

Engagement with our communities

US overview

“In and of the community”—it is a fundamental principal of who we are for our clients and the communities in which we work. We serve our communities by being active in them. Nothing best captures this commitment like our pro bono and social responsibility program. We strive to make lasting change, whether it be defending those who need it most, offering legal advice to nonprofit enterprises or being a fully engaged partner in improving our communities.

Our lawyers’ dedication to facilitating needed change is apparent in this community engagement review. We highlight how seven years of work culminated in a settlement that will change how more than 11,000 mentally ill prisoners in Illinois are treated. Led by Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution Partner Harold Hirshman, the team secured a significant victory that will have a lasting impact.

We also share how First Step Staffing, Inc. secured funding to better serve homeless men and women in Atlanta. Atlanta Corporate Partner Mick Cochran led a team that helped First Step with negotiations and necessary documentation.

Through this sample of our efforts, we express appreciation and pride to all our colleagues across the US for their extraordinary dedication to promoting positive social change in the communities in which we live and work.



Jeff Haidet

US Co-Chief Executive Officer



Peter Wolfson

US Co-Chief Executive Officer



Mike McNamara

US Managing Partner

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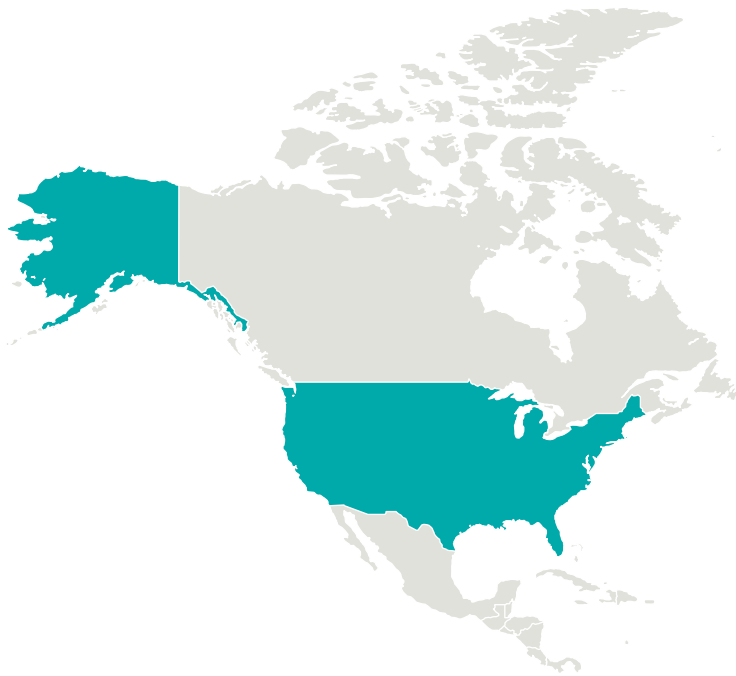
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Letter from Ben Weinberg

Pro Bono Partner

Each year, Dentons releases a Global Social Impact Report that highlights Dentons' pro bono and community service efforts across the globe. With this newsletter, we are focusing more closely on the important work that Dentons' lawyers, professionals, and staff are doing in the United States.

Dentons US grew substantially in 2015, and I am very happy to report that the Firm's growth has meaningfully expanded its capacity to

provide access to justice to low-income people and underserved communities and to provide badly-needed assistance to non-profits that are indispensable to our communities. Commitment to pro bono and the community were core values of both firms, and the combination has served only to strengthen that commitment. In 2016, Dentons truly is more than the sum of its parts!

Ben Weinberg

Acquiring proper care for mentally ill inmates



After a seven-year effort led by Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution Partner **Harold Hirshman**, more than 11,000 mentally ill prisoners will no longer be subject to inhumane and unconstitutional treatment. Along with Partner **Anders Wick**, Senior Managing Associate **Cantrell Jones**, Managing Associates **Aimee Graham** and **Shannon Shin**, Associate **Geoff Miller** and Paralegal **Suzy Smith**, Harold fought to ensure that mentally ill individuals in the prison system are provided with increased resources. Department of Corrections personnel will receive additional training, and procedures will be subjected to increased oversight.

The team's work culminated in a deal that was reached in December 2015 that not only designates \$50 million in funding for a 700-bed residential treatment facility, but also provides mentally ill prisoners with a treatment plan. The proposal mandates the hiring of hundreds of new mental health employees, and increases out-of-cell time to 15 hours a week for mentally ill prisoners in segregation.



“Out of cell” time for mentally ill inmates will increase by about **15 hours** a week under the new policy.

Q&A with Dentons Partner Harold Hirshman

Q What led you to work on this case?
In representing individual prisoners, I was mortified by their conditions. When I was asked to take on a class action case, I realized that it was a more effective way to help change the system than individual damage cases.

Q What was your greatest challenge during the case?
The greatest challenges were both the constantly changing political landscape and the frustration of knowing that human beings were suffering every day while the legal process moved at an agonizingly slow pace.

Q I am sure there were many, but does one moment during the case stand out to you?
A moment that stands out for me is when the director of mental health admitted that failing to provide hospital care for those mentally ill prisoners who needed it was unconstitutional.

Q How has the outcome of this case impacted you personally?
I'm simply grateful to the FIRM for enabling this kind of lawsuit, which has resulted in out-of-cell time increasing by about 15 hours a week.



Team counsels nonprofit that employs the homeless

As a result of 26 months of due diligence and negotiation, First Step Staffing, Inc. acquired all the assets of the for-profit Atlanta division of Labor Guys, LLC. Atlanta Corporate Partners **Mick Cochran** and **Ann-Marie McGaughey** and Managing Associate **Alison LeVasseur** managed the negotiation and documentation, enabling the non profit that assists homeless men and women in their pursuit of a sustainable income, to complete the unique transaction.

Mick, who is vice chair of the board of First Step, enlisted the help of Chicago Tax Partner **Tom Stephens**; Kansas City Tax Partner **Bruce Davison**; Atlanta Employment and Labor Partner **Dan Beale**; Immigration Partner **Jim Levine**; Corporate Managing Associate **Anand Patel**; Corporate Associate **Dylan Donley**; and Real Estate Associate **Wes Pickard** to achieve a successful outcome.

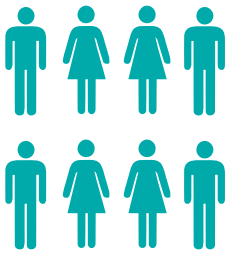
Q What led you to work on this case?
First Step was founded in 2007 by my longtime friend and client, Greg Block. Greg is a very successful serial entrepreneur who, upon successfully exiting his former company, began searching to find a means to solve fundamental societal problems through social entrepreneurship.

Greg identified homelessness as an entrenched problem in Atlanta and the United States at large. Most philanthropic solutions to homelessness involve supplying much-needed food and shelter. However, those solutions do not end the cycle of homelessness.

Through First Step, we are providing homeless men, women, veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals with opportunities to obtain sustainable income. This income in turn allows these individuals the opportunity to find affordable housing, creating stability for themselves.

I have been involved with and on the board of First Step since its inception, witnessing firsthand that First Step fills a gap not otherwise being serviced in the market. Our Firm has provided more than US\$1 million in pro bono services to First Step and our lawyers have provided a vast array of services involving tax, benefits, corporate, litigation and employment matters. Some of our associates have acted as outside general counsel to First Step—a role that Alison LeVasseur is currently serving.





A homeless person costs the city of Atlanta **US\$30,000** to **US\$40,000** a year. First Step will assist more than **1,000 people** in securing sustainable income.

Q What was the most rewarding aspect of this matter?
For 26 months, I was able to work very closely with Greg Block. Greg envisioned creating First Step and undertaking a fully debt-financed transaction in which we would acquire an organization 12 times our size. Greg contracted Stage 4 brain and lung cancer at the start of this project, yet he remains a vital part of the organization today. I am humbled on a daily basis by Greg's devotion to the mission of First Step, as are all of us who have had the great pleasure to work with him.

Q I am sure there were many, but does one moment during the case stand out to you?
As we closed the matter, I gathered our team in my office to share a bottle of champagne and to celebrate the culmination of a lot of hard work. It is one of the few times (perhaps the only time) that tears of joy were the predominant sentiment at the closing table. Dave Schaffer, now CEO of First Step, indicated at closing that Dentons had fundamentally changed for the positive his views of our profession.

Q How has the outcome of this case impacted you personally?
Our involvement in First Step has allowed us to help substantially increase the number of homeless that the organization services every day. It continues to allow First Step to serve as a National Best Practice firm in providing sustainable solutions through social entrepreneurship.

Our social impact will exceed **US\$40 million** a year as our clients who come through First Step become productive members of society.

News and awards

Team overturns security clearance denial

A team led by New York Litigation and Resolution Dispute Partner **Avi Schick** challenged and obtained the reversal of a US military decision to deny a security clearance to Dr. Gershon Dr. Pincus. Washington, DC, Managing Associate **Justin Graf** and New York Associate **Ilya Schwartzburg** provided research support and other assistance that overturned a decision denying clearance to Pincus (who works part-time in a US Navy dental clinic in Saratoga, NY and has family in Israel) due to a concern regarding “divided loyalties.”

Favorable ruling obtained in mental abuse case

Washington, DC Litigation and Dispute Resolution Managing Associate **Alanna Clair** and Partner **Larry Ebner** submitted an amicus brief in support of a mother accused of unintentionally mentally abusing her daughter by submitting her for medical exams after the child alleged abuse by her father. The case garnered a favorable decision by Maryland’s highest court. By arguing that the lower court’s holding deterred parents from reporting suspected child abuse, the decision that the mother committed abuse was overturned.

Team secures victory for Illinois domestic violence victims

After the trial court denied an order of protection to an abuse victim, Chicago Pro Bono Partner **Ben Weinberg** enlisted Los Angeles Litigation and Resolution Dispute Partner **Mike Duvall** and Associate **Kelly Graf** to help secure a precedent-setting victory for domestic violence victims in the Illinois Appellate Court. The appellate court held that issuing an order of protection is mandatory, not discretionary, when a victim has proven abuse.

Team obtains benefits for Vietnam War veteran

Washington, DC Intellectual Property & Technology Partner **Scott Cummings** and Kansas City Partner **Jerry Wolf** successfully represented a Vietnam War veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in his claim for disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Their efforts culminated in a recent ruling that the client was entitled to 100 percent disability compensation, including some retroactive restitution, based on a finding of individual unemployability due to his PTSD symptoms.

Firm helps to improve living conditions for an Asian elephant

Led by Dallas Litigation and Dispute Resolution Partner **Matt Nickel**, Managing Associate **Blake Brownshadel** and Associates **Spencer Hamilton** and **Marina Stefanova**, along with Chicago Partner **Tony Eliseuson**, “Team Save Lucky”

White Collar Team Works on Behalf of Indigent Criminal Defendants

A team of lawyers from our Dallas, Kansas City, New York and Washington, DC offices have represented defendants in six appeals before the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

The team has worked on a variety of criminal appeals raising various substantive and procedural issues. By providing free, high-quality service, Dentons lawyers are not only helping indigent clients, they are also helping to reduce the substantial burden on the court system and criminal justice budgets.



News and awards

secured a significant and well-publicized victory aimed at improving the living conditions of Lucky, a 56-year-old female Asian elephant at the San Antonio Zoo. Using a relatively novel theory, the plaintiffs sued under the citizen suit provision of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), alleging numerous violations of that law.

The zoo moved to dismiss, arguing that because Lucky is held in captivity, her living conditions are governed by the Animal Welfare Act (which does not allow a private right of action) rather than by the ESA. However, a federal court in the Western District of Texas agreed with our team that the ESA governs such issues, denying the dismissal and mooting the zoo's attempt to stay discovery of medical, health and care records.

Team recognized for substantial volunteer efforts

Lawyers Alliance for New York recognized the volunteer efforts of New York Capital Markets Partner **Jeff Murphy** and Corporate Senior Managing Associate **Brian Lee** on its website and on Probono.net. The organization, which connects lawyers with individuals and nonprofits in need of pro bono services, highlighted the pair's work with Community Health Action of Staten Island.

Carole Neville featured for pro bono efforts

Northeastern Law Magazine, published by Northeastern University's School of Law, spotlighted the Firm's pro bono efforts in its Winter 2016 issue. The piece focused on New York Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Partner **Carole Neville's** efforts to help secure asylum in the US for a young Chinese woman.

Giving back to the community

Offices across the US, including Chicago, Denver and New York, raised more than \$30,000 for more than 50 charities through Jeans Days and Weeks.

Colleagues in our Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia offices contributed more than \$17,000 in gifts and cash donations, along with 28 large bags of clothing, to the Children's Law Center's Gifts for the Homeless campaign. Washington legal secretary **Trisha Hall** spearheaded both efforts and coordinated holiday charitable drives at the various offices in our region.



Associates in the San Francisco office organized a volunteer day at the San Francisco Food Bank for all personnel, along with family and friends. The Firm joined with several other organizations to fill 1,400 boxes of food—amounting to 4,200 pounds—that will be distributed to elderly citizens in the Bay Area.

The Washington, DC, office was one of the most generous contributors to this year's Champions for Children competition. Our team donated nearly \$33,000, more than any other comparably sized law office in the city. The annual drive raises money for the Children's Law Center, which works to protect vulnerable children in the District of Columbia and ensure that they gain a solid foundation of family, health and education.



The Denver office donated money and toiletry items to the 2nd Annual Spring Showers Hygiene Drive, sponsored by GIVE Denver and Denver Human Services. The office's Staff Professional Development Committee collected the toiletry items for months, part of an ongoing effort that donates these items regularly throughout the year to homeless shelters, veterans' organizations and other charities. This latest initiative was spearheaded by **Lino Lipinsky** along with **CJ Bander, Carlo David, Lisa King, Carol Neubauer, Melinda Olivarez, Lisa Satter** and **Thomas Vasquez**.

The New Jersey office organized a community service project to benefit children in Newark, where students and faculty from 30 schools have been impacted by elevated levels of lead in the water. With the affected population depending on bottled water, many area nonprofits are collecting donations. Our office contributed 40 cases—or roughly 2,000 bottles—to one such nonprofit, Kids Corporation. Legal secretary **Audrey Nash** and office administrator **Sherri Foley** led a visit to Kids Corporation to deliver the donations.



The Denver office donated more than \$2,000 to the 2016 Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado's Associates Campaign for Justice, a month-long fundraising effort by 57 law firms to support Colorado Legal Services, the state's largest free legal services provider. The 2016 Associates Campaign raised almost \$136,000 total in just one month, breaking the donation record set the previous year. The majority of the Firm's contribution came from our Denver associates, who tallied a 100 percent participation rate and broke their own total donation record. Associate **Abigail Brown** led the initiative as the Firm's campaign representative.

The Chicago office raised \$26,000 for the Chicago Bar Foundation's 10th annual Investing in Justice Campaign, which helps ensure access to critical legal assistance for the most vulnerable members of our community. The two-week drive saw an 81 percent overall office participation rate, topping last year's 75 percent. **Rachel Cannon, Natalie Spears** and **Ben Weinberg** led the execution with outstanding support from **Denise Hooten** and **Anna Belova**, while **Katie Ashton, Bob Fernandez, Sam Fifer, Shannon Shin, Anne Sutton** and **Donna Vobornik** spearheaded the efforts as team captains.

Mentoring young professionals

Commemorating National Thank Your Mentor Day on January 21, the San Diego office hosted Speed Mentoring Roundtables, an event sponsored by Women in Sports and Events (WISE). For the second year running, the Firm welcomed more than 40 participants for this event, including women from the San Diego Chargers, Fox Sports San Diego, SKLZ, Pedal the Cause, Cobra-Puma and the Competitor Group. Office administrator **Patti Groff** served as a mentor, sharing her human resources experiences. Litigation



counsel **Stefanie Warren** is a board member of the San Diego chapter of WISE, a national organization dedicated to the success and growth of women in the business of sports and events. Legal secretary **Renee Evans**, senior administrative coordinator **Lisa Jordan**, hospitality attendants **Maria Delrio** and **Leti Ruiz** and receptionist **Layla Rosas** helped coordinate and run the successful event.

Washington, DC, Public Policy and Regulation senior managing director **Jenifer Healy** was invited to be one of 40 one-on-one mentors at the Future of Global Health Unconference, sponsored by Global Health Council and USAID. The third annual conference gathered more than 350 professionals for an evening of global health policy discussions, networking opportunities with mentors and remarks from USAID.



Hitting the heights

As part of the annual "Big D Climb," **Blake Brownshadel, Juanita DeLoach, Spencer Hamilton, LaToya Payne** and **Marina Stefanova** climbed 70 stories to the top of the Bank of America tower in downtown Dallas. In addition to getting fit, they raised money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Blake and Marina donned "Team Save Lucky" T-shirts in support of their pro bono matter detailed above. Juanita and LaToya were stalwarts in the ongoing stair training in the Dallas office, walking or jogging up the building's 20 flights numerous times.

Raising heart rates and funds

The Cycle for Survival team sponsored by the New York office raised nearly \$32,000 for rare cancer research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Erik Klingenberg kicked off the ride with a motivational speech that inspired the whole team, which also included **Schanel Crawford**, **Susan DeLeva**, **Adam Dunst**, **Hilary Gallo**, **Josh Jordon**, **Maria Livanos**, **Jessica Meylor**, **Rob Olin** (the team captain), **Oscar Pinkas** and **Alan Wright**, along with family and friends.



Aiding the homeless

Partners **Marjorie Burchett** and **Bob Bell** and associate **Troy Housman** are participating on the Downtown San Diego Partnership Foundation's Quality of Life Task Force, which is tackling issues involving the city's homeless population. The San Diego office has also hosted several meetings of the 20-person committee. Marjorie serves on the Downtown San Diego Partnership's board and executive committee.



Getting kids back in the classroom

The Firm—in partnership with the New York Says Thank You Foundation, **KPMG** and the Nepal Youth Foundation—helped build classrooms for some of the children hit hardest by the April 2015 earthquake that hit Nepal.

Moot court competitions

New Jersey Litigation managing associate **Jonathan Henry** and associate **Erika Lopes-McLeman** served as guest judges at the John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition in Newark. The Gibbons Competition, now in its 23rd year, is run by the Seton Hall Law School Moot Court Board, of which both Jon and Erika are alums. Students from 40 law schools nationwide assemble to tackle issues of criminal procedure and criminal law that intersect with federal constitutional law.

The Government Contracts group hosted a reception in the Washington, DC, office in conjunction with the Gilbert A. Cuneo Government Contracts Moot Court Competition, an annual event created 16 years ago by members of the Firm's Government Contracts practice and members of the faculty of the George Washington University Law School. GW Law faculty and students, members of the judiciary and other professionals turned out to mingle with numerous Firm colleagues and alums. Partner **Jessica Abrahams** and managing associate **Katherine Veeder** (a former moot court winner) delivered remarks on the history of the event and the practice. Gil Cuneo, namesake of GW Law's moot court event, co-founded nearly 60 years ago the legacy practice that has grown into our current market-leading Government Contracts team.



US pro bono committee

Jessica Abrahams
Washington, DC



Josh Akbar
Phoenix, AZ



Mary Anderson
Chicago, IL



Dan Beale
Atlanta



Sarah Carlson
St. Louis, MO



David Cowart
Dallas, TX



Sandy Hauser
New York, NY



Chris Humphreys
San Diego



Heather Khassian
Houston



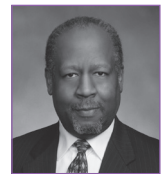
Bonnie Lau
San Francisco, CA



Lino Lipinsky
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Presley Reed
Washington, DC



Ivor Samson
San Francisco, CA



Tom Vandiver
Los Angeles, CA



Phil White
Short Hills, NJ



Felix Woo
Los Angeles, CA





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