Giving back to our communities through pro bono service

Dentons has a wide-ranging pro bono program. In 2019, we contributed more than 105,000 hours across our global network of offices. With more people in more locations than any other firm in the world, Dentons is well-placed to assist the global community in pro bono matters. TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s global pro bono legal program named Dentons the “2019 International Law Firm of the Year.” We were selected for the esteemed award in recognition of the breadth of our pro bono service to individuals in need, nonprofits, NGOs and social enterprises, such as UK-based Climate Edge, which is pioneering low-cost agricultural weather stations designed to help smallholder farmers respond to changing climate conditions. As its team grew, we helped draft employment contracts, a code of conduct, and health and safety procedures, allowing it to focus its limited resources on its social mission.

Dentons takes its commitment to the communities in which its professionals live and work seriously—and our pro bono work reflects our entrepreneurial approach to solving problems in a complex world. As the world faces an unprecedented set of challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Dentons is providing dedicated pro bono support during these challenging times. Dentons was the first global law firm to join Global Legal Solidarity, which seeks to connect non-profits, social enterprises and charities impacted by COVID-19 with pro bono legal advice. We have already been engaged in a wide variety of pro bono legal matters relating to the pandemic and its economic consequences, and launched a Pro Bono COVID-19 resources hub which includes a Government Announcement Tracker specifically geared to charities and NGOs, and a General Legal Checklist for Non-Profit Managers.

Dentons’ responsibility to provide society’s most vulnerable members with access to justice is core to who we are, be they first-responders and frontline health workers, abuse victims in lockdown, refugees and...
asylum seekers, the homeless, the disabled, or the elderly. We have crafted tools to deliver justice for victims of human trafficking and slavery, battled discrimination against HIV-positive people, challenged the inaccessibility of a subway system to wheelchair-bound persons, obtained an order of protection against a sexual assailant and secured reversal of a decision denying medical benefits to a veteran suffering from depression, anxiety and PTSD.

And Dentons does not simply litigate cases and then walk away. After winning a decade-long battle to remedy widespread inadequacies in the care of mentally ill individuals in the Illinois state prison system, the Firm donated more than US$1.5 million to defray fees incurred by our legal aid partners, and funded two fellowships to help monitor compliance with the court-ordered injunctive relief.

Tracking and mapping talent to pro bono opportunities can be a time-consuming and ad hoc process, with mixed results. To streamline the process, Dentons US, with the help of Nextlaw Labs, Dentons’ legal technology accelerator, co-developed with justice technology company Paladin, a software-as-a-service platform that connects our lawyers with a greater variety of pro bono opportunities and legal service organizations, making it easier for our lawyers to find the projects they are most passionate about. The platform also complements our recent opening up of the Nextlaw Global Referral Network to pro bono opportunities, with the express goal of initiating or growing the pro bono infrastructure in countries where such assistance has been sparse at best.

Dentons believes we all have a shared responsibility for the well-being of our communities. We like to assist and participate in projects where we can. We are proud of the relationships we have developed through our work in local communities, and the professional and personal development it affords us.

Recent News

Dentons shares examples of donations and pro bono work to help with COVID-19 pandemic

Thomson Reuters Foundation and Nextlaw Referral Network partner to expand the world’s biggest legal pro bono network

Dentons advises The Nature Conservancy on AUD$55 m protection deal

Dentons wins International Law Firm of the Year at the TrustLaw Awards 2019
Dentons wins two awards at the Chambers Diversity and Inclusion Awards: Europe

In and of the community
Providing an overview of youth diversion laws on four continents
Enforcing and promoting the rights of children in Hungary
Fighting for the freedom to marry in Panama
Helping Outward Bound Oman reach its own potential
Supporting expansion of emergency transfer service for seriously ill children
Conducting legal research in support of the Iraqi High Tribunals prosecution of war criminals

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