

# Justice Matters: Pro Bono Newsletter

July 2016



## **Simpson Thacher to Host Election Protection Call Center**

The Firm will host Election Protection 2016, a signature pro bono project of Simpson Thacher and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in which firm attorneys and alumni are invited to participate. We are proud to be partnering with Blackstone and the members of its legal staff who will be participating for the first time on this project.

Election Protection is the nation's largest non-partisan voter protection coalition. Through its hotline, 1-866-OUR-VOTE, the program provides voters with comprehensive voter information and advice on how they can make sure their vote is counted. On November 7 and 8, 2016, volunteers will answer calls from voters across the country at Simpson's call center on the 30<sup>th</sup> floor of its New York office. The Firm has hosted an Election Protection

hotline for the past six election cycles. Volunteers will be trained, given access to a website with searchable resource material, and answer calls from voters from a number of states during a 3-hour shift. We hope you will join us!

## **Simpson Thacher Represents Amici in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Whole Women's Health v. Texas***

Among the opinions delivered in June 2016 by the U.S. Supreme Court on the last day of the term was *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, No. 15-274 (commonly called the Texas abortion case). Simpson Thacher filed an amicus brief on behalf of the National Women's Law Center and 47 organizations committed to equality and economic opportunity for women. The brief supported the winning side.

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The case challenged two Texas regulations requiring (1) facilities that perform abortions to meet the standards of “ambulatory surgical centers” (calling for, among other things, a full surgical suite, pre- and post-operative patient facilities, and unusually wide corridors), and (2) doctors performing abortions to have “admitting privileges” at a hospital within 30 miles of the facility. The case questioned whether these regulations, which would result in the closure of 75 percent of abortion facilities in Texas, placed an “undue burden” on a woman’s right to an abortion under the standard the Supreme Court laid out in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 US 833 (1992).

Simpson’s brief described the economic burdens the regulations would impose on women seeking abortions, especially on the poorest women in Texas. Justice Breyer’s opinion for the Court weighed the various effects of the regulations (including the economic barriers the regulations would mount in the paths of poor women seeking an abortion) against the absence of any benefit to women’s health to conclude that the challenged regulations imposed an undue burden in violation of the Court’s decision in *Casey*.

The Simpson team included **Mary Beth Forshaw**, **Jayma Meyer**, **Isaac Rethy**, **Michelle Kallen**, **Julia Heald** and **Carson Zhao**.

### 2016 Public Service Fellowship Awarded to Two Associates

The Firm is pleased to announce one of its recipients of the 2016 Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP Public Service Fellowship. Washington Litigation Associate, **Stephanie Inks**, will act as a Legal Research Fellow at the Newseum Institute, where she will have the unique opportunity to contribute her expertise as a legal researcher, scholar and educator and write journal articles about various civil liberties.

New York Corporate Associate, **Andrew Hwang**, will also be a Public Service Fellow, serving one year at Roosevelt Institute, where he will provide project leadership and legal research on key topic areas including financial regulation, international trade policy and intellectual property law. Andrew will be working closely with social science researchers to contextualize their research findings against the backdrop of existing legal and regulatory frameworks and to identify and pursue means of implementing policy recommendations.

### Profile: 2016 Summer Public Interest Fellows

**Emily Kenyon**, a New York summer associate and a student at New York University School of Law, will work at Vermont Law School’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS), doing research and drafting a Farmers Market Legal Toolkit to provide the legal resources necessary to support the continued growth of farmers markets.



Emily Kenyon



Arielle Klepach

**Arielle Klepach** joins the New York office from Columbia Law School. Arielle will work with The Special Prosecution Section of the U.S. Attorney’s office for the Southern District of Florida on investigating and prosecuting violent crimes, human trafficking and child exploitation matters.

**Theodore Rostow** joins the Palo Alto office from Yale Law School. Theodore will work at Stanford’s CodeX alongside lawyers and scientists to aid the public by helping to create a free, open source citation program, which will offer a free version of the rules of citation to the legal community.



Theodore Rostow



Elizabeth Gladstone

**Elizabeth Gladstone**, a New York summer associate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, will work at The Legal Aid Society within their Immigrant’s Rights Practice. Elizabeth will work closely with staff interviewing detainees and assessing whether they have immigration relief.

### New York Office Hosts Two Immigrations Clinics in June

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the New York office hosted its fourth legal clinic to assist ten young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children with applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA brings students greater certainty about their future and allows them to continue their education or find a job to help support their families by granting work authorization, protection from deportation and limited health care for two years. This clinic

was conducted in partnership with Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) and supervised by VOLS' Immigration Project Director Liz Markuci and **Harlene Katzman**. The team included attorneys **Igor Fert, M. Shin, Lauren Finkelstein, Clark Warthen, and Sam Egendorf** and summer associates **Thomas Coghlan, Kenneth Koo, Austin Uhm, Aparna Gokhale, Andrea Ruiz, Sonia Gupta, Jessica Bragg, Cameron Pritchett, Victoria Hartman, and Cory Carone**, with the assistance of paralegal, **Maria Gonzalez**.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the New York office hosted New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Catholic Migration Services to hold a clinic in which volunteers assisted low-income immigrants who were eligible to naturalize after becoming legal permanent residents for five or more years. The volunteers completed 17 naturalization applications. Clinic participants included attorneys **Leah Barnes, Alex Cushman, Leanne Welds**, Chief of Global Business Development **Danze Burnham**, Chief Pricing Officer **Eddie Raychaudhuri**, summer associates **Tom Coghlan, Cory Carone, Amy Dawson, Kenneth Koo, Sonia Gupta, Jessica Bragg, Aparna Gokhale, Valerie Comenencia Ortiz, Austin Uhm**, SEO Interns **Jillian Tancil and Pia Figuerola**, with translation assistance from Pro Bono Specialist Carola Beeney.

The next naturalization clinic will happen in September 2016 in partnership with Blackstone.



Cameron Pritchett and Jessica Bragg working with a DACA-eligible client.



Austin Uhm and Igor Fert working with a DACA-eligible client and her mother.



Lauren Finkelstein, Aparna Gokhale and Liz Markuci finishing up their client's DACA application.

## Houston Attorneys and Summer Associates Participate in the Veterans Legal Initiative

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Simpson Thacher's Houston office sponsored the Houston Bar Association's Veterans Legal Initiative legal advice clinic at the DeBakey VA Hospital. Simpson attorneys and summer associates counseled over 60 veterans on a variety of legal issues, including landlord/tenant, employment, consumer protection, divorce, probate, estate planning and VA benefits. Associates **Ana Sanchez and Mickey Baden** and summer associates **Lani Lear, Osaro Aifuwa, John Myers and Evan West** attended the clinic.

## Recent Pro Bono Achievements

### Simpson Thacher Helps Convince Appellate Court to Vacate Family Court Ruling

In a case of first impression, Simpson Thacher authored an amicus brief on behalf of 15 national and local women's rights and children's advocacy groups, led by The Bronx Defenders, which helped to convince a New York state appellate court to vacate a Family Court judge's rulings that a fetus is a "child" under New York's Family Court Act. A unanimous panel of the Appellate Division, First Department, said the rulings of Manhattan Family Court Judge Stewart Weinstein had to be dropped. Press coverage included an article in the [New York Law Journal](#). The team included Partners **David Woll** and **Susannah Geltman**, and Associate **Monica Chan**.

### Simpson Thacher Secures Asylum for Egyptian Man

Simpson Thacher successfully secured a grant of asylum for an Egyptian man who had been the victim of violence and feared further persecution in his home country because of his sexual orientation. The pro bono matter was referred to the Firm by Immigration Equality, an organization dedicated to supporting LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants seeking safety, fair treatment and freedom. The team included Associate **Michael Guo** and was supervised by **Olga Gutman**.

### Simpson Thacher Prevents Eviction of Low-Income Single Mother

Attorneys in Simpson Thacher's Washington, D.C. office successfully kept a pro bono client facing eviction in her apartment. The tenant, a low-income, single mother, had an eviction action brought against her for alleged non-payment of rent. The Firm secured a settlement agreement which allowed the tenant to remain in her home. The team included Associates **Jonathan Porter**, **Lindsey Bohl**, and **Elizabeth French**, with supervision by **Peter Thomas**.

### Simpson Thacher Convinces Family Court to Reinstate Support Award to Mother of Two

Following a successful appeal in a child support matter to the Second Department, Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, Simpson Thacher attorneys convinced the Family Court to reinstate an upward modification of an original order of support and the arrears owed to our client. The team included Associate **David Gallo** and summer associate **Mary-Jane Rabeony**, with supervision from **George Wang**.

### Simpson Thacher Settles Eviction of Tenant in Washington D.C.

Attorneys in Simpson Thacher's Washington, D.C. office assisted a tenant facing eviction for non-payment of rent. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the landlord waived approximately \$8,000 in rent and dismissed all claims against the tenant with prejudice. The case was referred by Legal Aid of the District of Columbia. The team included Associates **Elliot Weingarten** and **Andy Hasty**, with guidance from **Peter Thomas**.

### Simpson Thacher Secures Asylum for Honduran Family

Simpson Thacher successfully secured a grant of asylum for a Honduran family which had been threatened with death and extorted by the MS-13 gang on account of the mother witnessing a gang murder. The family's case was heard by Immigration Judge Terry Bain in New York Immigration Court. The pro bono matter was referred to the Firm by Human Rights First. The Simpson Thacher team included **Rachel Sparks Bradley**, **Patrick Campbell** and **Kate Stein**, and was supervised by **Alan Turner**. Paralegal **Maria Gonzalez** provided invaluable translation assistance.

## Awards and Events

### MFY Legal Services Honors David Ichel and Simpson Thacher

**David W. Ichel** and Simpson Thacher were honored on June 15 by MFY Legal Services at its annual Dinner-Theater benefit for their long-term commitment to helping MFY secure justice for vulnerable New Yorkers. MFY Legal Services, an organization that has served low-income New Yorkers for more than 50 years and has pioneered a practice that combines delivery of legal services on a neighborhood level with impact litigation that helps thousands of people. Among legal services providers operating in New York, MFY is unique in focusing on the city's most vulnerable populations—from people with mental illness to residents of SRO hotels to grandparents raising grandchildren. It handles over 10,000 cases a year in housing, foreclosure, public benefits, civil and disability rights, employment, consumer, and family law. The Firm has partnered with MFY on its pro bono Education Advocacy Project, assisting low-income families with disabled children access special education services, overseen by **Brian Chisling**. David Ichel has served as a long-time member of MFY's Board of Directors, and **Joe McLaughlin** is a current member of the Board.



Jeanette Zehlf and David Ichel, with other board members

### **Simpson Thacher and Josh Levine Honored at 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Death Penalty Focus Awards Dinner**

The Firm was recognized at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Death Penalty Focus Awards Dinner in Beverly Hills, California on May 12<sup>th</sup>, along with Litigation Partner **Josh Levine** who was a recipient of Special Recognition. The Firm was honored for its diligent and long-term work on Reggie Clemons' case, which resulted in the reversal of his conviction and death sentence, and recognized for helping to educate the public about the the death penalty system.

### **Roy Reardon Receives the 2016 "Servant of Justice Award" from The Legal Aid Society**

Litigation Partner **Roy Reardon** received the "Servant of Justice Award" from The Legal Aid Society at its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Chairman of Simpson Thacher's Executive Committee Bill Dougherty introduced Roy, noting his distinguished career and outstanding commitment to pro bono legal services. The Legal Aid Society is a private, not-for-profit legal services organization, the oldest and largest in the nation, dedicated since 1876 to providing quality legal representation to low-income New Yorkers. Simpson Thacher has a long history of supporting the Society, which includes a range of pro bono efforts, from work on criminal appeals to assistance with screening undocumented children for potential immigration relief.

### **Caroline Gross Selected to Receive Sanctuary for Families' 2016 Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Award**

**Caroline Gross** will be honored at Sanctuary for Families' Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Awards in October. The award comes in recognition of her unwavering commitment to Sanctuary's Queens Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project; her ability to make Sanctuary's most vulnerable clients feel comfortable telling her their stories; her skillful advocacy on behalf of those clients; and her leadership in inspiring other attorneys at Simpson to volunteer with the project.

### **Palo Alto Attorneys Band Together to End Domestic Violence**

Simpson Thacher attorneys **Jason Bussey, Patrick King, Jonathan Sanders** and **Andy Roy**, as well as several Facebook employees, participated in a battle of the bands fundraiser to benefit the Family Violence Appellate Project, a legal nonprofit

that helps domestic violence survivors throughout California, and an organization for which the Firm provides pro bono legal services. The band, called Judicicious, delighted fans, had the most initial fundraising, and donated the third highest amount of money by the end of the night.



Jason Bussey on drums



(L-R) Linda Nyberg, Liz White, Kevin Kennedy, Ryan Coombs

### **Simpson Lawyers Serve on Fund for Teachers Selection Committee**

Eight 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 **Meredith Duffy, Drew Harmon, Makiko Harunari, Veronica Jordan-Davis, Omari Mason, Shannon McGovern** and **Rachel Stein**, and Counsel **Arjun Koshal** participated in the 2016 selection process.

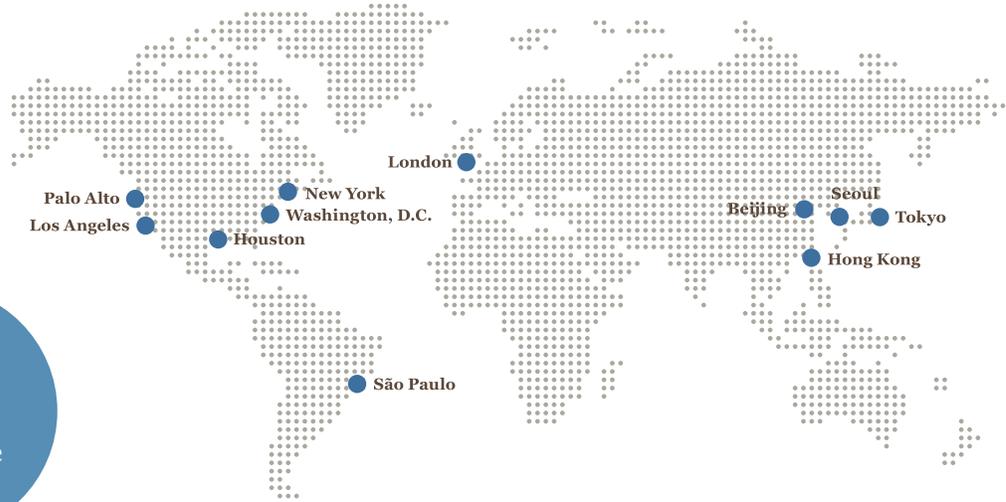
### Simpson Thacher Hosts ‘Get on Board! Nonprofit Board Service for Attorneys’

Simpson Thacher was joined by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) and the United Way of New York City to discuss the benefits of board service for attorneys. The panel was comprised of associates and Simpson Thacher Partner Tom Rice, currently serving on nonprofit boards. The panel was introduced by Simpson Thacher Associate **Andrew Yong** who currently serves on NYLPI’s Pro Bono Advisory Council.



L to R: Andrew Yong (STB), Michael Davidson, Tom Rice (STB), Erin Law, Deborah Martin Owens, Shawn Kodes

Please send  
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or suggestions regarding the  
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