

**FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY** through *pro bono* service is a fundamental part of Ropes & Gray’s culture, one of the many ways we “practice with purpose.” In 2019, 1,851 of our attorneys, summer associates, retired partners, paralegals and other legal professionals provided more than 172,000 hours of legal work to *pro bono* clients.

*Pro bono* legal work takes on even greater urgency in times of crisis. As the world grapples with recent events such as COVID-19 and the horrific deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and others, Ropes & Gray is redoubling its commitment to *pro bono*. With respect to our focus on racial justice issues, Ropes & Gray recently took the following steps:

- We are proud to be a charter member of the new Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, [announced on June 24](#) and profiled in *The American Lawyer*. More than 145 law firms have committed to working in partnership with legal services organizations to identify and dismantle structural and systemic racism in the law.
- We have launched the Racial Justice *Pro Bono* Opportunities Network within the firm—a network focused on addressing both near-term racial injustice and longer-term systemic change through *pro bono* projects. Approximately 600 members of the Ropes & Gray community have already joined.

Ropes & Gray has also been addressing challenges brought on by the global pandemic. Among many other projects, Ropes & Gray lawyers advised the Greater New York Hospital Association on its role in Governor Andrew Cuomo’s hospital surge capacity task force, assisted the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in negotiating issues around the potential release of prisoners in the Commonwealth to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and represented nonprofits focused on getting medical equipment and personnel to areas that need it most.

Additionally, we recently represented the American Bar Association in filing an *amicus curiae* brief in support of LGBTQ workers in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

We expect the need for *pro bono* assistance will only grow in the coming year. While we encourage all of our lawyers to perform at least 20 hours of *pro bono* service annually, managing partner **David Djaha** has issued a new challenge, encouraging each attorney to strive for 20 + 20 *pro bono* hours in 2020. In these extraordinary and challenging times, we’re proud to strive for an even more extraordinary commitment.

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### Working to ENSURE EQUAL JUSTICE

**AS RECENT EVENTS** demonstrate that the fight for true equality and justice has never been more important, we would like to share a few highlights about how Ropes & Gray is playing a key role.

#### FIGHTING TO REPEAL SECTION 50-A IN NEW YORK

Ropes & Gray joined a consortium of more than 30 law firms to endorse the repeal of Section 50-a of the New York State Civil Rights Law, a law that has served as a barrier to police accountability. Its repeal was approved by both houses of the New York State legislature and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

#### SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL PROTEST IN D.C.

With the support of the firm, Ropes & Gray partner **Doug Hallward-Driemeier**, who leads Ropes & Gray’s appellate and Supreme Court practice, signed a statement condemning the actions taken by the U.S. federal government against peaceful protesters seeking racial justice near Lafayette Square, outside the White House, in early June.

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# PRO BONO NEWS

## Working to ENSURE EQUAL JUSTICE

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### AIDING THE APPEAL OF A WRONGFULLY CONVICTED CLIENT

Through a referral from the University of Chicago Law School's Civil Rights and Police Accountability Project, Ropes & Gray is representing a man wrongfully convicted as a teen and sentenced to life in prison. He was released after spending more than two decades in prison when a judge determined that his confession was coerced, and that police engaged in other misconduct. After his release, he sent a Freedom of Information Act request for all police misconduct records spanning 40 years. When the City failed to respond, he filed suit, and the City was required to comply with the request. The City is appealing the trial court's ruling; Ropes & Gray is assisting in our client's appeal.

### A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO ORGANIZATIONAL ALLIES

In addition to pledging legal skills and time to public service work, Ropes & Gray has made donations to three organizations that share our principles: Equal Justice Initiative, Equal Justice Works (both longtime firm *pro bono* partners) and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. This support builds on previous partnerships, which have included creating and funding a novel, 10-year fellowship program with Equal Justice Works focused on criminal justice system reform and racial justice (see page 4).

## EXPANDING PRO BONO WORK in Asia

**ROPES & GRAY'S PRO BONO PROGRAM** has grown in global scope steadily over the past few years. In Asia, the expansion has been especially dramatic.

In 2019, almost three quarters of lawyers in the Asia offices met Ropes & Gray's 20-hour *pro bono* challenge, while 98 percent of lawyers contributed some *pro bono* work. That marks a 93 percent increase in *pro bono* participation in Asia since 2015.

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## HELPING Separated Families Navigate Asylum

**IN 2019, ROPES & GRAY LAWYERS** committed over 42,000 *pro bono* hours to immigration efforts—almost one quarter of the firm's total for the year. Much of this immigration work was devoted to continuing Ropes & Gray's efforts launched at the Texas border in 2018. Then, the firm represented more than 30 families who had been held in detention centers in South Texas pursuant to the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy. Through the firm's border initiative—and in partnership with the Texas Civil Rights Project, Kids in Need of Defense and RAICES—more than 130 attorneys and 80 support team members helped reunify the families and secured the release of all from immigrant detention.



*Ropes & Gray has been assisting families at the U.S. southern border since 2018.*

But Ropes & Gray's work for these families did not stop there. We took the unique step of offering the families full immigration representation, assisting them with ICE check-ins and representing them in their applications for immigration relief, including asylum and humanitarian parole. Three families have so far secured asylum, two are awaiting decisions, one is appealing a denial, 14 have hearings pending, and two are in the process of filing.

Labor & employment counsel **Jenny Cooper** represents one of these families, which now resides in California. The couple, M and J, met in El Salvador. M and her daughter had previously fled Honduras for El Salvador after suffering domestic abuse. In El Salvador, M and J had a son, growing the family from three to four. Trouble started soon after, when J was harassed by a gang. After J reported the threats to the police, the gang told J and M that they would be murdered if they didn't leave the country, so they decided to come to the United States.

Jenny is no stranger to *pro bono*—she's done a lot of child advocacy work—but this was her first asylum case, which has come with unique challenges. "It's been frustrating on the process side," she said, explaining that it took a long time for our clients to appear in the system, which delayed filing. Other procedural obstacles followed, including questions about the appropriate place to file, short notice of hearings and incomplete information from the courts. Despite the setbacks, Jenny is optimistic about the outcome: "I know that we're helping our clients to the best of our abilities. And while they haven't received a tangible result from the legal process, they are still here, they are safe, and they know that we are advocating for them every step of the way."

# PRO BONO NEWS

## EXPANDING PRO BONO WORK in Asia *(continued from page 2)*

Our lawyers in Asia advocated for the wrongfully imprisoned, trained prosecutors in Africa, expanded opportunities for underprivileged children and helped to combat human trafficking.

### THE INNOCENCE PROJECT

Work related to the Innocence Project represented a significant part of *pro bono* activity in Asia in 2019. Lawyers in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo all conducted case reviews—this work helped propel the Shanghai office to its highest-achieving *pro bono* year ever. Lawyers there took on 15 states on behalf of the Innocence Project in a U.S. survey relating to the admissibility of new evidence, helping them to a perfect score of 100 percent. Every lawyer met the firm's 20-hour challenge.

### AN ESPECIALLY BUSY YEAR IN HONG KONG

Lawyers in the Hong Kong office handled many important matters and earned noteworthy recognition for their efforts: The Law Society of Hong Kong honored Ropes & Gray with a Gold Award for *pro bono* excellence, and recognized associates **June Lau** and **John Kwok** for their individual commitments to *pro bono* service.



Individual honorees John Kwok (l.) and June Lau (r.) flank Victoria Lloyd, who accepted the firm's Gold Award. *(continued on page 4)*

## SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES After Gas Explosion

**A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS** caused by excessive pressure in Columbia Gas natural gas lines wreaked havoc in the towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, Massachusetts, in September 2018. Thousands had to evacuate their homes, while the cities' economic centers were torn apart. Through an innovative partnership, Ropes & Gray and Lawyers for Civil Rights provided free legal assistance to small businesses affected by the explosion in Lawrence. For our clients—small, minority-owned and immigrant-owned businesses—the devastating impact of the explosion was immediate; they lacked working capital to repair buildings, and their customers disappeared, seemingly overnight. “Helping get the small business community back on track is an essential part of recovery, particularly for communities of color,” said asset management partner **Elizabeth Reza**, who led the project.

In March of this year, the court approved a \$143 million settlement between Columbia Gas and thousands of people affected by the pipeline disaster. Our team helped seven small businesses write and submit their settlement claims, among them a multilingual day care center, a convenience store and an ethnic grocery store. Corporate associates **Evan Tallmadge** and **Joe Muller** worked with the Egyptian-born owner of a convenience store on his claim. “Creating the financial picture of the business—both before and after the explosion—was where I spent most of my time,” Evan said. Because robust records did not exist, Evan and Joe worked with the client and the client's accountant to build them out. Evan likened the experience of combing through the client's records to performing due diligence in a corporate deal: “It was entirely within the realm of skills that a junior corporate lawyer already has.”

All claims were received by March 27; our team hopes that given the effect the coronavirus pandemic is having on the already vulnerable Lawrence community, compensation will be paid soon.

## Paying it Forward with Attorneys' Fees

**ATTORNEYS' FEES AWARDED TO THE FIRM** in settlements of two landmark *pro bono* cases are being used to create opportunities for junior lawyers focused on public interest law.

Janelle H. Dempsey is the first recipient of the Ropes & Gray Justice Fellowship at Lawyers for Civil Rights, a Boston-based group that specializes in civil rights impact litigation. Funded by attorneys' fees awarded in *Huot v. City of Lowell*, a federal Voting Rights Act case brought *(continued on page 4)*

# PRO BONO NEWS

## EXPANDING PRO BONO WORK in Asia *(continued from page 3)*

Highlights of the office's 2019 *pro bono* work include:

- **GROWING ITS RELATIONSHIP** with InspiringHK, a local charity that aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged young people through sport. The office advises the organization on corporate and contractual matters.
- **CONTINUING TO HELP** The Hong Kong Council of Social Service assess applications to its Community Development Enhancement Fund.
- **PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT** to Hong Kong University's Street Law clinical legal education program.
- **COUNSELLING LIBERTY SHARED** on supply chain issues around human trafficking. The London, U.S., Tokyo and Hong Kong offices worked on the first phase of a research project for Liberty Shared and ECPAT (formerly End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) that examines legal and social welfare frameworks surrounding child sexual exploitation and trafficking in multiple jurisdictions.

## WORKING WITH LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS IN AFRICA

The Shanghai office also continued the firm's longstanding partnership with Lawyers Without Borders in 2019. Litigation associate **Yaping Zhang** travelled to Namibia with the organization to run a gender-based violence training program for prosecutors.

## Paying it Forward with Attorneys' Fees *(continued from page 3)*

*pro bono* by Ropes & Gray in partnership with LCR, Janelle's fellowship is dedicated to advocacy in racial justice and immigrant rights.

Janelle is a 2017 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Northeastern University Law Review*. Prior to joining LCR, she was a litigation associate at a boutique firm in Boston.

Ropes & Gray previously created and funded a novel, 10-year fellowship program with Equal Justice Works—a Washington-based organization that pairs lawyers with opportunities in public interest law—focused on criminal justice system reform and racial justice. We used some of the fees we received in the settlement of *Nunez v. City of New York*, the landmark class-action lawsuit brought against New York City jails at Rikers Island, to fund five two-year fellowships at Equal Justice Works.

Our first fellow, Bianca Tylek, developed an innovative prison reform project, initially through the Urban Justice Center. The firm has been helping her spin her project off into a new nonprofit called the Corrections Accountability Project to continue this work. Our second fellow, Bobby Hunter, will soon finish a two-year fellowship at the ACLU's Racial Justice Program, where he focused on strategic litigation and community partnerships at the state level to reform court debt collection practices that ultimately incarcerate people who are too poor to pay a court fine or fee. Our third fellow, Faith Barksdale, will start at the Innocence Project this fall and will focus on prosecutorial oversight and reform.

## AIDING COVID-19 Relief Efforts

**SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS** are facing an especially challenging time as the COVID-19 pandemic affects their ability to stay afloat. Ropes & Gray attorneys and support team members are jumping in to provide much-needed support, especially to minority-owned small businesses.

In Boston, Ropes & Gray and *pro bono* partners Lawyers for Civil Rights and Lawyers Clearinghouse led an alliance of law firms, nonprofits and government agencies to form the COVID Relief Coalition. The coalition will give vulnerable businesses and mission-driven organizations *pro bono* legal support.

Through the coalition's website—built by the Ropes & Gray support team, with input from attorneys—small businesses and nonprofits can learn

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# PRO BONO NEWS

## Noteworthy RECOGNITION

Ropes & Gray regularly earns honors for its commitment to *pro bono* service. Here are some highlights of noteworthy recognition received by both the firm and individual attorneys in 2019 and 2020:

- **LAWYERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS HONORED ROPES & GRAY** in June for collaborating with the organization on two critical projects: the COVID Relief Coalition and the landmark federal Voting Rights Act case *Huot v. City of Lowell*. **Christian Westra, Will Baker, Rich Conklin, Phillip Cosmos, Shae Fitzpatrick, John Galvin** and **Jonathan Hempton** are all on the COVID Relief Coalition core team and have worked daily on the initiative. **Chrystal LaRoche, Laurie Nelson, James Lobo** and **Alison McLaughlin** have provided invaluable support on real estate-related and insurance-related questions. **Rob Jones, Amin Danai, Daniel Fine, Jonathan Magaziner, Lilly McCullough, Ioana Moldovan, Martin Njoroge, Scott Taylor** and former associate Matthew Mazzotta were the key attorneys on the *Huot* team.
- **THE NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER (NIJC) HAS RECOGNIZED** litigation & enforcement associate **Michael Marzano** as a Rising Star for providing *pro bono* counsel to NIJC clients on complex asylum matters. Michael was one of 12 attorneys in total who received a Rising Star award during the NIJC's 21st annual Human Rights Awards in early June.
- **ROPES & GRAY WAS AWARDED** "Pro Bono Program of the Year" honors by Chambers & Partners for offering the most innovative and successful *pro bono* support to its local or global community.
- **LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK PRESENTED** Ropes & Gray with the Cornerstone Award, its highest *pro bono* honor, for the 25-plus matters Ropes & Gray lawyers have handled since 2017, encompassing the corporate, intellectual property, employment and real estate practice areas, among others. Managing partner **David Djaha** and real estate counsel **Laurie Nelson** were also recognized for their longtime service to the organization, more than 10 years and 15 years, respectively.

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## AIDING COVID-19 Relief Efforts *(continued from page 4)*

about and apply for emergency loans and other sources of relief. The site will connect eligible small businesses and nonprofits to free legal support by coalition partners. Lawyers who want to help can also sign up to volunteer.

Coalition partners include the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, City of Boston, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston Bar Association, The Boston Foundation, and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. Ropes & Gray also recruited and trained numerous partner law firms. The core team from Ropes & Gray includes private equity partner **Christian Westra** and associates **Will Baker, Rich Conklin, Phillip Cosmos, Shae Fitzpatrick, John Galvin** and **Jonathan Hempton**.

In New York, the firm launched a similar project with the New York Small Business Legal Relief Alliance, led by litigation & enforcement associate **Meghan Gilligan Palermo**. Finance partner and *pro bono* committee member **Rob Haak** is leading a team in London to help small businesses make use of government assistance. And in the San Francisco Bay Area, attorneys led by private equity partner **Howard Glazer** and associate **Walton Dumas** are collaborating with Start Small, Think Big to provide legal assistance to small businesses in need.

## ENDING ABUSE at Iowa School

**IN LATE MARCH**, U.S. District Judge Stephanie Rose issued a 116-page ruling finding the State of Iowa liable for violating the constitutional rights of juveniles held at the Boys State Training School in Eldora. The ruling was a decisive victory for boys confined to the school—and for the Ropes & Gray team that fought for their rights.

As described in the last issue of *Pro Bono News*, in early 2018 Ropes & Gray joined nonprofit organizations Disability Rights Iowa and Children's Rights, Inc., in a lawsuit against the director of the Iowa Department of Human Services and other officials. The suit alleged illegal and unconstitutional mistreatment of juveniles at the Boys State Training School, some of whom have severe mental disabilities. A nine-day trial followed in June 2019.

In her ruling, Judge Rose also ordered the appointment of a monitor to oversee a comprehensive set of court-mandated reforms at the school and directed the state to submit a plan for remedying "the unconstitutional deficiencies in the school's mental health treatment programs" within 45 days.

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# PRO BONO NEWS

## Noteworthy RECOGNITION

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- **THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER (CLC) NAMED** Ropes & Gray its 2019 Pro Bono Champion for helping Washington, D.C.'s most vulnerable children and families. The award honored the efforts of a Ropes & Gray team that enabled the CLC to receive Medicaid funding for its legal advocacy related to its clients' health care issues through an innovative, first-in-the-nation contract.
- **WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL NAMED** Ropes & Gray to its list of "Top Law Firms by Pro Bono Hours in Greater D.C."
- **LITIGATION & ENFORCEMENT PARTNER Rob Jones** was named 2019 "Lawyer of the Year" by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* alongside Oren Sellstrom of Lawyers for Civil Rights for their role in *Huot v. City of Lowell*, a landmark federal Voting Rights Act case that resulted in the City of Lowell agreeing to change its system to ensure a fairer and more equitable election process.
- **HEALTH CARE PARTNER Stephen Warnke** has been named one of three finalists for *The New York Law Journal's* "Attorney of the Year" award for his leadership role in advising New York hospitals, home health agencies and other nonprofit safety net providers on sustaining and expanding their life-saving care delivery missions during the pandemic.
- **THE NEW YORK CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE PRESENTED** its Access to Justice Award to Ropes & Gray and litigation & enforcement partner **Chris Conniff** for their *pro bono* work on *Aranow et al. v. City of New York*, a case in which the firm is representing deaf New Yorkers who have been denied proper accommodations by the Human Resources Administration of New York.
- **THE NEW ENGLAND INNOCENCE PROJECT HONORED** Ropes & Gray and litigation & enforcement partner **Kirsten Mayer** with the inaugural ARC OF JUSTICE award for the firm's partnership in helping to free Gary Cifizzari, a wrongfully convicted Massachusetts man who was released in July 2019 after serving 35 years in prison.

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## ENDING ABUSE at Iowa School (continued from page 5)

Litigation & enforcement partner **Tim Farrell**, a member of the Ropes & Gray team that worked on the case, looks forward to "ensuring that Judge Rose's order is carried out to restore dignity and humanity to the boys committed to the Boys State Training School."

In addition to Tim, Ropes & Gray's cross-office litigation team included litigation & enforcement partner **Nick Berg** and associates **Katelyn Saner, Charlie Zagnoli, Elizabeth Noonan-Pomada, Amanda Seitz, Rebekah Newman, Patrick Doherty** and **Chimso Okoji**. The trial team was also supported by trial graphics specialist **Preston Miller** and former paralegal Sam Sleevei, and received remote support from paralegals **Peggy Burns, Colby Stapleton, Sally Kim, Megan Everman, Samantha Burchett** and **Nate Wolack**, as well as litigation technology help from **Aaron Rose** and **Brian Stevens**.

## Offering Tax Help to Trafficking Victims

**ROPES & GRAY** has collaborated with the Human Trafficking Legal Center for the past five years, helping the center develop training materials for its *pro bono* network of lawyers and performing legal research and writing for the center. In late 2019, with the University of Baltimore School of Law Human Trafficking Prevention Project, the University of Baltimore Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and the Human Trafficking Legal Center, we launched a joint guide examining tax consequences for survivors of human trafficking called [\*An Advocate's Guide to Tax Issues Affecting Victims of Human Trafficking\*](#).

Human trafficking victims are often investigated by the IRS, as traffickers fail to pay employer-side taxes, steal their victims' identities, file false tax returns in victims' names and seize fraudulent tax refunds. There are also tax consequences in connection with settlements received by trafficking victims. The first section of the guide addresses the civil tax consequences victims might face because of trafficking; the second deals with the tax consequences of money a victim might receive at the close of a civil or criminal trafficking case.

Tax partner **Kat Saunders Gregor** said, "We were delighted to work with the Human Trafficking Legal Center on this project. This *pro bono* partnership highlights the importance of understanding tax consequences for victims of human trafficking as they rebuild their lives and—hopefully—receive some form of recovery for past harm. When advocates anticipate the tax issues, they can smooth out the process of navigating a complex system. For trafficking victims, this can prevent further revictimization."

# PRO BONO NEWS

## Noteworthy RECOGNITION

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- **DIRECTOR AND PRO BONO COUNSEL Roz Nasdor** was appointed to the Boston Bar Association's COVID-19 Crisis Response Working Group, charged with monitoring emerging pandemic-related issues and making recommendations as to appropriate BBA policy decisions.

## Pro Bono HONOR ROLL

IN 2019, 1,185 Ropes & Gray attorneys and more than 260 support team members performed 20 or more hours of *pro bono* service; as of June 30, 2020, the numbers are 720 and 75, respectively. We laud these efforts, as well as those of the many Ropes & Gray employees whose time is not tracked but who are essential to the success of our *pro bono* program.

[View the 2019 honor roll](#)

[View the 2020 honor roll](#)

If you have *pro bono* projects you would like to propose, or would like to learn more about opportunities currently available, please email [probonoteam@ropesgray.com](mailto:probonoteam@ropesgray.com).

## Pro Bono COMMITTEE

Christopher P. Conniff, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Kendi E. Ozmon
Andrew J. Dale, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Alexandre H. Rene
Amanda N. Raad, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Andrew N. Thomases
Jennifer A. Rikoski, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Kaede Toh
Nicholas M. Berg	Rocky C. Tsai
Albert F. Cacozza	Stephen A. Warnke
Robert Haak	Eric Wu

Douglas H. Hallward-Driemeier  
*Policy Committee Liaison to the Pro Bono Committee*

Rosalyn Garbose Nasdor, *Director & Pro Bono Counsel*

Byrne Harrison, *Senior Pro Bono Coordinator*

Felicity Kirk, *International Pro Bono*

Tom Sciattara, *Senior Human Resources and Pro Bono Administrator*

Elizabeth Levi, *Pro Bono Coordinator*

## IMPACT INVESTING Serving the Greater Good

At the start of 2019, the nonprofit Global Impact Investing Network estimated the size of the impact investing market at \$502 billion. Within this market, our London teams have recently provided transactional *pro bono* advice to investors and funds dedicated to addressing social and environmental issues through the infusion of capital.

### GIVING MOTORBIKE TAXI DRIVERS IN UGANDA A LEG UP

In March, the London team advised PG Impact Investments, a global impact investment fund, on its investment in Tugende, a Uganda-based, lease-to-own motorcycle finance provider that gives motorbike taxi drivers the opportunity to purchase their own vehicles. PG Impact Investments is backed by Partners Group, one of the largest private markets investment managers in the world. The team included private equity partner **Alex Robb** and associates **David Dowling**, **Ciara Stratford**, **Sean Darling** and **Oriyan Prizant**; and trainee solicitor **Nathan Sekhar**. Associate **Abraham Rudy** assisted in New York. Former partner Phil Sanderson also served on the team.

### HELPING MORE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES PROTECT THEIR BIODIVERSITY

Ropes & Gray has advised the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) since it was established in 2012. Most recently, in December 2019, our London team advised the CBF on its agreement with the German Development Bank (KfW) for the investment of 25.5 million euros to expand the CBF's Conservation Finance Program. The new agreement will allow up to four new countries to benefit from the CBF endowment instrument—Dominica, Guyana, Haiti and Cuba. In addition, the agreement incorporates a variety of capacity building activities.

Earlier in 2019, our lawyers advised CBF on the CBF Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility, a fund that will award grants to organizations supporting climate change adaptation and poverty alleviation. Since then, 11 organizations made successful funding applications under the first call for proposals, ranging in size from \$260,000 to \$2 million. A second call for

proposals was issued in late February.

The Ropes & Gray team was led by counsel **Will Bryant**, alongside associates **David Dowling** and **Harriet Banner** and trainee solicitor **Nathan Sekhar**.

