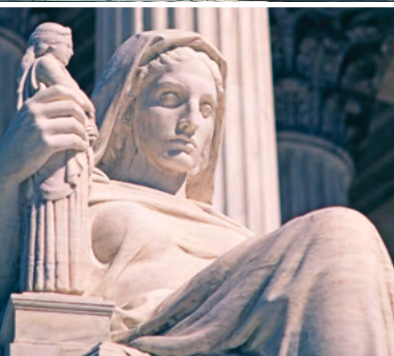
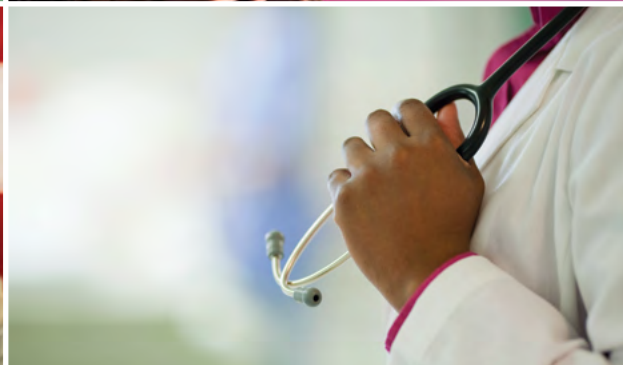


2011 PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
PARTNERING FOR JUSTICE



ROPES & GRAY

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOHN MONTGOMERY — DOING MORE AND DOING IT BETTER 4

FIGHTING TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE 5

PROVIDING HAVEN FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES 7

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES 9

FIGHTING DENIAL OF BENEFITS 11

PROVIDING VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE 12

SECURING SHELTER 13

WINNING CONSTITUTIONAL BATTLES 15

BACKING SMALL BUSINESS 17

ASSISTING NONPROFITS 18

SAVING A LIFE — LITERALLY 19

PARTNERING WITH CLIENTS 20

OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS 20

RECOGNITION OF OUR WORK 21

NEW ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM 21

PRO BONO AWARDS 22

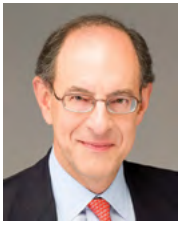
2011 ROPES & GRAY PRO BONO PARTICIPANTS 23

COMMUNITY SERVICE 27

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 28

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 28

PRO BONO COMMITTEE 29



R. Bradford Malt  
Chairman



John T. Montgomery  
Managing Partner

From securing asylum for endangered immigrants to helping people keep their homes to winning the release of a wrongly convicted man facing the death penalty, Ropes & Gray's attorneys provided life-changing legal advice across a broad spectrum of matters in 2011.

We are proud to present Ropes & Gray's 2011 *Pro Bono & Community Service Annual Report*, which illustrates the firm's ongoing commitment to providing the highest level of legal advice and support to those who need it most.

In 2011, 1,079 of our attorneys, paralegals, summer associates and other professionals showed tremendous dedication to those who can least afford representation, providing a firm record of 98,000 hours of free legal services, worth an estimated \$42 million.

While we believe all of our *pro bono* and community service efforts are worthy of recognition, what follows are some examples that demonstrate the scope of Ropes & Gray's work to help our clients and our communities overcome challenging legal obstacles.

Some highlights from 2011 include:

- Working tirelessly to get a young man, wrongfully convicted, off death row and back home.
- Helping win asylum for those who have fled their home countries due to their politics, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or sexuality.
- Fighting for the First Amendment rights of Florida physicians.
- Winning a landmark voters' rights ruling.
- Reuniting an Egyptian mother with her young sons, who were kidnapped by their father.
- Supporting the firm's various charitable efforts by donating time, money and goods to support the underprivileged, especially children.

Thank you to everyone who contributed *pro bono* hours, provided community service and supported our charitable endeavors. Your tireless devotion to helping others in need is a credit to the profession, to the firm and to the principle of providing justice for all.



Jeffrey R. Katz  
Co-chair



William I. Sussman  
Co-chair

Last year marked a number of important milestones for the *pro bono* program.

As new co-chairs of the *pro bono* committee, we were fortunate to become stewards of an already strong program.

Building on that strength, we set out to expand participation by offices and practice groups, empower each office to choose *pro bono* work that matches its community and lawyer preferences, and increase partner involvement. The firm made significant strides in each of these areas in 2011, and we look forward to further expanding the program in 2012.

Some highlights from last year include:

- Enlarging the *pro bono* committee (PBC) to include partners from all states where we have offices and to broaden practice group representation on the PBC.
- Creating an associate advisory group (AAG) to advise the PBC from the associates' perspective.
- Drawing on the insights of local PBC and AAG members, focusing on "preferred provider" *pro bono* legal service provider agencies for each office, so that the firm can strengthen relationships with those agencies and build internal expertise and leadership opportunities for our lawyers and staff.
- Challenging partners to get more involved by circulating more leadership and training opportunities and asking for a 20-hour annual *pro bono* commitment.

These efforts already are bearing fruit. Less than half a year into 2012, Ropes & Gray has been recognized by the American Bar Association's Business Law Section with its National Public Service Award, by the *National Law Journal*, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and several of our legal service providers, all due to your *pro bono* efforts in 2011.

Public recognition for our *pro bono* work is welcome, of course. But the real achievement of the *pro bono* program in 2011 was the incredible work done by so many of you, our colleagues, in giving over 98,000 hours of your time to help those in need of legal assistance. We applaud you all, and we look forward to an even stronger *pro bono* program in 2012 with your continued support.

We would be remiss if we did not note the steadfast support of our managing partner, John Montgomery, not just in 2011, but going back many years. As you'll read next in this report, the *pro bono* program at Ropes & Gray owes a great debt to him for his ongoing support and encouragement. Thank you, John.

## JOHN MONTGOMERY — DOING MORE AND DOING IT BETTER



John Montgomery, with dozens of Ropes & Gray attorneys, leads the Walk to the Hill lobbying effort for legal aid funding in Massachusetts.

### ROPES & GRAY PRO BONO HOURS\*

2007 — 37,000

2008 — 63,500

2009 — 90,000

2010 — 84,000

2011 — 98,000

\*All offices, all timekeepers

John Montgomery, our managing partner, retires from the firm at the end of 2012. John's accomplishments as a practicing litigator and as a firm leader are well known. But perhaps not as well known is John's tremendous contribution to the development of our *pro bono* program.

In addition to the demands of his litigation practice, and as managing partner since 2004, John has worked tirelessly with the *pro bono* committee and our *pro bono* staff to guide the extraordinary growth in the firm's *pro bono* program. Indeed, he was the first policy committee liaison to the *pro bono* committee. During John's tenure as managing partner, Ropes & Gray's *pro bono* activity increased dramatically, not only in terms of hours — from 18,000 in 2004 to 98,000 in 2011 — but also in its breadth and depth. In 2011 alone, over a thousand partners, associates and staff members, in every practice group, heeded John's call and did *pro bono* work.

The successful growth of our *pro bono* program under John's leadership has been recognized by groups that evaluate firms' *pro bono* work. Ropes & Gray not only earned its first-ever ranking on the "A-List" of law firms by *The American Lawyer* (which gives extra weight to *pro bono* performance), but we also won the "Law Firm of the Year" *pro bono* award from the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. It is safe to say that those and other external recognitions of our *pro bono* work are due in large part to John's encouragement and inspiration.

John also walks the walk. Coming from a background in public service, John later elected to take a year off from his successful Ropes & Gray practice to serve in government as the first assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And in addition to his countless hours nurturing *pro bono* efforts here at the firm, perhaps his most gratifying *pro bono* matter was a death penalty case that saved our client's life.

Asked to reflect on the *pro bono* program, John had this to say:

We have an ethical and a moral obligation to serve those who cannot afford legal services for their essential needs. We recognize and honor those obligations through our *pro bono* program. In doing our *pro bono* work, we have followed the same path that has produced such success for our paying clients: set ambitious goals, develop plans to achieve them, and then execute skillfully to accomplish them. Our *pro bono* work is uniquely important, perhaps in recent years more than ever. The last decade has been bracketed by recessions that have exposed again the extent of the needs in our communities, as well as the declining resources to address those needs. It has been deeply gratifying that the firm has been able to increase its *pro bono* work in such challenging circumstances. We all should be very proud of our *pro bono* program, how it has grown, the many gratifying successes we have achieved for our clients, and the recognition the program has garnered — but of course after congratulating ourselves, we need to dedicate ourselves, as always, to doing more and doing it even better.

Ropes & Gray's *pro bono* program would not have made the tremendous strides it has without John's consistent, thoughtful and inspirational mentorship. When he retires at the end of this year, we will lose a tireless champion of our *pro bono* program. We are enormously grateful for all that he has given of himself to that program over the years. We all will strive to build on the vibrant program he has helped craft on behalf of our *pro bono* clients and our communities.



## FIGHTING TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

In 2011, we handled high-visibility impact cases and one-on-one representations, all in the service of preserving vital health care:

### INJUNCTION BLOCKS FLORIDA LAW BARRING DOCTORS FROM ASKING PATIENTS ABOUT GUNS

When Florida passed a law barring doctors from asking their patients if they had a gun in the home and whether it was stored properly, doctors saw the measure as a violation of their First Amendment rights and a barrier to preventive medicine. Doctors routinely provide their patients with information about various health risks in the home, and such preventive counseling is a cornerstone in the practice of medicine.

We represented the Florida chapters of three national medical organizations and six Florida doctors to challenge the law. We persuaded the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida to immediately grant a preliminary injunction blocking the law's enforcement.

The preliminary injunction is still in force. In November, the parties filed cross-motions for summary judgment, and await the Court's ruling.

### HELPING THE HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY

Founded in 1983, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) helps people in the San Francisco Bay Area living with HIV/AIDS maintain or improve their health by resolving their legal issues, a major stressor in many of their lives. A team of Ropes & Gray attorneys assisted an individual with AIDS who had recently suffered a major decline in his health. Our client could

not afford an attorney, so the team prepared his will, power of attorney and advanced health care directive, helping ensure that his wishes and instructions will be carried out.

### MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

The partnership between medical and legal professionals offers an innovative solution to the challenge many poor people face accessing basic health care. Recognizing that nonmedical problems — poor living conditions, immigration issues, educational challenges, etc. — can strain a family's physical, mental and financial health, the partnership provides preventive legal assistance for families before they become overwhelmed.

In 2008, Ropes & Gray adopted the Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston (MLPB) legal clinic at Dorchester House Multi-Service Center (Dot House). Working with medical clinicians, we provide legal services to a diverse patient population that includes Vietnamese, Cape Verdean and Latino communities. Recently, Ropes & Gray joined several other Boston-area law firms and MLPB to launch a new *pro bono* legal clinic at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Between the two clinics, 160 of our lawyers and paralegals have worked with 150 patients and their families on more than 210 distinct legal matters in housing, income support, immigration, education and family law.

Among the honors we have received for this work are 2011 Partner of the Year by Dot House, the 2010 MLPB *Pro Bono* Innovator Award and, together with Dot House, an Rx for Excellence award as "Heroes from the Field" from *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.

### HOUSING ASSISTANCE HELPS CHILD WITH ASTHMA

A single mother came to the Dot House clinic seeking help with a Section 8 voucher transfer. The client had been living in a Dorchester apartment with a voucher from the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership. However, a severe rodent infestation worsened her daughter's asthma. The client sought to move to an apartment in Framingham, and hoped to continue receiving Section 8 assistance for her new rent.

The Ropes & Gray case team helped our client move to the new apartment. The new location and housing conditions not only improved her daughter's health, but also meant that the client's 16-year-old son could move back in with her. The son had been living with his father in a different house in Framingham. To facilitate the shift in living arrangements, the case team filed an Assented to Complaint of Modification, awarding the client joint custody of both children, and a motion to modify the client's custody order was quickly granted.

After resolving the custody issues, the client wished to pursue litigation against her former landlord for failure to maintain the property at a habitable standard. The case team sent a demand letter to the client's landlord detailing the housing violations and our client reached a favorable settlement.



## PROVIDING HAVEN FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

In 2011, Ropes & Gray continued its longstanding commitment to helping people find a haven in the United States. These were just some of our many successes:

### PALESTINIAN PEACE ACTIVIST FINDS SAFETY

A Boston-based team obtained asylum for a Palestinian man from the Gaza Strip who faced persecution from Hamas because of his public work as a peace activist. He had suffered partial paralysis due to a gunshot wound and was healed by Israeli doctors. That experience was a defining moment in his journey toward becoming an activist for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. He moved to the United States on a student visa to attend college. After Hamas began singling out political opponents as “collaborators,” our client realized a safe return to Gaza would be impossible. Our team prepared our client’s asylum application, made all other filings, helped prepare his testimony and attended his hearings. Our client received asylum after his interview, during which he presented a compelling case based on his past persecution and his fears of future persecution related to his ongoing work as a peace activist.

### BURMESE CHIN CHRISTIAN MINISTER ESCAPES PERSECUTION

A Burmese man persecuted for his political beliefs, ethnicity, and religion received asylum thanks to the *pro bono* efforts of a team of Chicago attorneys. The ruling, in which the Department of Homeland Security reversed its initial denial, also granted asylum to the man’s wife and three-year-old daughter.

Chin Christians living in Burma are a religious and ethnic minority regularly subjected to persecution, discrimination, torture and death by the Burmese Army and other agents of the Burmese Military Regime, known as the State Peace and Development Counsel. Our client grew up in the Burmese Chin state and regularly faced discrimination and persecution from a young age. After overcoming many obstacles and completing his education in Christian ministry, he became a faculty member at a Bible college in Yangon and began holding Bible study meetings at his apartment. After several months of meetings, our client was visited in the middle of the night by Burmese military officers and interrogated regarding his political activities. Terrified by this incident, our client came to the United States to study at a Chicago seminary. After he submitted an article for a Chin Christian newsletter widely distributed in Burma, military officers returned multiple times to his family home, searching for him.

We assisted the client in filing his application and providing testimony to an asylum officer. In July he received a Notice of Intent to Deny based on alleged inconsistencies in his testimony and allegedly illegitimate documentary evidence he submitted. We assisted him in filing his rebuttal, which successfully challenged the asserted grounds for denial. He and his family were granted asylum in August 2011.

### MAM MAYAN REFUGEE FLEES VIOLENCE

A Silicon Valley associate obtained asylum for a Mam Mayan refugee from Guatemala who was threatened, beaten and raped based upon a mistaken belief that her father had been a guerilla fighter in the Guatemalan civil war.



A small child when her father was chased out of her village, our client spent the first 16 years of her life subjected to harassment and violence because her father was wrongly suspected of aiding guerilla fighters. Due to the guerillas’ presence in and around her village, the government attacked the village, leading to many deaths. She was indirectly blamed by the villagers for this massacre. She attempted to flee to a small town on the Mexican border, but was located and identified by people from her village. She then fled to the United States and sought asylum due to persecution for her membership in a protected social group and persecution for an imputed political opinion. Her asylum was granted, and our client continues her studies in English, in hopes of serving as an interpreter for other Mam speakers relocating to the United States.



## EL SALVADOR MAN WINS ASYLUM

A Washington, D.C. team won asylum for a man who suffered harassment and discrimination for most of his life in El Salvador, due to his homosexuality. His situation worsened in recent years as he became a more visible member of the gay community through his work with an outreach organization focused on HIV prevention. He began to suffer routine attacks, death threats and extortion demands from members of the violent gang MS-13. Fearing for his life, he fled to the United States, where our team assisted him with his asylum application and interview — even retaining a psychologist who confirmed the client’s past persecution and fear of future persecution.

Despite the fact that immigration courts deny asylum to more than 90 percent of applicants from El Salvador, our client was granted asylum in March.

## TURKMENISTAN GAY MAN GRANTED ASYLUM

In Turkmenistan, a deeply repressive totalitarian nation ranked among the worst in the world for human rights abuses, homosexuality is considered taboo. As a child, our client was regularly beaten and mistreated by members of his immediate family, schoolmates and neighbors because his looks, demeanor and friendships with girls did not conform to their expectations of traditional masculinity. He faced even further violence upon entering the army at age 18, where on one occasion he was beaten so severely that he was hospitalized for two weeks with a fractured jaw and other injuries. After leaving the army, his jaw was fractured again when he was attacked on the street near his home. The severe depression brought on by his exclusion from society led him to attempt suicide on several occasions.

While in school in Russia, our client’s sexual orientation was discovered by his Turkmen roommates, who informed his family. His family told him never to come back if he wanted to live. Our client fled to the United States, and was eventually referred to us by lawyers from Immigration Equality.

Our New York-based team assisted the client with his application and testimony. The chief obstacle in this case was the lack of any corroborating documentary evidence from Turkmenistan, which heightened the importance of our client’s testimony. Although unsuccessful at his interview at the asylum office, our client was granted asylum by an immigration judge at his merits hearing after he was found to have a credible, well-founded fear of persecution in Turkmenistan.

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES GAY WOMAN WINS ASYLUM

A team of San Francisco-based associates obtained asylum for a young Muslim woman from the United Arab Emirates who feared persecution due to her sexual orientation. Our client kept her sexual orientation a secret from her family and friends because homosexuality is criminalized in her home country. Our client’s sisters became suspicious that our client was a lesbian and began harassing her and monitoring her whereabouts. When our client resisted her sisters’ control, they began to threaten her, saying that they would involve their father and brothers. Afraid of what her family might do to her, our client fled to the United States. When our client’s family realized that she had fled, they hacked into her e-mail account and read intimate e-mails between our client and her partner. Due to escalating threats and convinced that she would be forced to marry and suffer physical harm if she returned

to her country, our client decided to seek asylum. We filed our client’s asylum application, which was granted.

## INDIAN TRANSSEXUAL ESCAPES BRUTALITY

A Boston-based team successfully represented a client from India who feared persecution based on her identity as a transgender woman. Though born male, our client knew from childhood that her gender identity was female. Having witnessed the brutal treatment of Indian transsexuals, known as hijras, our client denied and concealed her gender identity for many years. Only after coming to Boston on a student visa did she acknowledge her female gender identity and take steps toward a physical transition. Fearing that she would be subject to physical and sexual violence if she returned to India, she sought assistance in applying for asylum.

Recognizing that the law concerning asylum claims based on transgender identity is uncertain, the team set out to build an unassailable affirmative application, gathering country condition declarations from experts and lay witnesses, tracking down newspaper accounts of the abuse inflicted on hijras, and writing a comprehensive letter brief tracing the development of LGBT asylum law and arguing that transgender persons constitute a particular social group. Based on our work, our client won asylum.

Now our client, a talented educator, dancer and community activist, plans to redirect her energy into her art and her work on behalf of the LGBT community.



## PROTECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In 2011, we worked to help protect families and children who desperately needed legal assistance:

### EGYPTIAN MOTHER REUNITED WITH ABDUCTED YOUNG SONS

Ropes & Gray helped reunite an Egyptian mother and her young sons after a 14-month separation caused by the boys' father abducting them to the United States.

The abduction occurred in Egypt, where the parents married and separated, with the mother retaining informal custody. After a temporary visit, the father refused to return the boys, ages 5 and 7. The mother secured an order from an Egyptian court granting her custody, which the father ignored, fleeing to the United States with the boys.

We brought an action in Massachusetts Probate and Family Court under the Hague Convention seeking an order for pickup by law enforcement. The court ruled in the mother's favor, and after a nighttime undercover operation by the Boston police, the mother and sons were reunited. They stayed in a concealed location, pending trial on the merits.

On the eve of trial, and based on the facts and expert testimony, we requested an order granting the mother full relief and ordering the boys' return to Egypt. The court granted the order, and mother and sons returned to Egypt together.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) allows non-U.S. citizens who are victims of domestic violence, and are married to citizens or legal residents of the United States, to petition for legal residency for themselves and their children.

A team of Boston attorneys assisted a Vietnamese woman who was living in fear of a violent and controlling husband who destroyed her immigration papers and used her undocumented status as a means to threaten her. The team decided to "self-petition" for permanent residence status under VAWA and prepared an extensive filing, including materials from the client's family members, the IRS and the local police department. Two months later, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approved the petition and the client received her Employment Authorization Card.

Another client, an immigrant from Canada, married her husband in New York in 2003. Their relationship continued for five years, during which time our client and her daughter were repeatedly emotionally and physically abused by our client's husband. Having no legal resident status, our client was at risk of deportation and was denied access to basic governmental benefits. A team of New York attorneys filed her VAWA petition, and in gaining approval of the petition, opened the door for her to apply for Legal Permanent Resident status.

### GUARDIANSHIP PROJECTS

Under the supervision of a retired Boston partner, Ropes & Gray is building expertise in providing guardianship assistance and representation for minors and incapacitated adults. Our clients often are grandparents and other relatives of children whose parents are unavailable to care for them, or a relative of an adult in need of guardianship. In total, Ropes & Gray lawyers and paralegals donated almost 1,200 hours to helping low-income clients obtain guardianships in 2011.

One of our clients, referred to us through our medical-legal partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, was a young mother undergoing radiation treatment

and readying for an organ transplant. She needed help to ensure that her daughter could be cared for by her own mother (the daughter's grandmother) if the mother became incapacitated or died. The grandmother and mother jointly engaged Ropes & Gray to advise them.

Our clients decided to pursue both a temporary and permanent guardianship of the daughter by the grandmother. Because of the timing of the mother's treatments, we filed for an emergency hearing to establish the guardianship prior to the mother's transplant surgery, and secured temporary guardianship for the grandmother, as well as a hearing date for the permanent guardianship. The Family Court judge also granted a waiver so we can attend the permanent guardianship hearing without the mother or grandmother, so they can focus on the mother's treatment and recovery.

### KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is a new nonprofit organization that the Microsoft Corporation and Angelina Jolie co-founded to address the legal needs of unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children. Approximately 8,000 children arrive alone in the United States each year, more than half of whom face the complex immigration system without the benefit of counsel. For many children, failure to obtain immigration status in the United States means return to their home countries, where they may face persecution, domestic violence, human trafficking or other human rights violations.

Ropes & Gray lawyers are providing counsel to refugee and immigrant children who are in the United States without their parent or legal guardian. A cross-office team successfully sought asylum for a KIND client, a

Salvadoran girl who experienced years of continuous physical, emotional and sexual abuse at the hands of her father. At age 18, after multiple failed attempts to secure police assistance, our client fled El Salvador with her 11-year-old sister and came to the United States. The team secured affidavits from our client's mother and older sister, as well as a psychiatric exam documenting the detrimental psychological effects of her trauma. A judge granted asylum, stating that the treatment our client experienced easily rises to the level of persecution and that asylum could be granted on a number of grounds.

### THE STEPPINGSTONE FOUNDATION

We began an innovative *pro bono* project in late 2011 through The Steppingstone Foundation, a Boston-based organization that helps urban schoolchildren gain acceptance to, and succeed at, top independent and public exam schools in the greater Boston area. Steppingstone has achieved phenomenal success for its students, and more than 90 percent of Steppingstone students enroll in college.

Unfortunately, some of Steppingstone's students are unable to attend college because their immigration status prevents them from receiving the financial aid they need to continue their studies. For these students, obtaining lawful immigration status clears a path to a college education. Through our partnership with Steppingstone, we are helping students achieve their dreams of attending college by providing them and their families with *pro bono* immigration legal services.

### FAMILY ASSISTANCE WITH NEW YORK "PREFERRED PROVIDERS"

To facilitate our effort to bring *pro bono* assistance to the people who need it most, the firm has initiated a "preferred provider" focus to our *pro bono* efforts, with each office choosing legal service providers whose missions fit with the interests of our attorneys and the needs of the community.

In New York, two of those providers, Brooklyn Family Defense Project (BFDP) and MFY Legal Services (MFY), offer legal assistance that benefits families in need. BFDP assists low-income parents who are defending against child welfare cases filed in Brooklyn by New York City's Children's Services Agency, cases often filed because of difficulties caused by the family's desperate economic circumstances. Working with BFDP, we will assist the parent(s) in trying to keep the family together. MFY helps families who are in need of assistance navigate the family court system. These matters include guardianship, custody and adoption.

Our new relationships with BFDP and MFY already are helping us build an expertise in these matters and make a difference for those who most need our help.



## FIGHTING DENIAL OF BENEFITS

In 2011, Ropes & Gray attorneys helped *pro bono* clients obtain critical government benefits. These are a few of their stories:

### WINNING BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

The Veterans Consortium *Pro Bono* Project is a referral program that matches attorneys with veterans who have received adverse rulings from the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) and need representation to appeal the Board's decision to the Court of Veterans' Appeals (Veterans Court). In 2011, we won appeals for several clients, as described below:

- A veteran whose leg was permanently injured in the Korean War now receives disabled veteran benefits after Ropes & Gray demonstrated the government had relied upon incorrect service records when denying his benefits. Our client's medical and service records were destroyed in a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis in 1973. He was denied benefits after the government relied on muster reports and a "comprehensive" disability examination from 1967 that did not document any leg injuries. On appeal, our team argued that the government relied on muster reports for the incorrect service unit and did not take adequate steps to procure the veteran's service records. The Veterans Court reversed the decision by the BVA and remanded the case for reconsideration.

On remand to the BVA, our team arranged for an independent medical exam and gathered other evidence to prove that the disability was service connected. In addition, they argued that the 1967 exam was not "comprehensive" because it failed to document several of the veteran's pre-existing conditions. In response, the BVA remanded the case to the South Carolina Regional Office (SCRO) for further consideration and ordered a disability examination. The SCRO again denied the veteran's disability claim.

Before the BVA began its final appellate review, our team submitted a response to the SCRO's latest decision to deny benefits, arguing that the decision relied on factual error and applied an incorrect evidentiary standard. Shortly after receiving this response, the BVA granted our client's claim.

- Our client served honorably in the Navy for five years during the Vietnam War and suffered numerous back and leg injuries during his active duty, including an incident in which he fell from a helicopter onto the deck of a ship at sea. He is unable to work due to these injuries. The BVA nonetheless denied him benefits.



After he was referred to Ropes & Gray, we filed a brief identifying several flaws in the BVA's reasoning, including overlooking a key piece of evidence: a medical opinion that was buried in the voluminous record. The government conceded that a new hearing was necessary. The court then vacated the adverse ruling and remanded for a new hearing.

- While in Vietnam, our client was exposed to dangerous herbicides in the jungle. Despite a mid-1980s post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnosis and evidence that he suffers from heart disease that may be linked to herbicide exposure, the BVA had consistently denied his benefits.

Ropes & Gray was asked to step in at the last minute after his former counsel withdrew. The team scoured the client's service and medical records, as well as the complicated procedural history of his claims, to develop arguments on his behalf.

The effort paid off. Even before his opening Veterans Court brief was filed, our team persuaded the BVA to take another look at his heart disease-related claim. The 25-year-old PTSD-related claim remained a challenge, but the team succeeded in



developing an argument to extend a recent Veterans Court decision to claims like our client's. In doing so, the team relied not only on its legal skills, but also on some good old-fashioned detective work, digging through the records of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Manchu (Vietnam) Association. With its brief on file, and after further negotiations, our team persuaded the BVA that remand was required. Both sides filed a joint motion for remand, which the Veterans Court granted.

### FAVORABLE SSA APPEAL

Ropes & Gray helped a disabled, low-income senior patient of Boston's Dorchester House community health clinic win a favorable decision following a formal Social Security Administration (SSA) hearing.

The client was referred to Ropes & Gray by her Dot House health care provider in January 2009. SSA sought to withhold a significant portion of the patient's monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, claiming that years earlier she had received payments in excess of her entitlement because she held a life insurance policy. Already living near the poverty line, she was distressed to learn that she could soon have to survive on even less.

Working through the various levels of SSA appeals over more than two years, the Ropes & Gray case team explained that not only had the SSA overestimated the value of the client's life insurance policy, but also that any "overpayment" had not been her fault and that her current income was so low that repayment would prevent her from paying basic living expenses. In the winter of 2010, the Dorchester SSA office agreed it had miscalculated certain months during the overpayment period and granted a partial reconsideration for over \$9,000 in alleged overpayments made to the client. In late June 2011, an SSA administrative law judge agreed to waive the remaining alleged overpayment of more than \$10,000.

### DOT HOUSE SSDI AWARD

A disabled Dot House patient was able to secure Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and stabilize her finances when Ropes & Gray stepped in following an initial denial.

Suffering from depression, insomnia, and chronic back pain, the woman was denied SSDI benefits. Ropes & Gray helped her prepare and submit a Request for Reconsideration, which the SSA denies roughly 80 percent of the time.

The Ropes & Gray team provided advice throughout the reconsideration request process, encouraging the client to undergo a government psychiatric evaluation (which she initially resisted) and working with her Dot House clinician to ensure access to all relevant medical documentation. Just a few weeks after the government psychiatric evaluation, the client received a letter from the SSA confirming that she is eligible for disability benefits — accompanied by a check for approximately \$6,000 in back benefits.

### SUCCESSFUL APPEAL FOR HIV-POSITIVE CLIENT

Our client was an HIV-positive individual diagnosed with bipolar disorder, which rendered her unable to work. Her 2009 application for SSI was nevertheless denied, as was her request for reconsideration. A Washington, D.C. team appealed the decision to the SSA Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, where the administrative law judge issued a fully favorable decision, awarding SSI to our client retroactive to 2009.

## PROVIDING VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Through a number of legal aid agencies, Ropes & Gray attorneys in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Silicon Valley participate in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit Initiatives. Our volunteers assist people in filing their tax returns and applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refund available to low-income working people. This money helps clients pay for basic necessities — rent or mortgages, home and car repairs, utilities, groceries, and other bills.

## SECURING SHELTER

Our *pro bono* clients needed, and received, our help in getting a decent roof over their heads:

### VULNERABLE CLIENT AVOIDS SUBSIDY TERMINATION, RETAINS APARTMENT

Working with The Legal Aid Society, a New York-based team successfully represented an elderly, disabled individual in challenging the termination of his Section 8 subsidy. The NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) had terminated the client's subsidy for failing to notify HPD that a relative had been living with him in their subsidized apartment.

We succeeded in persuading the HPD hearing officer to conclude that the mitigating circumstances of our client's age, disabilities and significant medical problems made termination of the subsidy unreasonable. The hearing officer remanded the matter to the HPD with instructions to give our client another opportunity to accurately certify his family composition.

### FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT IN LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTE

Two attorneys in our Washington, D.C. office secured a favorable resolution in a landlord-tenant dispute. Our client was a low-income mother of two young children. The team secured several repairs for the tenant and a favorable move-out agreement that included the forgiveness of significant rent arrears and protected the client's credit rating.

### BAD LIVING CONDITIONS REMEDIED FOR NEEDY TENANTS

A client and his family had recently moved into an apartment selected through the Heading Home subsidy program for homeless families. But shortly after moving in, it was clear there were serious problems with the apartment, including poor ventilation, a cracked window and a strong sewage smell from a leaking pipe. The client also objected to the behavior of neighbors who made excessive noise and constantly smoked marijuana.

Our team drafted a letter to the client's landlord and property manager detailing the problems with conditions in the apartment, including the disruptive behavior of the neighbors. The landlord responded quickly to the requests and promptly began remedying the problems in the client's apartment. Soon thereafter, the landlord began eviction proceedings against the neighbors due to their drug use and lease violations.

Unfortunately, the neighbors did not move out promptly, and other noise problems persisted, so we ultimately negotiated an agreement whereby the landlord agreed to an early termination of the client's lease and to waive the client's rent for five months. We also ensured that the client and his family will be able to use the Heading Home subsidy in their new apartment.

### IN NEED OF AUTOMATIC DOORS, DISABLED RESIDENT RECEIVES SUPPORT

Our client, a disabled, retired woman who uses a motorized wheelchair, lives in a condominium building in Chicago. She could not use the building's doors without assistance and asked that automatic doors be installed. Her request was denied. The matter was referred to Ropes & Gray by Equip for Equality, a nonprofit that supports individuals with disabilities, and our lawyers persuaded the association to install the doors.

### HOUSING CLINIC HELPS LOW-INCOME TENANTS

We participate in the HomeSavers Clinic, a housing clinic sponsored by the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. Attorneys assist low-income tenants who are having problems with their landlords by offering advice on evictions, disputes over the condition of the premises and illegal acts by landlords.





WELCOME



## WINNING CONSTITUTIONAL BATTLES

In 2011, Ropes & Gray fought and won important *pro bono* victories that vindicated constitutional rights:

### PROJECT VOTE SECURES VICTORY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

A Ropes & Gray team won a summary judgment victory on behalf of our client Project Vote, a national, nonpartisan nonprofit that works to empower, educate and mobilize low-income, minority, youth, and other marginalized and underrepresented voters. The case is believed to be one of first impression, with potential nationwide implications.

In 2009, Project Vote had taken up the cause of several students at Norfolk State University who had their voter registration applications rejected by the General Registrar of Norfolk, Va. prior to the November 2008 elections. Project Vote sought to review their applications and requested documents identifying why they were rejected. Both the local registrar and the state board of elections denied the request, and Project Vote argued this violated the National Voter Registration Act's (NVRA) public disclosure provision.

We filed suit on behalf of Project Vote seeking declaratory and injunctive relief, alleging that the NVRA required disclosure of the documents and that it trumped state law under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In July 2011, U.S. District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith agreed, granting summary judgment to Project Vote that won it the right to inspect and photocopy the registration papers with the voters' Social Security numbers redacted.

### CONSTITUTION PROJECT: WARRANTLESS GPS TRACKING VIOLATES CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

In one of the most important Fourth Amendment cases in a decade, we helped secure a U.S. Supreme Court victory in a unanimous ruling that found the government could not use a global positioning system to track a suspect without a warrant.

The Court's ruling in *United States v. Jones* affirmed that the Fourth Amendment continues to protect individuals' property interests, independent of any expectations of privacy, and additionally protects citizens' interests in a reasonable zone of privacy, free from government surveillance.

The Jones dispute began in 2005, when federal law enforcement agents — acting without a valid warrant — placed a GPS tracking device on the undercarriage of a car belonging to Antoine Jones and his wife without their knowledge. The government tracked the vehicle's movements for 28 days and relied on the resulting information to secure an indictment and conviction of Jones on drug trafficking conspiracy charges.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit reversed the conviction on Fourth Amendment grounds, holding that admission of the evidence obtained via warrantless GPS tracking invaded Jones's reasonable expectation of privacy.

Ropes & Gray filed an *amicus* brief before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of The Constitution Project in support of Mr. Jones. The *amicus* brief argued that attaching a GPS to a private vehicle infringes the owner's property interests and constitutes a "seizure" under the Fourth Amendment, and that prolonged GPS monitoring violates an individual's privacy interests and constitutes a "search" under the Fourth Amendment. The Supreme Court agreed. Its ruling has broad implications for law enforcement's use of modern technology, and for the preservation of privacy and property rights in the United States.

Unfortunately, the differing rationales among the justices leave open a number of significant questions concerning the constitutionality of the use of information acquired without a physical trespass on a vehicle. The opinion does not, for example, create a bright line rule for the use of information acquired from devices installed by a vehicle manufacturer or gathered from third-party smart phone carriers. Those questions will have to be resolved through further litigation in the lower courts.





## BACKING SMALL BUSINESS

One of the ways to empower low-income communities is to increase access to jobs. Ropes & Gray attorneys help create jobs by working with small business owners and the nonprofits that assist them. Our 2011 clients include:

### ACCION INTERNATIONAL

ACCION International is a private, nonprofit organization that gives people the financial tools they need to work their way out of poverty. By providing business training, microloans, savings, insurance and other financial services to men and women who start their own businesses, ACCION helps them work their way up the economic ladder with dignity and pride.

ACCION pursues a vision in which all people have access to a range of high-quality financial services that enhance their economic potential and the quality of their lives. To achieve that vision, ACCION must increase the reach of microfinance services to the poor on a global scale. ACCION furthers its vision by providing technical and management services to microfinance institutions to help them launch, transform and expand their microfinance programs; by providing equity financing and loan guarantees to microfinance institutions so that they can invest in new resources and technology; and through thought leadership on topics such as client protection.

Our attorneys drafted contracts relating to ACCION's microfinance work, and will next tackle intellectual property and tax matters.

### LOWELL SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER

As part of our efforts to support small businesses, a team of business lawyers led five three-hour training programs for people wishing to start and run their own businesses. The training is part of an established, six-week entrepreneurial training program organized and hosted by the Lowell (Mass.) Small Business Assistance Center, which provides aspiring local entrepreneurs with a basic overview of entity formation, contracts, leases, intellectual property, taxes and employee hiring, along with practical tips for success.

### BELIN ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT

We continued our participation in the Belin Economic Justice Project in 2011, providing free legal workshops and clinics for entrepreneurs in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood, and representing a number of Economic Justice Project clients on a *pro bono* basis.

In collaboration with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, our attorneys hosted a series of basic business law workshops that provided Chinese-American business owners with an overview of common legal issues that affect small businesses. Numerous local entrepreneurs and small business owners attended the fall and spring workshops, with many receiving one-on-one consultations during subsequent clinics.

By providing an overview of a number of important business and tax-related legal topics, the workshops and clinics build the understanding that entrepreneurs and small business owners can improve performance while also protecting themselves, their businesses and their personal assets.

### LEGAL SERVICES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Legal Services for Entrepreneurs (LSE) is an economic justice project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the San Francisco Bay Area. LSE provides free business legal services to low-income individuals, women and people of color who want to start or develop their businesses.

Through our relationship with LSE, Ropes & Gray attorneys have begun working with small business owners in the Bay Area on a variety of legal issues.

### COOPERATIVES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HAITI

A Boston nonprofit organization, Cooperatives for the Advancement of Haiti, received the firm's assistance with its formation as a nonprofit. The group's mission is to promote economic development in an underserved area in Haiti. The group's plan includes land acquisition for agriculture, microloans to local businesses, providing business and agricultural skills training, assisting in craft and business development, and connecting the community to a market for its products.



Ropes & Gray helps nonprofits on a wide range of corporate, intellectual property, tax, and labor and employment issues. Our assistance allows these nonprofits to focus on their important work — helping the disadvantaged. Our 2011 clients include:

### URBAN PEACE MOVEMENT

The mission of Urban Peace Movement is to transform the culture and conditions that lead to urban violence. The Oakland, Calif.-based organization builds the leadership of communities hit hardest by street violence through fostering nontraditional leaders who are key to ending this crisis. Through community organizing, youth leadership development and “culture change” events, Urban Peace Movement empowers young people to overcome internalized oppression and work toward justice and social transformation.

### SCORE4MORE

Score4More works with student athletes ages 9 to 19 in the Boston public school system, providing mentoring, tutoring and athletics while building strong work habits, enforcing self-accountability and setting a foundation for life after sports. The organization offers life skills improvement courses and structured tutoring programs. Its athletics program includes basketball camps, clinics and workshops focused on team and individual player development, with plans to expand the offering to other sports in the future.

### MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Mothers for Justice and Equality empowers members of

Boston-area communities to end neighborhood violence, reclaim the identities of local communities, and restore a sense of hope and purpose for all children. The group also educates community stakeholders regarding the signs, symptoms and cases of youth violence to create a grassroots movement focusing on its mission.

### OAK PARK/RIVER FOREST INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY

The Oak Park/River Forest Infant Welfare Society was founded in 1916 to support impoverished mothers and their infants at a time when the child mortality rate was high. In 1919, the society opened a clinic offering medical and dental care for children. Today, medical, dental and social services are provided in a contemporary, child-oriented space developed in 1997. The clinic, which primarily serves children living in the Oak Park/River Forest area, also supports the surrounding Chicago suburban communities. The clinic provides services for children from birth to 18 years of age whose families meet federal poverty income guidelines.

### MUJERES UNIDAS EN ACCION

Founded in 1982, Mujeres Unidas en Accion helps Hispanic residents and anyone in need in Boston neighborhoods by offering a variety of free programs, including ESOL classes, GED preparation in Spanish, health workshops and domestic violence counseling.

### LAKE TANGANYIKA FLOATING HEALTH CLINIC

The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic is an organization that is devoted to improving health care



access and health service delivery, as well as education of health care workers, in the Lake Tanganyika basin in Africa. In a region where boats are the only reliable transportation, the organization is building a regional hospital on a ship to travel up and down the coastline, serving the remote lakeside communities. More than just a floating hospital, the clinic will work with lakeside communities, advocating for the needs of the lake and its people. This includes environmental stewardship, participation in the formation of local economic development and encouragement of the grassroots political voice for the people of the region.

### CYPHER BOOKS

Cypher Books is a New York-based nonprofit whose mission is to publish contemporary literature by under-represented urban poets and writers. Inspired by the participants at urban poetry slams, Cypher Books began by publishing the work of some of these cutting-edge poets and performers.

## SAVING A LIFE — LITERALLY

### “WEST MEMPHIS THREE” FREED FROM PRISON

For the past two years, Ropes & Gray has been providing *pro bono* representation to Damien Echols, an inmate on death row in Arkansas. Echols and two other men were teenagers when they were convicted of murder 18 years ago in the “West Memphis Three” case.

The three, Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley Jr., spent more than 18 years in prison after being convicted of the brutal killings of three 8-year-old Cub Scouts found dead in a West Memphis drainage canal in 1993. Echols was sentenced to death, and Baldwin and Misskelley to life in prison.

The case attracted widespread media attention and became the subject of documentaries and news programs. It also spawned a grassroots campaign to free the men and became a cause among celebrities, including Eddie Vedder, Natalie Maines, Johnny Depp and Patti Smith.

Baldwin, Echols and Misskelley, who claimed they were wrongfully convicted and had been fighting to have their convictions overturned ever since, left prison in 2011 as free men after lead attorney Stephen Braga of Ropes & Gray developed an innovative resolution to the case using a so-called Alford plea. This allowed the men to maintain their innocence while acknowledging that prosecutors likely had enough evidence to convict them.

Braga recounted his involvement in the case in an episode of “48 Hours” on CBS shortly following the plea agreement.



Damien Wayne Echols



Charles Jason Baldwin



Jessie Misskelley Jr.

## PARTNERING WITH CLIENTS

### PFIZER

New York Ropes & Gray attorneys joined our client Pfizer and three other law firms to work together with LegalHealth to assist low-income individuals by providing legal assistance in the form of advance directives, including medical powers of attorney, health care proxies and simple wills, as well as guardianship proceedings. Together, the firms and Pfizer staff a monthly clinic at the NYU Cancer Institute.

### GOLDMAN SACHS

In early 2011, we designed a *pro bono* project with an LGBT diversity-related theme to be part of Goldman Sachs's Pride Month activities. We worked with *pro bono* partner agency Immigration Equality, which assists LGBT asylum seekers with immigration/asylum issues, to develop a training and a two-hour clinic at the firm during Pride Month, where Ropes & Gray and Goldman Sachs teamed up to help LGBT clients in need of critical post-asylum legal assistance.

### DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute asked Ropes & Gray and three other law firms to provide legal services to low-income cancer patients, to document their end-of-life directives and to see that their family members would be cared for in the event of their death. Ropes & Gray has taken the lead on this project; since its establishment in early 2011, our attorneys and paralegals have contributed over 900 hours assisting 14 clients and their families.

## OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

- AIDS Legal Referral Panel
- Anti-Defamation League
- Brooklyn Family Defense Project
- Chicago National Immigrant Justice Center
- Children's Law Center
- DC Volunteer Lawyers Project
- District of Columbia Bar Advocacy & Justice Clinic
- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
- Equip for Equality
- Family Defense Center
- Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic
- Health Law Advocates
- Human Rights First
- Immigration Equality
- inMotion
- International Institute of Boston
- International Senior Lawyers Project
- Iraqi and Afghan Refugee Project
- Kids in Need of Defense
- Lawyers Alliance for New York
- Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Boston, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.
- Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
- Massachusetts Legal Clinic for the Homeless
- Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston
- MFY Legal Services
- National Medical-Legal Partnership
- New York City Bar Elder Law Project
- New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project
- Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Sanctuary for Families
- Suffolk Probate & Family Court – Lawyer for the Day Program
- The Legal Aid Societies of the District of Columbia, New York and San Mateo County
- The Steppingstone Foundation
- The Veterans Consortium
- Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund
- U.S. Central Authority for the Hague Convention
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts and New York
- Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association
- Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco
- Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless



## RECOGNITION OF OUR WORK

In 2011, our attorneys and staff received the following awards and recognition for their *pro bono* work:

- The District of Columbia Bar named Ropes & Gray *Pro Bono* Law Firm of the Year in recognition of *pro bono* work completed by Washington, D.C. attorneys and staff.
- Ropes & Gray was named 2011 Partner of the Year by the Dorchester House Multi-Service Center in recognition of the firm's *pro bono* efforts, including "adopting" the Dorchester House community health clinic, staffing weekly legal clinics, and advising patients and low-income families on housing, public benefits, immigration, family and education matters.
- For the second year in a row, Immigration Equality recognized Ropes & Gray with a Safe Haven Award for *pro bono* work on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people seeking asylum in the United States.
- The Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association honored tax associate Graham C. Stephens with a *Pro Bono* Recognition Award for his leadership in the Economic Justice Project.
- New York associates Meredythe M. Ryan and Mekhala Raghupathy were recognized by The Legal Aid Society for their *pro bono* efforts while working as Ropes & Gray fellows.
- Washington, D.C.-based government enforcement partner Stephen L. Braga's work in the "West Memphis Three" case earned Ropes & Gray a spot on *The National Law Journal's Pro Bono* Hot List.
- Washington, D.C.-based partner Bruce S. Manheim Jr. was profiled in the *The National Law Journal's* fourth edition of "Champions and Visionaries" for "upholding the legal industry's professional mission of public duty" through his precedent-setting work on gun safety issues with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.
- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) named Nicole Krea and Maura Sullivan "Attorneys of the Month" in its August edition of the *Being KIND* newsletter for their work representing unaccompanied children.
- The New York State Bar Association named several New York-based attorneys as "Empire State Counsel" for their work on behalf of low-income clients.
- The New York City Family Court Volunteer Lawyer Program recognized the numerous associates who participated in its family court clinic at its annual awards ceremony.
- Ropes & Gray was included on *The American Lawyer's* "A-List," which ranks the top 20 firms based on attorney diversity, *pro bono* work, associate satisfaction and client service revenue.
- Ropes & Gray was honored by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court as one of the first firms to comply with the new standard set by the SJC's standing committee on *pro bono*.
- Senior *pro bono* manager Rosalyn Garbose Nasdor was named co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Delivery of Legal Services section.
- A group of 42 Boston-based attorneys, the largest group from the participating law firms, turned out for the "Walk to the Hill" in February, an event aimed at urging legislators to support funding for legal aid for the poor.

## NEW ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

In 2011, the firm extended its commitment to underserved communities by again offering associates the opportunity to participate in one-year public interest fellowships. Since the launch of this program in 2009, over 200 Ropes & Gray fellows have helped, or are helping, impoverished clients and nonprofits around the country and the world. Our fellows are providing direct representation to

underprivileged clients with housing, benefits, asylum, criminal defense and other basic needs; working for city and state government agencies in a time of deep budget cuts; and assisting advocacy, human rights and law reform institutions.

DEBORAH LEVI AWARD



Gina Gebhart receives her award from *pro bono* committee member Deborah Monson.

Each year, the firm presents the Deborah Levi Award for Outstanding *Pro Bono* Service in memory of Ropes & Gray attorney Deb Levi. Deb, a tireless advocate of *pro bono* and public service projects, lost her battle with cancer in 2002. The award is given to a nonpartner who exemplifies Deb's *pro bono* ideals. The 2011 award was presented to Chicago complex business litigation associate Gina Gebhart for her efforts in leading and administering the PAIR asylum program, and for helping secure asylum, either personally or as a mentor, for clients fleeing persecution from countries including Nepal, Liberia, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Cameroon, Uganda, El Salvador, Pakistan, Peru and Colombia.

ROPES & GRAY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARTNER PRO BONO SERVICE



Peter Brody receives his award from *pro bono* committee member Bruce S. Manheim Jr.

In order to recognize partners for their outstanding service to *pro bono* clients and their mentoring of associates on *pro bono* matters, Ropes & Gray established its Award for Outstanding Partner *Pro Bono* Service in 2009. IP litigation partner Peter Brody received the 2011 award for his varied *pro bono* docket, which included supervising child custody and neglect cases for the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, three high-stakes criminal appeals, two same-sex marriage matters from Lambda Legal, a contested adoption trial for Children's Law Center, a Social Security appeal, an FOIA matter for Physicians for Human Rights, and a corporate matter for a fertility nonprofit.

## 2011 ROPES & GRAY PRO BONO PARTICIPANTS

William F. Abely	Richard D. Batchelder Jr.	Stephen L. Braga	Michael S. Casey	Kerstyn H. Crumb
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Michael P. Barrett	Dena A. Bouchard	Caitlyn B. Carpenter	Matthew L. Cox	Michael P. Doore
Coleman D. Barry	Caroline A. Boulanger	Brenda C. Carr	Matthew Crawford	Carson R. Dottin
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Kyle A. Bassman	Lara A. Bradt	Cameron T. Casey	Nicole L. Cross	Thomas B. Draper



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Robert F. Dugas  
Christopher F. Dunn  
Jason E. Dunn  
William J. Dunn  
Ronald M. Duvernay  
Sabrina M. Dycus  
Christopher S. Dyer  
Susanna G. Dyer  
Peter L. Ebb  
Michael J. Elbaum  
Flora D. Elias-Mique  
David S. Elkind  
Brian R. Elworthy  
Christopher R. England  
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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We are proud that our attorneys and staff members volunteer their time and resources to charitable organizations that have a positive impact on the communities in which we and our clients live and work. We are particularly proud of the difference our volunteer efforts have made in enhancing the lives of children.

### SUPPORTING EDUCATION

#### Discovery Justice Program

Partnering with Discovering Justice and Citizen Schools, our volunteers work closely with interested middle school students to take a closer look at the art of advocacy, bringing them into the firm for a crash course in litigation. Working on a mock case, the students spend the semester practicing their direct- and cross-examination skills with the witnesses (our attorneys). They also practice their opening and closing arguments with the help of our attorney volunteers. The program culminates in a mock trial before a federal or state judge and a jury of community leaders.

#### Everybody Wins and Power Lunch

Fostering a lifelong love of reading is more than just teaching literacy. Few people know this better than our dedicated volunteers in these two programs, based respectively in our Boston and Washington, D.C. offices. Our volunteers devote one lunch hour each week during the school year to reading to elementary school students.

#### Legal Outreach

We have participated in Legal Outreach for more than 20 years, helping the college booster program use the legal profession as a medium to encourage inner-city high school students to continue their education. Legal Outreach comprises middle school students from the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, who spend four days in our New York office, working on individual assignments that are similar to the ones given to summer associates. On the final day, each student presents a report summarizing a personal legal project, as well as results of a comprehensive group project.

#### ICA Work Study Program

We support Immaculate Conception Academy in the corporate work study program. The students from low-income households receive high-quality college preparatory education as well as business training and experience, and 100 percent of them go on to enroll in a college or university.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

We are proud to provide annual support to school-supply and clothing drives, gift collections, and other programs benefiting children in need.

#### Backpack Project

Since 1999, all our U.S. offices have joined together to give children living in homeless shelters backpacks filled with school supplies and a new outfit for the first day of school. This simple gift helps to excite these children entering a new school and encourages them to continue to work hard and stay in school.

#### Holiday/Seasonal Projects

From Bundle Up in our Boston office to the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program in Washington, D.C. to the Pajama Program in New York City, our attorneys and staff members support an impressive number of projects to make sure that needy children get warm apparel and a deserved gift during the holiday season.

### SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Our volunteers participate in the Legal Food Frenzy that benefits the Greater Boston Food Bank, in Dress for Success that helps job seekers look and feel their best, and in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance that brings millions of dollars back to our communities and families in need. Among other charitable endeavors, our volunteers also walk in the Avon Breast Cancer Walk, run for Lawyers Have a Heart, and bicycle in the Pan-Mass Challenge to raise money to fight cancer and heart disease.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Sally Hatchett receives her award from Geoffrey Leonard.

The Outstanding Commitment to Community Service Award recognizes an employee whose exceptional involvement in, and commitment to, community service and helping those in need further enhances our place as a community leader. Sally Hatchett, regional office administrator for the San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices, received the 2011 award for her work as president of the Curry Senior Center in San Francisco, which provides for 2,600 seniors in a central area of the city. She also worked on the United Way's "Earn it, Keep it, Save it" program, which provides low-to-moderate-income households with free tax return preparation and access to asset building and income support resources.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

A Better Chance  
Action for Boston Community Development  
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America India Foundation  
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Anti-Defamation League  
Artists for Humanity  
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Biomedical Science Careers Program  
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Down Syndrome Research and  
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Equal Justice Works  
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Make-A-Wish Foundation  
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