

Justice Matters

Simpson Thacher
Pro Bono Newsletter



July 2026

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Little Bits of Good

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

– *Desmond Tutu*

In recent months our attorneys have made a big impact by doing a lot of little bits of good.

When **Natalia Castro (NY)** and **Humza Yousuf (NY)** appeared for a hearing in immigration court on behalf of an asylum client and her son, the judge expressed concern that the client’s long-time partner and the father of her son would be left without status or ordered removed unless the client and her partner were legally married. After oral argument, the judge adjourned the case to provide our client with the opportunity to resolve the issue on a short deadline. The team recruited **Elaine Miao (NY)** to officiate the client’s marriage in New Jersey, and filed the updates with the court, all in advance of the new hearing date, ensuring the family will have a chance to remain together in safety.

Taylor Fogg (NY) and **Eva Xu (NY)** drafted a template services contract for an entrepreneur whose consulting business supports arts-based initiatives, storytellers, and creative professionals in NY.

As part of the Firm’s Urban Education Initiative and through our partnership with Access Justice Brooklyn, **Samrat Basani (NY)**, **Hun Lee (NY)**, **Falyn Weiss (NY)**, and paralegal **Alexandra Ahdoot (NY)** presented together on the basics of financial literacy and the legal ramifications of poor financial literacy to 80 high school students throughout the spring of 2026.

Isaac Schwarz (NY) successfully negotiated with the Department of Education for a non-public school day program placement for a child with special needs, with a supportive day program identified that will allow the child to be supported by both his family and his school.

Sophie Gandler (NY), **David Goodman (NY)**, and **Kelsey Strott (NY)** presented a workshop on the legal issues that entrepreneurs should consider when getting their businesses off the ground, including understanding the pros and cons of various business structures and the basics of contract, employment and intellectual property law.

Laura Hu (NY) and **Summer Liu (D.C.)** prepared a green card application and related filings for an asylee client from Rwanda. The team successfully obtained a fee waiver for their client and now await adjudication of the applications.

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Laurel Fresquez (D.C.) was interviewed by The Veterans Consortium to speak about her work assisting a veteran with obtaining citizenship through the Naturalization Through Military Service program. This veteran was the organization’s 100th client to be granted citizenship!

Taylor Fogg (NY), Sophie Gandler (NY), and David Marantes (NY) drafted a template services contract for a doula who recently started a business offering pre- and post-partum doula services in the NYC region.

Won Ki Lee (PA) reviewed and summarized the file of an Army veteran who had been dishonorably discharged for being AWOL for four days because he had been detained in Rikers for a crime he did not commit. The New York Legal Assistance Group will use the file review and summary to submit a Discharge Upgrade claim to give the veteran a chance to qualify for service-connected health benefits.

Associates **Morgan Brody (NY), Joseph Varano Cushner (NY), Gregory Lutgen (NY), Nicholas Rudolph (NY), and Catherine Tran (NY)** collectively took on representation of a family of Iraqi refugees to prepare their permanent residency applications. After working with the family throughout the winter, all green card applications were submitted and await adjudication.

Yoonji Woo (NY) and Summer Associate **Malyika Shami** prepared and filed a citizenship application for a longtime client and survivor of severe domestic violence. Yoonji had previously assisted the client with her application for a U-Visa and subsequent green card application. The client now awaits her citizenship interview and oath ceremony.

Olivia Pompay (NY) reviewed and summarized the file of an Army veteran with mental health issues who was living in a shelter. He had been discharged under the Expeditious Discharge Program. The New York Legal Assistance Group will use the file review and summary to submit a Discharge Upgrade claim, giving him a chance to qualify for service-connected health benefits.



The following attorneys were featured as part of our monthly Pro Bono Spotlight series in the second quarter of 2026.

Quarterly Spotlights: Meet Our Attorneys

[April Spotlight](#)

Amy Volz, a former Litigation Associate in London, talks about her participation in pro bono matters both local to London and rooted in U.S. litigation work, including the use of facial recognition technology in the U.K.; researching cases in connection with a potential challenge to Louisiana's felony murder rule; and appealing a removal order for an immigrant mother who experienced severe domestic violence.



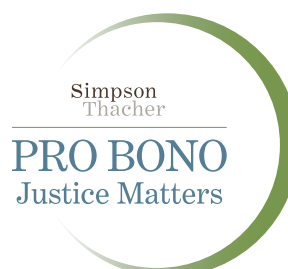
[May Spotlight](#)

Noah Gimbel, Litigation Counsel in Washington, D.C., discusses his work on the team challenging the Ten Commandments laws in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.



[June Spotlight](#)

Jacob Kornman, a corporate M&A Associate in New York, speaks about his contribution to a range of long-term representations supporting immigrant clients through asylum applications and adjustments of status.



Simpson Thacher Represents the National Center for Youth Law as Amici in Support of Challenge to Mississippi Law That Violates Students' First Amendment Rights

On behalf of the National Center for Youth Law, Simpson Thacher filed an amicus brief in a Fifth Circuit case in support of plaintiffs who are challenging Mississippi's House Bill 1193, a law that restricts discussion of or engagement with certain "divisive concepts" in public schools. The brief argues that the law violates students' First Amendment rights and unconstitutionally restricts student speech, and that it violates established Supreme Court precedent that protects student expression in schools. The brief urged the Court to uphold the District Court's preliminary injunction that blocks H.B. 1193 on the grounds that it likely infringes on students' constitutional rights. Further, the brief argues that the law goes against decades of Supreme Court precedent, which has established that public education is foundational to forming a democratic citizenry and that schools are not places for imposing political orthodoxy.

The team was led by Partner **Amy Candido (SF)** and Associate **Timothy Conklin (BO)**, and included Associates **Jill Boggs (D.C.)**, **Marissa Bucci (NY)**, and **Batoul Husain (D.C.)**.

Simpson Thacher Lawyers From Asia and London Complete Report on Anti-Hate Speech Laws for Japanese NGO

Lawyers from across Simpson Thacher's offices in Asia and London collaborated on a report for Japanese NGO Human Rights Now comparing anti-hate speech laws in the European Union and the United Kingdom. The organization plans to use the memo to advocate with the Japanese government to revise and strengthen the country's anti-hate speech laws, as well as its responses to hate speech, particularly to address hate speech from political figures or used during political campaigns.

The Simpson Thacher team was led by Partner **Makiko Harunari (HK)** and Associate **Xochitl Romo (TK)** and included Counsel **Grace Boos (LO)**, Pro Bono Attorney **Georgia Nickson (LO)**, and Associates **Eloise Chin (LO)**, **Justin Guo (HK)**, **Julius Rogenhofer (LO)**, and **Zhendong Xu (TK)**.



Bronx Criminal Court Grants Early Termination of Probation in Two Cases

In partnership with Bronx Defenders, the Firm represents individuals in motions for early termination of probation. Probation requirements are often extremely restrictive and burdensome and can subject individuals to the constant risk of further proceedings for potential violations of probation conditions. Courts have the discretion to grant motions for early termination of probation in cases where the probationer has diligently complied with the terms and conditions of probation and terminating probation would not be adverse to the protection of the public.

Simpson Thacher recently represented two different clients who were each sentenced to five years of probation in connection with gun possession charges. Neither of these individuals had ever been arrested for or convicted of any other crimes. Both were youthful offenders who had made tremendous strides to turn their lives around.

On April 21, 2026, the court terminated probation a year ahead of schedule for our client Mr. G, who is now gainfully employed as a porter at a residential building. He sought early termination of his probation in part because of the unscheduled home visits by the Probation Department, which often occurred as early as six in the morning. Mr. G lives with his grandmother, who understandably found the unexpected visits extremely disruptive. Both Mr. G and his grandmother were overjoyed when the motion was granted. The team included Associate **Kelly Donovan (NY)**, who argued the motion, and Partner **Mike Osnato (NY)**.

On June 2, 2026, the court terminated probation more than two years ahead of schedule for our client Mr. B, who works full time as a doorman and porter for a large residential building complex. He sought to end termination early in order to apply for a position in the Navy, which does not permit individuals on probation to enlist. Mr. B breathed a huge sigh of relief when the court granted his motion, and his mother burst into tears. The team included Associate **Billy Moran (NY)**, who argued the motion, Associate **Olivia Thompson (NY)** and Partner **Mike Osnato (NY)**.



Kelly Donovan with the client, his grandmother and our co-counsel from Bronx Defenders.



Billy Moran and Olivia Thompson with their client and his mother.

Four Summer Associates Named Simpson Thacher Public Interest Fellows

We congratulate four summer associates who were awarded the Firm's 2026 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 ten weeks.



Grace Jensen

Summer Associate **Grace Jensen**, '27 Georgetown Law School, will be continuing the work she began in Fall 2025 at the American Civil Liberties Union Disability Rights Program (DRP) in Washington, D.C. The DRP has pioneered several initiatives

advocating for the advancement of civil protections for Americans with disabilities across a range of interest areas. Grace will primarily work on criminal justice matters, reviewing materials produced quarterly from state correctional facilities pursuant to a settlement agreement requiring compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. This work will help to ensure that individuals who are disabled and charged with a crime have access to services that protect their rights and help them understand their legal obligations. She will additionally contribute to ongoing litigation by assisting with depositions, reviewing discovery materials, and performing various research and writing tasks for matters involving responses to mental health crises and access to substance abuse treatment. Grace looks forward to contributing to disability rights litigation, remarking that attorneys play an important role in moving individuals with disabilities "from the margins of society to full and equal participation in civic life."



Sam Andrus

Summer Associate **Sam Andrus**, '27 Duke University School of Law, will be working to support the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Margaret Satterthwaite. Among other things, the Special Rapporteur researches judicial

independence, cataloguing attacks on and progress toward an independent judiciary. Using skills acquired at Duke Law's International Human Rights Clinic, Sam will aid the Special Rapporteur's mission in promoting the separation of judicial power from the executive branch. Sam hopes to help ensure the freedom of judges as a human rights norm in the international legal community.



Amara Shein

Summer Associate **Amara Shein**, '27 Columbia Law School, will be working at the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), which conducts extensive investigative and litigation work related to human rights issues across the world. As a first-generation Burmese American, Amara was

inspired to give back to her community through the CJA, where she will have the opportunity to research human rights violations in Southeast Asia and beyond. Founded on the principles of the Nuremberg Trials, the CJA has a long track record of prosecuting former war criminals, condemning acts of torture, and defending indigenous groups. Working alongside the CJA's international team of attorneys, Amara will conduct research, policy and litigation work advancing the protection of targeted peoples everywhere. Amara seeks to apply her extensive background in human rights coursework, asylum processing, and her role as editor-in-chief at Columbia's Human Rights Law Review in a hands-on way to advance change and accountability.



Michael Ash

Summer Associate **Michael Ash**, '27 Duke University School of Law, will be working at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (TSC) as a Research Assistant. TSC is a U.S. Department of Defense-affiliated regional center based in Anchorage, Alaska that focuses on

developing research to expand understanding of security issues in the Arctic. In his role, Michael will be drafting research reports focused on the regulatory and legal implications surrounding small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear technology in the Arctic. Michael's interest in the intersection between science, technology, and law aligns with TSC's mission, which allows him to contribute to a deeper understanding of nuclear energy and lawfare. Additionally, Michael not only aims to provide research that can help protect U.S. security issues in the Arctic, but he also hopes his research can help address the needs of various indigenous communities.

Young Person From Honduras Released After Six Months in ICE Detention Upon a Successful Habeas Grant and Bond Hearing

Counsel **Adrienne Baxley (D.C.)**, Associates **Libbie Hamner (D.C.)** and **Dasha Kolyaskina (D.C.)**, along with Partner **Martine Ciccone (D.C.)**, Senior Counsel **Beate Krieger (NY)** and Associate **Devon Berman (NY)**, secured the release of a Washington, D.C. student who was summarily arrested by ICE without due process. The client entered the United States having suffered from abandonment and neglect by his parents. Two days after ICE detained him without cause, he was approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status. The team filed a petition for habeas corpus with the District Court in Virginia where he was detained, but he was transferred to a detention center in Texas where he was repeatedly denied release on bond by the immigration judge because of recent changes in BIA precedent. Six months later, after hearing oral argument (additionally delayed by a tornado), a federal judge ordered the immigration court to hold a meaningful bond hearing. The team went on to win the client's release on a minimal bond amount, and he returned to his family, church, and school. When the case was transferred back to immigration court in the D.C.-area, removal proceedings were terminated based on his SIJ Status, and he has returned to his family's home, reenrolled in school, and is pursuing his dreams for the future.



Dasha, Libbie, Martine and Pro Bono Attorney Liane Aronchick outside the courthouse in Virginia.

Simpson Thacher Submits Amicus Brief to the Louisiana Supreme Court on Behalf of the Battered Women's Justice Project and the Conference of Crimes Against Women, and Other Amici

At the request of Innocence & Justice Louisiana, a Simpson Thacher litigation team submitted an amicus brief on behalf of Amici in support of Mr. M, who has maintained his innocence in connection with his conviction in a 1977 stabbing murder of a woman (Ms. C) who was in the process of leaving her former partner (Mr. S), who had recently moved out of their shared home. Mr. S had a documented pattern of stabbing romantic partners who had attempted to leave him. He committed a near-fatal stabbing of his first wife as she was divorcing him, and he was later convicted of stabbing and murdering his common law wife in 1980, three years after Ms. C's murder. Instead of investigating Mr. S for Ms. C's murder, police arrested Ms. C's next-door neighbor, Mr. M, who was ultimately convicted for her murder. Mr. M has been in prison for over 40 years, with numerous challenges to his conviction, including two appeals before the United States Supreme Court, where Justice Marshall had commented in his dissenting opinion on the denial of certiorari that the evidence "strongly suggest[s] that petitioner did not commit the crime for which he was found guilty." Mr. M is currently asserting a state statutory claim of factual innocence in an application for post-conviction relief to the Louisiana Supreme Court after the criminal court denied his request for an evidentiary hearing.

In tandem with Mr. M's petition to the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Simpson Thacher team prepared an amicus brief on the significance of patterns of abusive behavior towards intimate partners and historic policing failures to consider intimate partner violence in cases of femicide. Amici included the Battered Women's Justice Project, Conference of Crimes Against Women, the Honorable Ronald B. Adrine (Ret.), and Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, a leading scholar in this space. The team included Partner **Ali Sher (NY)**, Associates **Abigail Finn (NY)** and **Damian Gallagher (D.C.)**, and Summer Associate **Kelly Banks (NY)**. Innocence & Justice Louisiana described the amicus brief as "significantly increasing the chances this case is taken seriously" and "unusually compelling" and was so grateful for the team's extraordinary work that it sent over a king cake, a famous Louisiana dessert, as a token of their gratitude.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Approved for Vulnerable Young Client

In 2025, Associate **Marco Linares Cordero (NY)** took on the representation of a young immigrant who fled his country following the death of his mother and the incarceration of his father on account of his political opinion. Marco obtained a guardianship order from Queens Family Court in September 2025, an effort that involved drafting the papers, prepping witnesses, and appearing at oral argument. Following the successful family court hearing, he subsequently prepared a petition to USCIS for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. In May 2026, the client's immigration application was formally granted. The client recently obtained his GED and has enrolled in college to study electrical engineering.

Mother and Daughter Reunited After Ten Years Following Approval of Follow-to-Join Asylum Petition

In Spring of 2025, a Simpson Thacher team including Associate **Christine Tillema (D.C.)**, with support from Counsel **Adrienne Baxley (D.C.)** and Associate **Franklin Castro (LA)**, received a successful grant of "follow-to-join-asylum" for the young daughter of a long-time client of the Firm's for whom the team previously won a grant of asylum after appeal to the Fourth Circuit. The client's daughter had to remain in their home country for the pendency of her mother's asylum case, resulting in the forced separation of mother and daughter for almost ten years. After preparing a "follow-to-join asylum" petition for the daughter in summer of 2025 and then prepping her for multiple interviews at her local U.S. Embassy, the daughter was approved to enter the U.S. and was reunited with her mother earlier in April of this year.

2026 Public Service Fellows: Kelsey Shelofsky and Sarah Heintz

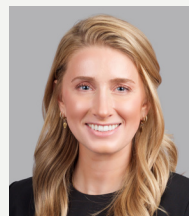
The Firm is delighted to announce two recipients of the 2026 Simpson Thacher & Bartlett Public Service Fellowship, which provides junior associates with the opportunity to spend one year working on a public interest project of their choosing, supported by a stipend and benefits from the Firm, with the option to return to the Firm at the Fellowship's conclusion.



Kelsey Shelofsky

Associate **Kelsey Shelofsky (NY)** '25 will work with the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) to promote the public interest by ensuring universal access to justice, advocating for an independent judiciary, and promoting high-quality legal education for law

students and lawyers, among other issues. Kelsey will lead and assist with various pro bono matters, including matters in consumer debt court, representation in State Central Registry cases, and compiling applications for Certificates of Relief from Disability. She will also help NYCLA expand access to high-quality legal services for New Yorkers.



Sarah Heintz

Associate **Sarah Heintz (NY)** '24 will spend a year working with the Alaska Public Defender Agency as an Assistant Public Defender in Anchorage, Alaska. Sarah will provide legal representation for indigent clients charged with crimes, juvenile matters, probation and parole

revocations, as well as other types of proceedings. A critical focus of Sarah's work will be addressing the mass incarceration rates in Alaska, with a desire to provide high-quality representation for individuals vulnerable to failures in the justice system.

Spotlight on Housing: Pro Bono Teams Protecting the Legal Rights of Low-Income Tenants Throughout the World

Housing is often cited as one of the greatest stressors in the lives of low-income individuals, whether they are facing eviction, being harassed out of affordable housing, or forced to live with dangerous and unlivable conditions, such as mold, vermin, and a lack of heat and hot water. These situations can be profoundly destabilizing and pose a real threat to the health and safety of tenants and their family members. On top of that, unscrupulous landlords often count on residents not understanding the calculation of their rent, rules for the return of a security deposit, or how to access legal systems or available programs that can make rental payments more affordable. Accordingly, Simpson Thacher pro bono teams around the U.S. and the U.K.—with volunteers from both our corporate/transactional and litigation practices—have worked on a range of housing-focused pro bono projects, including ongoing and new initiatives launched in the past year.

The **Bay Area** and **London** offices launched projects aimed at recovering improperly retained security deposits for tenants. The Bay Area project was initiated by the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley to address the fact that although tenants are entitled to get their security deposits back within 21 days after they move out, many landlords refuse to return security deposits or they withhold unnecessary deductions. Two U.S.-based Simpson Thacher volunteers helped tenants write demand letters and prepare Small Claims Court forms,



in case the landlord did not respond to the demand letter. Counsel **Jo Xu (PA)** and Associate **Alex Kokka (SF)**, working with Partner **Laura Lin (SF)**, recently received the first result in these matters with a landlord returning the full deposit as required by law, following the team's advocacy. Associates **Jesse Feng (SF)** and **Jack Traylor (PA)** also have submitted a demand on behalf of a local tenant. In the same period, the London Office has taken on six tenancy deposit recovery cases, in a project launched in a collaboration between various U.K.-based law centers and a group of international law firms, including Simpson Thacher. This project has yielded wins for those assisted, and a positive experience for the participating volunteers in the London office, including Associates **David Broome (LO)**, **Yun Kei Chow (LO)**, **Euan Gillies (LO)**, **Ed Godwin (LO)**, **Alberto Tassoni (LO)**, **Max Tranter (LO)**, **George Walsh (LO)**, and **Hugo Yeung (LO)**.

Also in 2026, in partnership with Northeast Legal Aid and Greater Boston Legal Services, the **Boston** office has begun working in limited scope clinics to prepare petitions for Boston-area residents seeking rental housing to seal eviction records. These records can make it very difficult for individuals to obtain new housing, as some landlords are reluctant to rent to someone with an eviction history—even if the reason for the eviction was prompted by the landlord rather than failure to pay or other issues with the tenant. When eviction records are cleared, a tenant is often able to secure stable housing for themselves and their families. The 2026 Boston Office Summer Associates attended a record sealing clinic at a local community center, with additional clinics and virtual opportunities being planned for the months ahead.

In the **New York** office, more than 20 Simpson Thacher volunteers have traveled to housing developments with large senior populations to participate in a housing affordability clinic created by Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS). The volunteers met with seniors and disabled individuals who are eligible to freeze their rent through the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)/Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs. Volunteers advised on the program and prepared applications for them where appropriate.

Other Simpson Thacher attorneys in **New York** participated in a Legal Services NYC-sponsored project aimed at keeping families in their homes and protected from the threat of eviction. Working with clients to

participate in the “One Shot” grant application program administered by the City of New York, this program helps tenants obtain flexible, single-use grants paid directly to their landlords to cover emergency expenses that could otherwise lead to homelessness. Simpson Thacher volunteers have supported individuals who fell into arrears while shouldering the burden of paying for a family member’s cancer medication or brief periods of unemployment, for example. These individuals have been able to stay in their homes as a result of the grants that have been received. Paired with volunteers from Goldman Sachs, the Firm presently has five teams underway who are supporting tenants with these applications, including Partner **Maya Reeves (HO)**, Associates **Danielle Mikaelian (NY)**, and **Ekok Soubir (NY)**, and New York Summer Associates **Yubin Kim**, **Luke Nagy**, **Nikolaj Nielsen**, **Julia Yan**, and **Davis Zerr**, and Interns **Bobbie Pesner** and **Rafael Sousa**.

Finally, attorneys in the **New York** office also continue to file housing repair (“HP”) actions for low-income tenants in New York City, mentored by attorneys at Legal Services NYC and under the supervision of matter partner **Linton Mann III (NY)**. With four HP actions underway, attorneys are assisting tenants with issues ranging from a persistent lack of heat and hot water, non-functional appliances, mold, and leaks. Associates **Hannah Plaziak (NY)**, **Tara Martin-Chen (NY)**, and **Nora Hood (NY)** are preparing to appear in court on behalf of a disabled client who lives in an apartment with numerous open violations recorded by the City, including mold, mice, uneven floors, and a broken toilet, as well as a nonfunctioning intercom and an elevator that is frequently out of service for extended periods. In addition, three teams of associates and summer associates recently launched matters for tenants in the Bronx on whose behalf the Firm will file HP actions to address ongoing violations in their apartments. They include New York Associates **Gineen Abuali**, **Marie Ceske**, **Tara Martin-Chen**, **Catherine Tran**, and **Humza Yousuf**, New York Summer Associates **Dayo Adeoye**, **Marissa Fine**, **Edwin Rosenberg**, and Interns **Ellie Meyer** and **Sumayya Spann**.

All told, these varied pro bono projects help tenants access the legal services they need to attain stability and safety in the place where they should feel the most secure—their homes.

Clinic Roundup

Small Business Clinics Come to Boston!

The Firm successfully launched the first two small business clinics in the Boston office with BizGrow, a program of Lawyers for Civil Rights in Massachusetts. BizGrow partners with law firm volunteers to provide free legal assistance, business support, and technical assistance to low-income entrepreneurs and other marginalized individuals trying to start small businesses, ensuring they encounter fewer obstacles and more opportunities. Boston Partner **John Ilardo** and Boston Associates **Mark Geraci**, **Sam Goldsmith**, **Jack Gould**, **Winnie Loureiro**, **Davi Sacco**, and **Benjamin Skillin** assisted entrepreneurs with advice about forming their entities and corporate governance and drafted and reviewed simple contracts for new entrepreneurs.



Benjamin Skillin assisting a client.

Simpson Hosts Essential Life Planning Documents Clinics in NY and D.C.

It's easy to associate a last will and testament with a high net worth individual, but having a will can be lifechanging for any family regardless of age or economic status. Having a will in place prevents the state from determining what happens to an individual's estate rather than their chosen beneficiaries. Without a valid power of attorney, health care proxy and/or living will, if an individual becomes incapacitated, their loved ones may not be able to access funds, pay bills, make time-sensitive decisions, or handle medical matters, which can sometimes result in eviction, utility shutoffs, or loss of benefits.

For an LGBTQ+ client who has no contact with their biological family, having the autonomy to grant certain rights to their chosen family through an advance directive can help provide peace of mind to clients. This past Spring, Simpson Thacher and our corporate client volunteers helped 22 individuals draft wills, powers of attorney, healthcare proxies, living wills, and/or disposition of remains forms for low-income clients in New York and Washington, D.C.

In March, Partner **Mark Brod (NY)**, Associates **Jessica Berman (NY)**, **Collier Curran (NY)**, **David Marantes (NY)**, **Caitlin O'Flanagan (NY)**, **Jeff Shafer (NY)**, **Isabelle Yuan (NY)**, and volunteers from JP Morgan Chase helped seniors and immuno-compromised clients referred to us by the New York Legal Assistance Group in executing life planning documents.

On May 5th, supervised by Associates **Cassie Chang (NY)** and **Dana Jack (NY)**, Associates **Danielle DiGrazia (NY)**, **Charles Fraser (NY)**, **Paul Jansch (NY)**, **Priscilla Kim (NY)**, and **Hannah Plaziak (NY)** assisted LGBTQ+ clients referred to us by Legal Services NYC in granting rights to the clients' chosen family through their advance directives.

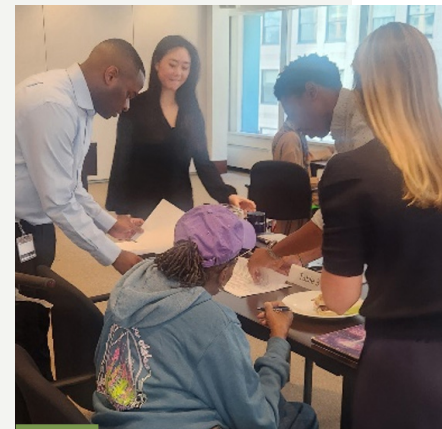
On May 28th, alongside KKR volunteers, including Simpson Thacher alumna Katie Sudol, New York Associates **John Balletta**, **Kunzhao Cao**, **Collier Curran**, **Tara Martin-Chen**, and **Danielle Mikaelian** helped several low-income seniors referred by the Volunteers of Legal Service Senior Law Project draft their life planning documents.

On June 18th, the Washington, D.C. office hosted a life planning documents clinic to prepare wills and healthcare and financial powers of attorney for low-income seniors referred by Legal Counsel for the Elderly. Washington, D.C. Partner **Carleigh Rodriguez**, Washington, D.C. Associates **Alexis Capati** and **Nathan Gonzalez** and Summer Associates **Cem Geray**, **Ellie Hansen**, **Tyler Irwin**, and **Christal Knight** assisted clients at this clinic.

On June 25th, alongside Blackstone, including Simpson Thacher alumna Sarah Green, New York Associates **Cassie Chang**, **Collier Curran**, **Jovhann Egalite**, **Danielle Mikaelian** and **Alexandra Wildman**, Summer Associates **Sophia Bi**, **Emanuela Gallo** and **Noah Karmann** assisted clients in executing their powers of attorney and healthcare proxies. The clients left the Firm feeling empowered to communicate with their caregivers, families, and physicians about their wishes, and grateful for the assistance, diligence, and support of the volunteers.



Mark Brod, Collier Curran, and Caitlin O'Flanagan assisting a client at NYLAG clinic.



Dana Jack with associates Charles Fraser and Priscilla Kim and paralegal Graham Johnson notarizing.



Carleigh Rodriguez, Ellie Hansen, and Christal Knight assisting a client.

Awards

Samantha (Sam) Sergent Honored With Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence by Legal Aid DC

Associate **Sam Sergent (D.C.)** was honored with the 2026 Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence at Legal Aid DC's Servant of Justice Awards Dinner, held on April 28th in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes Sam's exceptional pro bono service to Legal Aid DC clients, including her instrumental role in building the pro bono component of Legal Aid's Reentry Justice Project, which helps individuals overcome barriers stemming from a criminal record. Over the past five years, Sam has handled 12 criminal record sealing matters on behalf of Legal Aid DC clients: nine motions have been granted, and three remain pending. She has also mentored colleagues participating in the program.

The Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence recognizes pro bono attorneys whose dedication, skill and compassion have made an extraordinary impact on Legal Aid's clients and mission. To learn more about Sam's work with Legal Aid DC, please [click here](#).



Attorneys from the Washington, D.C. office attend the awards ceremony with Sam.

Simpson Thacher Team Honored by Catholic Charities DC

A team from Simpson Thacher was honored by Catholic Charities DC at its Immigration Legal Services Pro Bono Appreciation Event on May 7th. The team was awarded Outstanding Pro Bono Commitment, honoring the firm that has made the most significant commitment to the Catholic Charities ILS Pro Bono Program for the year. The award was for the Firm's representation of a student who was picked up and detained by ICE for six months before being released through a successful habeas petition and bond hearing. Accepting the award for the Firm was Counsel **Adrienne Baxley (D.C.)**, Associates **Libbie Hamner (D.C.)** and **Dasha Kolyaskina (D.C.)**, Pro Bono Attorney **Liane Aronchick** and Pro Bono Specialist **Emily Soule**.



Dasha, Libbie, Liane, Adrienne, and Emily accept the award.

Community Engagement

Simpson Thacher Hosts a Day of Service Featuring the Innocence Project for JP Morgan Chase Volunteers

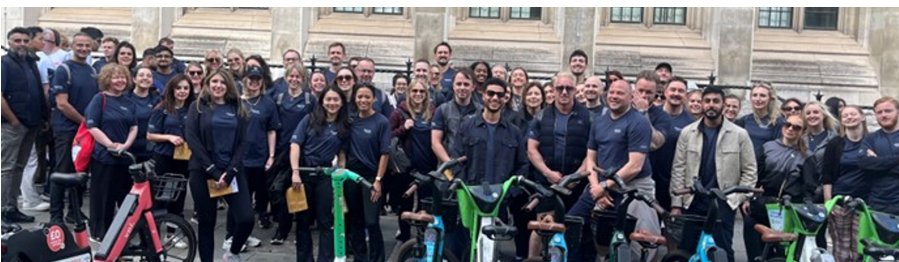
In May, the Firm hosted 19 volunteers from JP Morgan Chase, paired with Simpson Thacher volunteers, for a program and pro bono clinic with the Innocence Project. The day started with a presentation by a senior case analyst at the Innocence Project and an exoneree who had spent 17 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit, to frame the work of the clinic for the volunteers. The program was followed by a limited review clinic to evaluate requests for assistance from incarcerated individuals. Volunteers reviewed a limited set of case files, summarized the cases, and answered discrete, case-dispositive questions in order to determine whether the cases should proceed to further investigation and review.



The panel featuring representatives from the Innocence Project and moderator Pro Bono Counsel Nihara Choudhri.

Simpson Thacher Participates in the Annual London Legal Walk

This year marked a record for the Firm, with 81 colleagues taking part in the 2026 London Legal Walk on June 9th. Together with tens of thousands of walkers from across the London legal community, we walked to raise funds for free legal advice charities. Organized by the London Legal Support Trust, the Walk is one of the largest fundraising events in the English legal calendar, supporting over 100 frontline organizations that provide vital advice to those unable to afford legal help and ensure access to justice for individuals facing challenges in areas such as housing, employment, debt and benefits.



Simpson Thacher Participates in Brussels Pro Bono Roundtable

During European Pro Bono Week, the Firm joined together with law firms and civil society organisations at the Brussels Pro Bono Roundtable to deepen collaboration and strengthen the local pro bono community. The discussion focused on building lasting partnerships and enhancing coordinated efforts to improve access to justice across Brussels. The Brussels lawyers have continued to deliver impactful pro bono work throughout the year, including supporting children in obtaining citizenship, assisting with expungement applications, and advising on a cross-border U.S. immigration matter for a Belgian national. Together, these efforts reflect our growing European pro bono work.



Simpson Thacher Pro Bono Lawyer Georgia Nickson joins Roundtable participants from law firms throughout Europe at the Brussels Pro Bono Roundtable.



Please send news items, comments or suggestions regarding the Pro Bono Program to Harlene Katzman at hkatzman@stblaw.com.

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* In April 2026, Simpson Thacher announced plans to expand its presence in Asia with an office in Singapore.