

# The Portal



PRO BONO NEWS AT BALLARD SPAHR

2010-2011

## FRAMING THE ISSUES: THE STATE OF BALLARD SPAHR'S PRO BONO PROGRAM



Mary Gay Scanlon

In 2010, Ballard met the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge for the ninth consecutive year, donating more than 26,000 hours of legal services to pro bono matters. Under the Challenge, we have pledged to devote at least 3 percent of our billable time annually to pro bono

work. Ballard is one of a select group of national law firms whose lawyers, on average, meet both the Challenge and the American Bar Association's goal of 50 hours of pro bono service per attorney each year.



Arthur Makadon

**Arthur Makadon** noted in a recent *Message from the Chair* that "the pro bono efforts of lawyers and staff continue to be a source of pride" for the firm. To that end, Ballard's Board recently reaffirmed its dedication to the firm's policy that pro bono time

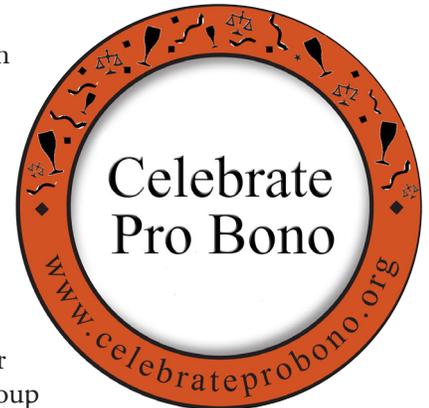
counts as billable time for all purposes. We will celebrate the firm's commitment to pro bono work, and the outstanding pro bono contributions of lawyers and staff, at the firm's annual seminar on May 12, 2011. At that time, we will announce the winners of the Alan J. Davis Award, which carries a \$25,000 charitable donation in the recipient's honor in recognition of outstanding public service, and the four Ballard Spahr Pro Bono Awards, which carry a \$1,000 donation each. The award winners will be posted on our Web site after the seminar, in the site's pro bono section.

Last spring, we launched a new pro bono Web site, and we have been working with the developers to fine-tune and maximize its benefits. In addition to providing an array of tools for pro bono supervision and administration, the site enables individual Ballard lawyers to browse pro bono opportunities and events, track their pro bono time, and find pro bono resources. The site is accessed by clicking the

pro bono window icon on the firm's intranet. Priya Nowrangi, our public interest intern from Drexel Law School, has been an invaluable resource as we develop content for the site.

This spring, we used the Web site to create our first pro bono practice group site, where training materials, documents, and contact and case information for the UVisa practice group can be stored and accessed online.

In October, we celebrated the second annual National Pro Bono Week during which the ABA and local bar associations showcased the difference that pro bono lawyers make to the nation, the justice system, our communities, and pro bono clients themselves. The firm hosted several events, and Ballard Spahr attorneys across the nation participated in pro bono training programs,



### IN THIS ISSUE:

Gov. Ed Rendell Honored .....	2
Support for Public Schools.....	2
Sustainable Food Projects Growing .....	3
Serving Our Troops .....	4
Asylum and Immigration Practice Expands .....	5
New Associates Form UVisa Practice Group.....	6
"How Philly Moves" .....	6
Dougherty Death Penalty Case Update .....	5
Spotlight on Corporate Pro Bono .....	7
Constitutional Law Docket .....	7
SLC Lawyer Helps Native American Tribes.....	7
Lawyers Intern with Defender Association.....	8
N.J. Lawyers Advocate for Disabled Children.....	8
The Intersection of Diversity and Pro Bono .....	8
Mother Teresa Stamp Release.....	8
Featured Offices .....	8
The View from Our Window .....	9

legal clinics, and open houses designed to enlist new pro bono volunteers to meet the legal needs of the poor.

We hope that this newsletter highlights the breadth and depth of our pro bono efforts. You can find additional information about our pro bono program, and the numerous accolades received by our attorneys and staff for their pro bono work, at [http://www.ballardspahr.com/en/Pro\\_Bono.aspx](http://www.ballardspahr.com/en/Pro_Bono.aspx).

## GOV. RENDELL HONORED FOR LONGTIME PRO BONO SERVICE; ACCEPTS NEW PRO BONO CASE



On March 19, 2011, Ballard partner (Phila.) and former Gov. **Ed Rendell** was honored by Philadelphia VIP at the pro bono referral agency's 30th anniversary gala. The Governor received the Pinnacle Award for his dedication to access to justice. In accepting the award, the Governor recalled a pro bono referral he had accepted from VIP when he was Mayor, in which he secured SSI funding for a wheelchair so that a young girl could attend school. The Governor extolled the benefits of pro bono work for both clients and attorneys, saying: "We do a lot of good for these clients, but not nearly as much as they do for us." The Governor noted that Ballard Spahr's commitment to public service and pro bono work had been a factor in his decision to rejoin the firm after he left office, and to the delight of the gala crowd, he pledged to take a new VIP referral. The Governor has since volunteered to assist a mother in obtaining guardianship over her profoundly disabled daughter in order to facilitate medical and legal decisions once the daughter turns 21.

## SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ballard Spahr lawyers and staff have a longstanding tradition of supporting public school students, whether by teaching and mentoring students or providing pro bono support for projects to benefit them. In the past year, we worked on the following education projects aimed at public schools and their students:



- **Linda Schakel** (DC) helped prepare a report on D.C. public schools released by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. The report was the second comprehensive study of the D.C. public school system in recent years; the first was released in 2005 to mark the 50th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Bolling v. Sharpe*. The new report found that D.C. public schools have made considerable gains in funding, facilities, test scores, special education, and management since 2005, but that much of the progress is "fragile."
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- Linda Schakel
- **Bill Rhodes** and **Susanna Greenberg** (Phila.) helped draft and review contracts for the Philadelphia Education Fund's Teacher Residency Program, which provides a stipend and training to science, technology, engineering, and math [STEM] professionals who teach math and science in high-need public secondary schools while they are earning their master's degree and obtaining teacher certification at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.
  - **Mike Skojec** (Baltimore) and **Cristina Coronado** (SLC) are leading a team of Ballard attorneys working with Appleseed on a project to ensure implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which seeks to assure education and housing for homeless youth. The project focus is legislative reforms and best practices to assist homeless youth who are living unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. Members of the team include: **Joseph Fiorill**, **Michael Kersten** (Baltimore), **Katie Noonan** (Bethesda), **David Stauss**
- 
- Mike Skojec
- 
- Cristina Coronado

(Denver), **Joel Korin** (NJ), **Christopher Cognato**, **Michael Duffy**, **Allison Mollenhauer** (Phila.), **Jaclyn Foutz**, **Andrea Stone** (Phoenix), and **Chrysta Elliott** (San Diego).



Prince Charles visits the shade structure at Common Good City Farm.

### SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROJECTS GROWING SOURCE OF PRO BONO WORK

We are seeing a rise in initiatives to promote urban farming and healthy foods in inner-city neighborhoods where fresh produce and full-service grocery stores often are in short supply.

On May 3, in his first official appearance following his son’s royal wedding, Britain’s Prince Charles visited Common Good City Farm (CGCF), a sustainable food initiative in Washington, D.C., and a Ballard Spahr client. The Prince has long been a supporter of sustainable food projects such as CGCF, which provides fresh produce and nutrition education in the inner city of our nation’s capital. CGCF operates under a license from the District of Columbia on reclaimed abandoned property and is responsible for all property maintenance and care. See [www.commongoodcityfarm.org](http://www.commongoodcityfarm.org). **Erica Leatham** (Bethesda) helped CGCF with land use and permitting issues to enable the construction of improvements at the farm, including the pavilion pictured above.

**Joel Tasca** (Phila.) represents Urban Tree Connection (UTC), whose mission is to engage members of impoverished communities in North and West Philadelphia in turning vacant lots into urban farms. The farms provide food to community members, who otherwise do not have regular access to fresh produce due to the scarcity of inner-city supermarkets. In 2009-10, Joel represented UTC in bringing the first successful action under a new law—the Pennsylvania Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act—that allows neighborhood activists to obtain control over blighted properties, enabling UTC to become

- For 13 years, Ballard Spahr attorneys and staff have participated in the Philadelphia READs program, adopting an elementary school class and meeting with students to read one-on-one for an hour every Thursday from October to May. Recently, we assisted Philadelphia READs in obtaining its own 501(c)(3) designation so that it could fund-raise more effectively.
- Tracy Dowling** and **Muhammad At-Tauhidi** (Phila.) assisted the Financial Literacy Community Project (FLCP) in incorporating and obtaining 501(c)(3) status. FLCP was founded by Wharton School students with the goal of bridging the financial literacy gap in America. This pioneering program, which has received national media attention and several entrepreneurial awards, trains college-aged instructors to teach financial literacy to students at underserved public schools to help them make sound financial decisions in the future.



Tracy Dowling



Muhammad At-Tauhidi



Erica Leatham



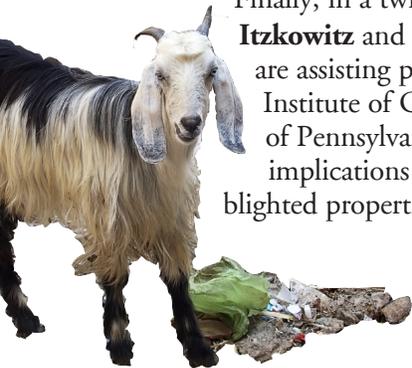
Joel Tasca

From the FLCP blog:

“We love our young, fun associates Tracy and Muhammad. They’re helping us out with all of the paperwork and legal advising that goes into the incorporation and 501(c)(3) decision-making process.”

the official “conservator” of one of its most important vacant lots. Joel continues to represent UTC as it seeks conservatorship over additional lots, with assistance from **Corinne Militello, Lindsey Hoban, Aldie Loubier, Genie Tyburski, Fran Appleton, and Tamara Loughery** (Phila.).

In Philadelphia, we are working with Common Market, an agency that links local farmers to the Philadelphia wholesale marketplace while supporting affordable food and nutrition projects in the City. **Bill Kennedy, Alex Nagy, Lindsey Hoban, and Jenny Perkins** are assisting this group with trademark and employment handbook issues. **Ana Montalban** and **Brian Walsh** are working with Farm to City, a similar group, to effectuate a merger with other groups focused on bringing affordable fresh foods from local sustainable farms to the City.



Finally, in a twist on urban agriculture, **Job Itzkowitz** and **Susanna Greenberg** (Phila.) are assisting policy specialists from the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania in assessing the legal implications of using goats to manage blighted properties in the inner city.

## SERVING OUR TROOPS

Ballard Spahr attorneys regularly assist active service members and veterans on a pro bono basis. Projects this year include:

- **Sergeant Clint Ferrin Dental Clinic** opened in July 2008, providing free dental treatment to soldiers who were considered non-deployable because of oral health problems. The clinic was started by Lt. John Ferrin, an Army National Guardsman and dental student at the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine, who wanted to honor his late brother, Sergeant Clint Ferrin, a member of the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne Division, who died while serving in Iraq in 2004, and also to help members of the local National Guard. It quickly metamorphosed into a free dental clinic for all veterans unable to afford care. In late 2010, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada referred the clinic’s



request for legal assistance to **Alissa Neufeld, Rob Kim** (LV), and **Jeff Davine** (Denver), who have drafted bylaws, formed a nonprofit, answered questions about donations, and filed for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Once that is received, they will apply for state tax and licensing exemptions. For more information on the work of the Clinic, visit [www.veteransdentistry.org](http://www.veteransdentistry.org).



- The National Military Family Association is a support and advocacy organization for military families. For the past two years, **Frank Chernak** (Phila.) has provided labor and employment advice to this national nonprofit. Recently, **Hara Jacobs** and **Jenny Perkins** (Phila.) succeeded in halting the use of images from the NMFA’s Web site by an unauthorized user.
- In October, the firm was recognized by Philadelphia Stand Down for assistance provided by **Patricia Cramer** and **Christopher Cognato** (Phila.) in reviewing contracts required by the group for its annual social service fair run by veterans for homeless veterans.
- Under the supervision of **Paul Scott**, attorneys in Denver continue to work with the National Veterans Legal Services Program to advocate for wounded service members to obtain accurate and complete disability ratings and benefits upon separation from the military. Last summer, **Brittany Carver** succeeded in obtaining a 70 percent disability rating and full disability retirement benefits for an Army sergeant who was originally diagnosed with a “personality disorder” that would disqualify him for benefits. The ruling was the culmination of two years of effort by Brittany, and brought the following warm accolade from the client:



Brittany Carver

*“If it wasn’t for you I wouldn’t be where I am now at this point with the Army. You have worked hard for me and my family and my family thanks you for that. I want to thank you from the very bottom of my heart for that. I wish I could pay you for all that you have done although I don’t have a cent to give you but all I have is the thanks and well wishes that I have for you. Once again I appreciate you and all that you have done.”*

- **Kelly Kindig** (Phila.) continued her longstanding SSI pro bono work by undertaking an urgent appeal for a disabled vet.

## BALLARD SPAHR ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION PRACTICE EXPANDS; OPENS DOORS FOR VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION

In the last year, dozens of Ballard Spahr attorneys, paralegals, and summer associates have devoted over 3,000 hours to assisting immigrants wishing to become legal residents of the United States. According to **Mary Gay Scanlon**, Executive Director of Ballard's Pro Bono Program, "these cases have considerable humanitarian appeal and present challenging legal issues."



The largest single area of immigration practice has been asylum work, with our attorneys winning asylum claims for four compelling clients in recent months:

- **Jack Semrani** and **Dianne Pickersgill** (DC) obtained asylum for a Rwandan national who witnessed the murder of his father and grandparents in the 1994 Rwandan genocide when he was 8 years old.
- **Brian Maloney** (Baltimore), **Melissa Bright** (Bethesda), **Dan Simon**, and **Dino Panagopoulos** (DC) obtained asylum for a female Iranian journalist and BBC contributor who was targeted by government forces and repeatedly detained and interrogated after the disputed 2009 Iranian presidential elections.
- **Erin Kepplinger** (Phila.) obtained asylum for a young Pakistani woman who had been repeatedly abused by her husband and in-laws in an arranged marriage.
- **Susanna Greenberg**, **Emily Heersink**, and **Ruth Uselton** (Phila.) secured asylum for a woman from Guinea who was subjected to female genital mutilation and persecuted for speaking out against it after her daughter died from the same procedure. She placed her remaining three daughters in hiding and fled to this country. We are now helping the client to locate her children and reunite the family.

Several other asylum cases are now underway.

We also work with unaccompanied minors seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). We recently received a green card for a medically fragile orphan from Guinea with whom we first came in contact in 2005 when Children's Hospital of Philadelphia requested that a guardian be appointed to authorize her medical care.

Ballard's Chair-elect **Mark Stewart** supervised that case from its inception, securing appointment of the girl's aunt as a guardian in Philadelphia Family Court and the filing of immigration paperwork with federal authorities. The case languished for years when federal officials lost the client's applications, but it was resurrected when **Alison Lorenzo** (NJ), then a summer intern, requested the intervention of Congressman Robert Andrews of New Jersey and then-U.S. Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

**Carl Roberts** and **Ruth Uselton** (Phila.) now are working to obtain SIJS status and a green card for a young woman from Haiti who was staying with relatives in the United States when her parents were killed in the January 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince.

Some of our newest lawyers have also started an exciting new UVisa practice group; see below.

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## DOUGHERTY DEATH PENALTY CASE UPDATE

On April 28, 2011, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania issued an order granting the petition for post-conviction relief filed by Ballard Spahr and the Federal Defenders Association on behalf of death row inmate Daniel Dougherty. The case was remanded to the trial court for appointment of a new judge and further proceedings, including "an evidentiary hearing or ... any other relief deemed necessary." The Supreme Court granted the defense request for recusal after the trial judge made disparaging remarks about the defendant and then ordered the court reporter to redact those remarks from the transcript. **David Fryman**



David Fryman

and **Shannon Farmer** (Phila.) have represented Mr. Dougherty since 2004 in his quest for post-conviction relief. He was convicted in 2001 for the arson murder of his two young sons in 1985, a crime he steadfastly denies. The case, which turns upon arson science that has since been discredited, has been the subject of numerous reports on CNN and PBS (most recently *Frontline*, on October 19, 2010), and front-page articles in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (March 21, 2011) and *Chicago Tribune*. More than 60 Ballard attorneys, summer associates, and staff have volunteered around 7,500 hours to Mr. Dougherty's defense.



Shannon Farmer

## NEW ASSOCIATES FORM UVISA PRACTICE GROUP



Jenny Perkins

This year, two new associates started a cross-office UVisa practice group. Upon graduation from law school in 2009, **Jenny Perkins** (Phila.) received a stipend from the firm to spend a year as a public interest fellow with HIAS and Council Migration Services, working primarily on UVisa matters. UVisas provide legal residency for immigrants who are victims of crime, often domestic abuse, provided that they cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. In many communities, the number of potential applicants for UVisas far outstrips legal services resources. Ballard has frequently partnered with HIAS



Scott Cockerham

on pro bono immigration matters, so when Jenny joined our Philadelphia office as a litigation associate in September 2010, she and HIAS proposed to train a group of Ballard lawyers to undertake UVisa applications. Almost simultaneously, **Scott Cockerham** joined our public finance practice in Salt Lake City and presented a similar proposal with his wife, a local immigration attorney who had worked with Holy Cross Ministries Immigration Services. At this point, almost 20 attorneys have been trained in UVisa practice and procedure (with cross-office participation by videoconference), the two immigration services agencies are sharing materials and referrals with Ballard, and a practice group page has been created (click on Pro Bono under Hot Links on BIN home page). Partner supervision is provided by **Jason Leckerman** (a HIAS board member), **Gina Smith** (a former Philadelphia district attorney), and **Tony Kaye** (a SLC member of Ballard's Pro Bono Committee). We currently have 11 UVisa applications underway.

*The UVisa practice group is an important example of how pro bono work at a large firm can fulfill multiple objectives: It effectively joins a need for legal services with grassroots interest in that type of work, provides the opportunity for young lawyers to develop a project and leadership skills, and effectively utilizes large firm resources such as Web sharing and videoconferencing.*

--Mary Gay Scanlon, Executive Director, Pro Bono Program

## HOW PHILLY MOVES: BALLARD SPAHR HELPS CREATE SPECTACULAR GATEWAY MURAL AT PHL AIRPORT



*How Philly Moves (design detail) © 2010 Jacques-Jean Tiziou, the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and the Mural Arts Advocates*

**Jamie Bischoff, Matt McClure, Mary Mullany, Corinne Militello, and Ben Sanchez** (Phila.) have been helping the Mural Arts Advocates, the 501(c)(3) organization that has transformed Philadelphia with the Mural Arts Program over the past 25 years, with its most ambitious mural project ever: *How Philly Moves*. Upon completion, *How Philly Moves* will be the City's largest mural—50,000 square feet—and will be installed on the nearly half-mile-long façade of the Philadelphia Parking Authority garages at Philadelphia International Airport. The mural was designed by and incorporates the photographic work of artist Jacques-Jean Tiziou, and features larger-than-life photographic portraits of dancers in motion, some of them professional dancers and some enthusiastic dancers from the community who participated in a series of photo shoots. The resulting mural and its 20 dancers will provide a vibrant welcome to the City for airport visitors and commuters on I-95.

Matt, Ben, and Mary worked with Mural Arts to negotiate the agreements between the Mural Arts Advocates, the City (as owner of the Airport), and the Philadelphia Parking Authority, including an amendment to MAA's provider agreement with the City and a memorandum of understanding with PPA. Jamie and Corinne worked with Mural Arts to define the parameters of everyone's respective rights in the artwork and the mural, negotiating directly with J.J. Tiziou; Jon Laidacker, the muralist who was selected to execute Tiziou's vision and design; and filmmakers who are making a documentary about the project. They also helped with legal arrangements for the community photo shoots and for creation of a multimedia work by Tiziou that incorporated the *How Philly Moves* images—a light projection on the side of the Kimmel Center—featured in this year's Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts. Installation of *How Philly Moves* is now underway; the project is scheduled for completion by July 1, 2011. Ballard Spahr was honored by the Mural Arts Program in May 2010 for its longstanding financial and pro bono support of Mural Arts Advocates.

## SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE PRO BONO: EXELON POWERS UP PRO BONO



Wills for Heroes event with Exelon attorneys

Recent years have seen a surge in corporate pro bono efforts as in-house counsel seek to meet their own professional obligations to provide pro bono service and their companies' goals for corporate social responsibility. One of the leaders in the corporate pro bono movement is Ballard Spahr's longtime client Exelon Corporation, also known by its regional moniker PECO. Led by counsel Kevin Stepanuk, Amy Tarr, and Traci Braun, Exelon has developed a successful pro bono model based on forging partnerships among Exelon, its outside counsel, and legal services organizations to tap the strengths and expertise of each in order to expand the delivery of pro bono legal services. Exelon's pro bono efforts have been widely recognized, including recent awards from the Delaware Valley Association of Corporate Counsel and the Chicago Bar Association.

We have been pleased to team up with Exelon in hosting Wills for Heroes clinics for first responders in Chicago and Philadelphia for Exelon's "All Hands Day" service project each of the past three years. Many Ballard Spahr attorneys and paralegals also participate in the legal clinics regularly staged by Exelon. On September 28, **Carl Roberts, Cecilia Isaacs-Blundin, Keith Joseph, Kia Wimmer, Lorene Boudreau, Hector Navarro, and Ruth Uselton** (Phila.) worked with Exelon, the Homeless Advocacy Project, and Congreso at a clinic for Puerto Rican nationals to help 95 adults and 35 children obtain newly validated birth records necessitated by changes in the laws surrounding Puerto Rican vital statistic records. On May 10, 2011, **Lynn Rzonca, Jenny Perkins, Mariana Viss, Hector Navarro, and Mary Gay Scanlon** (Phila.) participated in the 2011 Latino Elders Service Project, sponsored by PECO and the Senior Law Center, assisting Hispanic seniors to complete living wills and health care power-of-attorney documents.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with our colleagues at Exelon in expanding access to justice.

## CONSTITUTIONAL LAW DOCKET

In September 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled in *Lozano v. Hazleton* that a municipal ordinance that would punish landlords and employers accused of renting to or hiring anyone the city classifies as an "illegal alien" was unconstitutional. **Burt Rublin** (Phila.) filed an amicus brief in that matter on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Burt also participated in filing the petitioners' brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving similar issues of state authority to enact laws addressing immigrant employment. *Chamber of Commerce v. Candelaria*, brought by the Chamber with the ACLU and other groups challenging an Arizona statute, is still pending before the Court.

Also that month, the Justice Department issued a report chastising the FBI for claiming a possible terrorism link to justify surveillance at an antiwar rally in Pittsburgh in 2002. The Justice Department report was based, in part, on evidence the ACLU of Pennsylvania collected through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. At the request of the ACLU, in 2005-06, **Bill Rhodes** led a team of Ballard attorneys, including **Burt Rublin** and **Matt Potalivo** (Phila.), in preparing and filing FOIA requests that disclosed the FBI's surveillance activities and eventually led to the Justice Department's charge of unlawful surveillance.

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## SLC LAWYER HELPS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES SECURE VITAL COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

For the past two years, **Sharon Bertelsen**, a communications attorney in Salt Lake City, has been working with representatives from federal and state agencies to bring communications services to Native American reservations in Utah. In late 2009, Sharon presented a program at the Utah Native American Summit, discussing how improving communications for Native Americans can provide economic development, employment, education, health care, and public safety, and outlined steps the audience members would need to take to receive federal funding. The Ute Tribe applied for such a grant and received funding earlier this year from the Department of Commerce for a fiber optic network for schools, health care, and public safety at the remote Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Sharon is also working with the Chief of the FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy and the Director of the Utah Indian Affairs Office to assist with funding for and construction of a cell tower for the Goshute Indians.

## WHITE COLLAR LAWYERS INTERN WITH DEFENDER ASSOCIATION



Cecilia Isaacs-Blundin



William Igoe

**Cecilia Isaacs-Blundin** and **William Igoe** (Phila.) recently participated in a pilot program with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. The mid-level associates in the firm's white collar defense practice group had the opportunity to undergo orientation training with new attorneys hired at the Defender Association and spend several months representing defendants full time in the Philadelphia criminal justice system. They were joined by three recent law school graduates, **Evan Krick**, **Rachel Keene**, and **Allison Mollenhauer** (Phila.), who received stipends from Ballard while they spent a year as fellows with the Defender

Association and have since joined the firm. The program offers young lawyers meaningful trial experience that is not always readily available in the corporate legal sector while providing extra manpower to the chronically underfunded public defender's office. Ballard Spahr approached the Defender Association with the offer to partner on the new pro bono program as a way to help interested attorneys undertake meaningful pro bono work, and in response to attorney concerns about the scarcity of opportunities to get trial experience and client feedback about their reluctance to pay for on-the-job training for new attorneys.

## THE INTERSECTION OF DIVERSITY AND PRO BONO WORK

Ballard Spahr's Pro Bono and Diversity Programs occasionally have the opportunity to work in tandem, as occurred in the following matters:

- When U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced that he was retiring, the Hispanic National Bar Association asked Ballard Spahr to help assess the background and qualifications of the nominated replacement to help that organization formulate its position with respect to the nominee. Under the supervision of **Mark Stewart**, the team of **Marlene Gomez**, **Ron Varnum**, **Stephen Kastenberg**, **David Webster**, **Genie Tyburski** (Phila.), **Isaac Hernandez** (Phoenix), **Jon Pearson** (Las Vegas), and Phoenix summer associate **Patrick**

**Sandor** researched and prepared a 70-page report for HNBA on Elena Kagan's nomination.

- Denise Keyser**, **Jennifer Sova**, **Gwen Friedman** (New Jersey), **Geoff Bruen**, **Brian Pinheiro**, **Cliff Schoner**, and **Gary Melhuish** (Phila.) logged more than 100 hours helping to review testimony and research and draft an amicus brief for the New Jersey State Bar in support of Lambda Legal Defense Fund's case *Lewis v. Harris*, challenging the adequacy of New Jersey's civil union law.

## POSTAL SERVICE RELEASES MOTHER TERESA STAMP; FIELD NEGOTIATED RIGHTS TO IMAGE

On September 5, 2010, the U.S. Postal Service held First Day of Issue ceremonies at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., to release a stamp with an image of Mother Teresa. Ballard Spahr has represented the Mother Teresa Center for many years; **Corey Field** (LA) negotiated the rights to Mother Teresa's image with the USPS.



Corey attended the ceremony with **Kelly Wrenn** and **Dino Panagopoulos** (DC), and met with some of the sisters of Mother Teresa's order, Missionaries of Charity, whose work is the beneficiary of the proceeds from her foundation.

## FEATURED OFFICES

**Las Vegas Office** – In 2010, with strong leadership from **Bill Curran** and **Shane Young**, our Las Vegas office focused on developing its pro bono practice and had a great year. First, the lawyers met and exceeded the firm's 3 percent pro bono target in a busy year. In October, the firm was named Pro Bono Law firm of the year by Nevada Legal Services. The office was also recognized by Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for its efforts in staffing a legal clinic in September for the city-wide Project Homeless Connect event that offered an array of social services for the homeless. And in January 2011, our lawyers started a child advocacy practice group by hosting a training session and accepting three new referrals to represent abused and neglected children.

**Atlanta Office** – With the Atlanta office's strong focus on patent and intellectual property work, it has been

a challenge to find the right Pro Bono Program fit. Nevertheless, the office is developing referral relationships with several public interest agencies. In July, the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta made a presentation to interested attorneys and has become a valuable source of transactional pro bono referrals. In April 2011, eight Ballard lawyers attended training with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and are scheduled to participate in the Foundation's Saturday Morning Lawyer Clinic throughout the year. Many thanks to **Rebecca McFadyen** and **Mary An Merchant** for their leadership of the Atlanta pro bono program.

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### NEW JERSEY LAWYERS ADVOCATE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Ballard's New Jersey office has teamed up with Rutgers Law School and South Jersey Legal Services to secure Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for five children, thus far, whose applications were wrongfully denied initially or, in some cases, upon multiple requests for reconsideration. The children, ranging in age from 3 to 16, suffer from physical, emotional, educational, and behavioral disabilities. Working with the Children's SSI Project at Rutgers for the past two years, **Paul Jenkins**, **Dave Haworth**, **Joel Korin**, **Chris Tomlin**, **Connie Buttil**, and **Stephanie Marguccio** have successfully prosecuted applications for reconsideration and administrative appeals requiring the development and presentation of medical records and expert testimony. In the case of the 3-year-old, who was born with a condition that substantially limits the use of one arm, the judge not only reversed the denial of benefits but awarded the child benefits retroactive to her birth. According to Dave, "the Children's SSI Project provides both concrete and necessary benefits for low-income children and a great training ground for young attorneys."

### THE VIEW FROM OUR WINDOW



Every day, in offices across the country, Ballard Spahr lawyers offer their time and legal skills to provide vital pro bono service to individuals and organizations that might not otherwise have access to legal assistance. Here are a few of their recent efforts:

- **Alan Petlak** (LA) and **Heike Sullivan** (Phila.) helped one of Alan's clients start a private foundation to benefit the family of one of the client's employees who died suddenly. Without the funds raised by the foundation, the deceased employee's children would have had to leave college.
- **Hara Jacobs** and **Nick Pennington** (Phila.) brought a successful action on behalf of legendary Eagles running back Steve Van Buren to prevent a trading card company from marketing and profiting from Van Buren's signature and image without his permission. The suit alleged that the unauthorized trading cards used not only his name but his signature taken from stolen canceled checks.
- Mt. Auburn Cemetery is the oldest black-owned and -operated cemetery in Baltimore, dating back to 1868. By 2009, the cemetery, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, had fallen into serious disrepair. **Norman Parker** (Baltimore) heads a team advising the cemetery's managers on corporate governance and fund-raising efforts. He is assisted by **Rick Ballard**, **Daniel Albert** (DC), and **Robert Darrell** (Baltimore).
- **Jonathan Satinsky** (Phila.) served as a member of the Joint State Government Commission's Advisory Committee on the Criminal Justice System in Philadelphia, formed in light of a *Philadelphia Inquirer* series titled "Justice: Delayed, Dismissed, and Denied." The series focused on a Philadelphia criminal justice system beset by low conviction rates, widespread witness intimidation, and a massive number of fugitives. As a result

of the series, the Pennsylvania Senate created a special Senate advisory panel (comprising roughly 30 members, including Philadelphia-area judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, police, and others) to study the issues and to make recommendations in the form of a report. Jonathan served as Chair of the Witness Intimidation Subcommittee, one of four subcommittees, and a general member of the committee.

- **Alex Bak-Boychuk** (Phila.) represented the Pennsylvania Health Law Project in a case of first impression involving allowable grounds for termination of employment in an unemployment compensation claim. Alex obtained a favorable ruling for the legal services client after a lengthy hearing, and the referee's decision was affirmed on appeal.
- In April 2011, the **Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter** recognized **John Langel** (Phila.) and Ballard Spahr for their pro bono work on behalf of the Association in recent years, including lease negotiation, employment, and governance advice. In addition to John, who serves on the board, **Bill Kennedy, Meredith Swartz, Aldie Loubier, Jean Hemphill, and Michael Shore** (Phila.) offered assistance.
- **Winston Folmar, John Graves, and Kean DeCarlo** (Atlanta) successfully represented a summer camp for disadvantaged children in protecting the camp's name from being used as the title of a horror film.

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:

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