

# ProBonoNews

Paul Hastings' Pro Bono and Public Service Newsletter

## A FIRM COMMITMENT



For local offices seeking to provide maximum value to pro bono clients, Atlanta's longstanding and ambitious relationship with Zoo Atlanta should serve as an inspirational model. As the zoo's legal partner, Paul Hastings has helped the historical and educational landmark innovate and improve across many aspects of its operations. Pictured above, Tinley Anderson, Anne Nees, Sam Snider, Kathy Heagney Williams of Zoo Atlanta, Charlie Sharbaugh and Leslie Dent take a moment to pose with some of the zoo's most distinguished residents.

### OFFICE SPOTLIGHT: LOS ANGELES



### ALSO INSIDE:

Chair's Corner  
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Around the Firm  
The Split Summer Pro Bono Program

# Chair's Corner

**Barbara L. Johnson, Chair**  
**Pro Bono & Community Committee**



The many articles in this issue of *Pro Bono News* clearly demonstrate that Paul Hastings' commitment to pro bono has grown during the first half of the fiscal year. There have been a number of very positive, significant developments, beginning with a new name for our committee. We are no longer the Community Bar Involvement Committee (CBIC). Our new name is the Pro Bono and Community Committee (PBC)—a name that better reflects our purpose and mission.

For the first time, we have an administrative department that will assist us in implementing pro bono and community programs and policies. Anton Mack, Managing Director of Diversity and Global Talent, and Swafia Ames, Manager of Global Diversity and Pro Bono, will help direct the administration of our firmwide pro bono and community initiatives, including community events, sponsorships and internal communications.

One of the concerns raised by those who worked on pro bono litigation matters is that the firm had not allocated resources to cover expenses associated with litigation—such as the costs of depositions and expert witness fees. This year, for the first time, we have a sizeable budget set aside to cover these types of expenses, and, as a result, we are positioned to handle very high-profile pro bono litigation.

With the arrival of many new associates in our class of 2006, we are working to ensure that they have thorough training on the pro bono and community involvement activities available in each office. The best way to involve our new associates with the firm's culture of giving back is to provide them with the best possible resources to enable them to get started.

Recently, the firm signed on to the Pro Bono Challenge—a pledge to encourage attorneys within the firm to devote at least 60 hours per year to pro bono matters. We expect that it will take us a few years to realize that goal, but I am very excited that the firm has taken this important step. As you read through this issue of *Pro Bono News*, I hope you are inspired to do more than ever before to help the firm meet our commitment to the Pro Bono Challenge as we provide legal services to those individuals and organizations that need us most.

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# Office Spotlight: Los Angeles

Led by **James Gilliam**'s dedication to community service, Paul Hastings attorneys and staff in Los Angeles have teamed with local organizations to make lasting positive impacts on their community. Run for Justice, a fundraiser to assist longtime nonprofit partner Public Counsel ([www.publiccounsel.org](http://www.publiccounsel.org)), illustrates the office's deep involvement in its immediate community as well as its ongoing commitment to individual organizations. Needless to say, the firm maintains strong roots in the region where it was founded. During this summer's annual giving campaign at UCLA, all 48 Paul Hastings attorneys who are UCLA alumni made contributions to the law school, showing a special appreciation for the local institution that helped them to achieve their career goals.

## Paul Hastings Assists Local Nonprofit Organization with Nation's First Publicly Funded AIDS Memorial

**Dino Barajas, James Gilliam** and **Miguel Sanqui** recently assisted the Wall Las Memorias Project ([www.thewallasmemorias.org](http://www.thewallasmemorias.org)), a nonprofit AIDS service organization in Los Angeles, by mediating on the organization's behalf a claim brought by a construction contractor.

The organization hired the construction company to assist it with building the nation's first publicly-funded AIDS memorial, which was built to pay tribute to the



lives of the many individuals from the Los Angeles Latino/Latina community who have died as a result of complications relating to HIV or AIDS. Despite failing to adequately and fully complete the work for which it was retained, the contractor attempted to collect the full value of the contract from the Project. The team from Paul Hastings successfully mediated the case for approximately 25% of what the contractor was initially seeking, thereby saving this vital organization from possible bankruptcy.

Paul Hastings' relationship with the Wall Las Memorias Project initially began several years ago when **Jim Owens** assisted the Project with a number of corporate and privacy issues. Paul Hastings became involved in assisting the Wall Las Memorias with this construction dispute after Dino Barajas and Richard Zaldivar, the organization's executive director, met when both were honored by Union Bank/KCET as "Local Heroes."

## Hard-fought Victory: Big Settlement Result for Inner City Law Center

During the past few years, several attorneys from Paul Hastings have assisted the Inner City Law Center in Los Angeles (<http://www.innercity-law.org>) with a matter it recently settled for well in excess of 6 million dollars against a landlord who refused to fix the uninhabitable and dangerous living conditions present in one of her buildings.

Paul Hastings first became involved in this matter in Fall 2003 and has provided a variety of services to the Law Center since then, including legal research, documenting the unsanitary conditions in the building, interviewing the tenants, assisting with protracted mediation sessions, and defending depositions. **Maria Audero, John Brinsley, Dennis Ellis, James Gilliam, Katherine Frenck Murray** and **Mike Owen** assisted the Law Center with this long-term endeavor. (See also *Pro Bono News*, Fall 2003 and Winter 2004.)

The settlement will be distributed by the Inner City Law Center to the more than 80 families who have lived in the building during the time it has been in disrepair and will be divided among all of them. Criminal charges have been filed against the building owner, and she has been ordered to fix the building with the condition that she not collect rent from tenants until the improvements are completed.



Dino Barajas, James Gilliam and Miguel A. Sanqui helped save the Wall Las Memorias Project from possible bankruptcy. The wall was built to remember those from the Los Angeles Latino/Latina community that have died as a result of AIDs-related illnesses. (Photo courtesy Jennifer Cogan)

# Office Spotlight: Los Angeles

## 660 Hours of Free Legal Services Raised in Run for Justice

Forty-two Paul Hastings employees and their friends participated for the second year in a row in the Run for Justice, a fundraiser to assist Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm. The team won several awards as a result of their participation, including first place for Outstanding Team Participation (for having the largest team of entrants) and third place for Fundraising.

Several individual participants won awards for their performance in the various events, including **Susan Spira**, who won first place for the Fastest Female Marathon time overall; **David Lambert**, who won first place for the Fastest Male 5K time overall; **Mike Lindsey**, who placed first in the 5K for his age group; and **Jamie Broder**, who placed third in the 5K for her age group. **Danielle Colon** and **James Gilliam** served as co-coordinators of the Paul Hastings team entry, whose participants included: **Aldo Baez**, Jamie Broder, **Albert Castillo**, **Jonathan Chang**, **Sally Chuang**, **Marie Clarey**, **Laura Cohen**, Danielle Colon, **Joseph Cook**, **Gabriella Diaz**, **Trisha Elegino**, **Belinda Elias**, **Shelly Freedenthal**, **Rhonda Garrett**, James Gilliam, **Mike**

**Giordano**, **Rosie Haq**, **Nathan Keeter**, **Jesse Klenk**, **David Lambert**, **Mike Lindsey**, **Elvia Monroy**, **Cindy Morgan**, **Jennifer Oliver**, **Michael Perry**, **Jacob Risner**, **Marysol Sanchez**, **Susan Spira**, **Daphne Tam**, **Minette Tayco**, **Jeff Varga**, **Linda Wormely** and **Vicky Yan**.



James Gilliam and Susan Spira (center) display awards presented to the team for Outstanding Participation and Fundraising. They are joined by team members (beginning at left): Vicky Yan, Minette Tayco, Marie Clarey, David Lambert, Mike Lindsey, Jeff Varga, Danielle Colon, Daphne Tam and Laura Cohen.



Members of the Paul Hastings Run for Justice team gather the day of the event. Front row: Valerie Tayco, Jennifer Oliver, Minette Tayco, Daphne Tam, two friends, Michael Perry and Dwight Brassel-Taylor. Back row: Danielle Colon, James Gilliam, Jamie Broder, Jake Risner, Laura Cohen, Jeff Varga and friend.

## Attorneys Assist in Uniting New Families

Several attorneys from the Los Angeles office recently assisted Public Counsel with its Adoptions Day Program by representing eight different families in the adoptions of ten children. The children had previously been under the foster care of Los Angeles County, the largest such system in the country. The attorneys assisted the adoptive families with completing the necessary adoption paperwork, helped the families apply for benefits for the children, and represented the families at the adoption proceedings, thereby providing the lawyers with valuable opportunities to advocate for their clients before administrative agencies and make court appearances.

Paul Hastings' involvement in the project was coordinated by **James Gilliam**, and the following additional attorneys: **Samantha Black**, **K.C. Choi**, **Daniel Prince**, **Jennifer Pucher**, **Jake Risner** and **Greg Shamo**. Daniel Prince obtained over \$14,000 in retroactive benefits for the adoptive family he represented, one of the largest retroactive awards ever obtained through this program. And this is only the beginning: attorneys from Paul Hastings will be participating in the Adoptions Day Project again this fall.

## Ninth Circuit's Pro Bono Program Focuses on Immigration

Several attorneys from Paul Hastings, including **James Gilliam**, **Stephanie Hart** and **Daniel Prince**, are participating in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' Pro Bono Program. The Ninth Circuit created the program to assist with its backlog of pending appeals.

Through the program, the Ninth Circuit appoints attorneys to represent some of the *pro se* litigants who have matters pending before the Court and who appear to have meritorious appeals, but who may need assistance with presenting their arguments. Lawyers who participate in the program are given a rare opportunity to appear before the Ninth Circuit and are typically guaranteed an oral argument before the Court.

All the cases the Ninth Circuit has referred to Paul Hastings thus far have involved immigration issues. For example, James and Stephanie have been representing an individual for his appeal of the Board of Immigration Appeals' denial of his Motion to Reopen his deportation proceedings. That case appears to be close to settling through the Court's mediation program, and it looks as though the client will be permitted to stay in the United States with his wife, who is a U.S. citizen, and their children.

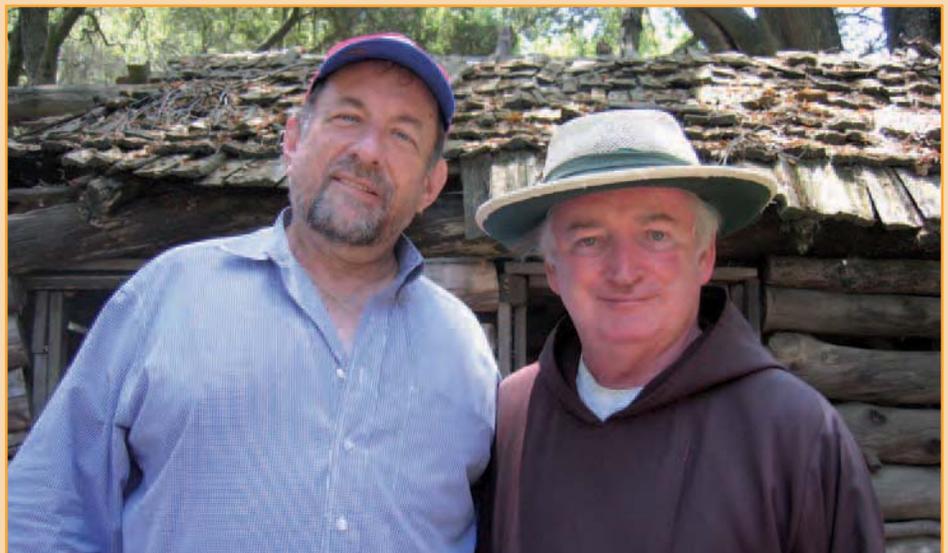
## Picnic at Calamigos Ranch Brings Kids to the Santa Monica Mountains

Hosted by **Bob McMurry** and his church parish with the kind participation of Calamigos Ranch, a picnic was sponsored for children from the Watts Parish of St. Lawrence of Brindisi for a day of swimming and hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains. Bob, who organized the event seven years ago, was inspired by a young woman who remembered the event as one of the highlights of her childhood. Having retained the former day-camper as one of the church's volunteer chaperones for the event, Bob organized the picnic again this year, sharing a day of cowboys, animals and swimming with kids who seldom, if ever, have access to such outdoor activities. More than 100 children, along with supervisors, attended.

Paul Hastings' relationship with St. Lawrence of Brindisi did not end when the children returned home from the picnic. Rather, Paul Hastings continues its involvement with the parish by maintaining a legal assistance program for the benefit

of parishioners, primarily for landlord-tenant issues, for which **Edgar Khalatian** has dedicated much of his time.

Bob McMurry with Father Peter Brand at the Calamigos Ranch. (Photo courtesy Cassi Glisper)





With the Help of  
Loyal Counsel,  
**ZOO**  
Atlanta  
Innovates  
and  
Improves

**F**eaturing a habitat designed to simulate the terrain of Mzima Springs in Africa, Zoo Atlanta is home to three female elephants—Starlet O’Hara, Victoria and Zambezi. Here, Tinley Anderson experiences an up-close and personal encounter with one of the zoo’s most popular attractions.

*(Cover and interior photos of the zoo courtesy Jennifer Hulak.)*

Located in historic Grant Park and minutes from downtown Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta ([www.zooatlanta.org](http://www.zooatlanta.org)) is one of Georgia's most loved institutions. Founded in 1889, it is one of the ten oldest zoos in continuous operation in the United States. Paul Hastings has a long-standing relationship with the zoo and has partnered with it on a variety of pro bono projects over the years during times of change and critical challenges. The Atlanta team servicing Zoo Atlanta is led by **Charlie Sharbaugh**, who is on the board at the zoo where he is Chairman of the Finance Committee and serves on the Executive, Audit and Property Committees. He is also a member of the zoo's Executive Committee.

Paul Hastings attorneys have provided assistance to the zoo in a number of ways, strengthening the firm's bond with this major educational attraction in the Atlanta community.

**Outsourcing.** When Zoo Atlanta recently analyzed the efficiency and quality of its in-house food services and concessions operations, management was intrigued by the possibility of outsourcing this aspect of their business. Turning to its pro bono legal partner, the zoo approached Paul Hastings for assistance in the structuring, negotiation and documentation of its food services and concessions outsourcing arrangements. After the zoo selected an external vendor, the Paul Hastings outsourcing team of **Anne Nees** and **Tinley Anderson** worked with zoo officials to design an appropriate services arrangement. The transaction closed in June, allowing zoo resources to focus more exclusively on education and an-

imal care. Paul Hastings is currently working with Zoo Atlanta on the next phase of its outsourcing plan—the outsourcing of its special events logistical offerings. These projects have afforded a great opportunity for Paul Hastings to leverage the skills of its newly acquired outsourcing group in serving a major local institution.

**Joint Ventures.** Pleased with the service they have received from the Paul Hastings team, the zoo and the Atlanta Botanical Garden recently asked the firm to assist in assembling a joint venture for the rescue and conservation of an endangered frog species in Panama.

**Regulatory/Oversight.** **Sam Snider** wrote an ethics code and whistle-blower policy for the zoo's Board of Directors. This code and policy places the zoo at the cutting edge of conduct codes for not-for-profit organizations in the United States.

**Employment.** The zoo recently experienced a change in key leadership. During this critical time, **Leslie Dent** assisted in the negotiation of the employment contracts of new executives.

**Environmental.** **Lisa Rushton** has handled environmental issues for the zoo, including legal aspects of a former gas station located on zoo expansion property.

**Real Estate.** **Mary Cadden** and Charlie Sharbaugh have handled several real estate acquisitions and dispositions for the zoo. When the zoo recently acquired two pandas (it is one of only four zoos in the United States housing pandas), Mary and Charlie assisted with the purchase of a nearby warehouse to store the pandas' special feeding bamboo and a historic house to serve as a residence for the Chinese veterinarians who care for the pandas.



## Attorneys Join Habitat for Humanity to Build a Home in Downtown Atlanta

Members of the Atlanta office joined Habitat for Humanity ([www.atlanta-habitat.org](http://www.atlanta-habitat.org)) as part of the Buildable Hours program, helping to construct a house on Fremont Street in downtown Atlanta. The project spanned approximately six weeks, with five other local law firms donating their time during weekends. Paul Hastings' volunteers performed the fourth weekend of work on this house, which included finishing the insulation work and installation of the siding, painting the ex-

terior of the house, and building a side porch and ramp. **Don Crawford**, along with **Keith Kodosky** and **Eric Magnus**, organized the outing this year.

Joined by several family members and friends, the Habitat for Humanity crew included **Christine Sisco**, **Rick Ciuca**, **Jeremy Cole**, **Jason Cordon**, **Don Crawford**, **Rachel Eisenstat**, **Ryan Harden**, **Jane Holloway**, **Sean Honeywill**, **Heather James**, **Keith Kodosky**, **Alison Langley**, **Lauren Linder**, **Eric Magnus**, **John Parker**, **Jennifer Smothers**, **Kim Tribble**, **Adriana Varela**, **Scott Weavil** and **Chad Wingate**.



Members of the Paul Hastings Habitat team hard at work: Heather James and Don Crawford at left, John Parker center, and Ryan Harden and Alison Langley at right. (Photos courtesy Eric Magnus)

## Resolution to Life Insurance Policy Dispute Eases Burden on Family

**Don Crawford** recently represented the mother of a deceased man against a life insurance company which erroneously refused to pay her as the designated beneficiary when her son was executed by the State of Georgia last year.

The company, which solicited the client's business as part of a marketing strategy targeting low-income households expected to default on their premiums and lose their coverage, issued an initial policy to the client's son, then solicited and issued policy upgrades at higher premiums for several years. Although her son had supplied the company with truthful information in the policy application and the policy was kept current, the company denied the client's claim upon learning that the beneficiary's son had died by lethal injection.

With Don's help, the matter was resolved with the company paying the client the entire amount due under the policy, in accordance with her son's clear wish that his family receive some compensation in the event that his appeals were unsuccessful.

## Favorable Settlement for Tenant Recoups Mold Losses

As part of the Atlanta office's ongoing commitment to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF, <http://www.avlf.org>), **Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez** and **Donald Crawford** represented

a legal aid client in a mold damage claim, after the client was unable to resolve matters directly with the landlord.

The client had suffered extensive damage to his personal property due to mold exposure in his former apartment, and he sought to recover the cost to replace damaged furniture and for dry-cleaning his entire wardrobe. After filing a lawsuit against the landlord and its corporate parent in Fulton County Magistrate Court, Noelle and Don successfully negotiated a favorable settlement for their client who needed the money to retrieve his belongings from the dry cleaners. **Nathan Coppernoll** conducted the initial intake interview and **Keith Kodosky** and Robert Newcomer provided strategic guidance.

Paul Hastings' attorneys assist the AVLF through Saturday Lawyers, the AVLF's oldest and largest volunteer program, created to respond to diverse legal matters that cannot be addressed by the Foundation's more specific programs.

## Landlord-Tenant Dispute Goes to Trial in Fulton County

Eric Magnus and Melissa Garrett represented a pro bono tenant in a landlord-tenant dispute in Fulton County Magistrate Court. The case proceeded to trial on the plaintiff's claim for her security deposit and the defendant's counterclaim for damages stemming from alleged damage to the property by the tenant. The Magistrate judge held in favor of the Paul Hastings client both on her claim for the security deposit and on the defendant's counterclaim. The judge also awarded the client attorneys' fees.

## Walking for the Sowers Action Charity

In the spring, members of the Hong Kong office and their families participated in a sponsored walk organized by the Young Solicitors Group of the Hong Kong Law Society to raise funds for Sowers Action ([www.sowers.org.hk](http://www.sowers.org.hk)), a Hong Kong-based charity which funds an education development program in mainland China. Some impoverished areas in China have school premises badly in need of repair and Sowers Action raises funds to enable all school-aged children to complete a foundation of education, enhance their teachers' qualifications, and improve conditions for schooling.

The sponsored walk took a scenic route uphill from central Hong Kong to the top of Victoria Peak, one of the highest points on Hong Kong Island, taking nearly two hours to complete. Despite the threat of rain, the event was well attended with more than 400 people participating, including a team of more than 20 from the Paul Hastings Hong Kong office (see picture at right) that included: **Vanessa Chan, Connie Che-**

**ung, Esther Fung, Donna Healy, Chau Ho and family, Larrie Ho, Mark Hwang, Winnie Lai, Eric Lee, Andrew Li, Ling Ling, Chrisie Ma, Esther Mok, Natsuko Ohga, Benny Pang, Candy Pang, Heidi Pang, Nicole Pao, Jocelyn Paray and family, Michelle Shek, Lisa**

**Siu, Steffi Tam, Michelle Taylor, Erika Wan and Fanny Wong.**

The event raised over HK\$550,000, and Paul Hastings' contribution to this amount was HK\$16,500, which will be used to rebuild a primary school in the Sichuan province in mainland China.



# London

## London Office Races for Cure

Led by **Donna Goldsworthy**, the London office participated in the Standard Chartered Great City Race for the organization Breakthrough Breast Cancer ([www.breakthrough.org.uk](http://www.breakthrough.org.uk)). The race was a 5K run that took in several notable city landmarks, including St Paul's Cathedral, Tower 42, and the Bank of England. Runners from the office, pictured at right, included: **Carl Pastars, Donna Goldsworthy, Hanno Wehland, Jacquie Roberts, Jonathan Shenkman, Kathryn Brown, Keith Wilson, Jiten Tank, Leigh Pickering, Linda Fletcher, Luis Morcillo, Mathias Walch, Oli Muldoon, Peter Rebane, Ray Wann, Rebecca Frankel, Robert Abt, Sean Magee, Therese Cater and Yoan Boodhun.**



London continued on page 15

## The Bowery Mission's Women's Center Enjoys Unique Donation

When **Mary Ellen Hancock** found herself in sudden possession of a large quantity of quality fabrics, as well as design patterns and other sewing materials, she thought carefully about who could put the materials—from the estate of her sister, a fashion designer—to the best use. Mary Ellen wanted to find a place that would not only genuinely benefit from the gift but that would also honor the memory of her sister. After researching numerous possibilities, she was at a loss to find a suitable home for the items.

**Ken Friedman** and **Alix Sarubbi** offered a good solution—donate the collection to the Bowery Mission's Women's Center ([www.bowery.org](http://www.bowery.org)). Opening the donation to the rest of the New York office, Ken and Alix worked to raise funding for two sewing machines to accompany the fabrics and patterns. Located in a five-story brownstone, the Bowery Mission's Women's Center can house up to 21 homeless women in seven shared bedrooms. In an effort to break the cycle of homelessness, the nine to 15-month residential program is structured to empower these women with an ideology of self-worth as well as fundamental vocational skills training. Mary Ellen's gift continues Paul Hastings' ongoing charitable relationship with the Bowery Mission. Most recently, the firm coordinated a clothing drive in support of the Men's Center.

## Secretary of the United States Army Honors Marty Edelman at Intrepid

Recently, Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey presented **Marty Edelman** with the Army Exceptional Public Service medal at the Fleet Week Dinner. The dinner was held at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, a longtime pro bono client that, with the help of the firm two years ago, acquired a Concorde from the retired British Airways fleet. (See *PBN*, Winter 2004).

The medal was awarded to Marty in recognition of his many efforts on behalf of military members and their families. A leader of the Fisher House Foundation, Marty has helped construct and operate comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel. He also pioneered the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which has raised \$42 million for families of military personnel who lost their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq and has now raised \$37 million to construct an advanced rehabilitation center at Brooke Army Medical Center to serve critically injured soldiers and veterans. In addition, Marty directed the Project Salute initiative, which brought top entertainers on a special trip to visit U.S. troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar, providing premium entertainment to 50,000 troops serving in harm's way.

## Hands on New York Day Helps Gardens Bloom

Despite the rain and cold, Paul Hastings volunteers showed up at the Edgecombe Ave/Sugar Hill Gardens for the NY Cares Hands On New York Day ([www.nycare.org](http://www.nycare.org)). The volunteers included **Jeanne Marie Boswell**, **Rim Chon**, **Frank D'Agostino**, **Ken Friedman** and his son, **Richard Friedman**, **Alix Sarubbi**, **Susan Wade** and her husband, **Daniel Lam**. The Edgecombe Ave/Sugar Hill Gardens have been struggling for years to be more accessible to the greater community. Previously, both areas were essentially community dumping lots until people began tending the gardens ten years ago. The lead gardener, Nora Cole, has been working with various neighboring buildings and other community members to reclaim these areas and keep them clean.



Legal gardeners: Frank D'Agostino, Daniel Lam, Susan Wade, Jeanne Marie Boswell, Rim Chon and Alix Sarubbi.



This summer, more than 4,200 cyclists rode across Massachusetts in the 27th annual Pan-Massachusetts Challenge (PMC) with the goal of raising money for cancer research and treatment at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC is the nation's original fundraising bike-a-thon and today raises more money than any other athletic fundraising event in the country. It is also the most cost efficient—99 cents of every dollar raised last year went directly to research funding and treatment. Pictured from left: Zachary Schonberger, the son of **Mark Schonberger**, and Norton Wheels team members Steve Moyal, Alan Clarence, Tom Pier, Barry Cole, and **Lesli Ligorner**, before embarking on the 192-mile ride from Sturbridge to Provincetown, Massachusetts. Paul Hastings sponsored the Norton Wheels team. **Brian Moran**, not pictured, also participated in the PMC.

## Attorneys Provide Employment Guidance for Rain Forest Alliance and “Village Banking” Organizations

**Kenji Hosokawa**, together with **Marjorie Culver** and **Erika Collins**, is representing the Rainforest Alliance ([www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org)), a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to protect ecosystems through transformation of land-use practices, business practices and consumer behavior. The attorneys' principal task so far has been to localize employment and consulting agreements as well as handbooks in several Central and South American countries, including Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Bolivia.

The same group has also provided substantial international employment advice for another pro bono client, FINCA International ([www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org)), a nonprofit agency best known for having pioneered the “village banking method,” one of the major microfinancing methods in developing countries. The concept of village banking supports the issuing of small affordable loans to people in developing countries where the money can go towards the immediate development of small businesses and commerce.

Kenji and Marjorie, with Erika supervising, are currently advising FINCA International with respect to its engagement of management personnel, including local and expatriate employees, in Azerbaijan and Guatemala. This client came to the firm after hearing Erika speak about expatriate agreements and international assignments at an ABA meeting in New York. Since that time, Kenji and Marjorie have worked to develop this client relationship and expand their knowledge of Azerbaijani and Guatemalan employment and labor laws.

## Social Security Disability Benefits Won for HIV-Positive Man

**Jacqueline M. Ceurvels** represented a client in a Social Security disability benefits case. The claimant, who was diagnosed with HIV three years ago, had attempted to work after his diagnosis but was unable to continue due to severe anxiety and fatigue (as a result of his many HIV medications). When he applied for Social Security disability benefits the following year, he was denied.

Not giving up, the client requested a review hearing, and Jacqueline volunteered to take on his case. Meeting about once a month for a year, Jacqueline helped the client develop a hearing brief. She worked with his physicians and psychiatrists to get his complete records, obtaining updated evaluations of his condition. In the final weeks leading up to his hearing, they put together a pre-hearing brief to send to the administrative law judge (ALJ) in order to educate him about the claimant's case and to explain why the denial of his benefits was in error. The day before the client's hearing, the ALJ called Jacqueline to tell her that he was deciding in favor of the claimant, based on what had already been submitted. The hearing was canceled, and the client was awarded benefits.

## Walk Raises Awareness and Critical Funds



Members of Paul Hastings' San Francisco walking team, beginning in the front row—Carol Schrader, Dalia Rom, Emilie Medalle-Alcantara, Mauricette Kaman, Laretta Adams, Nicole Farrar, Anita Baker, Andy Murray and Myke Phu; second row—Nanette Cosentino, Arlene Urbina, Kate Alderman Ruby, Sharon Tugwell and John Weaver; third row—June Branch, Crystal King, Mitch Nichter, Pamela Nichter, Christine Tognoli and Susan Schroeder; fourth row—Sandi Dunlap, Rhett Sing, Meredith Mitchell, Melissa Bibbs, Jacklyn Cha, Manuel Diaz, Margot Toomey, Stephanie Smith, Cornelia Bell, Ann Miller and Liz Franks.

For the fourth consecutive year, the San Francisco office participated in Compass Community Services' Spring Forward: A Lunchtime Walk to Benefit the Homeless ([www.compass-sf.org](http://www.compass-sf.org)), helping to raise \$73,000. As one of the sponsors of the event, Paul Hastings paid the registration fee for the firm's participants to join hundreds of walkers in an effort to increase public awareness and raise critical funds for homeless families. **Carol Schrader** and **Julie Allecta** organized the event for Paul Hastings.

There are hundreds of homeless families in San Francisco at any given time—living on the streets, in shelters, cars, or with relatives. 50% of them are children. With virtually no affordable housing in San Francisco, applicants for Section 8 federal housing typically spend three to five years on the waiting list. Families in crisis can get caught in a spiral of poverty and homelessness that is extremely difficult to break without support and resources.

Compass Community Services' basic goals are simple: to eradicate homelessness by assisting families in securing and maintaining permanent housing and to address barriers to economic self-sufficiency through employment services. The agency's four programs support more than 3,000 parents and children each year in their efforts to achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Services include crisis intervention, homeless prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, intensive case management and therapy, job training, enriched infant care and childcare, and permanent housing placement.

## Paul Hastings Turns Out in Force for Bennett Cancer Walk

A team from the Stamford office represented Paul Hastings in the Stamford Hospital's Bennett Cancer Center Walk and Run ([www.stamfordhospital.org](http://www.stamfordhospital.org)). In its 11th year, the Walk and Run raises money to benefit the Bennett Cancer Center ([www.stamfordhospital.org](http://www.stamfordhospital.org)). Over 4,000 walkers and several hundred runners participated in the event. **Betty Brower** coordinated for Paul Hastings, with co-captains **Jackie Imbrogno** and **Anthony Ribadeneira**. The team raised almost \$7,000 (excluding the Paul Hastings corporate sponsorship of a rest and refreshment stop).

The team represented a strong turnout for the office, with 34 runners, walkers and virtual walkers, and seven additional team members staffing the Paul Hastings rest stop. The walkers and runners, pictured at left, included: **Tracey Bennett, Anna Danowska, Monica Debiak, Beverly Graziano, Jackie Imbrogno, Mandi Mateo, Jack Palma, Anthony Ribadeneira, Aggie Segovia, Dave Snediker, Christina Strain, and Vicki Sullivan**. Our virtual walkers included Betty, **Chris Craig, Steve Ferrer, Mary Snediker** and **Karen Warshauer**. The team of runners included **David Marshall** along with Dave Snediker and Jackie Imbrogno, both of whom participated in both the run and the walk. Sarah Marshall led the cheerleading section. A separate Paul Hastings team also manned the Paul Hastings-sponsored rest stop to provide water and orange slices to the 4,000 walkers. That team consisted of the Brower and Sirico families.



Stamford continued on next page

## New Playground Brings Neighbors Together

A number of attorneys and staff members offered their time and skills to help build the Mill River Playground located a short distance from the Stamford office. The playground is a significant milestone in the advancement of the Stamford community, bringing children from several surrounding neighborhoods together. In addition to the volunteers' time helping to build the playground, the Stamford office made a monetary donation that was used to purchase a mural for the playground. Paul Hastings volunteers included **Donna Baker, Christopher Craig, Anna Danowska, Tamu Lewis, Mandi Mateo, Jan Morency, Tim Muldoon, Jack Palma, Toni Palmisano, Gina Partenza, Anthony Ribadeneira, Aggie Segovia, Christina Strain** and **Bob Williams**.

## Summer Associates Serve at Soup Kitchen

Stamford's six summer associates, **Brendan Goodhouse, Erin LaRuffa, Cynthia Marian, Soo Yeun Lim, Justin Marino** and **Richard Rubano** volunteered their time at a soup kitchen sponsored by CALRA (Connecticut Association of Legal Recruiting Administrators). Each summer associate was assigned a different task at the New Haven Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen to help prepare for the evening meal. There were approximately 34 Summer Associates from various Connecticut law firms serving 75 patrons.

Summer associates, at right and above, prepare and serve dinner to the hungry in the Stamford community.



## Stamford Program Empowers Young Women

**Valerie Fields** knew there was a growing need among young girls in the Stamford community. Having a daughter of her own helped her understand the problem, and when Cloonan Middle School (her daughter's school) asked Valerie to become a paren-



Valerie Fields created an organization committed to helping guide young women through the struggles of adolescence. (Photo courtesy Tom Hwang)

tal consultant leading a girls' empowerment circle, there was no way she could say no. Thus was born Empowered Girls Circle, a nonprofit group dedicated to addressing the challenges of relational aggressive conduct (or bullying).

The goal of Empowered Girls Circle is to teach girls effective methods of mediating and coping with the difficult issues of aggression and adolescence. The group strives to support healthy development into adulthood, focusing particularly on those who struggle in this critical area of self-esteem. Valerie is hoping to expand the program in 2007 with a leadership conference for adolescent girls, along with offering ongoing workshops and circle sessions to help girls increase their social competence and emotional intelligence.

Recently, the Stamford office donated a facilitator's manual and a complete set of activity guides. The material includes skill-building themes and activities that are designed to help build critical thinking skills and provide social support to adolescent girls in urban communities.

Valerie noted that the guides are "a tremendous help in providing research-based, gender-specific programming to a community of girls who are so desperately in need of it."

## Pro Bono Kick-off Luncheon Focuses on Opportunity

The DC office's kick-off luncheon hosted the Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition and the local Legal Aid Society. The two nonprofits gave presentations regarding their activities and opportunities for Paul Hastings lawyers to get involved in pro bono work.

The Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition provides services to the immigrant advocacy community in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area, bringing together community groups, pro bono attorneys, volunteers and immigrants to work for a fair and humane immigration policy. The Coalition provides individuals and organizations representing immigrants with education and training services, public policy development leadership, forums for sharing information, legal support services and other empowerment programs, including representation at credible fear interviews, a crucial initial step. When someone arrives at an international airport without documents (or with documents that are not their own) they are first interviewed by airport personnel. If they express a fear of returning to their country because of persecution (based on their race, religion, political opinion, social group or nationality/ethnicity) they are put into the "credible fear" process, and given an opportunity to further articulate that fear and be given a chance to ask for asylum before an immigration judge.

The Legal Aid Society's Pro Bono Referral Program refers cases to attorneys working in private law firms and government agencies who seek to represent clients on a pro bono basis. The matters referred include cases in the areas of housing, family law, and public benefits, as well as a limited number of appellate matters.

## Attorneys Win Asylum for Zimbabwe National

**Pat Togni** and **Tara Sidney** notched a significant asylum victory on behalf of a Zimbabwe national who suffered persecution and several death threats on account of her membership in the main political opposition party and her family's strong ties to the opposition. The judge, who earlier had indicated she would be inclined to take the matter under submission, decided to rule from the bench in favor of the client at the close of evidence and granted asylum, after which the government waived its right to appeal.

Asylum law focuses heavily on the credibility of the applicant. As is so often the case with asylum applicants, Pat and Tara's client was not an English speaker and was entirely reliant on perfect strangers to communicate her testimony to the immigration judge. Words are easily lost in translation and many words, expressions, or cultural mannerisms simply do not translate into English, or can be easily misunderstood by court-appointed translators, with severe unintended consequences for otherwise deserving asylum applicants. As a result, Pat and Tara worked closely with their client, preparing her for this distinct possibility and ensuring that her testimony was as accurate, and as effective, as possible.

Pat and Tara also acknowledged the invaluable assistance they received from Amnesty International U.S.A. "AIUSA" and Physicians for Human Rights. Pat and Tara obtained expert reports by AIUSA's country conditions expert on Zimbabwe and by a local doctor affiliated with Physicians for Human Rights for submission to the court along with their case brief and other evidence in support of their client's case.

## Estate Planning Guidance Benefits First Responders



**Carson Sullivan** has been instrumental in the organization of Wills For Heroes, a program offering free wills, durable powers of attorney and advance medical directives to police, firefighters, sheriff's deputies and other emergency first responders. Sponsored by the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference in conjunction with the Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers

Division, the Wills for Heroes program relies on attorneys to volunteer their evenings and weekends to produce and process the paperwork.

As part of Wills for Heroes, which was created in the wake of the September 11th attacks, volunteer attorneys attend a free CLE seminar to learn about the program as well as the software that generates estate planning documents. Wills for Heroes also provides first responders with educational guidance on the benefits of estate planning and the resources that the program offers. The program has served many localities throughout Virginia, including Arlington, Roanoke, Williamsburg, Cumberland, Danville, and Norfolk. Carson is currently working to bring the program to Charlottesville this summer and Richmond in the Fall.

## Organization Finds Guidance for Real Estate Portfolio

**Sean Magee** is assisting Lubavitch (UK) Limited to manage their real estate portfolio. The Lubavitch Foundation ([www.lubavitchuk.com](http://www.lubavitchuk.com)) is the largest Jewish educational organization in the world, with much of its work often taking place at a grassroots level, including the coordination and direction of after-school programs and community events, all with an underlying commitment to the promotion of continued education.

In the United Kingdom these activities are organized by Lubavitch (UK) Limited, which operates from a number of sites across the nation. These properties are the base camps from where the Foundation's charitable activities take place, and Sean's role has been to provide legal advice in regard to the purchase of additional property and the leasing of office space.

## Lawyer Helps UK Group in Its Fight Against Addiction

**Chris Bracebridge** is helping Addaction ([www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)), an organization that provides support for those in the community affected by drug and alcohol addiction. Chris has been assisting Addaction's HR Director with both employment litigation and the preparation of a commercial contract. In the first case, Chris reviewed and gave initial advice on an employment tribunal claim against Addaction. The claim involved allegations of unfair dismissal and discrimination. In the second, he prepared a commercial contract for the provision of research services to Addaction in connection with a research and evaluation project. The project will assess the impact on young people of parental substance addiction and the success of services providing assistance to families in such circumstances.

## Attorneys Team With Residents To Beautify Community

**Gill Castorina** and **Donna Goldsworthy** are acting for a residents association wishing to formally claim areas of land adjoining a local road which are at present of unknown ownership. If possible and successful, the claim will mean that the land can be registered in the name of the residents association. The residents, who have proposed landscaping development for the roadside land that will be shared and enjoyed by the entire community, plan to apply for grants to fund the ambitious project.

## The Best of Both Worlds: Summer Associates & the Pro Bono Experience



Summer associates **Maureen Schad** (NYU '07) and **Jonathan Suk** (NYU '07). (Photo courtesy Hui Cox)

Paul Hastings public interest split summer program welcomed three law students to the firm for 2006. The program allows law students to work for the firm and spend a portion of the summer with a public interest organization. The students are compensated for the entire summer, participating in valuable public service work while also gaining the corporate law experience of a summer associate. The Washington, DC office hosted **Allison Kent**, while New York was home to **Maureen Schad** and **Jonathan Suk**.

A Michigan Fellow in Refugee and Asylum Law, Allison Kent (University of Michigan, '07), was already committed to pro bono work. The split summer program gave her the opportunity to extend these experiences with a placement at Citizenship and Immigration Canada ([www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)) in Ottawa, where she assisted Canadian government officials responsible for establishing Canada's refugee policy around the world. Allison expects to work in litigation or immigration law, but hopes to take on asylum cases pro bono.

In New York, summer associate Jonathan Suk (NYU '07), worked at the Vera Institute of Justice ([www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org)) where he was attached to the Prosecution and Racial Justice Project. Initially, Jonathan learned about the opportunities at Paul Hastings through NYU's Office of Career Services, where resources are available on official public interest splits offered by law firms. With broad professional interests including civil rights, litigation and public policy, Jonathan saw the split summer program as an opportunity to explore possible career paths. New York summer associate Maureen Schad (NYU '07) divided her summer between the Paul Hastings' New York office and Make The Road By Walking ([www.maketheroad.org](http://www.maketheroad.org)), a membership-led organization based in Bushwick, Brooklyn that promotes economic justice and participatory democracy by increasing residents' power to achieve self-determination through collective action.

# Resources

## Your local office representative

For more information, or to get involved in a pro bono project at Paul Hastings, please contact any member of the Pro Bono & Community Committee.

## The Portal

Click on the link at the top of the Portal's homepage to access approval memos, request forms and engagement letters—all downloadable as Word documents.

## LexisNexis and Westlaw

You may obtain assistance for pro bono research from LexisNexis or Westlaw representatives during their office visits. For more information, contact your office librarian.

## Transperfect Translation Program

This service awards free translation credit for the firm's pro bono work based on the regular work it does for the firm. This credit may be used by any attorney in any office. For further information on free translation resources that may be available for your pro bono case, please contact Dennis Ellis, pro bono representative from Los Angeles.

## Share your story

Drop *PBN* a line and let us hear about what you are doing in your community. Please direct all comments, suggestions or inquiries regarding submissions for future issues of *Pro Bono News* to Chris Heiser at [chrisheiser@paulhastings.com](mailto:chrisheiser@paulhastings.com).

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