



# PRO BONO PUBLICO

## A Quarterly *Pro Bono* Newsletter

January 2009

### LETTERS FROM CO-CHAIRS OF THE PRO BONO COMMITTEE



William Russell



Todd Crider

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the *Pro Bono* Newsletter, a quarterly newsletter that will highlight the public interest work performed by the firm and recognize the lawyers and staff making significant contributions to our *pro bono* practice and other public service initiatives.

Simpson Thacher has a longstanding commitment to *pro bono* and public service. Throughout our history, the firm has served as an example of a private firm using its resources to further the public good both through the performance of *pro bono* legal work and the service by our lawyers in

leadership positions in government and public service organizations.

This Newsletter highlights certain notable and representative successes in 2008, but these are but a small fraction of the over 60,000 hours of *pro bono* legal services provided by the firm in 2008. Our attorneys in 2008 worked varied *pro bono* matters including among others:

- twenty cases involving representation of victims of domestic violence,
- seven appellants in criminal appeals,
- fourteen micro-entrepreneurs of limited means establishing new businesses,
- eleven cases for students (and their families) from troubled New York City schools in matters affecting their education,
- ten persons seeking asylum from across the globe,
- numerous not-for-profits with their incorporation and tax exempt applications or ongoing challenges, and

Celebrating  
**125**  
YEARS  
1884-2009

- innovative international projects like a joint project with The Nature Conservancy promoting private land conservation in South America.

And much more.

*Pro bono* legal services are a defining characteristic of Simpson Thacher's culture. That commitment must, however, be renewed by each generation. The new Rules of Professional Conduct for New York State approved in December 2008 specify that "Every lawyer should aspire (. . .) to provide at least 20 hours of *pro bono* legal services each year to poor persons." In 2008, 39% of our lawyers exceeded 20 hours of *pro bono* service. We believe that substantially all of our lawyers should achieve this standard. However, unlike some firms, we are equally persuaded that *pro bono* legal service should be voluntary, not mandatory. Accordingly, our *Pro Bono* Committee is dedicated to broadening the opportunities afforded to our lawyers in the belief that, given the right opportunity to assist and provide effective assistance to others, most of us will elect to do so.

To achieve this objective, we are thrilled that Harlene Katzman has joined the firm as our first *Pro Bono* Counsel and Director. She comes to us from Columbia Law School where she was Dean for the Center of Public Interest Law. Already she has energized our *pro bono* practice. This Newsletter is just one example of her efforts.

As Co-Chairs of our firm's *Pro Bono* Committee we are grateful for the commitment of the firm's leadership and of its individual lawyers to *pro bono* legal services. Our efforts in the public interest ennoble our profession, bring credit to our joint enterprise and provide help where help is needed. In this -- our 125th year -- it is appropriate both to celebrate the past public service achievements of our firm and to reinvigorate our efforts to ensure that our generation upholds and advances the high standards of our heritage.

Bill Russell and Todd Crider  
Co-Chairs, *Pro Bono* Committee

## LETTER FROM PRO BONO COUNSEL



Harlene Katzman

I am thrilled to be working at Simpson Thacher and have already confirmed that the firm's reputation as a place of integrity, dedication, great intellect and enthusiasm for both the law and serving the public is true to the core. I appreciate the warmth and support with which I have been welcomed, and I am ready to get to work.

It is a bright and crisp January morning as I write this first letter for Simpson Thacher's inaugural *pro bono* newsletter. On the lighter side of things, excitement about the Superbowl and the Inauguration fill the elevators. Stories of our next president clinging to his Blackberry echo throughout the cafeteria. It is a good day -- a day filled with hope for a new year. But we must reflect on the year that has gone by and recognize that our nation faces great economic challenges ahead -- challenges that we, as lawyers, are singularly equipped to address. Tough economic times have hit the neediest members of our society in powerful ways. From the collapse of foundations which keep alive human and civil rights organizations, to the loss of government and private funding for many of the biggest legal services providers in the country, our public interest colleagues are desperately struggling to meet the needs of poor people. At the same time, more and more people lose their homes, benefits and jobs, and more and more not-for-profits and small businesses struggle to stay alive, thus increasing the number of poor people seeking assistance from legal services organizations. It is a critical time in our history, a time where we who have been privileged to receive excellent education and training as lawyers need to step up to fill the gap. I urge every single attorney, partners and associates alike, to make a commitment to yourself, to the firm, and to society to help fill this gap by taking at least one *pro bono* matter in 2009. STB has been known to be a leader in the delivery of *pro bono* services. Let's work together to be a leader in addressing the crisis for poor people in this country.

Harlene Katzman  
*Pro Bono* Counsel and Director

## ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR MENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS IN CALIFORNIA



*Clockwise starting with: Sara Wilcox, holding "Public Interest Counsel Champions" award from the Law Foundation, Patrick King, Adam Oles, Alexis Coll-Very and Thomas Stout and Christina Hioureas (center)*

On November 10, 2008, attorneys from Simpson Thacher's Palo Alto office filed with the Superior Court for the State of California a conditional settlement agreement that greatly expands the rights of elderly adults with mental health disabilities to access state licensed housing.

The settlement is the culmination of nearly three years of litigation. STB partnered with co-counsel at the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (the "Law Foundation") to bring claims on behalf of the California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates ("CAMHPRA") against the California Department of Social Services ("DSS") and various state officials. CAMHPRA charged defendants with disability discrimination, age discrimination, and violations of state and federal due process rights. These claims were based on regulations that, as drafted and applied, denied certain elderly adults with mental health disabilities meaningful access to facilities designed to accommodate such individuals.

Initially, DSS contended that the charged discrimination either (i) did not exist or (ii) merely reflected isolated misapplications of regulations that were fair and nondiscriminatory on their face. During the course of the ensuing litigation, however, associates from the firm, working with the Law Foundation, took nearly a dozen depositions and conducted a statewide fact investigation that revealed extensive problems arising from the regulations. In the hard-fought litigation, CAMHPRA won every single dispositive, procedural, and discovery motion put before the court. All of these motions were argued by junior and mid-level associates in the firm's Palo Alto

office. Finally, a month before opening arguments were scheduled to begin, defendants agreed to sit down to discuss settlement with CAMHPRA. Facing the prospect of an imminent trial against a dedicated, enthusiastic, and organized trial team, the Attorney General for the State of California and DSS agreed to settle. The settlement effectively gave CAMHPRA everything it sought in bringing the case: a substantial rewrite of the offending regulations, extensive changes to the DSS policy manuals, and DSS's agreement to undertake significant re-training of personnel to ensure the newly amended regulations are implemented consistently across the state. DSS is required under the settlement to make the newly amended regulations effective by no later than August 2009. At such time, the conditions to settlement will be met and the settlement will be final.

The Simpson Thacher team that helped achieve this remarkable result on behalf of CAMHPRA included PA Partners **Patrick King** and **Alexis Coll-Very**, PA Associates **Isabelle Young**, **Thomas Stout**, **Sara Wilcox**, **Michael Bogomolny**, **Christina Hioureas**, and paralegal **Adam Oles**, as well as former associates **Sarah Banola**, **Rebecca Hoberg**, and **Michele Kemmerling** and former paralegals **Hershel Lelaind**, **Paula Montfort**, and **Steve Burge**. A number of summer associates also contributed to the case over three summers. The Law Foundation team included Kyra Kazantzis, James Zahradka, Brenna Silberstein, Dave Carducci, Alison Brunner, Melissa Morris, and investigator Leslie Cook.

## ASYLUM

The latest in a long string of asylum victories, STB lawyers win asylum for two of its *pro bono* clients.

### "Paulo"

STB attorneys have won asylum in the U.S. for 26-year-old "Paulo," who suffered severe past persecution in his native Brazil on account of his sexual orientation.

Starting at an early age, Paulo was targeted for abuse because of his effeminate appearance. He was viciously mocked by his family, ostracized by peers, and sexually abused by neighbors. When he was fifteen, his father beat

him severely upon discovering that Paulo had a boyfriend. At sixteen, Paulo was detained overnight in one of Brazil's notorious police "lockups," where he was placed in a cell with adults and raped repeatedly. Several years later, when Paulo and his boyfriend failed to pay bribes to police, they were sexually assaulted, arrested, and imprisoned.

Humiliated and traumatized, Paulo fled to the United States in 2005. However, he was unaware that he was eligible for asylum at that time. Paulo went to Immigration Equality in April 2008. Shortly thereafter, his case was referred to Simpson Thacher. In October 2008, Paulo was granted asylee status, without being referred to Immigration Court. Paulo's STB team included NY Partner **Joe Tringali**; NY Associate **Jacob Press**; Summer Associates **Taamiti Bankole**, **Craig Katerberg**, and **Katherine Grealis**; and Paralegal **Magallie Kortright**.

#### "MR. C"

Simpson Thacher attorneys also successfully represented a Chadian refugee, "Mr. C", before the Newark Immigration Court on October 31, 2008, where Mr. C was granted asylum in the United States. In Chad, soldiers persecuted Mr. C, then 21, because they believed that they could extract information about the location of his father who they believed to be a rebel sympathizer. Mr. C was taken to a secret prison where he was starved and tortured for five days. Fearing death, Mr. C escaped his captors and fled his country.

In granting the application, the Honorable Judge Annie Garcie held that Mr. C was desperately in need of protection and that humanitarian concern demanded that he be granted asylum. In agreement, the government waived its right to appeal. New York Associates **Thomas Ling**, **Mark Brod**, and **Celine Hwang** represented Mr. C before Judge Garcie. London Associate **Wim De Vlieger**, **Mark Brod** and **Celine Hwang** also represented Mr. C in connection with his asylum application and before the Asylum Office. Mr. C's case also received significant assistance from paralegal **Alexandra Schneider** and former Simpson associates **Saul de la Guardia** and **Karen Won**.

### IMMIGRANT DETAINEE'S LAWSUIT AGAINST THE U.S. FOR SUBSTANDARD HIV/AIDS MEDICAL TREATMENT

In a challenging case, New York Associate **Ryan Kane** and New York Partner **Joe Tringali** represented an immigrant with HIV/AIDS who was detained by the United States for over four years. Prior to our client's detention, he was healthy and had an undetectable HIV viral load. While our client was in detention, the government provided him substandard medical care, including placing him on inappropriate medications, failing to supply his life-saving HIV medications on numerous occasions, and keeping him on failing drug regimens until he nearly developed full-blown AIDS. As a result of the government's inadequate medical care, our client developed resistance to a number of the most useful HIV medications, which significantly reduces his future treatment options and lowers his chances for long-term survival.

Ryan and Joe filed a Federal Tort Claim Act lawsuit against the United States seeking damages as a result of the government's negligent medical treatment of our client. The case involved extensive discovery regarding the medical treatment our client received while in detention. As part of discovery, Ryan and Joe deposed the physician who primarily treated our client while in detention and a number of government officials with respect to the government's policies for providing medical care to immigrant detainees. They also conducted expert discovery and retained an HIV specialist who opined on the inadequacy of our client's medical treatment.

The lawsuit presented a number of novel legal issues. For example, it is one of the first lawsuits to seek damages for substandard medical care which renders an individual's HIV virus more resistant to medications and, in turn, decreases an individual's chance for survival. It also is one of the first cases to raise the issue of whether the government is responsible for an immigrant detainee's medical treatment while he is detained in local and state facilities pursuant to agreements between the federal government and those facilities.

At the close of discovery, the Court conducted a settlement conference between the parties, and the United States offered a substantial settlement which our client accepted. Our client is very pleased with the outcome of the lawsuit and his health has improved substantially now that he is out of federal detention and receiving proper medical treatment.

### ALBANY OR BUST: PEOPLE V. MATTOCKS

New York Associate **Brian McCloskey** represented Mr. Mattocks, an individual convicted of forgery as a result of allegedly bending MTA cards with no rides left on them so he could sell them to others who could get through the turnstile. Brian argued his appeal in the First Department in the spring. This case came to the firm through the Office of the Appellate Defender, an organization which takes appeals on behalf of criminal defendants. The Appellate Division affirmed Mr. Mattocks's conviction in lengthy decision, which was reported on the front page of the New York Law Journal. Brian thereafter applied to the Court of Appeals for leave to appeal the First Department's decision. In that application, he compared the text of the forgery statute with the operation of the MetroCard turnstile reader, as it was described in the record. He essentially argued that the turnstile reader isn't deceived by the bent MetroCard, but grants access to the subway because it is pre-programmed to give the holder of a damaged card the "benefit of the doubt." While deceptive, obtaining a benefit (subway entry) in exchange for something both parties recognize as invalid and thus valueless (a bent MetroCard) simply does not constitute forgery. Brian has the interest of at least one of the seven Judges on the Court of Appeals as he has been granted leave by the Court to appeal the case. About his experience, Brian states, "arguing before the First Department has been the highlight of my career. I look forward to arguing next Spring in Albany, which I am sure will thereafter claim that distinction."

### FAMILY COURT MATTER

In a case referred to the Firm by the Legal Services of New York's Bronx office, NY Litigation Associate **Agnès Dunogué**, under the supervision of NY Partner **Joseph M. McLaughlin**, recently represented Taishawn B. in a successful appeal from Family Court to the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division. The Administration for Children's Services charged Taishawn with abusing Kyla, the infant child of Taishawn's boyfriend, Shaun A. Kyla had been seriously injured when shaken by Shaun A. The Family Court nevertheless held Taishawn responsible for Kyla's injuries and also ordered that Taishawn's two children, Shaun, 3 years old at the time, and Justin, born during the Family Court proceedings, were "derivatively" abused and neglected, and ordered that they be placed in foster care. Agnès appealed the Family Court's order.

Taishawn had been involved and lived with Kyla's father, Shaun A., who eventually confessed to having shaken Kyla because she would not stop crying. Shaun was arrested, charged with first degree assault and endangering the welfare of a minor, pled guilty and was incarcerated. Despite Taishawn's testimony at trial—corroborated by Shaun A.—that she was not aware of and had nothing to do with any of the abuse to Kyla, the Family Court held her responsible for the shaking inflicted by Shaun A. on his daughter and for an unexplained prior tibia fracture with which Kyla was diagnosed. In doing so, the Court implicitly found that Taishawn was a person legally responsible for Kyla's care at the time of the abuse, i.e., that she acted as the "functional equivalent of a parent" to Kyla at all relevant times.

After Agnès argued the case to the Appellate Division, it unanimously reversed the Family Court's order, on October 2, 2008, vacating the findings of abuse and neglect against Taishawn. Justice McGuire, joined by Justice Williams, stated in a separate concurrence memorandum that, in his view, "the findings of abuse and neglect reflect a gross miscarriage of justice." ACS has sought leave to appeal the Appellate Division's Order to the Court of Appeals, which Agnès has opposed. Former Associate **Patrick Geary** also provided assistance with the appeal.

## LET DEMOCRACY REIGN: ELECTION PROTECTION



(from left to right)  
John Bennet,  
Yaneri Rosa,  
Victoria Bjorklund,  
Lisa A. Freeman  
and Drew Rabe

In partnership with Election Protection, a national nonpartisan coalition that works throughout the year to break down barriers to the ballot box for traditionally disenfranchised voters, Simpson Thacher partners, associates, paralegals, IT, catering, phone techs, operations and maintenance personnel staffed a national Call Center in the New York office in connection with the 2008 general election. For four intense days, STB's team provided hotline assistance to voters who encountered problems with registration and voting, including dissemination of misinformation by poll workers, problems associated with voting machines, and intimidation of voters. STB also provided volunteers to local call centers from the Washington and Palo Alto office.

This was no small operation. Months of preparation under the leadership of NY Partner, **Victoria Bjorklund**, resulted in a well-oiled machine which boasted 18 phone lines staffed in six 3-hour shifts the Thursday and Friday prior to Election Day, and 42 phone lines staffed in seven 4-hour shifts, the following Monday and Tuesday. Aided by national and state voting rights experts, the call center fielded nonstop calls from all over the country. Of the 340 volunteers hosted by the firm, almost half were from Simpson Thacher. In addition, working with STB's Election Protection extern, Associate **Jeremy Friedman** (see Spotlight article below), five STB Associates also volunteered on the ground in Western Pennsylvania. Associates **Brian McCloskey**, **Philip Sternhell**, **Nicolas Cohen**, **James Thompson**, and **Jordan Bleicher** worked as mobile legal volunteers, helping to monitor polling places and assist voters on Election Day.

This is not the first time Simpson Thacher's lawyers have assisted with Election Protection. Our lawyers volunteered in both 2002 and 2004. This is the second time STB hosted a call center. The STB Call Center was the only one in New York City able to open early to help field the huge influx of calls from people utilizing the early and absentee voting systems in their states. In fact, with a mere 12 hours notice, we were the only firm in the city to open its Call Center on Thursday and Friday prior to the general election. Thank you to **Joan Joseph** and her incredible operations team for making it happen. STB lawyers also continue to assist Election Protection in returning thousands of post-election calls. Election Protection will analyze the data reported by our teams and prepare a public report which will be used to educate elections officials as to how registration and voting can be improved state by state.

In addition to Victoria, the leadership team included New York Associates **Lisa A. Freeman**, **Yaneri Rosa**, **Drew Rabe**, and **John Bennett** (Directors), and **Karen Alinauskas**, **Tamala Boyd**, **Michelle Hertz**, **Jennifer Klein**, **Berta Matos**, **Justus Morris**, **Rosa Pizzi**, and **Bryan Tollin** (Captains), whose phenomenal energy and enthusiasm was inspiring. All told, STB lawyers provided almost 3100 hours to the 2008 Election Protection efforts. Now there's a number to be proud of!

### Call Center Volunteers



## SPOTLIGHT: JEREMY FRIEDMAN, EXTERN AT LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW



Jeremy Friedman

NY Corporate Associate **Jeremy Friedman** just returned from a three-month externship at the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (LCCRUL) in Washington, D.C. where he worked exclusively on its Election Protection program. On his third day back in the office, the excitement and enthusiasm for the work he had done was still palpable.

*How did this opportunity come to you?*

Over the summer, LCCRUL put out a special emergency request for lawyers to come to its DC office to help with the Election Protection program. Simpson Thacher, a major *pro bono* contributor to LCCRUL programs, thought this would be a great opportunity for an associate. Luckily, the Personnel Co-Chairs and **Susan Osnato** asked if I wanted to participate and I jumped at the chance to be so deeply involved in a *pro bono* matter. Also, I'm into politics so I thought this would be a great chance to learn more about the electoral process. I was thrilled to have the support of the firm and was there for the three months leading up to the general election.

*Did you have any experience before you started?*

Not really. I remembered a little election law from law school, but that was about it. When I arrived for my first day of work with the LCCRUL, the program director gave me a daunting task – I was going to be responsible for leading the nonpartisan election protection efforts in Maryland, New Mexico and Pennsylvania. I sat there thinking "OK, but what exactly does this mean and how am I supposed to accomplish it?" Fortunately, my first assignment was to create "Elections 101," a primer on significant election law issues, for the Election Protection website. Not only would Elections 101 be a valuable resource for voters who wanted to learn more about the voting process, but it also provided me with an opportunity to familiarize myself with the key issues. From there I was off and running.

*What exactly did you do while you were there?*

My primary responsibility was to recruit and train volunteer lawyers in Maryland, New Mexico and Pennsylvania to staff local call centers, monitor polling places and initiate litigation, if necessary. In addition, I needed to meet with state and local election officials to gauge Election Day preparedness and determine how to most effectively deploy our resources.

In the three states I worked in, we recruited about 1,000 lawyers. Looking at the program as a whole, it was a small part of a huge effort. In total, 10,000 lawyers participated in the Election Protection program and the hotline took in over 200,000 calls. The hotline made it easy for us to identify systemic problems and quickly relay this information to our volunteers on the ground. For example, we got repeated calls that poll workers were unlawfully asking minority voters for identification and that police were present in or around polling places.

*How did the partners support your decision to participate in the externship?*

The partners I was working with were really great about letting me go to D.C. They understood that the externship was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and agreed to transition me off of all of my deals.

I also want to thank **Victoria Bjorklund** for all her support. She devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to the National Call Center Election Protection program. Additionally, she would periodically send me emails to see how my externship was going and how I was doing. For someone who is at such a high level within the firm to take that kind of an interest in a *pro bono* project speaks volumes about the firm.

*How did the experience contribute to your overall development as a lawyer?*

First, the experience at the LCCRUL really helped develop my leadership skills. As a first-year associate at STB, leadership opportunities are not always plentiful. You can certainly show initiative and take ownership over your work, but you are not the one running the deal. In contrast, during my externship, I was actually running the Election Protection programs in my target states. Lawyers were

coming to me with questions and looking for my feedback as opposed to the other way around. Moreover, the externship improved my public speaking ability. I would go around the country presenting at voter education forums in an effort to dispel election-related myths and answer voters' questions. Additionally, I had to go to each of the cities we were targeting and conduct training sessions with the volunteer lawyers. After presenting to hundreds of people, the fear of public speaking disappears and you become more natural. Both of these skills will be invaluable during my career.

*How did the experience make you feel overall?*

Great. At STB, we generally work for an investment bank, private equity firm or Fortune 500 company. The work is intellectually fulfilling and socially useful, but you don't always see the individuals you are helping. However, at the LCCRUL, I could directly help individuals get involved in the political process and help protect our democracy. Based on the feedback we have been getting about the program, it is clear that we helped tens of thousands of voters cast meaningful ballots.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the LCCRUL. It made me feel like I was doing something very useful with my legal background. I definitely plan to stay involved in LCCRUL's post-election work and look forward to getting involved in other *pro bono* matters.

### **SIMPSON THACHER CARES**

On Saturday, October 18th, Simpson Thacher employees joined 8,500 other volunteers, organized by New York Cares (<http://www.nycares.org/>), to help revitalize more than 100 New York City public schools. The STB team was assigned to The Island School, located at 442 East Houston (PS 188 M). The Island School has 420 students in grade Pre-K to 6, 96% of whom are eligible to receive school lunch, 15% are in temporary housing, and 20% are new immigrants. Volunteers undertook a variety of projects to revitalize the 100 year old school, including painting the outside of the building, painting line games on the playground, planting bulbs in flower boxes, and painting murals inside the school.

### **AWARDS**

In October 2008, a number of the Firm's associates were honored at Legal Services NYC's annual awards ceremony. Legal Services NYC is the largest organization in the United States exclusively devoted to providing free civil legal services. Associates **Eric M. Albert** (Class of '98), **Edward J. Bauer** (Class of '07), **Ted DeBonis** (Class of '05), **Justin Diamant** (Class of '07), **Ihsan Dogramaci** (Class of '05), **Agnes Dunogue** (Class of '04), **Paige E. Fleming** (Class of '07), **Andrea M. Griswold** (Class of '07), **Michelle Hertz** (Class of '07), **Alison M. Kelly** (Class of '07), **Christine S. Kirkland** (Class of '03), **Linton Mann III** (Class of '07), **Jason Meltzer** (Class of '05), **Riley G. Mendoza** (Class of '07), **Jacob W. Mermelstein** (Class of '07), **B. Scott Reardon** (Class of '07), **Samuel Rubin** (Class of '06), **Brittania C. Stewart** (Class of '07), **C. Ryan Soots** (Class of '07), **Thomas J. Welling** (Class of '07) all from the New York office, were honored for their *pro bono* efforts on behalf of Legal Services NYC including work with the Housing Court Unit of Legal Services NYC's affiliate, Manhattan Legal Services. Other Simpson Thacher honorees included partner **William T. Russell, Jr.** from the New York office.

### **NEW PROJECTS: 2009**

#### **NEW YORK**

The **CUNY Sustainability Incubator**, sponsored by City University of New York and CUNY's Center for Sustainable Energy, will provide services to emerging businesses in the sustainable energy area. Its goals are, among other things, to attract "green" companies to New York State and, in particular, to the Bronx; provide opportunities for students and faculty to apply their research and learning in the sustainable energy field and to exchange knowledge with industry participants; and assist in the creation of sustainable energy processes and techniques, and in the development of companies to commercialize them. STB associates **Bill Freiberg**, **Mindy Lok**, **Sara Schuman** and **Nicholas Ferrer** will assist the Incubator with its own organizational and transactional needs, and other STB lawyers will provide general business legal assistance to



the small start-up businesses the Incubator is advising. NY partners **Walter Looney** and **Mark Pflug** are overseeing and supervising the project.

The **Fair Housing Project** is a partnership between STB and the Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC). FHJC is a New York City based 501(c)(3) organization which challenges housing discrimination that restricts access to housing opportunities; advocates policies that reduce regional inequality; and strengthens local, state and national fair housing enforcement activities. FHJC provides intake counseling and investigative assistance, including fair housing testing, to victims of housing discrimination throughout the NYC metropolitan area. Its goals also include preventing homelessness through fair housing advocacy and addressing "source of income" discrimination, a new legal right enacted in March 2008 by the New York City Council prohibiting landlords from discriminating against renters with a "lawful source of income." FHJC will refer matters to STB on behalf of low-income clients challenging race, national origin, disability and other types of discrimination. Most of these cases will be litigated in federal court. NY partners **Roy Reardon**, **Jamie Gamble** and **Mike Garvey** will supervise this project.

The **Notario Fraud Project** is a joint effort of the ABA and Lutheran Social Services of New York (LSSNY) to combat "Notario Fraud", i.e. unauthorized practice of law in representing immigrants in their immigration proceedings. Increasingly, *notarios* are exploiting the trust of recent immigrants to this country. Unfamiliar with English and the American legal system, many immigrants are misled to believe that a "*notario*" is a lawyer. Consequences for victims are extreme, including lost opportunities to pursue immigration relief. Most victims do not have the resources to seek assistance, which allows deceitful notarios to continue taking advantage of immigrants with no accountability. Our lawyers will be working with LSSNY to reopen and represent immigrants in their immigration proceedings and bring actions against the immigrant's *notario* for unauthorized practice of law. NY Partner **George Wang** is supervising this project.

## LONDON

Thanks to the efforts of London Associate **Jenny Marsh** and London Partner **Ryerson Symons**, lawyers from the London Office will be participating in the Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP), and will start representing *pro bono* clients early next year. ASAP is a project of LawWorks, a London-based organization which facilitates access to *pro bono* opportunities for solicitors and U.S. qualified lawyers. Through ASAP, STB lawyers **Marina Lin**, **Wim de Vlieger**, **Polly Mullan** and **Nick O'Grady** will represent individuals who have been granted asylum, but have had their benefits terminated and are therefore destitute. The London attorneys look forward to this new venture.

## NEW LEADERSHIP

NY Partner **John Lobrano** recently joined the Board of Directors of Lawyers Alliance for New York, the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods.

NY Partner **Bill Russell** has been appointed to the New York State Bar Association President's Committee on Access to Justice. The Committee's goal is to foster a commitment among those in power to support equal access to justice for all -- by both creating structures that promote access and providing the resources necessary to support those structures.

NY Partner **Bob Bourque** recently joined the Board of Environmental Advocates of New York, a non-profit based in Albany that monitors legislation and regulations relating to natural resources and public health issues.

NY Associate **Brett Pearlman** became one of the founding members of the New York Legal Assistance Group Associate Board, which had its first meeting at Simpson Thacher in October.

Palo Alto Associate **Michael Lopez** has joined the Advisory Board of the East Palo Alto Youth Court, created to reduce recidivism rates of youth offenders, strengthen the East Palo Alto community and give youth offenders the skills and support they need to change their lives for the better.

NY Associate **Susan Cordaro** recently joined the Associates Committee of Sanctuary for Families, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services. The committee provides *pro bono* legal services to Sanctuary's clients, plans meaningful fundraising events, and runs an established program of children's events throughout the year and an innovative in-kind donation program.

NY Associate **Rawia Ashraf** recently joined Junior Board of Advocates for Children, a legal services organization that works to improve educational opportunities for impoverished children in the NYC school system.

NY Associate **Wonda Joseph**, recently joined the Board of the Opportunity Charter School in Harlem. The school is committed to "inclusive" education--teaching both general education students and special needs.

## PRO BONO NUMBERS

Total *pro bono* hours for 2008: 61,043

Total *pro bono* hours for 2007: 59,033

## UPCOMING PRO BONO TRAININGS/CLE

*inMotion Contested Divorce Training*

Wednesday, February 4

9:30am - 12:00pm

## QUESTIONS OR NEWSLETTER IDEAS?

Contact:

Harlene Katzman

*Pro Bono* Counsel and Director

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

425 Lexington Avenue

New York, NY 10017

212-455-3890

hkatzman@stblaw.com

## **UNITED STATES**

### **New York**

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

### **Los Angeles**

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

### **Palo Alto**

2550 Hanover Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
650-251-5000

### **Washington, D.C.**

601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
North Building  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
202-220-7700

## **EUROPE**

### **London**

Citypoint  
One Ropemaker Street  
London EC2Y 9HU England  
+44-20-7275-6500

## **ASIA**

### **Beijing**

3119 China World Tower One  
1 Jianguomenwai Avenue  
Beijing 100004, China  
+86-10-5965-2999

### **Hong Kong**

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

### **Tokyo**

Ark Mori Building  
12-32, Akasaka 1-Chome  
Minato-Ku, Tokyo 107-6037, Japan  
+81-3-5562-6200