



PRO BONO PUBLICO

A Quarterly *Pro Bono* Newsletter

May 2009

LETTER FROM PRO BONO COUNSEL: LIVING BY EXAMPLE



Harlene Katzman

Coming off of a full week of rain, I was forced to be creative about how to entertain my almost three and eleven month old kids in the living room of our apartment. My son has been reading books about boats so I dug up an old cardboard box from our basement and turned it into a boat for him. He watched me decorate it and put in it his favorite toys and he squealed with delight as I pushed him around our apartment in his own "boat." This morning, I woke to my son decorating our laundry basket with ribbons and filling it with my daughter's toys. He asked me to put her in the basket and proceeded to push her around the apartment in her own "boat," which she loved. I tell this story, not because it's sweet, though it is, but because it got me thinking about setting examples.

I believe in teaching by example and have struggled, like so many of us,

with how to best relay the importance of kindness, generosity, philanthropy and public service to my children. I've used ideas from friends, books, and listserves ranging from collecting and donating small change, to giving away birthday presents to children in need, to elaborate recycling projects. They all seem like good ideas but will they really teach my kids about public service? Maybe, maybe not.

Here's what I do know. My son mimics an awful lot of what I say and do, like he did this morning. I know that he learns by watching his parents interact in the world - I see it every day. In this context, participating in public service activities ceases to be just about you - it's about everyone who watches you: your children, your neighbors, your parents, your co-workers - it's about living by example. For the many of you who have done such great *pro bono* and community service work this year - talk about it! Tell your children and your neighbors; display a note from a grateful client or a thank you card from a child whom you mentored. The more visible we make our work, the more we will inspire others to follow our example. For those of you waiting for the right time - well, you know what they say: there will never be a

right time. There is only now. We are lucky to work in a place with so many opportunities to serve the public, and we are lucky to have something to give whether it's time, skills or money. I encourage you to find your example, and start living by it.

WELCOME SUMMER ASSOCIATES!

The Firm is proud of its longstanding tradition of *pro bono* service and we hope that you will take part in our summer associate *Pro Bono* Program. In New York, this includes formal programs such as inMotion's Family Law Program, City Bar Housing Court Summer Assistance Program, Sanctuary for Families' Courtroom Advocates Program, and Legal Outreach Summer Law Program. It also includes assignments with numerous ongoing individual *pro bono* matters involving for example, constitutional, civil rights, immigration, transactional, and criminal law. In non-New York offices, there are a variety of available *pro bono* assignments that are being coordinated by each individual office. We look forward to involving you in our program. Questions can be directed to Harlene Katzman, the Firm's *Pro Bono* Counsel in New York.

SAVE THE DATE: *Pro Bono* Summer Lunch and tour of the New York City Bar Association, July 10!

PRO BONO VICTORIES: IMMIGRATION REMOVAL DEFENSE PROJECT

Simpson Thacher attorneys successfully represented two *pro bono* clients in immigration removal proceedings as part of the Firm's Immigration Removal Defense Project, which is run in conjunction with the Legal Aid Society's Immigration Law Unit.

"MR. L"

Mr. L entered the United States at the age of 14 as a lawful permanent resident. After continuously residing in the United States for 19 years, Mr. L was placed in removal proceedings because of two misdemeanor convictions and numerous motor vehicle related offenses and violations. At a two day hearing, New York associate **Juan Arteaga** and former associate **Carlos Lopez** presented live testimony and documentary evidence establishing that Mr. L's application

for cancellation of removal should be granted because, among other things, Mr. L's four year-old daughter (who suffers from a rare medical condition (hemihypertrophy) that causes one side of her body to grow faster than the other) and mother (who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer) would suffer great hardship if Mr. L were deported to his native country of Colombia. In addition, Juan and Carlos presented evidence establishing that Mr. L demonstrated genuine rehabilitation because he had not been convicted of any crime for almost ten years and because he had made significant contributions to his community. Moreover, Juan and Carlos submitted numerous letters of support from members of Mr. L's family – including Mr. L's younger brother, who is a platoon sergeant in the Marine Corps and has completed two tours of duty in the Iraq War – and community.

On March 25, 2009, United States Immigration Judge Sandy Hom granted Mr. L's application for cancellation of removal. In his five page opinion, Judge Hom found that Mr. L "demonstrated the requisite hardship and sufficient equities to be entitled to cancellation relief" because he "presented sufficient evidence by way of testimony, corroborating letters and background materials about his family to show that he deserved a favorable exercise of discretion." Based on this victory, Mr. L will be able to apply to become a United States citizen.

"MR. B"

New York associates **Jonathan Lieberman** and **Will Golden**, under the supervision of partner **Paul C. Gluckow** and as co-counsel with Legal Aid, recently represented Mr. B. in removal proceedings predicated on a misdemeanor drug possession conviction. Mr. B., a native of the Dominican Republic but a twenty year resident of the Bronx, had been deported in 2005 after his original attorney negligently missed the filing deadline for Mr. B.'s application for relief by four days. As it turns out, Mr. B.'s former "attorney" was not actually licensed to practice law in New York, an unfortunate but all too common occurrence in immigrant communities. While Mr. B. was removed, Legal Aid attorneys with the help of Wilmer Hale as *pro bono* counsel, prosecuted Mr. B's petition for habeas corpus based on ineffective assistance

of counsel. In a stipulation settlement of the habeas claim, the United States Department of Justice agreed to allow Mr. B to re-enter the United States for the limited purpose of prosecuting *de novo* his claim for relief from removal under former section 212(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which his former lawyer had negligently failed to timely file.

In a 212(c) case, an Immigration Judge has discretion to grant relief from removal when the "positive" factors in a respondent's life outweigh the "negative" factors. The equities in Mr. B.'s case were particularly compelling. In addition to having a wife and four children who were all United States citizens, a long history of residence in the United States and no other convictions, Mr. B. suffered from severe health problems including dementia and a seizure-inducing brain infection called neurocysticercosis, which would make removal to the Dominican Republic particularly difficult.

On March 24th, Mr. B. finally got his day in court. After two hours of testimony, Immigration Judge Mulligan delivered a long decision at the Government's request. He worded his decision strongly in Mr. B.'s favor and re-authorized his status as a Legal Permanent Resident without any restriction. Following his decision, Immigration Judge Mulligan apologized to Mr. B. on behalf of the Executive Office of Immigration Review for the miscarriage of justice he had suffered. He stated that Mr. B. should never have been deported for having filed his application four days late and luckily the legal system is built with checks and the error was rectified. Associate **Aby Castro** and paralegal **Christina Mauricio** provided invaluable assistance.

PRO BONO VICTORIES: ASYLUM

"MS. A-F-"

Through its relationship with Sanctuary for Families, Simpson Thacher undertook the representation of A-F- in her application for asylum. A-F- was born in Guinea, West Africa, and like nearly all young women of her ethnic group, she was subjected to female genital mutilation ("FGM") when she was five or six years old. When A-F- turned thirteen years old, she was forced to marry a man nearly

thirty years her senior, and to leave Guinea to live with him in the United States as his wife. Over the course of the next three years, A-F- was severely physically and sexually assaulted by her husband on a nearly daily basis. On the eve of her seventeenth birthday, A-F- managed to escape. She fled from Delaware to Maryland, where she re-enrolled in high school, and graduated with her diploma. One week before her high school graduation, A-F-'s husband suddenly appeared outside her school threatening to kill her if she did not immediately return to him. Rather than return to him, A-F- fled again, this time to New York. Soon thereafter, she met another Guinean woman who took her to Sanctuary for Families for help.

Sanctuary for Families referred the case to Simpson Thacher in November 2008. New York associates **Chantale Fiebig** and **Colleen Gilg** prepared A-F-'s asylum application, under **Barry Ostrager's** supervision. A-F- feared returning to Guinea because she would be physically beaten for having escaped from her husband by both her family and his; she would likely be forced to marry another potentially abusive man; and she faced the possibility of being re-subjected to FGM as well. Though the facts of her case were very compelling, A-F- faced the technical hurdle of having failed to apply for asylum during her first year in the United States. In addition to this hurdle, the asylum officer considering her case expressed concern that despite her husband's abuse, A-F- had never contacted the police. Nonetheless, after considering supplemental submissions responsive to his concerns, A-F- was granted asylum in May 2009. With Sanctuary's help, she has applied for college, and intends to enroll this fall.

"MS. M"

New York associates **Susan Cordaro** and **Natalie Shimmel Drucker**, along with **Vanessa Bressler** and paralegal **Austin Leach**, successfully represented Ms. M, referred to the Firm by Sanctuary for Families, in connection with her application for asylum. Ms. M is a 45-year old female native and citizen of Kenya. Ms. M suffered past persecution when she was physically and emotionally abused, assaulted, burned, beaten, choked, raped, and threatened with death by her husband for a period of twenty years. This abuse began two years into her marriage after she refused her

husband's demand that she undergo female circumcision/genital mutilation ("FGM") in order to further his political career as a candidate for Parliament. As Ms. M explained in her affidavit, members of her husband's tribe—different than her own—would not vote for him if she did not undergo FGM. During the years of abuse she endured, Ms. M considered suicide and eventually fled to the United States when she had the opportunity to attend a church conference here in 2007.

In addition to Ms. M's testimony, her application was supported by medical and psychological affidavits, as well as news articles and government reports that establish the prevalence of domestic violence in Kenya where such violence is "condoned" and not investigated by the police. Final approval of Ms. M's application is pending standard USCIS background checks.

PRO BONO VICTORY: HOUSING COURT CLIENT DEFEATS LANDLORD

New York associates **Mark Maher** and **David Cooke** successfully represented Sergio Zabala, a senior citizen who was in the process of being evicted by his landlord. The landlord alleged that Mr. Zabala failed to make rent payments, but fortunately Mr. Zabala was able to produce money orders proving he was not in arrears. Additionally, it was discovered that Mr. Zabala's apartment was in need of substantial repairs.

After STB filed an answer denying the claim of non-payment of rent and a counterclaim seeking an abatement of rent for a breach of warranty of habitability, the landlord agreed to a stipulation whereby he withdrew his claim of non-payment of rent. This case was referred to the Firm by Manhattan Legal Services.

STB URGES HOUSING AUTHORITY COMPLIANCE WITH VAWA

In the Washington, D.C. office, Simpson Thacher lawyers worked closely with the National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) on a project to require the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to issue new rules ensuring

full implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Over the course of the last year, the Firm worked with NLCHP and other coalition members to draft proposed model rules ensuring that public housing authorities and Section 8 landlords are in compliance with VAWA provisions to protect victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. After HUD's issuance of its own proposed interim rules to implement VAWA in December 2008, the firm worked with NLCHP and coalition members to draft a response. The coalition response highlighted the deficiencies of HUD's proposed rules and attached as an exhibit the model rules that the firm had drafted. As part of the project, the Firm also assisted NLCHP in gathering data designed to assess the adequacy of the protections that are currently available to victims of domestic violence living in public housing and other federally subsidized housing around the country.

Additionally, Simpson Thacher's D.C. and New York offices recently gathered data for inclusion in a NLCHP report concerning public housing authorities' compliance with federal requirements regarding victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Washington associates **Christopher Kelly**, **Reynelle Staley** and **Mickey Martinez** worked on the matter with the help of **Bill Kearney**, **Kerry Follain**, and the office's summer associates last summer. Other staff members from the Washington, D.C. office and a group of paralegals in the New York office worked on the more recent data-collection project for NLCHP's report.

STB FILES AMICUS BRIEF WITH UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Simpson Thacher filed an *amicus* brief with the Supreme Court of the United States arguing that the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of a fair trial by an impartial jury is violated when a jury consults the Bible during capital sentencing deliberations.

The Simpson Thacher brief was filed on behalf of a group of former prosecutors, including thirty-three former United States Attorneys and numerous former Assistant United States Attorneys and state prosecutors. *Amici*

asked the Court to grant *certiorari* in *Oliver v. Quarterman* because the U.S. Courts of Appeals are divided on the constitutionality of jury Bible consultation and on the question of what standard should be applied in evaluating such allegations. Petitioner Oliver was sentenced to death by a Texas jury in 1999. After his trial, Petitioner's counsel learned that members of the jury had consulted a Bible passage calling for the death penalty in circumstances like those here.

The STB team representing *amici* included New York partner **Joshua A. Levine**, and New York associates **Marissa A. Piropato**, **Jacob Press**, **Meredith C. Duffy**, and paralegal **Stephanie Crosskey**, and Los Angeles associate **Robert J. Pfister**.

APPELLATE ARGUMENT: *PEOPLE V. HENDERSON*

New York associate **Marsha Yee**, in association with the Office of the Appellate Defender, represents Brian Henderson, an individual convicted of attempted assault in the first degree for allegedly stabbing another inmate while incarcerated at Rikers Island. At trial, the victim of the assault testified on behalf of the defense, stating that Mr. Henderson was not one of his attackers. During cross examination, the prosecutor attacked the victim's credibility by suggesting that he had been intimidated into testifying on Mr. Henderson's behalf. The victim denied that he had been intimidated. Nonetheless, the prosecutor persisted during summation in insinuating that the victim was lying and had in fact been intimidated by Mr. Henderson.

Marsha argued this appeal before the Appellate Division, First Department in October 2007. In April 2008, the majority of the First Department affirmed Mr. Henderson's conviction and sentence of 16 years to life imprisonment. Justice James M. Catterson dissented, opining that it was improper for the prosecutor to argue, without any evidentiary basis, that the victim had been intimidated. In January 2009, Justice Catterson granted leave to appeal to the Court of Appeals. Mr. Henderson's opening brief was filed in the Court of Appeals on March 23, 2009. Marsha is expected to argue this case before the New York Court of Appeals toward the end of the summer.

STB ASSOCIATES STAFF ADVANCED DIRECTIVES LEGAL CLINIC

New York associates **Julia Kohen**, **Mark Maher**, and **Alison Kelly**, and paralegal **Michael Davies** participated in an advanced directives legal clinic operated by Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE). SAGE is the nation's largest and oldest organization dedicated to serving and advocating for GLBT older adults. On April 16, 2009, SAGE offered a series of advanced directive legal clinics all over the city as part of National Health Care Decisions Day and staffed those clinics with *pro bono* volunteers from various law firms. STB associates assisted with an educational component on the importance and scope of health care proxies, powers of attorney, and living wills; and conducted individual sessions helping SAGE constituents fill out and file advanced directives.

STB PREPARES MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR MOCK TRIAL EVENT

Over a dozen attorneys in the Palo Alto office have been working with Citizen Schools of California to prepare middle school students for The San Jose Regional Mock Trial held on May 14, 2009. At the event, the students



STB Palo Alto associates on the right side : Steve Blake and Marc Rubenstein (back row), Sara Wilcox and Elizabeth Gillen (middle row), and Elizabeth Cairns (front)

argued a case in a courtroom before an actual judge and live jury. The STB attorneys taught students how to deliver opening and closing statements and cross examine witnesses, helping teach logic and reasoning, oral communication, and advanced literacy skills to students through experiential learning. Citizen Schools is a program that provides after-school education programs for students in the middle grades (6th, 7th and 8th), complementing classroom learning by engaging students in hands-on learning projects led by adult volunteers after school and supported by a staff of professional educators. Palo Alto associates **Elizabeth Gillen, Steve Blake, Elizabeth Cairns, Alison Elafros, Arun Goel, Kristy Greene, Shayne Hodge, Rob Mobassalay, Angela Moore, Erin Rinn, Marc Rubenstein, Sara Wilcox, Michelle Woodhouse, and Rachel Yuen** participated.



Rafael Vasquez

**SPOTLIGHT: RAFAEL VASQUEZ,
EXTERN AT BROOKLYN LEGAL
SERVICES, CORPORATION A**

New York associate **Rafael Vasquez** '06 returned to the Firm after a four-month externship at Brooklyn Legal Services, Corporation A (Brooklyn A) where he worked full time in the Community and Economic

Development (CED) Unit. With a wide grin on his face, he spoke about his experience.

What is the Community and Economic Development Unit, and what clients does it serve?

The CED Unit is a program of Brooklyn A, which provides neighborhood-based legal services to low-income individuals and groups in North and East Brooklyn. The CED Unit consists of three attorneys and works closely with Brooklyn A's General Counsel. The Unit's primary focus is on corporate and transactional work in the communities of Brooklyn which surround the three branches of Brooklyn A. The Unit's clients are all local community-based organizations, including developers of affordable housing, community health care facilities, job training organizations, child care centers, schools as well as small neighborhood

groups. Most of these clients are within walking distance from the Unit's office.

What are some examples of the work you did while at CED?

The work I did was mostly transactional in nature. The Unit's role consists of advising clients on business matters that arise in the context of their ongoing operations, and assisting them with specific transactions. My work included entity formation, drafting agreements, general tax matters and legal research.

Who were some of your clients?

I represented some great clients including Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, Inc. (BSFHC) and the East New York Preparatory Charter School (East New York Prep). In fact, my first client was BSFHC. Work on behalf of BSFHC was completely hands-on and very intense right from the beginning and I loved it. By the end of my first week with the Unit, I had already drafted several documents to be filed with the City and held a client meeting with BSFHC's Construction Manager regarding the building of its new facility. What was great about these clients was that I got to experience what it is they do up close on a day to day basis. With East New York Prep, I was able to visit the school during actual school hours to assist them during a Department of Education inspection.

How much relevant experience did you have prior to starting at CED?

In terms of *pro bono*, I had some, but not a lot of experience. Since being at the firm, I have worked on a Seedco clinic matter where I was part of a team that helped to launch a new restaurant. I also represented a woman in a family law matter referred by inMotion during my first year and continue to represent her when she needs our services. With respect to general corporate experience, my time at STB prepared me well for this externship. I came in with many useful substantive skills, such as reviewing and drafting agreements, and process skills, such as organizing a closing. The terminology may be different, but the need to protect your client and identify potential issues is the same.

What are some of the things you enjoyed most about the experience?

I was very impressed with the culture and mindset of the clients. The clients are so enthusiastic about what they do, which made me excited about helping them achieve their goals. For the clients, their stakes are bottom line—people's livelihood, people's general well being. For example, if BSFHC didn't get to launch its new medical center, thousands of people would have to travel by subway to an overcrowded facility in another neighborhood just to get decent healthcare. Seeing the passion of these clients made me that much more motivated to find solutions for them. The clients' passion also translated into deep appreciation for the help we provided them. We were seen as part of the team and integral to the success of their mission.

I also appreciated the family feel of Brooklyn A as a whole. The camaraderie between all three of its branch offices and in the CED Unit was amazing. One day I would have lunch with Brooklyn A's General Counsel, and the next day I would be playing Trivial Pursuit with a hodgepodge of staff from all three branches. There was a real focus on supporting each other and very few ego issues in the office. Whether you were an administrative staffer, the head of the unit, or an extern, the common focus was on helping our clients and our community. Since I've been back at STB, I've already had several emails from people at Brooklyn A checking in on me and met up with staff from the Unit during a conference. It was a short time I spent with the organization, but I felt like a part of their family - and still do.

How did the experience add to your professional development as a lawyer?

One of the best things I came away with was development of my soft skills. With three attorneys, matters were not staffed with large teams, so as an extern, you have to pick up the ball and run with it. Within my first few days in the Unit, I was attending client meetings without another CED person present, and strategizing and advising clients on multiple issues. Moreover, for many of Brooklyn A's clients, they were dealing with some issues for the first time, which

meant I had to take extra care to explain the legal process. As a result, I became more confident in my role as a lawyer and advisor.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely. No question. Although I have some great friends and mentors here at the Firm that I missed during my time at Brooklyn A, it was an invaluable experience and I am a better lawyer and person for it.

PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett Public Service Fellowships have thus far been awarded to 31 current and incoming associates who were selected to spend one year working on a public service project of their choice, with a stipend and benefits provided by the Firm, and the ability to return to the Firm at the Fellowship's conclusion. The Fellows represent a wide range of classes, practice groups and offices throughout the Firm.

The Public Service Fellowship Program was established as a way for Simpson Thacher lawyers to make a sustained commitment to public interest work at a time when many organizations and government agencies are facing significant budgetary constraints while simultaneously experiencing a tremendous increase in the need for their services. The Fellowships are as far reaching as working on environmental policy in China and as close to home as representing indigent criminal defendants in Manhattan. The projects cover a wide range of public interest issues all over the world. We are very proud of the contribution Simpson Thacher & Bartlett will make to the public interest community through the excellent work of our lawyers.

Some examples of the work our Fellows will be doing include:

- researching and writing policy reports, advocating to the government, stakeholders and organizations, litigating, and developing policy on a range of initiatives to reform the criminal and civil justice systems with the Brennan Center for Justice;

- representing indigent criminal defendants in public defender offices in New York and San Francisco;
- working with the Asia Regional Office of the Grameen Foundation to help eradicate poverty through microfinance and technology;
- working with the Lawyers Alliance for New York to advise NYC nonprofits on corporate structure and governance, tax, real estate, employment and other business and transactional law issues with a focus on strategies for coping with the weakened economy;
- working with the Millennium Cities Initiative of the Earth Institute at Columbia University in creating employment, stimulating enterprise development and fostering economic growth in African cities, by attracting foreign direct investment;
- working with the Rainforest Foundation to develop programs in Latin America to support indigenous people of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment;
- working with the Wage Justice Center to represent low-wage workers from labor-intensive service industries in Southern California in their efforts to collect unpaid wages from former employers;
- participating in strategic international human rights litigation challenging racial profiling in Europe, targeting health and human rights issues in pre-trial detention in Europe, Central Asia and Africa, and addressing the use of administrative detention for national security reasons with the Open Society Institute's Justice Initiative;
- furthering the development of environmental laws and policy in China with the Beijing office of the Natural Resources Defense Counsel;
- assisting with the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the Harvard Law School's Project on Disability; and

- working with Human Rights Watch in Brussels to strengthen the institutions responsible for implementing the emerging body of international criminal law.

NEW PRO BONO PROJECTS

Hong Kong Refugee Assistance: The Hong Kong office has partnered with the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (HKRAC) to provide *pro bono* representation to asylum seekers before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Representation involves an initial screening of the client, taking testimony and drafting an affidavit, and writing the legal brief to be submitted to the UNHCR. There is no jurisdictional limitation on what cases can be cited and precedents from all jurisdictions are considered persuasive by the UNHCR. Hong Kong associates **Jimmy Gao**, **Erica Fung**, and **Caitlin Gall** are representing the Firm's first client through this program, a political refugee from Niger.

New York Fair Housing: Simpson Thacher has partnered with the Fair Housing Justice Center to represent clients challenging housing discrimination in rental and sales markets that restricts access to affordable housing opportunities. The cases, brought primarily in federal court, will be based on race and national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and other types of discrimination. New York associates **Peri Zelig** and **Sara Ricciardi** and partner **Mike Garvey** have already begun to represent the Firm's first client through this program.

Washington, D.C. Housing Program: The Washington, D.C. office has partnered with Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia to represent low income clients by defending against improper evictions in court, assisting public housing tenants to preserve their subsidies, and fighting illegal rent increases. We expect our first referral this summer.

AWARDS

New York associate **Jacob Press** has been awarded Immigration Equality's Safe Haven *Pro Bono* Award for his work representing a 26-year old Brazilian client who

was granted asylum in October. This award recognizes *pro bono* lawyers who have gone above and beyond to win refuge for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive asylum seekers. Immigration Equality will present the award to Jacob at its May 19th awards dinner. The team that worked with Jacob included New York partner **Joe Tringali**, summer associates **Taamiti Bankole**, **Craig Katerberg**, and **Katherine Grealis**; and paralegal **Magallie Kortright**.

Palo Alto associate **Angela Moore** has been awarded the *Pro Bono* Advocate award from Legal Services for Children in San Francisco for her work winning asylum for a teenage boy from Guatemala on the basis of religious persecution. The award will be presented at a luncheon on June 9th. Former associates **Jessica Chan** and **Ariel Leichter-Maroko** also worked on the case, which was supervised by **Jim Kreissman**.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett has received the 2009 Equal Justice Award from the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. The award will be presented to the Palo Alto office at the annual Celebration of Justice Dinner on May 21, 2009. The office is being honored for its extraordinary work on the CAMHPRA Access to Housing case, which greatly expanded the rights of elderly adults with mental health disabilities to access California state licensed housing. (See [Pro Bono Publico Newsletter, January 2009](#))

On February 3, at Lincoln Center, inMotion, a provider of free legal and social services to low-income women, honored 78 Simpson Thacher attorneys who worked on inMotion matters in 2008. These matters spanned a wide range of family law issues including contested divorce, child custody and support, orders of protection and immigration. STB provided over 4,000 hours of *pro bono* legal services to inMotion in 2008.

LEADERSHIP

New York partner **Mark Cunha** was elected the new Chair of the Board of Directors of Legal Services NYC. Legal Services NYC is the largest organization devoted to

providing free civil legal services in the United States, with more than 300 lawyers and neighborhood offices in every borough of New York City.

New York partner **Joe Kaufman** has joined the Board of the Legal Aid Society of New York's Community Development Project (CDP). CDP provides support for low-income not-for-profit organizations, low-income entrepreneurs, and low-income housing cooperatives. Joe will also be supervising New York associate Ana Navia, who is spending four months as an extern at CDP this spring.

New York partner **Joshua Bonnie** has joined the Board of the Bloomingdale Family Program, which provides a Head Start program and other services for children and parents from low-income families in upper Manhattan.

New York associate **Nisha Singh** has recently joined the Board of Humanitarian Notes, a United States-based non-profit organization that produces music for HIV/AIDS awareness in Africa and also raises global awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

New York associate **Lisa Rubin** has joined the newly-formed Associate Board of Gilda's Club of New York City, a cancer support organization.

New York associate **David Tejtel** has recently joined the Board of To Shelter a Shelter, an organization that seeks to improve the living conditions and adoption prospects for homeless pets in Westchester and Fairfield Counties.

New York associate **Makiko Harunari** has joined the Leadership Council of Year Up, a one-year intensive education and apprenticeship program for urban young adults aged 18-24. Year Up's program recognizes that both job skills and higher education are necessary to provide a viable path to economic self-sufficiency. Its mission is to prepare these young adults for successful careers and higher education.

We would love to hear your questions and ideas. Please send comments and suggestions for the *Pro Bono Publico*, by clicking [here](#).

Don't forget that you can access our *Pro Bono* practice page by [visiting here](#) or contact:

Harlene Katzman

Pro Bono Counsel and Director
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
425 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017
212-455-3890
hkatzman@stblaw.com

UNITED STATES

New York

425 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017
212-455-2000

Los Angeles

1999 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067
310-407-7500

Palo Alto

2550 Hanover Street
Palo Alto, CA 94304
650-251-5000

Washington, D.C.

601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
North Building
Washington, D.C. 20004
202-220-7700

EUROPE

London

Citypoint
One Ropemaker Street
London EC2Y 9HU England
+44-20-7275-6500

ASIA

Beijing

3119 China World Tower One
1 Jianguomenwai Avenue
Beijing 100004, China
+86-10-5965-2999

Hong Kong

ICBC Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong
+852-2514-7600

Tokyo

Ark Mori Building
12-32, Akasaka 1-Chome
Minato-Ku, Tokyo 107-6037, Japan
+81-3-5562-6200

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YEARS
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