

Justice Matters: Pro Bono Newsletter

July 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Little Bits of Good
- ▶ Simpson Thacher Files *Amicus* Brief on Behalf of Sanctuary for Families in *Blake Lively v. Wayfarer Studios LLC* Action
- ▶ Simpson Thacher and the Louisiana Parole Project Win Parole for a Louisiana Defendant
- ▶ Appeals Court Upholds Ruling Blocking Louisiana Public School Ten Commandments Law
- ▶ Mobilization for Justice and Simpson Thacher Secure Victory With SDNY Denying NYCDOE's Motion to Dismiss Class Action Targeting Systemic Failure to Provide Timely Special Education Evaluations
- ▶ Five Summer Associates Awarded a Simpson Thacher 2025 Public Interest Summer Fellowship
- ▶ Simpson Thacher Volunteers Help Expand Access to Justice for New Hampshire Veterans
- ▶ Simpson Thacher Launches Financial Literacy Project for Young People
- ▶ Simpson Thacher Attorneys Participate in Second Annual NYC Small Business Expo
- ▶ Clinic Roundup
- ▶ Awards, Events and Mentions

Little Bits of Good

In keeping with our Pro Bono Recognition theme for 2025, this section of our newsletter will focus on the “little bits of good” our pro bono volunteers did that led to an overwhelming impact in our communities and our clients’ lives.

Michael Palizkar (D.C.) helped his client, a female student asylee who fled Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, obtain Legal Permanent Residence status.

Kayley Ingalls-Rose (PA) assisted a client with his California expungement petition in an expedited time frame, which has been marked as “no objection” by the USAO and is thus very likely to be granted.


David Caldwell (NY) successfully advocated for the parent of a 15-year-old student with autism at an annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting with the NYC Department of Education and was able to secure services that best support the child’s academic, developmental, and functional needs.

Jessica Buchman (LA) helped her client, a crime victim who cooperated with law enforcement, obtain Legal Permanent Residence status.

Win Lalley (NY) and **Isaac Schwarz (NY)** worked with a parent to achieve the appropriate placement for her disabled child at an IEP meeting where the DOE initially sought a transfer to another school that did not offer the scope of services needed by the student.

Catherine Ciriello (NY) helped two of her clients—both crime victims who cooperated with law enforcement—obtain Legal Permanent Residence status after successfully helping them both receive U Nonimmigrant immigration status.

Alysia Lo (NY) completed a Bangladesh Country Conditions Report, and **Jie Min (HK)** and **Anais Bourbon (NY)** completed an Ecuador Country Conditions Report, both for Legal Services NYC which used them as part of two asylum applications.



“Do your little bit of good where you are, it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Desmond Tutu

Marco Linares Cordero (NY) obtained guardianship and special findings orders from the New York State Family Court for two siblings from Peru, ages 10 and 14 years old, who are now eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Debbie Sutter (D.C.) and **Leila Khamees (LA)** won a Motion to Terminate Removal Proceedings in Annandale Immigration Court for an immigrant child whose SIJS petition was already granted, thereby eliminating the risk of these clients receiving in absentia removal orders. This is part of a larger project where the Firm is representing multiple clients from Kids in Need of Defense, following significant layoffs to its staff as a result of federal government funding cuts.

Kelsey Henderson (D.C.) obtained a determination letter and approval for tax exemption for a nonprofit that educates and provides pathways to ownership for Black farmers in New York State.

Ben Rippeon (D.C.) and **Robert Hesni (D.C.)** worked with a Washington-area nonprofit that provides mentorship to middle school and high school youth who are struggling in the classroom, entangled in the juvenile court system, or are at-risk, by assisting the organization with updating its governance documents to bring them into compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

John Collins (NY) represented Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and revitalizing underserved neighborhoods in Queens by providing essential housing and advisory services to local residents, in its inaugural acquisition and financing of a \$3.3 million office space for its new headquarters.

Ariana Benhuri (NY) and **Elie Lipnik (NY)** helped their clients, a mother who had been a victim of human trafficking and her son, obtain Legal Permanent Residence status.

Stephanie Lee (PA) completed a file review for a veteran with mental health issues seeking a discharge upgrade.

Humza Yousuf (NY), along with Summer Associates, **David Taylor** and **Jae Yoon**, were successful in obtaining a One Shot anti-eviction grant for their applicant, a man receiving treatment for severe PTSD and about to lose his home.

Simpson Thacher Files Amicus Brief on Behalf of Sanctuary for Families in *Blake Lively v. Wayfarer Studios LLC* Action

A Simpson Thacher team filed an *amicus* brief on behalf of Sanctuary for Families, a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to aiding victims of domestic violence and their children, in the workplace harassment and defamation litigation between actress Blake Lively and producer Justin Baldoni, *Lively v. Wayfarer Studios LLC* in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The brief, co-signed by 14 additional domestic violence organizations (“*Amici*”), aimed to educate the Court that Baldoni and the Wayfarer Parties’ defamation claim against Ms. Lively is yet another retaliatory defamation lawsuit exemplifying the usage of “DARVO” tactics (Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender) to silence victims of sexual violence into submission. *Amici* wrote in support of Ms. Lively’s motion to dismiss on the grounds that her public statements regarding sexual harassment she experienced on and off the set of filming Baldoni’s movie “It Ends with Us,” (her workplace) are statutorily protected by the recently enacted sexual harassment privilege under Section 47.1 of the California Civil Code.

The brief explains relevant legislative history and scholarship demonstrating that the California law and similar laws were enacted to counter the rising phenomenon of retaliatory defamation suits filed against those who speak up about sexual violence. By creating a privilege that protects a victim's statements regarding experiences of sexual violence, these laws are designed to create an environment where victims like Ms. Lively, can speak without fear of retaliatory litigation. On June 9, 2025, the Court dismissed all defamation-related claims against Ms. Lively on grounds that did not require it to consider our *amicus* brief regarding the new California privilege. But press coverage of the briefing served to publicize these important issues and the critical work of Sanctuary for Families and the other co-signers in the fight against sexual violence and harassment. Sanctuary for Families echoed its appreciation for the Firm's "solidly researched and brilliantly written" brief that "makes compelling, persuasive arguments" to advance their "advocacy goals." The Simpson Thacher team included Partner

John Terzaken, Counsel **Sarah Phillips**, Associates **Damian Gallagher** and **Jacob Lundqvist**, and Summer Associate **Eliza Namnoum**.

Simpson Thacher and the Louisiana Parole Project Win Parole for a Louisiana Defendant

On July 8, 2025, the Louisiana Committee on Parole voted unanimously to grant our client Mr. H's application for parole. He had served more than 22 years of a 30-year sentence for an armed robbery he committed while high on ecstasy. During his time in prison, Mr. H did everything he could to make amends for his past conduct. His outstanding behavior earned him many privileges, including Class A trusty status, a P.R.I.D.E. card, and housing in the Honor Dorm. Notably, the Louisiana Department of Corrections determined that Mr. H presented a low risk of recidivism. For well over a decade, Mr. H worked as a culinary chef at the correctional facility, where he was responsible for preparing breakfast and lunch for the entire prison population seven days a week. He oversaw an inmate staff of sixty, and he participated in menu and event planning. He prided himself on preparing delicious meals that provided nourishment and a little taste of home.

Associate **Marlena Choupo** spoke at Mr. H's parole hearing. The team, which also included Partner **Marcy Geller**, Pro Bono Attorney **Nihara Choudhri**, and Summer Associate **Justin Lutz**, prepared an extensive written parole application, obtained supporting letters from Mr. H's family members, and prepared Mr. H for his hearing.



Revocation and parole hearing — July 8, 2025

Appeals Court Upholds Ruling Blocking Louisiana Public School Ten Commandments Law

Simpson Thacher, alongside the ACLU, ACLU of Louisiana, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Freedom From Religion Foundation, secured a victory on June 20 when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit unanimously ruled in that a Louisiana law requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Enacted in June 2024, Louisiana’s H.B. 71 required that all public schools permanently display a government-approved, denominational version of the Ten Commandments in every classroom in every public school in the state. The decision upholds a federal district court’s November 2024 preliminary injunction in *Rev. Roake v. Brumley*, which prevents the defendant state officials and school boards from implementing the statute.

In its decision, pointing to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Stone v. Graham* which overturned a similar Kentucky law, the Court of Appeals explained that *Stone* remains good law that is binding on lower courts and “[u]nder *Stone*, H.B. 71 is plainly unconstitutional.” The court further explained that, “under the statute’s minimum requirements, the [Ten Commandments] posters must be indiscriminately displayed in every public school classroom in Louisiana regardless of class subject-matter,” and thus, if allowed to go up, “those displays will cause an ‘irreparable’ deprivation of [the Plaintiffs’] First Amendment rights.”

The lawsuit was filed on June 24, 2024 on behalf of a multi-faith group of Louisiana families with children in public schools and alleged that the display was religiously coercive. In 2025, the Firm filed additional lawsuits, *Stinson et al v. Fayetteville School District No. 1 et al* challenging a similar law in Arkansas, and *Nathan et al v. Alamo Heights Independent School District et al* challenging a similar law in Texas.

Litigation Department Co-Chair **Jonathan Youngwood** was named “Litigator of the Week” by *The Am Law Litigation Daily* alongside Heather Weaver, a senior staff attorney

with the ACLU, when the preliminary injunction was obtained. Jon also argued the appeal. The Simpson Thacher team also included Senior Counsel **Janet Gochman**, and Associates **Lara Fishbane**, **Noah Gimbel**, **Noah Huffman**, **Jordan Krieger**, **Nicholas Prendergast**, and **Victoria Wang**.

Mobilization for Justice and Simpson Thacher Secure Victory With SDNY Denying NYCDOE’s Motion to Dismiss Class Action Targeting Systemic Failure to Provide Timely Special Education Evaluations

Simpson Thacher together with Mobilization for Justice secured a significant victory for a proposed class of New York City students with disabilities and their families in the Southern District of New York on May 27, 2025. The Hon. Edgardo Ramos denied the New York City Department of Education’s (“NYCDOE’s”) motion to dismiss a class action lawsuit filed against it and NYCDOE Chancellor David C. Banks that aims to rectify the NYCDOE’s systemic failures to meet their legal obligations to students with disabilities.

The lawsuit, originally filed in April 2023, addresses the NYCDOE’s extensive delays in providing special education evaluations to students with disabilities, which have deprived the Plaintiffs and the class of their right to a free and appropriate public education by denying them the special education services to which they are entitled. After more than a year of discovery, Defendants moved for dismissal of the lawsuit earlier this year, with the Court holding oral arguments on May 13, 2025. In its decision, the Court denied in significant part the NYCDOE’s motion to dismiss, sustaining Plaintiffs’ allegations that the DOE’s failure to provide timely evaluations and services has resulted in significant harm to students with disabilities.

Simpson Thacher Associate **William Moran** argued the motion. The rest of the Simpson Thacher team includes Partner **Michael Osnato**, Counsel **Jonathan Kaplan**, and Associates **Mehrdad Alvandi**, **Christina Breitbeil**, **Jacob Fritts**, **Pilar Gonzalez Navarrine**, **Jane Jho**, **Rachel June-Graber**, **Wendy Wu**, and **Marjory Zuk**.

Five Summer Associates Awarded a Simpson Thacher 2025 Public Interest Summer Fellowship

We congratulate five summer associates who were awarded the Firm's 2025 Public Interest Summer Fellowship. This program allows a summer associate to spend the first six weeks at the Firm, and the remainder of the summer at a public interest host of their choice, while being paid a full summer associate salary for 10 weeks.



Seimi Chu

Summer Associate **Seimi Chu, '26 Duke Law School**, will be working at the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, in the Family Law Division, which provides self-represented litigants with substantive legal support on

a range of issues, including domestic violence restraining orders, child support, custody and visitation, paternity, and dissolution. As part of her work, Seimi will interview litigants, help them in drafting statements, provide translation services, and guide them through the court system. She aims to support litigants who cannot afford legal representation and to assist underprivileged individuals through the legal process with empathy and understanding, striving to level the playing field. Seimi's goal is to ensure that underrepresented individuals feel heard, supported, and secure, knowing they no longer have to navigate a complex legal system alone.



Grace Mehler

Summer Associates, **Grace Mehler, '26 Harvard Law School**, and **Vincenzo Guido, '26 Fordham Law School**, will be working at Harvard's Prison Legal Assistance Project (PLAP), which supports law students in their representation of people incarcerated in Massachusetts. PLAP student attorneys provide legal assistance on incarceration-related matters ranging from disciplinary hearings to parole and commutation issues.



Vincenzo Guido

Grace and Vincenzo's work will focus on preparing the appeal of an excessive force case to the Massachusetts Superior Court. They will research and draft the appellate brief as well as assist with various disciplinary hearings and other PLAP litigation work throughout the summer. Grace and Vincenzo's goals are to help the client overcome the legal challenges of the criminal justice system, hone their advocacy skills, and ultimately work towards a more equitable justice system.



Sanye Sichinga

Summer Associate **Sanye Sichinga, '26 University of Chicago Law School**, will be working with The Civil Rights and Police Accountability Project (CRPAP) at the University of Chicago Law School. CRPAP aims to remedy

fundamental issues of injustice in the criminal legal system. The organization represents individuals who have been victims of police abuse and misconduct and uses grassroots advocacy and policy work to improve police accountability. Sanye will examine the state of independence of various public defender offices around the country, with a particular focus on whether those systems impede offices from engaging in affirmative litigation. Sanye aims to not only gain a strong understanding of where public defender independence currently stands but develop a roadmap of steps to independence for public defenders' offices across the nation.



Joshua Strong

Summer Associate **Joshua Strong, '26 Howard Law School**, will be working at the Urban Justice Center, a legal services organization composed of many longstanding anchor projects, including Experience

Justice, which Joshua will be joining. Experience Justice employs a holistic approach to address the community's unmet legal needs and encourage reforms in pursuit of social justice, using legislation, litigation, community organizing, and advocacy. As part of his work, Joshua will research and help draft an enforceable code of ethics that includes accountability measures for the Supreme Court. He will also identify writings or

opinions of individuals who might be appointed or nominated as a judge, to gauge their impartiality and adherence to the rule of law. Joshua is looking forward to working with accomplished, passionate social justice advocates, and hopes to learn different approaches to legal reform, discover effective ways to present ideas clearly and persuasively, and improve his legal skills.

Simpson Thacher Volunteers Help Expand Access to Justice for New Hampshire Veterans

In 2024 the Firm launched a remote intake project for Veterans Legal Justice (“VLJ”), a New-Hampshire based non-profit dedicated to serving veterans, service members, and their families. Though VLJ had organized a network of NH attorneys to represent veterans located throughout the state on issues ranging from family law to accessing benefits, the calls to the VLJ veterans hotline had overwhelmed their all-volunteer intake staff. Stepping in to fill that gap, Simpson Thacher now screens all veterans who call into the VLJ hotline so that the organization’s staff can focus on matching callers with attorneys who can address their specific needs within the state. Simpson Thacher volunteers have screened nearly 200 individuals since the project launch last year. More than half of the screened individuals have been matched with an attorney who can provide pro bono or reduced cost legal representation.

Zachary Phillips, Executive Director at VLJ, recently thanked Simpson Thacher volunteers for the “crucial role” they have played “in meeting the New Hampshire Supreme Court’s recent push to increase access to justice for all residents of the Granite State.” Firm volunteers have also reported that the project is a rewarding way to give back to those who have served the country. 2025 volunteers include: Partner **Maya Reeves**, Counsel **Christine Marshall**, Associates **Emelyn Avina**, **Ally Brennan**, **Ryan Callahan**, **Kevin Cho**, **Sandy Cho**, **Matt Collins**, **Colin Dennis**, **Kelly Donovan**, **Megan Johanneson**, **Divya Laxman**, **Michael Lazris**, **Ezra Meren**, **Robert Picciano**, **Hannah Plaziak**, **Joshua Schub**, **Ekok Soubir**, **Diana Yen**, **Naurin Zhang**, and Staff Attorney **James Chin**.

Simpson Thacher Launches Financial Literacy Project for Young People

Earlier this year, we worked with Access Justice Brooklyn, a Brooklyn-based legal services organization focused on the needs of Brooklyn residents including advanced life planning, consumer debt, family stabilization, and homeowner and senior assistance, to support its financial literacy program. Simpson Thacher helped develop “Know Your Rights” materials that teach a range of issues from taxes to credit to budgeting, promote discussion of the legal pitfalls and outcomes associated with poor financial literacy, and help understand various preventative measures. Following the development of some of those materials, Associates **Erica Henry** and **Joshua Schub** provided the first presentation to high school students visiting the Firm through the Firm’s Urban Education Initiatives. We look forward to growing this program over the next year.



Erica Henry and Joshua Schub presenting to high school students.

Simpson Thacher Attorneys Participate in Second Annual NYC Small Business Expo

On May 29, the NYC Department of Small Business Services hosted its second annual NYC Small Business Month Expo to provide a variety of free information, resources, and direct services that address the needs of small business owners of all stages, industries, and boroughs. At the Expo,

Simpson Thacher partnered with Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) to assist with limited scope entity formation and intellectual property consultations. With Simpson Thacher's and a few other firms' assistance, VOLS was able to handle over 80 intakes and legal consultations throughout the day, which allowed VOLS to provide key legal support to small businesses. We thank Associates **Samrat Basani**, **Caitlin Cheeseboro**, **Sophie Gandler**, and **Isabella Gonzalez**, and Summer Associate **Malik Seelal** for providing legal consultations.



Caitlin Cheeseboro assisting a client.



Samrat Basani assisting a client.

Clinic Roundup

Advance Directives Clinic With Morgan Stanley

On June 18, the Firm launched an innovative pro bono clinic where volunteers prepared life planning documents for LGBTQ+ clients referred to us by Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), including wills, powers of attorney and other advance directives. Jack Pellicano, an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Simpson Thacher and Morgan Stanley, has been providing tailored civil legal services to support the economic stability and mobility of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Non-Binary (TGNCNB) young people living in New York City through their fellowship at Brooklyn Legal Services. These services include legal name and identity document changes, support in benefits access, and counseling on gender-based discrimination. Jack has also conducted outreach through community partners that offer social services to TGNCNB young people by providing the community with sustained Know-Your-Rights trainings and educational materials on gender-based discrimination, name changes, and benefits eligibility. In these outreach sessions, the community articulated the desire to grant certain rights to their chosen family and ensure their wishes are respected and they receive the care they want. In partnership with volunteers from



EJW Fellow Jack Pellicano, Dana Jack and Ally Brennan finalizing documents for their client signatures.

Morgan Stanley, Partner **Bill Russell**, Counsel **Beate Krieger**, Associates **Ben Bogard**, **Ally Brennan**, **Marie Cain**, **Danielle DiGrazia**, **Spencer Goodson**, **Madison Harrow**, **Rob Picciano**, and **Pablo Torrealba**, and Summer Associates **Shunkai Ding**, **Joseph Ehrenkranz** and **Joseph Sciales** prepared these documents for our clients. A special thank you goes to Associate **Dana Jack**, in the Personal Planning Department, who trained our volunteers, prepared the templates, and reviewed the documents before each of the clients' signing ceremonies.

Simpson Thacher Hosts Life Planning Documents Clinic in the Washington, D.C. Office

On June 24, the Washington, D.C. office hosted a life planning documents clinic for low-income seniors in the D.C. area to prepare wills and healthcare and financial powers of attorney for the clients referred to us by Legal Counsel for the Elderly. We thank Partners **Toby Chun** and **Carleigh Rodriguez**, Associates **Thalia Garcia** and **Noor Irshaidat** and Summer Associates **Arianna Garcia**, **Matt Kiel**, **Taryn Pastore**, and **Daeisha Smith** for assisting us at this Clinic.



Toby Chun and Arianna Garcia discussing suite of documents with client.

Palo Alto Summer Associates Participate in an In-Person Clinic to Help Individuals Clear Their Criminal Records

On June 10, Palo Alto summer associates prepared declarations in support of criminal record-clearing petitions during a half-day clinic in partnership with Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA). The volunteers began by interviewing the applicants to understand the circumstances that led to their convictions, and to hear about the tremendous professional and personal strides the applicants had made since those convictions. The volunteers also inquired about the many ways in which the criminal records were standing in the way of the applicants' access to employment, housing, and other opportunities. The volunteers then drafted declarations, which the applicants and the CLSEPA supervisors reviewed before the clinic concluded. This proved to be a very rewarding experience for both the applicants and the volunteers. The Summer Associate volunteers included **Harvinder Bhinder**, **Olivia Eaton**, **Jenny Feng**, **Solange Hackshaw**, **Ryan Hayden**, **Biance Hsieh**, **Brad Lewinski**, **Kelsey Lu**, **Melissa Lu**, **Jess Parry**, and **Kara Swann**.



Jenny Feng and Kara Swann with a CLESPA mentor.



Jess Parry and Ryan Hayden meet with their client.

Awards, Events and Mentions

Simpson Thacher Hosts Webinar on Practical Guidance for Nonprofits

More than 1,200 nonprofit and sector leaders attended a webinar presented by Simpson Thacher Partners **Martin Bell**, **John Bennett**, **Laura Lin**, and **Linton Mann** to better understand executive actions by the federal government relating to DEI initiatives and associated litigation. The goal of the webinar was to help such leaders assess risk and understand how to pursue their missions within the bounds of the law. The Firm partnered with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Lawyers Alliance for New York to deliver content and reach a broad audience.

STB United for Justice and Pro Bono Presented “The Sing Sing Files” — An Interview of Exoneree JJ Velazquez by *Dateline* Producer Dan Slepian

In June, the Firm hosted Jon Adrian “JJ” Velazquez to speak about the 24 years he served in prison for a murder he did not commit. JJ was exonerated and freed on the basis of newly discovered DNA evidence, and now serves as the Program Director at the Frederick Douglass Project

for Justice, which facilitates conversations between incarcerated and unincarcerated individuals; and the Executive Director of Voices From Within, a peer-counseling and leadership program that serves incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. He is also an actor and recently played himself in the movie “Sing Sing,” which tells the story of a wrongfully convicted man who finds his purpose by performing in a theater group alongside other incarcerated individuals.

JJ would not be a free man today had it not been for the efforts of *Dateline* producer Dan Slepian, who was instrumental in JJ’s exoneration. Dan recounted his investigation of JJ’s case and his efforts to advocate on JJ’s behalf in both “Letters from Sing Sing,” a podcast that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and “The Sing Sing Files,” published by Celadon Books in 2024. JJ and Dan’s conversation was moderated by Pro Bono Attorney **Nihara Choudhri**.



Dan Slepian, JJ Velazquez, Nihara Choudhri and Harlene Katzman. (above) Book signing. (right)



STB Proud and the Pro Bono Department Presented a “Snack and Learn” Presentation: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Non-Binary Civil Legal Services with Jack Pellicano

On Tuesday, June 17, the Firm presented a conversation with Jack Pellicano (they/he), an Equal Justice Works fellow sponsored by Simpson Thacher and Morgan Stanley, in discussion with Pro Bono Attorney **Nadine Mompremier**. Through this fellowship hosted by Brooklyn Legal Services, Jack is providing tailored civil legal services to support the economic stability and mobility of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Non-Binary (TGNCNB) young people living in New York City. Although New York City has long been a beacon for LGBTQ+ people, this work is vital because there remains a wide gap between the content of New York City and State anti-discrimination laws and the lived experience of TGNCNB young people. Jack’s fellowship is designed to address these barriers, with the goal of maximizing the opportunities for TGNCNB young people to live a life filled with joy—beyond mere survival.



Nadine Mompremier and Jack Pellicano

London Attorneys Named in Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales

Six London attorneys named in the Attorney General’s Pro Bono Recognition List 2025. The Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales is published annually to recognize lawyers who have given 25 or more hours pro bono legal assistance in the previous calendar year. The Simpson Thacher lawyers named this year are **Jason Glover, Joe Donaghey, Christopher Dorman, Camilla Gelson-Thomas, Tom Lort, and Georgia Nickson.**

Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll Recognizes 29 Simpson Thacher Attorneys from the Washington, D.C. Office for Pro Bono Service

The D.C. Courts, in partnership with the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, the D.C. Bar, and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center, published its Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, recognizing 5,400 attorneys who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono service during 2024, with more than 56% of those attorneys providing 100 or more hours of pro bono service. The honor roll lists are posted on the D.C. Courts website, and include **Vanessa Burrows, Sage Hughes, Katharine Thompson, Claire Cahoon, Allison Davido, Claire DiMario, Amy Donofrio, Lara Fishbane, Celeste Fleetwood, Laurel Fresquez, Noah Gimbel, Nathaniel Gonzalez, Elizabeth Hamner, Kelsey Henderson, Jordan Krieger, Kate Lambroza, Austin Lowe, Jessica Menjivar, Michael Palizkar, Nicholas Prendergast, Geoffrey Schmelkin, Samantha Sergent, Brice Stewart, Christine Tillema, Andrew Ward, and Tammy Gershoni.**



Simpson Thacher Honored at Inaugural Safe Passage Project Gala

In April, the Firm received the Excellence in Partnership Award from Safe Passage Project at its inaugural gala held at Tribeca Rooftop. The Firm was honored for its longstanding commitment to helping undocumented children through its screening clinics. Partner **Juan Francisco Mendez**, who sits on its Board of Directors, and Chief Pro Bono Counsel **Harlene Katzman** each gave made remarks when accepting the award.



Harlene Katzman at podium and Juan Francisco Mendez in rear.

Washington, D.C. Office Hosts Community Engagement Project with Bread for the City

As part of STB United for Justice’s Community Engagement work, Simpson Thacher hosted an opportunity for the Washington, D.C. office employees to work together to assemble toiletry packs for Bread for the City, an organization focused on providing food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services to low-income residents of the District of Columbia. Participants produced over 200 toiletry packages. Way to go STB Washington!



Simpson Thacher’s London Office Participates in the London Legal Walk to Support Legal Charities

Attorneys and staff from the Firm’s London office joined thousands of other legal professionals during the June 2025 London Legal Walk in support of the London Legal Support Trust, an organization dedicated to raising funds for free legal advice charities in London and the South East! Congratulations to the Simpson Thacher team, who completed a 10km walk through London, and to everyone else who participated.



Please send
news items, comments
or suggestions regarding
the Pro Bono Program to
Harlene Katzman at
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** In April 2025, Simpson Thacher announced plans to expand its Bay Area presence with an office in San Francisco.*

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