

Pro Bono Report

Skadden



A Look Back
at 2021



Contents

04 Tabak's Top 10

Special counsel Ron Tabak lists 10 of his favorite *pro bono* matters from the past year.

07 What Was Your Most [...] Matter?

Skadden attorneys and professional staff discuss their standout matters from 2021.

09 Professional Staff Spotlight: Managing Law Clerks

Four managing law clerks explain the role their team plays in the firm's *pro bono* efforts.

10 The Year in Criminal Justice

Our criminal justice victories in 2021 included the release of a client wrongfully imprisoned for 21 years.

12 Immigration Impact Project: 2021 Highlights

In 2021, nearly 600 Skadden attorneys worked on *pro bono* immigration matters.

14 Law Firm Antiracism Alliance Update

Skadden helps lead the organization's efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

16 Honors & Awards

2021 by the Numbers

The impact of our attorneys' efforts in 2021 cannot be quantified, though the number of hours they contributed can.

Attorneys and professional staff firmwide dedicated

180,000+ hours of service

U.S. attorneys worked

over 140,000 hours on 1,600+ *pro bono* matters



65% of our U.S. attorneys performed 20+ hours



Summer associates contributed 5,800+ hours working on 165+ matters



U.S. attorneys worked **6,250+ hours on 100+ COVID-19-related matters**



We are currently working with more than 100 organizations on *pro bono* matters

Over the **past 10 years**, attorneys have contributed **nearly 2 million hours** of *pro bono* service



Tabak's Top 10

In 1985, Skadden's first Executive Partner, Peter Mullen, appointed Ron Tabak to lead the firm's *pro bono* program — a model that many other major firms would later emulate. Nearly four decades later, Ron continues to help coordinate the practice, as special counsel.

In the early 1990s, Ron became a regular presenter at the annual NAACP Legal Defense Fund death penalty conference, where his *pro bono* "top 10" lists soon became a conference tradition. Building on that success, Ron made top 10 lists a staple of his other public appearances as well. If you've seen him speak at a conference, give a birthday toast or accept one of his many well-deserved awards, you've probably heard a top 10.

Building on this storied tradition, we invited Ron to list what he considers to be 10 particularly noteworthy *pro bono* matters from 2021 and to tie them together with a theme. He chose 10 that demonstrate "not only the wide breadth of our *pro bono* matters but also the teamwork by our attorneys around the world."



01 In favor of *pro bono* client Edward Caniglia, in May 2021, a Skadden team secured a unanimous U.S. Supreme

Court ruling that prevents warrantless entries into people’s homes by police for “community caretaking” functions. The Court held that the community caretaking exception, which allows warrantless searches of impounded vehicles, does not extend to the home. The ruling repudiates the standard that would have allowed police to demand entry into homes based on subjective perceptions of need, thereby reaffirming bedrock Fourth Amendment principles. Skadden briefed the case, coordinated diverse *amici* and successfully argued before the Court, securing the 9-0 decision. The holding has been cited in more than 80 decisions and represents a victory for Americans concerned about the sanctity of their homes. The team was led by Washington, D.C. partner **Shay Dvoretzky** and included D.C. counsel **Emily Kennedy** and associate **Sylvia Tsakos**.

02 In a case arising out of an immigration raid by federal agents under the guise of a search warrant for financial records, **Skadden attorneys helped Latino workers obtain a partial denial of a motion to dismiss filed by various federal agencies and individual agents.** With no probable cause, agents detained only

Latino workers, on the basis of their apparent race. The raid had a dramatic impact on the community of Morristown, Tennessee, where fear of arrest became endemic — the next day, 600 Latino children missed school. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee declined to dismiss class claims for conspiracy to deprive the plaintiffs of equal protection of the laws and failure to prevent equal protection deprivation, as well as an excessive force claim and Federal Tort Claims Act claims against the government. More than 70 attorneys from across Skadden’s eight domestic offices have worked on the matter, in partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Immigration Law Center and the Nashville-based law firm Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison. The trial is set for September.

03 A Skadden team helped secure a federal judge’s August 2021 ruling declaring seven categories of Indiana abortion restrictions unconstitutional and permanently enjoining their enforcement.

Following a six-day bench trial, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana Judge Sarah Evans Barker ruled in favor of Whole Woman’s Health Alliance, holding that aspects of Indiana’s physician-only law, telemedicine ban and various requirements violated the Substantive Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. Judge Barker also held that mandatory disclosures regarding fetal pain, the beginning of life and the mental health risks of abortion violate the standard set forth in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Skadden attorneys, partnering with The Lawyering Project, were involved in the case from the time the complaint was filed through depositions and extensive motion practice. The team was led by New York partner **Lara Flath** and Chicago partner **Amy Van Gelder** and included New York associates **Sarah Adams**, **Thania Charmani**, **Grace Manning** and **Michael Powell**. While the judgment was vacated in light of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* and remanded to the district court, the team remains dedicated to supporting abortion right efforts.

04 Attorneys from our London, Frankfurt and Paris offices have joined forces with the nonprofit European Network on Statelessness to build a litigation database containing national, regional and international case law addressing statelessness.

The database will provide a platform for comparative legal analysis and enable legal practitioners across Europe working to protect the rights of stateless people to benefit from shared knowledge.

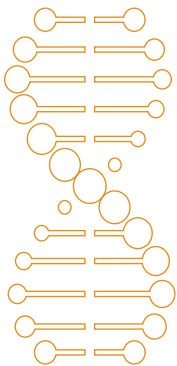
05 Chicago associate **Shelisa Thomas** secured the release of **Corzell Cole**, who as a teenager was convicted of first-degree murder and attempted murder. He was sentenced to 50 years in prison for driving a car when his passenger unexpectedly murdered an individual and attempted to murder another.

As a result of Shelisa’s legal work, negotiations and in-court advocacy, Mr. Cole was released after 19 years’ incarceration. Shelisa’s clemency petition persuaded the state attorney to retest the court with jurisdiction over the matter, in order to vacate the first-degree murder conviction and allow Mr. Cole to plead guilty to second-degree murder instead. He then became the first person resentenced under Illinois SB2129, a recent criminal code amendment that allows prosecutors to ask judges to revise sentences when “the original sentence no longer advances the interests of justice.” The judge vacated the first-degree murder conviction and resentenced Mr. Cole to 14 years and eight months. He was released in March 2022 and greeted outside the prison gates by Shelisa and several other friends and supporters. (For more on our criminal justice efforts, please see the story on page 10.)



Shelisa Thomas, Corzell Cole and two friends and supporters. (Photo: Maya Dukmasova / Injustice Watch)

06 Attorneys and legal assistants from Skadden's Los Angeles and Palo Alto offices participated again this year in a National Adoption Day partnership with Alliance for Children's Rights. Twenty-four volunteers assisted 11 families with adopting 16 children out of the Los Angeles foster care system by completing the necessary adoption paperwork. Attorneys formalized the adoptions by representing the families in either virtual hearings on or around National Adoption Day or remote finalization processes. Former associate **Brittany Ellenberg** coordinated Skadden's participation in the partnership with support from senior legal assistant **Brigitte Travaglini**.



07 Since 2015, Skadden attorneys have supported the Innocence Project, which seeks to exonerate the wrongly convicted through DNA testing, by reviewing intake forms completed by incarcerated persons around the country. The attorneys evaluate the potential involvement of DNA in each applicant's case. The evaluations are utilized by the Innocence Project to determine whether and how to proceed. After helping the organization clear a backlog of more than 5,000 applications in 2019, Skadden attorneys have continued to review new applications, completing more than 3,500 over the past seven years; in 2021, approximately 70 attorneys from our domestic, London, São Paulo, Singapore and Toronto offices completed approximately 325 evaluations. The team is led by New York partner **Vered Rabia**.

09 Boston counsel **Marley Ann Brumme** is leading a team that is working with Skadden Fellow **Vic Weiner** to research Florida municipal ordinances that impose restraints on minors who are registered as sexual offenders and adults who were so registered as minors. The results will be incorporated into a report on the ways the state's sex offender registration scheme affects youth. Thirty-eight states list people under the age of 18 on publicly available sex offender registries, but Florida is one of the very few with mandatory lifetime registration for all minors adjudicated for or convicted of certain sexual offenses. Research shows registering youth as sex offenders has no public safety benefit, but it does have devastating impacts on those required to register, including worsening mental health outcomes, interfering with daily living and increasing the likelihood that they experience sexual violence. Skadden's work will help the Juvenile Law Center better understand the collateral consequences imposed on youth required to register.

08 After family court buildings across England were temporarily shut down at the start of the pandemic, attorneys from our London office spent approximately 700 hours supporting and representing vulnerable parents in remote child-arrangement proceedings across the country. Skadden partnered with the nonprofit Free Family Representation & Advocacy Project, which provides free advice and representation for *pro se* family court litigants in England and Wales. Counsel **Jonathon Egerton-Peters**, associates **Jack Angers**, **Sym Hunt**, **Sophia Lekakis**, **Georgia Papathanasiou** and **Ed Taylor** and senior *pro bono* coordinator **Olivia Bushell** took on advocacy roles throughout 2021, and numerous other attorneys provided support.

10 Over the past eight years, attorneys from our Palo Alto and Los Angeles offices have collaborated with clients to present an interactive legal workshop "Know Your Rights and Know the Law: Sex, Bullying and Social Media" to more than 10,000 middle and high school students. Drawing on recent court cases and news stories, the program addresses students' legal rights and responsibilities in the realm of online communications, including laws governing cybercrimes, hate crimes, hate speech, "sexting" and consent. Our attorneys have trained their counterparts from approximately 20 client companies, often teaming up to co-present the program. During the pandemic, the program pivoted to a fully virtual format. The workshop has won several honors, including a Community Impact Award from the *Silicon Valley Business Journal*. The program is led by counsel **Colleen Lee** and associate **Katy Stone** in Palo Alto and counsel **Nicole Howell** in Los Angeles.



What Was Your Most [...] Matter?

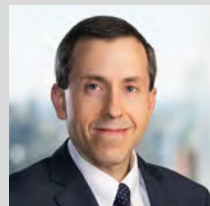
We asked attorneys and professional staff from throughout the firm to tell us a bit about their most memorable *pro bono* matters from 2021.



Exciting

Nesa Amamo / Partner / Real Estate / New York

We partnered with The Bronx Defenders to co-represent individuals who experienced excessive police force while attending the 2020 racial justice protests in New York City. As part of that co-representation, I filed notices of claims, represented my clients at 50 hearings and negotiated successful monetary settlements. Simply witnessing the extraordinary work The Bronx Defenders do on a daily basis was eye-opening for me. Historically, minorities have had less access to quality legal representation. As a minority and a woman, I found it incredibly rewarding to be able to provide such access and extend skills developed at Skadden to underrepresented groups. (For more on this project, please see the story on page 11.)



Satisfying

Shay Dvoretzky / Partner / Litigation / Washington, D.C.

On behalf of Georgetown Law professor Laura Donohue, associates **Parker Rider-Longmaid** and **Sylvia Tsakos** and I filed a Supreme Court *amicus* brief in a case brought by three Muslim Americans claiming the FBI unconstitutionally surveilled them because of their religion. The government claimed the state-secrets privilege warranted dismissal of the plaintiffs' First Amendment claims, and the issue was whether the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act prevented that outcome. Our brief refuted the government's premise, showing that the privilege doesn't justify dismissal of a lawsuit. At argument, Justice Stephen Breyer acknowledged our brief — a rare feat for *amici*. Ultimately, the Court left the scope of the privilege for remand, which was the brief's goal.



Rewarding

Alexander Kasparie / Associate / Litigation / Chicago

Last year, I participated in a clinic with JPMorgan in which we filed motions to seal in eviction cases for low-income Chicagoans. Finding new housing is difficult. If your record contains an eviction case — even one dismissed as unmeritorious — it can be almost impossible. Since that clinic, I've taken on three cases. In one case, my client had essentially inherited a housing voucher that would have allowed her, her young siblings and her daughter to remain in her mother's rent-subsidized apartment, but a previous eviction posed a possibly insurmountable roadblock. Because her former landlord opposed sealing the case, I had to argue the motion, which was granted on the spot. Sometimes all it takes is someone with knowledge of the system to stand up and say, "Your honor, this person has a right to this, and here's why."

What Was Your Most [...] Matter?



Fulfilling

Sophia Lekakis / Associate / International Arbitration / London

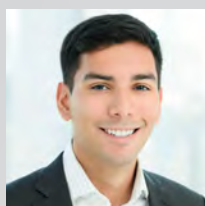
I represented a refugee living in the U.K. in an appeal to help cover her added costs of living with a disability. She suffered from trauma and other health conditions that made her unable to work. Submitting her appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal required careful attention. Applying classic litigation skills, the goal was to be as concise and thorough as possible. These tribunals review case files that are usually more than 100 pages; having the information summarized in one place allows them to understand the heart of the matter. The tribunal allowed our appeal even before the hearing began, which is an extremely rare victory that I am proud of. Helping my *pro bono* clients succeed is incredibly rewarding.



Enlightening

Jessie LeMar / Research & Knowledge Manager / Chicago

I'm regularly assigned "country condition" research for asylum and immigration cases. Last year, I compiled research for people seeking asylum from several countries in Africa, which allowed me to utilize my French language skills. There was a matter in Togo where I reviewed the regulations surrounding local laws. I searched for newspaper articles, independent publications and other press regarding Togo's conditions — including the persecution of people who oppose the leading political parties and violence and attacks at military checkpoints — as well as various primary sources that might provide a better understanding of the asylum seeker's hometown. Through this research, I learned about people's lives in small Togolese towns, the challenges they often face and their cultures in general.



Challenging

Eddy Rivas / Legal Assistant / Litigation / New York

I represented two young Guatemalan brothers who underwent psychological evaluations as part of the immigration process. I was well-equipped, knowing Spanish and having a good rapport with the children, but it was a substantial challenge to get the boys to share their most vulnerable experiences with someone they knew only through phone calls. We conducted the remote examinations in a way that helped them feel comfortable talking about their past and their emotions. As an immigrant myself, it was rewarding to be that bridge between the brothers' difficult past lives and their path to a better future.

Professional Staff Spotlight: Managing Law Clerks

Year after year, Skadden’s managing law clerks (MLCs) rank among the most active *pro bono* contributors from the firm’s professional staff. Led by managing attorney [Robert Abrams](#), the MLCs serve as a knowledge bank for attorneys regarding rules, procedures and deadlines for filing documents in courts across various jurisdictions. In 2021, nearly 30 MLCs dedicated almost 3,000 hours to approximately 300 matters, ranging from COVID-related evictions to name-change applications for LGBTQ+ clients.

We talked to four New York MLCs about their contributions.



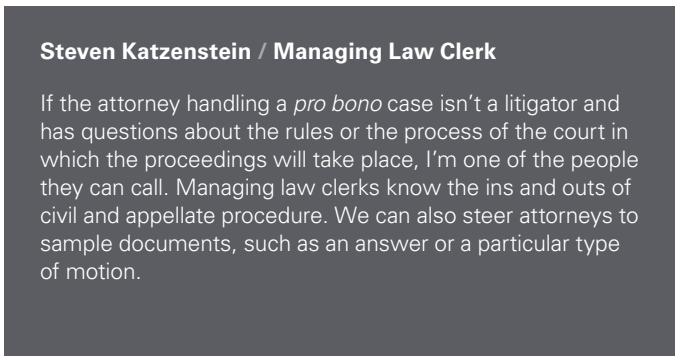
Paris Abell / Docketing Supervisor

The Managing Law Clerks Department tracks deadlines and handles services and filings of court papers. We treat *pro bono* clients — say, someone applying for asylum — the same way we treat our paying clients. As soon as a matter is assigned to an attorney, I notify them about approaching deadlines. I also make sure my team tracks upcoming filings and new deadlines, just as what we do for all our clients.



Matt Koenig / State Court Supervisor

For a *pro bono* case, we’ll review the documents for procedural issues. A name-change case, for example, doesn’t need to conform to just the name-change statute but also to all the court’s other procedural rules. We’re also the boots on the ground. We either e-file or physically take the document to the court for filing and then handle serving the other parties. For cases that don’t involve appearances, we’ll monitor for updates. Some attorneys have never been to the courthouse, so we’ll go with them to the hearing, to make sure they get to where they need to be.



Steven Katzenstein / Managing Law Clerk

If the attorney handling a *pro bono* case isn’t a litigator and has questions about the rules or the process of the court in which the proceedings will take place, I’m one of the people they can call. Managing law clerks know the ins and outs of civil and appellate procedure. We can also steer attorneys to sample documents, such as an answer or a particular type of motion.



Julie Thaxton / Project Assistant

I love working on *pro bono* cases because we’re providing support for people who often have nowhere else to turn. Whether it’s a divorce, an immigration matter or a notice of claim against the city, we’re helping someone who normally can’t afford these services. Once, a woman came in to sign divorce papers, and she began hugging me and crying — she was so thankful for our work.



The Year in Criminal Justice

More than 315 attorneys contributed nearly 35,000 hours in 2021, working on 120+ state and federal criminal justice litigation and reform matters involving police accountability, prisoner rights, parole/parole revocation, record expungement, wrongful conviction/innocence, clemency/pardon, compassionate release, death penalty, post-conviction, and trial-level and appellate cases.

Skadden Attorneys Seek Compassionate Release for 10 Incarcerated Clients

Approximately 20 Skadden attorneys and 40 professional staff spent more than 4,000 hours representing five clients seeking compassionate release from incarceration because of their vulnerability to COVID-19. The attorneys pursued claims under the First Step Act, arguing that their clients' medical vulnerability constitutes an "extraordinary" circumstance entitling them to release. In addition, more than 10 attorneys and 40 professional staff spent nearly 3,000 hours working on behalf of five clients seeking compassionate release on other grounds. Two of the five COVID-related motions were granted; all five of the other motions are pending.

Firm Partners With Bronx Defenders for Notice of Claim Clinic

Since 2016, attorneys and professional staff have collaborated with The Bronx Defenders (BxD) in leading monthly clinics to provide legal support for victims of excessive police force and other government misconduct. Since the start of the pandemic, Skadden volunteers have worked remotely to conduct client interviews and file notices of claims. Through an expansion of the clinic, attorneys at Skadden represented 17 protestors who experienced excessive police force while attending a June 2020 protest supporting racial justice. In partnership with the BxD, we assisted these clients with filing notices of claim and working through related processes, including negotiations with the city that have resulted in several completed settlements. The team's leaders include New York partners **Nesa Amamoo**, **Julie Cohen**, **Lara Flath**, **Matt Martino** and **Blair Thetford** and counsel **Kamali Willett**. As part of this effort, a cross-office group of tax lawyers, including Washington, D.C. partner **Armando Gomez**, Palo Alto partner **Nate Giesselman** and D.C. associate **Jaclyn Roeing**, advised the BxD about the settlements' potential impact on the recipients' tax filings.

First-of-Its-Kind Ruling Grants Imprisoned Client COVID-19 Vaccination

In January 2021, New York associates **James Johnston** and **Zi Lin**, under the supervision of partner **Scott Musoff**, helped secure an unprecedented judgment requiring the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to a man incarcerated at Adirondack Correctional Facility (ACF). By virtue of his age and debilitating health ailments, *pro bono* client Edward MacKenzie was especially vulnerable to COVID-19. The action was initially filed as a petition for a writ of *habeas corpus* seeking his release, in which the team argued that the conditions at ACF amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. The court ultimately converted the action into an Article 78 proceeding and then ordered the state to administer the vaccine. The decision raised awareness about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on New York's incarcerated population and could serve as useful precedent in the future to ensure that incarcerated individuals are provided access to necessary vaccines. The Legal Aid Society served as co-counsel.

Wrongfully Imprisoned Client Freed After 21 Years

Pro bono client Jonathan Smith Sr. was freed in April 2021, 21 years after being incarcerated for a Maryland murder he did not commit. At the April hearing, Mr. Smith entered a conditional Alford plea allowing him to regain his freedom, expressly maintain his innocence and preserve his right to appeal the trial court's denial of a motion to dismiss, which was based on prosecutors' decades-long pattern of egregious misconduct. A Washington, D.C. team and co-counsel Innocence Project (along with the co-defendant's attorneys) previously obtained a writ of actual innocence based on newly discovered evidence identifying the real killers and exposing the prosecutors' intentional suppression of vast amounts of exculpatory evidence. Maryland's attorney general joined the latest appeal, confessing error below and urging the appellate court to reverse. While awaiting the ruling, Mr. Smith is home with his family and friends and is employed at a seafood processing plant. The Skadden team included **Nathan Wacker**, **William Bejan**, **Barri Dean**, **Eman Cuyler**, **Shirley Diaz**, **Lucy Dicks-Mireaux**, **Andrew Hanson**, **Ariana Taylor**, **Todd Frank** and **Angie Owens**.



Jonathan Smith leaving prison, with his son.
(Photo: Eric Kayne / AP Images for the Innocence Project)

Immigration Impact Project: 2021 Highlights

In 2017, Skadden launched the Immigration Impact Project (IIP), a *pro bono* initiative utilizing virtual practice group models to drive efficiencies in the delivery of legal services to low-income immigrants. The goal was simple: Streamline resources, technology and support in order to help more people. Since the IIP's launch five years ago, the firm has dramatically increased both the number and types of immigration matters we handle. The initiative currently offers support on approximately 20 types of matters.

In 2021, nearly **600 attorneys** from 13 offices worldwide contributed more than **30,000 hours** to the Skadden Immigration Impact Project. The firm currently has more than 500 open immigration cases.

Supporting Afghan Individuals Seeking US Immigration Relief

Skadden attorneys in numerous U.S. and international offices have been representing and participating in the development of projects to assist individuals fleeing Afghanistan. This includes helping Afghans who fled to third countries apply for humanitarian parole, assisting Afghans already in the U.S. apply for asylum or other immigration relief, and counseling existing clients on immigration issues related to family members fleeing or seeking to flee Afghanistan. Participants include Chicago associates **Leena El-Sadek** and **Rebecca Ritchie**, who represented Afghans outside the U.S. seeking humanitarian parole.

Hosting Immigration Screening Clinics

In 2021, Skadden hosted two immigration screening clinics in partnership with Legal Services NYC, one for LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive clients, the other for low-income Asian and Pacific Islander victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and other crimes. In total, more than 30 attorneys and professional staff from six offices helped attendees determine whether they were eligible to apply for asylum or other U.S. immigration relief.

Helping LGBTQ+ Immigrants Begin Asylum Application Process

Nearly 20 attorneys and professional staff from six offices participated in a legal clinic to assist low-income LGBTQ+ immigrants who have been persecuted in their home countries. After a comprehensive virtual training, volunteers connected with clients via phone or video conferencing to begin helping them apply for U.S. asylum. Volunteers completed application forms, prepared affidavits, gathered documents and declarations and represented their clients at asylum interviews. The clinic was held in partnership with Legal Services NYC.

Staffing Legal Aid Immigration Hotline

Since 2017, volunteers from across the firm have staffed The Legal Aid Society's immigration hotline on a weekly basis, along with six other law firms, both when it operated 24/7 and during its current schedule of five days per week, eight hours per day. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the firm's Technology Department has ensured that our volunteers can support the hotline while working remotely. In 2021, 26 Skadden attorneys from seven offices devoted over 770 hours to this initiative.

Assisting Haitians in Applying for Temporary Protected Status

Associates from across the firm assisted Haitian immigrants in applying for Temporary Protected Status, including preparation of forms and supporting evidence. The clients either did not have lawful status to remain in the U.S. or had lawful status that might soon expire, and TPS would enable them to temporarily remain in the U.S., while the conditions in Haiti prevent their safe return.

Launching IIP Wellness Initiative

In 2020, the IIP launched a wellness initiative in collaboration with Skadden Well-Being aimed at ensuring that attorneys and professional staff have the appropriate tools for self-care and are equipped to handle casework for *pro bono* clients who have suffered significant trauma. In April 2021, volunteers were invited to participate in a series of workshops focused on recognizing compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma and burnout, and developing resilience strategies.

Law Firm Antiracism Alliance Update

Skadden Leads LFAA's Efforts To Dismantle Systemic Racism

Amid the worldwide protests following George Floyd's death in 2020, Skadden and *pro bono* programs director **Brenna DeVaney** joined with other law firms and legal services organizations (LSOs) to launch the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance (LFAA), which seeks to identify and dismantle structural racism in the law.

The LFAA leverages its private bar resources to better support the LSOs that have been at the forefront of such efforts for decades. Working together, Alliance firms and LSOs are able to take on large-scale, coordinated *pro bono* projects that advance antiracism, with a particular emphasis on anti-Black racism.

Since the LFAA's inception, Skadden has played a significant role in growing the nonprofit's U.S. and international reach to include more than 300 law firm members, with nearly 200,000 attorneys. Executive Partner **Eric Friedman** was among the first law firm leaders to join the LFAA's Advisory Council. Nine Skadden partners and seven counsel are involved as either members and/or co-chairs in five of the LFAA's working groups, which develop and expand members' knowledge on best practices in dismantling systemic racism in substantive legal areas, such as access to justice, gun violence prevention and intervention, immigration, philanthropy, public benefits and tax. More than 50 attorneys and professional staff from nine of our U.S. and international offices serve as working group members.

More than 300 law firms worldwide have joined the LFAA.

In 2021, Skadden supported numerous LFAA events. In June, the firm organized an internal program introducing Skadden lawyers and professional staff to the organization. In September, following a direct request from the White House and the Department of Justice, Skadden hosted an event led by the LFAA and the Association of Pro Bono Counsel that provided training and a briefing on the federal Emergency Relief Assistance Program, which helps cover rent and utility expenses for low-income households affected by the economic impact of the pandemic. In December, we hosted the LFAA's third annual three-day summit, "Maintaining the Momentum," in which our marketing, technology and conference services teams played an important role.



LFAA LAW FIRM
ANTIRACISM
ALLIANCE

Skadden Leadership

Attorneys

Eric Friedman
Member, Advisory Council

Brenna DeVaney
Co-president

**Lawrence Spiegel, Marie Gibson,
Rick West and Jared Binstock**
Advisers, entity formation and incorporation

Nesa Amamoo
Co-chair, Philanthropy Working Group

**Fred Goldberg, Armando Gomez
and Kat Gregor**
Co-chairs, Tax Working Group

Lea Haber Kuck
Co-chair, Gun Violence Prevention
& Intervention Working Group

Stephanie Turner
Co-chair, Public Benefits Working Group

Professional Staff

Erika Szymanski
Co-chair, Philanthropy
Working Group

Jen Minervini
Assistant to co-presidents;
co-chair, Education Working
Group's Federal Right to
Education Subcommittee;
member, Planning Committee
for annual summits

**Melissa Porter and
Colleen Strasser**
Members, Public Relations
Committee

Harris Tilevitz and Peter Lesser
Members, Technology Committee

**Jessie LeMar and
Charmaine Polvara**
Library development

**Amy Zuckerman Moll
and Shannon Stock**
Branding

**Brook Loucks, Anne-Marie
d'Alessandro, Arelis Batista
and Roshni Kumar**
Event platform support
for annual summits

Dan Madden and Ginni Dusman
Technology/communications
support for annual summits

Honors & Awards

Chuck Smith Receives 'Champion of Justice' Award

In November 2021, Chicago litigation and regulatory enforcement head **Chuck Smith** was presented with the Champion of Justice award at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights 2021 Gala, recognizing his *pro bono* work that helped remove barriers for thousands of voters in Illinois.



Firm Ranks No. 1 for Average Pro Bono Hours in UK, No. 2 in US

Skadden ranked first among law firms for “average hours per fee earner” in England and Wales and second-highest in the U.S. in Thomson Reuters’ TrustLaw 2020 Index of Pro Bono, which was published in February 2021. The index collected data from over 215 firms.

Hong Kong Office Recognized for Pro Bono Work

Skadden’s Hong Kong office and 10 of its attorneys were recognized for outstanding commitment to *pro bono* service by the Law Society of Hong Kong during its annual Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme. We received the society’s highest honor, the Distinguished Pro Bono Law Firm Award. Individual Gold Awards were presented to legal manager **Nigel Pang** and trainee solicitor **Claudia Quek**; Silver Award winners included associates **Jacqueline Arena, Arthur Chan, Amy Liu** and **Vivian Luo**; and Bronze Awards were presented to counsel **Anthony Pang**, Asia Pacific counsel **Vincent Sze**, and associates **Crystal Kim** and **Bea Paterno**.

Los Angeles Office Scores Big in Pro Bono Challenge

Skadden placed second among all L.A. firms competing in Learning Rights Law Center’s annual Law Firm Challenge — a month-long campaign to gather donations of *pro bono* time and money to support the organization’s efforts to provide low-income students with equal access to education. The team included summer associates **Blake Bainou, Camille Brown, Charles Hancock, Leon Shen** and **Natalie Sowinski**, along with partner **Andy Garelick** and associates **Julien Kacou, Cara Sims** and **Matt Tako**.

Firm Receives 'Innovations in Pro Bono' Award

Skadden received the Innovations in Pro Bono Award from Law.com and Legaltech News as part of the 2021 Legalweek Leaders in Tech Awards. The award recognized the firm’s groundbreaking Immigration Impact Project. (For more on the project, please see the story on page 12.)

Associates Honored for Service to Access to Justice Program

In October, New York associates **Michelle Honor** and **Mackenzie Newman** and alums **Shane Simms** and **Katherine Webb** received certificates of recognition from the New York State Unified Court System Office for Justice Initiatives for their service to Access to Justice Program, which strives to ensure meaningful access to justice for all New Yorkers in civil, criminal and family courts.

Boston Attorneys Honored for Obtaining Abuse Prevention Orders

In June 2021, Skadden received the Nery Arrano Award from the Women’s Bar Foundation (WBF) of Massachusetts in recognition of our obtaining abuse prevention orders for clients in crisis due to domestic violence. Boston counsel **Emily Jennings**, associates **Amy-Lee Goodman, Elizabeth Perkins** and **Vasundhara Prasad**, and alums **Benjamin Niehaus** and **Caroline Trusty** were acknowledged for their contributions.