

# ProBonoNews

Paul Hastings' Pro Bono and Public Service Newsletter

## JUSTICE PREVAILS



Photo courtesy of Stevan Nordström

Whether fighting to restore affordable housing in Oakland's Chinatown (team pictured above), working to provide asylum for immigrants, or helping to establish a foundation in memory of Earthlink founder Garry Betty, lawyers around the firm are illustrating the commitment to public service that is at the heart of our pro bono program. From tireless work by individuals across a number of cases to delicately-coordinated team efforts, the past few months have seen successful conclusions to a number of long-term efforts.

### OFFICE SPOTLIGHT: SAN DIEGO



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in Oakland's Chinatown  
Around the Firm  
New Pro Bono Representatives

# Chair's Corner

Barbara L. Johnson, Chair  
Pro Bono & Community Committee



This issue of *Pro Bono News* reflects the continued growth of our pro bono program and celebrates lawyers who have effected real change in their communities.

As you may recall, the firm signed on to the Pro Bono Challenge last year, pledging to support our lawyers active in pro bono matters and encouraging others to join them. The results are substantial. Our review shows that, over the past year, the firm provided over 32,000 hours of pro bono work – a number equivalent to the work of nearly 800 full-time lawyers. On average, the firm provided 41 hours of pro bono work per lawyer in 2006, compared to only 38 last year, and 270 attorneys gave 20 hours or more. With nearly 1,200 attorneys, it becomes apparent that Paul Hastings has a tremendous capacity to make a difference.

While these numbers are important, the stories are the real indicators of our success. This issue of *Pro Bono News* features a collection of articles that illustrates the true diversity of our efforts and the dedication of all those involved. From undertaking immigration-related appeals to assisting neighborhood organizations, our lawyers have made use of their considerable talents in a wide variety of cases around the world in order to help those who need them most. We are also proud to announce three new members of our Pro Bono & Community Committee, whose demonstrated enthusiasm for pro bono work will surely lead to some exciting new opportunities for the firm.

As you read this issue of *Pro Bono News*, I hope that these success stories inspire you to become involved, make your own commitments and work to make a positive difference in your community.



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# Office Spotlight SAN DIEGO

## Lost Boys of Sudan Find Assistance from Paul Hastings

Led by **Dan Lickel**, the San Diego office has been involved in assisting the San Diego Lost Boys of Sudan Charitable Corporation with corporate governance and tax issues and with legal problems faced by individuals among the refugee community it serves.

The Lost Boys of Sudan are a group of refugees who were orphaned by the war in southern Sudan. Walking long distances

at night to avoid detection from the pursuing army, they spent much of their lives in various refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya until 2001 when the U.S. government allowed them to resettle in cities around the country. The 100 or so Lost Boys in San Diego are struggling to make a life for themselves and gain college educations so they can return to Sudan and rebuild their homeland. The charity is providing for the medical, educational and basic life needs of these refugees and others in the Sudanese community in San Diego.



Despite their tumultuous journey, the Lost Boys continue to work toward a better future for themselves and their homeland.

## Asylum Cases Highlight Lawyer's Dedication

**Catherine Caouette** is leading a pro bono effort in an asylum case for a teenage boy from El Salvador who fled persecution by a local branch of an international gang. His brother was killed for refusing to follow the gang's orders, and the gang has threatened to kill him and his younger brother. In his short life, the boy has witnessed an unimaginable level of crime and violence, and he seeks to stay in the U.S. long enough for the gang to forget him. After that, he would like to return to El Salvador and live out his life in peace.

The case was the first referred to the firm by Casa Cornelia, a non-profit legal service agency in San Diego. This case is also being worked on heavily by **Judy Miller** and **Jessica Zepeda**. Judy has done a tremendous amount of factual research regarding the conditions in El Salvador while Jessica has acted as a primary translator and has prepared a preliminary draft of the client's declaration. Continuing her pro bono efforts in this area, Catherine has also volunteered for the National Center for Immigrant and Refugee Children, representing children who have come to the U.S. by themselves in basic immigration proceedings. Presently she is representing another teenage boy from El Salvador.

San Diego continued on page 4

## Military Family Sees Relief from Serial Extortionist



Alicia Getchell

**Alicia Getchell** recently represented a young family of three who had been the victims of extortion and abusive debt collection practices.

On active duty in the Army, the husband was called upon to serve in Iraq, and before shipping out he transferred his direct deposit to his wife's account, which caused

an automatic debt payment of \$120 tied to his account to be rejected for lack of funds, unbeknownst to either. Over a year later, with her husband still in Iraq, the wife received an anonymous phone call from a debt collector threatening to "hit" her house in 30 minutes if she did not call another phone number that they provided her. Fearing for the safety of her daughter and herself, she called the number, which directed her to another business that

claimed her husband owed money and that she would need to pay \$600 on the spot if she wanted to keep them away from her house. She complied, but only days later received a letter claiming that the \$600 was a settlement for a purported \$1200 debt. She then sought help from the Navy's Legal Services Office, which in turn referred her to Alicia.

Alicia initially filed complaints under both federal and state fair debt collection practices statutes, and began an investigation into her suspicion that the multiple collection agencies involved were related entities. Although she was initially unable to prove a link between the companies, the owner of the cash advance store where the debt was originally incurred named a man that he had sold the debt to. Further investigations showed that this man was the owner of both companies, that he had preyed specifically on military members, and that the San Diego District Attorney was seeking to prosecute him for extortion.

Ultimately, Alicia was able to recover restitution for her clients. The man accused of extorting the family pled guilty to felony charges, is paying \$40,000 in fines and restitution to other victims, and is serving a jail sentence.

## Seals find New Home in La Jolla Children's Pool

**Alicia Getchell**, with the help of **Paul Cane** and **Oleg Cross**, took on the writing of a brief on behalf of La Jolla Friends of the Seals and the City of San Diego in a case currently before the California Court of Appeal. Valerie O'Sullivan sued the City of San Diego on behalf of herself and all San Diego residents to force the City to do certain repairs to the children's pool in La Jolla, a shallow, partially man-made pool along the Pacific Ocean. However, over the last twenty-five years, a significant seal population has developed along the beach adjacent to the children's pool and the area has been federally designated

as a protected seal rookery. Following a trial, O'Sullivan successfully obtained an injunction requiring the City to make the repairs and return the pool to its pre-seal state, which may cost the City millions of dollars and may also cause the City to violate federal environmental protection laws.

La Jolla Friends of the Seals ([www.lajollaseals.com](http://www.lajollaseals.com)) is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, established to preserve the La Jolla Harbor Seal Colony for ecological, educational, scientific, historic and scenic opportunities, and to promote public education and safe viewing of harbor seals and other marine life along the Southern Coast of California.

# Feature

## Restoring Affordable Housing in Oakland's Chinatown



L to R: Adam Mizock, Shinyung Oh, Mitch Nichter, Aloma Arzu, Michael Sharpless and Jodi Smith.

Entering their fourth year of litigation, several lawyers from the San Francisco office continue to serve on a multi-firm legal team representing low-income tenants and community organizations in a matter involving the planned demolition of a condominium complex in the Chinatown section of Oakland. In addition to Paul Hastings, the legal team includes attorneys from nonprofits East Bay Community Law Center and the California Fair Housing Project, the small firm of Seigel and Yee, and Heller Erhman.

The clients include representatives of the two households that refused to leave during the eviction process along with community organizations Just Cause Oakland and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. The legal team, tenants and community organizations and numerous community volunteers have worked side-by-side to keep both legal pressure and social attention focused on the preservation of the affordable housing units. **Jodi Smith** meets regularly with the clients and community volunteers to brief the legal issues and discuss creative approaches to settlement that will maintain the affordable units.

The Paul Hastings legal team played a significant role in pre-trial motions, hearings, discovery, trial preparation,

mediation and settlement negotiations. In addition, the legal team continues to work with the City of Oakland to pursue all available options to resolve the case favorably. With settlement negotiations well underway, the community of Oakland now stands a chance of preserving irreplaceable affordable housing stock suitable for seniors' lifestyles in Oakland's Chinatown.

Margaretta Lin, member of the legal team and Director of Community Economic Development at the East Bay Community Law Center, stated, "The pro bono attorneys at Paul Hastings have been instrumental in convincing the City of Oakland to review litigation possibilities regarding the City's \$7 million loan to the Pacific Renaissance developer. The City will be working with a forensics accountant to gather the needed evidence – a move that would not have occurred without the tremendous fact finding and legal research conducted by Paul Hastings. This part of the work is moving forward mainly due to the expertise and contributions of Paul Hastings' lawyers." The Paul Hastings Pro Bono team also includes **Shinyung Oh, Mitch Nichter, Peter Meier, Michael Sharpless**, and Paul Hastings' alumni Jennifer Sum, Adam Mizock, David Stuckey, Nicki Vo and Ingrid Holthius.

## Legacy of Earthlink's Garry Betty Continues with New Foundation

Paul Hastings is representing The Garry Betty Foundation ([www.thegarrybettyfoundation.org](http://www.thegarrybettyfoundation.org)) on a pro bono basis in order to help establish the foundation named after Betty, who was the President and CEO of EarthLink, Inc. from 1996 to 2007. After being diagnosed with cancer, Betty decided to establish The Garry Betty Foundation, an organization committed to funding innovative research that targets the initial gene-level triggers of cancer. Garry Betty passed away earlier this year.

**Tinley Anderson** and **Lisa Dunning** in the Atlanta office, along with Paul Hastings' alumni **Scott Hobby** (a close friend of Mr. Betty) and **Toronda Silas**, worked to assist with the establishment of the foundation, including filing the articles of incorporation, preparing the bylaws, naming the initial directors, opening and managing the bank account, and filing Form 501(c)(3) to obtain tax-exempt status. Within weeks of Mr. Betty's passing, the foundation has already received \$40,000 in donations, with many thousands in additional funds pending the granting of tax-exempt status.

During his tenure, Mr. Betty transformed EarthLink from a small regional ISP with fewer than 100,000 members to a national brand with more than five million subscribers. His experience allowed him to change the very landscape of not only EarthLink, but the Internet industry itself. Mr. Betty was an active and dedicated member of the Atlanta community, and is remembered fondly for his contagious optimism and compassion.

## Atlanta Office Hosts National MS Society

Paul Hastings recently hosted the 3rd Annual Auction to Benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society ([www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org)), an organization whose nationwide chapters promote research, advocate on critical issues and organize a wide range of programs, including support for those newly diagnosed or living with MS. The Atlanta office raised more than \$12,000 from a variety of events over several days including bake sales and casual days, culminating in a silent and live auction in the Atlanta office, hosted by a licensed auctioneer from Red Baron.

The live auction featured 28 donated items such as trips, entertainment and sporting event tickets, spa services, vintage wine and golf outings. Several lots fetched high bids, including a baseball, donated by **Kelly Koelker**, which was signed by the entire 1996 World Series Braves team. **Frank Kinson** and **Weyman Johnson** (who is also Chairman of the MS Society) coordinated the event with support from **Terri Olsen** and **Pam Henderson**, as well as **Rebecca Rambow**, **Dan Hart** and **Shymeka Hunter**.



L-R: Rebecca Rambow, Teri Olsen, Allen Baitcher (Red Baron Auctions), Weyman Johnson, Frank Kinson, Jules Fraunhofer (GE Energy)



## Heart Walk Tradition Continues

Sponsored by the American Heart Association, this year's annual walk was held in Piedmont Park in Atlanta. Proceeds from the walk and related events went toward funding community health education and heart research. Participants from the firm included: **Lurlene Milner**, **Al Myers**, **Frank Kinson**, **Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez**, **Don Crawford**, **Candy Voticky**, **Linda Thompson**, **Candace Boudreau** and **John Edwards**.

L to R: The Paul Hastings Heart Walk team included Lurlene Milner, Al Myers, Frank Kinson, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Don Crawford, Candy Voticky, Linda Thompson, Candace Boudreau, and John Edwards

# Chicago

## New Office, New Pro Bono Opportunities

Amidst the opening of the firm's new Chicago office there is already a concerted effort underway to become involved in a number of pro bono efforts. One area of focus is immigration/asylum matters through the National Immigrant Justice Center ([www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)) (formerly the Midwest Immigration Human Rights Center). **Beth O'Connor**, the new primary pro bono committee member for the office, is working on a continuing asylum case that has gone up to the 7th Circuit, where the denial of asylum was vacated and the case remanded to the immigration court.

The office hopes to further develop this relationship over the next few months, as the Center has a persistent need for lawyers to assist with cases on a pro bono basis. These matters provide excellent opportunities for young lawyers to work with a variety of clients on all aspects of litigation. Participants have the opportunity to conduct direct and cross-examination of witnesses, draft legal briefs, and argue motions. These cases also provide excellent opportunities for participation by summer associates.



The new office is located in the Lantern Building at 191 North Wacker Drive.

# Hong Kong



On the left side of the sedan chair (1st one with the sunglasses - Neil Torpey, 2nd - Donna Healy, 3rd - Dongho Lee, 4th - Jeremy Low); on the right side of the chair (1st - Andrew Dale, 2nd - Beryl Sit, 3rd - Frankie Tong, 4th - Steven DeGracia)

## Hong Kong Office Runs for Local Charities – Surf Style

Several members of the Hong Kong office participated in one of the oldest and best supported charity events in Hong Kong: the Matilda Sedan Chair Race, which is organized annually by a local hospital to benefit a number of Hong Kong charities.

The race consists of teams of eight runners carrying a sedan chair (and a passenger) on a 2 km course around Victoria Peak, the largest mountain on Hong Kong Island. A variety of teams take part in the race to raise money for local charities, including corporations, law firms, banks, sports clubs and schools. A number of Paul Hastings' clients also entered teams in the race.

In honor of the office's West Coast origins, the team adopted a surfing theme and succeeded in raising funds well over the target amount, some of which will go to charities that the Hong Kong office has supported in the past. The Paul Hastings team included **Amy Chan, Anna Chow, Andrew Dale, Steven DeGracia, David Grimm, Donna Healy, Larrie Ho, Lucille Kiang, Winnie Lai, Dongho Lee, Ling Ling, Jeremy Low, Benny Pang, Heidi Pang, Candy Pang, Beryl Sit, Lisa Siu, Frankie Tong** and **Neil Torpey**.

Hong Kong continued on page 8

## Paul Hastings Aids Mother's Choice Expansion Efforts

The firm assisted Mother's Choice ([www.motherschoice.com](http://www.motherschoice.com)) in their recent purchase of a new site in Tsim Sha Tsui as their Counseling and Resource Centre in Kowloon. Pro bono services were provided by **Monica Cheung** and **Chi-Hung Lee**, who advised and arranged the legal aspects of the acquisition of the property.

Mother's Choice is a charitable organization whose aim is to help provide and promote care for babies and children in need of permanent homes, as well as for single women and their families facing crisis pregnancies. Last year the charity helped over 2,800 young girls with unexpected pregnancies, and the charity plays a role in counseling, supporting and providing temporary housing and care for mothers and babies, and finding adoptive families.

Originally set up in 1987, the organization was housed in a pre-war building on Hong Kong Island. Service expansion has meant that the existing premises are no longer adequate for the needs of the organization. The new office will primarily provide room for the hotline service, counseling services, and the expanding schools education program. Bill Graham, the Chief Operating Officer of Mother's Choice Hong Kong, said of the



L to R: Chi-Hung Lee, Michelle Taylor (PH alumnus), Ranjan Marwah (Chairman, Mother's Choice), Monica Cheung

Paul Hastings team, "They have been really helpful and given us splendid service – with a smile. We could not have asked for better support."

## London

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### London Associates Join Domestic Violence Intervention Project

**Chris Bracebridge** and **Anna Sanford**, associates at the London office, are advising the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) on employee matters connected with a TUPE transfer and an internal restructuring. This follows on from providing pro bono employment law advice to another intervention charity, Addaction, throughout 2006. (See the Summer 2006 issue of *Pro Bono News*)

DVIP ([www.dvip.org](http://www.dvip.org)) is a groundbreaking voluntary sector project and registered charity which was set up in 1991. DVIP's main aim is to increase the safety of women and children who experience domestic violence by providing a range of diverse services supporting women, influencing policy and campaigning for change. Addaction ([www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)) is Britain's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment agency and is on the cutting edge of good practice and innovation in the field of alcohol and drug misuse treatment. Addaction now provides services to over 25,000 people a year in 70 services across the country.

### Ravenhill Community Gardens Seeks Lease

**Sean Magee** and **Patrick Johnson** are advising Ravenhill Community Gardens on a lease of land owned by the local council. Once the lease is negotiated and finalized, the land is to be used as an open garden to host various community events in the Ravenhill area of Luton.

Sean and Patrick became involved in the matter through their relationship with LawWorks ([www.lawworks.org.uk](http://www.lawworks.org.uk)), an independent charity with a mission to support, promote and encourage a commitment to pro bono across the solicitor's profession. LawWorks aims to increase the delivery of free legal advice to individuals and communities in need.

# Los Angeles

## Ninth Circuit Immigration Appeal Resolved Successfully

As reported in previous editions of Pro Bono News, the Los Angeles office participates in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' pro bono program, representing individuals whom the Ninth Circuit believes to have meritorious appeals but cannot afford to hire counsel.

Through this program **James Gilliam** and Paul Hastings alumnus Stephanie Hart recently represented an individual

who is married to a U.S. citizen and who appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reopen his deportation proceedings on that basis, after the Bureau of Immigration Appeals ("BIA") refused to do so. By using the Ninth Circuit's mediation program, James and Stephanie were able to convince the U.S. Department of Justice to join in the client's Motion to Reopen, which the BIA recently granted. The previous order commanding the client to leave the country is now void, and the client is pursuing his right to remain in the U.S. based on his wife's U.S. citizenship.

## Run for Justice Participants Continue Support for Public Counsel

This year Paul Hastings participated for the third consecutive year in Public Counsel's ([www.publiccounsel.org](http://www.publiccounsel.org)) Run for Justice, in conjunction with the L.A. Marathon, the Acura Bike Tour, and the Emerald Nuts 5K Run/Walk. The event serves as a fundraiser for Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm.

Led by **James Gilliam**, **Danielle Colon**, **Gillian Garrett** and **Tamara McCrossen-Orr**, the event has become a successful tradition for the Los Angeles office. The firm has previously won a number of trophies for having the largest law firm participation, as well as individual awards for participants who finished among the fastest in their respective age groups.

This year the Paul Hastings team included 41 people, winning second place for participation. Together the team was able to raise over \$8,000 for Public Counsel, and twelve individual members were awarded "Champion of Justice" medals for their exceptional fundraising efforts. Additionally, Bob Span received a trophy for finishing third in his age group.

As the Southern California affiliate of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Public Counsel's staff of 27 attorneys along with thousands of volunteer lawyers, law students and legal professionals assist over 26,000 low income children, youth, adults and families, as well as eligible community organizations each year. The value of free legal services provided by the group is conservatively estimated at over US\$60 million a year.

Los Angeles continued on page 10



L to R (standing): Valerie Tayco, Minette Tayco, James Gilliam, Les Abell, Nancy Abell, Tamara McCrossen-Orr, Perry Rhoads (holding Sydney Rhoads), Patty Rhoads (bottom row): Danielle Colon, Mia McCrossen-Orr, Gillian Garrett



## Recognition for Pro Bono Service

The Attorney Development Committee in the Los Angeles office recently presented awards to the individuals in the office who billed the most pro bono hours in 2006. Each of the awardees billed more than 60 hours in pro bono legal services, which is the

firm's annual per-attorney pro bono goal. The following individuals received these awards, from L to R: **Jeff Geida, Dave Ritchie, Nancy Iredale, James Gilliam, John Sabatini** and **Bruce Ehrlich**. Not pictured are **Gerald Wells** and **Deirdre Kelly**.

## Milan

### Paul Hastings Heads Back to the Classroom for Junior Achievement Italy

The Global Business Ethics Program, carried out by Junior Achievement Italy ([www.junioritalia.org](http://www.junioritalia.org)), is designed to give students the opportunity to explore personal values, character development and business ethics in an environment that facilitates the debate and discussion of related issues. In addition to teachers, outside volunteers are involved in the program, where they act as classroom mentors and guide the learning process

with a hands-on personal approach. All schools involved in the program are located in lower income suburbs of Milan.

As a member of Junior Achievement's board of directors, **Roberto Cornetta** is leading a number of other participants from the firm, including **Antonio Azzarà, Luigi Baglivo, Simona Klimbacher, Viviana Mara** and **Emanuele Pedilarco**. Along with Paul Hastings, other Junior Achievement corporate sponsors include major Italian and international banks and corporations such as Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, General Electric, ABB, Computer Associates and Capitalia.

## New York

### American Jewish World Service

**Hessam Kalantar** does extensive work for our pro bono client, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) ([www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)). In the majority of his work for AJWS, Hessam negotiates and drafts agreements with technology service providers, consultants and contractors, including contracts relating to the creation of fundraising and brand awareness campaigns, marketing and promotion, and content development. He has also advised AJWS with respect to data privacy best practices, and e-mail and website disclaimers. He first became involved with AJWS through Josh Sternoff, who introduced him to the client as

someone who could help them with their intellectual property-related agreements. The agreements Hessam advises on cover more than intellectual property, and usually have some IP or IT aspect.

AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community.

## PENCIL Honors Team Effort

**Brian Moran** and **Barry Brooks** were honored by PENCIL (Public Education Needs Civic Involvement) for their outstanding work in support of that organization. Barry initially volunteered to serve as Principal for a Day for the Secondary



Barry Brooks (left) and Brian Moran (right) with New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg

School for Law in Brooklyn and asked Brian to join him in the effort in 2002. In addition to going to the school to work with classes on mock trial scenarios, Barry and Brian established a mentoring program which matched about 20 Paul Hastings lawyers and managers with students.

The mentoring program assisted in the school's efforts to help students and their parents with their college and financial aid applications, and worked with the school's moot court team, which did very well in city competition. The program also arranged for student scholarships to a debate camp and assisted with the creation of a brochure that the school uses to attract top students. The organization has also received support and assistance from **Richard Schoenstein** and **Hui Cox**.

PENCIL's ([www.pencil.org](http://www.pencil.org)) mission is to foster and nurture partnerships between the private sector and public schools, giving every school the resources they need to provide all students with the education they deserve. The organization's flagship program, Principal For A Day, pairs thousands of New Yorkers from the private sector with the City's schools. It is one of many programs that help raise awareness of the need for private sector involvement as well as garner critical donations of cash, goods and services for the schools and their students.

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## Runner Goes the Distance for Charity

**Chuck Baker** recently ran in the ING New York City Marathon to raise money for The New York Road Runners Foundation Team for Kids. Although this was only his second time participating in the marathon, he was able to complete the entire 26.2 mile course in under four hours. In addition to the two marathons, Chuck has participated in several triathlons in support of a number of different charities, including The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The Team for Kids organization provides fitness programs for approximately 30,000 children a week in a dozen cities around the globe who have little or no access to physical education. Beyond teaching the importance of leading a healthy and active life, the programs provided by the group also teach kids the fundamentals of nutrition and teamwork, and enable them to apply the lessons of goal-setting, discipline and motivation to their schoolwork and lives.

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## Abused Woman Gains Residency

**Lesli Ligorner** and **Jennifer Bartle**, under the guidance of Bo Cooper, assisted a low-income woman in her effort to obtain permanent residency in the United States under the Violence Against Women Act. The client's husband at the time, a U.S. citizen, physically and verbally abused her, later abandoned her after she became pregnant and declined to assist her in changing her immigration status. Having now been granted permanent residency, she may live freely in the United States without fear of deportation. Allison Bogosian (PH alumnus) also assisted in the matter.

Paul Hastings was referred to the case by the Legal Aid Society of New York ([www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org)), the nation's oldest and largest provider of legal services to the indigent. Founded in 1876, the Society provides a full range of civil legal services, as well as criminal defense work and juvenile representation in Family Court, ensuring that poverty is not a barrier to accessing the justice system. Their core service is to provide free legal assistance to New Yorkers who live at or below the poverty level and cannot afford to hire a lawyer when confronted with a legal problem.

# Orange County

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Alex Lee, proudly representing the firm as he runs in the Orange County Marathon.

## Run/Walk Team Sets the Pace

Led by **Alexander Lee**, several lawyers from the Orange County and Los Angeles offices of Paul Hastings recently ran in the Orange County Marathon to raise money for the Orange County Bar Foundation and Canyon Acres. Paul Hastings half-marathon runners included **Mike McKinnon**, **Joe Swanson** and **Alexander Lee**. Additionally, **Don Morrow**, **Nancy Iredale** and **Jeff Varga** participated in the 5k run/walk event.

The Orange County Bar Foundation, Inc. (OCBF) ([www.ocbarfoundation.org](http://www.ocbarfoundation.org)) is a non-profit organization committed to providing legal education to families to prevent juvenile crime. For over 30 years the Foundation has achieved success in surrounding communities, providing thousands of local juveniles and their families with the necessary skills to deter delinquent activity, set goals and plan for a positive and productive life.

Canyon Acres ([www.canyonacres.org](http://www.canyonacres.org)) has been committed to finding loving homes and proper treatment for severely abused, neglected and emotionally troubled young children and their families for over 25 years. Currently serving as the Vice President, Alexander Lee has sat on the group's board of directors for the past five years. In addition, **Bill Simpson** also was a member of the board prior to Alex's involvement, and **Julie Schisler** participates as a member of their HR Committee.

# San Francisco

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## 14 Years Later, Berkeley Firehouse Rises from the Ashes

**Peter Weiner** and **Zack Walton** provided representation and advice to a group of community members and to the City of Berkeley in their successful bid to build a firehouse in a fire-prone hillside neighborhood.

Working with both parties, Peter and Zack helped prepare a motion for summary judgment seeking to dismiss a lawsuit brought against the City by another group of residents who opposed the firehouse, claiming it would disrupt the quiet neighborhood. The effort began after the tragic Oakland/Berkeley hills fires of 1991, which killed 25 people and destroyed over 3,000 houses. Despite a well-orchestrated campaign from the small minority of residents opposing the effort, the Superior Court eventually ruled in favor of the city on all counts, and the much-needed firehouse was finally completed late last year.

The success of the neighborhood organization in Berkeley was recently featured in an article in *The New York Times*, in which Peter was quoted.



A rendering of the firehouse in Berkeley, California.

## For Paul Hastings in China, Education is a Priority



Paul Hastings Chairman Seth Zachary with Fudan University President Wang Shenghong at a signing ceremony to mark the beginning of the firm's participation with the University.

Bolstered by the firm's commitment to support education initiatives worldwide, Paul Hastings' Shanghai office has formed a partnership with Fudan University to provide the University with legal advice on a pro bono basis. In particular, the firm will represent the University in matters related to the establishment of the Fudan Overseas Endowment Fund. The fund will assist the University in developing its academic institutions through a wide-reaching network of international alumni.

Founded in 1905 as Fudan Public School, Fudan University ([www.fudan.edu.cn](http://www.fudan.edu.cn)) is one of the oldest and most respected schools in China. The university currently enrolls over 45,000 students, including nearly 2,000 from overseas. As a key player in this effort, Paul Hastings will leverage its global presence in the sponsorship of the fund, providing advice relating to the fund's legal documentation, internal operations and external activities in North America and elsewhere in the world.

At the primary school level, educational disparity in the poorer regions of China is an ongoing challenge. For this reason, the firm has also partnered with Project Hope in order to provide

direct support for the construction of a new elementary school in Jing'an county, Jiangxi province. Named the Paul Hastings Hope Elementary school, the modernized classroom facilities will serve over 300 students from 5 villages in the county. Upon completion of the school, the firm will continue to provide funding for the education of the children. Additionally, Paul Hastings Shanghai Office Chair, **Mitch Dudek**, will be appointed as the honorary principal of the school.

The firm's partner, Project Hope, is a public welfare organization that enlists support from China and abroad to assist dropout students and those at risk of dropping out in China's rural, poverty-stricken areas. In addition to funding the students' studies and building schools, the project has also sought to improve educational conditions in these rural areas by enhancing teacher training and strengthening the government's efforts to implement a nine-year compulsory education law. Commonly acknowledged as China's most influential public welfare campaign in the 20th century, Project Hope has attracted enthusiastic participation from people of all ages and many supporters from overseas.

# Stamford

## High School Student Avoids Unfair Expulsion

**Jenny Stewart** represented a local high school student facing unfair expulsion at a “pre-expulsion” hearing before the school’s Executive Director for Youth Development, who decides whether to refer the matter to the Board of Education for a formal expulsion hearing.

Jenny was able to convince the Director not to pursue formal expulsion over vigorous objections from the Assistant Principal for the High School. Jenny also raised the matter of the

student’s sub-par Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and his need for additional services, which the Director agreed with. When the student’s mother attended the Planning and Placement Team meeting for her son the following week, she was satisfied with the new IEP that was created.

Throughout the process, Jenny coordinated a team of child advocates, including an education lawyer at Connecticut Legal Services (the organization that had referred Jenny to the case), a counselor and therapist at Child Guidance Services, and the student’s parent to achieve the successful result for the student.

# Washington, DC

## Support for Public Ice Arena Gets Paul Hastings on the Boards

Fort Dupont is the only full-size indoor ice arena in the DC metro area, and as a nonprofit organization they are in constant need of charitable contributions to support their community skating programs.

Recognized as a longtime supporter, the Paul Hastings name is now on the dasher boards surrounding the ice surface and facing the bleachers, next to another well-known brand.



# Atlanta continued from page 6



L to R - Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Madeline Reamy (Executive Director for Earth Share of Georgia), Rhonda Koelzer, Karen Garland (Senior Manager of Environmental Education for the Georgia Conservancy), and Virginia Dyson

## Earthshare Breakfast Kickstarts Campaign

Led by **Ryan Harden** and **Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez**, the Atlanta office hosted a kickoff breakfast for this year’s Earthshare of Georgia ([www.earthsharega.org](http://www.earthsharega.org)) campaign. The guest speaker was Karen Garland, Senior Manager of Environmental Education for the Georgia Conservancy. Earth Share of Georgia offers citizens smart and simple ways to care for our air, land and water.

As Georgia’s only dedicated environmental fund, Earth Share partners with Georgia businesses and employees to support leading environmental groups through workplace campaigns, Earth Day and other activities. In addition to the breakfast and guest speaker, fundraising activities included a nature photography contest and souvenirs for sale. **Rhonda Koelzer**, **Susan Williams** and **Virginia Dyson** also helped organize the event.

Atlanta continued on page 15

## Leveraging Expertise to Build Community

**Rick Asbill**, a strong supporter of the environment and the arts, has been working with The Hambidge Center ([www.hambidge.org](http://www.hambidge.org)) as both a volunteer and a provider of pro bono legal services for a number of years. The Hambidge Center property, located in the Betty's Creek valley of Rabun County, spans 600 acres and serves as a unique research and development resource, where creative people can focus on their work in a supportive atmosphere. Rick currently serves on the board as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee and is a member of its Executive Committee.

Operating on a modest annual budget, Hambidge is currently involved in several projects. One involves working to establish a conservation easement for a portion of the property containing a pristine stream. Rick has completed the easement process and has also obtained a wetlands mitigation banking permit, resulting in 32,786 stream "credits," which will be purchased by both public and private entities to offset the environmental impacts from highway and other construction projects. Sale of the credits will be used to establish an endowment fund to assist in its operating budget.

Rick has also been instrumental in the development of a new community pavilion on nearby Lake Rabun. Having outgrown their old pavilion, the Trustees of the Lake Rabun Association launched a campaign to purchase a lakeside property that was being considered for commercial development. As chair of the association, Rick helped to coordinate this effort by preparing the legal documents and obtaining the necessary permits, and is now leading further fundraising efforts to eliminate the debt used to pay for the final 30% of the Pavilion's cost.

## Lawyers Defend Conservancy in Politically Charged Parking Deck Dispute

Led by **John Parker** and **Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez**, Paul Hastings is representing the Piedmont Park Conservancy on a pro bono basis in regards to a multi-count complaint filed against it. The complaint seeks to block the planned construction of a parking deck adjacent to the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The deck, once constructed, will reduce the total amount of impervious surface located within the park, but is hotly contested among some local groups. This high-profile matter is well known in the Atlanta community and the progress of the case is sure to be closely followed by the press and local residents. The Botanical Garden is being represented by Lord Bissell and the City of Atlanta by Kilpatrick Stockton.



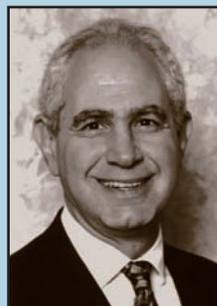
**Brian Moran**  
New York

Brian specializes in litigation and has been at Paul Hastings for nearly six years. Prior to law school, Brian spent several years working as a special education teacher and as a social worker in New York City. After four years of practice, Brian took a senior position in New York's child welfare administration, working principally to improve the lives of teenagers in the foster care system. Over the past several years Brian has continued to take on child welfare cases, and has done significant volunteer work in New York City public schools. He is excited to take on this new position and to continue to develop the firm's pro bono practice and initiatives.



**Beth O'Connor**  
Chicago

Beth is a litigation associate who works primarily in class actions. Having just joined the firm this year, Beth took on the responsibility of pro bono representative. Providing pro bono services has been especially important to her throughout her career and she finds the experience rewarding. She looks forward to promoting this work in the Chicago office, and to ensuring that new attorneys who join the office are made aware of pro bono opportunities as well as how wonderfully Paul Hastings supports pro bono initiatives.



**Chuck Patrizia**  
Washington, DC

Chuck has been a partner in Paul Hastings for nearly 22 years. His practice generally involves complex civil litigation (including energy, construction matters, and similar large contract issues), and regulatory compliance particularly on environmental, chemical regulatory and food & drug. Throughout his practice, Chuck has been involved in a number of pro bono activities, including handling major pro bono litigation matters (litigation against the DC water system for lead in drinking water, litigation against the DC Police Department related to its practices in stop and search matters and surveillance), indigent appeals, and work for not-for-profit corporations providing educational and related services in DC.

# 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, Los Angeles.

## Share Your Story

Drop *Pro Bono News* 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 Paul Thurston at paulthurston@paulhastings.com.

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