



FRAGOMEN
WORLDWIDE

Pro Bono Year in Review

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
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2015

Pro Bono Year in Review

A LOOK BACK AT 2015

Last year was an exciting time for Fragomen’s pro bono practice, marking the first full year since we formalized the 50-hour pro bono requirement for our U.S. offices. Attorneys have answered the challenge by providing more than 15,000 pro bono hours of service. We have responded to the crisis at the U.S. border by volunteering extensively to support unaccompanied minors, and to represent families held in a detention center in Dilley, Texas. We have helped dozens of LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants achieve stability and safety, in partnership with [Immigration Equality](#). We also deepened our relationship with the [Immigrant Justice Corps](#) (IJC) by fully funding a two-year IJC Fellow, who provides legal assistance to immigrants seeking lawful status and citizenship and fighting deportation. From our groundbreaking work in the Mexico office with [Sin Fronteras](#) to working with the Canadian government to plan a North Korean refugee resettlement program, our impact on those in need has expanded globally. In total, we estimate that we donated more than \$1.2 million in pro bono services in 2015 alone. Thanks to the help of our many dedicated Fragomen professionals, we have set the benchmark high and aim to continue serving our communities in need in 2016 and beyond.



PRO BONO AROUND THE WORLD

Supporting Human Rights in Canada

For the past two years, Associates Jack Kim and Christopher Kim of our Canada office were part of a select group of volunteer advisors that liaised with Canadian government officials to create the broad outlines of the first program to be proposed to resettle North Korean refugees stranded in transit countries such as Thailand. Jack and Christopher volunteered with Canada’s leading organization of North Korean human rights and refugee advocacy, HanVoice. Their work included extensive discussions at the cabinet level and with members of the Parliament and the Senate.

Advocating for Undocumented Individuals in Mexico

Our Mexico office partners with [Sin Fronteras](#)—a Mexican immigration

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- San Diego Partner Gary Perl defends an ethnic and religious minority
- Texas Partner Steve Ladik opens a pathway to permanent residence for an abandoned LGBT minor
- Partner Lisa Koenig, and Associates Teodora Purcell and Raquel Liberman, are honored for their pro bono service

advocacy and services non-profit—to assist undocumented individuals in Mexico with applications for temporary permission to lawfully reside and work in Mexico.

Helping to End Family Detention in the United States

In 2015, six Fragomen associates and one Partner provided approximately \$374,000 in pro bono legal services to 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 have joined forces to provide limited-scope representation to immigrant women and children from Latin America detained at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas. Volunteer attorneys work anywhere from

12 to 15 hours a day for six days. Lawyers screen cases for eligibility; prepare clients for interviews with asylum officers and for bond hearings; represent clients in bond hearings; and, where appropriate, file appeals. On an average day, approximately 60 individuals are assisted. Fragomen’s participants included Partner Carmita Alonso, current Fragomen Fellow Danny Alicea, and Associates Barbara Camacho, Michael Eisenstadt, Janora Hawkins, Susan McCarthy and Charlotte Smith.

Providing Group Assistance in the United States

Last year, 31 of our Partners and Associates volunteered at a variety of [CUNY Citizenship Now!](#) group assistance events. In addition to providing regular support throughout the five boroughs of New York City, our firm distinguished itself by providing more volunteer attorneys than any other firm in New York City during the annual *Daily News/CUNY Citizenship Now!* call-in. This event provides free immigration

and citizenship assistance by phone to hundreds of callers each year.

Partner Janet Henner (center) led her team as they volunteered their support. We estimate that our pro bono contributions provided *CUNY Citizenship Now!* with \$64,620 in legal services over the course of 2015. This year’s call-in will be held from April 25 to April 29, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Stella and Charles Guttman Community College. The training will be at The Graduate Center, CUNY on April 12, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature special guest and immigrant rights champion, Representative Luis Guterierrez (IL-4th District).

OUTSTANDING CASEWORK

Abroad Alone—Unaccompanied Minors

Steve Ladik, a Partner in our Dallas and Houston, Texas offices, has opened a path for an Ethiopian girl of Eritrean descent to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and, eventually, permanent residence. The minor arrived in the U.S. on a student visa to continue

(same-sex sexual activity is criminalized in Ethiopia), and that her family had been extorted and physically attacked by individuals that they believed to be terrorists. The girl’s father is deceased, and her remaining immediate relatives in Ethiopia—her mother and a brother—appear to have gone missing since her arrival in the U.S. Thanks to Steve, this girl has an opportunity to remain in the United States and attend a local college, where she was offered a scholarship.

On Account of Gary Perl

Rising tensions in the Middle East have fueled ideological violence, creating new victims of persecution daily. Gary Perl, a Partner in our San Diego office, is providing pro bono representation to a



*Partner Gary Perl
San Diego Office*

Kurdish Yazidi man seeking asylum in the U.S. His client was routinely physically attacked, threatened and detained in Turkey by Hezbollah, the violent extremist militant organization. He was beaten and threatened by the police and called a terrorist for celebrating a Kurdish holiday with friends. His offense was dancing and speaking Kurdish. Kurdish Yazidis are an ethnic and religious minority who practice *Yazidism*, which has seven holy beings. One of these beings is considered the devil by



Hugh Thistlethwaite, Janet Henner, Daniel DeCurtis (above), Charlotte Smith (below)



*Partner Steve Ladik
Dallas/Houston Office*

her education. Her immigration needs arise from the fact that she is a lesbian

“The test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members.”

-Pearl S. Buck



some non-Yazidis. As a result, Yazidis are persecuted as “devil worshippers.” Hezbollah threatened him with death and forced him to attend a mosque. As elections neared, he was coerced to vote for the Hudo Pro political party. The persecution he experienced was pervasive. Thanks to Gary, he will have counsel throughout his asylum process.

Tackling Criminal Convictions

Los Angeles-based Associate Andres Ortiz recently achieved a precedent-setting victory for a pro bono client with a criminal conviction affecting his immigration status. Last year, Andres



Associate Andres Ortiz,
Los Angeles Office

co-counseled a paraplegic homeless man on a pro bono basis. Andres’ role in the representation was to reduce the impact of the client’s conviction on his ongoing immigration case. Andres spent a significant amount of time preparing a detailed motion and evidence in support of his client’s case, attended multiple

hearings and liaised with the local District Attorney. His grasp of *Padilla* and the due process protections it guarantees to non-citizens helped his pro bono client obtain a court order vacating the relevant conviction, as well as an agreement from the local District Attorney to re-charge his client with an offense that will be significantly more favorable for his immigration case. This accomplishment demonstrates why Andres is on the short list of the Los Angeles community’s go-to “crimmigration” professionals.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Rebecca van Uitert, Trailblazer

In the fall of 2014, Rebecca van Uitert was the first Fragomen Associate to volunteer at the family detention center in Artesia, New Mexico. Rebecca bravely walked into the middle of a U.S. humanitarian crisis. She was stunned by the lack of due process, inadequate medical treatment and substandard conditions in which hundreds of women and children asylum seekers from Central America were detained. Rebecca saw an opportunity for



Associate Rebecca van Uitert,
Chicago Office

Fragomen to provide critically necessary short-term legal services. She shared her experience with her colleagues and with the *New York Times Magazine*. Inspired by Rebecca’s work in Artesia, Fragomen has sent 20 volunteers to Artesia and Dilley.

PRO BONO AWARDS

Lisa Koenig Receives the 2015 Epstein Award for Pro Bono Service

The City Bar Justice Center honored Partner Lisa Koenig with the 2015 Jeremy G. Epstein Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service. The Epstein Award is bestowed on select attorneys for the quality and volume of their pro bono work as well as leadership in support



Lisa Koenig,
New York City Office

of pro bono efforts. Lisa is actively involved in the *City Bar Justice Center’s* Immigrant Outreach Project, providing mentorship and strategic advice to the Fragomen Fellow. Under her guidance, the Immigrant Outreach Project has grown in breadth, quality and reach. The *City Bar Justice Center* is the pro bono affiliate of the *New York City Bar Association*. It operates New York City’s busiest legal hotline and provides direct legal representation to thousands of

New Yorkers. We congratulate Lisa for her tremendous efforts in the pro bono area.

2015 Fragomen Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Fragomen is proud to have named Associate Raquel Liberman our 2015 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. Her commitment to pro bono is deeply rooted in a desire to positively impact the world around her. Raquel believes pro bono service is its own reward, saying, “You will never feel the gratification and rush that you get from actually helping someone whose life you’ve changed for the better in every respect.”



*Associate Raquel Liberman,
New York Office*

In 2015, Raquel represented several special immigrant juveniles before the Immigration Court and USCIS. Many of Raquel’s clients were granted lawful permanent residence and are currently attending local high schools. Earlier this year, Raquel volunteered at Dilley, joining the ranks of 20 Fragomen attorneys who have dedicated their time and talents to those in need at the Artesia and Dilley detention centers.

Teodora Purcell Named 2015 Attorney of the Year

For several years, San Diego-based Associate Teodora Purcell has dedicated thousands of hours to assisting asylum seekers from the Middle East and Central



Caren M. Chavez, Esq., Executive Director of Casa Cornelia Law Center, and Associate Teodora Purcell

America through the [Casa Cornelia Law Center](#). Last year, the Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego named Teodora the “2015 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year” for her tireless work. We salute Teodora for her exceptional service. ■

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.

Atlanta

Janora Hawkins

Boston

Erin Brummer

Molly Carey

Chicago

Oishika Gupta

Rebecca van Uitert

Canada

Christopher Kim

New York

Danny Alicea

Carmita Alonso*

Barbara Camacho

Raquel Liberman

Lisa Koenig*

Careen Shannon*

Silicon Valley

Cynthia Lange*

Lynda Won-Chung

**Partner*



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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

Atlanta

Alexandra Holland
Mike Hoops
Michael Eisenstadt
Deborah Marlowe*
Kevin Miner*
Justin Russo
Karen Winarsky*

Boston

Sapna Annicelli
Christopher Barnett
Alexandra Branzburg
Brian Coughlin*
Josiah Curtis
Jihan Hassan
Nhu-Y Le
Rebecca Leavitt
Elaine Leung
Sara Mailander
Kathleen Micciche
Christian Park
Stepanie Pimentel
Jennifer Pflanz
Miles Roeder
Curtis Sullivan
Allison Williard

Chicago

Kevin Aiston
Christian Dallman
Maria DeLapp
Magdalena Faust
Anna Morzy
Nancy Nemeth
Cynthia Shearn*

Dallas

Logan Bowser
Steve Ladik*
Susan Steger+
Kristi Taylor

Houston

Andrea Penedo

Irvine

Blake Miller
James Pack*
David Raft
Katie Wu

Los Angeles

Andres Ortiz
Shelly Song

Matawan

Christopher Basaman
Desiree Goldfinger
Susan McCarthy
Heather Oh
William Ralston

New York

Sarah Antsey
Mari Aoyagi
Rachel Beardsley
Marie-Anne Breaux
John Carter*
Robert Casazza*
Samuel Chow
Daniel DeCurtis
Eda Derhemi
Christopher De Los Reyes

Angel Dieguez

Christopher Gregorio
Sophia Goring-Piard
Margaret Hellerstein

Janet Henner*
Evan Hey

Marilee Holmes
Parisa Karaahmet*
Ethan Kaufman*

Adam Ketcher
Heather Klein
Lisa Koenig*

Jessica Laumanns
Ann Lee
Ruby Li

Yael Mizrahi
Julie Muniz*
Jenny Nieves*

Kevin O'Sullivan
F. Joseph Paldino*

Michael Patrick*
Karli Robyn
Jenny Schragger*

Marta Sisco-Izak
Elizabeth Sims
Kyle Sommer

Lauren Stulmaker
Charlotte Smith
Freddi Weintraub*

Phoenix

Juan Flamand

San Diego

Gary Perl*
Teodora Purcell
Marlene Stanger+

Santa Clara

Jena Decker-Xu
Cheryl Escario
Margaret Espinal

Romulo Guevara
Cindy Jen

Rodney Malpert*
Jennifer Monnet
Jin Park*

Joy Pinlac
Ali Ramezandadeh

Sandra Sheridan Reguerin*
Lauren Ross
Andrea Rush

Donna Scadova
Ray Tiffany

Troy

Pamela DeBias
Aimee Guthat
Alexandra LaCombe*

Christa Minnick
Tracy Schauff

Washington, D.C.

Anya Krivtsun
Son Pham*
Dan Brown*

Howard Gordon*
Daniel Pierce
Patrick Shen*

*Partner

+Of Counsel





DILLEY AND ARTESIA ALUMNI

Danny Alicea	Desiree Goldfinger	Donna Scadova
Carmita Alonso*	Romulo Guevara	Careen Shannon*
Mia Batista	Janora Hawkins	Charlotte Smith
Rachel Beardsley	Ethan Kaufman*	Jennifer Splinter
Barbara Camacho	Nhu-Y Lee	Rebecca van Uitert
Michael Castiglione	Raquel Liberman	Paury Vasquez
Michael Eisenstadt	Susan McCarthy	
Juan Flamand	Miles Roeder	<i>* Partner</i>

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Barbara Camacho	Juan Carlos Noble*	Sandra Sheridan Reguerin*	Samantha Weidenbaum*
Chad Ellsworth*	Dirk Nuyts*	Careen Shannon*	Freddi Weintraub, Chair*
Nadine Goldfoot*	James Pack*	Charlotte Slocombe*	
Lisa Koenig*	Jin Park*	Chris Spentzaris*	

PRO BONO COORDINATORS

Erin Brummer (Boston)	Nicole Fernández (Coral Gables)	Sheila Mahadevan (DC)	Rahul Shah* (NJ)
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Haseena Enu* (Dallas)	Alexandra LaCombe* (Troy)	Teodora Purcell (San Diego)	Samantha Weidenbaum* (Atlanta)
	Steven Ladik* (Houston/Dallas)	Da'Niel Rowan (Santa Clara)	<i>* Partner</i>

**Pro Bono Year in Review
Editor-in-Chief**

BARBARA CAMACHO