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Simpson Thacher Donates \$350,000 to Hurricane Recovery Efforts

Simpson Thacher donated \$250,000 to the Texas Access to Justice Foundation's Hurricane Harvey Legal Aid Fund, which provides disaster-related legal aid to victims of the hurricane that hit Houston, Texas in September. Attorneys in the Firm's Houston office also provided legal advice and information to victims of Hurricane Harvey through pro bono work with the Houston Volunteer Law Project.

The Firm also donated \$100,000 to two organizations providing relief and assistance to the citizens of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico provides immediate services, including clean water, electrical generators, and food to the affected communities, and LatinoJustice PRLDEF's Legal Aid Fund provides legal services to victims, including to assist affected families with processing benefit and insurance claims through insurers and federal aid agencies.

Simpson Thacher and The Bronx Defenders Win Major Appellate Victory Overturning Family Court Decisions Interfering with Access to Counsel

On June 27, 2017, the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department unanimously reversed decisions of the Bronx County Family Court which denied two Simpson Thacher clients the right to share documents with their criminal defense counsel. The Firm's clients faced parallel proceedings in family court and criminal court. Working with The Bronx Defenders, the Firm filed motions asking the family court to clarify that our clients had the right to share these documents related to the family court procedure and communicate freely with their criminal counsel. After the motions were denied, the Firm filed appeals to the First Department, which reversed the family court's decisions on both statutory and constitutional grounds raised by the Firm. Specifically, the First Department held that the Social Services Law did not bar the Firm's clients from sharing with their defense counsel Progress Notes prepared by Administration for Children's Services caseworkers, and held that, "[a]ny other result would violate their First and Sixth Amendment rights."



The Simpson Thacher team included **Mark Stein**, **David Elbaum** (who argued the appeal) and **Melanie Jolson**. The New York Law Journal wrote about the decision on July 6, 2017.

Simpson Thacher Represents *Amici* Before Supreme Court in *Trump v. Hawaii* & *Trump v. International Refugee Assistance Project*

Simpson Thacher attorneys provided pro bono representation to 23 nonprofit organizations that advocate for immigrant and refugee rights and provide legal services to these groups, filing an *amicus* brief in the consolidated case of *Trump v. Hawaii* & *Trump v. International Refugee Assistance Project*, Nos. 16-1540 and 16-1436. In this appeal, the Respondents sought to keep in place a nationwide preliminary injunction that prevents enforcement of President Trump's revised Executive Order banning immigration from several Muslim-majority countries. In support of these efforts, legal services organizations from all over the country filed an *amicus* brief with the Supreme Court arguing that courts serve a critical role in reviewing actions, that the Executive Order violates the Establishment Clause, and that implementation of the Order would cause irreparable harm. On October 10, the Court vacated the Fourth Circuit's judgment and the Ninth Circuit's judgement and remanded both cases with instructions to dismiss the challenge as moot in light of the President's Proclamation of September 24, 2017.

The Simpson Thacher team included Partners **Alan Turner** and **Harrison (Buzz) Frahn** and Associates **Reena Mittelman**, **Adrienne Baxley**, **Tomi Mendel** and **Patricia Yan**.

Simpson Thacher Teams With ACLU to Challenge Federal Restrictions on Contraceptive Coverage

On October 6, the Firm, along with the ACLU, filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration challenging interim rules issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies that would allow nearly all employers and universities to deny employees and students insurance coverage for contraception if the employer or university has a religious or moral objection. The lawsuit, which Simpson Thacher is handling pro bono, argues that the interim rules infringe upon the Establishment Clause and the Equal Protection Clause by authorizing discrimination against women seeking reproductive healthcare, and violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

The lawsuit has received prominent media coverage in both *The National Law Journal* and *Law360*. The Simpson Thacher team includes **Alexis Coll-Very**, **Linton Mann III**, **Matthew Bricker**, **Julia Heald**, **Lawrence Huang**, **Meredith Karp**, **Marissa Lambert** and **Casey Mathews**.

Upcoming Pro Bono Training/CLE Programs at Simpson Thacher:

Represent Parents in Family Court: Article 10 Training

Thursday, November 30, 2017, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. (Room 6A)

The Bronx Defenders will prepare attorneys to represent parents in Article 10 proceedings filed by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in Bronx Family Court.

Small Business Clinic Training: Corporate Structure and Contracts

Friday, December 8, 2017, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Room 6A)

Simpson attorneys will give an overview of the types of corporate structures available to small business owners, as well as a discussion of tax issues entrepreneurs commonly face.

Housing Repairs/Eviction Training

Monday, December 11, 2017, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. (Room TBD)

Legal Services NYC will train attorneys on how to assist low-income tenants in court to obtain housing repairs or to fight eviction.

Education Advocacy Project Training

Thursday, January 11, 2018, 12:15 – 2:30 p.m. (Room TBD)

Mobilization for Justice will train attorneys and our colleagues at Blackstone to advocate for families of disabled children to help them negotiate their individual education plans (IEP) with the Dept. of Education.

Catering Contract Clinic (with Blackstone)

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Room TBD)

The Firm will partner with Start Small Think Big to host a training and evening small business clinic which will assist low-income entrepreneurs personalize a template catering contract for their business.

Nonprofit Formation and Governance Training

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. (Room TBD)

Attorneys from the Firm's Exempt Organizations practice will train participants on representation of nonprofits seeking to incorporate and apply for federal tax exemption.

Veterans Clinic (with Blackstone)

Monday, February 5, 2018, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Room TBD)

NYLAG will train attorneys to provide a comprehensive intake of veterans designed to identify issues related to veterans' benefits (compensation and pensions, disability ratings), discharge issues (i.e., discharge upgrades), housing (eviction prevention, landlord disputes), family law, consumer protection, and/or estate planning (wills, medical advance directives, etc.).

Blackstone and Simpson Thacher Team Up to Screen Immigrants for Naturalization Eligibility

On October 16, lawyers from Blackstone and Simpson Thacher teamed up to screen 30 individuals to determine their eligibility to naturalize. More than 9 million people in the U.S. are eligible to naturalize, but have not yet done so. Naturalizing brings important benefits to clients, including the right to vote, and protection from removal--a particular concern for immigrants in low-income communities that are highly policed. The Simpson volunteers included Partners **Caroline Gottschalk**, **Igor Fert** and **Brian Stadler**, Counsel **Ellen Frye**, Associates **Jordan Botjer**, **Eva Kang**, **Stephen O'Connor** and **Geraldine Rothschild**, and Paralegals **Alice Blanchard** and **Magallie Kortright**.



Simpson and Blackstone volunteers screen immigrants for naturalization eligibility.

Recent Pro Bono Achievements

Simpson Thacher Wins Asylum for Haitian Client

On July 10, 2017, Simpson Thacher successfully secured a grant of asylum on behalf of a client who had suffered severe persecution and feared further persecution in his home country of Haiti on account of his sexual orientation. The case 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 Associates **Becky Sussman** and **Maddy Sprung-Keyser**. The team was supervised by Associate **Rachel Sparks Bradley** and Partner **Alan Turner**.

Simpson Thacher Successfully Helps a Lawful Permanent Resident Obtain U.S. Citizenship

Attorneys in the New York office successfully represented a client in obtaining her U.S. citizenship. The client had been a lawful permanent resident for a number of years and sought citizenship to solidify her permanent status in the U.S. and to be able to vote in Federal elections. The Simpson Thacher team filed the appropriate application for naturalization, helped the client prepare for her civics test and accompanied her to the naturalization interview. The client was sworn in as a U.S. citizen at an Oath Ceremony in New York. The attorney team included **Mark Brod**, **Dennis De Almeida** and **Michael Yan**.

Simpson Thacher Wins Unemployment Insurance Appeal

On October 30, 2017, Simpson Thacher successfully overturned a decision that required a client to return over \$10,000 in benefits due to an alleged willful misrepresentation. The matter was referred to the Firm by Volunteers of Legal Service, an organization dedicated to providing legal representation for low-income New Yorkers. The team included **John Robinson** and **Lawrence Huang**, and was supervised by **Bryce Friedman**.

Palo Alto Summer Associates Ride the Justice Bus

Twelve summer associates in the Palo Alto office participated in an all-day pro bono clinic by riding the Justice Bus to Sonoma, California to assist fifteen low income clients complete naturalization applications. Through the nonprofit, OneJustice, Simpson Thacher partnered with the International Institute of the Bay Area and La Luz Bilingual Center to assist these clients and brought them one step closer to becoming United States Citizens.



Palo Alto summer associates complete naturalization applications for low-income Sonoma residents.

Awards, Events and News

Simpson Thacher Hosts Planned Parenthood NYC for A Dialogue on Current Advocacy and Litigation to Preserve Access to Reproductive Healthcare

Hosted by the Pro Bono Program and the Women's Committee, Simpson Thacher organized a panel discussion on current policy, advocacy and litigation to preserve access to reproductive healthcare across the country. The speakers were introduced by **Caroline Gottschalk** and included Laura McQuade, President & CEO of PPNYC, Christina Chang, VP Public Affairs of PPNYC, Katie Danziger, Chair of the Board of PPNYC, and Simpson Thacher Partners **Alexis Coll-Very** and **Linton Mann III**. **Susan Cordaro** moderated the panel.

Simpson Thacher Honored by National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty for Pro Bono Work

Simpson Thacher was honored at The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty's 2017 McKinney-Vento Awards, an event that honors leaders in advancing solutions to end homelessness and poverty. The Firm was recognized for its many years of pro bono work with the Law Center, particularly in helping provide housing protections for victims of domestic violence. The Simpson Thacher team includes Partners **David Woll** and **Rajib Chanda** and Associates **John Menitove**, **Christopher Healey**, **Magdey Abdallah** and **Michael Waks**.

Simpson Thacher Recognized for Excellence in Pro Bono Work by the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice

Simpson Thacher was one of five firms honored by the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice at the second annual Celebration of International Pro Bono Excellence. The Firm was recognized for efforts to protect the communal property of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities living on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua on behalf of El Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua (The Center for Justice and Human Rights of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua). The Simpson Thacher team includes Partner **Todd Crider** and Associate **Deborah El-Schaeddhaci**.

Daniel Venditti Received 2017 Cornerstone Award from Lawyers Alliance for New York

Labor and Employment Counsel **Daniel Venditti** was selected by Lawyers Alliance for New York to receive the 2017 Cornerstone Award for his pro bono work with several nonprofit organizations serving low-income New Yorkers. The award honored Daniel for his outstanding contributions in pro bono legal service.

Simpson Thacher Honored for Excellence in Pro Bono Advocacy by Sanctuary for Families

Partner **Mark Stein**, Pro Bono Counsel **Harlene Katzman** and Associates **Matthew Levy** and **Kristina Green** were honored at the Sanctuary for Families' 2017 Above & Beyond Awards in October. The award came in recognition of advocacy efforts on behalf of a human trafficking survivor who helped U.S. law enforcement successfully prosecute members of an international trafficking syndicate.



Planned Parenthood NYC joins Linton Mann III and Alexis Coll-Very for discussion on preserving access to reproductive healthcare.

Simpson Thacher and Three Firm Lawyers to Be Honored by the Legal Aid Society of New York

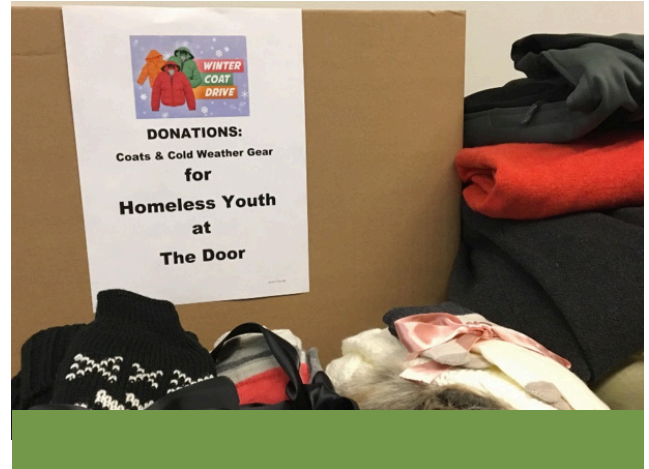
Litigation Attorneys **Alan Turner**, **Elisa Lee** and **Asher Lowenstein**, along with the Firm, were honored by the Legal Aid Society of New York as part of its 2017 Pro Bono Publico Awards. The individual attorneys were recognized for representing two long-time, legal permanent residents with serious medical conditions in removal proceedings.



Elisa Lee accepts the award on behalf of herself and the Firm.

Coat Drive for Homeless Youth

Thank you to the hundreds of you who donated coats and warm clothing for clients of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program at The Door. Simpson Thacher's coat drive was a huge success and officially ends on December 1.



Please send
news items, comments
or suggestions regarding the
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