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Spotlight: 2013 Public Service Fellow Returns to Simpson Thacher

NY Litigation Associate **Deborah Frankel** returned to the Firm from her year as a Simpson Thacher Public Service Fellow at New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. (NHLAA) in New Haven, Connecticut, where she worked on education advocacy matters and criminal appeals. Deborah's enthusiasm for her work at NHLAA demonstrates her passion for advocating for her clients, both pro bono and otherwise.



STB: Describe your work at NHLAA.

DF: NHLAA provides a range of services, including benefits, housing and family law. While there, I worked with education attorneys who divided their time between special education advocacy and representing students subject to disciplinary action by schools. I observed quite a bit of overlap between those areas—many of the students subject to disciplinary action also had special needs. I also worked on criminal appeals, which provided me the opportunity to draft appellate briefs and meet with incarcerated clients. I also had the chance to shadow housing and family law attorneys. I was glad for the exposure to such a wide range of issues that affect low-income individuals.

STB: What attracted you to the work and the organization?

DF: Prior to law school, I worked as a teacher at a public school in New Haven, so I was interested both in the rights of students and in the city itself. New Haven is an interesting place to work because it's a city with significant problems, but it's small in scale; you become familiar with the system fairly quickly compared to a city like New York. I was also interested in having direct contact with clients, and the variety of clients at NHLAA was very appealing—it's very different advising the parent of a six-year-old with learning disabilities and representing an 18-year-old facing school expulsion for multiple arrests. The fact that NHLAA takes both civil and criminal cases was also compelling to me.

STB: **How do the skills you gained in your Fellowship translate to your work as an associate at Simpson Thacher?**

DF: My work on criminal appeals and in education law contributed to my development as a litigation associate. Handling criminal appeals sharpened my skills—I learned how to identify issues for appeal, conduct legal research efficiently, draft appellate briefs, interview clients, and prepare for oral argument. Working closely with NHLAA’s more senior criminal defense attorneys also prepared me to work collaboratively on litigation teams at Simpson.

On the education law side, much of my work entailed advocating for clients in school and district-level meetings or at expulsion hearings. This meant that every day I went into a room filled with people—some allies of my client and others not—and represented my client’s interests, advocating for the child to receive the educational services or opportunities to which he or she was legally entitled. Learning to advocate zealously for my client, despite an often uncomfortable or hostile environment, was critical to my success at NHLAA, and has definitely been useful as an associate.

STB: **How was the experience meaningful to you?**

DF: At NHLAA, we met children and families who were struggling enormously—kids who were frequently truant, had been suspended multiple times, or had been arrested and as a result faced educational ramifications. These students’ struggles were often compounded by special education needs, and the public schools in New Haven were often not well-equipped to provide the necessary support. The majority of the families I worked with also faced other challenges associated with living in poverty.

Working for parents who were determined to secure educational opportunities for their

children was a privilege and a meaningful challenge, particularly given that the New Haven Public Schools and the Connecticut State Department of Education have struggled to provide appropriate resources and opportunities to all the kids that need them. The stakes for my clients were high—sometimes the difference between receiving a high school diploma or not, or participating in mainstream regular education or not. I loved the challenge and was inspired by my clients.

STB: **How did Simpson Thacher support your decision to do an externship?**

DF: The fact that the Firm offers this fellowship and supports the work is incredible. I don’t think most other firms have programs like this and it was one of the things that attracted me to the Firm. I had a great experience as a summer associate, and knew that I wanted to return. I had worked on a few pro bono cases during the summer and really enjoyed them. I also had a great experience participating in a criminal defense clinic during my third year of law school. The Fellowship seemed like a natural extension of my interests, and I thought that I could better contribute to the pro bono work at the Firm upon my return. The transition back to the Firm after the Fellowship could not have been smoother, thanks to Legal Personnel staff. I was honored to represent Simpson Thacher as a Fellow, and it’s great to be back. I’ve already put my experience to work on some pro bono matters.

Pro Bono Program Hires New Coordinator



Carola Beeney

The Firm is happy to welcome **Carola Beeney** as its new Pro Bono Coordinator. A graduate of Vassar College, Carola tutored at Harlem Village Academies and has worked on the communications teams at the Center for Constitutional Rights and for City Council member Helen Rosenthal. Most recently, she comes from a branding firm that specializes in creating corporate social responsibility initiatives. Carola will assist with the administration of the Pro Bono Program. A fluent Spanish-speaker, she will also serve as a translator on our immigration, housing and family law matters. Please join us in welcoming Carola to the Firm.

Profile: 2014 Summer Public Interest Fellows

Simpson Thacher welcomed four law students to its Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program, now in its ninth year. After working at the Firm for the first part of the summer, they will each embark on a self-designed public interest project, supported by the Firm.



Kaitlin Morrison

Kaitlin Morrison, a summer associate in the Palo Alto office from Columbia Law School, will join the ACLU's Women's Rights Project to assist with its litigation on discrimination in schools and the workplace. Kaitlin will also work with the Simpson Thacher-sponsored Equal Justice Fellow on a project targeting discriminatory housing laws.



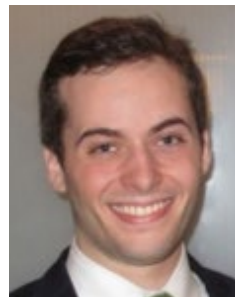
Emily Turner

A Washington office summer associate and University of Pennsylvania law student, **Emily Turner** will head to the University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights, where she will assist with research, investigation and litigation addressing the connections between race and environmental justice, education and voting access.



Veronica Jordan-Davis

Veronica Jordan-Davis joins the New York office from Yale Law School. She will spend the second half of her summer at the Center for Justice and Accountability in San Francisco, which focuses on litigation holding human rights abusers individually accountable for their crimes.



Jeff Levine

Jeff Levine, University of Chicago law student and New York office summer associate, will work at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in the Economic Crime Bureau, where he will assist units specializing in white collar crime, elder abuse, environmental crime and mortgage fraud.

We wish them all a great summer.

Simpson Thacher Participates in Anti-Trafficking Initiative in Queens, NY Criminal Court

Simpson Thacher was chosen as one of a small group of law firms to participate in a unique pilot project with Sanctuary for Families to provide pro bono legal assistance to victims of human trafficking and related forms of commercial sexual exploitation at the criminal court in Queens. After an intensive 5-hour training in May, our attorneys will interview women being arraigned in the newly created Human Trafficking Intervention Courts -- part of the state's Criminal Court system -- and assess their need for civil legal services. This project is being led by associates **Jordan Botjer** and **Caroline Gross** and counsel **Harlene Katzman**.



Sanctuary for Families lawyers provide training at STB on how to work with victims of human trafficking.

Palo Alto Summer Associates Ride the Justice Bus!

Palo Alto summer associates boarded the Justice Bus again this year, riding to Watsonville Law Center to staff a clinic in a rural, low income community. Through the Firm's partnership with OneJustice, summer associates were trained and spent June 12, 2014 assisting 15 individuals with criminal record clearances and record expungements. These steps are essential not only in reducing recidivism, but also in eliminating the significant barriers to employment faced by formerly incarcerated men and women. Palo Alto Attorney Recruiter **Lauren**



Adriani, who organized and participated in the event, said, "The Justice Bus is really inspiring for our summer associates—they can see the direct impact they have on the lives of our clients, all in just one day." Participants included **Gabriel Weiner, JaeWon Lee, Paul Barrus, Matt Kemp, Nipun Kant, Kaitlin Morrison, Kimberly Ingram, Carolyn Hill, Casey Corr, Jenny Palmer, Jane Li, Amber Harezlak** and **Adam Crider**.

Los Angeles Office Participates in New Clinic to Provide Wraparound Legal Services to Survivors of Domestic Violence

On April 11, 2014, Simpson Thacher attorneys staffed a new clinic at the Jenesse Center for Domestic Violence in South Los Angeles. Through a partnership with the Inner City Law Center, OneJustice and the Association of Pro Bono Counsel, Simpson Thacher attorneys were trained and matched with pre-screened domestic violence survivors to assess civil legal issues related to housing,



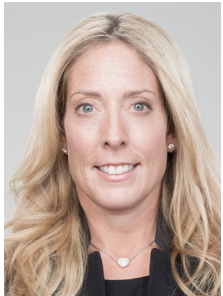
immigration and public benefits. The clinic helped nine individuals, two of whom were referred back to the firm for ongoing pro bono assistance with housing issues. Our participation was coordinated by **Jessica Marek** and also included **Robert Smith, Mimi Cheng, Denis Griffin, Matthew Cave, Bradley Raboin, Amanda Pawlyk, Steven Sutton** and **Ayal Bainvoll**.

Group Highlight: Exempt Organizations Group Provides Pro Bono Support to Grassroots Nonprofits

Simpson Thacher's Exempt Organizations (EO) practice is unique and well-known to many of the country's largest and most successful nonprofits. In addition to advising its impressive roster of clients on tax, governance, corporate and other issues, the EO group's lawyers have over the years supervised hundreds



David Shevlin



Jennifer Franklin



Jennifer Reynoso



John Bennett



Jillian Diamant



Maura Whelan



Kevin Roe

of pro bono matters, handled by lawyers throughout the Firm, for small, grassroots nonprofits seeking to form and gain tax exempt status.

In the last year alone, STB has obtained tax exemption for nonprofits such as: Juntos Collective, a modern dance company; four new charter schools started by New Visions for Public Schools; The Bravest Athletic Leadership Association, which empowers student-athletes at NYC public high schools with high-level athletic coaching; and Columbia Veterans, a community of Columbia University alumni and faculty who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. At least 10 more nonprofits, ranging from an organization serving at-risk youth with special needs to one teaching digital vocational skills in East Africa, await decisions from the IRS on their status.

Hundreds of Simpson Thacher lawyers have taken on pro bono representation of nonprofits over the years, guided by the expert knowledge of the EO group, led by partner **David Shevlin. Jennifer Franklin, Jennifer Reynoso, John Bennett, Jillian Diamant, Maura Whelan** and **Kevin Roe** have provided substantial expertise and counsel.

Recent Pro Bono Achievements

Simpson Thacher Settles Title IX Claim Against Pasadena Unified School District, Securing Real Sports Participation Options for Girls

Simpson Thacher settled a Title IX claim for our pro bono clients against the Pasadena Unified School District after the District agreed to expand access to athletic opportunities for girls.

The claim was brought on behalf of middle school girls who were denied access to interscholastic sports. The District's PasadenaLEARNs program offered athletic opportunities to boys, such as flag football, but girls were not provided with comparable opportunities. While

PasadenaLEARNS is advertised as including a ‘co-ed’ sports league and girls make up 48.9% of the District’s population, only 10% of the LEARNs sports participants were girls at the middle school level.

The District and the interscholastic sports program it operates have now added basketball and soccer programs for girls, and may also add girls’ volleyball in the fall. The settlement was achieved without the need for a lawsuit, following the District’s demonstration of a good-faith effort to rectify unlawful gender-based discrimination and ensure that girls can play sports.

The Simpson Thacher team, from Palo Alto, Los Angeles and New York offices, included **Buzz Frahn**, **Jayma Meyer**, **Michael Freedman** and **Lee Brand**.

Simpson Thacher Prevents Eviction for Washington D.C. Family

Attorneys in the Washington office successfully represented a family of tenants facing eviction from their apartment. After the landlord neglected to make necessary repairs to the property, tenants began withholding rent and were eventually sued for non-payment of rent and eviction. The attorneys negotiated a favorable settlement agreement for the family that included a significant reduction in rent over the duration of the lease. The family has since moved out of the apartment and into a new home. The team included associates **Karen Horvitz**, **Preston Miller**, **Elliot Weingarten** and **Abram Ellis**, with supervision by **Peter Thomas**.

Simpson Thacher Files Amicus Brief in Successful Second Circuit Appeal

In December 2013, Simpson Thacher submitted an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, the Family Violence Appellate Project, and Professors Shani M. King and Lisa V. Martin in the case of *Ermini v. Vittori* before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second

Circuit. The amici curiae filed their brief in support of a mother of two opposing a petition to return her children to their father in Italy under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The district court had denied the petition on the grounds that returning the children would pose a “grave risk” of physical or psychological harm—specifically depriving the youngest child of access to critical treatment for his severe autism. On behalf of the amici, Simpson Thacher argued that the father’s pattern of physical and verbal abuse directed at both his wife and their children presented a second, independent ground for denial of the petition. In an opinion issued on July 8, 2014, the Second Circuit agreed—not only affirming the district court’s holding regarding the autism treatment but also concluding that the father’s propensity for violence towards his spouse and their children constituted an independent “grave risk.” It therefore denied the petition for return of the children to Italy. The team included associates **Rae Adams** and **Aidan Grano** and was supervised by **Rob Smit**.

Simpson Thacher Represents NRDC in Acquisition from Reconnecting America, Inc.

The Firm represented long-time pro bono client, the Natural Resources Defense Council, in connection with its completed acquisition of trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual property-related assets from Reconnecting America, Inc., a nonprofit formed to provide technical assistance at the intersection of transportation and community and economic development. The Simpson Thacher team for the transaction included: **Maripat Alpuche**, **Lori Lesser**, **Marcy Geller**, **Jennifer Reynoso**, **Aditya Basrur**, **Samantha Himelman**, **Jodie Sopher Pimentel** and **Jodi Sackel**.

Simpson Thacher Wins Asylum on Behalf of Guyanese Client

Simpson Thacher successfully secured a grant of asylum on behalf of a Guyanese client who feared persecution in his home country on account of his sexual orientation and HIV-positive status. The matter was referred to the Firm by Immigration Equality. The Simpson Thacher team included New York associates **Kai Fan** and **Erika Tang** and was supervised by **Olga Gutman**.

Simpson Thacher Protects Housing of Disabled Tenant

New York associate **Josh Polster** successfully assisted our client, a disabled tenant, in a holdover petition brought by his landlord in New York housing court. After extensive negotiations, a settlement was reached allowing our client to remain in his apartment and requiring the landlord to remediate the mold in the apartment. The matter was supervised by **Bill Russell**.

Simpson Thacher Advises U.K. Charity

RedR (UK) is a charity with a mission to relieve suffering caused by global disasters by selecting, training and providing competent and committed personnel to humanitarian programs worldwide. The Firm's London office advised RedR (UK) in the drafting of a disclaimer for its Personal Security for Humanitarians training course, which aims to recreate scenarios that participants will encounter when they travel to conflict zones. The matter was handled by **Manuela Gonzalez-Arias** and **Aled Knights** and supervised by **Derek Baird**.

Simpson Thacher Secures Permanent Residency on Behalf of Guatemalan Client

Attorneys in the Los Angeles office successfully helped a Guatemalan client that fled poverty and an abusive father secure permanent residency status. The

team included associates **Jessica Marek** and **Joshua Neiman** and was supervised by **Chet Kronenberg**.

Simpson Thacher Wins Appeal in First Department for Housing Court Client

Simpson Thacher attorneys in New York successfully argued before the Appellate Term, First Department for the reversal of a Housing Court decision (49 Terrace Corp. v. Richardson, L&T No. 92485/2010), which granted possession of our client's apartment to his landlord, despite our client's meeting the requirements to succeed the tenancy of his deceased mother. The Appellate Term also denied the landlord's motion for leave to appeal to the Appellate Division. The decision marks a significant victory for our client, a low-income tenant, who now looks forward to litigating his claim on remand and ultimately being named the lawful tenant of his apartment, where he has resided for more than 12 years. The team included associate **Whytne Brooks** with guidance from **Linton Mann, III** and was supervised by **Bill Russell**.

Simpson Thacher Advises CharitySTRONG, Inc.

Simpson Thacher partner **David Shevlin** and associates **Nicole Tague** and **Matthew Gabbard** assisted CharitySTRONG, Inc. with its incorporation and obtaining 501(c)(3) tax exemption. A New York-based organization, CharitySTRONG was formed for the purpose of improving the quality of nonprofit governance and board oversight by establishing new director recruitment programs to help produce a broader and more diverse talent pool of directors and assisting board members by providing access to governance resources and programs.

Simpson Thacher Helps Immigrant Client Obtain Legal Permanent Residence Status

New York associate **Matthew Levy** obtained Legal Permanent Resident status for Julie, a client for whom the Firm had obtained U nonimmigrant status in 2009 as the result of being the victim of domestic violence. Julie can now live in the United States permanently with her two U.S.-citizen children and is economically self-sufficient and free from violence. The client was represented in 2009 by **Harlene Katzman**.



Harlene Katzman, our client Julie, Matt Levy and Erin Mahoney.

Simpson Thacher Wins Asylum on Behalf of Ugandan Client

Attorneys in the Los Angeles office successfully secured a grant of asylum on behalf of a Ugandan pro bono client who feared persecution on account of her sexual orientation. The client graduated with an LLM from Southwestern Law School in May and plans on taking the California bar exam in February. She hopes to practice family or immigration law. This matter was referred to the Firm by Immigration Equality. The team included associates **Jessica Marek** and **Steven Sutton** and was supervised by **Deborah Stein**.

Simpson Thacher Successfully Represents Circus Artist in O-1B Visa Petition

Simpson Thacher successfully represented Nicolás A. Maffey, a hand-balancer and aerial artist from Buenos Aires, Argentina, in his petition for an O-1B visa. This

visa for individuals with “extraordinary ability in the arts” will allow Mr. Maffey to seek employment in the United States as a circus artist for a period of three years. The Firm provided pro bono representation to Mr. Maffey in partnership with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal services to qualifying artists, arts and cultural organizations. The Simpson Thacher team included New York attorneys **Sharo Atmeh**, **Nathaniel Bronstein**, **John Ericson** and **Kyle Scherer**.

Awards And Events

Simpson Thacher Received Law Firm Leadership Award from Sanctuary for Families

Simpson Thacher received the Law Firm Leadership Award from Sanctuary for Families at its 2014 Zero Tolerance benefit at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers on June 3, 2014. Sanctuary for Families provides legal and social services to nearly 11,000 survivors of gender violence, including domestic violence and trafficking. Simpson Thacher has partnered with Sanctuary for the past six years on numerous pro bono projects. The award was accepted on behalf of the Firm by **Lori Lesser**, **Harlene Katzman** and **Mark Stein**. **Barry Ostrager** is a member of Sanctuary’s board of directors and was one of the event chairs.



Left to right: Sanctuary for Families’ Executive Director Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, STB’s Lori Lesser, Harlene Katzman and Mark Stein.

Simpson Thacher Receives the 2014 Beacon of Justice Award from NLADA

Simpson Thacher received the 2014 Beacon of Justice Award from the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), honoring law firms that have created and implemented innovative strategies to improve life outcomes for those unable to afford counsel. The Firm was honored for its creation of and participation in the *Small Business Legal Academy*, a pro bono event launched in October 2013 at the Apollo Theater. The Firm was selected for its “use of groundbreaking and original ideas, tools and technology to create new delivery models and initiatives that provide significant pro bono representation.”



STB’s Washington Office Honored for Pro Bono Work by D.C. Circuit Judicial Conference

On April 23, 2014, Simpson Thacher’s Washington office was honored for outstanding pro bono legal service at The 40 at 50: Judicial Pro Bono Recognition Breakfast. This event, held at the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse, honors law firms in Washington, D.C. that have at least 40% of its lawyers contributing at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services. The Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia presented the awards. This is the second year in a row that the Washington, D.C. office has received this honor.

Simpson Thacher Receives Pro Bono Leadership Award from Legal Services NYC

Simpson Thacher received the Pro Bono Leadership Award from Legal Services NYC for being one of its top pro bono partners in 2013 and for the Firm’s longstanding support of its work and its clients. The award was presented at the organization’s annual Jazz for Justice event at Gotham Hall on June 23, 2014.

Vice President Biden Discusses the Firm’s Pro Bono Projects

On June 5, 2014, Vice President Joseph Biden convened a meeting with board members of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (www.apbco.org) and law firm leaders to focus on access to justice issues and the role that pro bono counsel at law firms play in the delivery of legal services. Harlene Katzman discussed the Firm’s Homeless Youth Clinic and the Small Business Legal Academy projects as examples of innovative collaborations to address gaps in civil legal services in New York City.



Harlene Katzman, members of APBCo board, and law firm leaders in the Executive Office of the Vice President

Simpson Thacher Hosts Panel Discussion with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law on The State of Voting Rights in America

In June, the Firm hosted a panel discussion on the current state of voting rights in America and the work being done around the country to ensure that everyone has the right to vote. In response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Lawyers' Committee began a nation-wide examination of current voting records, including information about ongoing discrimination and barriers to voting at the state and local levels. To support this work, Simpson Thacher attorneys produced significant pro bono research reports on voting rights enforcement and compliance. The program's speakers included associate **Paul Rodriguez**, a member of the Young Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; Tova Wang, Senior Democracy Fellow at Démos; Marcia Johnson-Blanco, Co-Director of the Voting Rights Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; and associate **Samuel Charlton**, who spoke about the variety of pro bono work in areas of voting rights and election law he has engaged in at Simpson Thacher.



Simpson Thacher Lawyers Serve on Fund for Teachers Selection Committee

Eleven Simpson Thacher attorneys served as members of the committee that reviewed and helped to select this year's recipients of summer fellowships for New York public school teachers through the Fund for Teachers, which is administered by New Visions for Public Schools. Associates **Ryan Castillo, Mark Chorazak, Allan Chorny, Jeemin Chung, Marissa Cohen, Nakita Cuttino, Julia Kohen, Hiral Mehta, Paul Sirkis, Rachel Sparks Bradley** and counsel **Arjun Koshal** participated in the 2014 selection process.

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