



FRAGOMEN
WORLDWIDE

Pro Bono

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A LOOK BACK AT 2016	1
PRO BONO AROUND THE WORLD	1
Sydney Office Counsels International Students	1
London Protects Kenyan Victim of Domestic Violence	1
Frankfurt Office Rises to J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge	1
Dubai Office Assists Environmental Sustainability Project	2
Helping to End Family Detention	2
Backpacks and School Supplies for Refugees	3
One Story At A Time	3
OUTSTANDING CASEWORK	3
<i>On Account Of</i> Shelly Song and Jestherlynn Emralino	3
Amicus Brief — Boston Office	3
Contributing to the Development of Healthcare Systems in Africa	4
LGBT Asylum Granted	4
Project Citizenship Training and Workshop	4
The Last Stand	4
PRO BONO AWARDS	5
Monica Sherman Ghiglia Receives the 2016 <i>Inn of Court Pro Bono Publico Award</i>	5
Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education Honors Sandra S. Reguerin and Jena Decker Xu	5
<i>Community Ambassador Award</i> from Year Up New York	5
2016 <i>Fragomen Pro Bono Attorney of the Year</i>	5
The State Bar of California Honors Teodora Purcell	6
CHAMPION CIRCLE	6
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE	7
IN THE SPOTLIGHT	8
PRO BONO COMMITTEE	8
PRO BONO COORDINATORS	8

2016

Pro Bono Year in Review



A LOOK BACK AT 2016

Last year, Fragomen professionals throughout the world engaged in some of the most challenging issues facing our world through a variety of community service projects and pro bono legal assistance. Our global offices have led the way in community service projects. From our Dubai office participating in an environmental sustainability beach and mangrove clean-up project, to our Frankfurt office running in an annual fundraising race to support disabled aspiring athletes, to our Boston office donating backpacks and school supplies to refugee children, the projects are as diverse as the offices.

Our lawyers continue to address the need for pro bono assistance wherever they are. In Sydney, lawyers counsel international students, in London our

attorneys protect domestic violence survivors, and in Chicago, Boston, New York and New Jersey attorneys fight for the due process rights of detained mothers and children. While these pages cannot contain all of the remarkable contributions our partners, associates, professionals and paraprofessionals make daily, we take this opportunity to highlight some of the pro bono work we do on a global scale.

PRO BONO AROUND THE WORLD

Sydney Office Counsels International Students

Fragomen celebrated the fifth year anniversary of the Sydney office's pro bono partnership with Redfern Legal Centre (RLC). Led by Special Counsels Cherie Wright and Charles Johanes, Fragomen provides free legal advice to international students regarding their

student visas, particularly relating to compliance and how other legal issues may affect their visa status in Australia. As part of this partnership, a Fragomen solicitor and paralegal attend meetings at RLC biweekly and provide migration advice to student visa holders.

London Protects Kenyan Victim of Domestic Violence

Rajiv Naik, a solicitor in the London office, was successful in obtaining a settlement for a Kenyan victim of domestic violence. Shortly after the client's arranged marriage began, her British spouse and his mother started to psychologically and physically abuse the client relentlessly. Feeling alone and with no one to turn to, the client suffered in silence and did not report the husband's abuse to social services or the police. Rajiv overcame the lack of evidence by meticulously documenting her treatment, gathering her medical records and providing a safe space for the client to share her devastating experiences. Sukhraj Gill, a Paralegal in our London office, was instrumental in the success of this application.

Frankfurt Office Rises to J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge

Eleven members of the Frankfurt office continued the tradition of participating in Frankfurt's annual J.P. Morgan 3.5 mile run. The event raised €245,000 (US\$276,000) for the German Sport Aid



Marius Tollenaere, Lea Achstetter, Audrey Morew, Olga Sotiriou, Viorica Weber, Nailya Sagitova, Kathlen Neidhardt, Riikka Salmi, Simon Burke, Ulrike Moellmert, and Benjamin Winkelhausen

Foundation ("GSAF"). The foundation introduces young individuals with disabilities to sports in order to enrich their lives. According to Dr. Michael Ilgner, the Chairman of the GSAF, "Over the period of our 10-year partnership with the event, more than 30 projects for over 7,000 young individuals with disabilities have been supported." This year's team included Marius Tollenaere, Lea Achstetter, Audrey Morew, Olga

Sotiriou, Viorica Weber, Nailya Sagitova, Kathlen Neidhardt, Riikka Salmi, Simon Burke, Ulrike Moellmert, and Benjamin Winkelhausen.

Dubai Office Assists Environmental Sustainability Project

Three staff members of the Dubai Office volunteered in the Dubai International Financial Centre's Beach and Mangrove Clean-Up. The clean-up site was the Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary, home of the endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtle. The Hawksbill Sea Turtle is a



Volunteers Jemelee Yao, Catherine Soreno and Maria Lourdes Are aided in the cleanup

critical contributor to the growth of reefs because it consumes sponges. Overgrowth of sponges can suffocate reefs. The Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary was created with the objective of conserving the natural marine resources of Dubai.

Helping to End Family Detention

In 2016, thirty-five Fragomen partners, associates and paralegals volunteered with the CARA Project. The CARA project consists of four nonprofits (the [Catholic Legal Immigration Network](#), [American Immigration Council](#), [Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services](#), and [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)) that provide critical legal services to detained families at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas ("Dilley"). This represents a doubling of our 2015 pro bono

DILLEY FAMILY DETENTION TEAM

Boston

Nhu-Y Le
Sara Mailander
Kathleen Micciche
Miles Roeder

Chicago

Michael Turansick+
Rebecca van Uiter

New Jersey

Desiree Goldfinger
Paury Vasquez, Assistant
Paralegal

New York

Danny Alicea
Rachel Beardsley
Barbara Camacho
Amy Fallon+
Janet Henner+
Ethan Kaufman+
Lisa Koenig+
Raquel Liberman
Iris Lopez, Assistant
Paralegal
Catherine Macris+
Nicole Monegro, Paralegal
Julie Muniz+

Kevin O'Sullivan

Catherine Perez, Assistant
Paralegal
Miguel Ramirez, Assistant
Paralegal
Vanessa Salazar
Careen Shannon+
Charlotte Smith
Kyle Sommer
Hugh Thistlethwaite+
Clara von Loebenstein,
Assistant Paralegal
Liat Zudkewich

Santa Clara

Romulo Guevara

Troy

Alexandra LaCombe+

Washington DC

Dan Brown+
Anya Krivtsun
Michael Smith

+Partner

contribution in the family detention realm. The Boston, Chicago, New Jersey, New York, Santa Clara, Troy, and Washington D.C. offices contributed to this remarkable increase. Notably, Fragomen ended the year by being the sole volunteer attorneys to provide counsel to the mothers and children detained at Dilley for one week. This extraordinary undertaking included nine partners, six associates and two paralegals, with the Chicago, New York and Troy offices participating in this groundbreaking national effort. Fragomen is the only firm to provide this breadth of legal services at Dilley.

Backpacks and School Supplies for Refugees

The Massachusetts Office for Refugees & Immigrants' (ORI's) mission is to promote the full participation of refugees and immigrants as self-sufficient individuals and families in the economic, social and civic life of Massachusetts. Melissa Bordeaux coordinated the Boston office's collection of backpacks and school supplies to share with refugee children at town hall meetings across Massachusetts. The backpacks went to refugees from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Bhutan, Congo, Somalia, Pakistan, and Nepal.



Melissa Bordeaux
Boston Office

One Story At A Time

The New York office laced up its sneakers in its fourth "Story by Story" climb to end domestic violence on behalf of [Her Justice](#). In this fundraiser, Fragomen joined hundreds of other participants as they raced to climb thirty-one stories of a skyscraper. Her Justice's "Story by Story" is an annual stair climb event that raises funds for the organization's work with domestic violence survivors. The participants are listed below.

Story by Story Participants

Nizima Ally*
Caroline Betancourt++
Rajveer Boyal+++
Sarah Bradford*
Christine Giller**
Sophia Goring-Piard+
Thalia Guzman**
Melissa Howard***
Valerie McDaniel++
Shevonne Mitchell****
Maria Paleka+*
Kirsten Shores*
Kyle Sommer++
Danielle Rabinowitz**

+Of Counsel ** Assistant Paralegal I
++Attorney ***Assistant Paralegal II
+++Supervising Paralegal ****Administrative Assistant
*Paralegal +*HR Resources Coordinator

OUTSTANDING CASEWORK

On Account Of Shelly Song and Jestherlynn Emralino

A pair of siblings began high school

in 2016 with a fresh dose of optimism, thanks to the joint efforts of Shelly Song and Jestherlynn Emralino, associates in the Los Angeles office. The siblings survived domestic violence at the hands of their father. Shelly and Jestherlynn defended the pair in removal proceedings and successfully obtained asylum for them. Jestherlynn described



Shelly Song
Los Angeles Office



Jestherlynn Emralino
Santa Clara Office

her experience: "It was a very rewarding experience to be able to participate in a process that significantly changed these children's lives." When reflecting about her role in this case Shelly said, "I was thankful for the opportunity to help these two children gain a sense of security and safety with their future in the United States."

Amicus Brief — Boston Office

The Boston office partnered with the [ACLU of Massachusetts](#) to write an amicus brief for their *Gordon v.*

Johnson detention class action suit. In *Gordon*, the ACLU and its partners obtained a class action ruling making more than 100 detainees eligible for individual bond hearings. This requires that immigration judges provide an individual assessment of whether the person poses a risk of danger or flight risk. Release on bond would enable people to pursue their removal defense out of detention while reunited with their families. A panel of the First Circuit upheld the legal basis for the District Court's ruling, but the Court granted the government's petition for rehearing en banc. *Gordon* is back at the First Circuit, and our Boston office worked with the ACLU to write an amicus brief depicting the lives of those detainees. The goal of the brief was to provide compelling portraits of the class members whose lives have been impacted by the ruling, and whose freedom is at stake in this appeal. The attorneys leading this project were Stephanie Pimentel, Victoria Morte, and Daniel Ruemenapp.

Contributing to the Development of Healthcare Systems in Africa

Partner Joseph Paldino, Associates Eda Derhemi and Henna Jung of the New York office, with the assistance of Law Clerks Kristen Dale and Brian Idehen, successfully secured approval of an O-1 petition based on extraordinary ability for a Kenyan national who is a global leader in the field of cross-cultural strategic business development of healthcare systems. The African Mission Healthcare Foundation ("AMHF"), a not-for-profit organization in the U.S. that provides funding and support to African

mission hospitals, sponsored the petition. AMHF's objective is to secure infrastructure, training, care delivery, and management advisory services at mission hospitals located in some of the world's most resource-limited environments, such as Malawi and South Sudan. The beneficiary's work will be critical not only to maximizing the effectiveness of financial resources given to hospitals in need, but also to delivering knowledge and training to the next generation of healthcare providers in Africa.

LGBT Asylum Granted

Pakistan criminalizes consensual same-sex relations. Being gay can expose a person to life imprisonment. After many months of advocacy, Nancy Nemeth, an Associate in the Chicago office, with assistance from Paralegal Charles Corbett, succeeded in obtaining asylum for a gay man from Pakistan.

Project Citizenship Training and Workshop

During the summer, Fragomen hosted a volunteer training and workshop with



Pictured here are the following Fragomen volunteers for Project Citizenship: Dan Maranci, Victoria Morte, Irma Dias (paralegal), David Iannella, Daniel Ruemenapp, Jihan Merlin, Chris Barnett, Jennifer Pflanz, Rebecca Leavitt, Khiet Nguyen and Amanda Nordby

Project Citizenship to help individuals born abroad who derived their US citizenship from a parent. The training was led by Associate Victoria Morte and Irma Dias, a paralegal in our Boston office. Joining them were: Partner Dan Maranci, Associates Victoria Morte, David Iannella, Daniel Ruemenapp, Jihan Merlin, Chris Barnett, Jennifer Pflanz, Rebecca Leavitt, Khiet Nguyen, and Amanda Nordy, and Paralegal Irma Dias.

The Last Stand

Currently there are three family immigration detention centers



*Desiree Goldfinger
Matawan Office*

in the United States. The Berks Family Residential Center (Berks) in Pennsylvania is the smallest, housing under 100 detainees. Berks is the last stop for many families before they are removed from the country. These families have suffered long-term detention, with some having been held for as long as one year. Families in Berks have the most difficult cases because these families have already received an order of removal while detained in one of the other two detention facilities. Fearless in the face of this daunting challenge,

Desiree Goldfinger, an Associate in the Matawan, New Jersey office, organized a group of Associates and Paralegals to assist the women and children in Berks with Requests for Reinterview and appeals to the Office of Civil Rights. When asked why she chose to volunteer at Berks, Desiree explained: "When I was in Dilley, the outgoing managing attorney mentioned that there was a family detention facility in Berks, Pennsylvania, where there was no attorney support, and with even greater need for attorney assistance than Dilley, since the families at Berks had been either transferred there after being denied relief, or were local residents who had been apprehended in immigration raids. Why travel all the way to Dilley when there was such an acute need for pro bono services right next door to the New Jersey office?" Partners Rahul Shah and Tim Nelson were joined by Associates Phillip Sholts, Chelsea Germak, Stephen Chiew, and Heather Oh of our NJ office in this pro bono project. Paury Vasquez, a paralegal, provided invaluable support to the team of attorneys.

PRO BONO AWARDS

Monica Sherman Ghiglia Receives the 2016 Inn of Court Pro Bono Publico Award

San Diego's [Casa Cornelia Law Center](#) ("CCLC") awarded Associate Monica Sherman Ghiglia its 2016 "Inn of Court Pro Bono Publico Award" at CCLC's 9th Annual La Mancha Awards. The *Inn of Court Pro Bono Publico Award* is given to individuals who provide high quality pro bono legal representation to indigent immigrants in removal

proceedings or in the preparation of affirmative applications for relief. Monica was selected from a pool of over 200 volunteer attorneys. Monica is based in our San Diego office.

Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education Honors Sandra Sheridan Reguerin and Jena Decker Xu

Fragomen is proud to announce that partner Sandra Sheridan Reguerin and associate Jena Decker-Xu were named to the 2015 list of *Top Pro Bono Attorneys in Arizona* by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education. They were featured in State Bar of Arizona's magazine *Arizona Attorney*. More recently, Jena won asylum for a young woman referred by the Florence Project. Sandra is based



Sandra Sheridan Reguerin



Jena Decker Xu

out of our Santa Clara and Phoenix offices. Jena is formerly of the Phoenix office and is now based in Santa Clara.



Aviva Meerschswam



Danny Alicea

Community Ambassador Award from Year Up New York

In 2015, Aviva Meerschswam spearheaded a limited scope pro bono project with [Year Up](#). Year Up's mission is to close the "opportunity divide" by providing urban young adults with skills, experience, and support that empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education. Aviva, with the assistance of Fragomen Fellow Danny Alicea, provided legal screenings to Year Up's trainees. As a result of Aviva and Danny's tireless commitment to Year Up and the young people it serves, Fragomen was selected as the recipient of the 2016 *Community Ambassador Award*.

2016 Fragomen Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

In 2016, Andres Ortiz leveraged his removal defense experience to

challenge due process violations against detained clients. Last year, he volunteered with the BIA Pro Bono Project to represent a detainee in an appeal of an order of deportation on



Andres Ortiz

the grounds that his client's waiver of the right to counsel was unknowing, due to the court's failure to fully explain the right to counsel before it accepted the waiver. His appeal was successful, the client's deportation order was vacated and the case remanded to the immigration court. Because of Andres, that client now has a meaningful opportunity to present his case. Andres views pro bono as a critical part of being an attorney. Andres describes why he is drawn to pro bono: "With few exceptions, noncitizens in immigration court have no right to court-appointed legal counsel. For explicit and implicit reasons, lack of access to legal counsel often means that the noncitizen's claim will be defended less effectively than it would if that same person had access to competent legal counsel, thus resulting in a loss of a full measure of due process for someone facing removal. I see my role as a practitioner to help out where I can to remind judges and the government that all people should have the right to due

process when their case is being adjudicated. It is my hope the cases I litigate will have a positive impact not only on my indigent clients, but also the court system as a whole. I am very grateful to Fragomen for providing me the opportunity, resources, and space to advocate for this population."

The State Bar of California Honors Teodora Purcell

Teodora Purcell will receive the California State Bar Association's *Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services* in recognition of the extraordinary commitment she has demonstrated to serving Casa Cornelia's clients. The *Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services* recognizes the contributions of attorneys who volunteer their time and expertise on behalf of low income clients. Named after the first African-American Justice of the California Supreme Court, only lawyers who



Teodora Purcell

volunteer a minimum of fifty hours in the service of indigent individuals are considered for the award. Teodora's tireless work with Casa Cornelia has spanned many years. Her exemplary commitment to pro bono is remarkable. Teodora, we salute you. ■

CHAMPION CIRCLE

The Champion Circle is an honor bestowed on the Partners and Associates who contributed more than 100 pro bono hours of service in the preceding calendar year.

Boston

Erin Brummer

Chicago

Rebecca van Uiter

Dallas

Steve Ladik*

Matawan

Desiree Goldfinger

New York

Danny Alicea
Barbara Camacho
Amy Fallon*
Lisa Koenig*
Raquel Liberman
Vanessa Salazar
Careen Shannon*
Kyle Sommer

Santa Clara

Sandra Sheridan Reguerin*

Washington D.C.

Bo Cooper*

*Partner



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Fragomen celebrates these attorneys for achieving more than 50 hours of pro bono during the preceding calendar year.

Atlanta

Janora Hawkins
Kevin Miner*
Justin Russo
Adriana Varela

Boston

Christopher Barnett
Mia Batista
Melissa Bordeaux
Alexandra Branzburg
Molly Carey*
Brian Coughlin*
Josiah Curtis
David Ianella
Nhu-Y Le
Rebecca Leavitt
George Lester+
Elaine Leung
Bill Lundin
Sara Mailander
Jihan Merlin
Kathleen Micciche
Victoria Morte
Khiet Nguyen
Amanda Nordy
Christian Park
Jennifer Pflanz
Stephanie Pimentel
Miles Roeder
Daniel Ruemenapp
Allison Williard
Mariah Wilson

Chicago

Laura Bloniarz
Christian Dallman
Alex Elsberg
Magdalena Faust
Oishika Gupta

Kai Lo

Anna Morzy*
Nancy Nemeth
Janette Sanchez
Cynthia Shearn*
Rae Timothy
Michael Turansick*

Dallas

Logan Bowser
Susan Steger+

Houston

Andrea Penedo

Irvine

David Raft
Mitchell Wexler*
Katie Wu

Los Angeles

Emily Allen
Andres Ortiz
Shelly Song

Matawan

Christopher Basaman
Heather Oh
William Ralston
Phillip Sholts

New York

Jonathan Adams*
Sarah Allen
Michael Almonte
Carmita Alonso*
Mari Aoyagi
Linda Attreed
Rachel Beardsley
Robert Casazza*

Christopher De Los Reyes

Daniel DeCurtis
Eda Derhemi
Christopher DosSantos
Christopher Gregorio
Sophia Goring-Piard+

Leo Guerra
Janet Henner*

Evan Hey

Stacy Hong

Mike Izrailev

Ethan Kaufman*

Richard Lear

Ann Lee

Ruby Li

Christine Lopez

Heather Klein

Catherine Macris*

Aviva Meerscham

Yael Mizrahi

Jenny Nieves*

Francesca Moschetta*

Meghan O'Malley

Kevin O'Sullivan

F. Joseph Paldino*

Karli Robyn

Jenny Schrager*

Daniel Schwarz*

Charlotte Smith

Lauren Stulmaker

Hugh Thistlethwaite*

Freddi Weintraub

Jamie Ziegenfuss

Liat Zudkewich

Phoenix

Jill Bloom+

San Diego

Elona Dunehew

Monica Ghiglia

Gary Perl*

Teodora Purcell

Nicole Richard

Karine Wenger*

Santa Clara

Joy Ang Pinlac
Romulo Guevara

Aileen Kim

Jena Decker-Xu

Rodney Malpert*

Cheryl Pash+

Da'Niel Rowan

Andrea Rush

Andrew Shackelford

Troy

Pamela Debias
Nathan Graham
Aimee Guthat
Alexandra LaCombe*

Washington, D.C.

Dan Brown*
Emily England
Nathalie Fassie
Howard Gordon*
Andrew Greenfield*
Anyia Krivtsun
Brenda Oliver*
Daniel Pierce
Patrick Shen*
Emily Singer Hurvitz
Michael Smith
Daniel Williamson*

*Partner

+Of Counsel





IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kai Lo, 2016 Rising Star



The National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) selected Kai Lo as the recipient of its Rising Star Award. NIJC bestows this award in recognition of outstanding and extensive pro bono service. Kai's dedication and years of pro bono service on behalf of LGBT immigrants in the Chicago area earned him this year's honor. Kai summarized his view on pro bono: "There is nothing more gratifying in my career than having the opportunity to offer pro bono assistance to individuals in dire need. Inequality and injustice still exist, so the fight will go on. With every single step we march, we re-write LGBT history and we witness progression and advancements in the making." Over the years, Kai has represented LGBT clients from Russia, Cameroon, Mexico and Saudi Arabia in a variety of applications. We salute Kai for his remarkable achievement. Kai is an Associate in our Chicago office.

This newsletter provides a glimpse into our pro bono contributions. If you would like to be considered for a feature, or if you have nominations or suggestions for future features, please contact Barbara Camacho, Pro Bono Counsel, at bcamacho@fragomen.com.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

FREDDI WEINTRAUB, CHAIR

Barbara Camacho (NY)	Juan Carlos Noble (Mexico City)	Careen Shannon (NY)	Chris Spentzaris (Sydney, Auckland)
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Lisa Koenig (NY)	James Pack (Irvine)	Charlotte Slocombe (London)	

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Pro Bono Year in Review Editor-in-Chief

BARBARA CAMACHO
Pro Bono Counsel

