

In 2015, we met the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge for the 14th consecutive year. More than 620 Ballard Spahr lawyers and paralegals contributed more than 40,000 hours of pro bono service. Many of those efforts addressed issues found in daily headlines—urban hunger, the impact of mass incarceration, discrimination against ethnic minorities, the regulation of drones, normalization of relations with Cuba, internet privacy, public health threats, assistance to refugees and victims of human trafficking, and lethal injections.

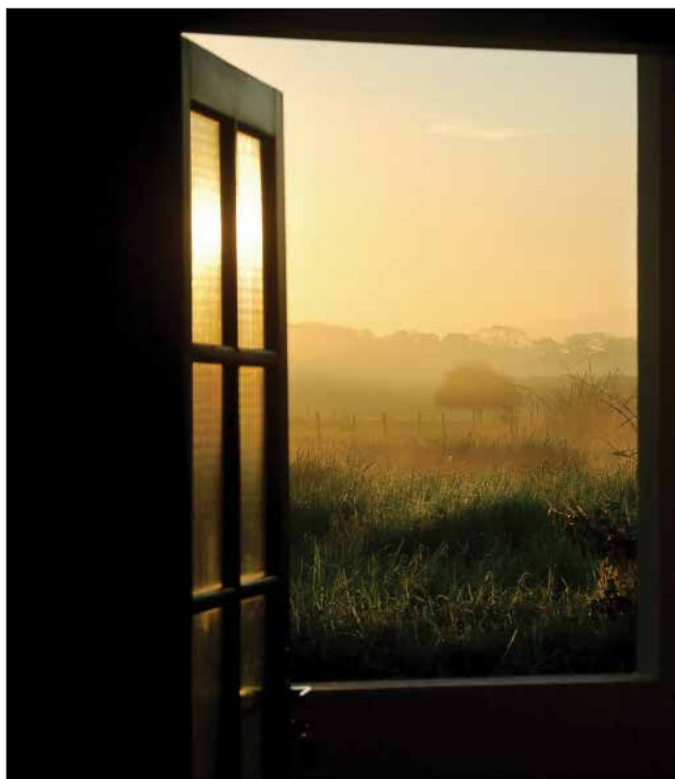
CLEMENCY PROJECT: A PASSION FOR JUSTICE

What happens when one lawyer's passion for justice ignites an entire law firm? We have witnessed that phenomenon for the past two years as Marjorie Pearce has led our participation in Clemency Project 2014 (CP 2014), which she describes as "the greatest criminal justice initiative in the past 50 years."

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice announced a clemency initiative that offered federal inmates who have served at least a decade in jail the opportunity to reduce lengthy prison terms for nonviolent offenses imposed under obsolete mandatory sentencing laws. The initiative has broad political support, as it seeks to reduce the size and cost of the federal prison population and redress the perceived injustice of many mandatory sentences. Margie serves on the steering committee of CP 2014, which provides training and support to attorneys who have volunteered to screen and represent federal inmates eligible for clemency. She proposed that the firm embrace this historic pro bono opportunity, and the results have been impressive:

- President Obama commuted the sentences of 116 federal inmates this spring, three of whom were Ballard Spahr clients. **Charlie Stillman, Blake Wade, Melanie Clark, Erica Leatham, and Joanna Jiang** represented them. We have more clemency petitions pending.
- We obtained the release of three additional clemency applicants when we discovered they were entitled





to relief on other grounds. **Bo Ranney**, **Erik Zissu**, **Tracy Plott**, and **Katherine Atkinson** assisted those individuals.

- The combined sentences of those six clients were reduced by 43 years with a modest expenditure of 628 hours of pro bono effort. Put another way, every hour of pro bono service we provided gave those four men and two women 25 days of freedom.

- More than 100 Ballard Spahr lawyers have volunteered through CP 2014, including Chair **Mark Stewart**, members of the board, and representatives from every office and practice area.
- Clemency Project received a cash award of \$25,000 through the firm's 2015 Alan J. Davis Award, which we present annually in support of exemplary public service.
- We have screened hundreds of clemency candidates, including hosting a one-day clinic during which we reviewed presentence reports for 150 applicants.
- Margie has patiently and generously guided attorneys unfamiliar with the criminal justice process, while continuing to work with the national CP 2014 steering process. **Charlie Stillman** and **Jim Mitchell** have joined her in helping select cases to submit to the Office of Pardons. **Lisa Whiteley** has coordinated Ballard Spahr's efforts, assigning and tracking our clemency cases and acting as the regional coordinator for several other firms.

The impact on both our clemency clients and pro bono counsel has been profound. Bo Ranney had the unparalleled experience of escorting his elderly client from the courthouse after his resentencing hearing and sharing some Brooklyn pizza with him before he boarded a bus to Miami, where he now lives with his nephew. The following week, the client called to thank Bo again, and to share the difficulty he was having using his new

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I am sending this to you and your co-workers, anyone that was involved. I want to say thank (all) of you FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. My sister and fiancé want me to say they are very blessed for all you have done.

mobile phone. Upon learning of his client's clemency award, Charlie Stillman said "I have been a lawyer for more than 50 years—and I count this as one of the highlights of my career." **Howard Shafferman** expressed similar sentiments when he shared a letter from his clemency client, a man who has served more than 20 years of a life sentence for drug sales that would yield a sentence of less than 10 years today. The client thanked Howard for his efforts and said "this has really given me a great deal of hope." According to Howard, the opportunity to be a purveyor of hope was the capstone of his career. Finally, upon learning that he had received clemency, Joanna Jiang's client emailed:

It may be hard to understand but you have did something for me and my family that means the world to us all and ...you still are doing everything in your power to put us back together as a whole. WE thank you for that....

A MEMORIAL GARDEN

Pro bono real estate projects often allow our attorneys to use their specialized legal skills to advance broader community service projects.

On June 5, 2013, the demolition of a vacant building in downtown Philadelphia collapsed a party wall and destroyed a store, killing six people and injuring many others. Working together, the City Department of Parks and Recreation and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society determined to honor the victims by transforming the site into a green space. In response to a request that we provide pro bono help to facilitate the project, **Michael Sklaroff** and **David Gest** obtained the necessary zoning approvals. **Mary Croft** helped draft, review, and negotiate licenses with the city as well as construction and design contracts.



CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Cutting-edge constitutional issues are a mainstay in our pro bono practice.

Freedom of Information



As head of Ballard Spahr's Media Law Group and Chair of the ABA's Forum on Communications Law, **David Bodney's** pro bono work complements his paid law practice. His recent pro bono matters include:

- **Lethal Injection Challenge:** Motions for summary judgment are pending in a suit filed against the state of Arizona by David and Yale Law School's Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic on behalf of the Associated Press and several major newspapers and television channels. Filed in the wake of a botched execution, the suit contends that the state's refusal to disclose information about the drugs used for lethal injection is a breach of the public's First Amendment right to know how the death penalty is implemented.



- **Prison Censorship:** David represents Human Rights Defense Center, a human rights group that advocates for people held in U.S. prisons, in a suit against the Arizona Department of Corrections for failing to deliver its prisoner rights newspaper to inmates. The state allegedly withheld four editions of *Prison Legal News* under a policy that censors sexually explicit material. At issue were reports on litigation involving prison rapes in which prison employees were

perpetrators. The suit alleges that the state's policies and practices violate the First Amendment. **Heather Horrocks** is assisting.

- **Amicus Brief for High Court in Peru:** At the request of the International Senior Lawyers Committee, David filed an amicus brief to the high court of Peru on behalf of two free press NGOs. The brief involved the public's right of access to government emails following a scandal in which the Ministry of Mines outsourced the drafting of mining regulations to a large foreign mining corporation.



Drones and Preemption

Terrence Jones represents a filmmaker who was charged under a new Los Angeles ordinance with allegedly flying a drone too close to the LAPD's Air



Courtesy of CBS3 Los Angeles.

Support Division. Ironically, the filmmaker—who is an aerospace engineer and pilot—was filming a safety program on drone use at the time of the alleged violation. The charges were dropped after we filed a constitutional challenge to the ordinance, contending that it is preempted by federal law. We also are challenging the charges that the prosecutor re-filed under a different provision of the ordinance.

Free Exercise Clause and Muslim Worship



Doug Christian is representing a group of Muslim medical professionals after a Pennsylvania zoning board voted to bar the group from using a former school as a place of prayer.

The group is assessing its options after efforts to resolve the matter amicably were unsuccessful. The ACLU had previously advised the zoning board that federal law requires a compelling reason for the board to restrict the group from using the space for religious services. The board's alleged concerns about foot traffic and parking did not rise to that level.



Privacy and Grandparent Visitation



Tony Kaye won an appeal before the Utah Supreme Court, which raised a constitutional challenge to a statute requiring grandparent visitation.

The decision preserved our appellate victory. The court held that a visitation order under the statute was subject to strict scrutiny review and required proof that an order mandating visitation over

a fit parent's objection required proof that the order was narrowly tailored to advance a compelling governmental interest, in this case, a showing of harm to the child. The lawyer who referred the case sent a note of thanks, which concluded:

You have accomplished such amazing things with this case. And I wanted to tell you thank you for all of it, for all of the amazing things you have done, and for the time I was privileged to work with you.

Eighth Amendment & Civil Forfeiture



Two years ago, our civil forfeiture team won an appeal that found Pennsylvania's civil forfeiture statute unconstitutional as applied and strengthened the standard of proof

necessary to confiscate property. Our client's home and car were seized after her son was arrested for selling small amounts of marijuana. In May, **Jessica Anthony** argued the appeal before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and we are awaiting its decision. **Jason Leckerman** and **Lisa Swaminathan** also worked on the case.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY = FOOD

Ballard Spahr adopted hunger, nutrition, and sustainable food as the focus of our social responsibility efforts in 2014. We have expanded our pro bono, volunteer, and charitable efforts each year.

Common Market was the catalyst for our social responsibility focus and continues to drive our national efforts. This Philadelphia nonprofit connects healthy, locally sourced food from regional farms and food producers to inner-city markets such as schools, hospitals, and urban farm markets. We are now assisting Common Market to export its vision for thriving local food systems to other regions of the country. **Jean Hemphill** and **Jamie Bischoff** are advising Common Market on restructuring and intellectual property issues as it expands its footprint. This spring, **Laura Seidel**, **Parker Stephens**, and **Elliot Franklin** helped launch Common Market Georgia, the next step in developing a national network of food hubs.



Food Banks

David Armstrong and **Wesley Robinson** are providing corporate governance advice to the Arizona Food Bank. **Barbara Casey**, **Patricia Smith**, and **Denise Keyser** are assisting the South Jersey Food Bank with contract and employment advice.

Baltimore Food Hub

Tom Hauser and **Devin Kitchelt** are representing the Baltimore Food Hub, Inc. and American Communities Trust in the purchase of a property that they plan to transform from a vacant parcel into a 3.5-acre campus of food-related workforce and economic development. The campus will include a culinary social enterprise kitchen and food business incubator and local food-sector businesses.

Community Garden

Steve T. Park is assisting The Table Spread with corporate governance and nonprofit status. This member-owned and -operated community garden provides organic produce and education on the sustainability, economic, and health benefits of growing your own food.



Food Drives

While our offices contribute generously to food drives throughout the year, this year we organized an effort to contribute to food banks in five states on Martin Luther King Day. **Cindy Utz** spearheaded a drive that delivered 403 pounds of food to Philabundance.

WILLS FOR HEROES: HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS AND VETERANS

This year, we celebrate a decade of working with the Wills for Heroes Foundation to provide free estate planning services to first responders and veterans. The firm sponsors and staffs dozens of Wills for Heroes clinics annually with corporate clients and bar associations, and provides laptops, materials, and pro bono services to the Foundation.

On May 11, the U.S. Park Police honored our Wills for Heroes leaders—**Dan McKenna** and **Carolyn Capobianco**—for their service to the Park Police. Dan serves as the Foundation President and Carolyn is the National Affiliate Coordinator. They also organize clinics for Ballard Spahr and for the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

A note from a volunteer explains the enduring popularity of this program:

I just had my first privilege of attending a Wills for Heroes event. It was a stunning success on so very many levels. First and foremost was the incredibly rewarding experience of giving first-hand assistance to so many first responders. The gratitude on their faces and in their words said it all. It is just a wonderful professional experience. Second, spending time with other lawyers from

the office was a terrific bonding experience. Finally, the ability to work with 22 in-house lawyers from a client on a common cause is just invaluable—“priceless” in the words of the famous commercial. You get to do something that is “value added,” shows the best we have to offer, and builds bonds without the sometimes treacherous platitudes that can be associated with more typical client development activities.

This year, we plan to strengthen our Wills for Heroes efforts by training coordinators outside the Mid-Atlantic region and introducing the program to Colorado. We sponsored our first Wills for Heroes clinic for Ballard Spahr alumni in March. In April, **Reid Herlihy** organized a clinic in Bethesda for Cap One volunteers with assistance from **Wendy Iversen**, **Emily Goodall**, and **Osei Stephens**.



Last fall, we hosted a special Wills for Heroes event with the Association of Corporate Counsel at Ellis Island for United States Park Police and their families.

SERVICE TO SCHOOLS

Mentor Helps Student Become Citizen

Last year, **Michele Ventura** became a mentor to a student at Constitution High School—Philadelphia’s magnet public school for social studies—where Ballard Spahr runs a diversity pipeline program for students interested in the legal profession. Michele met Dani, a junior who had come to the U.S. from Liberia a decade ago, and Dani confided that one of her goals was to become a U.S. citizen when she turned 18. Michele connected Dani with our pro bono program and HIAS Immigration Services. With Michele’s help, Dani completed the necessary applications, passed her naturalization interview at USCIS, and took the oath of U.S. citizenship. Dani is near the top of her senior class at Constitution High and participates in extra-curricular activities, including a program organized by the National Constitution Center in which students engage Philadelphia police brass and new recruits in frank discussions designed to strengthen police-community relations. Becoming a citizen will make it easier for Dani to visit relatives in Liberia and to apply for college loans. She is considering a career in law enforcement or the military.



Dani and former Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey.

Hate Crimes Education

Christine Snider is the Hate Crimes Education Task Force Coordinator for the Colorado Lawyers Committee. She coordinates the logistics involved in presenting mock trials to junior and high schools throughout Colorado, including managing more than 200 volunteers. The volunteers present mock trials based on a violation of Colorado’s Hate/Bias Crimes Statute, prompting student discussions on diversity in their communities and the value of preventing the spread of racial slurs and hateful actions. **Sarah Wallace** and **Matt Thornton** are volunteer presenters.



Peer Mediation and Youth Courts

Mikel Bistrow participates in a middle school peer mediation program sponsored by the Legal Aid Society of San Diego. Students are trained to mediate disputes among other students at their school. The program has reduced student violence and disputes in participating schools. In Philadelphia, **Chris Cognato** and **P.J. Koob** volunteer with assistant U.S. attorneys to train students and facilitate a similar program at Constitution High School.

SUPPORT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

An important adjunct of Ballard Spahr's pro bono program is support for the legal services agencies that refer pro bono cases and share critical expertise. In addition to the firm's monetary donations, we promote campaigns soliciting individual contributions to legal services, such as Jeans for Justice and the Generous Associates Campaign.

Our lawyers serve on dozens of local and national legal services boards, and staff regularly provides in-kind support for underfunded legal services agencies—ranging from an IT director advising a legal clinic about new software to five legal administrative assistants volunteering to update hundreds of contacts in an agency's database. Sometimes our support for legal services is unconventional.

Ballard Spahr Galactica Rocks!

In September, Ballard Spahr Galactica debuted its classic rock sound at the Battle of the Law Firm Bands to raise money for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. The sold-out event featured both a boisterous fan club and collectible T-shirts designed by **James Shelley**.



Ballard Spahr Galactica quickly parlayed that critically acclaimed performance into a tour, including an exclusive performance at the office holiday party and

an invitation to perform at Philadelphia VIP's 35th anniversary benefit. Rumor has it that Phoenix-based partner **Booker T. Evans**—lead vocalist of the renowned rhythm and blues group the Stilettos—as well as other special Galactite guests from around the firm, may join them on tour this spring.

IMPACT LA

Our Los Angeles attorneys are participating in a program to expand legal services to victims of domestic violence. In 2014, at the request of Vice President Joe Biden, the Association of Pro Bono Counsel developed regional projects that leverage law firm pro bono programs to address gaps in legal services. In Los Angeles, the IMPACT project staffs legal clinics for victims of domestic violence in collaboration with Jenesse Center, Inc., and One Justice. **David Barksdale, Alan Petlak, Mark Hikin, Scott Humphreys, David Reed, and Taylor Steinbacher** volunteered for this clinic.



Pictured above, shown left to right, are BSG bandmates Ed Rogers (guitar), Val Martin (vocals), Harry Weiss (bass), Joanne Phillips (vocals), and Rogers Stevens (guitar). Not pictured is Brian Slagle (drums).

SPORTS-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The emerging field of sport-based youth development offers exciting pro bono opportunities to help nonprofits use sports to foster youth development and leadership. Philadelphia is at the forefront of this movement. Ballard Spahr provides general corporate governance advice to the Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative and several of the 40-plus youth groups that make up that organization, including the Black Women in Sports Foundation and TeamUp Philly.

Ballard Spahr Helps Launch Philadelphia Youth Basketball

Ballard Spahr is providing pro bono and organizational support for a new nonprofit organization, Philadelphia Youth Basketball (PYB), which intends to build a \$25 million basketball-based youth development center in a blighted area of the city. The program will leverage the city's deep basketball heritage to benefit children from pre-school to young adulthood through basketball instruction and competition, academic support, leadership development opportunities, health counseling, and family engagement opportunities. In December, Philadelphia Mayor-elect Jim Kenney joined a veritable hall of fame of Philadelphia basketball stars—including Olympic gold medalist Dawn Staley, former NBA player Aaron McKie, and Temple University Coach Fran Dunphy—to announce the project. Ballard Spahr partner **John Langel**—whose sports clients have included the 76ers' Doug Collins, the Eagles' Ron Jaworski, and soccer star Mia Hamm—chairs the PYB board and leads the firm's efforts. According to John, "We're thrilled to be able to engage our resources to help such a worthy

cause. There are so many children living in poverty in Philadelphia and we're hoping to use this city's love of basketball to create meaningful change for them."

Bike & Build



Bike & Build

Bike & Build raises money for affordable housing by organizing service-oriented cycling trips for young adults. In 2015, 370 riders participated in Bike & Build cross-country trips. The group made \$635,000 in grants to 380 affordable housing projects. We initially were asked to advise Bike & Build when a distracted driver struck two of their riders, causing the death of one and the disability of the other. We subsequently helped the group to update corporate documents, review their employee manual, and address privacy and data security issues. **Brian Doerner** coordinated the work for Bike & Build with assistance from **Michael Carroll**, **Odia Kagan**, **Rogers Stevens**, and **Meredith Swartz**.



EQUITY FOR U.S. WOMEN'S HOCKEY

*Ballard Spahr attorneys **John Langel**, **Dee Spagnuolo**, **Ashley Wilson**, **Mary Cate Gordon**, and **Kim Magrini** represent the players on the U.S. Women's National Ice Hockey Team in gender equity matters related to, among other things, contracts and wages, programming, and sponsorship and marketing issues.*



Pursuant to the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, national governing bodies such as USA Hockey are obligated to support and develop participation opportunities for women. John and Dee met with USA Hockey last month for an introductory meeting and to address the players' wish list. The team recently beat Canada in sudden-death overtime to win the World Championships held in British Columbia. John represented members of the U.S. Women's Soccer team in the 1990s as they sought equitable pay and benefits.

MARY GAY SCANLON HONORED BY PENN LAW

In November, our Pro Bono Counsel, **Mary Gay Scanlon**, was presented with the Howard Lesnick Pro Bono Award by the University of Pennsylvania's Law Alumni Society. The award recognizes an alumnus who has "embodied the spirit of the Public Service Program through a sustained commitment to pro bono or public service throughout a private sector career."

Since joining the firm in 2003, Mary Gay has built its ground-breaking pro bono program as the firm has extended its national footprint. Under her leadership, the firm has developed pro bono practice groups in several areas, including asylum, voting rights, and child advocacy. In addition to serving as the firm's Pro Bono Counsel and chairing its pro bono committee, Mary Gay maintains a significant practice in public interest law, including immigration,

election protection, child advocacy, and poverty law. She also has been instrumental in developing the firm's diversity pipeline project at Constitution High School in Philadelphia.



Penn Law School Dean Theodore Ruger (right) with Mary Gay (center) and Penn Law Alumni Society President Laura Kassner Christa (left).

HOUSING & HOMELESS ADVOCACY

One of the most critical issues in poverty law is the lack of affordable housing. Our pro bono lawyers help people find and stay in their homes.



This year, we are celebrating 20 years of collaboration with the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) of Philadelphia to operate a legal clinic for the homeless at the Sunday Breakfast Association (SBA) shelter. Since 1996, 200 Ballard Spahr attorneys, law students, and paralegals have spent more than 3,600 hours performing intake at the shelter. We have invested an

additional 10,000 hours on cases referred by HAP, including requests for identity documents, public benefits, and housing issues. Three years ago, lawyers from Comcast joined us in staffing the SBA clinic, and that relationship has expanded to include pro bono teams that handle fast-track disability cases together and expanded service projects at SBA. Key players have included **Scott Towers**, who inaugurated the SBA clinic and has served as a HAP board member and President; **Brian Pedrow**, who initiated the partnership with Comcast; and dedicated clinic volunteers such as **Carl Fridy, Sharon Marshall, Ann Riordan, Lisa Whiteley, and Fran Appleton**.

Ballard Spahr's 2016 Alan J. Davis Award will honor our longstanding homeless advocacy project. The \$25,000 cash prize associated with the award will be donated to HAP and SBA.

WHY SO MANY BIRTH CERTIFICATE CASES?

Over the years, we have fielded more than 750 birth certificate requests for homeless clients, with **Lisa Whiteley** and **Fran Appleton** handling the bulk of those vital records requests. New pro bono volunteers are often surprised that the first request of many homeless clients is for help obtaining a birth certificate. Their lack of stable housing makes it difficult for homeless clients to secure important documents, and the first step in obtaining public benefits or housing is to produce photo ID. Unfortunately, in order to obtain a photo ID, the client must produce a birth certificate. But virtually every state requires the production of a photo ID to obtain a birth certificate, so ... well, you get it. The only work-around is that an attorney can request a birth certificate for a client if the request is supported by appropriate background information

such as school or military records, or extended family history. We regularly participate in birth certificate clinics organized by HAP, Exelon, and other agencies.



Elder Fraud



The Legal Clinic for the Disabled declared that “Ballard Rocks!” and dubbed work

done by litigators **Barbara Schwartz** and **Matt White** as one of that agency’s top 2015 Volunteer Success Stories. Barbara and Matt represented a client who discovered that his sister had fraudulently transferred their deceased father’s house while the client was recovering from a serious car accident. They had the sister removed as administrator of the father’s estate and obtained a court order rescinding the fraudulent deed and barring the sister and her heirs from asserting any claim to the property.



Lingering Lead Paint

Since Flint, Michigan’s lead crisis made the news, much attention has focused on lead exposure from aging water pipes. But in many communities, lead paint in older housing remains the greater threat.



Alex Ficken just settled a case in which a landlord sought to evict a family after they legally withheld rent because the landlord had failed to correct numerous L&I violations.

The landlord received several citations for failing to remediate lead paint after the child’s health care provider alerted authorities that our client’s two-year-old daughter was diagnosed with lead poisoning. Under the settlement, the clients paid their utilities bills and were able to move without paying additional rent or incurring a judgment.



With a different twist on the issue, **Bill McDaniel** and **Bryan Harrison** settled a lead paint

claim brought against an elderly Baltimore widow in connection with her husband’s operation of a rental property decades ago. A series of substantial lead paint verdicts in Baltimore has led to the proliferation of often dubious claims. We negotiated a nominal settlement, which her adult children paid on her behalf, to spare our ailing client from having to participate in discovery.

FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR CLIENTS

One of the most gratifying pro bono experiences is when we can use legal tools to protect a vulnerable client.

Recovering Assets for a Cancer Patient



Last year, we were asked to represent a homeless leukemia patient whose case did not meet typical

legal services guidelines. The client was a former small business owner who had sold his business to pay for his cancer treatments, but the buyer defaulted. **David Haworth** and **Casey Watkins** volunteered to assist and obtained a settlement that brought stability and relief for the client. His letter, excerpted below, explains the impact of their work:

At the time I was introduced to your firm, I was homeless and still very sick from chemo and radiation. ... The two lawyers who took my case ... are exceptionally talented and two more diligent, quick, and shrewd attorneys you will never meet. Since the first time I met them until this day they have handled my case as if I were the firm's most important client. To say that I am grateful to your firm—and in particular to both David and Casey for the work that has been done on my behalf—would be the understatement of the century.

That your team would take time out of their busy lives and careers to help someone they didn't know, at a time in my life when I literally didn't have anyone else... well it's nothing short of a miracle. My health has stabilized and I am getting stronger by the week. I'm still a regular at the hospital but I seem to be out of the spiral of constant crisis that plagued me for so long. I'm looking forward to finalizing the settlement and being able to pay at least some of the medical bills that have piled up and having a more

permanent place to live. ... I don't mind telling you that when I was introduced to your firm, I was at a pretty desperate place.

I don't know why my case was picked up by Ballard Spahr or the circumstances that conspired to allow me to be represented by two such terrific people and excellent lawyers. But, I want you to know that the simple act of care that was bestowed upon me, a complete stranger, made all the difference. Thank You!

Thwarting Predatory Lending



When **Roger Winston** and **Matthew Smith** investigated a predatory lending

matter, they saved a Maryland family more than \$30,000 in future mortgage payments and secured the title to their mobile home. Roger was asked to assist a family with inordinately high monthly payments on their mobile home. With one of the clients on disability and the other working part-time in a school cafeteria, they struggled to provide proper care for their 22-year-old son with severe autism. And the large payments required by their home loan prevented them from getting ahead financially. Roger and Matt's review of their home purchase and multiple re-financings established that the clients were the victims of predatory lending practices and had already overpaid \$20,000. Under the settlement, the clients are relieved from further payments and will receive a clean title to their property.

AWARDS CORNER

Please visit the Pro Bono page at www.ballardspahr.com to see the many honors given to our pro bono lawyers and projects this year.

A Vulnerable Veteran



Sarah Wallace, Rachel Mentz, and Matt Thornton represent a Denver veteran whose daughter misappropriated \$40,000 of his savings and veterans benefits while he was incapacitated by a stroke. In a bid to thwart the Colorado legal proceedings, the daughter moved to Arizona and filed for bankruptcy. Our Phoenix bankruptcy colleagues, **Mike Myers** and **Dean Waldt**, surprised the daughter by filing a proof of claim for the veteran in the Arizona bankruptcy matter. We hope to recover a portion of the veteran's money.



Administration incorrectly attributed as income to the couple the small Holocaust reparations payments they receive from the German government as well as bank funds they did not own. Their appeal is imminent.

Children's SSI



Michele Ventura and **John Kearney** recently obtained a fully favorable decision in a

child's disability benefits case. Their work over two years ensured that a 14-year-old girl with disabilities will receive the benefits that she should have been receiving since 2009, in addition to the special education services that they previously secured for her. Their comprehensive and thoughtful advocacy has made a huge difference for this child and her family. According to John: "Michele's work and that of other associates in New Jersey, in my view, is what makes the Ballard pro bono program so respected by our New Jersey bar and judiciary."



Representation of Holocaust Survivors



Alan Petlak and **Taylor Steinbacher** represent an elderly, impoverished couple who

survived the Holocaust in a dispute with the Social Security Administration. The couple relies on Supplemental Security Income to meet their housing and food costs, but have been charged with an overpayment requiring deductions from their current benefits. It appears that the Social Security

HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, our adoption gallery proves it! Ballard Spahr attorneys share adoption day photos of the families they represent.



Clockwise, from middle left: Bill Curran celebrates with two families whom he helped to keep siblings together; Bill Hicks' clients prove that even judges smile when they finalize the adoption of a child in foster care; Brianna Wheeland's client looks right at home behind the bench.

SUMMER ASSOCIATES

All of Ballard Spahr's summer associates have the opportunity to sample pro bono work. Some continue to work with their firm mentors after they return to law school. This year, summer associates from all offices will attend a pro bono orientation in Philadelphia.

Marriage Equality Presentation

The Anti-Defamation League kicked off its 2015 Summer Associate Research Program at Ballard Spahr with a program about marriage equality in Pennsylvania. Featured were Ballard Spahr lawyers **Dee Spagnuolo**, lead plaintiff in a case involving the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples before the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, and **Ashley Wilson**, one of the first people married after Pennsylvania's ban on marriage for same-sex couples was consigned "to the ash heap of history" in *Whitewood v. Wolf*. Joining Dee and Ashley was Mark Aronchik, a member of the ADL's coalition in the *Whitewood* case. The speakers shared their legal and personal perspectives on the progression of marriage equality in Pennsylvania.



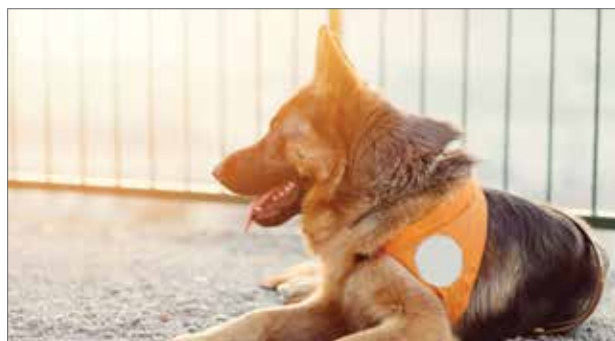
From left to right: Dee Spagnuolo, Mark Aronchik, Ashley Wilson, and Nancy Baron-Baer (executive director Philadelphia ADL)

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Lynn Rzonca leads our pro bono work for New Leash on Life, a nonprofit program that teaches prison inmates to train and socialize shelter dogs that might otherwise be euthanized. So far, the program has enrolled 243 inmates and rescued 140 dogs. And the rate of recidivism of participating inmates is half that of the general population. **Terry Grugan** sits on the NLOL board.

We frequently provide pro bono assistance to help nonprofit groups that care for animals. **Jeff Beenstock** is assisting Oasis Animal Shelter, a farm that cares for abused and neglected horses, dogs, and other pets, to comply with a New Jersey farm preservation statute. **Scott Pearson** is providing general counsel advice to the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound, a California facility dedicated to the protection and preservation of endangered felines.

Mark Pollak is assisting the Maryland SPCA with lease negotiations, and summer associate **Robert Walker** analyzed zoning issues for a facility that the SPCA is considering building. **Peter Jaslow** is assisting the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) with corporate governance, and **Tim McCormack** and **Lila Shapiro-Cyr** are advising a group that brings therapy animals into nursing homes and hospitals.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Immigration and human rights cases offer a range of advocacy opportunities, and clients whose compelling stories are “ripped from the headlines.” This is one of our most popular areas of pro bono service.

Darfur Woman of Courage

On June 19, 2015, our colleague **Hawa Salih**, a Darfur human rights activist, participated in a presentation to the United Nations Security Council coordinated by the U.S. Ambassador Samantha Powers, in an effort to address the continued and escalating human rights violations by the government of Sudan. We first met Hawa when firm Chair **Mark Stewart** took her asylum case in 2012. Hawa was forced to flee Sudan after she was repeatedly arrested, tortured, and threatened by the government for her work on behalf of refugees. She came to the United States in 2012 to receive an International Woman of Courage Award from then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. While Hawa continues to advocate on behalf of women in Sudan, she also works as a records clerk at Ballard Spahr.



HIAS Immigration Services featured Hawa in a video when she was honored in 2015.

US-Cuba Relations



Rogers Stevens is assisting the International Society of Bassists with research on new regulations governing travel and the arts to facilitate possible scholarships and other collaboration with Cuban musicians. In addition to his work in the litigation department of Ballard Spahr, Rogers is the

guitarist for the rock band Blind Melon (not to mention Ballard Spahr Galactica). His perspective as both a lawyer and a professional musician will surely prove helpful in that effort.



Assisting Dutch Holocaust Survivors



AJ Pepper responded to an unusual call for pro bono assistance from Bet Tzedek, a Los Angeles public interest law firm with expertise in Holocaust reparations. The Netherlands' Act on Benefits for Victims of Persecution 1940–1945, WUV (Wet Uitkering Vervolgingslachtoffers), provides payments to individuals who, during the German and Japanese occupation of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies (now the Republic of Indonesia), were victims of persecution during World War II because of their race, religion, belief, or homosexuality and, as a result of that persecution suffer from illness or disabilities. In order to advise clients who may be eligible for these benefits, Bet Tzedek needed assistance to translate and analyze the Dutch statute, a task which AJ has undertaken with the help of a friend who also speaks Dutch.

Central American Refugees

For two years, national media stories have reported on the flood of women and children fleeing violence and poverty in Central America, and the hurdles they encounter when they arrive in this country. Many are eligible to become legal residents in the United States, but as foreign nationals they are not entitled to federally funded legal services. Without pro bono help, their chances of navigating the complexities of our immigration system are slim. These are their stories.

- We obtained asylum for a 19-year-old client who fled Honduras with her 18-month-old son after her brother was murdered and her family was threatened by a crime syndicate. When the police failed to investigate and her father and sisters disappeared, our client fled with her child. They survived a harrowing journey to the United States, which included being returned to Honduras from Mexico on their first attempt, and being held captive by a Mexican cartel on their second. When they reached the U.S. after four months, the client and her son were incarcerated for two months before she was released to a cousin's home with an ankle monitor. Her case was fast-tracked and a hearing was scheduled a few weeks later—good news for the client, but nerve-wracking for the outstanding asylum team: **Carl Roberts**, **Renie Boudreau**, summer associate **Wilfred Beaye**, and **Mayra Troendle**, who served as an interpreter. The team quickly researched and presented the case, overcoming significant scheduling obstacles, a subpar court-appointed translator, and an initially skeptical court. In granting asylum to the client and

her son, the court's opinion also acknowledged that "the court is much appreciative of counsel's pro bono representation in this case."

- **Chris Cognato** represented a 16-year-old boy from Honduras in a hearing to establish his eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). An SIJS applicant must convince a family court judge to enter an order with specific findings, one of which is that a parent has "abandoned" the child. In this case, the boy's father, two uncles, and a cousin were murdered in a land dispute, and the boy was threatened with death as well. The boy fled to the United States and now lives with his brother outside of Philadelphia. After Chris presented detailed testimony by the boy and his brother, who is seeking formal custody, the judge agreed to enter the requested order. The next step is to file for SIJS status with immigration authorities.
- **Erika Caesar**, **Suzanne Lufadeju**, and **Jessica Watt** teamed up with pro bono attorneys from DuPont to obtain a similar order for a 16-year-old girl from Guatemala who was subjected to sexual assault and threats of physical violence after her father abandoned her. After we obtained a court order placing her in the custody of relatives in the United States, federal immigration authorities agreed to dismiss proceedings to return her to Guatemala. While she awaits final adjustment of her immigration status, the client is attending high school where her English is rapidly improving.

The Lasting Impact of Pro Bono Work

At our New Year's Eve luncheon with Ballard Spahr alumni, one of our former colleagues told us that he was contacted last year by a pro bono client whom he represented while at the firm nine years earlier. The client, a woman from the Congo for whom he obtained asylum, wanted to tell him that she had just become an American citizen, and that her daughter would be starting college in the fall. She reached out to him to share these milestones and express her gratitude for helping to steer her through the immigration system and start a new life for her family.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Baltimore Expungement Clinic

In October, **Bill McDaniel**, **Devin Kitchelt**, **Zach Ehudin**, **Heather Swan**, and **Ben Kelley** participated in a legal clinic at a Baltimore church to assist residents in completing expungement requests. The free legal assistance program occurred on the same day that two new laws went into effect, allowing expungement of old convictions for offenses that are no longer considered crimes or criminal charges that were never prosecuted. Expungement of old or minor offenses can remove a major barrier to employment. After the clinic, Bill McDaniel reflected:

The experience opened my eyes. Of all the people I saw, some 33 persons, only two had jobs. Almost all had lengthy arrest records for minor offenses, usually with a few convictions that cannot be expunged and will continue to haunt and hobble them. The problem is a massive one. But this clinic made a start on it, and I am glad that Ballard participated.

Prisoner Civil Rights



John Grugan, **PJ Koob**, and **Cliff Sacalis** settled a prisoner's case alleging improper medical treatment in the wake of a shooting in which our client suffered two gunshot wounds. One bullet fractured his pelvis and the other lodged in his thigh. Four days after surgery, he was discharged from the hospital and transferred to Lancaster (PA) County Prison as a pre-trial detainee. Although he was on crutches, and his doctors ordered skilled physical and occupational therapy, he did not receive the prescribed care and his confinement exacerbated his medical condition. The court appointed Ballard Spahr to represent him in the pro se suit he

filed, asserting violations of his constitutional right to be free from treatment that amounted to punishment prior to an adjudication of guilt under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment and a claim for cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment.

A Second Chance For A Veteran

In New York, we helped an Iraq War veteran win dismissal of felony charges by completing a diversionary program. The client had served three tours of duty in Iraq as a linguist, volunteering for the third so that a colleague with a family could go home. When he returned to the United States, the veteran struggled with alcohol abuse and sought treatment with the VA. When Hurricane Sandy closed the VA hospital for five months, his treatment was interrupted and he was arrested for setting fire to a couch while drunk. We struck a plea agreement that allowed the client to participate in the diversionary program although his case did not meet all of the program criteria. Nevertheless, he successfully completed the program, and his felony charges were dismissed. **Margie Peerce** described the dismissal as one of her proudest moments as a criminal defense lawyer.



Margie Peerce (right) and Elaine Lou (second from right) with the judge and their client after charges were dismissed.

Daniel Dougherty Update



In 2004, **David Fryman** and **Shannon Farmer** responded to a call from the ABA

Death Penalty Representation Project to represent Daniel Dougherty. When we took on his case, Mr. Dougherty was on Death Row. He had been convicted of murder after his two young sons died in a house fire, but the evidence used to convict him was arson science that has since been discredited. The team's smart, persistent advocacy resulted in Mr. Dougherty's sentence being commuted from death to life in prison. David and Shannon then led the effort to win a new trial, based on ineffectiveness of his previous trial counsel. This spring, that retrial and jury deliberations lasted more than three weeks and represented a huge sacrifice for those involved. The trial team included attorneys David, Shannon, **Hank Hockeimer**, **Ron Varnum**, **Tom Burke**, and **Sarah Schindler-Williams**, paralegal **Jodena Carbone**, LAAs **Toni Cearley** and **Patty Webb**, and support staff whose assistance was invaluable. The team was unbelievably well-prepared and tenacious, but the jury did not find in our client's favor. Within hours of the guilty verdict, the resilience that has sustained this effort for more than a decade was once again on display and David declared that we would appeal. As he said, "we believe there were numerous rulings that were erroneous, and those rulings made for an unfair trial." In commenting on the trial, Chair **Mark Stewart** said, "I am enormously proud of David, Shannon, and all those who have worked to see justice served for Mr. Dougherty, and who are willing to continue the fight."



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME PRO BONO WITH YOUR COFFEE?

A few months ago, a young woman working in a coffee shop near our office, asked a regular customer, who happened to be a Ballard Spahr attorney, where she could find a family lawyer to represent her in a custody case in a few days. She wanted to visit her sick and elderly mother overseas and needed formal custody in order to secure a passport for her daughter. The child's father had abandoned them and could not be located to sign the passport consent form. We referred her to local Legal Aid, but they did not have anyone able to take her case. Legal services budgets and staffs have shrunk markedly over the past few years. As a result, 80 to 90 percent of family court litigants are unrepresented. **Carl Roberts** agreed to represent the woman, and the custody master recommended that she receive full legal and physical custody.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURS

Our transactional lawyers have plenty of pro bono opportunities as we expand our efforts to support small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Small Business Clinics

We launched two new clinics with the Enterprise Center, an agency that cultivates minority small businesses in West Philadelphia. We also hosted our 4th annual MLK Day of Service legal clinic and staffed Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses clinics in Salt Lake City and Philadelphia. **Travis Leach** is organizing another program to provide legal education and brief clinic advice to entrepreneurs at a Phoenix co-working space.



On MLK Day, members of the Association of Corporate Counsel joined Mark Stewart, Scott Towers, and 22 Ballard Spahr attorneys to advise small businesses at a legal clinic.

BASE

The Ballard Academy for Student Entrepreneurs, the brainchild of **Terence Grugan**, **Greg Seltzer**, **Kimberly Klayman**, and **Brieanna Wheeland**, entered its second year and has grown to 15 clients in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, and Phoenix. Student entrepreneurs apply to participate in business development education, mentoring and other pro bono legal services that will help them launch their businesses. It culminates with an opportunity to pitch their businesses to investors. In addition to providing invaluable start-up services, the project provides excellent professional development

opportunities for newer transactional attorneys as they act as relationship managers and counsel their clients.



Patents

Ballard Spahr was honored by Georgia Lawyers for the Arts and GLA PATENTS in the first year that GLA began serving as the regional clearinghouse for pro bono cases distributed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Our Atlanta colleagues took more patent cases from the new program than any other firm in Georgia or South Carolina. According to Meredith Ragains, GLA's executive director, "The firm went above and beyond what we ever could have expected . . . and the firm is a big reason that the program was such a huge success in its inaugural year."



Charley Brown accepting the award from GEORGIA PATENTS.

THE VIEW FROM OUR WINDOW

A client recently asked us to identify the “North Star” for our pro bono efforts. At some firms, this might suggest one signature pro bono project followed by a corresponding firmwide push to participate. But Ballard has eschewed a one-size fits all pro bono effort, preferring instead to leverage the diversity of our lawyers’ talents and interests to serve the needs of the various communities where we live and work.

Rather than focusing on a particular project, our guiding light is the seriousness with which we take the obligation of every attorney to provide meaningful legal services pro bono publico—for the good of the public—and the firm’s duty to support and encourage such service. With this goal, we embrace the concept that, while all public service is valuable, lawyers have a special obligation to use their legal talents for the public good. To that end, Ballard Spahr was one of the earliest signatories to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge (a commitment to dedicate at least 3 percent of the firm’s billable time each year to pro bono service) and among the first law firms to dedicate staff to support and encourage pro bono service by all of its attorneys.

Firm policies reinforce the value and importance of pro bono service: all pro bono time is treated as billable for the purposes of compensation and evaluation, and pro bono effort is considered in the partner allocation process. Pro bono service is also encouraged with dedicated financial and in-kind support for legal services agencies, celebration of pro bono efforts, reminders of the pro bono obligation, and by embedding pro bono service into our professional development and client relationships.

The firm’s commitment to pro bono service reflects our approach to the practice of law in general: we provide superior service to pro bono clients on the issues that they regularly confront, and we have the flexibility, specialized skills and resourcefulness to meet new challenges and opportunities as they arise. Thus, our pro bono practice encompasses both routine representation of low-income individuals and the agencies that serve them, and system-change or impact work.

At the heart of our pro bono program is a dedication to providing pro bono service to people with limited means, and we cultivate deep and long-standing relationships

with legal services agencies to expand representation for homeless clients, abused and neglected children, immigrant victims of domestic violence, disenfranchised voters, refugees and asylum seekers, LGBT individuals, and small businesses and nonprofits. The depth and consistency of our pro bono work allows us to support and respond to requests from corporate clients to partner on pro bono projects, such as free estate planning clinics for first responders and veterans.

In addition to developing relationships and expertise to address typical pro bono issues, we undertake system-change pro bono work and respond to current issues, such as criminal justice reform, impact litigation to preserve cancer research funding, or the development of facilities to serve victims of human trafficking or youth.

All of these efforts reflect the steadfastness with which we follow our North Star, that both the firm and its individual lawyers have a solemn obligation to provide pro bono service.



PRO BONO COMMITTEE

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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PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

536,397

*number of pro bono hours
provided since 1996*

40,750

pro bono hours in 2015

981

*number of pro bono matters
handled in 2015*

620

*lawyers and paralegals
participated in pro bono
service in 2015*

14

*consecutive years meeting
Pro Bono Challenge*

66

*average pro bono hours
per lawyer*

