

Justice Matters: Pro Bono Newsletter

April 2016

Simpson Thacher Helps Secure Major Title IX Changes for High School Girls

Simpson Thacher, in partnership with the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center and California Women's Law Center, has helped bring about major changes under Title IX for high school girls in Ventura County, California. In May 2015, the Firm and its nonprofit partners sent a demand letter on behalf of female athletes to Santa Paula High School alleging numerous Title IX violations with respect to athletic participation opportunities, treatment and benefits for girls. More specifically, the demand letter alleged athletic gender inequities in Santa Paula's PE and interscholastic athletic programs, including older gyms and locker rooms used for girls, fewer female participants involved in sports, and other gender inequities in the softball facilities, transportation to practices, games, coaches and training. Santa Paula immediately started to explore how to bring its facilities and programs into compliance with Title IX and adopted a resolution reflecting its commitment to gender equity and Title IX compliance. After lengthy negotiations, Santa Paula improved and is maintaining equitable athletic facilities for girls and boys; offering additional girls' athletic teams; increasing outreach to girls to participate in sports; and providing additional Title IX training to its coaches and administrators, among other things. This



is a model resolution involving cooperative efforts by both sides to timely, comprehensively, efficiently and effectively bring positive changes to the girls at Santa Paula High School. The Simpson Thacher team included **Buzz Frahn, Jayma Meyer, Michael Freedman, Lee Brand** and **Adam Pullano**.

Simpson Thacher Works on Behalf of Veterans

Inspired by work on behalf of individual veterans denied disability benefits, Simpson Thacher has begun working on a reform litigation challenging the substantial delays in the veterans courts. With our co-counsel, Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services

In This Issue

- ▶ Simpson Thacher Helps Secure Major Title IX Changes for High School Girls
- ▶ Simpson Thacher Works on Behalf of Veterans
- ▶ Recent Pro Bono Achievements
- ▶ Awards and Events

Upcoming Programs*

Board Service for Attorneys, co-hosted by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and United Way
Wednesday, May 18th, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. EST

Securing Debt Relief for Low Income New Yorkers, Training
Wednesday, June 8th, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. EST

Advising Low-Income Entrepreneurs: Contract Clinic with Blackstone's Legal & Compliance Group
Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EST

Completing Naturalization Applications for Low-Income Immigrants
Date TBA

*Hosted in NY. Videoconference is available for all offices. Please RSVP to Carola Beeney.

Clinic, the litigation seeks to address the inordinate amount of time—nearly four years, on average—a veteran must wait to receive a ruling on an appeal after being denied benefits for service-connected disabilities. The team is being led by **Lynn Neuner** and **Elisa Alcabes**, with several associates including **Lauren Repole**, **Michael Brasky** and **Daniel Cohen**.

Earlier this year, attorneys at the Firm were successful in resolving two claims on behalf of veteran clients. In February, the Veteran's Administration (VA) granted our client's disability claim, assigning the highest possible disability rating for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which arose from sexual assault she experienced while in the service. The decision substantially increased her monthly payments and allows for retroactive benefit payments. In addition, by granting our client's PTSD claim, the VA has acknowledged the sexual assault that took her decades to report.

The Firm also successfully obtained an award from the VA including substantial monthly disability compensation plus a lump sum in retroactive payments for a Vietnam veteran with PTSD, diabetes and other service-connected disabilities. The attorneys initially represented this former Marine Corps veteran in achieving an upgrade in his discharge status—a necessary predicate to seeking VA benefits. The VA award reflects recognition of our client's dedicated military service, including months of active combat in Vietnam, which left him with multiple physical and psychological wounds.

Both cases were overseen by **Elisa Alcabes**, who received the 2014 Jeremy G. Epstein Award for Pro Bono Service from The City Bar Justice Center for her work on these matters. **Katie McDonough** worked on the first matter and **Michael Brasky** and **Charles Mathes** worked on the second matter.

Recent Pro Bono Achievements

Simpson Thacher Defends Washington Tenant from Eviction

Attorneys in Simpson Thacher's Washington, D.C. office assisted a tenant with keeping his home after he was threatened with eviction from his apartment for multiple alleged lease violations. The landlord dismissed all claims against the tenant with prejudice following a brief monitoring period. The case was referred by Legal Aid of the District of Columbia. The team included **Elliot Weingarten**, **Andy Hasty** and **Peter Thomas**.

Simpson Thacher Secures Asylum for Nigerian Man

Simpson Thacher successfully secured a grant of asylum for a Nigerian man who had been the victim of violence and feared further persecution in his home country because of his sexual orientation. The pro bono matter was referred to the Firm by Immigration Equality, an organization dedicated to supporting LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants seeking safety, fair treatment and freedom. The team included **Rachel Sparks Bradley**, **Kevin Roe**, and **M. Shin** and was supervised by **Olga Gutman**.

Simpson Thacher Wins Appeal on Behalf of California Victim of Domestic Violence

On December 15, Simpson Thacher won its pro bono appeal of the denial of a five-year restraining order renewal for an indigent victim of domestic violence. A panel of the California Court of Appeal unanimously held that the trial court abused its discretion by denying the renewal and instead merely warning the abuser that a new restraining order would issue if he continued his abusive conduct. The team included **Jason Bussey** and **Liz White**.

Simpson Thacher Wins Asylum for Two Ecuadorian Children

Simpson Thacher successfully secured grants of asylum for two unaccompanied minors from Ecuador who had been subjected to years of physical and emotional abuse by their primary caregivers. The pro bono matter was referred to the Firm by Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). The team included **Andrew Dempster**, **Stephanie Acosta Inks**, **Adrienne Baxley**, and **Magallie Kortright**, and **Craig Waldman**.

Simpson Thacher Represents National Women's Law Center before the U.S. Supreme Court

Simpson Thacher filed an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court on behalf of the National Women's Law Center in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*. The case challenges Texas' statutory requirement that abortion facilities meet certain standards of ambulatory surgical centers and that abortion providers have admitting privileges in a local hospital. Simpson Thacher's brief argued that the right to make reproductive decisions is essential to women's dignity and equality, and that the abortion restrictions at issue infringe on that right, specifically examining the negative effect of such restrictions on women's economic security and opportunities. The team included **Mary Beth**

Forshaw, Jayma Meyer, Isaac Rethy, Michelle Kallen, Julia Heald, and Carson Zhou.

Simpson Thacher Wins Appeal on Behalf of Mother of Two in a Child Support Matter

On February 23, Simpson Thacher won a pro bono appeal in a child support matter on behalf of a mother of two. The Queens County Family Court had vacated the mother's award of child support, including nearly \$20,000 in arrears, on the basis of objections by the children's father. A panel of the Second Department of the Appellate Division unanimously held that the Family Court erred in granting the father's objections, reinstating the mother's petition. The team included **Mary Kay Vyskocil** and **R. David Gallo**.

Simpson Thacher Secures Dismissal of Holdover Petition for Low-Income Tenant

Simpson Thacher secured the dismissal of a holdover petition filed against its pro bono client in New York City Housing Court. The client's landlord purported to terminate her lease on the basis of noise complaints and then brought a holdover petition against her in New York City Housing Court when she did not vacate her apartment. The Firm defended the client in the holdover proceeding and asserted counterclaims against the landlord for harassment, nuisance and retaliatory eviction. After months of negotiations with counsel for the landlord, the parties agreed to a stipulation of settlement dismissing their claims with prejudice. The stipulation was so ordered by the Housing Court on December 21, 2015. The team included **Bill Russell, Linton Mann, Zander Li** and **Nathan Sanders**.

Simpson Thacher Obtains Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Siblings from El Salvador

Attorneys from the Washington, D.C. office successfully obtained Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and lawful permanent residency for two siblings who fled gang violence in El Salvador. The Simpson Thacher team had previously obtained the same relief for the siblings' older brother. The matter was referred to the Firm by Kids In Need of Defense. The team included **Sara Clingan, Nicholas Ridley, Natalie Deriu, Allyce Estremera**, and **Peter Thomas**.

Simpson Thacher Represents Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Simpson Thacher assisted the nonprofit Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps with corporate governance and due diligence issues in connection with obtaining grant money to purchase the new ambulance (pictured below). The team included **Matt Levy** and **Bryce Friedman**.



Awards and Events

Simpson Thacher Wins National Public Service Award for Pro Bono Small Business Program

Simpson Thacher will receive the 2016 National Public Service Award by the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. The award recognizes significant pro bono legal services that demonstrate a commitment to providing services to the poor in a business context, and recognizes the achievements resulting from the public service work for the clients and the client groups represented. Award recipients have demonstrated dedication to the development or delivery of pro bono business legal services, contributed significant work toward developing innovative approaches to the delivery of pro bono business legal services, and/or provided sustained pro bono business legal counsel to nonprofit organizations or to microbusinesses in aid of community development.

Simpson Thacher's small business pro bono program has been running for over 10 years and has helped thousands of low income individuals wanting to start or maintain small businesses. The program is currently overseen by **Jeffrey Lieberman, Matthew Farrell** and **Meaghan Krupa**.

Simpson Thacher Honored by NRDC

The Firm was honored with a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Natural Resources Defense Council for over 45 years of guidance, mentorship and protection through pro bono legal service and service on NRDC's Board of Trustees. According to the resolution, "Over more than four decades, NRDC and Simpson Thacher have worked in partnership to protect the environment and people's health and ensure a sustainable future for our planet, and Simpson Thacher's contributions to NRDC are an indelible part of the history of the environmental movement in the United States." The resolution was presented to **Bill Dougherty** and also noted that Simpson Thacher's support is unmatched in the number of pro bono hours spent, the quality of advice and service provided, and the length of time over which it has been sustained for NRDC.



Simpson Thacher Receives Pro Bono Leadership Award from Legal Services NYC

Simpson Thacher received the Pro Bono Leadership Award from Legal Services NYC for being one of its top pro bono partners in 2015 and for the Firm's long-standing support of its work and its clients. The award was presented at its annual Jazz for Justice event at Cipriani 42nd Street on March 31, 2016.



Her Justice's Executive Director, Amy Barasch, and Legal Director, Jennifer DeCarli, presenting Harlene Katzman (center) with the Commitment to Justice Award.

Simpson Thacher and Morgan Stanley Host Lunch Presentation of Jointly Sponsored Equal Justice Works Fellow on the Refugee and Immigration Work of Human Rights First

On January 20, 2016, Simpson Thacher and our colleagues at Morgan Stanley welcomed Shaw Drake, Equal Justice Works Fellow and Hardy Vieux, Legal Director at Human Rights First.

Simpson Thacher Associates John Bennett and Kevin Roe Teach NYLPI Class



Kevin Roe, John Bennett

Simpson Thacher's longtime pro bono partner New York Lawyers for the Public Interest co-sponsored a client workshop with The Foundation Center, Nonprofit Coordinating

Harlene Katzman Received a 2016 Commitment to Justice Award from Her Justice

Harlene Katzman received the 2016 Pro Bono Counsel Award from Her Justice as part of its 2016 Commitment to Justice Awards. The award recognizes the commitment of legal volunteers who generously donated their time and expertise last year to help women and their families receive the legal support they desperately needed. The award was presented on March 30, 2016.

Committee and Human Services Counsel on lobbying and advocacy for nonprofits. Exempt Organizations attorneys **John Bennett** and **Kevin Roe** taught the class. Representatives from over 50 nonprofits attended.

Simpson Thacher Participates in New York Cares Winter Wishes Program

As Simpson Thacher has done for the past several years, it again participated in the New York Cares Winter Wishes program in New York City during 2015. With the help of over 215 partners, associates and staff in the New York office, the firm provided over 425 children in the New York area with thoughtful and generous gifts for the 2015 holidays! Coordinated by **Jeannine McSweeney**, **Eric Wolf** and **Denise Samuels**, the Winter Wishes program at Simpson Thacher continues to grow and make a meaningful difference to children throughout New York. After a successful 2015 program, Simpson Thacher looks forward to putting even more smiles on young faces in 2016.



Jeannine McSweeney, Denise Samuels and Eric Wolf

Simpson Thacher Holds Pro Bono Recognition Events Throughout its U.S. Offices

The Firm celebrated its 2015 pro bono contributions with office receptions honoring attorneys and legal assistants who devoted 100 or more hours to pro bono service, and recognizing those who devoted between 25 and 100 hours. Our deepest appreciation goes out to the lawyers and legal assistants who represented the many low income clients, organizations that serve them and others needing our assistance.



Left to right: Chet Kronenberg, Adam Pullano, Charlie Reiter, Jessica Marek, Tyler Bernstein, Kevin Kroll, Matt Cave



Left to right: Harrison "Buzz" Frahn, Kevin Kennedy, Alexis Coll-Very, Mike Joshi, Jason Bussey, Neils Melius, Kimberly Ingram, Linda Nyberg, Chris James, Amber Harezlak, Adam Crider, Jenny Palmer, Jaewon Lee, Jonathan Mincer



Matt Farrell



Nathan Sanders and Chris Hultman



P.J. Campbell and May Mansour



John Bennett, Maura Whelan, Dave Shevlin and Kevin Roe



Lynn Neuner and David Williams



Josh Polster



Bill Russell and Harlene Katzman



Joe Kaufman, Matt Levy and Leslie Peng



Elisa Alcabes and Lauren Repole



Matthew Bricker



Dan Levien and Andrew Yong



Nadine Mompremier and Reena Mittelman



Michael Waks and Ariana Evarts



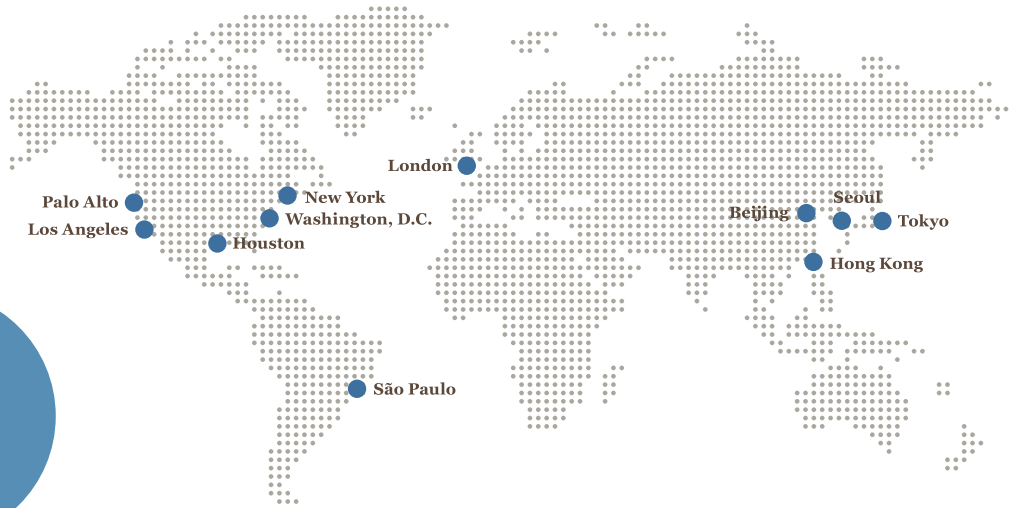
Noah Leibowitz, Justin Lungstrum and Susan Osnato



Makiko Harunari, Susan Osnato, Carola Beeney and Christine Lopez



Attendees mingling



UNITED STATES

New York
425 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017
+1-212-455-2000

Houston
600 Travis Street, Suite 5400
Houston, TX 77002
+1-713-821-5650

Los Angeles
1999 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067
+1-310-407-7500

Palo Alto
2475 Hanover Street
Palo Alto, CA 94304
+1-650-251-5000

Washington, D.C.
900 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
+1-202-636-5500

EUROPE

London
CityPoint
One Ropemaker Street
London EC2Y 9HU
England
+44-(0)20-7275-6500

ASIA

Beijing
3901 China World Tower
1 Jian Guo Men Wai Avenue
Beijing 100004
China
+86-10-5965-2999

Hong Kong
ICBC Tower
3 Garden Road, Central
Hong Kong
+852-2514-7600

Seoul
25th Floor, West Tower
Mirae Asset Center 1
26 Eulji-ro 5-gil, Jung-gu
Seoul 100-210
Korea
+82-2-6030-3800

Tokyo
Ark Hills Sengokuyama Mori Tower
9-10, Roppongi 1-Chome
Minato-Ku, Tokyo 106-0032
Japan
+81-3-5562-6200

SOUTH AMERICA

São Paulo
Av. Presidente Juscelino
Kubitschek, 1455
São Paulo, SP 04543-011
Brazil
+55-11-3546-1000