

**FOR THE  
PUBLIC GOOD**

**K&L GATES**

Dedicating the time and resources of our firm and our lawyers to pro bono work is not simply a point of pride—it reflects our responsibility to the broader community. The examples that follow illustrate how we are **advancing access to justice through technology and AI, protecting human rights, supporting individuals with disabilities, assisting veterans, promoting equal justice, providing safe haven, and strengthening the communities** we serve. We are pleased to share these stories with you.



“The stories shared in *For the Public Good* reflect what pro bono means at our firm in practice—not as an abstract ideal, but as sustained, hands-on engagement with people and communities facing real and often urgent challenges. Across regions and disciplines, our lawyers and allied professionals are applying their skills to protect human rights, expand access to justice, leverage technology responsibly, and support those who might otherwise be left without a voice. What unites these efforts is a deep sense of responsibility and shared purpose: a belief that our work as lawyers carries with it an obligation to serve the public good. I am continually inspired by the commitment, creativity, and compassion our people bring to this work, and proud that, together, we are making a meaningful and lasting difference.”

**MARK RUGE**

Chair, Firmwide Pro Bono Committee  
Partner, Washington, DC



“Many disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals worldwide lack access to the legal support they need to address critical issues in their lives. Through pro bono legal services and technology, we are working to address this ever-widening gap in access to justice. We are excited about the potential for generative AI to help close this gap, and eager to continue collaborating across organizations and sectors to responsibly deploy AI to increase access to justice.”

**AMY GROFF**

Vice Chair, Firmwide Pro Bono Committee  
Partner, Harrisburg



“Pro bono matters because it addresses unmet legal needs, helping to break down barriers to justice and opportunity. It also strengthens the skills and confidence of the lawyers involved. By drawing on our global resources and working collaboratively, often across international projects, we can create meaningful, lasting impact while fostering a shared sense of purpose around critical societal issues. It has been personally rewarding to work on an immigration application, through our partnership with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), and to see first-hand the truly life-changing impact that a successful outcome will have on the family concerned.”

**CAMILLA DE MORAES**

Pro Bono Counsel, London



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# REFLECTING ON OUR LEGAL AID SECONDMENT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

By Mikhail Safarudin (Lawyer, Melbourne) and Natalia Tan (Lawyer, Perth)

We received an exciting opportunity from **Legal Aid Western Australia** to advise on and draft wills for the disadvantaged and culturally and linguistically diverse in the Indian Ocean Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island. For one week, we had the privilege of offering free services to draft wills for elders and other residents with limited access to legal support, an initiative that proved both rewarding and impactful.

## Wills Clinic: Making a Tangible Difference

One of our earliest observations was that many members of the elderly community did not have wills in place. Financial constraints and limited access to legal services left them vulnerable and uncertain about future succession of their assets (mostly real estate in Western Australia and vehicles).

Motivated to complete as many wills as possible, we drafted 23 wills, with most executed before our departure.

We both speak the local languages of the Indian Ocean Territories—Malay, Indonesian, and Chinese, albeit at a basic level. What surprised us during the wills clinic was our ability to take instructions and speak to the elderly clients in our second languages. Although Legal Aid had organized interpreters, we seldom



used them as we gained confidence. Being able to communicate directly fostered trust and made the process more comfortable for clients. Many expressed their appreciation, and it was a privilege to support them in a way that felt familiar, especially in the context of end-of-life planning.

Another particularly memorable experience of the clinic occurred on Cocos (Keeling) Islands, where we learned of a terminally ill resident who was distressed about not having a will in place. Recognizing the urgency, we arranged a home visit and ensured the client's wishes were documented and executed before we left the island. This moment underscored the profound impact that accessible legal services can have on individuals and their families.

## Community Outreach: Supporting the Next Generation

Amid the legal clinic and community visits, we were honored to be invited to share breakfast with the Year 11s and 12s on Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Together, we shared some reflections and practical advice on life after school, adjusting to new places and people, and learning to navigate independently. The key takeaway for the students was that life does not follow a straight path; sometimes your direction becomes clearer only after trying a few things that do not work.

As one of the lawyers leading this effort, Natalia shared her own journey of leaving Christmas Island after high school.



She spoke about the challenges she faced adjusting to life away from home, the moments of doubt, and the unexpected twists along the way that eventually led her to working at the firm.

## Final Thoughts and Reflections

Our secondment reinforced the importance of culturally sensitive, community-based legal outreach. The experience was deeply rewarding, both professionally and personally. Of course, this would not have been possible without Perth partner Adam Levine, who worked behind the scenes to ensure everything ran seamlessly, from coordinating

logistics to securing the necessary supports, making the entire initiative a success.

This effort was also supported by Sydney partner Betsy-Ann Howe and senior associate Naeha Lal—whose invaluable work helped make this rapid and effective service possible.

Legal Aid Western Australia commented, “We are grateful to K&L Gates for supporting our secondment to the Indian Ocean Territories. It underpins the firm’s strong commitment to justice and community service. Without the collaboration of all involved, meaningful outreach simply wouldn’t be possible.”



# ADVANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND AI

According to the most recent Justice Gap report from the Legal Services Corporation, low-income Americans receive little to no help for 92% of their substantial civil legal problems. This number has increased since the last report five years earlier. It is not a problem that is limited to America, but one that exists around the world. This gap in access to justice is—and has been—at crisis level. For the first time in decades, AI presents an unparalleled opportunity to reverse this trend and make meaningful progress toward access to justice for all.

**Low-income individuals around the world are not receiving the legal help they need—a global crisis that generative AI may finally help address.**

Our team in Australia collaborated with the **National Justice Project (NJP)** and others to support the development and launch of **Hear Me Out**, an innovative, AI-assisted platform designed to help individuals understand their rights and navigate discrimination and human-rights complaint pathways. Since its official

launch, **Hear Me Out** has been shaped and strengthened by the generosity, knowledge, and goodwill of organizations across the legal, regulatory, academic, and community sectors, and we are proud to have contributed to this collective effort.



Over the course of 2025, Hear Me Out supported more than 2,500 people in navigating complex complaint systems, expanded into a second jurisdiction with the launch of Hear Me Out in Victoria, and continued its work mapping and clarifying complaint pathways across multiple sectors. The platform has also enabled meaningful collaboration between universities, community legal centers, law firms, regulators, technologists, and advocates. Most importantly, Hear Me Out has helped people who might otherwise disengage to better understand their options and take next steps toward resolution.

As one of our longstanding pro bono partners, NJP has been at the forefront of improving access to justice, and we were pleased to support this important initiative. We hosted the official Hear Me Out launch event in our Sydney office, bringing together colleagues, community advocates, and members of the NJP team to showcase how the platform empowers individuals to share their experiences, receive tailored guidance, and pursue fairer outcomes. The event highlighted not only the impact of Hear Me Out, but also our shared commitment to supporting vulnerable communities through meaningful and collaborative pro bono work.

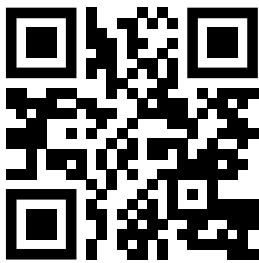
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Our firm's acclaimed **Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project** has been operating for over a decade. Launched in September 2014, this pro bono project provides legal assistance to victims of nonconsensual distribution of intimate images, also referred to as revenge porn. The project is founded on the principle that people have a right to privacy in their intimate photos and videos, and that the public, online dissemination of that media without consent is an invasion of that sexual privacy amounting to a cyber civil rights violation.

Over the years, the project has grown and is now global in scope. Here are a few statistics from the project's first 10 years:

- We received more than **9,500 requests** for assistance from all **50 US states** and more than **60 countries**.
- More than **400 volunteers** from **33 of our firm's offices** participated in this work.
- We litigated more than **a dozen cases** in state and federal courts.
- The **multimillion-dollar verdict** awarded in one of our cases was the largest noncelebrity revenge porn verdict at the time.

- A recent report showed more than **3,000 visits** to our project's website over the course of a year.
- While many victims find our project online, we have received **referrals** from the FBI, other law firms, clinics, legal and social service organizations, law schools, word of mouth, and other sources. The California Attorney General's website also lists our project as a resource.
- We devoted more than **28,000 hours** to this project, helping thousands of victims during the last decade.
- In the past couple of years, we have averaged **more than 30 requests for assistance per week** through our online **portal**, which volunteers continuously review and screen.



**SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO ACCESS  
OUR PORTAL**

With the proliferation of social media and the ease of internet access, a bitter ex can easily upload compromising photos or videos to a variety of public websites, sometimes with detailed personal information, such as name, date of birth, and address. These sexually explicit images are often viewed by the victim's family, friends, co-workers, classmates, or employer—and are sometimes even sent directly to these individuals. Victims are also threatened, stalked, and tormented by strangers who find their information online. They can have difficulty getting hired or feel forced to leave their current jobs or schools. Some victims of nonconsensual pornography have contemplated or committed suicide.

Often, victims don't know where to turn for help. Through this project, we combine the firm's cyber-forensic capabilities and legal skills to provide strategic legal advice, help with takedowns to remove material from websites, send cease and desist letters to perpetrators, seek copyright assignments, collect evidence, pursue litigation, and provide other legal assistance. As technology develops, so does the law. Perpetrators are now distributing deepfakes—artificially generated intimate images—without consent. We are helping clients who have been victimized and

tracking the growing number of laws that address the issue. Unfortunately, this problem is not going away, but the many volunteer lawyers of the Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project stand ready to assist.

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After launching our novel Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project more than a decade ago, the firm has continued to innovate when it comes to technology and the law. When AI started to gain traction in the legal community, we started thinking and talking about how this valuable technology could be used to increase access to justice and benefit those in need. This is a critical issue as the number of low-income individuals with unmet legal needs is at an alarming level and continues to grow. Working alongside the firm's forward-thinking AI Solutions Group, we have encouraged our lawyers to use the firm's approved AI tools in appropriate pro bono matters and have included pro bono materials and use cases as part of an AI hackathon.

During this multiday event, summer associates, associates, partners, and allied professionals collaborated to develop and present new legal solutions involving an AI tool. Teams had access to training materials, court forms, memos,

and other legal resources from a veterans' organization, and they used these and other materials in considering how to deploy AI in new and creative ways. One of the winning teams presented a use case that would help identify lawyers' interests and match them with pro bono matters. We have also advised legal service and nonprofit organizations in connection with their use of AI.

The firm was proud to work with the **Stanford Law School Legal Design Lab** to help plan, participate in, and serve as a founding sponsor of the inaugural **AI + Access to Justice Summit**, which doubled in size last year and welcomed a broad range of cross-sector participants who engaged in workshops, product demos and use cases; shared ideas; and learned from other leaders in this space. Drawing on this energy, participants left with a renewed focus and excitement around collaborative efforts and the potential for GenAI to meaningfully address the gap in access to justice and serve more legal needs.

We also were proud to participate in an AI-focused program of the **Pro Bono Institute** and to partner with **Pro Bono SG** to host an AI and pro bono roundtable in our Singapore office.



# PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Our firm worked with the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)** to develop its **Global Platform for Child Exploitation Policy**, which serves as a valuable resource for stakeholders seeking to combat online sexual exploitation of children. The team, led by Washington, DC partner Linda Odom, has included more than 100 of our lawyers and IT professionals from all regions of the firm, who collaborated internally and externally to support this project. Through

extensive pro bono work, our team freed up grant funds to engage survivors and translate content into multiple languages, and we helped shape the project's legal framework and secured legal research across dozens of jurisdictions. The initial phase of this matter was among the work that led to the firm's recognition as a **Bloomberg Pro Bono** Innovator, and we are now working on the second phase of research for the project.

“K&L Gates immediately became much more than our legal services provider. They became a full and trusted partner with NCMEC in formulating legal research to maximize comparative legal analysis; integrating diverse cultural/societal approaches in interacting with lawyers in over four dozen countries; and strategizing with NCMEC to amplify legal and policy impacts of the [platform] ... This project would not have been possible without our partnership with K&L Gates.”

– *Yiota Souras, Chief Legal Officer, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children*

We thank the many volunteers, including our regional leads, London pro bono counsel Camilla de Moraes, Palo Alto counsel Jingxiao Fang, London senior associate Louise Bond, Charlotte associate Tyler Wyckoff, London associate Aurelija Grubytė, and Wilmington associate Matt Goeller.

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Our **global anti-human trafficking pro bono initiative** supports individuals and nongovernmental organizations around the world to help survivors and address the scourge of human trafficking. One of those longtime clients is **International Justice Mission (IJM)**, a leading anti-human trafficking organization with the mission of protecting impoverished individuals from violence and strengthening justice systems. Since 2017, we have assisted IJM in a variety of impactful pro bono matters, advancing its fight against human trafficking.

Lawyers from 24 of our offices participated in this work on issues related to human trafficking, modern slavery, and IJM's operations in jurisdictions around the globe

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Orange County associate Kenneth Conlan and colleagues helped a human trafficking survivor clear her criminal record related to her exploitation. Despite years of sobriety, residing in supportive housing, and pursuing her education, the record of these trafficking-related charges continued to hinder our client's ability to move past her trafficking experience. The team worked with the client to successfully vacate all convictions from the trafficking period, allowing her to move forward unencumbered by the weight of past charges.



# SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Lawyers across our firm have been involved in a variety of pro bono matters that help individuals with disabilities and advance disability rights. In the past year, we have assisted **more than a dozen nonprofit organizations** that support or advocate for individuals with disabilities in Australia and the United States. This work has covered everything from corporate, regulatory, and policy advice to preparing an amicus brief, to assistance with specific substantive issues. We have represented clients in Australia seeking benefits from the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**, which provides support and funding to allow individuals with significant, permanent disabilities to

pursue their goals, such as learning new skills; living independently; participating in the community; or accessing equipment, therapy, or other services. Our lawyers in London and multiple US offices have represented veterans seeking disability benefits, and we have helped with screening and intake for veterans seeking to upgrade their discharge status when it was impacted by conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or traumatic brain injury. Through referrals from the **Children's Law Center** in Washington, DC, we have been assisting low-income parents of children with disabilities.

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The Singapore office came to the aid of a family facing a desperate situation when a husband and father suffered from impaired cognitive ability and was admitted to a nursing home. His wife, who became our client, was struggling to make ends meet and pay all their bills. She was at risk of losing their home as she could not access her husband's bank accounts or insurance without a Lasting Power of Attorney. Because she was not a citizen of Singapore, she was ineligible for many of the social schemes that typically provide assistance in such cases.

As in other situations with special circumstances, the **Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme (AHPBS) of Pro Bono SG** stepped up to help. AHPBS referred the matter to Joan Lim-Casanova, partner and director of K&L Gates Straits Law LLC in Singapore. By that point, our client was in a fragile state but cooperated fully and demonstrated resilience for her daughter as Joan and Singapore associate Benjamin Kang walked her through the legal process, negotiated with relevant

third parties, and obtained an order appointing her as deputy over her husband's affairs. As a result, our client was able to keep her home and has been rebuilding her family's life and future.

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We are proud to support **Hero Hunter Foundation** in a variety of pro bono legal matters. This not-for-profit organization was founded to honor **Hunter Madden**, who battled leukemia from the time he was three-years old until he sadly died at the age of eight. The organization provides support to families in Australia with a child undergoing oncology treatment and certain blood disorders. Perth partner Adam Levine leads this pro bono work, and other lawyers from Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Sydney have participated in the work over the years. This year, in addition to our pro bono activity, we teamed up with Hero Hunter Foundation as part of our firm's Global Day of Service, and helped an affected family with yard work and cleaning.



# ASSISTING VETERANS

A team consisting of Washington, DC partner Craig Leen and Los Angeles associates Rachel Berman and Katy Ramos represented a **disabled veteran** who was injured during his service and endured significant physical pain. The Department of Veterans Affairs erroneously concluded that the client's injury was not connected to service and therefore denied coverage and care for the injury. The team reviewed the client's healthcare records and prepared a memorandum in support of his appeal, arguing that the client's injury did in fact warrant a service connection. The Board of Veterans Appeals reversed the decision,

and the regional office acted swiftly in implementing the grant, which involved a significant retroactive payment to our client.

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The firm continued its efforts for **Wills for Heroes**, providing free basic estate-planning services for first responders and military veterans. In staffing some of these events, our lawyers and allied professionals worked alongside in-house counsel and law students to prepare estate-planning documents and serve as notaries and witnesses for these pro bono clients.

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Working with **The Veterans Consortium** and our corporate clients, we participated in virtual clinics to screen veterans seeking discharge upgrades. A discharge upgrade changes a less-than-honorable military discharge to a more favorable status when the separation was unjustly influenced by factors such as PTSD;

traumatic brain injury; Don't Ask, Don't Tell; or military sexual trauma. These upgrades are important because they can restore access to vital VA benefits, improve employment and education opportunities, and help remove stigma that unfairly diminishes a veteran's service and reputation.



Volunteers participating in a virtual clinic befitting veterans.

# PROMOTING EQUAL JUSTICE

Chicago of counsel David Rieser and associate Austin Holler won a significant award for a prisoner who claimed that the county had ignored his medical condition. The client was in custody in Cook County jail when he developed a hernia from a fall. He claimed that the county refused to timely treat or accommodate his condition and that he was left in significant pain as a result. He filed a pro se complaint in federal district court, and the judge assigned the matter to David. With Austin's assistance, David negotiated a settlement for which the client expressed his deep gratitude.

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The firm participated in the World Bank's **Women, Business and the Law project**, which collects data on laws and policies impacting women's economic opportunity in 190 economies. Nearly 60 volunteers from almost every country in which our firm has an office researched and responded to questionnaires on three key

areas: family law and access to finance, labor law and childcare services, and violence against women. The World Bank uses this research in its reports, which have informed significant legal and policy reforms to advance women's economic opportunities in countries around the world. Since 2010, these reports have been downloaded more than a million times and have been cited in a number of internationally recognized media outlets.

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Seattle partner Peter Talevich and associate Michael Meredith successfully resolved a **dispute for a tenant** against her former landlord. The client had fallen behind in rent due to a delay in pay from her job, and the landlord quickly moved to evict her. Unfortunately, our client lost her housing, and during the process, she was mistreated by her landlord, who also claimed nonexistent charges so he could keep her security deposit.

An investigation revealed that the landlord frequently violated Washington law so he could cut corners. The client adamantly wanted her case to protect future tenants from going through what she had experienced.

Alongside **Northwest Justice Project**, the firm filed a lawsuit against the landlord for violating Washington landlord-tenant, consumer protection, and organized crime laws. The landlord quickly settled. Moreover, in accordance with the client's goals, the landlord agreed to a public, permanent injunction to ensure future compliance with Washington law.

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Drawing on research and experience from our commercial disputes team, we assisted **Citizens Advice Bureau of Western Australia** with its efforts to start a co-mediation program that will significantly increase access to justice. The program is designed to help unrepresented litigants and to divert disputes from court, lessen burdens on the legal system, and empower people to take a proactive role in the resolution of their civil disputes. Our work included research, advice, and written advocacy in connection with the client's successful

application for funding to develop and roll out a pilot program. Partner Adam Levine from our Perth office headed this initiative, and looks forward to seeing this program implemented.

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The Pittsburgh office helped an elderly couple who were **Holocaust survivors** and whose Supplemental Security Income (SSI) had been wrongly terminated. The Social Security Administration (SSA) claimed the couple had “excess resources”—over US\$3,000 in their account—but failed to recognize that part of this money came from German war-reparation payments, which by law are excluded from the SSI resource limit.

After they received a notice cutting off benefits and demanding repayment, the stress led to the husband's hospitalization. We visited him in the hospital, confirmed the exemption applied, and found the SSA had acted improperly. While other lawyers warned that an appeal could take years, our team sent a letter detailing the error and urgency. Within about one week, the SSA's district director called, recognizing the mistake and assuring that the couple's benefits would be restored and all back payments would be issued.

# PROVIDING SAFE HAVEN

London associate Bilal Khattab achieved a life-changing result for a client referred by **KIND**. The client was turning 17 within three months of when she was referred to the firm, having entered the United Kingdom with her mother when she was five years old. Due to the circumstances of her mother's entry, the client had no right to live, work, or receive benefits in the United Kingdom, and her family had been homeless for a period of time. Bilal was able to convince the government to reconsider an earlier decision rejecting the client's application for citizenship since she had lived the majority of her life in the United Kingdom, had clear intentions to remain in the country, had no memory of her birth country, and had a sister who was a British citizen. Our client persisted through a process that took more than two years, which was ultimately successful. She was granted British citizenship and plans to study law next year, with aspirations to become a solicitor.

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We also had a victory for a longtime KIND client in the United States. A Boston team had represented the client since 2017. After receiving special immigrant juvenile status, the client finally received her green card and will remain in the safety of the United States as a lawful permanent resident.

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Newark of counsel Charles Rysavy and associate Reymond Yammine successfully petitioned for permanent residence for a political activist after the firm had helped her to obtain asylum years ago. The client had devoted years of her life as an activist in political organizations and movements against a regional dictatorial regime. As a result, she had been the target of harassment and physical violence, including a stabbing, at the hands of government-led paramilitary groups.

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New York partner Joanna Diakos Kordalis helped a client secure permanent resident status in the United States. In 2015, the firm prepared the client's application for a U visa, which is a visa available to foreign nationals who have been victims of certain qualifying crimes in the United States. The applicant must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse and must possess information about the crime and be helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. Our client's U visa was approved in 2020, and Joanna worked with the client to seek lawful permanent resident status, which she was thrilled to receive in July 2025.

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A Chicago team successfully secured asylum for a brave mother and daughter. The case was a nine-year journey for the family, who had suffered severe domestic abuse and sought asylum in this country. Ultimately, the government waived its right to appeal the determination that they were entitled to asylum, marking a definitive victory for our clients.



# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

A sharp rise in wildlife vehicle collisions across Melbourne, Victoria, has led to serious vehicle road accidents, infrastructure damage, and the continued loss of native animal habitats. In response, **Wildlife Victoria**—a statewide charity providing emergency response services for injured and displaced wildlife—submitted a formal inquiry to the Victorian Government seeking urgent action. Led by Melbourne partner Christien Corns, the team provided in-depth legal research and strategic input to assist the organization in preparing its submission. The team included Melbourne senior associates Simon Kiburg, Andrew Saunders, Sarah Taylor, and Belinda Tralli; and lawyer Lauren Hrysomallis. Their collective efforts contributed to a comprehensive submission aimed at improving road safety while preserving Victoria's precious wildlife.

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The firm advised **WaterEquity**, a leading impact investment manager focused exclusively on the water and sanitation sector, in the formation and launch of the WaterEquity Everspring Fund, the firm's first evergreen investment vehicle.

The fund represents a significant milestone in the development of sustainable financing solutions designed to address the global water and sanitation crisis. Structured as an open-ended fund, the vehicle is designed to provide long-term, scalable capital to financial institutions in emerging markets that offer water and sanitation loans to low-income communities.

The team that advised WaterEquity was led by Seattle partner Jason Kirk, along with partner Charles Purcell and associate Lucy Mani.



“We are honored to support WaterEquity in launching a fund that employs sustainable finance to meaningfully improve water and sanitation across emerging markets. Our team was eager and fortunate to advise on various aspects of structuring and establishing the fund, helping WaterEquity navigate complex economic, regulatory, tax, and operational considerations to bring this innovative vehicle to market.”

– *Seattle partner Jason Kirk*

“We are very grateful for the outstanding pro bono support provided by the K&L Gates team. Their expertise and guidance were invaluable in launching the WaterEquity Everspring Fund.”

– *Stephen Valdes-Robles, Principal and General Counsel, WaterEquity*

Anja van der Weerd, Melbourne manager of practice innovation and knowledge, and Mira Renko, Sydney special counsel of practice innovation and knowledge, were invited by **Law Access**, a pro bono referral service in Western Australia, to facilitate a session regarding visual communication of legal advice (VCOLA) for a group of pro bono lawyers. Pro bono clients often have little experience engaging with lawyers or navigating the legal system.

The presentation, initiated by Perth partner Adam Levine, demonstrated the ability to communicate complex legal issues in a simple and digestible fashion, using plain English drafting and VCOLA techniques. This information will help the

group of lawyers to better inform and communicate with their pro bono clients.

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Our London and New York offices have partnered with the **Schools Consent Project**, a charity that trains lawyers to deliver in-school legal workshops on issues of consent and sexual offenses. The charity normalizes conversations about consent in order to encourage safe, healthy interactions and reduce the likelihood of young people experiencing—or perpetrating—sexual harm.

Congratulations to consultant Noirin McFadden who, out of 13 volunteers in London, was our first to deliver a workshop.

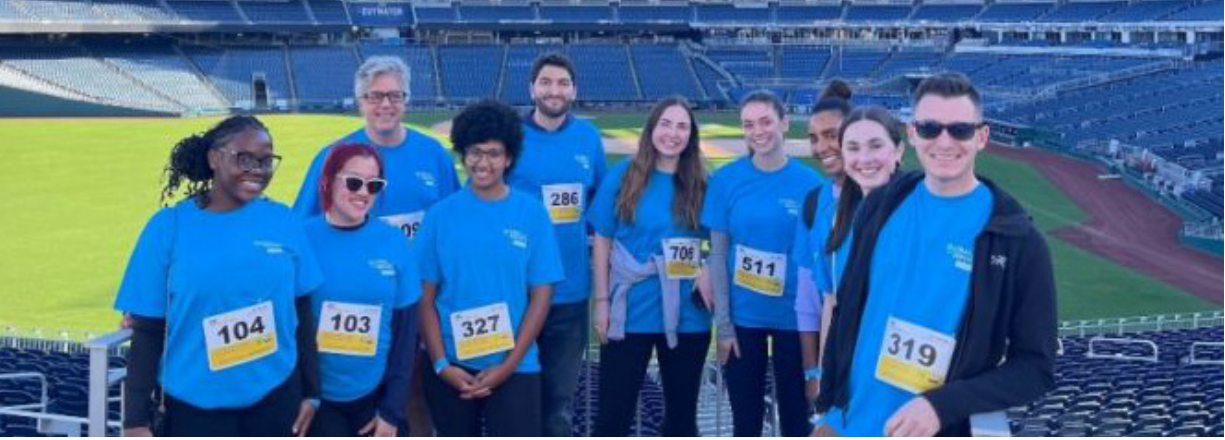


# WALKING FOR A CAUSE

For years, our firm has proudly participated in the **London Legal Walk** and similar **Legal Walk** and **Walk for Justice** events in Brisbane, Perth, and Sydney to raise funds to support pro bono and legal service organizations. This year, we were excited to participate in the recently initiated **DC Walk for Justice 5K**. This event, now in its second year, benefits the DC Bar Foundation, fosters community engagement, and increases awareness of the significant civil legal

needs in Washington, DC. This year's walk was held in October during Pro Bono Week in the United States and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for legal aid. The London Legal Walk was the inspiration for the DC walk and marked its 21st year in 2025 with the largest turnout yet—19,000 participants. Over the past two decades, the London Legal Walk has involved 150,000 walkers and raised more than £11.5m.

**The walks in Australia were held in May to mark National Pro Bono Day, raising funds for LawRight through the Queensland Legal Walk 2025, Law Access WA via Perth's Walk for Justice, and the Refugee Advice & Casework Service through the Walk for Justice NSW.**



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Seattle partner **David Bateman** was recognized in *Seattle Magazine's annual edition of Most Influential People*. This annual list includes those who inspire, guide, and uplift others through their actions, leadership, and dedication. Their far-reaching influence stems from their achievements, but equally important is their ability to foster connections across the community, advocate for positive change, and empower others to make a difference. David was recognized for his role in founding the firm's Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project, which had just celebrated its 10th anniversary and has helped thousands of victims of nonconsensual distribution of intimate images.
- Newark counsel **Gary Sapir** was honored at the **Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ) Annual Gala** with the **Defender of Justice** award for his significant contributions over the past year to VLJ's mission of ensuring access to justice for people experiencing poverty. He and his team participate in monthly clinics in which they assist with expunging criminal records in New Jersey. Many of the individuals they serve carry decades-old charges from minor crimes or drug-related offenses, which continue to greatly impact their career opportunities. Given the complexity and slow pace of the expungement process, Gary and his team's valuable work help to reduce unnecessary delays and provide a path to a second chance.



- Singapore partner and K&L Gates Straits Law LLC director **Joan Lim-Casanova** received a **Top Volunteer** award from **Pro Bono SG**. In connection with the award, Joan noted, “I will continue to do what I’ve been doing—legal clinics, representation, committee work—because access to justice is important.” Indeed, she has done just that. Among other things, Joan has participated in and served on the committee for Pro Bono SG’s community legal clinics across Singapore. This work involves screening applicants, recording facts, sharing background information and documents with volunteer lawyers, and otherwise coordinating the clinics, as well as overseeing operations, analyzing statistics,

and considering ways to improve access to legal services for the underprivileged. Joan was invited to serve as the chairperson for the Clinics Committee for 2026, and she enthusiastically accepted.

- For the fourth year running, the Animal League Defense Fund (ALDF) has presented our firm with its **Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award**. The award recognizes our dedication to ALDF’s mission: protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. It also represents the talent and hard work of our lawyers, who have volunteered their time toward this goal.
- Chicago partner **Sang-yul Lee** completed his term as of president of the Chicago Bar Foundation, which works to improve access to justice for people in need and to make the legal system fair, equitable, and effective for people of all backgrounds and incomes. The Chicago Bar Foundation has been a pro bono client of the firm, and we have supported the foundation with other efforts throughout the years.

## Pro Bono Committee Members (2025 and 2026)



**Mark H. Ruge**  
Chair of Firmwide  
Pro Bono Committee  
Washington, DC



**Joanna A.  
Diakos Kordalis**  
Partner  
New York



**Amy L. Groff**  
Partner  
Harrisburg



**Adam Levine**  
Partner  
Perth



**Wendy S. Neiss**  
Administrative Advisor to  
Pro Bono Committee  
Harrisburg



**Robert B. Mitchell**  
Senior of Counsel  
Seattle



**Paul F. Hancock**  
Senior of Counsel  
Miami



**Joseph P.Y. Tseng**  
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