



## Letter from Co-Chair of Pro Bono Committee, Libby McGarry

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from Co-Chair of  
Pro Bono Committee,  
Libby McGarry

### Pro Bono Victories!

- STB Represents Uncommon Schools in Charter School Co-Location Dispute
- STB Represents the City of New York in Suit Brought by the Federal Government
- STB Wins Asylum for Client from Mali
- STB Wins Asylum for Chadian Client
- STB Wins Asylum Case for West African Client
- STB Wins Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Guatemalan Child
- STB Wins Asylum for Gay Client from Indonesia
- STB Wins Asylum for Venezuelan Woman

Criminal Justice Act Pro Bono  
Project: Fighting for Freedom

Profile: Public Service Fellows  
Mark Maher and Ann Marie  
Rosas

Awards and Accolades

Community Service



*Libby McGarry*



*Kevin Kennedy*

Dear Friends:

I am delighted that Kevin Kennedy now shares the Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair job with me. I'm very pleased to have as Co-Chair a partner from the Palo Alto office, which has a robust pro bono program, and someone so dedicated to our pro bono and public service work. A corporate lawyer,

Kevin will help our on-going effort to provide additional opportunities for associates and partners outside of the Litigation Department to take on pro bono matters, such as those in which he is involved — advice to not-for-profit entities on corporate governance and compliance, advocacy for artists, assistance to small businesses and supervision of a mock trial program.

Bill Russell moved on from the Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair after 12 years in that role. Twelve years that saw an increase not only in average pro bono hours per lawyer at the Firm, but also in our lawyer and office participation rates. Bill's dedication to pro bono has gone beyond his support of the Firm's program and the cases he personally works on. He participates in numerous bar association committees, and is a member of various public interest organization boards, currently serving as Chairman of the Board of Manhattan Legal Services. He also is a recipient of the Legal Aid Society Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service. Thank you, Bill!

Kevin and I are very happy with the many achievements reported in this Newsletter. Congratulations to those mentioned, and thanks to everyone who helps maintain our strong tradition of pro bono work.

## Pro Bono Victories!

### STB Represents Uncommon Schools in Charter School Co-Location Dispute

STB represented the nonprofit charter school management organization, Uncommon Schools, in a challenge to the co-location of the Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School ("Brooklyn East") within an existing public school in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn. Prior to the Firm's involvement, a co-location plan



that had been developed and approved by the NYC Department of Education and the Panel on Educational Policy was rejected by the state Commissioner of Education. The co-location plan was amended and STB was asked to represent Uncommon Schools in a second petition challenging the amended plan. In an 18-page decision by the Acting Commissioner of Education, the challenge was dismissed and Brooklyn East was allowed to move into P.S. 9 in time for the start of the new school year. The STB team included partners **David Woll** and **Bill Russell**, associates **Michael Freedman** and **Serena Orloff**, and summer associate **Molly Greer**.

## STB Represents the City of New York in Suit Brought by the Federal Government

STB successfully resolved a suit brought by the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York against the City of New York alleging violations of the False Claims Act. The City was alleged to have failed to comply with certain state regulations in the course of authorizing 24-hour home care for thousands of Medicaid-eligible disabled and infirm patients. The lawsuit was filed in January 2011 and settled for a small fraction of the amount at issue on the eve of trial in September. Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo praised the hard work and dedication of the Firm and its attorneys and noted that its handling of the matter pro bono “gives testament to why it is one of the great firms in this City.” The team included partners **Bryce Friedman**, **Alexis Coll-Very** and **Nick Goldin**, and associates **Sara Colon**, **Summer Craig**, **Christopher Judge**, **Serena Orloff**, **Sarah Phillips** and **Jacob Press**.

## STB Wins Asylum for Client from Mali

The Immigration Court granted asylum to STB’s Malian client who had been a victim of female genital mutilation, forced marriage and abuse. If deported, the client faced the difficult choice of either being separated from her young U.S.-citizen daughter, or taking the child with her to Mali, where she feared the daughter would also be subjected to FGM. The matter was referred to the Firm by African Services Committee, and the STB team included partner **Todd Crider**, and associates **Alyssa Watzman**, **Bianca Bowen** and **Jordan Botjer**.

## STB Wins Asylum for Chadian Client

Associates **Lara Pomerantz**, **Kelly Hodges** and **Alyssa Watzman**, overseen by partner **Alan Turner**, successfully represented a 27-year old Chadian man in his claim for asylum. The Asylum Office granted our client’s application based on his fear of facing violence in Chad due to his religion and ethnicity. The matter was referred to the Firm by Human Rights First.

## STB Wins Asylum Case for West African Client

Associates **Emma Lindsay** and **Ana-Claudia Roderick** recently won asylum for a West African client of the Firm, a man with albinism, who was granted asylum based on his arguments that he faced discriminatory treatment and safety concerns arising from his physical condition. The STB team won the case at the Asylum Office, despite the challenge that the client applied for asylum seven years after coming to the United States, well after the one-year deadline for filing asylum applications. The matter was referred to the Firm by the Refugee Assistance



Program of the City Bar Justice Center and overseen by partner **Todd Crider**.

## STB Wins Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Guatemalan Child

Associates **Tina Geraghty** and **Jeemin Chung**, overseen by partner **Joe Tringali**, successfully represented a 17-year-old Guatemalan child in foster care in her claim for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Our client also received Legal Permanent Residence status and can now work to support herself and her two-year-old daughter. This matter was referred to the Firm by Kids in Need of Defense.

## STB Wins Asylum for Gay Client from Indonesia

Attorneys in the Firm's Palo Alto office successfully represented a man from Indonesia in his claim for asylum. The Asylum Office granted our client's application based on his homosexuality and membership in several other groups which he claimed are persecuted in Indonesia. The matter was referred to the Firm by Immigration Equality. The STB team consisted of associates **Jeffrey Danley** and **Gautam Kene**, and partner **Alexis Coll-Very**.

## STB Wins Asylum for Venezuelan Woman

Associate **Tornike Bolkvadze**, overseen by partner **Olga Gutman**, successfully represented a 31-year-old Venezuelan woman in her claim for asylum. The Asylum Office granted our client's application based on her fear of facing violence in Venezuela due to her homosexuality. The matter was referred to the Firm by Immigration Equality.

## Criminal Justice Act Pro Bono Project: Fighting for Freedom

The Criminal Justice Act ("CJA") panel provides some of the most exciting, yet perhaps unsung, pro bono opportunities in New York City. "For people who like intense work, this is a good one to take on," says associate **Lexie Pitney**. Soon after joining Simpson Thacher, Pitney took on her first CJA matter to pursue an interest in criminal justice issues that she developed as an intern in the U.S. Attorney's Office during law school. "It's important that we have this work ... You learn so much about the criminal justice system, have close relationships with the clients, and it's fun because you are in court a lot."

Under the supervision of partners **Mark Stein** and **Josh Levine**, STB associates represent defendants facing criminal charges, convicted individuals charged with violation of their supervised release, and witnesses in criminal cases. These matters are referred to the Firm by the CJA panel for the Southern District of New York.

"You take such ownership of these matters. They are very discrete. You dive in and what's on the line is people's liberty. It's very clear what the stakes are," says **Andrea Griswold**, the associate project leader of the program. Many clients arrive at court with a daunting, near-life sentence and no representation. However, with the support of an STB team, most clients win a more favorable outcome that allows them to live their lives freely. "In all of my cases, the clients were sentenced below the guideline sentencing because of the dedication to the client, teamwork and guidance provided by Mark and Josh," says Pitney.

Court appearances, one-on-one client interaction and close partner supervision provide associates with leadership and client management opportunities. "The mentoring is taken seriously. The partners trust the associates to do the work, yet they are right





there to guide you when you're in over your head... I argued in front of some of the most challenging prosecutors in the country at a week-long jury trial. It was a great experience," says Griswold. "This is a great opportunity for junior associates."

## Profile: Public Service Fellows Mark Maher and Ann Marie Rosas

Corporate associate **Mark Maher** and litigation associate **Ann Marie Rosas** recently returned to the Firm after participating in the 2010 Public Service Fellowship Program. The Program offered associates the opportunity to spend one year working on a public service project of their choice, supported by a stipend and benefits from the Firm, with the ability to return to the Firm at the Fellowship's conclusion.

Mark worked at WNYC New York Public Radio and Ann Marie spent the majority of her Fellowship at the National Veterans Legal Services Program ("NVLSP") in Washington, D.C. We recently caught up with each of them and here's what they had to say:

### **MARK MAHER:**

*What were your daily responsibilities throughout your Fellowship?*

Every day was different. I regularly worked on FCC compliance and corporate governance matters, but also participated in, among other things, the launching of a new program (Freakonomics Radio) and the acquisition of several radio stations in New Jersey. Of course, there was the constant stream of intellectual property related issues.

*How was the transition from STB to New York Public Radio?*

Relatively easy. STB gave me great training such

that I could handle every task that presented itself. However, the environments are totally different. The New York Public Radio offices are in a loft in Soho and there is a casual dress code. I was sitting in a cubicle next to human resources and marketing professionals. Most of the day, I was not interacting with lawyers, which has its positives and negatives.

*How has the Fellowship contributed to your professional development?*

It was great to see how a company actually works at the day-to-day level. As an associate at a law firm, you generally aren't privy to the internal processes of the firm. As one of two lawyers in New York Public Radio's legal department, I got a glimpse of how the station is run, as the legal department is often consulted on administrative and business decisions. The Fellowship Program had a positive impact on my life in many ways. I gained perspective that should serve me well in my career at STB. I'm extremely grateful that the Firm allowed me the opportunity.

*Do you plan to work with public radio in the future?*

I hope to continue to advise organizations for whose mission I have a passion. When you are in the trenches at a law firm, sometimes you forget that lawyers have a unique skill set that is extremely valuable to companies, especially not-for-profits.

### **ANN MARIE ROSAS:**

*Why did you choose to work with veterans?*

The first year I was an associate at Simpson Thacher, my boyfriend, now husband, was deployed to Iraq. During that year, I learned about the unique challenges facing military families, particularly when a loved one returns home disabled in either a physical or mental capacity. When I read about the Public Service Fellowship I knew I had found my chance to help disabled soldiers and their families.



*What were your daily responsibilities?*

During my time at NVLSP, I represented veterans dealing with ailments such as PTSD, diabetes induced by exposure to chemicals and physical disabilities resulting from the rigorous conditions of their service.

*How was the transition from a private firm to a legal services organization?*

The transition from Simpson Thacher to nonprofit work was remarkably smooth from an advocacy perspective. The skills that Simpson inculcates in its young associates were equally applicable in a veteran's defense setting. I was, however, unprepared for the incredibly varied perspectives of the clientele. Often those that were most in need were the soldiers who did not ask for help, like the Vietnam veteran who was exposed to chemical agents and now suffers from Parkinson's but refuses to submit a claim because he believes there are servicemen who have greater needs.

*Do you plan to work with veterans in the future?*

I fully intend on staying involved in veterans' advocacy. The Fellowship taught me about the issues they face in a more holistic sense. I also understand now that many of the men and women who need the most help won't persevere through the multiyear process and may not even file an initial claim. With the military expected to draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan, there will be increasing numbers of veterans in need. As someone who was afforded the privilege of practicing law, I feel my own need to ensure that their struggles remain on the battlefield and not on the home front.

## Awards and Accolades

ECEB associate **Craig Katerberg** was selected by Lawyers Alliance for New York to receive the 2011 Cornerstone Award for his pro bono work with a number of New York City nonprofits. The award honors Craig for his outstanding contributions in pro bono legal service. Craig has represented six nonprofits through Lawyers Alliance, on a range of issues including corporate governance, real estate and tax exemption.



STB lawyers support Craig at the awards ceremony. L to R: John Bennett, Jennifer Franklin, Craig Katerberg, Allison Wilson, Harlene Katzman, Karen Wang, Alvin Brown and Rodrigo Surcan dos Santos

Simpson Thacher has again been selected by The Legal Aid Society to receive a Pro Bono Publico Award in 2011 for outstanding service to the Society and its clients. This award is given annually to law firms, corporations and other professionals who participate in Legal Aid's Pro Bono Program by providing exceptional legal service to low income New Yorkers. STB lawyers who are being honored individually include partner **Paul Gluckow**, corporate associate **Philip Buffa**, ECEB associate **Stephanie Mash** and litigation associates **Juan Arteaga**, **Jocelyn Campanaro**, **Daniel Shin**, **Michael Silver**, **Joan Flaherty**, **Kate Dominguez** and **T. Alora Thomas**.





L to R: Paul Gluckow, Bill Russell, T. Alora Thomas, Juan Arteaga, Philip Buffa and Kate Dominguez at the Legal Aid Awards.



Joan Flaherty and Jocelyn Campanaro at the Legal Aid Awards.

STB's Pro Bono Removal Defense Program was highlighted in the Legal Aid Society's October 2011 Newsletter as a model for pro bono partnerships. Overseen by partner **Paul Gluckow** and senior associate **Juan Arteaga**, the program provides representation to low-income clients in removal cases in Immigration Court. The full article can be seen [here](#).

STB's Corporate Externship with the Community and Economic Development Unit was profiled in Legal Services-NYC's Fall 2011 Newsletter. The article included a profile of STB associate **Daeyna Grant**, who was an extern in the fall of 2010. The full article can be seen [here](#).

## Community Service Rebuilding Together in Palo Alto

Over 50 volunteers from the STB office in Palo Alto completed a Rebuilding Together project to renovate the house of a low income homeowner. Rebuilding Together is a nonprofit working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities. STB volunteers provided free rehabilitation and critical repairs including, painting the exterior of the house, creating an irrigation system for the front and back yards of the house that fed into a replanted vegetable garden, renovating the kitchen and bathrooms and interior painting. Extra special thanks go to the hardworking spouses of **Alexis Coll-Very** and **Kirsten Jensen**, and the "handy" assistance of **Bill Hinman** and **Buzz Frahn**. To see the amazing before and after photos, click [here](#).



The STB team in front of the finished house.

## Day of Engagement with the Private Equity Foundation in London

On October 5, 2010, STB lawyers in London participated in the Private Equity Foundation's Day of Engagement at the Chandos East Community Hub, a center used by economically-disadvantaged young people in the local community. As part of the



From L-R: Jenny Marsh, Christina Barnsley, Meredith Jones, Wim de Vlieger, Sam Taylor, Nicolas Wehrli, Janeen Hayat and Sabrina Lee

regeneration of the Community Hub, STB lawyers constructed a brick community barbeque and seating area, while other participants painted murals, developed the garden and created play spaces for the children.

## inMotion Stair Climb 2011

In October, STB supported a team of attorneys, paralegals, and administrative staff in the second annual *Story by Story – Climbing to End Domestic Violence* stair climb, created to raise awareness and funding for inMotion, a provider of free legal assistance to low-income, underserved and abused women in New York City. STB joined many other inMotion supporters at 1411 Broadway, a 42-story skyscraper in Times Square, and every member of the STB team made it up all 756 steps to the top! Several climbers took the Extreme Climber challenge for additional fundraising (climbing with a 10-pound weight or climbing the building twice). Team STB raised a total of \$20,025 for inMotion, through Firm sponsorship, individual donations and Extreme Climber participation. The event raised more than \$675,000 for the organization. STB partners **Peter Pantaleo** and **Sandy Qusba** are on inMotion's Board of Directors.



STB Stair Climbers, L to R:  
Michael Williamson, Sally Barker, Courtney Hall, Hilary Chadwick, Cyrena Terricone, Els Boonacker, Jaime de Larraechea, Corina Gugler, Dan Tseng, Rafael Vazquez and David Pernas.

Not pictured, but climbed to the top:  
Meredith Duffy, Dan Shin, Chris Lee, Samantha Braunstein, Maura Whelan, Stephanie Weiner, Stephanie Skaferowsky, Stephanie Crosskey and Anna Dimon





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