six weeks of the summer on a significant public service project of their choosing while still receiving full salary. In addition, the Firm's Cyrus Vance Fellowship – established in conjunction with the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School – awards a Yale law student the opportunity to devote the last four to six weeks of the summer to a public interest law project in the area of international human rights, while still receiving full salary. The Cyrus Vance Fellowship was established in honor of former Secretary of State and former Simpson Thacher partner Cyrus R. Vance. Cy personified the dedication to public service, integrity and depth of character to which we as a Firm are committed. Cy started his legal career at Simpson Thacher in 1947 and retired from the Firm at the end of 1997 after 50 years of service to his clients and the community. His extraordinary commitment to the public good provides a standard to which every attorney at our Firm is encouraged to aspire. Indeed, many attorneys at the Firm devote significant time and resources to public interest causes.

Many Simpson Thacher attorneys serve on the boards of non-profits such as the Legal Aid Society, the Robin Hood Foundation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Legal Services--NYC, Legal Outreach, Inc., Appleseed, Manhattan Legal Services, Volunteers of Legal Services, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Numerous Simpson Thacher attorneys also hold leadership positions at educational, arts, medical and human rights charities. Individual Simpson Thacher attorneys have also helped launch programs that benefit the public interest, from an immigration law clinic in Washington Heights to an online service designed to assist public charities in their efforts to seek and maintain tax-exempt status.