

Engagement with our communities

US overview

Pro bono work and social responsibility are part of the very DNA of Dentons. Our Firm shares a rich culture of dedication to the communities in which we live and work. When we first came together to form Dentons, we all shared the same core value of being in and of the community. Our people not only understand different cultures and local customs, they are part of them.

We are committed to investing in and making our shared communities stronger, healthier and better. So a true picture of Dentons cannot be complete without a look at our substantial social impact program in the US.

Overall, we have expanded our pro bono work and increased our positive social impact as we pursue our strategy of challenging the status quo in the legal industry.

In this issue of our US Engagement Review, we take a look at the wonderful work that Jerry Wolf has been doing on behalf of injured veterans, and the many pro bono projects we undertook over the holidays.

In 2017, we are extending our commitment to our social impact program by identifying new ways to provide access to justice, expanding our collaborative relationships with commercial clients and working with leading nongovernmental organizations to provide direct help to underserved communities in the US and across the globe.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McNamara", with a long, sweeping underline.

Mike McNamara
US Chief Executive Officer

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Q & A With Jerry Wolf

As one of the founding partners of the Firm's Kansas City office, Jerome "Jerry" Wolf has represented disabled US veterans in their claims for benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs for years. He has handled cases for veterans from coast to coast, including claims relating to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from horrific combat experiences and other service-related trauma, and exposure to Agent Orange, the notorious defoliant, millions of gallons of which were sprayed during the Vietnam War. Jerry served in the US Army for four years after graduating from Yale and Harvard Law School. Recently moving to Senior Counsel, Jerry is a past president of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and was the founding president of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation.

Q: Tell us about your most recent case on behalf of a veteran.

A: I am currently representing a veteran in a high-profile "Vietnam Blue Water Navy" claim. We allege that Agent Orange migrated from Vietnam and its inland waters into the adjoining harbors, exposing sailors on their ships to that water via the manufacture of portable water and through airborne toxins.

Q: What was your first case about?

A: In my first case for a Utah veteran, we obtained a reversal of a decision by the Veterans Administration that the veteran had experienced "only routine combat" in Vietnam, not the kind of combat that triggers PTSD. That case taught me that a lawyer's services were sorely needed.

Q: What other kinds of victories have you won for veterans?

A: I have experienced a number of successes, including obtaining a 100 percent disability for an Army officer who won the Silver Star in combat in Vietnam. I won a 100 percent disability for an Army soldier who, as a guard defending a base perimeter in Vietnam, saw his companion standing next to him shot through the head and killed in a fire fight, but who went on to repel the enemy with his own suppressing fire.

Q: What drew you to working on behalf of veterans?

A: I do this kind of work because I am an Army veteran and one who was on active duty during the beginning of the Vietnam War (although not in Vietnam). I lost a friend in Vietnam in 1965, and had my best friend, who won the Silver Star in Vietnam, eventually die of a rare form of leukemia, which I believe stems from the use of Agent Orange.

Q: How do you balance your practice with the work you do for veterans?

A: I have more than 50 years of litigation experience, beginning with defending general courts-martial in the US Army JAG Corps during the period 1963 to 1966. My firm has been wonderful in allowing me to work on these cases. In the beginning, I was the only Kansas City lawyer who had any such expertise, and I chaired a Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation seminar to train additional lawyers at which, among others, US Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) spoke.

Q: What advice would you give lawyers who are interested in developing a pro bono focus such as yours?

A: If a lawyer is interested in practicing in this specialty, he or she should take every continuing legal education opportunity, ask to obtain the video of my seminar and seek training opportunities from the National Veterans Legal Services Program in Washington, DC.

Jerome "Jerry" Wolf

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Holiday Projects

Denver

- The Denver office participated in **Denver Metro BOMA's** annual gift and toy drive, donating holiday presents to be distributed by major charities statewide. Managing partner **Mark Meagher** and office administrator **Grover Brittain** took the lead and coordinated the participation.



New Jersey

- The New Jersey office partnered with **Kids Corporation** for a toy and clothing drive to benefit local families. **Kristin Dambra, Sherri Foley** and **Audrey Nash** spearheaded our participation and the delivery of the donations. This was one of several service events in 2016 for which the office teamed up with Kids Corporation, a Newark-based nonprofit that provides educational programs and other social services to more than 3,000 children.

Kansas City

- The Kansas City office raised money to help the **Bethel Family Worship Center** purchase Christmas presents for 95 children.



New York

- Colleagues in the New York office collected clothing and toys for families in the New York area. These efforts were led by **Janice Castillo, Susan Chao, Michelle Drucker, Maria Feingold, Julie Frankel, Patricia Hutton, Jodi Jones, Kisha Jones, Gisselle Martin Singleton, Andrew Omoregie, Michelle Tan** and **Brenda Trinidad**.

Atlanta

- For the Atlanta office's annual Thanksgiving service project, volunteers prepared holiday gift bags for the **Youth Villages Inner Harbor Campus**, one of Georgia's largest psychiatric residential treatment programs for seriously emotionally disturbed youths. The office has supported this organization for many years, and partner **Dara Mann** serves on its board of directors.

Los Angeles

- The Los Angeles office participated in **Hope Street Family Center's "Hope for the Holidays."** Hope Street, a community program of California Hospital Medical Center, provides educational, health developmental and social services to children and families of limited means. LA office personnel "adopted" 40 families—10 more than last year— and purchased gifts for them from their wish lists.



Feeding the hungry, all across the country

Team Dentons—Kate Beall, Lisa Canarick, Zach Gotlib (captain), Helen Kolton, Emily Lee, Christine Mendoza, Chris O’Leary and Matthew Walters-Bowens, as well as family members—participated in the 23rd Annual Race to Deliver benefiting **God’s Love We Deliver**. The team raised \$1,220 for the charity, which provides more than 1.5 million meals each year to more than 6,200 people throughout the New York/New Jersey area who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves.

After the Thanksgiving holiday, colleagues in the Chicago office volunteered to prepare and serve dinner for underprivileged Chicagoans at **Catholic Charities**. Taking part in what has become a holiday tradition were **Mary Anderson, Sophie Frishberg, Jacqui Giannini, Aimee**

Graham, John Kastl, Kathleen Kinsella, Zac Moskowitz, Marilyn Rosen, Rosanne Sangiacomo and Kristine Schanbacher. Catholic Charities assists more than one million people every year across Cook and Lake counties in Illinois.

Also in the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, the Los Angeles office held a food drive to benefit the **Los Angeles Regional Food Bank**. Colleagues donated more than 400 pounds of food, as well as raising money. The food bank supplies more than 670 charitable agencies, providing the equivalent of 830,000 meals every week to low-income children, families, senior citizens and others in need throughout Los Angeles County. Legal support administrator **Linda Aguirre** led the organization of our successful food drive.



Pro Bono News

Winning a visa for victim of human trafficking

Last year, Dentons helped a Guatemalan human trafficking victim obtain a T-Visa, allowing her to remain in the US with her family. The client will have legal status in the US, along with her husband and 6-year-old son, who was born in the US. She was represented by Dentons partner **Jill Kuhn**, who provides pro bono legal services for the **Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN)**, which assists immigrant workers and victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. Jill also serves as Dentons' coordinating lawyer for GAIN matters. In 2007, when she was 18 years old, the client was brought from Guatemala to the US by a Mexican national who promised to marry her and help her make a better life. Instead, he forced her into prostitution. She was able to escape, but later was jailed and deported after she was arrested for shoplifting Christmas gifts at a Sears store in Cobb County, Georgia. Federal agencies brought her back to the US because she agreed to testify in court against her traffickers, who were involved in a trafficking ring being prosecuted by the US Department of Justice.

Protecting Mexican nationals

On behalf of a group of renowned constitutional scholars, the Firm filed an amicus brief in the US Supreme Court regarding the extra-territorial application of Fourth and Fifth Amendment protections to Mexican nationals who are shot and killed on the Mexican side of the US-Mexico border by US Border Patrol agents. The case, *Hernández*

v. Mesa, was argued Feb. 21. It arises from a Fifth Circuit en banc opinion, which denied relief to the family of an unarmed Mexican teenager who was shot and killed in Mexican territory by a border agent who fired the fatal shot from the US side of the border. The Fifth Circuit decision created a split with a factually indistinguishable case pending before the Ninth Circuit, in which the Firm also filed an amicus brief. Our efforts in this high-profile pro bono matter are led by San Francisco/Oakland Public Policy and Litigation partner **Jeffrey Bleich**, with assistance from San Francisco Litigation counsel **David Simonton** and senior managing associate **Kelly Fair**. The clients include Prof. Gerald Neuman (Harvard), Prof. Laurence Tribe (Harvard), Prof. Harold Koh (Yale), Prof. Kermit Roosevelt (University of Pennsylvania) and Prof. Alexander Aleinikoff (Columbia).

Securing asylum against the odds

Kansas City Litigation associates **Diane Carter** and **Kate Hart** and partner **Russ Berland**, working with local nonprofit **The Clinic**, secured asylum in the US for a Ghanaian refugee. The client, a traditional fetish priest in Ghana who had converted to Christianity, was assaulted and persecuted by his family and local village for refusing to continue his customary practices. Facing death threats, he fled to the United States, where he was detained as an illegal immigrant for more than seven months before the merits of his asylum application were heard. As a native speaker of Asante Twi, a language spoken by fewer than 10 million people globally, the client's minimal English posed a major obstacle. Our team identified a Twi-speaking college professor in the Kansas City area who enthusiastically volunteered to interpret. Overcoming both the language barrier and the difficult odds against African refugees seeking asylum, our client can now start a new life in the US, and begin efforts to rejoin his family through further immigration proceedings.

Winning clemency for a Chicago chef

Dentons successfully obtained a pardon for client Grayson Hendricks from Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner. **Ben Weinberg** and **Geoffrey Miller** represented Hendricks in filing his petition for executive clemency and at his hearing before the Illinois Prisoner Review Board. Hendricks was convicted in 1999 for unlawful delivery of a controlled substance (his only conviction ever). After serving his sentence, Hendricks moved to Chicago to pursue a career in the culinary arts and attended the Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago. After receiving his culinary degree, Hendricks interviewed for a chef position at the Standard Club in



Chicago. Although the high-end private club has a policy of not hiring felons, it made an exception and hired Hendricks as a banquet cook. Hendricks was later laid off due to the recession but was able to get a job as a concierge at the Standard Club. Hendricks sought clemency to expunge his felony from his record so that he can better pursue his dream of becoming a chef.

Defending victims of domestic violence

In another critical win for a pro bono client protected by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, Litigation partner **Charlie Bird** (San Diego) and managing associate **Marilyn Rosen** (Chicago) defeated an appeal of an order of protection issued by Cook County. The court's published opinion prevents a party to an existing family law case from demanding substitution of the judge when a victim of domestic violence seeks an order of protection in the case. Charlie led the appellate work on this matter, while Marilyn provided support liaising with the **Domestic Violence Legal Clinic** and communicating with the court and opposing counsel.

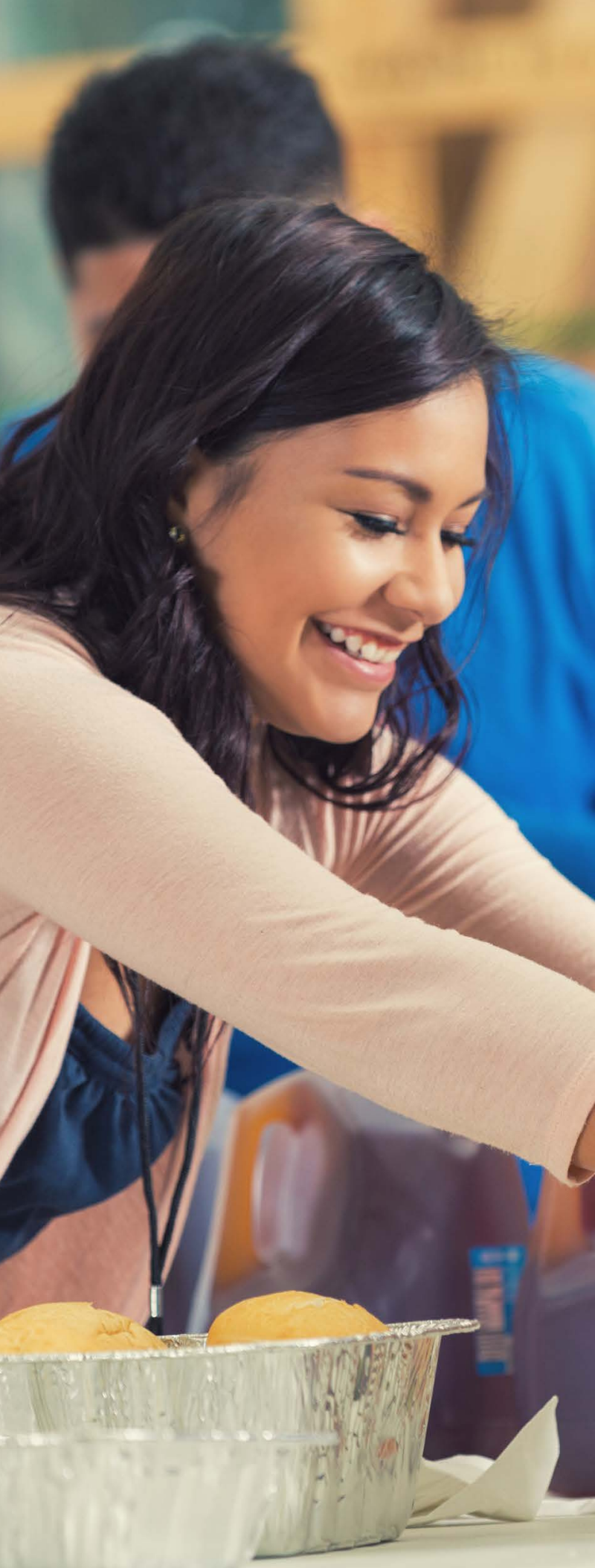
Working for injured veterans

New York partner **Andi Mandell** has performed critical work for the **Gary Sinise Foundation**, aided by New York partner **Marty Rosen** (himself a World War II veteran), senior managing associate **Anthony Roselle** and managing associate **Ryan Zucchetto**. The Gary Sinise Foundation, through its **R.I.S.E.** (Restoring Independence, Supporting Empowerment) program, provides high-quality and specially adapted housing for severely injured veterans. Our team works with the R.I.S.E. program to help veterans place their new homes in trusts to ensure financial security, prepares their necessary documentation and educates them about the responsibilities and requirements of home ownership.

Ushering a documentary film to debut

Creative Visions Foundation, a longtime pro bono client of San Francisco Litigation associate **Sarah Eskandari** and Chicago Intellectual Property and Technology counsel **Tara Reedy Sliva**, has had a feature film completed after many years in the making. *The Journey Is the Destination* is based on the life of late photojournalist Dan Eldon, who was tragically killed on assignment in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993, and who inspired the nonprofit's mission of promoting activism through creativity. *The Journey Is the Destination* premiered at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival in September 2016, screening as a Gala Presentation.





Helping a peacemaker get a new home

New York Real Estate partner **Andy Weiner**, counsel **Katherine Barger** and law clerk **Zachary Gotlib** will represent the **EastWest Institute**, pro bono, regarding its new headquarters lease in Manhattan. The EastWest Institute is an independent nongovernmental organization that works to reduce international conflict.

Aiding immigrants as friend of the court

Representing the **American Bar Association** pro bono, the Firm filed an amicus brief urging the US Supreme Court to require automatic bond hearings for immigrants facing prolonged detention. San Francisco/Oakland partner **Jeffrey Bleich** led the Litigation team, which included senior managing associate **Ian Barker** (San Francisco/Oakland), managing associates **Peter Stockburger** (San Diego) and **Benjamin Harbuck** (St. Louis) and associate **Andrew Legolvan** (San Francisco/Oakland). The ABA touted our brief in the “highly watched” *Jennings v. Rodriguez* case, and the director of the ABA’s Commission on Immigration gave her “kudos” to the Firm’s “excellent team.” The brief was also profiled in a *Law360* article. Since this filing, members of the team have been retained to prepare Supreme Court amicus briefs on behalf of the University of California, a group of constitutional law scholars and a group of California Indian tribes.

Stemming the toll of gun violence

The Firm, with the leadership of San Francisco/Oakland partner **Jeffrey Bleich** and Chicago partner **Donna Vobornik**, has joined other law firms and nonprofits in an initiative critical to communities in which we live and work: **Lawyers Unite to Fight Gun Violence**. Alongside Arnold & Porter, Covington & Burling, Hogan Lovells, Munger Tolles & Olson, O’Melveny & Myers and Paul Weiss, the coalition and its pro bono efforts are dedicated to leveraging the resources and commitment of the legal community to reduce gun violence, while respecting all rights protected in the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. Through this engagement, and with the core goal of protecting one of America’s most basic freedoms—the right to live—coalition members will independently pursue pro bono contributions in support of actions that each believes are appropriate. From domestic violence to suicide to accidents to crimes, gun violence claims nearly 100 American lives, including seven youths, every day—surpassing the rate of nearly every other developed country in the world combined. The efforts to prevent abuses will include halting the illegal import of firearms and unlawful sales to criminals.

Community Engagement News

Educating high-school kids on the law

As part of the **Street Law** program, the Firm teamed with **Precision Medicine Group** to educate students from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Maryland. The sessions, both in the classroom and in our Washington, DC, office, examined legal aspects of contracts, advertising, sexual harassment, witness interviews, opening statements and other subjects. The Street Law program has been committed to educating students about law, democracy and human rights since 1972. Taking part were **Leslie Barry, Randy Bregman, Allison Cohen, Vedia Biton Eidelman, Ramy Fayed, Nancy Grunberg, Laura Jennings, Matthew Lafferman, Holley Thames Lutz, Jennifer Morrissey, William O'Brien, Daniela O'Mara, Jessica Rebarber, Jason Reichlyn, Caroline Reigart, Jonathan Sohn** and **Joanne Zimolzak**, with outstanding logistical and administrative support provided by **Patricia Parris**.

Providing kids with free eye exams

Members of the Kansas City office volunteered alongside EyeMed, Luxottica and Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company for the **OneSight Vision Van**, a mobile eye clinic that provides school children with free comprehensive eye exams and free eyeglasses. The Vision Van served

nearly 500 children over the course of five days, drawing praise from local media and Kansas City Mayor Sly James. Partners **Bruce Baty** and **Jason Scheiderer**, senior managing associate **Wade Carr**, managing associate **R.J. Morrison** and technical support specialist **Thomas Haslett** were among those contributing to the cause.

Feeding Atlanta's hungry

Some 37 colleagues in our Atlanta office made 1,200 sandwiches to benefit neighboring **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**. Special events assistant **Carol Barach**, events and sustainability manager **Laura Miller** and administrative assistant **Wanda Pollard** organized our participation. Through its **Crossroads** project, St. Luke's provides more than 60,000 meals every year to underprivileged members of the community. The organization also helps more than 3,000 people per year obtain paperwork necessary to receiving vital benefits, helps 350 people per month use the Crossroads mail room and helps more than 4,000 people per year receive case management services. Through such coordinated community efforts, Crossroads provides aid and services to more than half of Atlanta's homeless population—helping the number of homeless decline for five straight years.



Golfing to raise funds for the disabled

Chicago Corporate partner **Ken Kolmin** co-chaired a charity golf outing for **Little City**, a nonprofit that provides services for people with developmental disabilities. The event raised more than \$240,000. Ken, along with Corporate managing associate **Phil Holland** and associate **Jessica Lehr**, represented Little City pro bono in its recent merger with other charitable organizations.

Aiding Louisiana flood victims

New Orleans counsel **Ryan Reeves** is leading efforts to collect and distribute items of need for people displaced by the catastrophic flooding in Louisiana, and to help them care for their pets while recovery continues. Colleagues in New York, Denver, Kansas City and elsewhere have contributed toys, treats, vitamins and other pets supplies, and collection efforts are ongoing around the US.

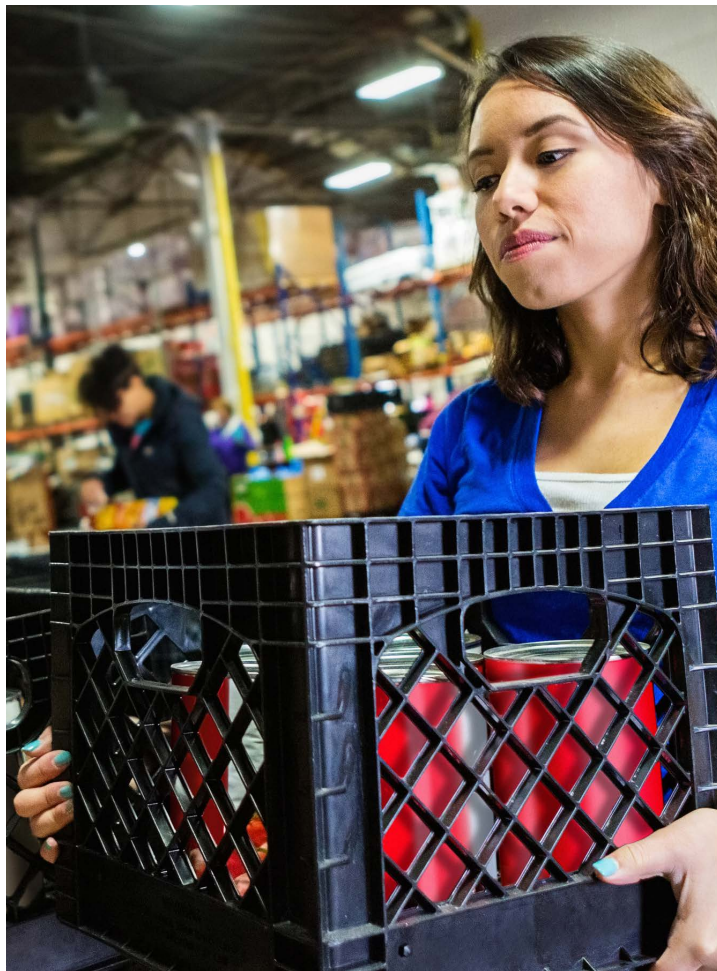
Running to raise funds for legal services

Nearly 50 colleagues from the Chicago office, along with family and friends, donned their running shoes for

Race Judicata. The annual 5K run along Lake Michigan raises money for **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**, the preeminent provider of pro bono civil legal aid to the Chicago area's poor and working poor. **Team Dentons** saw runners and walkers cross the finish line, including the team's top-10 finishers: **Maria Goodyear**, **Corey Sealy**, **Candice Chetty**, **Zac Moskowitz**, **Amanda Ramirez**, **Kyle Seay** (husband of Kristine Schanbacher), **Anuja Oak**, **Shelby Sklar**, **Jennifer Munsayac** and **Christopher Gonzalez**. Maria organized our participation, with the support of partners **Mary Wilson** and **Ben Weinberg**. The Firm was also a Medalist Sponsor.

Raising funds for low-income girls

Chicago Real Estate associate **Shelby Sklar** ran the Chicago Marathon as part of a team raising money for **Girls on the Run Chicago**, a nonprofit that offers after-school programs to girls from low-income families. Donations from Firm colleagues helped Shelby raise \$1,500, enough to provide 10 children with scholarships for these programs.



Recognition

Dentons senior counsel **Harold Hirshman** was honored with the 2016 **Distinguished Public Service Award** from the **Public Interest Law Initiative** for his outstanding contributions to public interest law and pro bono work in Illinois. The organization noted Hirschman's nearly 50-year career as "a tireless advocate for underrepresented populations," whose pro bono work has offered "a chance for justice to those whom society often overlooks." Hirshman, a member of Dentons' Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice, has been a trial lawyer for more than 47 years. His principal areas of focus have been securities class actions, takeover battles, business partner disputes, lender liability claims and accounting malpractice suits.

Atlanta Litigation partner **Petrina McDaniel** was a featured speaker at the semi-annual **NGO Counsel Forum**, addressing privacy and data security best practices before representatives of several influential nongovernmental organizations. Petrina was invited to speak by the general counsel of pro bono client **CARE USA**. Attendees included general counsel from CARE USA, Habitat for Humanity (which hosted the event), Accion, Save the Children and World Vision U.S., among others.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund honored Dentons with 2016 **ALDF Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Awards**, recognizing our pro bono efforts helping the nonprofit protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. The ALDF praised the work of "Team Save Lucky," which successfully helped improve the living conditions of Lucky, a 56-year-old female Asian elephant at the San Antonio Zoo, via the citizen suit provision of the Endangered Species Act. The team consists of partners **Tony Eliseuson** (Chicago) and **Matt Nickel** (Dallas), managing associates **Blake Brownshadel** and **Spencer Hamilton** and associate **Marina Stefanova** (all Dallas), along with associate **Matthew Lafferman** (Washington, DC) and paralegal **Carolyn Taylor** (Dallas). The ALDF also honored Tony and Chicago managing associate **Marilyn Rosen** for winning a Freedom of Information Act complaint against the City of Chicago Animal Care and Control over records relating to the treatment of animals in its care. In addition to obtaining key records, the Firm secured a \$77,000 fee award that will help ALDF fund other projects.



Washington, DC, Public Policy and Regulation senior advisor **Juan Carlos Iturregui** has been elevated to vice chair of the board of directors of the **Inter-American Foundation**. In 2015, Juan Carlos was appointed to a five-year term on the board by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate. In his new role, he will help guide the IAF as it reaches its 50th anniversary in 2019, pledging to triple its impact and escalate its work on public-private collaborations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IAF, an independent agency of the US government, provides development assistance directly to the organized poor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lawyers Alliance for New York presented Dentons with one of its two 2016 **Cornerstone Awards**, the highest business law pro bono honor in New York. The Cornerstone Awards recognize firms and lawyers who serve nonprofits improving the quality of life for low-income New Yorkers. We have partnered with Lawyers Alliance for more than 18 years, serving more than 75 nonprofit clients on more than 90 pro bono matters, including 22 cases during the past year. Lawyers Alliance praised the Firm for our "critical guidance," adding that, "Helping communities in need is at the heart of the firm's pro bono and corporate responsibility work." New York partners **Brian Cousin**, **Bob McCarthy** and **Sandy Hauser** have been leading our team's extensive pro bono efforts in the city for several years.

US Pro Bono Committee

Jessica Abrahams
Washington, DC



Christopher Lee
Phoenix



Ben Weinberg
Chicago



Dan Beale
Atlanta



Sarah Carlson
St. Louis



David Cowart
Dallas



Sandy Hauser
New York



Chris Humphreys
San Diego



Heather Khassian
Houston



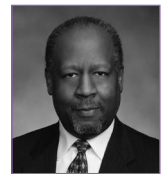
Bonnie Lau
San Francisco



Lino Lipinsky
Denver



Presley Reed
Washington, DC



Ivor Samson
San Francisco



Tom Vandiver
Los Angeles



Phil White
Short Hills, NJ



Felix Woo
Los Angeles



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