

The Portal



PRO BONO NEWS AT BALLARD SPAHR

2011-2012



VIEW FROM OUR WINDOW

The tag line “Creating Windows of Opportunity” appears next to an image of an open window on the Ballard Spahr pro bono program logo. Of course, the image and slogan allude to the opportunities afforded to our clients by Ballard Spahr’s pro bono program, but it also refers to the rewards that pro bono offers the members of the Ballard Spahr community. Pro bono work gives our attorneys and staff personal satisfaction and professional development, and allows the firm to give back to the legal community and the places where we work and live.



Mary Gay Scanlon

In 2011, we celebrated a decade of commitment to creating those windows of opportunity. For the 10th straight year, we met our pledge under the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge to commit at least three percent of the firm’s billable time to pro bono work, providing more than 29,000 hours of free legal services to low-income clients and nonprofit organizations. The firm also donated generously to national and local legal services agencies. In an economic climate in which poverty rolls have reached all-time highs, and legal services’ budgets and staffs have been slashed to 30-year lows, Ballard Spahr’s commitment to supporting this central tenet of our profession, equal justice for all, is more important and more valuable than ever.

Although we have accepted this commitment to access to justice as the norm, it is truly exceptional.

It is an expression of the professionalism, values, and community engagement that distinguish the lawyers and staff at Ballard Spahr. While some firms rely on mandatory pro bono policies or signature projects to energize their pro bono programs, we rely on the genuine interest and sense of ethical responsibility of the Ballard Spahr community. Whether rendering pro bono service to large-scale reform projects or on behalf of a low-income family in crisis, our lawyers use their unique skills in furtherance of our privilege and obligation to provide service *pro bono publico*, for the public good. As you will find in this annual newsletter, the results of our work are extraordinary.

One of the latest pro bono trends offers the opportunity to expand this work by partnering with traditional business clients to provide pro bono services. As businesses develop formal corporate social responsibility goals, more in-house counsel have been encouraged to seek pro bono opportunities, and we have been fortunate to work with several clients on projects this year. We teamed with Exelon and Citi to host Wills for Heroes clinics to provide estate planning documents to first responders in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. In May, we will team up with Exelon for what has become an annual event to provide living wills and health care

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directives at a clinic for Latino Seniors. We are looking forward to a new partnership with Comcast at our adopted homeless legal clinic, and we are working with other corporate clients as they develop new pro bono programs. Pro bono partnerships with our clients provide multiple benefits, allowing us to provide value-added service to in-house counsel, helping them to meet their pro bono obligations, expanding opportunities for pro bono service, and meeting more pro bono clients' needs.

As always, one of the defining features of Ballard Spahr's pro bono program is the participation and support of the firm's leaders, a tradition that continues with our new Chair, Mark Stewart. Mark has logged almost 800 hours of pro bono time since the firm started keeping records in the 1990s, working some cases himself, and supervising others. He is a longtime volunteer and board member for the Support Center for Child Advocates, and was instrumental in developing the expert testimony to support the challenge to Daniel Dougherty's death penalty conviction. You will see in the following articles that office managing partners, department chairs, and practice group leaders are all regular participants in our pro bono work, and we thank them for their leadership. We also want to thank two of our partners for demonstrating that no one is too important to do pro bono work. Former Governor Ed Rendell and former N.J. Supreme Court Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto each represented pro bono clients in the past year. Governor Rendell filed and argued a petition for a mother to obtain guardianship for her profoundly disabled adult daughter, and Justice Rivera-Soto has undertaken a prisoner rights claim and provided valuable assistance to other Ballard Spahr attorneys on an asylum matter and an insurance dispute.

While Ballard Spahr lawyers average more than 50 hours of pro bono service annually, if you did not personally make that target last year, take a look at the stories in our newsletter to see what type of pro bono work might interest you and then reach out to a member of the pro bono committee so that we can help you find your pro bono opportunity this year. Join us as we continue to create "Windows of Opportunity," for our clients, ourselves, and our communities.

BALLARD SPAHR @SOCIALMEDIA #PROBONO



Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Inc.

Rebecca McFadyen and Brian Meadows of Ballard Spahr secured the rescission of a lease agreement and return of a \$500 security deposit to their clients, who never moved into the rental property because the landlord failed to make necessary repairs.

Yesterday at 2:54pm · Like · Comment

Last summer, we began using social media after the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation recognized Ballard Spahr lawyers Rebecca McFadyen and Brian Meadows (ATL) on its Facebook page for their work in a landlord tenant case. Within minutes of AVL's posting their victory, Rebecca received a congratulatory call from a friend who had seen the post. This got us thinking that social media could be an effective way to share our pro bono stories. We now regularly post pro bono news on the firm's Twitter feed, and are looking at other options. If you have pro bono news that we can tweet, please let us know!

Community Legal Services Names Ballard Spahr Champion for Justice



Former Chair Arthur Makadon Accepts CLS Award

In June, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia named Ballard Spahr a Champion for Justice. The award recognized the firm's commitment to the cause of equal justice for all and also its efforts to ensure that low-income Philadelphia residents have access to representation and education on legal issues that affect them. In addition to providing substantial long-term financial support for CLS initiatives, the firm regularly collaborates with CLS on pro bono referrals. Ballard Spahr attorneys also served as co-counsel with CLS in a successful class action to help refugees and asylees obtain or regain disability benefits jeopardized by federal government delays in processing citizenship applications.

"Ballard Spahr can take credit for providing services to hundreds of low-income people in need of a lawyer," said CLS Executive Director Catherine Carr. "Starting with firm Chair Arthur Makadon, the incredible energy, judgment, and steadfast support of its lawyers have been invaluable over the years."

Ballard Spahr partner Jason Leckerman is the treasurer for CLS's Board of Trustees, and Mary Gay Scanlon, the firm's Pro Bono Counsel, is also a former board member. In 2008, the firm established an externship through which a Ballard Spahr associate joined CLS's Family Advocacy Unit for a year.

FEATURE:
ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN ATHLETES

Last July, the *Wall Street Journal* published an op/ed piece suggesting that Abby Wambach, the U.S. Women's Soccer Team's leading scorer, should run for President. These days, Abby, Hope Solo, Mia Hamm, and other members of the women's team have a fan base and lucrative sponsorship contracts—but that was not always the case. Despite having won the first Women's World Cup in 1991, and the first Olympic gold medal for women's soccer in 1996, the team had sought in vain to address with U.S. Soccer's governing body a host of issues centering on equitable pay, training, travel, accommodations, and other benefits for female players. In 1997, they approached John Langel (PHL) for help. They opened the meeting by asking what his billable rate was and expressing concern that they could not afford John's services, to which John responded, "Don't ask. You're right." However, he was so impressed by the women's character and commitment that he agreed to waive his fees, telling them that he would work for free because they deserved better treatment, and that he hoped to help them make enough money to eventually hire him. And he did.

From 1998 to 2000, John helped the women's team renegotiate its contract with the U.S. Soccer Federation (including a dramatic standoff with the Federation in which college players were sent to an international match in Australia as replacements for Mia Hamm and her colleagues), organize a lucrative victory tour in the wake of the team's 1999 World Cup win, unionize, and start the first professional women's soccer league. In what may be the ultimate pro bono success story, John helped his clients secure equitable treatment, and develop the means both to support themselves as professional athletes and to afford his fees. Small wonder that team members refer to John as their "angel," and he regards them as family. John's stellar advocacy for the soccer team has led to pro bono engagements for other teams, including U.S. Women's Hockey, and, last year, U.S. Women's Softball.

While John has carved out a niche representing women's teams, Mark Gaylord (SLC) has developed a pro bono practice representing individual female athletes. His clients have included numerous national team athletes,

with a range of issues, including Jen Davidson, one-half of the U.S. Women's bobsled pair that was widely expected to win the 2002 Olympics. Davidson's partner, driver Jean Racine, unceremoniously dismissed Davidson shortly before the Olympics in a move that became the subject of front-page news. Mark filed a grievance on her behalf that went to arbitration just days before the Olympics began. Ultimately, the arbitrator ruled against a proposal to have the Federation hold a push-off between Ms. Davidson and her replacement to determine who would make the team. Although disappointed, Ms. Davidson supported her former teammates, running the bobsled track as a tester for the actual competitors. The second-ranked U.S. team took home the gold medal; Davidson's former partner and her replacement finished fifth.

Ballard Spahr also provides pro bono support to preeminent nonprofits advocating on behalf of all female athletes. John has helped draft several policy initiatives for the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF), founded in 1974 by tennis legend Billie Jean King. Ballard Spahr attorneys, led by former Philadelphia City Solicitor Stephanie Franklin-Suber, have also provided hundreds of hours of pro bono legal support to the Black Women in Sports Foundation, acting as the organization's General counsel since 1994.

We have also helped professional women athletes to establish and operate charitable enterprises that nurture the next generation of female athletes or contribute to other causes. Since 1999, Brian Pinheiro (PHL) and others have provided pro bono general counsel services to the Dawn Staley Foundation. Staley, a native of Philadelphia and one of the WNBA's first stars, was recently named to the 2012 class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. We provided tax and nonprofit advice to the Rainbow Endowment, a nonprofit started by tennis star Martina Navratilova to fund organizations and projects designed to enrich the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual people. Most recently, Rick Ballard (DC), practice leader of the firm's Tax Group and Exempt Organizations Group, counseled members of the women's soccer team on their charitable efforts to benefit victims of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

In addition, Ballard Spahr attorneys have provided pro bono legal services to dozens of grass roots efforts that give female athletes the opportunity to compete, including incorporating the Denver Women's Hockey League, the Philadelphia Area Girls Lacrosse Association, and numerous local field hockey, soccer, softball, and other nonprofit girls' and women's organizations.

For more than two decades, Ballard Spahr has provided critical pro bono support to amateur and professional female athletes in their efforts to fulfill their athletic promise and develop opportunities and careers in sport.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Teaming Up with Comcast at Homeless Legal Clinic



This spring, Comcast attorneys will be joining Ballard Spahr in staffing the homeless legal clinic at the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission in downtown Philadelphia. Ballard Spahr lawyers began staffing the clinic more than a decade ago, under the auspices of the Homeless Advocacy Project's Adopt-A-Clinic program. Volunteer attorneys and paralegals meet with clients at the bimonthly clinic and then handle the matters generated by the intake process, typically housing, benefits, and requests for legal identification documents. We look forward to working with Comcast to expand the availability of legal services for homeless Philadelphians.

Predatory Lending Scheme Thwarted – Again!

Tony Kaye and a team including Steve Burt, Quinn Stephens, Matt Moncur, and Bret Sprigs (SLC) have scored yet another victory for a victim of a predatory lending scheme. In the past few years, the team has taken numerous referrals from Utah Legal Aid to assist low-income homeowners who have been coerced into signing predatory lending agreements with agents who take title to the home after draining the equity. Most recently, the team devoted 280 hours to representing an elderly victim of a predatory lending scam. Their work resulted in the successful settlement of the case in which the client was compensated and given clear title to her home.

“When we called our client to let her know she had her home back, she broke down in tears, thanking us and saying, ‘You’re good boys. You’re all such good boys,’” Tony said. “Small moments like this are typical in pro bono cases. Your clients really need you and appreciate your help. And your client’s gratitude is always moving.”

In October, the Ballard team was recognized by Utah Legal Services, the Utah State Bar, the Pro Bono Initiative, and the S.J. Quinney College of Law for their exceptional pro bono work.

Tangled Title Team Honored by Philadelphia VIP

In October, Fred Clark, Jeff Meyers, and Aldie Jennings Loubier (PHL) were named Volunteers of the Month by Philadelphia VIP. In 2008, they formed a team to help low-income families resolve home ownership issues. Since then, they have handled more than a dozen Philadelphia VIP LawWorks cases. As each case is resolved, they ask VIP to refer a new client. They credit Ballard Spahr with providing a supportive environment.



Fred Clark, Jeff Meyers, and Aldie Jennings Loubier

“The firm actively encourages pro bono work, allowing the hours spent on our Philadelphia VIP cases to count as billable hours,” Fred said.

Fred describes working with VIP’s clients as extremely rewarding. “We can do our clients a great service, which, in turn, benefits society as a whole.”

Housing Lawyers File Amicus Brief in N.J. Affordable Housing Case

On June 15, 2011, Tracy Siebold (NJ) and Dianne Pickersgill (DC) filed an amicus brief on behalf of the Corporation for Supportive Housing urging the New Jersey Supreme Court to affirm key aspects of its landmark Mount Laurel doctrine to ensure the availability of affordable housing to all state residents. Other amicus briefs were filed by a broad coalition of national, state, and local civil rights advocates; smart growth and affordable housing organizations; supportive housing providers; and religious groups. The Corporation for Supportive Housing brief focused on the discriminatory impact of COAH’s regulations on individuals with special needs, and the “acute shortage” of affordable housing for individuals with special needs that will be exacerbated if COAH’s Third Round Rules are implemented. The brief argues that COAH’s rules will threaten to undo the success that the Mount Laurel doctrine has achieved for individuals with special needs. The court’s decision is still pending.



Tracy Siebold



Dianne Pickersgill

Spotlight on: Lisa Whiteley

Many of you know Lisa Whiteley, longtime administrator of our pro bono program, as the unfailingly professional administrator who makes so many firm functions run smoothly. But did you also know that she is the “go-to” volunteer when it comes to solving complicated birth certificate issues for our homeless clients? Lisa has developed a specialty in obtaining birth certificates for clients who were born at home, were adopted, changed their names, or have other factors that complicate their efforts to prove their identity and obtain necessary government identification to apply for benefits, vote, or get a driver’s license. Lisa recently earned the profound gratitude of a 69-year-old homeless man who had been unable to obtain retirement benefits or an ID because he had lost his birth certificate. After protracted efforts to secure his birth certificate, including Freedom of Information Act requests, Lisa arranged a meeting between the client’s social worker and a Social Security administrator, which resulted in a finding that the client had a work history and was entitled to retirement benefits. The client received a substantial lump sum payment in benefits to which he had been entitled but that he was unable to access, and eligibility for a monthly check going forward. He now hopes to obtain government identification, which will allow him to vote in this year’s presidential election.



Lisa Whiteley

Representing Disabled Homeowners

Neal Walters and Chris Corsi (NJ) successfully represented an elderly homeowner suffering from Alzheimer’s disease against an attempt by her daughter’s ex-husband to force the sale of the disabled woman’s home as part of divorce proceedings with the daughter. The case was referred by the Community Health Law Project of New Jersey. Neal and Chris have taken a subsequent referral from the agency to assist a disabled homeowner in eviction proceedings.



Neal Walters



Chris Corsi

Project H.O.M.E.

Neil Sklaroff and Eileen Quigley (PHL) are assisting Philadelphia’s leading homeless advocacy organization, and longtime pro bono client, Project H.O.M.E., with zoning matters relating to the development of an affordable-housing project.

Michael Sklaroff, Wendi Kotzen, Mary Croft, and Chris Jones (PHL) also worked with Project H.O.M.E. to clear

title on a property where the organization hopes to establish a Wellness Center to provide community health services for homeless people. The wellness center will provide increased access to primary, behavioral, and specialty health care services for Project H.O.M.E.’s residents and alumni, and the children, youth, and adults who live, work, or go to school in North Central Philadelphia.



**PROJECT
H.O.M.E.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Daniel Dougherty Off Death Row!

The team representing Daniel Dougherty has been busy this year. In October 2000, Mr. Dougherty was convicted of setting a rowhouse fire that killed his two young sons in 1985.



When Ballard Spahr volunteered to represent him in 2004, he was on death row. Last year, a team led by David Fryman and Shannon Farmer (PHL) persuaded the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to order a hearing before a new judge to



David Fryman



Shannon Farmer

consider Dougherty’s request for post-conviction relief. The court then granted an evidentiary hearing to address the failure of Mr. Dougherty’s trial counsel to challenge the faulty arson science that formed the basis for his conviction. In February, the Commonwealth moved to commute Mr. Dougherty’s death sentence to life in prison, and in March, the Ballard team presented expert witnesses to support Mr. Dougherty’s request for a new trial. In the past eight years, more than 60 Ballard attorneys, summer associates, and paralegals have expended more than 8,000 hours on Mr. Dougherty’s quest for justice, so every victory is hard won and jointly shared. Oral argument will take place this June.

Rights for Deaf Prisoners

As this issue went to press, Dino Panagopoulos and Jonathan Lippert (DC) accepted a referral from the Washington Lawyers for Civil Rights and DC Prisoners’ Project to assist in filing a TRO on behalf of a deaf man

who has been sentenced to a federal prison that lacks services to accommodate his communication needs. In addition to creating difficulties concerning his ability to understand and follow prison rules or communicate with medical personnel concerning his pre-existing medical conditions, the client's wife, parents, and two children are deaf, and he will have no means of communication with them for the duration of his sentence. Although the sentencing judge recommended that he be sent to an "ADA compliant" facility, the assigned facility does not meet that requirement.

Amicus Brief in Delaware Electronic Monitoring Case

Beth Moskow-Schnoll (WIL), Nick Pennington (PHL), and Edward Chang (LV) assisted the ACLU of Delaware in filing an amicus brief in a case before the Delaware Supreme Court arguing that police must obtain a warrant before placing a GPS tracking device on a suspect's car. After the brief was filed, the issue was stayed, and subsequently dismissed, based on a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Jones*, which adopted the result advocated in the ACLU brief.

Mental Health Challenge to Death Penalty

Terry Grugan (PHL) is assisting Temple Law School Professor Lou Natale in briefing an appeal seeking to have a client removed from death row under *Atkins v. Virginia*, a 2002 Supreme Court case in which the Court ruled that executing the mentally retarded violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.



Criminal Defense Prisoner Rights Appointments

When Hank Hockeimer (PHL) joined Ballard Spahr in 2005, he had been assigned by the Criminal Trial Division of the Philadelphia court system to defend a pro bono client against criminal charges. Since then, Hank has continued to accept an average of two criminal defense appointments per year, incorporating that pro bono work into his busy regular practice and new duties as Practice Leader of the firm's White Collar/ Investigations Group.

The U.S. District Court-D.Md. appointed Tim McCormack (BAL) to represent a prisoner in a suit against the Maryland corrections officials following an assault by a correctional officer. Michelle McGeogh



Tim McCormack



Daniel Benjamin

(BAL) is assisting Tim in a case that has involved extensive depositions and discovery practice, including motions concerning the destruction of videos of the assault and related e-mail. Claire McLamore, Glenn Cline, Kimberlee Buhrman, Donna Green, Pamela Prater (BAL), P.J. Koob, Hector Navarro, Caroline Pollard, and Simon Yip (PHL) have also provided crucial assistance. Discovery will conclude later this year, with trial scheduled for 2013.

Daniel Benjamin (SD) was appointed by the U.S. District Court-S.D. Cal. to represent a prisoner challenging medical care he received after a serious stroke left him partially paralyzed and unable to take care of basic personal needs. The case is likely to go to trial within the year. Chrysta Elliott (SD) is also working on this matter.

DNA Petition for Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Chris Corsi and Mike Carroll (NJ) are representing a client referred by the Pennsylvania Innocence Project in his bid to obtain DNA testing on key physical evidence used in the trial against him. The client, who has maintained his innocence for 15 years, was convicted of murder based upon the testimony of a single eyewitness, who was admittedly high on cocaine when she identified the client and had criminal charges pending against her at the time of trial. No physical evidence connected the client to the murder, but the Commonwealth argued that a pair of gloves, found at the scene of the murder near the victim's body and which tested positively for lead residue at trial, had been worn by the perpetrator for the shooting and then discarded. The gloves were never tested for fingerprints or DNA evidence, and the client seeks now to have these gloves, the victim's effects, submitted for DNA testing to establish his innocence.



Ballard Associate Prosecutes Cases for Denver City Attorney

David Stauss (DEN) spent the first nine weeks of 2012 prosecuting misdemeanors with the Denver City Attorney's office.



David Stauss

The Denver litigation associate tried 12 cases while participating in a volunteer rotation with the City's municipal prosecution division. David reports that the misdemeanor court docket was fast-paced and intense; every day, he and two City attorneys assigned to the program had to review and dispose of a docket of 50-100 cases, whether by plea agreement or trial. With little time to prepare witnesses, the pace was furious, but David reports that the opportunities to conduct voir dire, introduce evidence, and actually chair trials were invaluable.

"How many corporate attorneys at my level can say they have tried a dozen cases?"

- David Strauss

In addition to valuable trial experience, David has some entertaining war stories from his sojourn in the city court system.

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Organizing Philadelphia Food Trucks

At the request of the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Entrepreneurial Legal Clinic, headed by Professor Praveen Kosuri, Ballard Spahr is assisting law students representing the Philadelphia Mobile Food Association (PMFA). PMFA's mission is to organize the mobile food vendors and support a vibrant food truck culture in the city. Ballard Spahr lawyers B.J. Clark and Justin Klein (PHL) are advising law students at the Penn clinic as they help the new organization file for 501(c)(6) status, negotiate city and state regulations, and pursue plans to lease and beautify vacant lots as food truck venues offering a variety of culinary offerings. In recent years, Philadelphia's mobile food operators have expanded their offerings well beyond the traditional hot dogs, cheesesteaks, and pretzels to provide everything from vegan barbecue beef hoagies to artisanal ice creams and gourmet cupcakes.



IP Lawyer Advises Emerging South African Biotech Entrepreneurs

David Perryman (ATL) is teaching licensing, patents, and biotech business strategy to emerging biotech

entrepreneurs as part of a collaboration between Emory University and a business accelerator program in the Gauteng region of South Africa. The goal of the program is to help South Africa create a biotechnology industry that will provide solutions for the unique social and biotech needs of that country, such as HIV, malaria, TB, and resistant crops, in addition to creating economic opportunity. Six to eight teams are selected annually to participate in the program; applicants typically possess technical expertise but lack the necessary business, legal, and intellectual property skills to take their technologies to the market. One team is then selected to receive additional financial and technical support to develop their business.

Utah Microenterprise Loans

Since 2006, Chris Anderson (SLC) has provided pro bono legal advice to the Utah Microenterprise Loan Fund a private, nonprofit, multi-bank community development financial institution (CDFI) whose mission is to provide financing and management support to entrepreneurs in start-up and existing firms that do not have access to traditional funding sources—especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Using loans of \$1,000 to \$25,000, the Utah Microenterprise Loan Fund works in partnership with members of Utah's financial banking community to help launch or expand small businesses across the state.



Chris Anderson

Atlanta Patent Project

Sumner Rosenberg, Managing Partner of our Atlanta office, is participating in a new project with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to provide pro bono legal services to low-income inventors seeking patents. The USPTO has piloted the program successfully in Minneapolis and hopes to expand it to several other cities, including Atlanta, in the next year.



Sumner Rosenberg

IMMIGRATION

Keeping Bright the Lamp Beside the Golden Door

On April 24, HIAS Pennsylvania, a nonprofit legal services agency in Philadelphia, presented Ballard Spahr with its Golden Door Award, in recognition of the firm's work on behalf of vulnerable immigrants. In the last two years, the firm has handled 20 asylum cases and more than 30 other immigration cases, including multiple U-Visa and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status matters.



Green Card for Haitian Orphan



Carl Roberts



Ruth Uselton

In April, we obtained a green card for a young woman from Haiti. When she was 10, she had been visiting her aunt and uncle in Philadelphia, when the political and social situation in Haiti deteriorated severely. Schools were closed, and attacks, kidnappings, and murders became commonplace in the district where the girl and her mother lived; her father had abandoned her years before. The girl's mother asked her sister and brother-in-law to keep the girl until conditions improved. The mother remained in regular contact with her sister and daughter, but on the morning of January 12, 2010, the area of Port-au-Prince where she lived was destroyed in a major earthquake. The girl's mother has not been heard from since. HIAS referred the girl and her family to Ballard Spahr just days before her eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status was due to expire in early 2011. Carl Roberts and Ruth Uselton (PHL) filed an emergency petition to adjudicate the girl dependent, a necessary prerequisite for her to obtain a permanent visa. Eighteen months later, the girl has obtained her green card, has graduated from high school, and is attending college in Pennsylvania.

U-Visa Practice Group



Scott Cockerham



Jenny Perkins

Last year, we announced the launch of a new U-Visa practice group. U-Visas are a relatively new path to legal status available to immigrants who have been victims of crime, often domestic violence, if they cooperate with law enforcement. Thus far, we have assisted 18 clients to apply for U-Visas. The first was granted in April 2012 to a woman from Guatemala who had been physically and mentally abused by her domestic partner for years. When he stabbed the woman and tried to strangle her in a drunken rage, she escaped and called the police. After she served as the key witness for the prosecution, and he received a lengthy sentence, a Ballard Spahr team helped her to complete a U-Visa application.

Since Jenny Perkins (PHL) and Scott Cockerham (then SLC, now DC) volunteered to spearhead the group, more than two dozen Ballard Spahr lawyers and paralegals have been trained, and a listserv and

online document library has been created. Ballard Spahr attorneys work in teams, in order to facilitate development of the factual record, and help clients tell their frequently emotional stories. This summer, we expect to expand the practice group to D.C., where Scott now practices. Steve Newman (SLC) has stepped up to lead the SLC effort.

Asylum Cases: Continuing Success for Ballard Clients

Last year, Ballard Spahr's annual Alan J. Davis Award was presented in honor of the significant number of Ballard Spahr attorneys who had won asylum cases in the preceding year. We celebrated the successes of the dozens of attorneys and paralegals who had donated thousands of hours to helping refugees who had suffered physical and political strife around the world. The Davis award, a \$25,000 donation in recognition of outstanding legal efforts to promote the public good, was divided between the two legal services agencies that refer such matters to the firm, Human Rights First and HIAS & Council Immigration Services.

In the intervening year, our attorneys have continued to secure asylum victories in additional noteworthy cases:

- On the same day that last year's Davis award was announced, Rebecca McFadyen, Brian Meadows, and Ed Khalili (ATL) took on an asylum case for a Cameroonian professor who had been persecuted for speaking out against longtime President Paul Biya. After encountering some early challenges in the case, the team obtained asylum for the professor in June 2011. In August 2011, the professor accepted a position teaching English at a university in Alabama.
- In January, Nina Hernandez (LA) won asylum for an African scholar who had been jailed and subjected to regular beatings for more than a year after refusing to spy on his colleagues.* He escaped from police custody and made his way to Mexico, but his efforts to claim asylum at the U.S. border were frustrated when border patrol officers did not understand French, and he could not speak



Alan J. Davis Award

English or Spanish. He was incarcerated at a Mexican prison for immigrants until he taught himself some English and Spanish, whereupon he reached out to a nun who helped gain his release. He filed an asylum application in the United States in 2004. Nina began representing him in 2008, and devoted hundreds of hours to preparing his case. Asylum was granted in early 2012, after Nina went to extraordinary lengths to prepare his case and meet the immigration judge's requests to authenticate grass-roots African political journals reporting her client's persecution. She is now assisting the client's efforts to reunite with his wife, mother, and three children, whom he has not seen in almost a decade. *Details of the client's case are withheld in order to protect his family.

- In October, Ruth Uselton and Susanna Greenberg (PHL) obtained asylum for a native of Guinea who fled her country after a 2009 massacre. Government soldiers blockaded the exits from a stadium where a peaceful rally protesting a military coup was taking place and then sprayed the stadium with bullets. More than 150 people were killed and dozens of women raped. The client had helped to organize the rally and had been arrested and tortured after participating in a prior rally. After the massacre, she received death threats and fled the country. Following a marathon hearing, in which the judge stated this was a very close case, asylum was granted.
- Michelle McGeogh, Amy McClain, and Tim McCormack (BAL) obtained asylum for an Ethiopian journalist who was arrested, imprisoned, and beaten repeatedly for activities such as distributing literature identifying opposition political leaders who had been imprisoned by the government and encouraging people to agitate for their release, and protesting government pressure for schoolchildren as young as 12 years old to join the ruling party. After more warnings and harassment concerning her opposition activities, she fled Ethiopia. The Ballard Spahr team established that the journalist had a well-founded fear of persecution should she return to Ethiopia, and the court granted her petition for political asylum.
- Tejal Mehta and Mike Duffy (PHL) won the most recent Ballard Spahr asylum case. In April 2010, they began work on a case involving an Iranian national who had protested the 2009 presidential election in Iran. Afraid he was being watched by the Iranian police, he fled the country just before the police ransacked his apartment. In April 2012, Tejal and Mike presented their compelling case to an immigration judge, who ruled in their client's

favor and granted asylum after only an hour of deliberation.

These success stories provide inspiration for several ongoing asylum cases. Tina Shin (BET), Susanna Greenberg, and Erin Keppinger (PHL) represent a 20-year-old law student from Congo-Brazzaville who had been raped and harassed due to her fiancée's involvement in an opposition political party. Norm Parker, Lauren Ziegler, Mike Skojec (BAL), and Mary Grace Folwell (DC) have begun work on the case of a Liberian national who was persecuted by a warlord after speaking out against warlords in his country's political system.

A LETTER OF THANKS FROM AN ASYLUM CLIENT:

Hi to my HEROES,

Well, words alone cannot express how I felt walking out of that courtroom yesterday. This day happened because you all saw my pains and not only that but also the truth. Your persistence to help me tell my story no matter the cause, made me stronger every day I had to wait... Thanks for helping me get my life back. The life I stop living 21 years ago. I won't live in fear any more, and even the fear of going back home with the children. I won't pretend to laugh, sleep or be okay. I am okay and that's the truth.

May the good God we served bless you and your entire team for helping me. You guys are the best. May your families be blessed.

FAMILY LAW

L.A. Celebrates National Adoption Day



Happy adoptive parents and children with their Ballard Spahr Advocates

This year, Ballard Spahr's L.A. office participated in the Alliance for Children's National Adoption Day project in November, and in the process helped 10 children in foster care find permanent homes. Each case involved a child who had been abused, abandoned, or neglected, and although adoptive parents had been identified for the

children, their cases had been in the foster care system for months or even years. In preparation for National Adoption Day, cases were selected where the court could terminate the birthparents' rights, thus "freeing" the child for adoption. Ten Ballard Spahr lawyers and paralegals were trained, filed the appropriate paperwork and helped new parents finalize their foster children's adoptions. Lydia Wu was the driving force behind the project and was joined by John Carrigan, Ethan Chernin, Penny Costa, Nina Hernandez, Alan Petlak, David Sampson, Gary York, Karen Miller, and Irma Williams.

Bill Hicks – Champion for Children



Bill Hicks

Bill Hicks (PHX) is well known and regarded as a public finance attorney, but he also has special skill as a pro bono family lawyer. For more than a decade, Bill has been a regular volunteer for the Children's Law Center of the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) of Maricopa County, representing a succession of families. Many of Bill's cases involve helping families to adopt or obtain guardianship over young relatives whose parents are unable to care for the children, whether due to death, substance abuse, or imprisonment. Bill credits his wife, Superior Court Judge Bethany Hicks, for initially pushing him to undertake such cases during her tenure as a family court judge. Bill was named the Volunteer Lawyer of the Month by VLP in April 2012, and was named a 2011 Top Pro Bono Attorney by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education.

Jaffari Named Support Center President

Partner Kathy Jaffari (PHL) was named President of the board of the Support Center for Child Advocates, the country's oldest and largest legal and social services agency for abused children. The agency was founded in 1977 with the assistance of another Ballard partner, former Governor and then-District Attorney Ed Rendell. Kathy has also assumed leadership of Ballard's child advocacy practice group, which includes more than a dozen active volunteers for Support Center clients.

Constitutional Challenge in Grandparent Custody Case



Tony Kaye

Tony Kaye, Angela Adams, Emily Wegener, Shannon Macauley, and Tyler Hawkins (SLC) are representing a mother in a case that tests the constitutionality of Utah's grandparent visitation statute as applied. The client is a respondent in a civil action in which her former in-laws are seeking extensive

visitation with the client's three-year-old daughter following the death of her father, the petitioners' son.

EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Education Advocates- In the past year, lawyers across the firm have dedicated hundreds of hours to systemic education reform projects.

Education of Homeless Youth

In February, Appleaseed public interest justice network released an issue brief titled "Unaccompanied, Unidentified and Uncounted: Developing strategies to meet the needs of America's homeless youth."

Mike Skojec (BAL) and Cristina Coronado (SLC) led a team that helped research and draft the brief concerning legal rights and challenges to education and benefits for homeless youth. We continue to assist Appleaseed in monitoring federal and Massachusetts legislative efforts based on the report. Participants in the project included: Lucretia Clemons, Christopher Cognato, Michael Duffy, Allison Mollenhauer (PHL); Chrysta Elliott (SD); David Felice (WIL); Jaclyn Foutz, Andrea Stone (PHX); Michael Kersten (BAL); Katherine Noonan (BET); Bradley Patterson (SLC); and David Stauss (DEN).

Special Education

Last summer, Blake Wade, Managing Partner of our Salt Lake City office, led a cross-office team working with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights to research and draft special education manuals for parents of children with disabilities in seven states. Participants included: Scott Humphreys (DEN); Sean Bellew and summer associate Sana Din(WIL); Mary An Merchant (ATL); Chris Tomlin (NJ); Robert Kim, and Tim Mulliner (LV); Vince Marriott and summer associate Mike Hou (PHL) Blake Wade, Jacob Carlton, Melanie Clark, and Cindy Arnold (SLC).

Immigration Status of Children

Linda Schakel (DC) is leading a group assisting the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights to research national legislative trends concerning efforts to identify the immigration status of public school students and their parents. The team includes Jack Semrani and Rob Kearbey (DC), and Carly Abrahamson (DEN).



Promoting Computer Literacy

People's Emergency Center is Pennsylvania's oldest and most comprehensive social service agency for homeless women, teenagers, and their children. When PEC received a federal grant to increase computer literacy for low-income Philadelphians, Mark DePillis and Tracy Dowling (PHL) helped PEC develop the forms and contracts needed to direct grant funds to neighborhood agencies and establish dozens of computer centers in West Philadelphia. A video of PEC's launch of the West Philly computer centers, featuring PEC board member David Fryman (PHL).

ARTS & CULTURE

Ballet West To Participate in BBC Reality Show

Salt Lake City's Ballet West will be featured in *Breaking Pointe*, a BBC reality show about the competitive world of ballet, set to air this summer on The CW Television Network. According to the network, the six-part



documentary goes "beneath the beauty and glamour of the dance and costumes [to examine] a gritty dog-eat-dog world of extreme athleticism, focus, dedication, passion, pressure and, of course, the hunt for the unattainable ... perfection." Ballard Spahr's relationship with Ballet West began almost a decade ago. Entertainment lawyer Corey Field (LA) and Ballet West board member Sharon Bertelsen (SLC) helped Ballet West negotiate its BBC contract. *Breaking Pointe* premieres Thursday, May 31 (8:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET).

Supporting the Arts on Baltimore's West Side

Jon Laria, the Managing Partner of our Baltimore office, is working with small businesses and arts organizations on the west side of Baltimore to help designate the area as an arts and entertainment district, which will enable the area to obtain government funding and revitalize the district.



Jon Laria

BlackRock Center for the Arts Honors Ballard Spahr

On April 27, BlackRock Center for the Arts, a regional arts organization in western Montgomery County, Md., celebrated its 10th anniversary by honoring those who helped shape its first decade. Among those honored were

Ballard Spahr, and, in particular, Tom Hoffmann (DC), for providing pro bono legal assistance for 10 years. Tom, who also chairs the Center's Board, led the Board during its challenging start-up, securing financing and selling the building to the County. Tom also credits his real estate and finance colleagues, especially Erica Leatham (BET), with supporting BlackRock at every step of the journey.

History in the Making

Recently, we have provided pro bono legal assistance to two American history projects:

Rick Ballard (DC), Jon Laria, Eben Hansel, Robert Darrell (BAL), and Jamie Bischoff (PHL) have been instrumental in the formation of, and ongoing legal work for, Star Spangled 200, Inc., which is supporting Maryland's celebration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

John Estey, Michael Fabius, P.J. Koob, B.J. Clark, and Alex Nagy (PHL) have been advising the Pennsylvania Heritage Society with respect to tax, contract, regulatory, and licensing issues concerning its four-year commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Pennsylvania.

Aid for Craft Center in National Park

David Haworth (NJ) is assisting the Peters Valley Craft Center in the renewal of its agreement to operate a fine craft center in the Delaware Water Gap. Peters Valley offers workshops in blacksmithing, ceramics, fibers, fine metals, photography, wood, and special topics, including printmaking, books and paper, drawing, and glass, and operates a store featuring American-made fine crafts, an annual craft fair, a children's creativity camp, and artists' residencies.



EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Honored

In October, Ballard Spahr was named the winner of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's Best New Law Firm Award, for the Atlanta office's commitment to staffing the Saturday Lawyers Program and its extensive pro bono work throughout the year. The Saturday Lawyers Program is a collaborative effort between AVLF and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society.



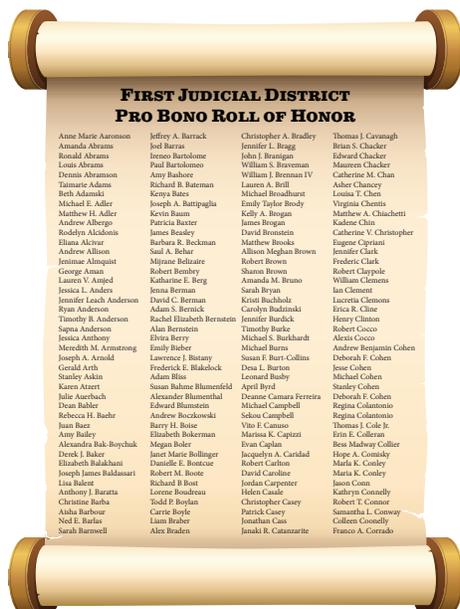
Rebecca McFadyen accepts AVLF Award

Lawyers who participate in the program volunteer on Saturday mornings to interview low-income Atlanta residents with legal problems, assess their claims, and provide them with free legal representation. Rebecca McFadyen (ATL), an associate in Ballard Spahr's Intellectual Property Department, has been the primary organizer for the firm's continuing work at the Saturday Lawyers Program.

Pro Bono Volunteers Recognized by D.C. and Philadelphia Courts

During 2011's Pro Bono Week Celebrations, 54 Ballard Spahr attorneys were named to the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania's Pro Bono Roll of Honor, as part of the court's Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony held at Philadelphia City Hall. In order to be included on the roll of honor, attorneys had to provide pro bono service on a case in the Philadelphia court system during the preceding year. At the same ceremony, the firm was honored for having more attorneys promise to provide pro bono service with Philadelphia VIP's "30 for 30 Pledge" than any other firm in the City. The pledge, to provide at least 30 hours of pro bono work during the next year, is part of Philadelphia VIP's 30th anniversary.

In March, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia named seven Ballard Spahr attorneys to their "Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll." The list recognizes D.C. attorneys who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono work per year. Five more Ballard Attorneys were named to the court's High Honor Roll, which recognizes attorneys who provide 100 hours or more of service.



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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