

Skadden

Pro Bono Report

NONLITIGATION MATTERS | VETERANS' RIGHTS | HOUSING BENEFITS



SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP & AFFILIATES

Pro Bono

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A common misconception about *pro bono* work is that the matters usually involve litigation.

To the contrary, a majority of Skadden’s *pro bono* projects involve nonlitigation work, as demonstrated in the chart below. Over the last several years, both the number and the proportion of these matters have steadily increased — this year, more than 60 percent of our *pro bono* assignments involve practices such as tax, real estate, corporate, and labor and employment.

This edition of the *Pro Bono Report* highlights several of our nonlitigation achievements. With our help, a group of former Lost Boys of Sudan established a charitable organization that has begun to build schools in a small village in South Sudan, and more than two dozen Chicago families transitioned from public

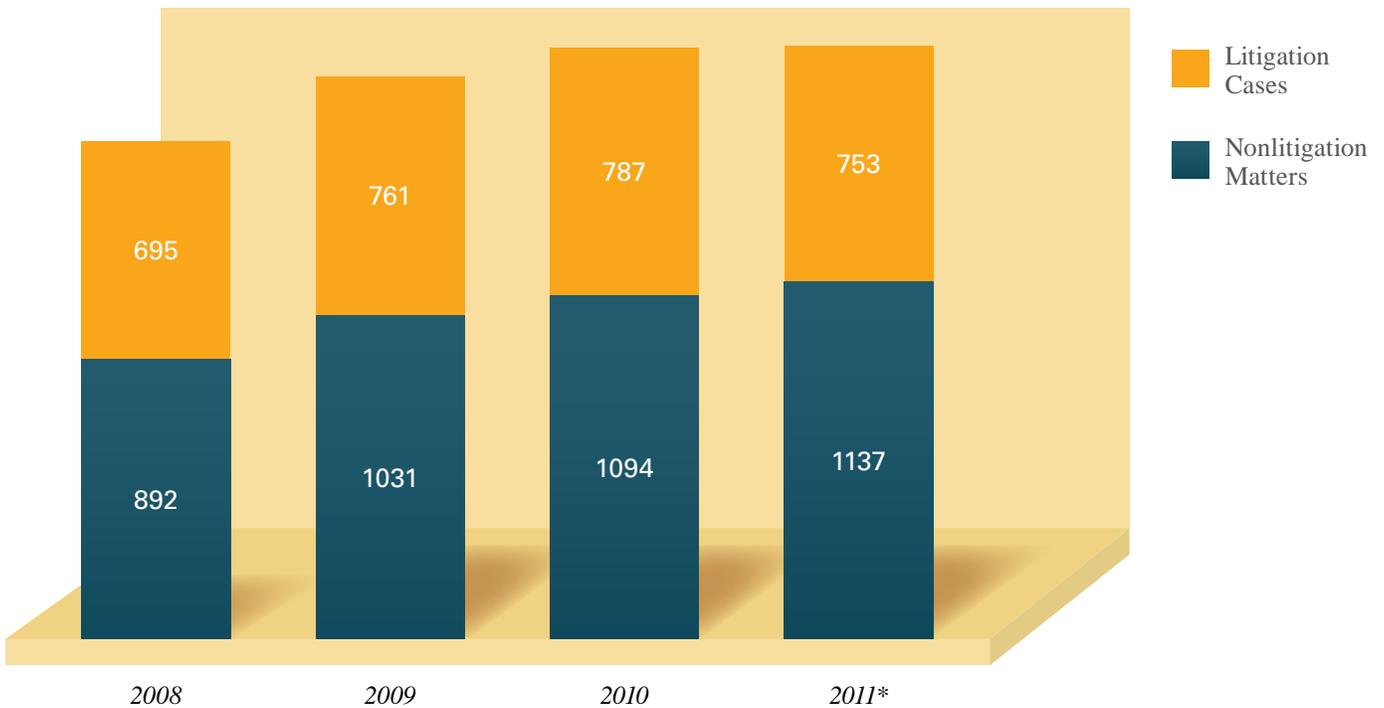
housing to first-time home ownership. Our attorneys have taken on projects for at-risk children, veterans and active soldiers, and people seeking psychological services following the recent disasters in Japan. We have worked for more than a decade to preserve and restore a beloved Los Angeles landmark.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the *Pro Bono Report* and welcome your feedback.

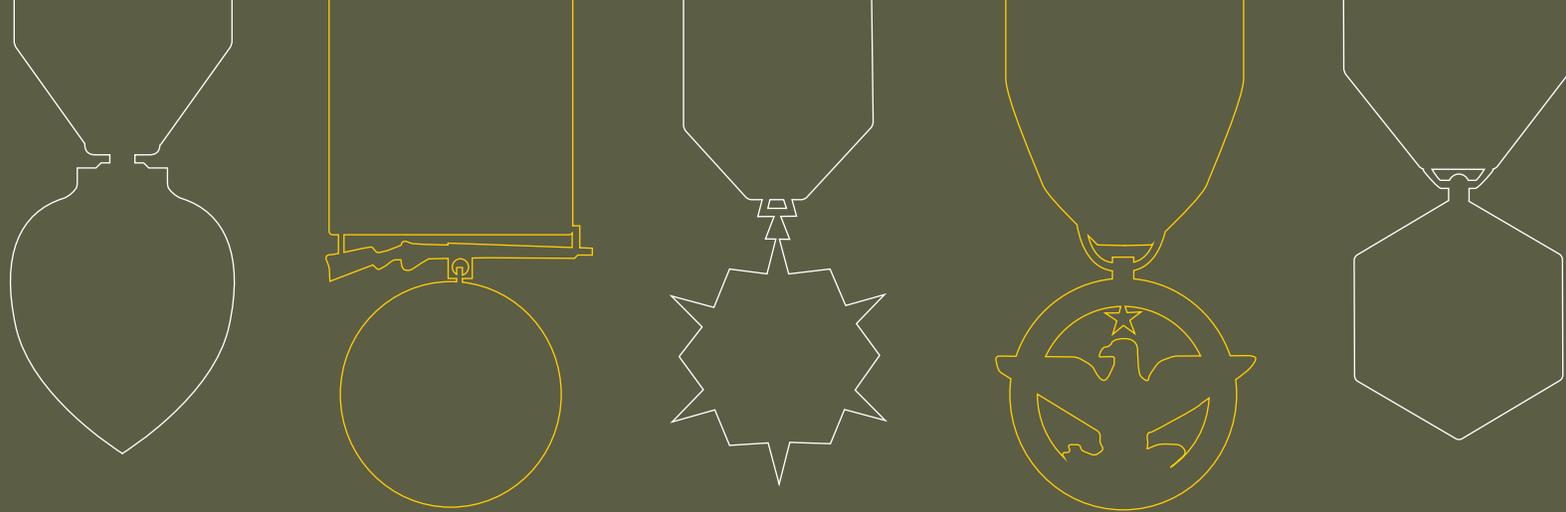
Regards,

Eric Friedman

Nonlitigation matters make up a majority — and a steadily increasing proportion — of Skadden’s *pro bono* work.



*as of May 26, 2011



Serving Those Who Served

Guiding soldiers through a maze of rules, regulations and red tape



After graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2001, **Michael Tierney** spent the next five years as an Army judge advocate, including a year split between Iraq and Kuwait as a prosecutor and command legal adviser. He then prosecuted courts-martial for the Pentagon and the

Walter Reed Army Medical Center for one-and-a-half years. In 2007, Michael joined Skadden as a litigation associate in our Washington, D.C. office. His new job hardly meant an end to his public service.

In 2008, the National Veterans Legal Services Program contacted Skadden's Washington *pro bono* team seeking an attorney to advocate on behalf of Cpl. P, an Army soldier who returned from Iraq in 2007 with symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). After encountering numerous medical setbacks at Walter Reed, Cpl. P had begun to show signs of progress. But the Walter Reed staff remained concerned about his mental health and began the process for a compulsory medical discharge from the Army. Michael agreed to take on Cpl. P's case.

"I first had to find out what Cpl. P wanted, and I think my Army background made him feel comfortable with me," Michael says. "If he did not want to remain in the military, I wanted to help him get the highest possible disability rating

to ensure the greatest benefits were paid to him. But if he wanted to stay in, then I was going to help him get that as well."

Once Cpl. P decided he wanted to remain, Michael began the painstaking process of building the case that Cpl. P had made a full recovery, which entailed countless calls, letters and meetings advocating on his behalf. Michael met with Cpl. P's doctors and worked with a care counselor, eventually securing a trial return to duty, which was followed by a full return. Cpl. P was deployed to Afghanistan in late 2010.

As the wars stretch on in Iraq and Afghanistan and the VA's caseload becomes increasingly backlogged, cases like Cpl. P's are becoming more and more common. Many of the veterans who turn to the VA for medical care, mental health treatment and other benefits lack the ability to overcome bureaucratic hurdles. Over the last several years, a growing number of Skadden attorneys have taken on cases for soldiers and veterans, says Washington, D.C. *pro bono* counsel **Donald Salzman**. And many of those Skadden attorneys, like Michael, are veterans themselves.

Chicago banking associate **David Wagener** spent more than three years as an infantry officer in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, which involved deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition to taking on individual cases, David recently advised the Colorado nonprofit Challenge Aspen, which provides outdoor adventures for injured veterans, in its development of a project for servicewomen with PTSD or

The Dean of Skadden's Military Pro Bono Corps



John Shepherd receiving the Bronze Star Medal from General David Petraeus.

As a federal reservist, Washington, D.C. energy regulation and litigation counsel **John Shepherd** regularly interacts with soldiers stationed across the globe. Therefore, while most other attorneys handling *pro bono* military matters assist veterans, John regularly takes on matters for active soldiers, many of whom are deployed overseas. To date, he has assisted in more than 100 legal matters for active soldiers, including 12 criminal cases.

John began his military career in 1992 and served with the U.S. Army Airborne Rangers. While recovering from injuries that rendered him nondeployable, he attended Duke University School of Law. After graduating from Duke, clerking on the D.C. Circuit and joining Skadden, he continued to serve in the Army reserve, commanding and training soldiers in a variety of airborne infantry and special forces units.

John Shepherd logged more than 300 hours of *pro bono* legal service while deployed overseas.

At the time of the 9/11 attacks, John had just completed his first year at Skadden. He was summoned for active duty and deployed to Afghanistan, returning to Skadden in November 2002. He deployed again for the "surge" from May 2007 to May 2008 in Iraq, where he was responsible for capturing 67 high-value targets during 23 raids.

Given the sheer volume of soldiers being sent overseas, the need for assistance is great, John says. "We have never deployed as many reservists as during the global war on terror, either in absolute numbers or relative to the number of active duty soldiers," said John. "So there has been a greater demand for legal services."

John says that JAG Corps attorneys will defend soldiers in criminal cases held before courts-martial, but that they will handle little else beyond drafting wills for individual soldiers. "They don't take on family cases or even landlord-tenant issues, and these are areas that many deployed individuals often need help with," John says. He has assisted in a broad range of such matters, including defending against criminal charges and assisting a doctor who faced foreclosure while overseas. "They foreclosed on his house even though he was still making payments to the original mortgage holder. The JAG recommended me and I cleared it up for him."

John said he does not turn down requests to help those serving the United States and continues to provide his services whenever possible. He logged more than 300 hours of *pro bono* legal service during his last deployment.

"I was motivated to take this case by the thought that **I could help someone who has sacrificed so much for our country.**"

— **Daniel Bolia** | Associate | Houston

traumatic brain injuries. David also frequently reaches out to other attorneys handling cases for veterans.

"I try to point out something that might be important to a veteran, besides just the benefits portion of the case," David says. In one ongoing case he is handling, David knew from experience that tracking down lost or undocumented military awards would be essential to establishing his client's record. "In addition to strengthening his case, these awards help tell an important story about my client," David says. "Receiving these awards and being recognized by our government really made my client, as well as his wife and family, very happy and grateful."

Of course, not all Skadden attorneys who take on veterans' cases are themselves veterans.



A team of Washington, D.C. attorneys, including financial institutions regulation and enforcement associate **Khalil Maalouf** and former associate (and former Air Force intelligence officer) Stephen Weisweaver, took on the case of Mr. L, a Vietnam War veteran who repeatedly had been denied disability benefits. Mr. L received an honorable discharge in 1971 and later was diagnosed with PTSD. They

took the action to the Board of Veterans' Appeals where, armed with Mr. L's military records, affidavits from other veterans of his unit and copies of obituaries of soldiers with whom Mr. L served, Stephen convinced the board that the claim had been wrongly denied.

On remand, the VA's regional office granted Mr. L a 100 percent disability rating. He received back payments totaling \$166,000 and was awarded annual benefits of more than \$32,000.

Houston litigation associate **Daniel Bolia** recently represented an Army veteran in his successful appeal of a VA decision denying his request for an earlier effective date for a benefits award for a head injury he suffered overseas.

"My father served in the Air Force for more than 20 years and my grandfather served in the Navy during World War II," Daniel says. "I was motivated to take this case by the thought that I could help someone who has sacrificed so much for our country."

In 2004, Jok Kuol Wel and three other young Sudanese refugees approached a lay minister at their Chicago church and asked for advice about setting up a charity to build a school, and perhaps one day a water system and a hospital, in Sudan.

The lay minister, Del Shimandle, was skeptical of his tiny church's ability to help.

"We don't have great resources," Del recalls telling Jok and his friends. "I don't know that we have anything to offer you."

Nonetheless, over the course of the next year, a group of about a dozen refugees and church members continued to meet and develop ideas for the charity, which they named HELPSudan. Jok and Del quickly realized they needed legal advice.

"People were saying to us, 'Can we give you money?' or 'Can we do this?' or 'Can we do that?' and we had to say no," Del says. The group reached out to the Law Project, which connects nonprofits to local *pro bono* attorneys, and which in turn put them in touch with **Eddie Houlihan**, the *pro bono* coordinator for Skadden's Chicago office. Eddie asked **Nada Abu-Isa**, then a new associate in the corporate practice, if she would like to take on the matter.

"It was this budding organization consisting half of Lost Boys of Sudan and half of people who were simply interested in helping," says Nada, now a Skadden alumna. "They had very lofty goals and just needed a little advice."

The group's leader, Jok, was five when he was separated from his family and joined the Lost Boys, as the tens of thousands of children who were orphaned or separated from their families during the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005) are known. The Lost Boys of Sudan walked hundreds of miles seeking shelter from the conflict. The children, primarily though not exclusively boys, trekked east to Ethiopia and south to Kenya, encountering soldiers, lions and crocodiles, a lack of food and water, and various diseases. Approximately half of the children died before reaching refugee camps.

In 2001, Jok was one of several thousand Lost Boys granted asylum in the United States. Jok and about 125 other Sudanese refugees were settled in north Chicago. Three years later, Jok and three fellow Lost Boys, Ajang Bol, Duot Aguer and Chau Thon, were looking for a way to help those who were left behind.

Nada helped the group turn their vision into a viable, tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, able to solicit and accept donations. She prepared all of the paperwork for incorporation as a nonprofit, secured state and federal tax-exempt status, and registered HELPSudan with the Illinois state attorney general's office.

HELPSudan then began raising money in earnest and has now accomplished many of its founders' early ambitions. In Jok's hometown, Bor, the group refurbished the remnants of an old school building and built a campus of 11 mud and straw huts ("tukels"), where 14 volunteers teach more than 1,000 students. Catholic Relief Services joined the efforts and now donates food to the school, which villagers prepare and provide to the students. Currently, HELPSudan is in the process of replacing the tukels with permanent structures and is considering adding skills and

Helping HELPSudan

The Chicago office's nonlitigation *pro bono* work ranges from representing low-income renters purchasing their first homes to helping four Lost Boys of Sudan to rebuild their homeland



Pro bono work is genuinely encouraged at Skadden. We can use Skadden's resources to help our *pro bono* clients — we rely on everything from our mail room to the attorneys who have handled similar assignments.

— Nada Abu-Isa | Former Associate | Chicago

business courses for adults. Latrines have been installed and school uniforms and furniture ordered.

The group also funded the digging of a well near the school, so that the children, many of whom walk miles each morning to attend class, have a source of fresh water. The dream of building a hospital feels increasingly realistic.

Nada remained occasionally involved with HELPSudan after its incorporation — she attended fundraisers and provided

advice when donations could not be transferred because of an embargo against Sudan — and also took on *pro bono* matters for such other nonprofits as the Alianza Leadership Institute, a Latino community organizing project, and the Arab-Jewish Partnership, which promotes peace and justice in the Middle East.

In May 2011, she was named the Law Project's "volunteer of the month," in recognition of her work for many of its programs, as well as for mentoring

junior Skadden associates in nonprofit *pro bono* matters.

Nada says nonlitigation *pro bono* provides a sense of ownership and responsibility that can be missing on a massive corporate deal.

"Unlike deals, it's your own thing," Nada says. "You don't have 10 people checking on your work. You feel complete ownership and pride in it."

Volunteering Without Litigating

Transactional work, such as incorporating nonprofits, constitutes a sizable and growing proportion of Skadden's *pro bono* efforts. At the end of 2008, Skadden had 892 ongoing transactional *pro bono* matters, which represented about 56 percent of our total *pro bono* workload; by May 2011, the firm had 1,137 nonlitigation assignments, which totaled 60 percent of our *pro bono* work. (See chart on page 1.)

The fact that such matters consistently outnumber litigation cases may surprise some at Skadden. Another Chicago attorney, corporate counsel **Joseph Miron** says he didn't seek out *pro bono* work during his first years at the firm for that very reason — he had no interest in the litigation he assumed it would require.

"To go into court with someone else's fate in my hands never seemed like a good idea," Joe says.

Then, in 2003, Joe learned about CHAC, a Chicago program that helps low-income renters purchase their first homes. Over the last eight or so years, he has completed about 25 *pro bono* closings and assisted on countless others.

Unlike the massive M&A matters he handles, the *pro bono* work pays immediate, concrete dividends.

"Most of the families have a single parent or multiple children or a disabled spouse," Joe says. "You're moving six people, who have been living in a one-bedroom apartment in public housing, to their first house."



Saving the ‘Queen’ of Los Angeles Shuls

For 15 years, Skadden attorneys have worked to save a landmark, create a community center and build a bridge between Jews and Latinos

For much of the 20th century, East Los Angeles’ Boyle Heights was home to the largest Jewish community west of Chicago. The neighborhood’s most prominent temple, the Breed Street Shul, a massive brick and stone Byzantine revival synagogue built in 1923, was considered the “Queen of Shuls” and served as the center of the city’s Jewish life. But by the 1950s, many of the area’s 75,000-plus Jews began moving to the west side of the city. The Breed Street Shul, Boyle Heights’ last remaining temple, struggled to maintain sufficient members for a minyan. In October 1987, a 5.9 earthquake badly damaged the shul, which was soon shuttered. Over the next few years, gangs looted and severely vandalized the abandoned building.

For the past 15 years, Skadden attorneys have played a key role in the renovation and revitalization of the historic temple. In 1996, real estate partner **Allan Mutchnik** and three others convinced city officials to declare the building a historical and cultural monument, which saved it from imminent demolition. They also worked with the city to have the building fenced and secured to protect it from further vandalism and coaxed the city to take title by foreclosing on its lien for the cost of this work. Skadden attorneys uncovered a seldom-used statute that authorized municipalities to donate historic buildings to nonprofits and convinced the city to deed the shul to a newly formed nonprofit, which is now overseeing its revitalization.



Before



After

Skadden’s current Breed Street Shul team includes Allan and associates **Jason Kupper**, **Christina Schmidt** and **Saba Kheradpour**, whose contributions have ranged from drafting grant applications to negotiating construction documents.

The rebuilding has been an enormous undertaking. Many of the plaques and murals that weren’t destroyed in the earthquake have since been destroyed by vandals. The pigeon guano on the stained glass windows was so thick that restorers wore protective suits while removing the windows from the shul. And much of the heavy lifting remains to be done. The upcoming centennial — the bungalow that served as the congregation’s first temple was built in 1915 — will serve as the catalyst for the project’s final stages.

When the renovations are completed, the building’s mixed uses will reflect the demographic changes that have occurred in Boyle Heights over the last several decades. The

18,000-square-foot main hall will serve as a multi-purpose community center with tenants ranging from the Jewish Free Loan Association to Peace Over Violence, a nonprofit that will offer tutoring and classes for neighborhood children.

Allan says that his work for the Breed Street Shul is motivated less by the chance to save a celebrated building than by the opportunity to reestablish the historically strong ties between the city’s Jewish and Latino communities. The two groups, long allied in California’s labor movement, also share ties to Boyle Heights — the now predominantly Latino neighborhood’s main thoroughfare, Cesar Chavez Avenue, was once Brooklyn Avenue.

“What I like is the notion that this building could be a living bridge between the communities,” Allan says. “It’s wonderful to be part of the restoration of this important cultural asset, but once completed, the project will be something much bigger than that.”

| SPOTLIGHT: ASIA |

Each issue, the *Pro Bono Report* will take a look at the recent work of attorneys in different Skadden offices, beginning with two in Asia.

TOKYO Attorneys in Skadden Tokyo, the firm's first office outside of the United States, spent nearly 600 hours on pro bono matters in 2010. Much of the office's recent work relates to the March 2011 tsunami and earthquakes.

The firm has represented the Tokyo English Life Line (TELL), a nonprofit community service organization dedicated to providing advice and counseling to the international community in Japan, on a variety of matters. Among other services, TELL provides a hotline for emergency phone counseling, professional face-to-face counseling on a sliding fee basis, assessments and psycho-educational testing of children, and a variety of educational workshops and outreach programs.

One of the few institutions offering Western-style professional counseling in Japan, TELL is a key resource for those affected by the recent disasters — since April, demand for TELL's services has skyrocketed. Companies increasingly have asked TELL to provide mental health assistance to their employees, and many international aid organizations have turned to it for mental health disaster relief. TELL's extraordinary efforts, and the importance of its mental health services — which are otherwise absent in Japan — have been highlighted by several Japanese news organizations.

Skadden assists TELL on several fronts. Partner **P.J. Huff** (who recently relocated to Chicago) served as a member of the TELL board of directors for several years, and partner **Masa Shiga** and associates **Kiyofumi Takata** and **Chris Spalding** assist the organization on a variety of legal matters. The firm negotiates TELL's employee assistance contracts and international grants and recently helped set up counseling via video conference, which allows TELL to provide its services to a broader community. Skadden also represented TELL in its move to its new Tokyo headquarters, a project that took several years and involved negotiating generous grants and loans from its new landlord. The firm regularly has sponsored TELL's annual commissioning ceremony, which honors newly certified hotline counselors.

HONG KONG Last year, attorneys from Skadden's Hong Kong office spent a total of 320 hours on pro bono projects.

Over the past year, Skadden's Hong Kong associates worked on nearly a dozen asylum cases, assisting refugees from countries such as Uganda, Somalia and Sri Lanka. Skadden attorneys assisted the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Center (HKRAC) — which provides *pro bono* legal services to refugees seeking protection via the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees — in successfully appealing a decision denying asylum status for an Ethiopian refugee. Skadden associates also drafted memoranda on such issues as the Lord's Resistance Army, HIV-positive individuals in Uganda and domestic violence in the Philippines.

Several associates have made particularly substantial contributions to the office's asylum efforts. Corporate associate **Jing Lin** has been working on HKRAC matters since the beginning of our partnership with the organization. Litigation associate **Calvin Chan**, now based in Singapore, established the template used for all Skadden HKRAC memoranda. And, in addition to handling his own asylum casework, corporate associate **Vincent Sze** assisted in the office's internal reviews of asylum memos and briefs. Jing and Vincent both worked on the successful asylum appeal.

With Skadden's deep *pro bono* experience, and our status as one of only two U.S. firms on the *Pro Bono* Committee of the Hong Kong Law Society, the firm has helped the society shape its policies regarding *pro bono* work. **Alan Schiffman**, head of Skadden's Hong Kong office, calls the recent establishment of legal clinics at local law schools an example of Skadden's influence. "Much of what is considered *pro bono* work in Hong Kong falls into the category of general 'community social responsibility' programs, such as reading English to local school students or assisting with clean-up drives," Alan says. "While we fully support those kinds of programs and have recently been named a 'Caring Company' in Hong Kong, we have endeavored to focus the Law Society's *pro bono* activities on providing legal work to the community."

Texas Death Row Inmate Secures Favorable Supreme Court Ruling

In the inaugural issue of the *Pro Bono Report*, we wrote about Henry Skinner, a death row inmate convicted of murdering his girlfriend and her two sons in 1993 (“Death Penalty,” Spring 2009). Henry is represented by Washington, D.C. of counsel **Doug Robinson** and New York associate **Maria Cruz Melendez**, along with University of Texas law professor Robert Owen. Shortly after our story ran, Doug and Maria assisted Henry in obtaining a stay of execution from the U.S. Supreme Court, which came down 45 minutes before he was scheduled to be executed.

In March 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion in favor of Henry, which will likely help other inmates seeking access to DNA evidence. The Court rejected lower court decisions that held that *habeas corpus* petitions were the only proper procedure for challenging a prosecutor’s refusal to allow DNA testing.

“Measured against our prior holdings, Skinner has properly invoked §1983. Success in his suit for DNA testing would not ‘necessarily imply’ the invalidity of his conviction. While test results might prove exculpatory, that outcome is hardly inevitable; as earlier observed ... results might prove inconclusive or they might further incriminate Skinner,” Justice Ginsburg wrote.

By a 6-3 vote, the Court held that Henry’s Section 1983 civil rights claim seeking access to potentially exculpatory DNA evidence is in fact a cognizable claim. In her majority opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg reasoned that a prisoner lawsuit claiming procedural due process violations and seeking access to untested DNA evidence did not necessarily imply the invalidity of his conviction or sentence. Accordingly, such a claim is not limited to the province of *habeas corpus* and can be properly brought under Section 1983. The decision resolved a longstanding circuit split on this issue.

Father Secures Return of Children Illegally Removed to U.S.

Houston counsel **Celso Gonzalez-Falla** and associate **Daniel Bolia** successfully represented a Mexican father, Ruben M., in his petition for the return to Mexico of his three children, whom his ex-wife, Diana F., had taken to the U.S. without his consent. When Ruben and Diana, both Mexican citizens, divorced in 2008, they entered a mutual consent divorce giving her primary custody. Diana then moved from Mexico to Houston with the children, despite Ruben’s objections. In November 2010, Ruben filed a petition for the return of the children under the International Child Abduction Remedies Act in federal court in Houston. The court held an expedited hearing and ruled that Diana had removed the children in breach of Ruben’s rights and ordered the immediate return of the children to Ruben. International visiting attorney Ariel Mihovilovic provided invaluable assistance by translating Mexican court orders from Spanish to English.

New Associates Participate in Poverty Simulation

People who cannot afford attorneys often cannot afford other crucial services, such as child care, transportation and health care, all of which may relate to their need for legal assistance. In this year’s inaugural Associates Comprehensive Education Program, Skadden’s incoming associates participated in a four-hour “poverty simulation,” which provided them with a new perspective on these challenges. “The simulation allowed our new attorneys to role-play the lives of low-income families,” says *pro bono* associate **Brenna DeVaney**. “It provided them with an opportunity to gain some understanding about the obstacles and challenges that their future *pro bono* clients might experience.”

Firm Helps Sponsor 2010 European Pro Bono Forum

In November 2010, Skadden’s Paris office participated in and helped sponsor the Public Interest Law Initiative’s 2010 European *Pro Bono* Forum, which brought together lawyers and community organizations to promote cooperation and increase the scope of *pro bono*

work in Europe. Skadden’s Paris office leader, **Pierre Servan-Schreiber**, spoke about Skadden’s *pro bono* work, including the office’s close relationship with the French association *Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l’Homme* (Alliance of Attorneys for Human Rights). Partner **Chris Baker** was appointed a member of the forum’s Local Organizational Committee.

Associate Co-Chairs Charitable Board Service Program

In May, Boston M&A associate **Jane Harper** served as the co-chair of the Boston Bar Association’s Charitable Board Service Program, in which a panel of attorneys and board members discussed the benefits and obligations of board service. Approximately 100 lawyers attended the session. “Lawyers are particularly valuable to nonprofits, especially the smaller ones,” Jane says. “Smaller nonprofits tend to have little legal questions, and they don’t know how to get them answered.”

Firm Honored for Immigration Work

In May, Skadden received Immigration Equality’s “Safe Haven” award for the firm’s 2010 *pro bono* work on behalf of 16 clients (more than any of the other four firms recognized) seeking political asylum in the U.S. because of their sexual or gender orientation.

Skadden Receives Top NYSBA Award for Pro Bono Participation

The New York State Bar Association honored Skadden for being the only firm to reach the NYSBA’s “2010 Empire State Counsel Platinum” level of *pro bono* participation, its highest ranking. The award recognized the 36,650-plus hours of *pro bono* work undertaken by Skadden members of the association. The association also recognized associate **Daniel Susner** for his work during an externship at Legal Aid’s Harlem Community Law Office. Daniel was one of only two individual attorneys to receive an award.

Skadden Named One of Law360’s 2011 Pro Bono Winners

For the second consecutive year, Skadden was recognized as one of

Law360's "Pro Bono Firms." Honorees were recognized for dedicating an average of more than 100 hours of *pro bono* work per attorney and for challenging controversial laws and policies, representing death row inmates and obtaining relief for Holocaust victims, asylum seekers and tenants facing eviction, among others.

Skadden Pro Bono Hours Exceed 200,000 for Second Consecutive Year

Skadden attorneys, along with our summer associates, recorded nearly 203,000 hours of *pro bono* work in 2010, the second straight year the total has exceeded 200,000. *Pro bono* hours per domestic-office attorney increased slightly above our all-time high of more than 100 hours per attorney in 2009. As a charter signatory to the Law Firm *Pro Bono* Challenge, Skadden commits to devoting time equivalent to at least 3 percent of billable hours to *pro bono* matters. In 2010, our actual percentage was 7.8.

Firm Receives Pro Bono Leader Award

In December, Legal Services NYC presented Skadden with a 2010 *Pro Bono* Leader award at the organization's 2010 *Pro Bono* Recognition Awards Event. The firm was honored for "providing significant, ongoing and consistent support" to the Brooklyn Family Defense Project since its inception.

Firm Receives Award From Latino-Justice PRLDEF

Skadden was presented with LatinoJustice PRLDEF's *Pro Bono* Publico Award at the organization's Annual Awards Gala in November 2010. Washington, D.C. partners **Rich Brusca** and **Chuck Walker** accepted the award, which recognized our "tremendous support" of the organization's immigrants' rights work. Skadden serves as co-counsel with LatinoJustice in representing *amici curiae* contesting Arizona's 2010 immigration law, S.B. 1070. In April 2011, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a preliminary injunction barring enforcement of the law's key provisions.

Washington Office Receives Award and Accolade

In November 2010, Skadden received an award at the National Capital Philanthropy Day Luncheon recognizing the firm as the Outstanding Corporate Partner in the Washington, D.C. area for our contributions

to nonprofit legal services organizations. In May 2011, Skadden received *The Washington Business Journal's* top law firm accolade at the paper's 13th Corporate Philanthropy Awards. The event recognized the top 25 law firms ranked by total number of *pro bono* hours in 2010, with Skadden coming in first.

Skadden Wins Legal Aid Campaign

In 2011, Skadden won the Legal Aid Associates' Campaign in New York for the fifth year in a row, with donations totaling \$64,766, another firm record. More than 300 Skadden attorneys donated to the campaign. Our donations more than tripled the donations of the second-highest contributor.



Julia Kazaks and Donald Salzman Receive Defenders of Innocence Awards

The Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project honored Washington, D.C. tax partner **Julia Kazaks** and *pro bono* counsel **Donald Salzman** with the group's Champion of Justice Award for their work to free the Norfolk Four.

Attorneys Receive Family Court Volunteer Awards

In April, Skadden and 18 of our attorneys received the *Pro Bono* Service Award from the New York City Family Court for improving the lives of children and families through participation in the court's Volunteer Attorney Program. The honorees included retired partner **Kayalyn Marafioti**; counsel **Stephanie Feld** and **Dwight Yoo**; associates **Deborah Bander**, **Brenna DeVaney**, **Nizan Geslevich Packin**, **Danielle Li**, **Robert Pollak**, **Mairead Schwab**, **Erin Simmons**, **Anita Sinha**, **Giyoung Song**, **Elena Virgadamo**, **Manoj Viswanathan**, **Terry Wells** and **Noriko Yokozuka**; and staff attorney **Paul Hecht**.

Chicago Associates Named Volunteers of the Month

Two Chicago associates were named Volunteer of the Month by Illinois Legal Aid Online, a statewide center for legal services. **Nada Abu-Isa** was named for May 2011. (See "Helping HELPSudan," Page 2.) **Folarin Dosunmu** was honored in November 2010 for his work as a guardian *ad litem* for minors. The director of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services' Guardian *Ad Litem* for Minors Program said that Folarin and Chicago associate **Laverne Horton** are a "fantastic team" for the most difficult matters, including those in which parents or guardians have psychological disorders.

Delaware Attorneys Secure Lifetime Protection From Abuse Order

In June 2011, first-year Wilmington associate **Chris DiVirgilio** obtained a lifetime Protection From Abuse Order on behalf of a woman who had been severely beaten by her boyfriend. The order marked only the second time that a Delaware judge has invoked a recent state-law amendment allowing protection orders to provide lifetime relief. Chris had less than 20 minutes to prepare and no opportunity to view the photographic evidence. During the 90-minute trial, he examined his client and presented the evidence, including 30 graphic photographs. The court ruled that Chris proved that his client had been abused and that the aggravating factors merited a lifetime order of protection.

Associates Secure Housing for Family

Two Skadden associates helped a Boston woman secure public housing large enough to accommodate her family and with minimal stairs to help alleviate her health problems. When Maria, a Dominican immigrant who lived with her two teenage sons in a one-bedroom apartment, struggled to navigate the Boston Housing Authority's bureaucracy, the Boston Bar Association put her in touch with **Angela Gomes** and **Deidre Arnold**. For more than a year, Angela and Deidre advocated on Maria's behalf. In July, the duo learned that Maria had been assigned a two-bedroom ground-floor apartment that would be big enough for her family and ease the stress on her back. "She's really happy," Angela said. "There were times over the past year where she'd just break down in tears in our office."



Because every community has its own particular needs, *pro bono* work can vary from office to office. Palo Alto's *pro bono* coordinator, labor and employment counsel Kristin Major, discusses her office's nonlitigation *pro bono* work.

What kinds of groups need *pro bono* nonlitigation services in Silicon Valley?

A variety of organizations come to us seeking advice and assistance with their corporate, regulatory and other nonlitigation matters. Recently, we have done work for organizations that cover a diverse spectrum of issues, including a nonprofit that provides cancer patients with financial assistance during treatment and recovery, a nonprofit that provides foster children with mental health services and the California chapter of a national organization that grew out of the tragedy at Columbine and works to end school violence through early intervention and prevention efforts.

What type of assistance does the Palo Alto office typically provide in such situations?

We regularly assist organizations with incorporation and obtaining 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. We also provide advice to these organizations on matters related to employing staff members, obtaining insurance coverage, and the negotiating contracts with vendors and contractors.

Have your clients' *pro bono* needs changed in recent years?

The request for nonlitigation *pro bono* assistance has increased as organizations have started to realize that there are large law firms willing to take these matters on *pro bono*. I now get direct requests from organizations that have heard from others in the nonprofit sector that Skadden Palo Alto has expertise in this area and a willingness to help these organizations.

In what ways does nonlitigation *pro bono* work differ from litigation-related work?

Our attorneys (both those in transactional groups as well as litigators) regularly handle more typical litigation-focused *pro bono* work, such as asylum actions, consumer complaints and guardianships. While these types of matters are exciting and our attorneys really enjoy them, I think attorneys in transactional groups also like the nonprofit work because it is similar to what they do in their regular practice. It is great training for our more junior transactional associates and provides a meaningful way for our attorneys to apply their skills to help our community.

The **Skadden Fellowship Foundation** is as integral to the firm culture as our *pro bono* work. In each issue of the Pro Bono Report, we highlight a current or former Skadden Fellow.

SKADDEN FELLOW Adam Weiss (2007-09)

FELLOWSHIP Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE) Centre

As assistant director of the AIRE Centre, Adam oversees the organization's efforts to protect the rights of European Union migrants in the United Kingdom. The organization helps the migrants gain access to social assistance, such as housing benefits, often by advocating on their behalf before benefits tribunals. To illustrate the need for such services, Adam points to a 2010 report by the *Guardian* stating that almost 50 percent of London's homeless are from central and eastern EU member states, many of which suffer from high levels of poverty. "It's become a really big problem," Adam says. "The clients we work with are very grateful."

Adam also helps handle litigation before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of a variety of marginalized and vulnerable individuals, including victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, asylum seekers and prisoners. The center recently prevailed in a case before the court against Greece claiming the country failed to meet required EU legal standards for the treatment of asylum seekers by forcing them to live on the streets without documentation and expelling them without properly processing their claims.

Adam has referred two cases to Skadden's London office. In the first, associates **Ben Sanderson** and **Lucinda Orr** secured housing for a pregnant Spanish woman fleeing her abusive domestic partner. In the second, Lucinda and fellow associate **Thorsten Lindstrom** secured a transfer that moved a prisoner closer to his family.

In the fall, Adam will be joined at the AIRE Centre by Skadden Fellow **Sarah St. Vincent** ('11), who will focus on upholding the rights of migrant women in the United Kingdom.



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