

PaulHastings

# ProBonoNews

The Paul Hastings Pro Bono and Community Newsletter

Spring 2009

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## CHAIR'S CORNER



**Barbara L. Johnson**  
**Chair, Pro Bono and Community  
Employment Law Partner**


Welcome to the current issue of *Pro Bono News*. I am pleased to report that in 2008, our attorneys dedicated more than 68,000 hours of *pro bono* and community service work, a 58% increase from the previous year.

Inspired by the *Paul Hastings Pro Bono Challenge* (a firmwide initiative aimed at increasing the number of *pro bono* hours per attorney from 25 to 75 annually), lawyers at all levels increased their *pro bono* participation, with 83.1 hours logged on average per attorney.

At the Firm's recent Partner's Retreat, Paris partner Dominique Borde was named the recipient of the 2009 Hastings Award for Community Service, an honor given to a firm partner who demonstrates sustained leadership in community and *pro bono* service. A long-time board member of Doctors Without Borders, Dominique has devoted hundreds of *pro bono* work hours to support causes as diverse as helping visual artists to obtain licensing agreements to assisting Afghan women in their pursuit of education and equal rights. Congratulations to Dominique for his *pro bono* commitment!

This year, we are challenging every Paul Hastings attorney to increase his/her commitment to *pro bono* legal services and have created the **Global Pro Bono Hours Recognition Program** to recognize attorneys for their local and global efforts. Award winners will be announced in a special edition of *Pro Bono News*.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our summer associates. We encourage our summer associates to get



involved in *pro bono* matters if schedules allow. We thank them, in advance, for their efforts on behalf of our *pro bono* clients.

*Barbara*

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## PBN FEATURES

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D.C.](#)[Resources](#)[Office Contacts:  
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Community  
Committee](#)**DOMINIQUE BORDE WINS 2009  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Dominique Borde (PAR) has been named the recipient of the 2009 Hastings Award for Community Service. Barbara Johnson, the firm's *Pro Bono* and Community Chair, announced Borde's selection at the annual Partner's Retreat. The Hastings Award is an annual honor given to a Paul Hastings partner who demonstrates sustained leadership in community and *pro bono* service.

For many years, Borde has played an active role in advancing our global community. As a long-time board member of Doctors Without Borders—the Nobel Peace Prize-winning medical humanitarian organization—Borde has played a key role in identifying the legal rights on which Doctors Without Borders can base its transnational actions around the world.

Borde leads the firm's support of the joint program with Deloitte, which seeks to help Afghan women in their pursuit of education and equal rights. The Paul Hastings-Deloitte program has been instrumental in purchasing a bus and technology equipment for a school in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Borde has dedicated hundreds of *pro bono* hours for several organizations, including St. Joseph's, the Roman Catholic American Church in Paris, and has contributed to many organizations, including American University in Paris. Congratulations to Dominique for his outstanding service on behalf of Paul Hastings!

**TEAM MEMBERS WORKING WITH ACUMEN TO ASSIST  
FARMERS**

Team members are assisting Acumen in a project that involves working with a company in Pakistan that assists small farmers (defined as owning 4 cows or less) with technology and know-how for artificial insemination of cows to increase herds and productivity. The company is called "Yasser" (or Jaser) Farms.

In the last several months, firm attorneys have worked on several Acumen projects, such as:

- Providing advice regarding structuring relationships with affiliated fund-raising entities (team led by Joe Opich, NY)
- Providing advice regarding working with organizations providing grants and sub-grants, and dealing with ownership of technology arising out of related programs [team led by Griff Johnson (WDC) and David Klein (NY)]
- Providing advice regarding FCPA (and similar laws in Africa, Pakistan and India) (team led by Tim Dickinson and Joanne Darkey, WDC)
- Providing advice regarding internal Acumen organizational matters (including forms of standard documentation, internal processes) (team led by Barry Brooks, NY)
- Lending an associate (Anupama Ahluwalia, NY) for a 3-month secondment to assist generally with deals, internal communications and general legal matters
- Lending a team of one associate attorney (Gillian Richards, NY) and a paralegal (Marsha Robinson-Page, NY) to gather and organize documentation for 40 transactions that were entered into prior to commencing our relationship with Acumen.


### **FIRM KICKS OFF PARTICIPATION IN NEW *PRO BONO* IMMIGRATION PROJECT WITH MICROSOFT AND ANGELINA JOLIE**

Paul Hastings attorneys and paralegals recently participated in training for Kids In Need of Defense (KIND), a non-profit, public interest organization founded by firm client Microsoft Corporation and actress and Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Angelina Jolie.

KIND is committed to providing fair, competent, and compassionate legal counsel to unaccompanied immigrant children in immigration proceedings. Many of the children have come here from Latin America. Some have been trafficked here; others have been abandoned by their families or are fleeing human rights abuses such as child marriages or recruitment as child soldiers.

KIND's agenda is ambitious but achievable. By 2010, with the help of law firms such as Paul Hastings as well as corporate law departments and non-governmental organizations, KIND expects to provide legal representation for all unaccompanied children. Needless to say, the outcomes for those children who are represented are much more favorable than they are for those who are not. Paul Hastings has committed to providing at least 1,500 *pro bono* hours to KIND this year alone.

We will be coordinating the firm's efforts through our offices in



New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. In New York, 40 attorneys and paralegals have been trained to work on cases, and approximately 25 have already been assigned to teams. We expect to have cases for all those interested, and will host another training soon for those who missed the first one. In Los Angeles, over 20 attorneys have been trained and two teams have already been assigned cases with more to come. As KIND is just now getting its team up and running in Washington D.C., we will be hosting a training as soon as possible. In upcoming issues, we will feature more about KIND and include all those people who are volunteering their time and efforts to help these children.

If you have any questions about KIND, please contact James Gilliam in Los Angeles, Raquel Bierzwinsky in Washington, D.C. and either Brian Moran or Dan Blaser in New York. Please also visit KIND's website for more information about this terrific organization at [www.supportkind.org](http://www.supportkind.org).

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## ATLANTA

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D.C.](#)[Resources](#)[Office Contacts:](#)[Pro Bono &  
Community  
Committee](#)**DUO DEFENDS HURRICANE KATRINA REFUGEE**

Kevin Young and Jason Caiafa successfully defended a Hurricane Katrina refugee in magistrate court in a case filed by a furniture store based out of New Orleans. The suit involved the client's alleged default in the amount of \$3,000 on a line of credit she opened with the store. She had purchased furniture and basic household goods on the line of credit, but Hurricane Katrina destroyed all of these items, in addition to the client's home.

Two days after taking the case, Young and Caiafa appeared in magistrate court and received a 30-day continuance. Both sides were urged to settle, and plaintiff's counsel pushed to do so as quickly as possible. After delving into the file, however, it became clear that plaintiff's counsel had not provided pertinent documents, including an insurance policy purchased through the store as well as a credit agreement that may have contained a favorable choice of law provision. Over the course of the 30-day continuance, it became clear that opposing counsel either did not have the documents or did not want to disclose them. After repeated and increasingly aggressive requests to produce the documents, the furniture store voluntarily dismissed the case just prior to the exhaustion of the continuance.

**LAWYERS DEFEND SINGLE MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN**

Keith Kodosky and Jeff Sand represented a *pro bono* client in a failure to return security deposit action. The client and her two young children had moved into a landlord's home as tenants under a one-year lease in February of 2008.

The client vacated the premises immediately after her landlord allegedly exposed himself to one of the client's children in April of 2008. The landlord violated Georgia's Security Deposit Act by failing to provide the client with a damage list/estimate and by failing to return the client's \$625.00 security deposit within the time frame required by O.C.G.A. 44-7-30, et seq.

Further, the client's landlord acted in bad faith and was stubbornly litigious when he told the client after she moved out that she would need to "take [him] to court" for the return of her deposit. When the landlord failed to respond to a pre-suit demand letter, an action was filed in Fulton County Magistrate Court for (1) Violation of the Security Deposit Act, (2) Breach of Contract, (3) Interest, and (4) Attorneys' Fees.

In his answer to the complaint, the landlord denied liability and asserted instead that the client owed him \$500.00 for damages inflicted upon the property. A judgment for \$2,100.00 was obtained against the landlord in the client's favor on January 16, 2009, representing three (3) times the amount of the security deposit plus interest and fees.

#### **TEAM ASSISTS CLIENT WHO WAS DEFRAUDED**

Keith Kodosky and Jeff Sand represented a client who was defrauded into purchasing a car without an engine. The defendant, an impound and storage company, told the client that the car required only minor repairs. However, after the client paid the full \$1,600.00 purchase price, the defendant disclosed that the car required an entire engine replacement and the vehicle was never tendered. After filing suit, Kodosky and Sand were able to negotiate a settlement agreement between the parties whereby the client received all of her money back, plus \$500.00 in additional damages.

#### **OFFICE HOLDS FUNDRAISER FOR LIVER TRANSPLANT OF CO-WORKER'S FAMILY MEMBER**

The office held a March Madness fundraiser on March 20 to defray the cost of a liver transplant for Andrew Daugherty. Andrew is a family member of Jade Daughtery in the Atlanta Office. The surgery was successfully performed a few weeks ago. The Washington, D.C. office also coordinated a fundraiser in support of Andrew.

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BEIJING

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**TEAM MEMBERS HELP CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS GET REGISTERED**

In view of the growing recognition of China's influence on global affairs and as part of China's greater connection with the global economy, many international non-profit organizations (INPO) have taken an interest in China, regarding the country as an important strategic spot for fulfilling their mission. Such INPOs include charitable organizations, private or charitable foundations, trade and industry associations, standards and certification associations, educational institutions and business leagues.

While China has welcomed the entry of foreign commercial investments, the INPO arena remains tightly restricted. Only a handful of INPOs have, after years of effort, managed to establish a legal presence in China.

Traditionally, the registration of non-profit organizations falls under the purview of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), one of the most conservative ministries in China. The MCA regulates the establishment of foreign and domestic non-profit organizations in China, which are categorized into social organizations, private non-enterprise units and foundations (domestic or foreign) under PRC law. Members of the firm's Beijing office have worked with charitable organizations in an effort to help them to get registered and establish a legal presence in China.

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## LONDON

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D.C.](#)[Resources](#)[Office Contacts:  
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LawWorks announced in April that the London office has been short listed for a LawWorks Award this year. The LawWorks Awards are presented annually at the LawWorks Ball. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, at the Inner Temple in London, and has a medieval theme. The evening will include a reception, dinner and live entertainment, as well as a presentation of the LawWorks Awards.

**DUO ASSISTS VOLUNTEER EFFORTS THROUGH THE IVY PROJECT**

Donna Goldsworthy and Miranda Thomas have provided legal advice to The Ivy Project and successfully resolved a dispute with a consulting firm regarding substandard funding applications prepared for The Ivy Project. This resulted in the consulting firm providing a significant charitable donation towards the work of the project. The Ivy Project is a charity that works with children and young people to encourage, motivate and support them in undertaking volunteering activities in their communities.

**TEAM HELPS RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT CENTRE (RASASC)**

Donna Goldsworthy, Miranda Thomas and Peter Orlic have successfully resolved a dispute between the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) and its landlord over RASASC's lease terms, enabling RASASC to remain in its current premises. RASASC is a charity that works alongside the Family Justice Centre and is the only rape crisis center of its kind in London, providing support both nationally and overseas via a telephone helpline to victims of rape and sexual abuse.

**PAIR WORKS TO HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORGANIZATION**

Samantha Kakati and Danielle Hirsch have been advising Respect in relation to a legal issue with a supplier connected with a recent conference. Respect is a registered charity that aims to increase the safety of those experiencing domestic violence. Respect also runs two national help lines on domestic violence.

**ETHNIC MINORITIES HAVE VOICE THROUGH FIRM**

Vinay Reddy is providing advice to the Ethnic Minorities Partnership Agency (EMPA) in relation to issues in respect of the level of funding that it is currently receiving from a local

authority. EMPA is a charitable organization that brings together and represents ethnic minorities in London.

### **LAWYER GIVES TIME TO SUPPORT DEMENTIA CARE**

Helena Laughrin is providing advice to Essex Dementia Care (EDC) in relation to an employment contract. EDC works to provide support and care for people affected by dementia as well as information, guidance and respite for families and caregivers of people with dementia.

### **WIDE RANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES RACING FOR SIGHT**

A team of partners, associates, trainees and support staff will compete to raise money for charity in the Standard Chartered Great City Race 2009, which has become firmly established as the City of London's premier team running event, for the fifth consecutive year.

The race takes a unique 5km course through the streets of the City of London, passing such famous landmarks as the Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral. Last year's race attracted 6,500 runners who put on their running shoes to raise money for charity.

This year, by participating in the race, the team will be raising money for the charity Seeing is Believing (SiB), which is a global initiative to help tackle avoidable blindness. To date, SiB has raised over \$17 million for blindness, with a goal of raising an additional \$20 million by 2013.

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## LOS ANGELES

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D.C.](#)[Resources](#)[Office Contacts:  
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Community  
Committee](#)**PAUL HASTINGS CO-COUNSELS WITH ACLU AND NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER (NILC) IN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING IMMIGRATION DETENTION CONDITIONS**

A team of lawyers from the Los Angeles office recently filed a class action lawsuit, in conjunction with the ACLU and NILC, on behalf of a class of immigration detainees who are being kept in deplorable and unconstitutional conditions in a federal building in downtown Los Angeles. The Paul Hastings team (1) assisted co-counsel with client interviews at the detention facility,

(2) drafted portions of the class action complaint and the motion for preliminary injunction, and (3) was responsible for taking the lead on preparing the motion for class certification, with assistance from co-counsel. The Paul Hastings team, being led by litigation associate and ACLU Board Member, James Gilliam, and overseen by partners Tollie Besson and Jamie Broder, also includes Linda Baker, Nick Begakis, Adam Cherensky, Lyn Diaz, Amanda Gilman, Dan Heaton, Eleanor Mercado, Morgan Pietz, Patty Rhoads, AJ Sharp, and Steve Turanchik.

**LAWYER NAMED TO PRESTIGIOUS LOS ANGELES PUBLIC INTEREST LAW JOURNAL**

James Gilliam was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal (LAPILJ). The LAPILJ Board also comprises civil rights lawyers, professors from Loyola, UCLA, and USC and the Director of Litigation for Bet Tzedek.

The LAPILJ, which was formed in 2007, was designed to foster innovative ideas for socio-economic justice and change, to promote the ideas of underrepresented communities and to support sustainable policy and laws that put human rights and dignity first.

## **RUN FOR JUSTICE TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE**



*Paul Hastings Run for Justice Team*

The Paul Hastings Run for Justice Team, led by Jennifer Awrey and Cindy Morgan, received First Place for Outstanding Team Participation.

Congratulations to Cindy and Jennifer for organizing such a successful team. And thanks to all the team members who showed up in the rain to brave the weather and assist with fundraising for Public Counsel. This is a wonderful honor and demonstrates the firm's commitment to *pro bono* and community involvement.

Additionally, the following individuals won medals for their performance in their respective age groups:

- David Crawford—First Place, Half Marathon
- Felicia Holley—Second Place, Half Marathon
- Mike Lindsey—First Place, 5K
- Nancy Iredale—First Place, 5K
- Rosemary Soliz—First Place, 5K

## **PAIR HONORED BY PHILIPPINE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (PABA) FOUNDATION**



*Laurie Dee, Alexander Lee, PABA Foundation Member, and Jeff Geida*

The Philippine American Bar Association (PABA) Foundation honored Paul Hastings in March during their awards banquet. Associates Laurie Dee and Jeff Geida volunteered their time in

the organization of an application for 501(c)(6) status for the PABA Foundation. Dee also serves on the PABA Foundation Board of Directors.

The PABA Foundation is dedicated to supporting and developing the legal education of Filipino-Americans in the legal profession, as well as promoting and sponsoring legal scholarship and public interest activities that will directly benefit the Filipino American community in Southern California.

### **TEAM HELPS CHILDREN START NEW LIVES**

Attorneys have continued to work in partnership with Public Counsel, Los Angeles County's Juvenile Court, and the Department of Children and Family Services and other stakeholders to make foster children's dreams of a family a reality. These children have been abused, neglected, or abandoned.

By providing free legal representation to foster parents adopting children out of the foster care system, these attorneys helped prevent negative outcomes for numerous children.

Recent firm participants include: Leslie Abbott, Marti Breier, Jamie Broder, Peter Cho, Adam Cherensky, James Gilliam, Amanda Gilman, Gayle Goldman, Paul Gomez, Liz Hanks, Alicia Harrison, Dan Heaton, Dan Hick, Bob Keane, Nicole Kline, Elaine Liu, Cindy Morgan, Colin MacMillan, AJ Sharp, Amanda Steele, Vivian Velasco, Deborah Weiser, and Patty Rhoads. Also participating were Marti Breier and Lyn Diaz as the L.A. office's supervising attorneys for the Adoption Day Project. With the help of these attorneys, 14 more children have finally found a permanent place to call home.

Not only do the attorneys of the PHJW-LA Adoption Team volunteer to finalize the adoptions, they also advocate for adequate adoption benefits, Regional Center services, special education and other much-needed services that these children might not otherwise receive. For example, Peter Cho was able to obtain an increase in benefits for his clients of close to \$10,000; Elaine Liu and Nicole Kline obtained close to \$3,000 for their adoptive family; Alicia Harrison and Lyn Diaz obtained an increase of close to \$4,000 for their clients; James Gilliam and Judith Kline each obtained close to \$10,000 for their adoptive families and Jamie Broder and Amanda Gilman successfully obtained close to \$70,000 in retroactive benefits for a disabled child and his family. Broder and Gilman received Public Counsel's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award from its Adoptions Project for this fantastic result.

### **LOS ANGELES LAWYERS EXPAND INVOLVEMENT IN HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROJECT**

In their continuous effort to expand the Homelessness Prevention Project, team members have partnered with a group of seven other law firms to staff the weekly Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) Legal Clinic, which is

dedicated to helping the homeless and destitute in the downtown Skid Row area obtain the legal services they are often denied. The law firms rotate responsibility for staffing the clinic each week. Participants so far have included Elaine Liu, Colin MacMillan, and Lyn Diaz.

Additionally, James Gilliam, Adam Cherensky and Lyn Diaz have also signed up to become supervisors for Public Counsel's General Relief Advocacy Project (GRAP). GRAP is an on-site legal advocacy program in multiple offices of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) where volunteer attorneys and law students assist clients with shelter, food, health, transportation and other social service needs. The supervisors meet with and supervise four to 10 volunteer students from area law schools at various DPSS offices to advocate on behalf of clients.

Lawyers also continue to participate in the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Homeless Court, where attorneys make an appearance with a homeless client who is having his or her warrants for lifestyle offenses such as jaywalking or loitering dismissed, to help these clients get their lives back on track. The Homeless Court only dismisses warrants arising from non-violent, relatively minor offenses in Los Angeles County. The clients are required to have participated in a rehabilitative program for at least 90 days, and to have gone at least six months without receiving any tickets. Past participants have included Jamie Broder, Adam Cherensky, John Chi, Peter Cho, Lyn Diaz, Jeff Diener, Evan Fieldman, James Gilliam, John Giovannone, Gayle Goldman, Liz Hanks, Dan Heaton, Nicole Herter, Elaine Liu, Shane Loomis, Colin MacMillan, Susan Spira, and Amanda Steele.

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## MILAN

### **FIRM WORKING TO AID EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**

Abruzzo, located in the central region of Italy, was recently devastated by a severe earthquake that left more than 200 people dead and the entire capital city of L'Aquila ravaged. Team member Bernadette Accili was born in L'Aquila and has numerous family members and friends who were impacted by the earthquake.

After watching her family and friends have their lives turned upside down because of this tragedy, Accili is spearheading a *pro bono* effort designed to help the Municipality of L'Aquila. Accili and other team members will work with L'Aquila's mayor in the legal aspects related to donations (currently most of the donations for the population affected by the quake come from the United States) and their subsequent use in the reconstruction phase.

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## NEW YORK

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Pro Bono &  
Community  
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SAGE is the nation's largest and oldest organization dedicated to serving and advocating for GLBT older adults. The organization acts as the "safety net" for GLBT older adults who not only face the typical challenges of aging, but also confront marginalization and discrimination around their sexual orientation and gender identity.

On April 16, SAGE offered a series of advanced directive legal clinics as part of National Health Care Decision Day. National Health Care Decision Day is a 50-state annual initiative that aims to provide (free of charge) essential information to older adults regarding the necessity of advanced directives as well as the opportunity for senior citizens across the nation to complete and file their own advanced directives. For GLBT older adults, advanced directives are essential to ensuring that their personal healthcare choices and wishes are respected and carried out. Unfortunately, in SAGE's experience, too many of their constituents do not have these legal protections in place and often do not have the financial means to access legal counsel.

Over the course of the day, SAGE held clinics in Greenwich Village, Harlem, Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx (their goal is to attract 20-30 participants to each clinic). Each two-hour clinic consists of two parts: 1) an educational component on the importance and scope of Health Care Proxies, Powers of Attorney, and Living Wills; and 2) individual sessions where SAGE constituents filled out and filed advanced directives. The New York office was asked to provide three to five people (lawyers, paralegals or other support staff) with the ability to notarize documents to assist attendees in completing necessary paperwork.

**LAWYERS ASSIST UNREPRESENTED LANDLORDS AND TENANTS**

The office is participating in the Volunteer Lawyers for the Day Project sponsored by the Civil Court of the City of New York. Teams of volunteer attorneys will help unrepresented landlords and tenants in non-payment proceedings in the courtroom by negotiating settlements. A total of 49 attorneys participated in the court-sponsored training program held in our offices.



## **DUO COORDINATING EFFORTS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Team members are working with Habitat for Humanity and will be representing Habitat's designees in purchasing affordable housing units from Habitat and in obtaining institutional financing for their acquisitions. Jill Ames and Jonathan Suk are working on this matter.

## **LAWYERS ALLIANCE HELPS YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

As a volunteer with Lawyers Alliance, Amy Curry assisted Young Women's Leadership Network (YWLN) with a name change, a certificate of assumed name, multiple state charitable solicitation research and registrations and tax exemption filings. Following its geographic expansion, YWLN approached Lawyers Alliance in November 2008 for legal assistance in connection with a name change for the organization and the expansion of its CollegeBound program. Amy provided advice and assistance to YWLN concerning the research and corporate filings necessary. Her efforts helped YWLN create the structure necessary for continued growth. YWLN is now able to serve the students in multiple districts more effectively.

Founded in 1998, YWLN creates college access and readiness for inner-city youth through two programs: The Young Women's Leadership Schools, a network of all-girls public schools, and CollegeBound Initiative (CBI), a comprehensive college counseling service that guides students in grades 6-12 through the college application process. The first Young Women's Leadership School opened in East Harlem in 1996 and was the first single-sex public school to open in the nation in 25 years. There are currently five Young Women's Leadership Schools in New York City and Philadelphia and ten CBI schools in New York City, Philadelphia, and New Haven, CT.

The New York office's Women's Group has become involved with YWLN, volunteering at the schools' Career Days and providing a presentation to associates in the office. The group is exploring opportunities for future volunteer events, legal work and programs for their summer associates. Amy says, "This is a very high-profile organization, and I think this can be a great relationship for the firm."

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## ORANGE COUNTY

### **OFFICE HELPS PUBLIC LAW CENTER (PLC) ASSIST LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS**

Every winter, space at California National Guard Armories usually used for training and storage purposes is opened up to members of the community so that they can have a hot meal and a warm place to sleep. The Orange County Public Law Center, a non-profit public interest law firm that serves low-income Orange County residents, operates clinics to help these individuals with a wide range of legal problems. Attorneys support these clinics so that these individuals have greater access to the legal system and the social safety net.

One such individual, whose name is changed to protect his confidentiality, was Juan Miguel Flores. Juan is a middle-aged immigrant with very limited English skills who needed help dealing with his Type 1 diabetes. Lacking the means to purchase insulin, Juan suffers from hypoglycemia and passed out on several occasions. When he would pass out, he was taken to a local hospital and refused insulin by hospital staff.

Associate John de Leon helped Juan by explaining that private hospitals were only legally required to treat individuals who would otherwise die without treatment. Thus, Juan would only be provided the necessary treatment at an Orange County Public Hospital. Juan was provided with the names and addresses of each hospital along with directions to several hospitals from the Armory. After further conversation with Juan, de Leon also realized that he might qualify for several other social services and provided him with the names and addresses of public social service agencies and nonprofit groups who could assist him.

This winter, with the help of approximately 100 volunteers, the PLC served 288 individuals, like Juan, who suffered from problems related to their extreme poverty. While the Armory shelters are closed for the season and typically run from December to April, attorneys like de Leon are still looking to help serve these people by volunteering at the Public Law Center's legal clinics in Costa Mesa once a week.

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## SAN DIEGO

### **PAIR ASSISTS SOMALI CITIZEN WITH ASYLUM APPLICATION**

Ericka Jacobs Schulz and Christian Platt successfully represented a 21-year-old Somali citizen in his application for asylum in the U.S. before the San Diego Court of Immigration. The client, who fled his home country to escape persecution in 2008, is a member of the Bagadi Clan, a small minority that suffers constant persecution at the hands of the Habir Gedir, a majority clan in Somalia.

After the Habir Gedir kidnapped and tortured the client on several occasions and made several attempts on his life, he fled to the United States to seek safety. The client has been detained at a correction facility located in San Diego since his arrival. Unquestionably, the client was incredibly grateful and happy to win his freedom here in the United States. The U.S. Government will provide him a work permit and financial aid so he can successfully resettle in the United States. The client has reconnected with distant relatives living in New York and plans to join them as soon as possible.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

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D.C.](#)[Resources](#)[Office Contacts:  
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Community  
Committee](#)**ATTORNEYS OBTAIN VICTORY AT CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT FOR *PRO BONO* CLIENT**

Attorneys recently won a significant victory when the California Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the City of Pleasanton from a lower appellate court decision that revived a lawsuit brought by the firm's *pro bono* clients. The firm is representing a Bay Area legal aid organization and a low-income mother in the lawsuit against the City of Pleasanton.

The suit, initially brought in 2006, challenges the city's exclusionary housing and zoning policies, including a voter-approved Housing Cap that prevents the development of family housing in Pleasanton. The suit claims that Pleasanton's Housing Cap violates state law because the city cannot accommodate its share of regional housing requirements without exceeding the cap.


After the trial court granted the city's demurrer, plaintiffs appealed to the California Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal, in a unanimous published decision, found that six of the plaintiffs' eight claims were ripe and timely brought, and reinstated the lawsuit. The City of Pleasanton petitioned the California Supreme Court for review, and the Paul Hastings team, led by Sean Unger and Christopher Mooney, authored the brief in opposition to review. On October 22, 2008, the California Supreme Court denied Pleasanton's petition for review and remanded the case back to the trial court for proceedings on the merits.

Paul Hastings is now representing plaintiffs in the continuing litigation in the trial court.

**LAWYER DEVOTES TIME TO THE SIERRA CLUB**

Sanjay Ranchod, who splits his time between the Atlanta and San Francisco offices, serves on the national board of directors for the Sierra Club, the largest and potentially most influential environmental group in the United States.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is a grass roots organization where the national board members are elected by the membership. Ranchod was elected to the Sierra Club board in 2004 for a six-year term that ends in 2010. He led the Sierra Club's internal diversity council, which was formed in 2006, and advises the board of directors on diversity issues.



The council recently adopted a comprehensive diversity plan and is in the process of securing resources to implement the plan. Pat Gallagher, who is head of the Sierra Club's environmental law program, is a Paul Hastings alumnus, having worked for Peter Weiner (SF), who leads the firm's *pro bono* effort with the Sierra Club.

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Community  
Committee](#)**LAWYERS HELP CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS**

Team members have begun working with volunteers from Morgan Stanley and McKinsey to provide training and other community services to students enrolled in a school for children of migrant workers. The school is located in the Minhang District of Shanghai. Currently there are 20 children of migrant workers enrolled in this program and 16 volunteers from Morgan Stanley and McKinsey are working with them. Shanghai team members participating in this effort include Richard Qiang and Chris Zhang.

**TEAM ASSISTING MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN CHINA**

China has a huge migrant community that mostly comes from poverty-ridden backgrounds, with many of them working in hard labor or blue collar jobs, often with little social support or access to education, healthcare and other basic necessities. Caroline Watson, a Hong Kong-born British national, single-handedly set up Hua Dan in 2004 as a charitable organization in Hong Kong, with the sole purpose of helping migrant women and children in China who often accompany a husband or father working in a factory or construction project in a distant location.

Many of these women and children are unable to obtain legal work or attend local schools because of their inability to register with the authorities. In 2008, team members worked with Hua Dan on a *pro bono* basis to assist it in extending its activities in China through the establishment of a legal entity.

Hua Dan's lack of a legal presence in mainland China is an obstacle to achieving its goal of reaching out to more migrant women and children to help them seek a better life. Being a charitable organization, and given the strict and rigid regulatory regime for non-profit organizations in China, Hua Dan faces a huge stumbling block in its establishment plans. Paul Hastings' non-profit practice team assisted Hua Dan in a *pro bono* effort to help it establish a legal presence in China and helped structure various viable avenues for it to set up a legal entity in China, from which it can continue to create access to its projects from rural or remote villages in China.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Committee](#)**LAWYERS ESTABLISH MENTORING PROGRAM**

Team members have helped to establish a mentoring program for Political Science graduates at Penn State University who are seeking advice on professional careers and course selection. Two students, who were mentored by Washington, D.C. member Bill DeGrandis, attended and graduated from law school. The team also helps advise on policy issues and faculty appointments and awards the contributions of our more distinguished graduates, including a current SEC commissioner.

**TEAM MEMBER COORDINATES PRO BONO EFFORTS FOR THE ENERGY BAR ASSOCIATION (EBA)**

Bill DeGrandis serves as a Board Member Liaison and Member of the Energy Bar Association's (EBA) Pro Bono Committee. DeGrandis helps to coordinate the *pro bono* activities for EBA's members.

DeGrandis recently helped lead the efforts to find a firm to prepare the energy regulatory structure for the country of Yemen as a *pro bono* project. He also helps steer those who request *pro bono* legal services in the energy area to firms or organizations that can help. DeGrandis became a Board Member in the fall and will be devoting more time to this Pro Bono Committee in 2009.

**LAWYERS REPRESENT PRO BONO CLIENT IN DEPORTATION CASE**

Steve Kinnaird, Alex Lyon, Scott Carlton, Mitch Mosvick, Beth Stevens, Leann Rosnick and Adam Cherensky are now working on a merits brief for the *Padilla v. Kentucky* case, in which the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in February.

The firm represents the Petitioner, a permanent resident who served in the U.S. military in Vietnam, who pleaded guilty to a felony drug trafficking offense after being advised by his defense counsel that he was not at risk of deportation. Post-conviction relief was sought on the grounds that Petitioner was denied effective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment due to his counsel's erroneous legal advice regarding deportation.

The Kentucky Supreme Court held that criminal defense counsel have no duty to advise their clients of consequences of a guilty plea that are "collateral" to the conviction, and therefore even misadvice about deportation could not ground

a Sixth Amendment ineffective assistance claim. The issue to be addressed in the merits brief is whether the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of effective assistance of counsel requires an attorney to advise a non-citizen that pleading guilty to an aggravated felony will trigger mandatory, automatic deportation, and, if misadvised about deportation, whether misadvice amounts to ineffective assistance of counsel.

Associates have also been supervising research by the University of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, which is partnering with Paul Hastings for the Clinic's first case in *Padilla*.

The merits brief will be submitted in late May, and the U.S. Supreme Court will hear argument from Steve Kinnaird in October 2009.

### **LAWYER TO HOST THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST GENERAL ASYLUM TRAINING**

Raquel Bierzwinsky hosted the Human Rights First General Asylum training for *pro bono* attorneys on April 30th.

Bierzwinsky also extended an invitation to Rod Boggs, Executive Director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (WLCCR), to make a presentation as part of the annual *pro bono* recognition luncheon. This opportunity came at the suggestion of Steve Kinnaird, who is a WLCCR board member.

Once the summer associates arrive, a luncheon presentation will be planned with the Humane Society as well. Junior associates have expressed interest in taking Humane Society cases, and the Humane Society is open to making referrals.

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