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CHAIR'S CORNER



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

Welcome to the current issue of *Pro Bono News*.

As we begin a new year, Paul Hastings remains committed to providing free legal services and volunteer hours to individuals and community organizations. Our *pro bono* and community commitments serve as the foundation of our firm's operating principles and play a key role in our ranking as #10 on *The American Lawyer's* A-List of the 20 most successful law firms in America.

In addition, in December 2010, the firm received the prestigious recognition of ranking among the Top Five Law Firms and a "Stand Out" for the firm's *pro bono* representation from *Financial Times US Innovative Lawyers Report*. We are proud of this honor.

While we are proud of our *pro bono* accomplishments and rankings, we are most appreciative of the global commitment by our attorneys and staff to serving their communities. We look forward to your continued participation in our *pro bono* and community program and to another exciting year of high-profile *pro bono* cases, award-winning volunteer projects, and excellence in community service.

Best regards,



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SPECIAL FEATURES

Paul Hastings Receives Top Five Law Firm Honor

For the past five years, the *Financial Times* has published its *Financial Times Innovative Lawyers* annual report. The report, which recognizes outstanding achievements of lawyers, law firms and general counsel, has become one of the top legal rankings in Europe.

In the inaugural edition of the *Financial Times US Innovative Lawyers Report*, published in December 2010, Paul Hastings received the prestigious recognition of ranking among the Top Five Law Firms and a "Stand Out" for the firm's *pro bono* representation of Padilla in *Padilla vs. Kentucky* (Supreme Court of the United States, No. 08-651).

2010 LAFLA Pro Bono Service Award Recipient

The Los Angeles office was awarded the "2010 *Pro Bono Service Award*" from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), as the top *pro bono* law firm in Los Angeles in 2010. Greg Nitzkowski, Alexander Lee, Colin MacMillan, and a host of attorneys from the Los Angeles office worked to develop the firm's relationship and *pro bono* representation with LAFLA. Tom O'Brien helped to lead the firm's efforts through his service on the Board of Directors of LAFLA, while Peter Cho and Ryan Trahan serve on LAFLA's Associates Advisory Board.

Eric Joss, Alexander Lee, and Tom O'Brien, with associates Colin MacMillan and Ryan Trahan, worked to create a Paul Hastings' signature project to represent disabled veterans seeking benefits through LAFLA's Bill Smith Homeless Veterans Project. Los Angeles County has one of the largest populations of homeless veterans of any area in the country. The attorneys representing veterans through the Project, in addition to those listed above, are Olivia Marr, Lauren Giovannone, Karen Kiewe, Felicia Davis, and Josh Hill. Congratulations to the entire Los Angeles office on receiving LAFLA's 2010 *Pro Bono Service Award*!



L to R: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas,
Stephen D. Yslas of Northrup Grumman
and Paul Hastings Managing Partner Greg Nitzkowski

DURING THE HOLIDAYS[Chair's Corner](#)[Special Features](#)[During the Holidays](#)[Atlanta](#)[Beijing](#)[Los Angeles](#)[New York](#)[Shanghai](#)[Tokyo](#)[Washington, D.C.](#)[Resources](#)[Pro Bono & Community Committee](#)**Paul Hastings' Upward Bound House Project Was A Huge Success!**

As part of the commitment to CITTI (Community Involvement Twenty-Ten Initiative), 44 members of the Los Angeles office and their families contributed their efforts and solicited donations to help make one less family in Los Angeles homeless through the Upward Bound House. Partners, lawyers, and staff joined together to raise over \$3,000 and transform a bare apartment into a wonderful home for a single mother and her two children. The Paul Hastings team, lead by Upward Bound House Board Member Holly Lake, created a comfortable home for the family, stocked the cabinets with food, provided educational and recreational tools for both children, and also decorated for the holiday season. Thank you all!

The Paul Hastings team included: George Abele, Julia Apodaca, Sheila Aquino, Sharon Bennett, Lisa Brown, Denise Calderon, Adam Cherenisky, Susan Clarke, Tanya Ivory Clay, Ryan Crain, Felicia Davis, Caroline Elkin, Shelly Freedenthal, Irma Gamino, Melinda Gordon, Paul Grossman, Nicole Herter, Christy Hodson, Joanna Honeycutt, Sarah Hughey, Eric Joss, Bob Keane, Karen Kiewe, Holly Lake, Elaine Lee, Mayra Lopez, Sammi Maon, Keisha Montero, Lito Natividad, John Opgenorth, Jeff Osofsky, Bradford Paul, Michael Poulsen, Diamond Romano, Kareen Romano, Starla Romano, Tina Russell, Petrice Ryan, Anya Salehi, Jackie Shaprow, Katie Traxler, Jeff Varga, Lew Welden, and Art Zwickel.

Before**And after!**

Office Adopts Garfield Elementary; Raises Money for the Holidays

In 2010, the D.C. office adopted Garfield Elementary, a Washington, D.C. public school located in Anacostia. Early in the fall semester, the office organized a book drive to benefit Garfield. By working with local businesses and collecting donations from employees, the office helped stock the shelves of Garfield's library.

In November, a number of staff and lawyers helped coach two teams at the D.C. Public School GeoPlunge Tournament. GeoPlunge is an all-day geography competition for teams of 4th to 6th graders held at the American History Museum. During six weeks of coaching and the tournament, two teams of 5th graders had a blast while learning all about U.S. geography.

Also for Garfield Elementary, the D.C. office raised more than \$5,000 via a holiday card fundraiser and a silent auction at the office holiday party. The entire office contributed and artwork created by the students of Garfield Elementary was chosen to be the cover of the office holiday card.



Picture by 1st grader Dejah Wilson

There was an amazing number of donations and great participation in the silent auction. Proceeds from the sale of the cards and the silent auction will go to buying much-needed computers for the school.

Holidays in the Park



Union Station Homeless Services (a *pro bono* client of the firm) has hosted Dinner-in-the-Park on Thanksgiving and Christmas for more than 30 years. The event, called the nation's largest community potluck by the *Los Angeles Times*, brings holiday cheer to people who are homeless, senior citizens, people who are alone on the holidays, and families on limited incomes. Last year, more than 50 Los Angeles office lawyers, staff, and their families who assisted in serving more than 8,500 meals.

These events would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of volunteers. All firm employees, their families, and friends are welcomed to take part in these community efforts.



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ATLANTA

Lawyers Help Holocaust Survivors Obtain Pensions

The Atlanta office has handled many important and gratifying *pro bono* cases, notably assisting Holocaust survivors to obtain pensions from Germany. Over the past couple of months, lawyers have assisted eleven survivors in completing applications for compensation based on their work performed in German-occupied ghettos during the Holocaust. In completing these applications, members of the Atlanta office were humbled by the first-hand accounts of stories that most have only read in history books or seen in movies. As a result, many have gained insight into what it truly means to overcome adversity and have been fulfilled in lasting ways.

Each and every *pro bono* client conveyed stories of heroism, sacrifice, wit, and survival instincts. Many clients became actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta after World War II. Some are still suffering illnesses such as tuberculosis and internal organ damage as a result of the Holocaust. Others lied about their ages to ensure placement in the "good camps." Some actually survived in hiding or managed to escape the camps and survive in the wilderness until the war ended. These amazing stories are endless. The common thread that exists among all of the survivors is the success they achieved in life after the Holocaust as American soldiers, educators, entrepreneurs, and lawyers.

Sarah Perry, Tameka Phillips, Megan Poonolly, Adrienne Smith, and Darcy White assisted on this project, and several other lawyers in the Atlanta office plan to assist with pension applications this year. Lawyers and staff in the Atlanta office are particularly grateful for the experiences of helping Holocaust survivors and the lasting impact it will have on their personal lives and legal careers.

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Lawyers Support Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) is a Washington D.C.-based non-profit organization that supports tobacco control efforts of local organizations and governments in countries around the world through technical assistance and grants. The Beijing office recently advised CTFK on (i) what level of activity (e.g., grants making, hiring consultants, renting office space, etc.) would trigger the need for CTFK to set up a legal presence in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and (ii) particularly, what the legal implications of CTFK's above activities (either individually or collectively) would be if it does not have nor intend to have a legal presence in the PRC.

International non-profit organizations (INPOs) have encountered difficulty registering under existing PRC regulations. Not only does the registration process pose significant barriers, but also INPOs that register successfully face subsequent restrictions on their operations. However, the Beijing office has successfully assisted several INPOs in tailoring a proper structure to register their legal presence in the PRC while meeting INPO tax, employment requirements, funding, organizational structure, and operational needs.

A registered INPO has greater security in terms of both cash flow and fund management. Registration enables nonprofits to open a corporate bank account, which allows unlimited transfer, conversion, and withdrawals of funds. The ability to enter into employment contracts and offer employment benefits is also essential to the daily operations of any organization. Without an on-the-ground presence in the PRC, INPOs are severely limited in carrying out their operations in the PRC. Registration also gives INPOs formal legal status, allowing them to retain local staff and network in the PRC more effectively.

The lawyers who worked on the CTFK matter include David Livdahl and Jolin Song, who are members of the Beijing office international nonprofit organization practice team.

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Lawyers Support Lakewood High School

On December 6, 2010, the Los Angeles office hosted more than 40 students from Lakewood High School in Long Beach, California. Chaired by Daniel Prince, a litigation associate, partners, and associates led four panels discussing the road to becoming a lawyer, life at a law firm, career paths outside of a law firm, and advantages of having a professional career in law.

The students were connected with Paul Hastings through In Legal Color, Inc. (ILC), a not-for-profit organization that was created as a response to the lack of racial and ethnic diversity within America's law schools. ILC's mission is to increase law school diversity by providing inspiration, information, and support to prospective law students of color. To accomplish its mission, ILC proactively seeks and engages high school and college students of color nationwide, educating them about law school and the legal profession.

Lawyers who served as panelists included Kai Bartolomeo, Jamie Broder, Adam Cherenksy, Evan Fieldman, Thomas O'Brien, Bradford Paul, and Daniel Prince.

Groundbreaking Asylum Case Referred from Public Counsel

The asylum applicant is a Honduran-born woman who was subjected to horrific abuse and violence by her domestic partner. This woman fled to the United States in an attempt to give her and her young daughter a chance for a new life.

Paul Hastings argued that the applicant deserved asylum on account of her membership in a particular social group, women who are viewed as property due to their position within a domestic relationship. Significantly, there is currently no dispositive case law or regulation recognizing domestic violence as a basis for asylum.

The firm's team submitted a 540-page pre-hearing brief, including declarations from the applicant and her neighbors and mother in Honduras, three medical/psychological expert reports (all of which were provided on a *pro bono* basis), and reports on country conditions in Honduras. The team was assisted by materials from the Hastings Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, a leading organization that services women asylum-seekers fleeing gender-related harm, among others.

Following a merits hearing in the Los Angeles Immigration Court, the Judge granted asylum to the woman and her daughter. In so doing, the Judge graciously acknowledged the tremendous amount of effective *pro bono* work Paul Hastings lawyers dedicated to this matter. The team included Eric Joss, Hussain Kadouh, Susan Sabogal, and Lisa Tran.

Emancipation Petition

Jamie Broder and Nick Begakis from the Los Angeles office successfully represented a 17 year old girl (A.O.) in an emancipation of minor proceeding. A.O., an upbeat, courteous, and intelligent self-starter, was living on her own with no responsible parent or legal guardian. A.O.'s situation and need for emancipation was particularly urgent given her inability to enroll in high school or rent her own apartment. The Paul Hastings team worked quickly, together with A.O., to prepare a successful emancipation petition.

During the emancipation hearing in August 2010, Begakis presented testimony from A.O., two of A.O.'s teachers, her varsity softball coach, the executive director of the Alliance for Children's Rights, and A.O.'s personal mentor, and persuasively argued the case. Ultimately, the Court granted

the petition and entered an Order of Emancipation the same day. As a result of Paul Hastings' successful representation of this client, she is now completing her senior year of high school and applying to colleges for next year, all in addition to holding down a full-time job. She was a featured client and presenter at the Public Counsel Board Retreat.

Victories in Traffic Court Continue for Homeless Clients

In 2010, a team of Paul Hastings lawyers represented homeless clients in traffic court cases in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. These cases have typically involved criminal charges against our homeless clients for "jaywalking" or "littering," but have also sometimes included criminal charges against them for their failure to appear in court with respect to the underlying charges.

The team has devoted significant time and effort to representing these homeless persons at their arraignments on these charges and in subsequent trials. Indeed, many team members have handled multiple cases.

Since July 2010, the team has completed approximately 45 cases on behalf of our homeless clients. More than 30 of these cases have resulted in trial wins, dismissals, or suspended sentences (i.e., no fines or fees imposed against our clients). Indeed, from mid-November to mid-December, the team had a streak of 13 consecutive victories. The team has consistently provided outstanding legal representation and gained valuable court experience throughout. In fact, the Superior Court judge presiding over many of these trials specifically commented that he appreciated our commitment and the extraordinarily high quality of advocacy of the Paul Hastings lawyers appearing before him in these cases.

The team has included Kai Bartolomeo, Adam Cherensky, Jay Chiu, Noam Glick, Nicole Herter, Colin MacMillan, Maggie Mouradian, Johnny O'Kane, Jeff Osofsky, Patty Rhoads, Carrie Richey, Adam Schneir, Adam Sevell, Geoff Stover, Steve Turanchik, Jeff Varga, Katy Wanner, and Peter Wied. A group of the firm's new lawyers has also recently joined the team, including Phil Lebel, Colby Mills, Jen Morra, Mario Ortega, and Bradford Paul.

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Lawyers Aid Mother-Son Holiday Reunion

Having handled more than 40 cases in the past three years, the New York office continues to achieve positive results on behalf of its Sanctuary for Families (SFF) clients.



Most recently, associates Daniel Blaser, Leslie Kersey, and Leslie Rosen helped reunite a mother and her 11-year old son, who had not seen each other in seven years. The team applied for U-Visas for both "Kay" and her son "Ray," who was living in Costa Rica, in March 2008. Finally, in November, Ray was granted permission by the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, to enter the United States and reunite with his mother.

In December 2010, a tearful reunion took place at Newark Airport. Kay had last seen Ray when he was just four years old. Mother and son are now at home in Brooklyn where, as of this writing, Ray was playing with his younger brother and sister who he met for the first time last night. Kay said that this was the best Christmas present she has ever received, and Ray reported looking forward to decorating his first American Christmas tree.

Our team of lawyers and paralegals working on Sanctuary for Families cases are hopeful that this will be the first of many family reunifications. Dan Blaser has been coordinating our partnership with SFF for several years and has been recognized by the organization for his efforts.

The Acumen Fund and Uganda

A team of lawyers from the corporate and finance and restructuring groups assisted Acumen Fund Inc. in its participation in a micro-finance working capital facility in an amount of up to \$1.4 million made to a cotton ginning company in Uganda. The facility will enable the company to purchase 4,000 metric tons of cotton from 2,500 organic farmers and 30,000 conventional farmers during this harvest season, creating a consistent market for cotton farmers in the Gulu and Amuru districts of Northern Uganda.

Farmers in the Gulu and Amuru districts have not been able to tend their land or engage in market-based economic activity during the past decade because of warfare between the Lord's Resistance Army and the National Resistance Movement, which has resulted in the relocation of much of the population to internally displaced people's camps. In the past two years, farmers have begun leaving such camps and returning to their land and have re-established food crops, but have needed a reliable cash crop to enable them to meet basic economic needs.



The company provides cotton seed to farmers, trains farmers in organic agronomic methods (such as timing of planting, spacing, thinning, weeding, organic pesticide production from local plants and application methods, harvesting and storage) and then purchases seed cotton from the farmers. Organic farmers receive a 20% premium on the price of conventional cotton.



After the company purchases the seed cotton, the company gins the cotton, sells the lint to international cotton merchants and sells the by-products, such as cottonseed oil, locally. The company is also seeking to introduce sesame as a rotational crop to restore nutrients to the soil that are depleted by the cotton. Sesame is grown in the first rainy season while cotton is grown in the second.

Acumen has been very appreciative of Paul Hastings lawyers' assistance in this transaction. The team consisted of Barry Brooks, Michael Cormack, Matthew Donaher, Christopher Fong, Gannon Hessmiller, and Mario Ippolito.

Lawyers Win Motion for Disabled Minor

In an Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) case, a team of Paul Hastings lawyers recently won a motion for pendency for our client, a severely disabled five-year-old girl who is non-verbal, non-ambulatory, and has suffered daily, potentially life-threatening seizures since she was an infant. Over her parents' objections, and despite the fact that she had previously been provided with one-to-one nursing services throughout the school day, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) unilaterally decided to stop the nursing services and provide our *pro bono* client only with a health paraprofessional, who lacked the proper training to care adequately for her.

Our team filed a request for an impartial hearing and pendency, secured an expedited pendency hearing, and successfully argued that our client was entitled to a one-to-one registered nurse throughout the school day pending the resolution of her claim. An impartial hearing is scheduled for February 2011, and it is expected that a pre-hearing resolution meeting will be conducted within the next several weeks.

The Paul Hastings team includes Anthony Antonelli, Joshua Bennett, Anat Grosfeld, Anthony Michael, Preston Ratliff, and Matthew Rivera.

Adoption/Guardianship/Custody Project

Keith Marlowe and Brad Young initiated a project for the firm to take on adoption, custody, and guardianship cases from MFY Legal Services, and have been successful in two cases so far. They are looking to expand the project in the coming year, and several lawyers are now working on matters. One of the cases was particularly compelling. We were retained by Anita in April 2010 to obtain legal guardianship of her two grandchildren.

Anita's daughter was murdered by her boyfriend in February 2010. Tragically, the murder took place in an apartment that Anita shared with her daughter, and one of the children was a witness. Anita detained her daughter's boyfriend until the police arrived. He is currently facing first degree murder charges.

Anita cared for her grandchildren as if they were her own children. With her daughter deceased, the children had no one else to turn to but their grandmother. The biological father has been in and out of prison for much of the children's lives. In September, an order of Permanent Guardianship was successfully obtained from the Kings County Family Court.

The result is noteworthy as permanent guardianship is an enhanced level of guardianship that all but guarantees that Anita will have guardianship of her grandchildren until each turns 18, regardless of whether their biological father attempts to re-enter their lives.

Lawyers Help Bronx Seniors

Joshua Bennett handled a matter for an elderly couple in the Bronx who had received a subrogation demand letter from an insurance company. The company was claiming damages in connection with a grease fire that occurred in our clients' apartment and that allegedly caused smoke damage to another apartment in the building. In response, Joshua made several discovery requests seeking, among other things, the relevant insurance policies and F.D.N.Y. incident reports. After a careful review of these materials, he made a compelling pitch and successfully convinced the company to drop its claim against our clients in its entirety.

Charlene Sun represented a very elderly woman who was repeatedly sued and harassed by her slumlord landlord and his less-than-ethical attorney. Charlene met with her client several times, prepared court papers, and eventually successfully argued in court for dismissal of the complaint. Housing court in New York City is not for the meek, and should the landlord decide to bring another action, Charlene will step back into the ring.

Firm Supports Kids In Need of Defense

Many lawyers in the New York office are involved with cases for KIND (Kids In Need of Defense), which seeks to secure counsel for the many thousands of children who are trafficked into this country and have no right to an attorney in removal proceedings.

Dan Blaser and Bill Novomisle coordinate our firm's efforts in New York, where we have partnered with the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), which has representation on every team. Jamie Broder (Los Angeles) was recently nominated to serve on the KIND board of directors.

A few of the recent highlights include:

One team has been tasked with an exceptionally complex case involving a mother and three very different-minded teenage daughters from El Salvador. The team consists of Mary Jane Artese, Marc Bernstein, Deb Hryb, Marcia Persaud, Shezhad Siddiqui, Chen Zhu, and Virginia Morgades from RBC.

Monica Debiak, a firm alumnus, who is now with Diageo, continues to play a vital role in this matter, as does Jessica Gonzalez. Our *pro bono* client and her daughters suffered repeated abuses from the girls' father, who attacked them with tools and cables. She fled to New York and eventually saved enough money to bring her daughters here.

Our team has worked hard on multiple fronts to ensure that they can stay together in this country. The team has appeared many times in family court and immigration proceedings, has submitted U-Visa petitions and derivative applications, and has filed asylum applications.

Another Paul Hastings team has, for the past year and a half, represented a 16-year-old boy from Ecuador in his application for asylum. When our client was a young child, his parents moved to the United States and left him in the care of his grandparents. He suffered severe abuse at the hands of his grandfather, and at age 14, he left for the U.S. but was apprehended at the border.

The team, led by Kevin Broughel, Brendan Goodhouse, Lindsey Syrok (with assistance from Sarah Burrows, Jessica Gonzalez, and Steven Trigg), and Helena Han from RBC, prepared our client's asylum application, along with supporting briefs and expert affidavits. In September 2010, the New York Immigration Court heard our client's case in an individual hearing, where Brendan took client testimony and interviewed two expert witnesses. We expect a decision in early 2011.

Finally, Peter Calatozzo, Don Chiano, Bill Novomisle, Eric Schwitzer, and Peter Van Maur from RBC represent two young brothers who came here from Ecuador. The boys' parents came to the U.S. five years before the boys were trafficked in 2008. The boys, however, were detained at the border. Because they suffered poor treatment and abuse with their extended family and gang recruitment — and because their parents are here — the boys wish to stay in this country with their parents and live as a family. The team is planning to pursue applications for asylum on their behalf.

Firm Maintains Multi-Year Partnership with Secondary School for Law



Gerd Alexander heads up our now seven-year partnership with the Secondary School for Law, a public high school in Brooklyn. Gerd was the "Principal for a Day" recently and led a team of lawyers (including Angela Ni and Robert Walker, and Jessica Bollinger from Attorney Recruiting and Development) to the school to teach about the First Amendment.

In early December, Gerd worked with Kurt Hansson, Robert Walker, and Rachel Santoro to plan a very successful visit to Bassick High School in Bridgeport Connecticut, in partnership with eight lawyers from General Electric (GE), to teach three classes of 10th and 11th grade students. The firm will continue to partner with GE in Bridgeport and is planning to expand the program into Norwalk, Connecticut, public schools.

City Bar Justice Center Bankruptcy Project

Paul Hastings has recently started participating in the New York City Bar Justice Center's Consumer Bankruptcy Project, where *pro bono* volunteers advise low-income individuals on their rights regarding their debts and assist in the preparation of voluntary bankruptcy petitions. Following an in-house training at the firm, two groups of lawyers met with clients at clinics held at the New York City Bar Association. This is the first time that the New York City Bar has hosted volunteers from a single firm at a Consumer Bankruptcy Project clinic. The lawyers participating so far are James Grogan, Dan Hughes, Bryan Kaplan, Owen Keough, Steven Trigg, and Mor Wetzler.

Bet Tzedek/ZRBG Holocaust Reparations Project

Bryan Kaplan and Anat Grosfeld are heading up the firm's efforts in New York for this initiative, which is aimed at helping survivors of the Holocaust obtain ZRBG, a pension distributed by the German government to survivors who performed "voluntary" work in Nazi-controlled ghettos. Bryan and Anat coordinated a training which was very well attended and have secured our first few cases already. We look forward to continuing this critically important work for these very deserving people.

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SHANGHAI

Firm Lawyers Provide *Pro Bono* Counsel to Several Organizations

The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Shanghai and Beijing employment team continues to assist The Nature Conservancy, International Bridges to Justice, and the Natural Resources Defense Council on a wide array of employment issues in the PRC.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization that has protected more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide. International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) is a non-profit and non-governmental organization that seeks to protect due process and achieve fair trials for people accused of crimes around the world. The Natural Resources Defense Council works to protect Earth's "wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things."

Paul Hastings team members that support these *pro bono* projects include Lesli Ligorner, Katherine Liu, and Helen Tang.

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Lawyer Elected to Boards of Community Organizations



Ted Johnson has been appointed to the Board of Governors of Hands on Tokyo (HOT). HOT organizes volunteer events and is part of the global Hands On network. The firm has been active in providing legal services to HOT and volunteers for events.

Ted was also recently appointed to the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas University, Japan, a Catholic University located near Osaka with a student body of approximately 1,000 students.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

PBCC Chair Plays Lead Role with Smithsonian Museum

Pro Bono and Community Committee Chair Barbara Johnson supports the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C. In January 2010, the Museum established the Sanaa Circle to broaden its base of support, and invited Ms. Johnson to serve as a member. "Sanaa" is the word for "art" in certain dialects of Swahili.

In October, the firm and the Museum's Sanaa Circle co-hosted a reception in Santa Monica, California, to honor Museum Director Dr. Johnnetta Cole, president emerita of Spelman College and founding director of The Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity & Inclusion Institute at Bennett College for Women. Dr. Cole's 21st-century vision for the Museum includes increased involvement of partners from the legal and business communities, and Paul Hastings is proud to be a sponsor of the National Museum of African Art and its mission.



Guest Larry Frazier and host Barbara Johnson
M Hanks Gallery in Santa Monica, CA

Lawyers Assist Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Our Washington, D.C. office continues its work with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), this time via Candice Castaneda's work for the group. A non-profit organization in Maryland, ESLC requested the firm's assistance in gaining a better understanding of their lobbying limits and obligations under Treasury Regulations and Maryland law. ESLC's mission is to preserve and sustain the communities of the Eastern Shore of Maryland (and the lands and waters that connect them) by promoting sound land-use planning.

As part of these efforts, ESLC is active in attempting to influence land use plans and zoning board actions, and it interacts with the Maryland legislature and executive branch. ESLC requested guidance on (i) what forms of advocacy are not lobbying, (ii) when research is considered a lobbying expenditure, and (iii) whether attempting to influence zoning board actions is lobbying. In response to our memorandum, ESLC wrote, "Your research will help us do our work more effectively and with more confidence."

Office Raises Money for Charitable Organizations

Our office has also helped a number of fundraisers for local and national charities, including: collecting clothes for the homeless population of D.C.; raising funds for the D.C. Bar *Pro Bono* Foundation; supported Dress for Success, an organization that provides interview suits, confidence boosts, and career development to low-income women; raised funds for Pakistani flood relief; hosted a jeans day fundraiser for Calvary Women's Services which provides housing and support for homeless women; and collected toys for our Annual Toys-for-Tots campaign.

Grant of Asylum for *Pro Bono* Client

Jeff Allmon and Jennifer Shea successfully presented a case for a grant of asylum for their client, an Eritrean woman, before the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review, Judge Phillip T. Williams. The case involved a year's worth of work advocating their client's asylum before both the EOIR and the USCIS Asylum Office in Arlington, Virginia, securing her work authorization, and contending with DHS legal counsel. The client suffered years of political and religious persecution in her native home of Eritrea before escaping to the United States in 2009. She is now relieved that she can finally begin her life freely in the United States.

Firm Collaborates with Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project; Wins Appellate Victory for *Pro Bono* Client

Our Washington, D.C. office recently obtained an appellate victory for a *pro bono* client in the D.C. Court of Appeals. After experiencing repeated incidents of domestic violence, our client sought a Civil Protective Order against her attacker. The D.C. Superior Court judge denied the request on the grounds that our client provoked the attack. The judge based his ruling, in part, on purported testimony by the respondent; the respondent (who represented himself) did not, however, take the witness stand.

The Court of Appeals reversed, holding that the trial judge abused his discretion by relying on "testimony" that did not actually exist. The Court of Appeals also suggested that the trial judge's analysis was incorrect on the merits as well.

Chuck Patrizia and Igor Timofeyev worked on this appeal. The appeal was our first collaboration with the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, who served as our co-counsel on the appeal.

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