



## WINDOW ON PRO BONO



*“Why pro bono legal work? What about all the other worthy charities and service projects?”*

We often hear this question in the world of pro bono legal services. Here are some answers.

*Mary Gay Scanlon*

One of the simplest answers often surprises non-lawyers – *every* lawyer is required to render pro bono legal service to the poor, with at least 50 hours of annual service being the usual standard. Such a reaction of disbelief is surely no compliment to the profession, but the fact remains that every state’s code of professional responsibility requires all lawyers to provide such service.

Of course, the underlying reasons for this professional requirement are more important than the rule: lawyers have an ethical obligation to provide pro bono legal service because, by licensure and training, we are the only ones who can provide access to the judicial system. Our legal system cannot function properly if access to justice is denied.

That system is under extreme stress today. In the past five years, government cuts, anemic interest rates on Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA)—a key funding source for legal aid programs—and sluggish private giving have reduced legal services budgets by 15 to 20 percent. Programs have folded or been cut, as many as 15 percent of legal services attorneys have been laid off, and offices have closed, at a time when the need for legal services for the poor has exploded.

The gap in access to justice is why it is so important for members of the private bar to support legal services organizations, both financially and with pro bono service. At Ballard Spahr, we are committed to doing our part, and that commitment is demonstrated by the pro bono matters reported below. The firm is a signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, under which we have devoted at least 3 percent of the firm’s billable time to pro bono efforts every year for the past 11 years. We also support legal services organizations with donations, as well as with our lawyers’ service on their boards of directors.

What sometimes gets lost in sharing our pro bono stories is how much we gain from this work, whether it’s the personal satisfaction of giving a low-income family a leg up, providing sanctuary to a refugee, freeing a prisoner from physical abuse, or even transforming a whole neighborhood with an economic development project. Our younger lawyers learn and exercise new skills through pro bono work, and we connect with our communities in new ways.

---

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Lifting the Lamp: Ballard Spahr’s Asylum & Immigration Project.....	2
Protecting the Right to Vote – Pennsylvania’s Voter ID Law.....	3
ABA Honors Ballard’s Advocacy for Female Athletes .....	4
Bankruptcy Assistance for Neighborhood Social Services Agency.....	4
Support for Affordable Housing and Homeless Families .....	5
Vindicating the Rights of Prisoners.....	7
Helping Small Businesses Succeed.....	8
Man’s Best Friend, Helping Inmates.....	8
East/West; Pro Bono’s Best .....	8
Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.....	9
Award Winning Wills for Heroes Program Continues to Garner Recognition .....	10
Help for Victims of Domestic Violence.....	11
Kids for Cash Update.....	11
Service Members Civil Relief Act.....	11
Nonprofit Guidance.....	12
Summer Associates and Pro Bono.....	12
Pro Bono Committee Contacts.....	12

## LIFTING THE LAMP: BALLARD SPAHR'S ASYLUM & IMMIGRATION PROJECT



Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih

*For several years, Ballard Spahr lawyers have devoted thousands of hours annually to asylum and immigration work, in some of the most heartrending yet rewarding legal work they will ever undertake. Although all of the cases are compelling, this year one case stands out:*

The road to a better life has been long and hard for Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih, a human rights activist from Sudan who experienced firsthand the terror of living under a violent, repressive government. Like those of many Ballard Spahr pro bono asylum clients, Hawa's story is both tragic and a testament to the power of the human spirit to overcome unthinkable trauma.

Hawa was born in the Darfur region of Sudan, but fled her home as a teenager to escape a war between the Sudanese government and Darfuri rebels. She spent nine years in a camp for displaced persons, where she developed a passion for human rights activism. Hawa, a college graduate with a degree in English, worked with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to advocate on behalf of the displaced persons in the camp, and particularly women and children. She was targeted by government security forces, and in May 2011, she was kidnapped and held in prison for two months. She had been kidnapped and arrested by government forces on four prior occasions. This time, she was repeatedly tortured, raped, and threatened when she refused to stop speaking out against the treatment of women. She was branded a traitor to Islam by the government, and her execution seemed likely.

In July 2011, Hawa was freed as a result of pressure from the international community and American activists. She fled Sudan and was invited to the United States to receive an International Woman of Courage Award from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in March 2012. The

Over the last 18 months, we have seen exciting new opportunities for pro bono service in the chance to partner with a growing number of in-house counsel seeking to meet Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) objectives established by their companies. CSR is a business model that encourages corporations to have a positive and ethical impact through their activities on the environment, consumers, employees, and communities. For in-house counsel, the most natural expression of CSR is often through pro bono legal service. More than 100 general counsel have signed the Corporate Pro Bono Challenge, including more than 40 Ballard Spahr clients. We hear almost daily from in-house counsel seeking to develop or participate in pro bono ventures.

Interestingly, as CSR programs gain hold, corporations are borrowing the term "pro bono" from the legal profession to describe "skills-based volunteering" projects, a concept that promotes the idea that professionals should use their highest and best skills to provide public service. In this way, CSR is catching up to the legal pro bono concept, which has always required lawyers to use their unique legal skills for the public good.

It is an exciting time to engage in pro bono work. We are seeing huge opportunities as technology improves our ability to share pro bono training and resources through programs such as probono.net, the options to unbundle pro bono services are increasing, and opportunities to collaborate on pro bono projects are multiplying. While we cannot meet every pro bono need, we can reach more clients than ever before.

So, we look forward to continuing to partner with corporate counsel, legal services agencies, and governmental entities as we expand the windows of opportunity for pro bono service, whether in providing a will to a first responder, helping an individual escape domestic violence, or assisting a community in developing affordable housing options.

Please join us in opening these windows.

Mary Gay Scanlon  
Pro Bono Counsel

### PRO BONO - DID YOU KNOW?

On average, Ballard Spahr attorneys donate about 60 hours of pro bono service every year.

award honors women around the world who have shown remarkable bravery in their advocacy for human rights, women's equality, and social progress. Secretary Clinton praised Hawa for "giving voice to the women and children of Darfur" and for her "fearless advocacy for the rights of all marginalized Darfuris."

Realizing that she could not return to the Sudan under current conditions, Hawa decided to seek asylum in the United States. Human Rights First referred her case to Ballard Spahr, and firm Chair Mark Stewart and associate Kaitlin Picco (PHL) undertook the representation. Upon meeting Hawa, Mark marveled: "This cheerful and conversant young woman from Darfur couldn't possibly be the person we had read about in the application for asylum, a breathtakingly raw account of torture and loss. But she was. She is a true survivor and a heroine to many for her activism."

In February 2013, Hawa was granted asylum. Not yet 30 years old, she hopes to obtain an advanced degree at an American university and continue her mission to advocate for the women and children of Sudan. In the meantime, we are seeking resources to help her pursue her dream, a significant challenge, since the government resources available to refugees are extremely limited and directed toward placing new immigrants in low-wage jobs. It is our honor to work for Hawa and to advocate on her behalf as she pursues her life's work.

## PRO BONO - DID YOU KNOW?

As a signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, Ballard Spahr has made and met a commitment to donate 3 percent of its billable hours to pro bono work every year for the past 11 years.



## ASYLUM IS JUST THE BEGINNING ...

Often, winning asylum is the start of a new chapter and not the end of the story. In Los Angeles, Nina Hernandez just successfully completed a fundraising campaign to buy a plane ticket to reunite her recent asylum client with his 12-year-old son, whom he has not seen in a decade.

In Philadelphia, Jason Leckerman is seeking resources to reunite his client with the daughters she was forced to hide in order to prevent them from being subjected to female genital mutilation. The client had to flee her African home country after she protested the procedure when another daughter died from it.

## PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE – PENNSYLVANIA'S VOTER ID LAW

Pennsylvania made news in 2012 by enacting a law requiring voters to present limited types of photo identification at the polls. While there was considerable disagreement over the number of registered voters who lacked the requisite photo ID, it soon became apparent that thousands of those voters lived in the Philadelphia area. The law presented a special dilemma for many elderly



Michael Fabius

and minority voters, who were born at home or in a time or location where birth record-keeping did not occur—they needed a birth certificate to obtain photo ID, yet photo ID was required to obtain a birth certificate. Associate Michael Fabius assisted the SeniorLaw Center of Pennsylvania with research and analysis of the new law.

As the election approached, the demand for birth certificates and other documentation required by the new law began to swell. More than 20 Ballard Spahr attorneys and paralegals volunteered at nonpartisan voter ID clinics run by a coalition of voting rights groups to help potentially disenfranchised voters obtain necessary identity documents. Clients included elderly civil rights marchers and veterans who had voted in every election since they became eligible to do so, but who lacked the newly-required identification. We participated in two clinics organized by in-house counsel at Exelon, one of which generated almost 200 birth certificate applications in two hours and was attended by lawyers from 13 in-house legal departments, including Comcast, Aetna, Lincoln Financial Group, Cigna, and GlaxoSmithKline.

In addition to training a team of Ballard Spahr paralegals to handle the increased demand for birth certificates, Lisa Whiteley, our Director of Pro Bono Practice Management, created a training manual and became a go-to resource for legal services agencies throughout the area. Following one

## ABA HONORS BALLARD'S ADVOCACY FOR FEMALE ATHLETES



On the 30th anniversary of Title IX, Ballard Spahr was awarded the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law's 2012 Frances Perkins Public Service Award for its decades of advocacy on behalf of women athletes. The award recognized the firm's efforts on behalf of women's sports teams, individual female athletes, and organizations such as the Women's Sports Foundation and Black Women in Sports Foundation that advocate for female athletes. In accepting the award, partner John Langel (PHL), who has represented the U.S. Women's Soccer Team since it burst onto the scene with its first World Cup win, remarked that he was particularly gratified by doing work that has changed the legal landscape for women and girls involved in sports at all levels.

---

## BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Ballard Spahr's bankruptcy practice leader, Vince Marriott (PHL), has devoted his recent pro bono efforts to assisting a significant social services agency with a 40-year history in Philadelphia to wind down its operations after funding dried up. The agency provided services related to early childhood education and development and acted as ombudsman for senior citizens in assisted living and nursing home facilities. Although the agency's demise was a significant loss for the city, Vince's efforts to effectively manage its closure enabled it to transition programs more smoothly to other providers, make distributions to creditors, and ensure that employees were compensated. He has been substantially assisted in this effort by Grant Cartwright, Jason Kittinger, Ed Leeds, Sharon Marshall, Jon Pearson, Sarah Schindler-Williams, and Bill Slaughter.



Ballard Spahr attorneys and notaries at September voter identification clinic hosted by Exelon

clinic, Lisa completed the paperwork and follow-up for more than 60 out-of-state birth certificate requests.

On June 11, the firm hosted a meeting between a representative of Puerto Rico's legal services agency and members of Philadelphia's legal services community to address challenges in obtaining Puerto Rican birth certificates. Local advocates faced a spike in requests for birth certificates from the island Commonwealth as a result of a two-year-old Puerto Rican statute requiring reissuance of all birth certificates to address forgery concerns, and Pennsylvania's new voter ID law. The meeting helped clarify best practices and developed critical contacts in the Puerto Rican system.

Although the voter ID requirement was enjoined just before the 2012 presidential election, the rapidly changing legal landscape resulted in some confusion leading up to Election Day. On November 6, at least 40 Ballard Spahr lawyers and paralegals worked at the polls with representatives of the Committee of Seventy, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and other groups to ensure that eligible voters were allowed to cast ballots. This summer, a trial will determine whether the injunction becomes permanent. In the meantime, efforts to help voters obtain ID continue.

### PRO BONO - DID YOU KNOW?

Many lawyers, and members of the general public, assume that pro bono work involves trial work. In fact, less than half of Ballard Spahr's pro bono work involves litigation; the majority of the firm's pro bono service takes the form of transactional work, research, and advice for low-income individuals or nonprofits and governmental entities working on behalf of such families, or to support civil rights or other important public issues.

## SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESS FAMILIES



In theory, “housing insecurity” is created when high housing costs relative to income—often measured as 30 to 50 percent of household income—lead to crowding, frequent moves, and homelessness. Using this standard, a 2008 study showed that as many as 50 percent of renters risked housing insecurity due to the lack of affordable housing. While many studies document the adverse impact of housing insecurity on physical and mental health, that impact is magnified in the health and development of children. See [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21680929](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21680929).

In practice, low-income families must decide on a monthly basis which bills to discharge: pay the rent or risk homelessness, pay for preventive health services or get sick, pay the grocery bill or go hungry. Having insufficient money to pay all the bills is the one constant, and housing insecurity is often a consequence.

Working with public and private entities to develop affordable housing is the business of Ballard Spahr’s nationally renowned housing practice. Our attorneys also dedicate significant pro bono energy to support affordable housing efforts and advocate for the homeless and those at risk of becoming so. Here are some of those stories.

### Development of Affordable Housing



Lila Shapiro-Cyr Sharifa Anderson

Lila Shapiro-Cyr and Sharifa Anderson (BALT) have joined with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights to represent the Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition as it implements an affordable housing initiative in a

neighborhood plagued by high levels of poverty, crime and unemployment. See [www.hebcac.org](http://www.hebcac.org). Ballard Spahr attorneys will prepare documentation for a construction loan from The Reinvestment Fund of Baltimore, a collaboration among the city and state governments, philanthropic organizations, private institutions, and nonprofits to repair this distressed neighborhood. The “Vacants to Value” initiative will reclaim key blocks of the community through the redevelopment

of vacant and abandoned residential property, the creation of new green space, and improvements to physical infrastructure, with an emphasis on housing for low- and moderate-income families.



Tracy Siebold (left), visits with a friend and her son who has Aspergers syndrome’ and may be affected by the New Jersey Supreme Court’s ruling in a housing case. (MICHAEL S. WIRTZ / Philadelphia Inquirer)

Tracy Siebold (NJ) filed an amicus brief on behalf of six New Jersey organizations that advocate for or provide housing for adults with autism or other mental or physical disabilities in the most important fair-housing case heard by the state Supreme Court in decades. The case, which has been pending for several years, addresses key aspects of the court’s Mount Laurel doctrine. This doctrine requires each New Jersey town to create a fair share of housing for people with low and moderate incomes, including people with special needs, and the amicus brief argues the need for state oversight of the housing provided in each community.

The shortage of affordable housing for people with special needs has created a wait list of more than 8,000. It also has prevented New Jersey from complying with a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision that requires states to provide supportive residential housing alternatives for people with disabilities currently in institutions. Apart from her interest in the subject on behalf of the nonprofit clients she represents, Tracy cites as inspiration her best friend’s son, pictured above, a young man with Asperger’s syndrome who may one day need such housing.



Mary Grace Folwell

Sharon Geno

Nydia Pouyes

Mitzie Smith-Mack

In our nation’s capital, Ballard Spahr was honored as the DC Bar Association Law Firm of the Year, based largely on its work for tenants under the District of Columbia’s Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). Led by Mitzie Smith-Mack, Sharon Geno, Mary Grace Folwell, and Nydia Pouyes,

our TOPA team has worked on multiple cases involving the Act, which seeks to stem the displacement of low-income tenants in the District and create an opportunity for them to improve their living conditions or become homeowners through negotiation with developers. Marc DeCandia of Bethesda is also participating. In addition to providing essential pro bono service to low-income tenants, TOPA team members report that this work has enabled them to better advise clients seeking to develop such properties.

## Preventing Homelessness

Almost two dozen Ballard Spahr lawyers and paralegals have trained in the past year to represent low-income clients with landlord-tenant matters in Philadelphia's small claims court. Cases are screened and referred by Community Legal Services, and many are resolved by negotiation before trial. Lawyers participating in the program have been able to stay evictions, force landlords to make necessary repairs, and prevent the entry of judgments against clients that would threaten their ability to obtain housing in the future. The landlord-tenant project also gives newer attorneys the opportunity to develop negotiation and courtroom presentation skills.



Bill Curran is named Pro Bono Lawyer of the Month with Melanie Kushnir of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (left) and Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez

In Las Vegas, managing partner Bill Curran regularly participates in the Homelessness Prevention Clinic organized by Nevada Legal Services. Bill was recently asked to serve as President of the Board of Nevada Legal Services and was named Pro Bono Lawyer of the Month by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.



Gibson Lanier

In Atlanta, Gibson Lanier obtained a punitive damages award against a landlord who failed to make repairs or provide sufficient heat to the apartment rented by a client we met at a clinic we staffed for the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers' Foundation. The client incurred more than \$3,000 in electrical heating bills over a period of six months for the apartment, where she lived with her three young children, as a result of the landlord's negligence. At trial, the court awarded the full amount of damages for the electrical bill, in addition to damages for breach of contract, nuisance, punitive damages, and attorneys' fees.

## Alleviating Homelessness



### Bright Beginnings for Homeless Children in DC



Andrew Rogers

On April 15, our Washington, D.C., office was honored as a "Pro Bono Champion for Children" by Bright Beginnings, [www.brightbeginningsinc.org](http://www.brightbeginningsinc.org), a nationally-accredited child and family development center that offers child care, health, and family support services to homeless children and their families. The agency serves about 185 children annually and helps families living in crisis shelters or transitional housing stabilize their housing arrangements. The firm has served as pro bono counsel to Bright Beginnings since 2007, helping the organization develop new facilities. Andrew Rogers (DC) is spearheading this effort with assistance from Garland Gantt (DC), Edith Brown (DC), and Erica Leatham (Beth).



Chris Fritz

In Baltimore, Chris Fritz continues to coordinate real estate advice and other pro bono services to longtime client Project PLASE, an agency that provides essential housing and support services to homeless citizens. For the past seven years, our Denver attorneys have participated in a legal clinic for Project Homeless Connect, an event that provides one-stop shopping for legal and social services for homeless individuals in the Denver area. Recently, Scott Humphreys and Sam Cantrell represented Project Homeless Connect clients in a special court session that allowed the clients to clear up outstanding legal issues.



Project HOME, a client since 1999, empowers people to break the cycle of homelessness in Philadelphia by addressing the structural causes of poverty. Its founder, Sister Mary Scullion, has been named one of the World's Most Influential People by *TIME Magazine* for her work on behalf of the homeless. Recently, Ballard Spahr has assisted Project HOME with the acquisition of property to create a health and wellness center for low-income and homeless residents in North Philadelphia, and has provided advice in connection with contracts and regulations affecting

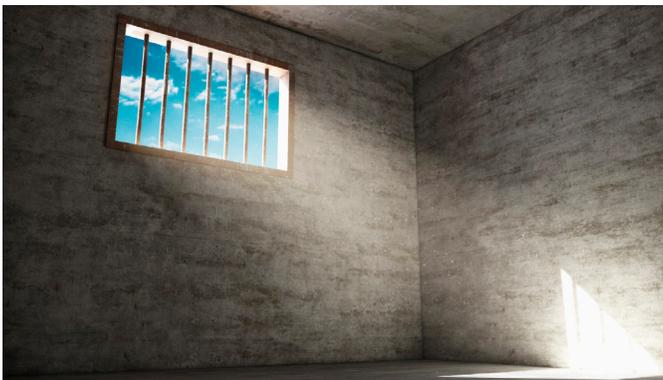
operation of the health center. Our pro bono work for Project HOME is championed by Michael Sklaroff, Hank Hockeimer, and Jean Hemphill.



In Philadelphia, our Adopt-A-Shelter legal clinic with the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) received a boost when Comcast lawyers volunteered to work with Ballard Spahr in staffing our longstanding legal clinic for the homeless at Sunday Breakfast Mission. Ballard Spahr and Comcast lawyers and paralegals visit the shelter every other month to assist shelter residents and drop-in clients with civil legal issues ranging from landlord-tenant and family law questions to public benefits issues. Cases generated by the clinics are then referred to HAP or volunteers from the firm. In recent months, Kelly Kindig, Jenny Perkins, Will Igoe, and Ashley Wilson have won Supplemental Security Income (SSI) appeals for clients referred by the clinic. Acquiring a steady stream of income helps these disabled clients move out of shelters and into more stable living arrangements.

---

## VINDICATING THE RIGHTS OF PRISONERS



Prisoner civil rights matters have recently held center stage as five significant cases for prisoners occupied dozens of lawyers and paralegals for more than 3,000 hours. Three of the cases had been referred by federal district court judges, one by the Washington Lawyers for Civil Rights, and one by the Innocence Project. All five are detailed below.

- In Maryland, Timothy McCormack was appointed to represent an inmate who claimed to have been beaten

by prison guards. Over more than two years, Tim, Michelle McGeogh, Claire Tracey, and two dozen other lawyers, paralegals, and law students engaged in extensive discovery with the state (including production of more than 85,000 documents by the state), and won a motion for sanctions for destruction of e-mails and videotaped evidence. They also negotiated a favorable settlement for their client. The U.S. Department of Justice has now launched an investigation into systemic prisoner abuse and destruction of evidence at the prison in question, based in part upon the evidence and allegations in this case.

- In San Diego, Daniel Benjamin and Chrysta Elliott represented an inmate who suffered a debilitating stroke while in jail that left him partially paralyzed and unable to take care of his basic personal needs. His suit alleged that he was denied appropriate medical care and restrained in ways that worsened his medical condition. They tried the case this year and settled after the jury was unable to reach a verdict.
- In Washington, D.C., Dino Panagopoulos (with help from Darin Lowder and Allison Granger) represented a deaf man who was sentenced, against the trial judge's recommendation, to a prison facility without any accommodations for deaf prisoners. The facility lacked basic technology or interpreters that would allow the client to receive instructions from prison guards; communicate with legal counsel, medical personnel, or his family; or be alerted to fires or other emergencies. After seeking an injunction to stay the sentence, Dino and his team were able to reach a favorable settlement providing for an appropriate place of incarceration.
- In New Jersey, former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto (with assistance from Chris Corsi), tried a case on behalf of an inmate who alleged police brutality against the Atlantic City Police Department.
- Chris Corsi and Mike Carroll (NJ) assisted the Pennsylvania Innocence Project in drafting a successful petition for post-conviction DNA testing of gloves found at a murder scene. The gloves had tested positive for firing the murder weapon, but they were never tested to show a DNA or fingerprint link to the defendant. The only evidence against the client was testimony by a single witness, who was admittedly high on cocaine at the time. The DNA test results are still pending.

## HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES SUCCEED



Elisabeth  
("Babe") Blattner-  
Thompson

Elisabeth ("Babe") Blattner-Thompson (SLC) provided training in labor and employment law to small business owners enrolled in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Initiative in Salt Lake City. Goldman Sachs has rolled out this \$500 million program in select cities across the country "to help create jobs and economic growth by providing small businesses in the area with practical

business education, business support services and access to capital." Following the training, Babe, Chris Anderson, Michael Allen, and Karen Clemes met with small business owners in the program to help them spot legal issues and direct them to appropriate resources. Similar sessions are planned for Philadelphia this summer.



On Martin Luther King Day, Ballard Spahr hosted a clinic for small business owners at the firm's headquarters in Philadelphia. Twenty-five Ballard Spahr attorneys were joined by members of the Delaware Valley Association of Corporate Counsel, including lawyers

from GlaxoSmithKline, Wawa, TE Connectivity, SAP, and Lincoln Financial to assist small business owners referred by Philadelphia VIP/LawWorks. Our lawyers were invited to reprise their advisory roles at a subsequent LawWorks clinic in April.

## MAN'S BEST FRIEND, HELPING INMATES



In April, we began working with New Leash on Life USA, a prison dog-training program that helps rescue shelter dogs by training and socializing them to enhance their adoptability while also providing inmates with job skills and experience as they learn to train and care for the dogs. See <http://newleashonlife-usa.org>. Former Pennsylvania

Governor and Ballard Spahr Special Counsel Ed Rendell, who championed a crackdown on puppy mills while in office, serves on the organization's board. Lynn Rzonca (PHL) is coordinating pro bono legal services for the organization, including contract and policy review and labor advice.

## EAST/WEST; PRO BONO'S BEST

### East - Mayor's Office Charmed by Baltimore Pro Bono Efforts

In marking its 20th anniversary, our Baltimore office sought and received a commitment from virtually every attorney to engage in at least 20 hours of pro bono service this year. This initiative, and the office's other pro bono and public service efforts, led to the firm being honored by Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake with one of the 2012 Mayor's Business Recognition Awards for community service.

The firm's pro bono work in Baltimore in the past year included representing Star-Spangled 200, Inc., which launched Maryland's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Ballard Spahr has been involved in efforts to renovate the Mount Auburn Cemetery, the oldest African American-owned cemetery in Baltimore, and is participating in revitalization efforts in East Baltimore and the Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District. The office's extensive work on behalf of a prisoner is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. Pro Bono Committee representative Amy McClain is developing a new partnership and training with the Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) program. Finally, Fran Gould continues to volunteer with the Maryland Department of Aging to provide education and advice to Maryland seniors concerning advance directives and Medicare issues.

### West - Mile High Pro Bono

2012 was a banner year for pro bono work in our Denver office, which dramatically increased the depth and breadth of its efforts and earned recognition from the Colorado Supreme Court for meeting the Court's Access to Justice Challenge. Some of the pro bono highlights were as follows:

- The Faculty of Federal Advocates of the U.S. District Court of Colorado referred a civil rights case to Matt Lasek for an elderly woman who was arrested and injured after complaining to a police officer about a no-dog policy at a public park. After extensive discovery, and with assistance from Scott Humphreys

and Samuel Cantrell, Matt obtained a favorable settlement for his client.

- Carly Abrahamson assisted Capital Sisters, Inc., with its international microfinance efforts.
- Scott Humphreys is representing a victim of predatory employment whose employer reported her to immigration authorities to be deported when she tried to get paid for her work as a housekeeper. Removal proceedings have been stayed while her application for a UVisa (available to crime victims) is pending. Through Scott's advocacy, the UVisa application is supported by a statement from a member of Congress and a rare certification by the U.S. Department of Labor that the client was the victim of legal violations by the employer.
- Patrick Pugh represents an elderly woman in her efforts to obtain identification documents to verify her birth and immigration status.
- David Stauss served a two-month externship trying cases for the Denver City Attorney's Office.
- Joseph Lubinski assisted Habitat for Humanity with contract review.
- Kim McCullough and Jeff Cowman traveled to Africa as part of their pro bono representation of Village Care International. Village Care is dedicated to empowering Africans in 11 countries and more than 1,000 villages to become self-sufficient by taking advantage of their untapped resources and skills. In countries such as Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone, where unemployment exceeds 80 percent and AIDS continues to take hundreds of thousands of lives, Village Care empowers local leaders to create safe and healthy living environments for children and productive agricultural and small businesses. See [www.villagecare.com](http://www.villagecare.com). Kim and Jeff have assisted Village Care with a variety of governance, negotiation and intellectual property issues. In 2011, Kim volunteered at an orphanage in one of the most densely populated slums in the world in Nairobi; this past year, she and Jeff traveled to Uganda with a film crew to document the organization's efforts.

## VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS

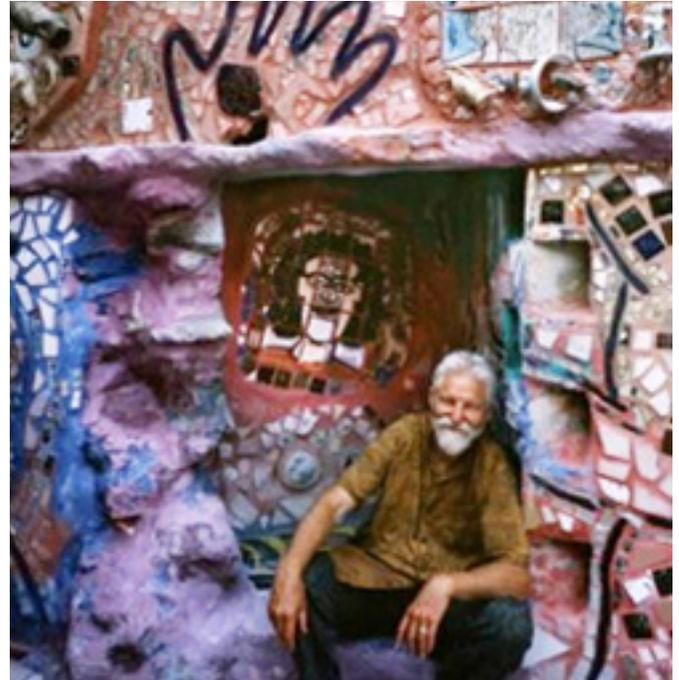


Photo by Phil Strauss

### Philadelphia Magic Garden Continues to Blossom

Since the 1960s, Philadelphia artist Isaiah Zagar has been transforming the city's artistic landscape. In 1994, he began to convert a trash-strewn, vacant lot on South Street (where all the hippies meet, according to the 1963 hit by the Orlons) into a 3,000-square-foot, multilevel mosaic of tunnels and grottoes. In 2002, when the owner of the once vacant lot decided to sell the land, Ballard Spahr helped Zagar and the community create a nonprofit to buy the lot and preserve and promote Zagar's work. Today, the Magic Garden has become a unique Philadelphia tourist destination, site for weddings and cultural events, and educational venue, and Ballard Spahr continues to provide pro bono assistance. Recently, Joanne Phillips and Eileen Quigley helped negotiate zoning issues that will allow the garden to obtain scarce grant money and make needed improvements.

### Joseph Pulls Strings for Puppet Theatre



Keith Joseph

Keith B. Joseph (PHL) and our former colleague, Maura McKenna, were named the 2013 Volunteers of the year by Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts for their work on behalf of a puppet theater to resolve a landlord-tenant dispute.

### PRO BONO - DID YOU KNOW?

The General Counsel of more than 40 of Ballard Spahr's corporate clients have signed the Corporate Pro Bono Challenge, pledging their offices to promote and participate in pro bono work.

## Digitizing Museum Art Collections



Jamie Bischoff (PHL) has been assisting the African American Museum in Philadelphia with copyright issues as the museum undertakes a project to digitize its art collection.

## Equality Ballard Addresses LGBT issues

# EQUALITY BALLARD

Equality Ballard, our affinity group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Lawyers and Friends, actively sought pro bono opportunities in 2012. Among the group's undertakings were the following projects:

- Providing research assistance to the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Gay and Lesbian Rights Committee in producing a report on the treatment of same-sex couples under Pennsylvania law
- Assisting an LGBT elder law program to form a nonprofit entity and apply for federal tax exempt status
- Staffing an elder law clinic and drafting wills for LGBT clients
- Working with the Mazzoni Center to assist transgender individuals with name change petitions
- Staffing a legal clinic for the Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference

---

## AWARD WINNING WILLS FOR HEROES PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GARNER RECOGNITION!

For more than six years, Ballard Spahr has regularly sponsored Wills for Heroes clinics around the country, providing thousands of free estate planning documents to first responders and their families. Our effort is spearheaded by Daniel McKenna, who also serves as national Wills for Heroes Foundation President, and Carolyn Capobianco. The Pennsylvania Bar Association honored Carolyn with its Pro Bono Partner Award during a Wills for Heroes clinic at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5 in Philadelphia on Saturday, February 23, 2013.



Pictured: Daniel J.T. McKenna; David Keller Trevaskis, PBA Wills for Heroes Pro Bono Coordinator; Carolyn M. Capobianco, and Mary Gay Scanlon

The clinics have proven extremely popular with Ballard Spahr lawyers and staff, as well as their counterparts with the clients who assist us with these events. In the past year, our lawyers and staff dedicated more than 2,000 hours to hosting Wills for Heroes clinics around the country. We co-hosted multiple events with corporate counsel from Exelon/Constellation Energy, Capital One, CitiFinancial, One Main Financial, Prudential Insurance, Newfield Bank, PHH, and TE Connectivity.



Tangela Richter and Leah Getlan from Capital One confer with Michael Waldron (DC) at October 19 Wills for Heroes event in Bethesda, Maryland

## HELP FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Katrina Quicker

In Atlanta, Katrina Quicker organized training by Atlanta Legal Aid to enable Ballard Spahr lawyers to represent victims of domestic violence in their petitions for protection from abuse.

## KIDS FOR CASH UPDATE



We continue to represent individual children victimized by the infamous “Kids for Cash” scheme in which two judges in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, obtained kickbacks from the privately operated juvenile detention facility to which they sentenced hundreds of juveniles who were denied the right to counsel. We recently intervened on behalf of a juvenile whose claim form to participate in the class action settlement against the judges and owners of the detention facility was lost after being submitted. We previously overturned the sentences of two Luzerne County juveniles who had been denied effective assistance of counsel.



The Association of Pro Bono Counsel, of which Ballard Spahr’s Pro Bono Counsel, Mary Gay Scanlon, is a member, has partnered with the office of Vice President Joe Biden to develop a series of regional pro bono programs to help narrow the access to justice gap in many communities. At the Vice President’s urging, APBCO is initiating pro bono programs in six regions, targeting the largest areas of unmet legal need. In Philadelphia and Los Angeles, it will be working with local legal services agencies to increase the availability of pro bono help for victims of domestic violence, particularly in immigrant communities.



Naomi Young

In Los Angeles, John Carrigan and Ethan Chernin provide labor and employment advice to Jenesse Center, Inc. Naomi Young also serves on the board of this Los Angeles-based domestic violence intervention program.



Dean Waldt



Cristina Coronado

## SERVICE MEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

With the continued deployment of large numbers of our military personnel, we are seeing a rise in cases implicating the Service Members Civil Relief Act, a federal statute that governs notice and timing of civil lawsuits against active service members. The Act’s purpose is to protect military personnel from actions affecting their legal interests without notice or the opportunity to assert their rights. Recently, Dean Waldt (AZ) and Cristina Coronado (SLC) took referrals from the ABA to represent military personnel in civil actions filed while they were stationed in other jurisdictions.

### PRO BONO - DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012, Ballard Spahr lawyers and paralegals donated more than 34,000 hours of pro bono service to low income individuals and nonprofit organizations.

## NONPROFIT GUIDANCE



Jean Hemphill

Jean Hemphill and Nicole Callan drafted a brochure for the Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University and Philadelphia LawWorks outlining tips for protecting a nonprofit's all-important tax-exempt status.

Jean also convened a working group including Christopher Jones (PHL), Sandra Wintner (PHL) and Michael Fabius (PHL), to standardize the firm's nonprofit forms and conducted firmwide training on common issues in the formation and maintenance of nonprofit organizations. These activities were designed to expand the firm's capacity for providing pro bono assistance to such entities. Because the firm has a significant fee-generating nonprofit practice, pro bono clients must meet financial and other criteria to be deemed eligible for pro bono service.

## SUMMER ASSOCIATES AND PRO BONO



Philadelphia summer associates James Wiley, Melissa Smith, Manny Brown, Tom Gallagher, Alison Rosenblum, and Conrad Bower attended an ADL seminar hosted by the firm for summer associates from throughout the city

Ballard Spahr's 2012 summer associates participated in a wide variety of pro bono projects. Summer associates in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Bethesda, and Washington, D.C., participated in research projects of their choice offered by the Anti-Defamation League on such issues as free speech, reproductive rights, bullying, and the free exercise of religious belief. Summer interns also participated in a pro bono program with Philadelphia VIP, worked with attorneys on individual pro bono matters and conducted intake at a legal clinic for the homeless.

If you would like information on how to become involved in pro bono work, please contact any member of Ballard Spahr's Pro Bono Committee:

### Mary Gay Scanlon

Pro Bono Counsel  
Pro Bono Program  
215.864.8912

### Lisa F. Whiteley

Director of Practice  
Management Pro Bono  
215.864.8187

### Mayra Troendle

Administrative Assistant  
215.864.8161

### Jeffrey S. Beenstock

New Jersey  
856.761.3417

### Daniel M. Benjamin

San Diego  
619.487.0787

### John R. Carrigan

Los Angeles  
424.204.4338

### Bill Curran

Las Vegas  
702.387.3084

### Leslie A. Eaton

Denver  
303.299.7302

### David A. Felice

Wilmington  
302.252.4439

### Stephen J. Kastenber

Philadelphia  
215.864.8122

### Anthony C. Kaye

Salt Lake City  
801.531.3069

### Amy M. McClain

Baltimore  
410.528.5592

### Mary Anthony Merchant, Ph.D.

Atlanta  
678.420.9428

### Katherine M. Noonan

Bethesda  
301.664.6212

### Constantinos G. Panagopoulos

Washington  
202.661.2202

### Patrick H. Pugh

Denver  
303.299.7325

### Sara V. Ransom

Phoenix  
602.798.5461

### William C. Rhodes

Philadelphia  
215.864.8534

### Tesia N. Stanley

Salt Lake City  
801.517.6825

### Scott P. Towers

Philadelphia  
215.864.8632