



LETTER FROM PRO BONO COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, KEVIN KENNEDY



Kevin Kennedy



Bryce Friedman

The Pro Bono Committee officially welcomes its new co-chair, **Bryce Friedman**, a litigation partner in the New York office. Bryce has a long history of involvement in pro bono matters, including acting as lead counsel in *U.S. v. N.Y.C.* where STB defended the City of New York against a lawsuit brought by the United States Attorney alleging

violations of the False Claims Act, and as the partner supervisor of cases arising from our Bushwick Legal Clinic. We are looking forward to working with you to continue to uphold our proud tradition of pro bono service to those in need. We thank the outgoing co-chair of the Committee, **Libby McGarry**, for her many years of service and unwavering dedication to pro bono work which has provided a great example for us all. Libby's insight and wisdom have been invaluable, and under her stewardship the Firm's pro bono efforts have borne some amazing fruit. Thank you, Libby.

We also celebrate the Firm's third consecutive appearance (and its eighth appearance in the past 10 years) on the *American Lawyers' A-List*. The A-List is an annual tally of Am Law 200 revenue, pro bono score, associate satisfaction, and diversity as a means of determining "which firms hire the best people, serve the biggest clients, and seek—by word and deed—to uphold the highest standards of the profession." A firm's pro bono score counts for 33% of the total A-List score, and STB's pro bono score increased by 10% from last year. Congratulations to all of you who contributed to our rise this year.

Finally, this issue of the Pro Bono Newsletter is dedicated to our great group of summer associates. In this issue we profile our summer public interest fellows and highlight some of our summer volunteer programs in several STB offices.

RECENT PRO BONO ACHIEVEMENTS

LA Attorneys Protect Home for Low Income Woman

Attorneys in the Los Angeles office defended a low income homeowner in an action brought by her sister seeking partition of the home. STB obtained a favorable settlement for the client, securing her sole ownership of the home. The

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team included associates **Peter Jordan**, **Sarah Luppen** and **Michelle Kallen**, and was referred by Public Counsel. **Michael Kibler** supervised the matter.

STB Wins Asylum for Clients from Mali and Niger

Associates in the New York office won asylum from the Immigration Court for Ms. T and Mr. D, despite numerous and seemingly insurmountable challenges, not the least of which was a 9-year filing deadline issue. After being subject to female genital mutilation (FGM) and rape as a child in Mali, Ms. T fled to Niger, where she met Mr. D with whom she came to the United States, married, and had three U.S. citizen children. Ms. T feared that if she were sent back to Mali, she would be unable to protect her daughter from FGM. After weighing options which included a delayed filing to include a cancellation claim, and acceptance of prosecutorial discretion, the team decided to move forward to trial on Ms. T's asylum claim with Mr. D as a derivative. This matter was referred by the City Bar Justice Center. The STB team included associate **Alyssa Watzman** and partners **Alan Turner** and **Linda Martin**.

Houston Attorney Successfully Defends Housing Matter

Houston associate **Andy West** successfully represented a low-income client in a landlord-tenant dispute regarding the return of a security deposit for a residential lease. Upon termination of the lease, the client's former landlord withheld the entire deposit on the ground that damage to the home exceeded "normal wear and tear." Andy secured a full refund for the client. The matter was supervised by **Michael Kibler**.

STB Helps Obtain a Green Card for Bushwick Parent

New York associates **Shannon Torres** and **Dan Shin** obtained legal permanent residence status for the mother of two Bushwick High School students. The client initially visited the Firm's monthly legal clinic at Bushwick High School in 2009. She had attempted to get a green card in 1997 through an application prepared by non-lawyers at an organization shut down by the New York Attorney General's Office for fraud. STB attorneys spent over a year documenting a meritorious green card application. As a legal permanent resident, the client is looking forward to traveling to her home country and seeing her family for the first time in 25 years. Bushwick High School matters are supervised by **Bryce Friedman**.

STB Wins Asylum for Client from Jordan

Los Angeles attorneys **Jessica Marek**, **Michelle Kallen** and **Chet Kronenberg** secured a grant of asylum for a Jordanian client who feared persecution in his home country on account of his sexual orientation. The client came to the United States as part of a university program but was afraid of being the victim of an honor killing upon his return to Jordan. The matter was referred by Immigration Equality.

STB Wins Divorce Settlement

As part of STB's family law program with inMotion, New York office attorneys represented Ms. M, a mother of three, in a contested divorce. She was awarded physical custody of and child support for her youngest child, and equitable distribution of the marital property and debt. Although Ms. M was not listed on the title or mortgage for the marital home, the attorneys negotiated a divorce stipulation which grants Ms. M an equitable portion of the marital home, the right to remain there with her children, and requires



Ms. M's former husband to continue paying the mortgage and all property taxes. Litigation associates **Juan Arteaga** and **Susannah Geltman** worked on this matter supervised by partner **Bill Russell**.

STB Wins Asylum on Behalf of Russian Client

Attorneys in the New York office won asylum from the Immigration Court for a Russian client who feared persecution in his home country on account of his sexual orientation. STB persuaded the Immigration Court to expedite consideration of the case, reducing the wait for a merits hearing by more than 3 1/2 years. This matter was referred by Immigration Equality. The team included **Linda Martin**, **Terry Sanders**, **Ilana Levin** and summer associate **Jonathan Nussbaum**.

STB Wins Asylum for Senegalese Woman

STB won asylum at the New York Immigration Court for a 23-year-old Senegalese woman who fled her home country to escape the threat of FGM and forced marriage. Our client came to the United States when she was 15 years old and subsequently graduated from high school and junior college. After a day-long hearing, the Court held that our client was excused from the one-year filing deadline due to "extraordinary circumstances" and that she otherwise qualified as a refugee deserving of asylum. The team included **Jonathan Sabin**, **Eli Isak**, **Kate Renaud** and partner **Todd Crider**.

STB Represents Low-Income Taxpayers in IRS Examination

Tax attorneys **Jonathan Goldstein**, **Devin Heckman** and **Marcy Geller** represented a family of low income taxpayers, referred by the Legal Aid Society, in their negotiations with the Internal

Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS sought back taxes and substantial penalties for alleged violations of certain information reporting laws. The team substantially reduced or eliminated each client's liability for back taxes and convinced the IRS not to impose penalties.

Three STB Clients Granted U Nonimmigrant Status

U nonimmigrant status allows resident aliens who are victims of certain crimes and cooperate with investigation or prosecution of the crime to remain and work in the United States and makes them eligible for permanent residency. Los Angeles associates **Margaret Rubin** and **Nathan Agam**, supervised by partner **Dan Clivner** and counsel **Jen Levitt**, successfully represented a 30-year-old mother of four from Mexico in her application for U nonimmigrant status after she was kidnapped. Additionally, counsel **Harlene Katzman**, along with summer associates from the class of 2011, obtained U nonimmigrant status for a woman from Uganda and a woman from Romania, who were victims of domestic violence referred by Sanctuary for Families.

PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP 2012: KEANE SHUM

The STB Public Service Fellowship was initiated in 2009 as a means for Simpson Thacher lawyers to make a sustained commitment to public interest work. The fellowship offers associates the opportunity to spend one year working on a public service project of their choice, supported by a stipend and benefits from the Firm. This year, the fellowship has been awarded to Hong Kong associate **Keane Shum**.





Keane will be working as a Refugee Status Determination Associate at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency mandated to protect refugees around the world, as well as asylum seekers and other forced migrants. He will be located in Hong Kong, where approximately 1,000 people, largely from South Asia and Africa, seek asylum each year.

Prior to attending law school, Keane worked for UNHCR as a protection counselor in Hong Kong. Keane's motivation to work at UNHCR comes in part from a personal fascination with border-crossings, which he attributes to, "having been born on one continent, raised on another, and educated on a third." Now, Keane is excited to return to UNHCR and "make a contribution, in a very real way, to ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees are given their due process." We wish him the best of luck at UNHCR.

STB SUBMITS PRO BONO AMICUS BRIEF TO CHILE'S HIGHEST CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

STB submitted an *amicus* brief on behalf of the New York City Bar Association to the Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Chile, the country's highest constitutional court. The brief addresses U.S. federal and state freedom of information laws in a case pending before the Constitutional Tribunal involving Chile's newly enacted freedom of information law. Chile is the first South American country to address access to government e-mails as a transparency matter. The STB team included partner **Todd Crider**, associates **Paul Sirkis** and **Jonathan Lieberman Fernandez** and international associate **Antonio Arias Etchebarne**.

STB ATTORNEYS RESEARCH LEGISLATION LIMITING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Several states have enacted or are considering legislation requiring educators to obtain information on students' and/or their parents' immigration status. Associates in New York and Los Angeles conducted a review of such pending and existing legislation for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights to use to evaluate ways in which to protect equal access to education consistent with *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), which addresses denials of access to public education based on immigration status. The STB team included **Kathleen Eagan Murray**, **Jonathan Weiss**, **Makiko Harunari**, **Joel Beck-Coon**, **Samuel Charlton**, **Charles Clinton**, **David Pernas**, **Kyle Scherer**, partner **John Ericson** and summer associate **Marissa Cohen**.

STB BECOMES FIRST FIRM TO PLEDGE PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY EMERITUS PROGRAM

The New York State Attorney Emeritus Program (AEP) is an initiative of Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman designed to engage experienced attorneys aged 55 or older in pro bono service. Any attorney in New York State who is at least 55 years of age, in good standing, and 10 years in practice may sign up to participate by committing to perform at least 60 hours of pro bono service over a two-year period. Retired attorneys who participate in the AEP are exempt from CLE requirements and the attorney registration fee.



EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS ATTORNEYS TEACH CLASS TO NEW NON-PROFITS

In the spring of 2012, STB attorneys in the Exempt Organizations (EO) group collaborated with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and the Community Resource Exchange (CRE) to bring a free workshop to the community about legal considerations for new non-profits as part of CRE's *Fundamentals Workshop Series*. Associate **Lisa Freeman** and counsel **Jennifer Franklin** designed the course based on their experience advising individuals with non-profit formation issues.

SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWS

Now in its seventh year, the Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program sponsors up to four summer associates to complete a six-week self-designed public interest project during the second half of their summer. The Fellowship Program is designed to enable summer associates to provide greatly needed public service assistance on a full-time basis to organizations, communities, or individuals in the United States or abroad.

Angela McCray will work in the Division of Integrated Partnerships of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. While there, she will design a fellowship program that aims to establish a formal model to leverage the financial power of UNICEF donor corporations and the skills and expertise of their employees. Angela's experience designing a pro bono program at Stanford that relies heavily on public-private partnerships has provided a foundation for her project.

Amanda Elbogen, Yale's Cyrus Vance Fellow, will work at Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) in Phnom Penh. Amanda will research human rights

law to support LAC's work with the Khmer Rouge Tribunal and provide direct legal services to victims of government land-grabbing, labor trafficking, sexual violence and arbitrary detention. Her work in Cambodian communities will compliment her prior human rights and indigent defense experience.

Following her time at the Palo Alto office, **Jinna Chung** will work at East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC), an immigration nonprofit organization. She will focus her efforts in the Refugee Rights area by assisting clients with affirmative asylum applications. She will also educate clients about their rights in the Community Development and Education Program. Jinna will draw on her extensive nonprofit work with individual clients to contribute to EBSC this summer.



NYC Summer Public Interest Fellows Marissa Cohen, Amanda Elbogen and Angela McCray

As a Teach for America corps member, **Marissa Cohen** learned first-hand the challenges facing students in New York City Schools. Marissa will spend her fellowship at Advocates for Children working on behalf of New York City public school students and their families. Marissa will participate in intake, investigation and administrative hearings to secure special education services for students in need. Additionally, she will work with attorneys on impact litigation matters to support broader education reform.



EXTERNSHIP AT SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



Litigation associate **Jonathan Sanders** has recently returned to the Firm after spending three months as a pro bono extern at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. Jonathan worked as a prosecutor in the Misdemeanor Trial Unit of the Criminal Division. Summer

associate **Michael Renner** sat down with Jonathan to hear what he had to say about his experience:

MR: What made you want to do the Volunteer Attorney Program?

JS: I had worked in the District Attorney's Office during law school, but the motivating factor for me was to get jury trial experience. I did three jury trials in three months at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. When I was assigned a case, it was my case from start to finish. I got to do it all. It really was an incomparable experience.

MR: Did you find the experience to be challenging?

JS: It's been a pretty grueling three months. Being in court everyday is stressful, and when you're not actually in court, you're constantly prepping for trial.

The difference in resources was also a bit of a culture shock. At STB I had my own office, a helpful support staff and somewhere between five to ten associates working under me. At the District Attorney's Office, I was the one making copies, doing the A/V work and calling the witnesses to make sure they show up. It made me realize how good we have it, and again, it really made me admire the

attorneys who do this day in and day out.

MR: When you went to work at the District Attorney's Office, did you feel like you were doing good or doing your job?

JS: A little bit of both. My first two trials were assault cases and my third was for a DUI. In one of the assault cases the victim was a child, so in that case in particular I really felt as though I was serving the public interest. But the moral implications of the individual cases aside, I really felt like I was doing good just by helping the District Attorney's Office handle its case load.

The criminal justice system in California is under resourced. The Court's budget has been cut by tens of millions of dollars in recent years. Courtrooms have been closed and staff has been reduced. There are just a few courtrooms now which have to handle hundreds of cases a day. At the same time, defendants have their Constitutional right to a jury trial. These competing forces contribute to a situation where the criminal justice system here is underfunded and understaffed.

MR: Do you feel like the experience will make you a better lawyer when you return to STB?

JS: Absolutely. Although the subject of the litigation is obviously very different, a lot of the principles are similar. In both cases it all comes down to communicating to the jury. Not coincidentally, the most important lessons I've learned at the District Attorney's Office have been about how to communicate to juries. My experience was that, jurors want to do the right thing, but they don't always follow all of what's going on. You really have to frame all of your arguments clearly and explain to them that there's only one possible conclusion, whether you're prosecuting an assault case or trying to explain the differences between complex patents. It's been incredible training but also great practice.



STB HOSTS ADRIENE HOLDER OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

On June 19, as part of the Firm's Perspectives series, STB hosted a luncheon featuring a conversation with Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at the Legal Aid Society. Ms. Holder spoke of the wide breadth of assistance that Legal Aid provides for its clients as well as the challenges Legal Aid faces to serve the great demand for affordable legal services in New York City. STB partners with Legal Aid by taking referrals from its Immigration Law Unit, Criminal Appeals Unit, Low Income Tax Payer Clinic and other areas, and also participates in the Legal Aid's Board of the New Leadership Program.



John Ericson, Vince Pagano, Meghan Cannella, Adriene Holder, Harlene Katzman and Genevieve Dorment

AWARDS/HONORS

STB Awarded Gold Star Award by Immigration Equality

Immigration Equality gave STB the 2011 Gold Star Award for the "critical role" the Firm has played in providing the highest quality legal representation to LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants. STB's representation has earned it recognition as a "cornerstone of [the] program" whose pro bono services "give LGBT and HIV-positive people a new start in life."

Sara Terheggen Recognized for Establishing the First Ever Public Counsel Small Business Clinic

Los Angeles corporate associate **Sara Terheggen** was recognized by Public Counsel Law Center for her efforts in helping establish the first ever Public Counsel Small Business Clinic. The clinic provides a venue by which attorneys can provide corporate legal assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs each quarter.



Lawyer Makes His Move in a Return to Chess

New York associate **Mark Maher** was profiled in *The Wall Street Journal* on July 6, 2012 as the first-ever alumnus of the non-profit Chess in the Schools program to take a leadership role with the group. He accepted a seat on the board in June. To read the profile, click [here](#).



THE JUSTICE BUS

OneJustice partnered with STB summer associates in the Palo Alto office to launch the Justice Bus, a pro bono project which trains summer associates and brings them to a legal services provider for a day-long benefits clinic. STB summer associates traveled to Bay Area Legal Aid where they assisted immigrant recipients of u-visas with applications for legal permanent residence.



Summer associates Jake Mayers and Niels Melius hard at work at Bay Area Legal Aid.



(L to R) Back row – Summer associates Robert Fannion, Mike Renner, Jake Mayers, Anjali Kulkarni, Linda Nyberg, Elizabeth White and Niels Melius; Front row – Jinna Chung, Caitlyn Chacon, Tracy Ke, Stephanie Richards and Noah Metz.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

New York Cares Day

On July 5th, STB summer associates and administrative staff went to Brooklyn with New York Cares to revitalize P.S. 401 K. Volunteers built new furniture for classrooms and painted murals that will brighten up the hallways. Set in a neighborhood with one of the highest crime rates, the revitalization will benefit both the students who attend and surrounding community. “I think it is important for us to get out of the office for a day and get better acquainted with an area of the city that truly needs extra support,” said summer associate **Lauren Repole**.



Summer associates Randy Moonan and Jonathan Kelley build classroom furniture.



STB volunteers paint murals to hang in the hallways.



New York summer associates stand proudly by their work.



Fred De Albuquerque and Chan-young Yang work diligently at P.S. 401K.



Shane Young places the finishing touch on his poster.



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