

Reflections on a Record Year

Ropes & Gray's *pro bono* program maintained strong momentum throughout 2017. By year's end, more than 1,600 firm attorneys, paralegals, summer associates and other professionals provided more than 160,000 hours of *pro bono* legal services—a new record for the firm. The firm's *pro bono* work spanned a wide range of areas, including immigration assistance, criminal offender record sealing for clients of a Boston women's shelter and aiding those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire in London last June. Public service has long been a hallmark of Ropes & Gray, and the firm is proud to make a profound difference in the lives of people across the globe.

STANDING UP for Immigrants

From the very beginning of 2017, immigration-related work figured prominently in Ropes & Gray's *pro bono* activities.

On Jan. 20, Inauguration Day in the United States, Ropes & Gray attorneys joined attorneys and others from firm client Vertex Pharmaceuticals as part of a Project Citizenship team that helped 150 legal permanent residents complete their U.S. citizenship applications. That collaboration led to another joint effort later in the year, in which the firm and Vertex conducted approximately 100 asylum screening interviews for the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project.

One week after the inauguration, the firm mobilized attorneys to provide immigration assistance at airports across the United States following the Jan. 27 executive order restricting travel from seven countries and halting refugee admissions. The firm's response also involved around-the-clock research and writing as attorneys and paralegals in the United States and Asia laid the groundwork for a subsequent challenge of the travel ban.

Beyond the travel ban, the firm was involved with numerous other significant immigration-related issues during the year, including whether state and local officials may hold individuals based solely on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers, the indefinite detention of individuals in removal proceedings, and the permissibility of deferred action programs. Firm attorneys also worked on immigration and asylum matters throughout the year with numerous *pro bono* partners around the world, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the International Refugee Assistance Project and Immigration Equality, among others.

Ropes & Gray coordinates immigration-related *pro bono* work through the Immigration Forum. Established late in 2016, the Immigration Forum comprises approximately 450 attorneys across the firm who are committed to providing *pro bono* immigration assistance. It has *(continued on page 2)*

IN THIS ISSUE

Standing Up for Immigrants	1
Spotlight: Tokyo	1
Spotlight: London	2
A New Clinic at Rosie's Place	3
Partnering in Chicago to Help Nonprofits	4
In Memoriam: Terry Iandiorio	4
Pro Bono Honor Roll	5

SPOTLIGHT: TOKYO

Having been a key player in the launch of the Tokyo *Pro Bono* Roundtable, which enables Japanese and international law firms to discuss opportunities and challenges to *pro bono* work in Japan, the Tokyo office has now taken on two clients.

Cross Fields places executives from Japanese corporations on short-term secondments with NGOs operating in the region to help build skills and capacity. The Tokyo office has advised on the template memorandum of understanding Cross Fields uses with its partner organizations.

In addition, the office now works with local counsel to assist clients of the Japan Association for Refugees who are seeking asylum in Japan, and has submitted the asylum application for its first client. The case is expected to be heard in May. Litigation & enforcement partner **KAEDE TOH** leads the firm team, which also includes finance counsel **BEN MORRIS** and litigation & enforcement associates **BONNIE DOYLE** (Shanghai) and **YUKIKO FUJIOKA**.

PRO BONO NEWS

SPOTLIGHT: LONDON

Attorneys in Ropes & Gray's London office played a vital role in the firm's *pro bono* activities in 2017. Two major initiatives are highlighted below.

Marshalling the Grenfell Tower Response

The June 14 fire at Grenfell Tower, a residential tower block in London, claimed 71 lives and left hundreds homeless. A Ropes & Gray team, led by international *pro bono* lead **FELICITY KIRK**, stepped in immediately to assist those affected, leading a response that earned grateful recognition later in the year.

Following the fire, the North Kensington Law Centre, located next to the tower, was overwhelmed with offers of support from individual lawyers, firms, barristers and law students. Working alongside Rebecca Greenhalgh of law firm Ashurst, Felicity coordinated the efforts of volunteer lawyers from across London. She and Ms. Greenhalgh established advisory services, clinics and support networks, and played a key role in deciding both where and what *pro bono* assistance was needed most. They then recruited lawyers from more than 30 law firms through the Collaborative Plan for *Pro Bono* in the UK to work with the Law Centre to help those affected.

For their tireless work at a time of extreme need, Felicity and Ms. Greenhalgh were jointly recognized with the Best Contribution by an Individual award at the LawWorks *Pro Bono* Awards 2017 ceremony, held on Dec. 5 at the Law Society in London.

London-based Ropes & Gray lawyers who participated in the Grenfell Tower response included investment management counsel **KIRSTEN LAPHAM**; litigation & enforcement associate **MIKE BELL**; finance associates **JACK BODKIN** and **EMMA SERGINSON**; private equity transactions associates **ELECTRA CALLAN** and **PHILIP FOGARTY**; real estate associate **VICTORIA LLOYD**; trainee solicitors **EAMON GALLAGHER**, **HARRIET SLATER** and **NICOLAAS STEYNBERG**; former Ropes & Gray attorneys Matt Cox and Galena Dineva; and former trainee solicitor Louise Bolderstone.

Firm lawyers were involved in the "Xtra Hands" contingent that sent four volunteers to the Centre for the two months following the *(continued on page 3)*

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been cited as an innovative *pro bono* program by the *Financial Times* Innovative Lawyers report.

One Immigrant's Story

For an illustration of how the firm's *pro bono* immigration work can literally change lives, consider the case of a 17-year-old asylum seeker from Guinea.

The young man had suffered extreme violence and persecution in his home country because of his political beliefs and his sexual orientation. Imprisoned and tortured at age 16, he escaped from prison, fled Guinea and passed through 11 countries before reaching the United States, surviving on his wits and his high school-level French.

Applying for asylum only on the grounds of political opinion because he was fearful of disclosing his sexual orientation, the young man had his asylum claim denied in Sept. 2016, a decision that was remanded for further evidence. Unrepresented by counsel throughout these initial proceedings and dependent upon court-appointed French interpreters, the young man ultimately spent more than a year in several prisons and detention centers.

Ropes & Gray got involved in Feb. 2017 at the request of Immigration Equality, an LGBTQ immigrant rights organization and a longtime firm *pro bono* partner. The cross-practice firm team was led by tax partner **ROM WATSON**, who felt compelled to get involved when he learned the young man's story.

Other team members included e-discovery counsel **SHANNON KIRK**, private equity transactions associate **MARC MIGLIAZZO**, and litigation & enforcement associate **ASHLEY PAQUIN**. The team also received invaluable support from corporate associate **SARAH CHEN**, litigation paralegal supervisor **PAULA ASTL** and managing attorney **MARC DUFFY**.

The Ropes & Gray team worked with the client from Feb. to Aug. 2017, leading up to the client's second merits hearing. The team helped the young man file an amended asylum application, a declaration, a country conditions report and an affidavit prepared by a medical expert. The team also obtained high school textbooks that enabled the young man to continue his schoolwork in detention; by the date of the hearing, he was able to provide the vast majority of his testimony in English.

After a three-hour hearing on Aug. 28, the Immigration Court granted the asylum application, and the government waived its right to appeal, making the client a free man in the United States for the first time in more than 15 months.

Now living in a small town in New England, the young man hopes to become a doctor. On Oct. 5, his friends gave him an 18th birthday celebration, which Rom attended. *(continued on page 3)*

PRO BONO NEWS

(continued from page 2)

“We were all very proud of this team effort, and the great results that come from Ropes & Gray’s *pro bono* work,” says Rom. “The firm put a lot of resources into this case, but in my view our legal team literally saved our client’s life—an outcome which rarely occurs in the international tax field. It was very inspiring to play a part in this story.”

A NEW CLINIC at Rosie’s Place

The Boston private equity group has launched a new *pro bono* initiative designed to help clients of Rosie’s Place, a women’s shelter in Boston, overcome the obstacles that having a criminal record can present when trying to find housing and employment.



The Ropes & Gray team at the inaugural CORI sealing clinic helped more than a dozen clients of Boston women’s shelter Rosie’s Place.

In partnership with Rosie’s Place, New England School of Law and Lawyers Clearinghouse, firm attorneys have established monthly CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) sealing clinics that enable the shelter’s clients to obtain a copy of their CORI report, learn their associated rights and, if eligible, have their records sealed. Attorneys on the team help clients understand which convictions may be sealed and assist them through the record-sealing process.

The inaugural CORI sealing clinic was held at Rosie’s Place on Sept. 27, 2017. Ropes & Gray attorneys and support team members met with more than a dozen clients, helping them pull their CORI reports and seal their criminal records. Private equity transactions associates **WILL BAKER**, **MAGGIE CURTISS** and **NICK CASSIDY** led the Boston-based team, which also included securities & public companies partner **DAVID FINE**; private equity transactions associates **TONY BERNARD**, **RICH CONKLIN** and **SHEILA MEAGHER**; investment management associates **AMANDA ADAM** and **LAUREN MEDEIROS FORSTER**; life sciences associate **ABIGAIL GREGOR**; real estate paralegal **VEE KAUR**; client development manager **JASMINE MILLER**; senior practice development specialist **KELSEY CURTIS**; practice development specialist **KRISTEN SULLIVAN**; practice development assistant **TESSA FAGIN**; and former paralegal Amy Chappel. Joining

(continued on page 4)

SPOTLIGHT: LONDON

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fire to help out with anything the Law Centre needed, from taking notes at client interviews to leafletting the properties neighboring the tower to let residents know that the Law Centre was open for business. Ropes & Gray lawyers conducted the research needed for a paperwork clinic and helped staff the clinic, which assisted survivors with the replacement of all their documents lost in the fire.

“We are extremely proud of the key role that Felicity and others in our London office played in responding to this disaster,” notes **ROZ NASDOR**, director & *pro bono* counsel. “We congratulate Felicity and commend all of our lawyers involved for the valuable and ongoing *pro bono* work they provide to the London community.”

Ropes & Gray has also recently taken on a matter through the Law Centre, advising on the establishment of a charity called Humanity for Grenfell, which supports people bereaved and affected by events of the fire who have not been defined as family for the purposes of the support already being provided. Private equity transactions associate **DAVID DOWLING** is leading this effort.

Aiding Undocumented Minors with KIND UK

In 2017, Ropes & Gray added a new dimension to its longtime *pro bono* partnership with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) by working with KIND UK and Islington Law Centre to help undocumented minors obtain permission to remain in the UK. Currently concentrated in London, these efforts pilot a UK-wide program. Matters so far have involved helping parents file forms with the Home Office to allow their children to stay in the UK, including preparing and filing an FLR(FP) application (“Application for leave to remain in the UK on the basis of your family life as a partner, parent or dependent child”) or a Form AN (“Application for Naturalisation as a British Citizen”).

The initiative was spearheaded by the London finance practice and involves five partner-led teams and a total of 18 finance practice lawyers. All cases are ongoing—we hope to provide further details in our next issue.

PRO BONO NEWS

(continued from page 3)

the team for subsequent clinics were corporate associates **TYLER CASH, JOSHUA COOMBES, AARON FIELDS, JONATHAN HEMPTON** and **STEPHANIE RAGLAND**; private equity transactions associates **JAMES CRAWFORD, MATT ENGELLENNER, GRAHAM FOSTER, SPENCER HAUGHT, ADAM LEAMON** and **RICH WHEELER**; and corporate paralegal **LILLIAN MOSKIN**.

To date, the Rosie's Place team has conducted five clinics and performed more than 25 intakes.

"In just its first few months, the Rosie's Place CORI clinic has been an enormous success," says Will Baker. "The number of success stories is staggering, and the feedback from clients, Rosie's Place staff, and Ropes & Gray attorneys, paralegals and business support teams has been incredible and humbling. The whole team is excited to continue to grow the clinic in 2018."

"The impact that a few hours of lawyer time can have on the lives of our Rosie's Place clients is pretty amazing," notes Maggie Curtiss. "Some clients who have older charges on their CORI report are able to have their entire record sealed by simply mailing a one-page form to the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services. With a clear CORI report, these clients find it easier to apply for jobs, housing and volunteer opportunities, and to access other vital services for which they otherwise might not be eligible."

"The goal of the CORI clinic is to address a major need among the Rosie's Place population while also making *pro bono* work accessible for corporate attorneys," adds Nick Cassidy. "So far, I have been extremely happy with the number of women we have been able to assist, as well as the willingness of our attorneys, paralegals and support team members to dive in and produce positive outcomes for their Rosie's clients."

The CORI sealing clinics mark the second such collaboration between Ropes & Gray and Rosie's Place—the firm has held regular debt clinics at the shelter since 2015 to help clients with debt-related issues, including negotiation with creditors and contacts with debt collectors.

If you would like to participate in a CORI clinic or learn more about the program, please contact Roz Nasdor, director & pro bono counsel, or any of the private equity transactions leads on this initiative: associates Will Baker, Maggie Curtiss and Nick Cassidy, and partner Will Shields.

PARTNERING IN CHICAGO TO HELP Nonprofits

In Dec. 2017, Ropes & Gray launched a partnership with firm client AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company, and the Community Law Project, a Chicago-based transactional *pro bono* legal services provider, to conduct legal audit clinics for nonprofit (continued on page 5)

IN MEMORIAM: Terry Iandiorio



On Aug. 16, 2017, Ropes & Gray lost a treasured friend, valued colleague and dedicated champion of *pro bono* service when government enforcement counsel Terrell J. (Terry) Iandiorio passed away suddenly in Nantucket, Mass., at the age of 46.

Terry was kind, caring and deeply committed to public service as well as the greater good. His exemplary dedication to *pro bono* legal service provides a model for all attorneys committed to helping those in need.

Terry stood out for his work as lead counsel for Ropes & Gray's *pro bono* partnership with DotHouse Health, a community health center delivering medical care and other services and programs to members of the Boston community, as well as lead counsel for medical-legal partnerships with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital. He also steered and nurtured important partnerships with many Boston-area legal services agencies, including the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Greater Boston Legal Services, Community Legal Services and Counseling Center, Disability Law Center, and MLP Boston.

Over the course of his more than 10 years at Ropes & Gray, Terry dedicated nearly 5,000 hours to *pro bono* work, all while handling a significant workload in his government enforcement practice. During his final six years at the firm, he served as the point person for what was essentially an in-house legal services program, overseeing a docket of nearly 100 cases mentoring countless young attorneys.

Modest in his demeanor, Terry never sought attention for his commitment to public service. His own humility, however, did not prevent the legal community from recognizing his outstanding efforts. In 2016, he was honored with the Denis Maguire *Pro Bono* Award from the Boston Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project. In 2015, Ropes & Gray received the Outstanding Medical-Legal Partnership *Pro Bono* Advocacy Award from the American Bar Association, which recognizes attorneys who develop "innovative approaches to improve the health and well-being of low-income individual and/or communities." The award is a testament to Terry's leadership, as well as to the efforts of several firm partners and associates. Terry and his team also received a Ropes & Gray Outstanding *Pro Bono* Award in 2012.

Terry's commitment to service, the many lives he changed, and the individuals he mentored and inspired represent his outstanding and enduring legacy. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

PRO BONO NEWS

(continued from page 4)

organizations that AbbVie supports. Following a training provided by the Community Law Project and Ropes & Gray labor & employment associate **JEN CORMIER**, Ropes & Gray and AbbVie attorneys began working together to counsel AbbVie's community partners on corporate governance and employment issues. The organizations participating were Reading Power; Northern Illinois Food Bank; Prairie State Legal Services; A Safe Place; Beacon Place, NFP; Highland Park-Highwood Legal Aid Clinic; Bernie's Book Bank; CASA Lake County; and Boys & Girls Club of Lake County.



A Chicago Ropes & Gray team led by partner Deborah Gersh conducted legal audit clinics for nonprofit organizations supported by firm client AbbVie.

“The reviews were extremely positive, and the clients were thrilled with our expertise and thoughtfulness,” says health care partner **DEBORAH GERSH**, who leads the firm's relationship with AbbVie. She was joined at the event by Chicago office managing partner **NEILL JAKOBE**, health care associates **JAMIE DARCH** and **JOSEF WEIMHOLT**; private equity transactions associates **JIM DAVIS**, **CHRISTOPHER FISHER** and **HUNTER SHARP**; investment management associate **ELLEN YIADOM HOOVER**; and corporate associate **SEAN MURPHY**.

Pro Bono HONOR ROLL

To date, 425 Ropes & Gray attorneys and 49 support team members have performed 20 or more hours of *pro bono* service in 2018. We laud their 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 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.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

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COMMITTEE UPDATE AND A WORD OF THANKS

Ropes & Gray congratulates *pro bono* committee members **ANDREW DALE** and **AMANDA RAAD**, who join **CHRISTOPHER CONNIFF** and **JENNY RIKOSKI** as committee co-chairs. The firm also gives special thanks to litigation & enforcement partner **JOAN MCPHEE**, who has been instrumental in the globalization of the firm's *pro bono* program, particularly through her work with Lawyers Without Borders and the Innocence Project.