

AWARDS & RECOGNITION - Overview

Numerous organizations have recognized Jenner & Block as a firm and individual attorneys for leadership in pro bono advocacy and public service. Because public service is a core value of the firm, Jenner & Block created two internal awards to recognize our attorneys who are dedicated to pro bono advocacy and who show a strong commitment to serving the bar and the public. These awards are the Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Pro Bono Award and the Jerold S. Solovy Award.

Representative Pro Bono and Public Service Awards

p>ACLU Foundation of Southern California
Artistic Expression Award to Partner Andrew “AJ” Thomas and Associate Lisa Kohn (2014)/p>

p>Agahozo Shalom Youth Village
Anne Heyman Spirit Award (2014) /p>

American Bar Association
John Minor Wisdom Award to Partners Thomas P. Sullivan (2003) and Jerold S. Solovy (2005)
Pro Bono Publico Award (1995)

American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project
Exceptional Service Award (2006, 2016)

The American Lawyer
#1 Pro Bono Firm (2017, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2008, 1999)
Among top 10 firms, nationwide, every year since 1990
2015 *AmLaw* Global Legal Award, “Citizenship” category, for pro bono project of the year

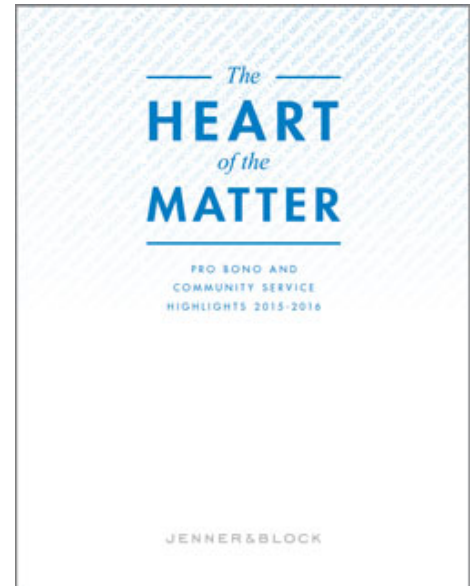
Center for Constitutional Rights
Pro Bono Service Award to Jenner & Block New York Office (2011)

Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation
Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award to Partner Andrew Merrick (2016)
Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award to Partner Gabriel A. Fuentes (2015)
Justice John Paul Stevens Award to Partner Jeffrey Colman (2012)
Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award to Partner Andrew Vail (2009)

Chicago Bar Association
Mentor/Tutor Program of the Year (2004)

Constitutional Rights Foundation
Bill of Rights In Action Award (2008)

D.C. Law Students in Court
Celebration of Service Award to Partner David DeBruin (2012)



District of Columbia Bar

Thurgood Marshall Award to Partner Paul Smith (2012)
Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year to Partner David DeBruin (2009)
Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award (2005)
DC Bar Pro Bono Center (recognized for work with the Center's Housing Right to Counsel Pilot Project, 2016)

District of Columbia Judicial Conference

"40 at 50 Judicial Pro Bono Recognition" to DC Office (2003-2017)

Federal Bar Association

Special Walter J. Cummings Lifetime Achievement Award to Partner Thomas P. Sullivan (2015)

Financial Times North American Innovative Lawyers Report

"Standout" ranking in Social Responsibility-Pro Bono Cases, 2015, 2016

Heartland Alliance and the National Immigrant Justice Center

"Rising Star" Award to Associate Michele Slachetka (2014)
Midwest Light of Human Rights Award to Partner Lawrence Schaner (2012)
Midwest Light of Human Rights Corporate Award (2007)

Human Rights Campaign

Equality Award to Partner Paul M. Smith (2003)

Illinois Legal Aid Online

Early Adopter Award to Jeffrey D. Colman (2013)
Pro Bono Attorney of the Month to Associate Wade Thomson (2008)

Illinois State Bar Association

Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
"Community Leadership Award" (2013)
John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Award (2004)
Business-Education Partnership Award

Juvenile Justice Initiative

2014 Leadership Award to Jeffrey Colman

Korean American Bar Association of Chicago

Distinguished Service Award (2014)

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

Bon Foster Memorial Civil Rights Award (2003)

Law360

2015 "Pro Bono All-Star"
Top Pro Bono Firms (2010-2016)

Lawyers Committee for Better Housing

Law Firm of the Year Award (2013)
Attorney of the Day Volunteer Award to Partner Anne S. Kenney and former associate Rachel Loftspring (2010)

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

Scott C. Solberg Pro Bono Award (2012)

Lesbian & Gay Bar Association of Chicago
Legal Service Award (2004)

Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation
North America Pro Bono Firm of Year (2017)

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
Legal Services Award (2001)

Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center
The Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Human Rights Award
Ann Dee Harper Memorial Award

Minority Corporate Counsel Association
Rainbowmaker Award to Partner David W. DeBruin and former partner
Deanne E. Maynard (2003)

National Law Journal
Pro Bono "Hot List" Award - 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2004, 2003

National Legal Aid and Defender Association
The Arthur Von Briesen Award to Partner Donald B. Verrilli (2004)

New York City Mayor's Award for Outstanding Contribution of Public
Service (2013)

Northwestern University School of Law
Student Funded Public Interest Fellowship Program Distinguished
Alumnus Award to Partner Gabriel Fuentes (2012)

Pro Bono Institute
John H. Pickering Award (2006)

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
Distinguished Fellow Alumni Award to Partner Andrew W. Vail (2014)
Recognition Roster (2011-2013)
Pro Bono Initiative Honor Roll (2006)

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Corporate Service Award (2004)

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Corporate Partner Award (2014)

Seventh Circuit Bar Association
Pro Bono and Public Service Award to Partners Robert Stauffer, Matthew
Hellman and associates Kara Kapp and Elin Park (2014)
Pro Bono and Public Service Award to Partner Cathy Steege (2012)
John Paul Stevens Pro Bono Award to Partner Barry Levenstam (2010)
Pro Bono Service Award to Partner Jerold S. Solovy (1993)

Sierra Club
Legal Heroes Award to Partners Robert Graham and Gabrielle Sigel and
Associate Allison Torrence for pro bono representation (2012)

Southern Center for Human Rights
Frederick Douglass Equal Justice Award to Partner David W. DeBruin
(2013)

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service to Partner Matthew R. Devine
and Associates Hillary E. August and Jordan C. Blumenthal (2016)
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service to Partners Michael T. Brody,
Richard T. Franch and former partner Keith Porapaiboon (2015)
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service to Partners Timothy Barron and
Benjamin Bradford and former associate Ashley Chi (2014)
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service to Partners
Craig Martin and David Jimenez-Ekman and Associates Joseph Dunn and
Kristin Rakowski (2012)
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Service to Partner Michael
Doornweerd, Associate Marisa Perry and former associates Sean
Tarantino & Katherine Neff Welsh (2010)
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Service to Partner Jeffrey
Colman (2009)

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Growth and Innovation Award (2005)

Washington Council of Lawyers
Law Firm of the Year Award (2003)

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Wiley A. Branton Award (2010)

Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Award

The Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Pro Bono Award recognizes the firm's attorneys who have provided exceptional legal services to the needy. The winners receive a \$5,000 award that they may donate to the charity or charities of their choice.

The following attorneys have received the award:

2016: Partner Erica Ross and Associates [Daniel A. Epstein](#) and Alan Iverson

2015: Partners [Jessica Ring Amunson](#), [Barry Levenstam](#) and [Gail H. Morse](#) and Associate [Rafi W. Mottahedeh](#)

2014: Partner [Gabriel A. Fuentes](#) and Partners [Michael B. DeSanctis](#) and [Adam G. Unikowsky](#) and Associates [Amir H. Ali](#), [R. Trent McCotter](#), Jan Messerschmidt, [Leah J. Tulin](#) and [David Wishnick](#)

2013: Partner [Reena R. Bajowala](#) and Associate [Matthew D. Cipolla](#)

2012: Partners [Jeffrey D. Colman](#), [Anne P. Ray](#) and [John R. Storino](#) and Associates [Christine M. Bowman](#), [Jason M. Bradford](#), Jean Marie Doherty, Michael H. Margolis, [Ashley M. Schumacher](#) and Christopher G. Wells

2011: Partners [Richard F. Levy](#) and [Katya Jestin](#) and Associate Marisa K. Perry

2010: Associate Kyle A. Palazzolo

2009: Partner Jeffrey A. Koppy and Associates Elisabeth Genn, J.H. Jennifer Lee and Danielle F. Tarantolo

2008: Partner [Brian J. Fischer](#) and Associates [Lindsay C. Harrison](#) and [Andrew W. Vail](#)

2007: Partners Iris E. Bennett and [Terrence J. Truax](#) and Associates Joshua A. Block and [Matthew S. Hellman](#)

2006: Associates Ginger D. Anders, [Jeremy M. Creelan](#) and [Wade A. Thomson](#)

2005: Partners Patricia A. Bronte, [Thomas J. Perrelli](#) and Associate Martina E. Vandenberg

2004: Associates Brian P. O'Donnell and Amy L. Tenney

2003: Partners [Terri L. Mascherin](#) and Susan R. Podolsky and Associates Jason J. Green and Kathleen R. Hartnett

2002: Partners [Thomas P. Sullivan](#) and William M. Hohengarten

2001: Partner [Richard P. Steinken](#) and Associate Christopher M. O'Connor

Jerold S. Solovy Award

Jerold S. Solovy Award

In 2011, the firm created the Jerold S. Solovy Award to recognize attorneys who have demonstrated exceptional service to the organized bar and to the community. The award, named for Jenner & Block's esteemed late chairman emeritus, honors those attorneys who exemplify Mr. Solovy's unwavering dedication to the organized bar, the public good, and the highest ideals of the legal profession.

The following attorneys have received the award:

2016: Partner [Craig C. Martin](#)

2015: Partner [Michael T. Brody](#)

2014: Partner [David W. DeBruin](#)

2013: Partner [E. Lynn Grayson](#)

2012: Partners Ronald Marmer and Lorelie S. Masters

2011: Partner [Terri L. Mascherin](#)

Library

Recent Events

["Pro Bono Perspectives: Best Practices for Matters Serving the Public Good, Wherever You Work," Lawline's Bridge the Gap Program](#) February 25, 2017

[Wrongful Convictions Symposium in Honor of Jane Raley, Northwestern University Law School Bluhm Legal Clinic Center on Wrongful Convictions](#) November 12, 2015

["Healthy, Happy & Housed," Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing's 35th Annual Benefit](#) November 10, 2015

["Terrorism: Crime and Punishment," The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and The Constitution Project](#) January 23, 2014

[Panelist, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services Annual Scott C. Solberg Pro Bono Award Luncheon, Chicago, IL](#) October 11, 2012

["Doing Well and Doing Good: Law as a Calling," St. Thomas More Society of Northwestern Law School Luncheon, Chicago, IL](#) September 13, 2012

["Pro Bono On-line: What Your Website Says About Your Pro Bono Program," Pro Bono In Motion: Transforming Law Firm Pro Bono, Pro Bono Institute, Washington, DC](#) February 28, 2003 to March 01, 2003

[Northwestern University "Meet the Alumni Week"](#) February 25, 2002 to February 28, 2002

Recent News

[The National Law Journal Previews Federal Tax Code Case](#) September 1, 2017

[Matthew Hellman and Geoffrey Davis Discuss Facing the Government in Federal Tax Code Case](#) August 14, 2017

[Supreme Court Ruling Lines Up with Arguments in Firm's Amicus Brief](#) May 22, 2017

[Pro Bono Client Released From Prison Pending Appeal and Retrial](#) May 3, 2017

[Jenner & Block Team Files Complaint For Injunctive Relief Over 'Suspicionless' Device Searches By Customs Officers](#) April 21, 2017

[Pro Bono: Growing Up Fast — The Ramirez Story](#) March 13, 2017

[Partner Matthew Haws' Pro Bono Commitment Highlighted in Washington Lawyer Profile](#) March 2017

[Pro Bono: Second Chances — The Story of Jesse Webster](#) January 31, 2017

[Firm Files Amicus Brief in Case Challenging Mississippi's "Unnatural Intercourse" Law](#) November 10, 2016

[Pro Bono: Protecting Art, Sealing Legacies — The Story of Jason Wulf](#) August 22, 2016

[Pro Bono: 30 Seconds to Lose Your Life, 30 Years to Get it Back — The Story of Johnnie Lee Savory](#) June 22, 2016

[Firm Wins Victory in Dispute over Motorboat Limits on Michigan Lake](#) June 13, 2016

[Partner Keri Holleb Hotelling Helps Launch Task Force Aimed at Drawing University-Based Law Clinics in Fight Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#) May 2016

[Firm's Amicus Brief in Michigan Criminal Case Receives Much Media Attention](#) April 25, 2016

[In Voting Rights Case, Firm Wins US Supreme Court Victory on Behalf of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission](#) April 20, 2016

[Partner and Litigation Department Chair Craig Martin Joins Initiative to](#)

[Increase Legal Services for the PoorApril 19, 2016](#)

[Firm Wins Chance for Pro Bono Client Convicted of Murder to Show Actual InnocenceApril 19, 2016](#)

[Jenner & Block Wins Far-Reaching Sentencing Case as US Supreme Court Rules 7-1 in *Welch vs. US*April 18, 2016](#)

[Judge Grants Preliminary Approval of New York Access-A-Ride SettlementApril 18, 2016](#)

[BuzzFeed Publishes Feature Article on Firm's Pro Bono Client Who Hopes Disproven Arson-Investigation Techniques Will Free HimApril 13, 2016](#)

[Firm Represents Nonprofit Beyond OCD to Help Further Its MissionApril 11, 2016](#)

[President Obama Commutes Sentence of Firm Pro Bono ClientMarch 31, 2016](#)

[Associate Amir Ali to Argue Sentencing Case before the US Supreme CourtMarch 29, 2016](#)

[Team Represents New York Man Arrested Four Times on Erroneous WarrantMarch 11, 2016](#)

[Firm Wins Certificates of Innocence for Pro Bono ClientMarch 7, 2016](#)

[Firm Wins Relief from Supreme Court for Lesbian Mother Seeking to Enforce Adoption RightsMarch 7, 2016](#)

[Richard Ziegler and Justin Spiegel Featured in New York Lawyers for the Public Interest VideoFebruary 11, 2016](#)

[Firm Prevails for Pro Bono Client in Expungement ProceedingJanuary 20, 2016](#)

[In Firm Win, Fifth Circuit Voids Death Sentence for Pro Bono ClientDecember 21, 2015](#)

[New York Law Journal Recognizes Partner Jeremy Creelan as a Lawyer Who Leads by Example](#)
August 25, 2015

[Firm Wins US Supreme Court Victory for Pro Bono Client Kevan Brumfield](#)
June 18, 2015

[Partner Michael DeSanctis Argues Before U.S. Supreme Court On Behalf Of Intellectually Disabled Person On Death Row](#)
April 2, 2015

[Firm Team Wins Immigration Case for Pro Bono Client with Precedent-Setting Ruling](#)
March 12, 2015

[Firm Clears Critic of Bite-Mark Identification in Dispute with Professional Organization](#)
February 16, 2015

[Jenner & Block Wins Pro Bono Victory for Illinois Student Newspaper Editor in First Amendment Rights Matter](#)
February 3, 2015

[Illinois Governor Grants Executive Clemency to Two Jenner & Block Pro Bono Clients](#)
January 27, 2015

[Jenner & Block Wins Virginia Pardon for Pro Bono Client with Autism](#)
January 20, 2015

[Partner Andrew Vail Featured in Korean Television Interview](#)
December 29, 2014

[Pro Bono Client Subject of *Chicago-Sun Times* Column on "Sentencing Unfairness"](#)
November 15, 2014

[Jenner & Block Receives Korean American Bar Association Distinguished Service Award for Koh Pro Bono Work](#)
October 27, 2014

[Nine Attorneys Honored With Firm Awards for Exceptional Pro Bono, Public Service and Mentorship Efforts](#)
October 27, 2014

[Firm Observes "National Pro Bono Celebration Week," Partner Lynn Grayson Co-Chairs Chicago Citywide Observance](#)
October 17, 2014

[Jenner & Block Named Law360 Top Pro Bono Firm for Fifth Year in a](#)

[RowOctober 2, 2014](#)

[Firm's Pro Bono Services Play Key Role in Building Jesse White
Community CenterSeptember 23, 2014](#)

[Partner Vince Lazar and Firm Team to be Honored by American Liver
FoundationSeptember 16, 2014](#)

[Family Defense Center to Honor Louis FogelSeptember 9, 2014](#)

[Firm Represents Central American Women and Children Asylum-
SeekersSeptember 3, 2014](#)

[Firm Reclaims *AmLaw* #1 Pro Bono Firm RankingJuly 2, 2014](#)

[Slachetka Receives "Rising Star" Award from National Immigrant Justice
CenterJune 13, 2014](#)

[DNA Evidence Exonerates Juan RiveraJune 11, 2014](#)

[Firm Scores Pro Bono Victory in Asbestos Fraud CaseMay 29, 2014](#)

[Ling Named to Chicago Legal Clinic Board of DirectorsMay 2014](#)

[Firm Honored with Inaugural Anne Heyman Spirit Award for Pro Bono
Work in RwandaMay 19, 2014](#)

[Two Firm Teams Receive Awards for Pro Bono RepresentationMay 14,
2014](#)

[Shriver Center Bestows Pro Bono Award on FirmApril 24, 2014](#)

[D.C. Chief Judges Again Honor Firm as Pro Bono LeaderApril 23, 2014](#)

[Jenner & Block Wins Seventh Circuit Appeal for Former Mexican Police
Officer Seeking Asylum in U.S.March 25, 2014](#)

[Firm Wins Victory on Behalf of Pro Bono Client Seeking AsylumMarch 12,
2014](#)

[Bisceglia Honored for Outstanding Service to DePaul University, March 6, 2014](#)
[February 4, 2014](#)

[Chicago Daily Law Bulletin Features Jenner & Block in In-Depth Two-Part Series](#)
[January 30, 2014](#)

[Firm Team Helps Bring Much Needed Electricity to Central Africa](#)
[January 21, 2014](#)

[Jenner & Block Named to National Law Journal's 2014 Pro Bono Hot List](#)
[January 13, 2014](#)

[Jenner & Block Welcomes Return of Governor Cuomo's Special Counsel Jeremy Creelan to New York Office](#)
[December 30, 2013](#)

[Amunson's Efforts to Secure Pardon for Pro Bono Client Featured in New York Times Article](#)
[December 21, 2013](#)

[Prominent M&A/Corporate Attorney G. Thomas Stromberg Joins Jenner & Block's Los Angeles Office](#)
[December 2, 2013](#)

[Thomas P. Sullivan Receives George N. Leighton Justice Award](#)
[November 18, 2013](#)

[Firm Efforts Well Represented at Center on Wrongful Convictions' Anniversary Benefit](#)
[November 14, 2013](#)

[Jenner & Block Named "Law Firm of the Year" by Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing](#)
[November 6, 2013](#)

[Ali Arain Recognized for Outstanding Pro Bono Contributions by Queens County Bar](#)
[October 24, 2013](#)

[Jenner & Block Welcomes Back Robert S. Osborne as Of Counsel](#)
[October 1, 2013](#)

[Second Circuit Upholds Settlement Jenner & Block Reached for 20,000 New York Renters](#)
[September 30, 2013](#)

[Firm Wins Nearly \\$1.2 Million Judgment for Pro Bono Client](#)
[July 2013](#)

[Former TARP Watchdog and Federal Prosecutor Neil Barofsky Joins Jenner & Block LLP](#)September 8, 2013

[Crain's Highlights Craig Martin's Leadership with the Boys & Girls Club](#)August 19, 2013

[Holleb Hotaling Named to Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows Class of 2014](#)July 25, 2013

[Mercedes Hill Named to Lawyers of Color's Inaugural "Hot List" for Lawyers Under 40](#)July 2013

[Firm Named among Nation's Top Firms for Pro Bono](#)July 2013

[Colman Article Recounts Firm Pro Bono Client's Rehabilitation](#)Summer 2013

[David W. DeBruin Receives 2013 Frederick Douglass Equal Justice Award](#)June 25, 2013

[Supreme Court Adopts Firm's Position in Arizona Voter Registration Case](#)June 18, 2013

[Supreme Court Decision Reflects Multi-Year Firm Effort to Achieve Criminal Law Reform](#)June 17, 2013

[Firm Client Exonerated: Murder Charges in Son's Death Dismissed](#)June 17, 2013

[Jeffrey Colman to Receive Illinois Legal Aid Online's Early Adopter Award](#)April 19, 2013

[Jenner & Block Achieves Rare Result for Pro Bono Client Convicted of Murder](#)February 22, 2013

[Firm Assists Iconic Chicago Church in Pipe Organ Rebuilding Project](#)February 8, 2013

[Firm Wins Acquittal of Pro Bono Client Accused of First Degree Murder](#)December 20, 2012

[Jenner & Block Announces New Partners for 2013](#)[December 13, 2012](#)

[Firm Wins Defense Victory for Client Wolters Kluwer N.V.](#)[December 10, 2012](#)

[Jenner & Block Named Law360 Top Pro Bono Firm for Third Year in a Row](#)[August 31, 2012](#)

[Lindsay Harrison, Luke Platzer Selected as "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40"](#)[July 24, 2012](#)

[Jenner & Block Named Nation's Top Firm for Pro Bono by The American Lawyer](#)[June 29, 2012](#)

[Jenner & Block Named to American Lawyer A-List](#)[June 28, 2012](#)

[Jenner & Block Achieves Landmark Settlement for 22,000 New York City Tenants](#)[June 19, 2012](#)

[Jenner & Block Assists in Major Ruling in DOMA Fight](#)[May 31, 2012](#)

[Firm Wins Acquittal for Chicago Pro Bono Client Calvin Marshall, Charged with First-Degree Murder](#)[May 14, 2012](#)

[Firm Achieves Appellate Victory for Convention Against Torture Claimant in First Case Involving South Sudan](#)[September 6, 2011](#)

[Jenner & Block Named a Law360 Top Pro Bono Firm for Second Year In a Row](#)[July 21, 2011](#)

[Jenner & Block Team Secures Significant Victory for Pro Bono Asylum Client](#)[June 7, 2010](#)

[AmLaw Names Jenner & Block Nation's Top Firm for Pro Bono for Second Year](#)[June 30, 2009](#)

[Jenner & Block Honored With Cook County Bar Association's 2009 Presidential Award](#)[June 26, 2009](#)

[Chicago Urban League Lawsuit Challenging School Funding Proceeds](#)
[April 20, 2009](#)

[Firm Obtains Victory in Pro Bono Criminal Trial](#)
[January 23, 2009](#)

[Jenner & Block Represents Chicago Urban League in Civil Rights Lawsuit Challenging School Funding](#)
[August 21, 2008](#)

[Firm Obtains Asylum for Four Tibetan Buddhist Refugees](#)
[March 6, 2007](#)

[Jenner & Block Receives Pro Bono Institute's 2006 John H. Pickering Award](#)
[November 27, 2006](#)

[Jenner & Block Secures Asylum for Tibetan Refugee](#)
[November 21, 2006](#)

[Favorable Consent Decrees in Landmark Pro Bono Case for Disabled Rights](#)
[November 8, 2006](#)

[CBA Pro Bono Fair Connects Hundreds of Attorneys With Volunteer Opportunities](#)
[November 7, 2006](#)

[Three Honored with Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Pro Bono Award](#)
[October 30, 2006](#)

[Firm Honored By ABA Death Penalty Representation Project for Exceptional Pro Bono Contributions](#)
[October 23, 2006](#)

[Firm Helps Turkmenistan Woman Secure Asylum](#)
[October 18, 2006](#)

[Firm Recognized by Association of American Rhodes Scholars for Pro Bono Assistance](#)
[October 16, 2006](#)

[Jenner & Block to Host 13th Annual Chicago Bar Association Pro Bono Fair](#)
[October 16, 2006](#)

[IBA Conference: Access to Justice - Best Practices](#)
[September 26, 2006](#)

[Firm Forges Record Companies' Historic Settlement with Kazaa](#)
[August 7, 2006](#)

Recent Publications

["The Silvonus Shannon Story," *The Bench* November 24, 2014](#)

The Heart of the Matter - Pro Bono & Community Service Newsletter 2011-2012

[The Heart of the Matter: Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter August 1, 2010](#)

[The Heart of the Matter: Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter December 2, 2008](#)

[The Heart of the Matter: Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter December 18, 2006](#)

[The Heart of the Matter, Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter November 1, 2003](#)

[FCC Restrictions on Faxed Advertisements to Apply to Nonprofit Associations July 1, 2003](#)

[The Heart of the Matter, Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter June 30, 2003](#)

[The Heart of the Matter: Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter April 1, 2002](#)

[The Heart of the Matter: Jenner & Block's Public Service Newsletter October 1, 2001](#)

The Heart Of The Matter Blog

September 11, 2017[Firm Named to PILI's 2017 Pro Bono Recognition Roster](/library/posts/17353)
Jenner & Block is one of 47 law firms and corporations in Illinois named to the Public Interest Law Initiative's (PILI) Pro Bono Recognition Roster. Law firms named to the Roster met at least two of the following criteria: an average of 35 pro bono hours per legal professional; a 5 percent increase in Illinois office(s) pro bono

hours from the previous year; pro bono participation by 60 percent or more of the firm's Illinois lawyers; participation in The Chicago Bar Foundation's Law Firm Leadership Circle or one of PILI's Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee Pro Bono Pledges; and/or innovative steps to expand the firm's pro bono program.

"Through the collective efforts of law firms and corporations like yours, more low-income and under-represented individuals across Illinois have access to the justice they deserve," expressed Michael G. Bergmann, PILI executive director.

Jenner & Block has been on the roster since 2010.

To learn more about Jenner & Block's pro bono program, visit our [pro bono page](https://jenner.com/about/public_service/pro_bono) or read [The Heart of the Matter](https://sites-jenner.vuturve.com/77/906/landing-pages/jenner-and-block-heart-of-the-matter.asp) newsletter.

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[class="tags">TAGS: \[class="ba"\]\(https://jenner.com/library/posts/17353\)](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17353)

[href="/library/blogs/20/tags/408">pro bono recognition](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17353)

August 9, 2017 [class="content"](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264)

[href="/library/posts/17264">Firm Secures Victory for Brooklyn](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264)

[Tenants Displaced After 2015 Fire](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264)

Jenner & Block Associate [Carl N. Wedoff](https://jenner.com/people/CarlWedoff)

and Partner [Brian J. Fischer](https://jenner.com/people/BrianFischer)

secured a victory on behalf of six Brooklyn residents who were displaced from their homes for years after their landlord refused to repair the damage caused by a February 2015 fire in the building. The tenants, some of whom were undocumented immigrants, were forced to find alternative housing, including homeless

shelters. Despite agreeing to repair the building, the landlord, on multiple occasions, failed to meet court-ordered deadlines or offer any explanation as to why he could not complete necessary repairs. In May 2016, the court held the landlord in civil contempt of court for his ongoing failure to return the tenants to their apartments, and in October 2016, the court imposed civil penalties. The case partially settled on May 5, 2017. The resulting settlement includes a schedule of repairs that will hold the landlord accountable as well as \$15,000 in compensation for each client. Jenner & Block is co-counsel to Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), the largest civil legal services provider in the United States; South Brooklyn Legal Services served as co-counsel to the tenants. Mr. Wedoff is a member of LSNYC's Pro Bono Associate Advisory Board.

<https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264>
Firm Secures Victory for Brooklyn Tenants Displaced After 2015 Fire

<https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264>
Firm Secures Victory for Brooklyn Tenants Displaced After 2015 Fire

<https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264>
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<https://jenner.com/library/posts/17264>
Firm Secures Victory for Brooklyn Tenants Displaced After 2015 Fire

[PEOPLE: \[Brian J. Fischer\]\(/people/BrianFischer\), \[Carl N. Wedoff\]\(/people/CarlWedoff\)](#)

August 7, 2017 [Firm Team Secures Asylum for Pro Bono Client](/library/posts/17293)
On August 7, 2017, Associate [Irene Ten Cate](https://jenner.com/people/IreneTenCate), Staff Attorney [Danielle Nicholson](https://jenner.com/people/DanielleNicholson) and Partners [Matthew D. Cipolla](https://jenner.com/people/MatthewCipolla), [Marc Hankin](https://jenner.com/people/MarcHankin) and [and](#)

<https://jenner.com/people/MatthewPrice>>Matthew E. Price secured asylum for pro bono client Abdul K. in immigration court in Harlingen, Texas. The grant of asylum eventually turned on a legal issue on which no clear precedent exists: whether the statutory firm resettlement bar, which excludes from asylum applicants who found refuge in a third country before arriving in the United States, applies to individuals who face persecution in the country of resettlement.

Abdul had settled in South Africa after escaping clan-based violence in his native country Somalia. He resided in South Africa for more than a decade and was granted a refugee permit, but was forced to flee after being subjected to severe attacks by South Africans who were targeting Somali immigrants. Abdul arrived in the United States in 2015 and was placed in detention. After his individual hearing, the immigration judge denied Abdul's applications for asylum and withholding of removal and ordered him deported to South Africa or Somalia.

Retained to appeal from this ruling, the firm won a partial reversal from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). Specifically, the BIA held that Abdul established that he had been persecuted in Somalia and in South Africa, and remanded the case to the immigration judge for a new hearing on whether Abdul was entitled to withholding of removal. The BIA affirmed, however, the immigration judge's ruling that Abdul's stay in South Africa rendered him ineligible for asylum under the firm resettlement bar. The team represented Abdul on remand, and obtained a ruling granting his application for withholding of removal. After one and a half years in detention, Abdul was released.

The firm then filed a petition for review in the Fifth Circuit, seeking reversal of the BIA's ruling on firm resettlement. In its opening brief, the team argued that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to applicants like Abdul who were persecuted in the country in which they resettled. This is apparent from the plain meaning of the words "*firmly* resettled" and also flows from the bar's purpose, which is to discourage "country shopping" by one-time refugees who have found safety in another country. The Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic filed an amicus brief arguing that the interpretation advanced by the firm rendered the statutory firm resettlement bar consistent with the Refugee Convention and Protocol.

Instead of filing a responsive brief, the government requested a remand to the BIA and then sought another remand to the immigration court. Eventually, the government agreed to stipulate that Abdul was not firmly resettled in South Africa. The immigration judge accepted the stipulation shortly thereafter and granted Abdul asylum.

Since his release from detention a little over a year ago, Abdul has begun to make a life for himself in the

United States. He found a job, signed a lease on an apartment and enrolled in community college. The asylum status, which offers greater security than withholding of removal and provides a path to permanent residency and citizenship, gives him tremendous peace of mind.

<https://jenner.com/library/posts/17293>
Firm Team Secures Asylum for Pro Bono Client

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TAGS: [Asylum](/library/blogs/20/tags/164), [Immigration](/library/blogs/20/tags/374)

PEOPLE: [Marc B. Hankin](/people/MarcHankin), [Matthew D. Cipolla](/people/MatthewCipolla), [Matthew E. Price](/people/MatthewPrice), [Danielle J. Nicholson](/people/DanielleNicholson), [Irene Ten Cate](/people/IreneTenCate)

August 4, 2017

[Firm Team Wins Disability Benefits, Including 11 Years of Back Benefits, for Client](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

Jenner & Block recently won a victory in a denial of Social Security benefits case when, in a rare move, Judge Thomas Durkin of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois remanded the case to the Social Security Administration for the sole purpose of calculating and awarding benefits to the firm's pro bono client, retroactive to 2005. Partner [Craig C. Martin](https://jenner.com/people/CraigMartin) accepted the court appointment by Judge Durkin to represent the client in her appeal of the denial of disability and SSI (supplemental security income) benefits. Mr. Martin and Associate [Elin I. Park](https://jenner.com/people/ElinPark) moved for summary judgment and persuasively argued that based on the record below, which included extensive detail

about the client's medical history as well as testimony of a vocational expert, she was entitled to benefits and further proceedings were unnecessary. In a rare win of its kind, the court reversed the decision of the Administrative Law Judge, who had twice denied the claims, and found the client incapable of working and entitled to benefits.

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[href="/people/CraigMartin">Craig C. Martin, <a](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[class="ba" href="/people/ElinPark">Elin I. Park</p>](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[August 4, 2017<a class="content"](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[href="/library/posts/17250">Jenner & Block Lawyers Win](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[Asylum for Eritrean Woman<p>A team of Jenner & Block](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[lawyers recently won a grant of asylum for a pro bono client](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[who was forced to flee Eritrea because of persecution by its](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[military regime. Born in Ethiopia to an Eritrean family, the](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[client and her family were deported to Eritrea when a border](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[war broke out between the countries in the late 1990s. But](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[because they had lived in Ethiopia, the Eritrean military](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[regime viewed them with hostility and suspicion. The regime](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[killed our client's father and when her two brothers raised](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[questions about his death, they were arrested in the middle of](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[the night. She has not seen them since and suspects they](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[are dead.</p><p>The military also harassed our client,](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[including making many attempts to conscript her into military](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[service, where sexual abuse of young women is rampant.](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[She ultimately fled to a monastery that helped smuggle her](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

[into Sudan. From there, she went to Brazil, eventually](https://jenner.com/library/posts/17247)

arriving in the United States.

Because our client left Eritrea without any identification documents or other paperwork and was no longer in contact with any witnesses who could identify her, questioning by the court and opposing counsel focused on whether she was actually from Eritrea or from a less oppressive country such as Ethiopia. An expert witness on Eritrean country conditions convinced the judge that she was from Eritrea, and a forensic medical expert testified to her physical and psychological

trauma.

After weighing the evidence presented by Partner

[Casey T. Grabenstein](https://jenner.com/people/CaseyGrabenstein) and Associates

[Leah K. Casto](https://jenner.com/people/LeahCasto) and

[Henry H. Cornillie](https://jenner.com/people/HenryCornillie),

the Immigration Court judge handed down his decision immediately upon the conclusion of the case, and the government waived any appeal rights.

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class="tags">PEOPLE: [Casey T. Grabenstein](/people/CaseyGrabenstein),

[Leah K. Casto](/people/LeahCasto),

[Henry H. Cornillie](/people/HenryCornillie)

August 2, 2017

[Cities Initiative Settlement Helps Safeguard Valuable Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River Water Resources](/library/posts/17265)

Jenner & Block has been representing, pro

bono, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

(Cities Initiative)

[href="https://jenner.com/library/posts/16658"](https://jenner.com/library/posts/16658)in its challenge to a decision by the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) that allows the city of Waukesha, Wisconsin to divert water from Lake Michigan. The Council’s decision was the first-ever approval of a diversion of Great Lakes water to a community outside the Great Lakes basin. Waukesha lies in a county that straddles the basin.

As part of its challenge, the Cities Initiative sought clarification of the standards used to evaluate the Waukesha diversion application as well as the standards that the Council would use to evaluate future diversion requests. On August 2, 2017, the Cities Initiative announced it was settling its challenge pursuant to an agreement with the Compact Council that calls for a rigorous review of the Council’s process for considering diversions, with extensive stakeholder input in determining formal rules and revised guidelines for the future.

“This agreement will help protect the long-term integrity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for future generations,” said Cities Initiative Secretary Régis Labeaume.

John Dickert, Cities Initiative president and CEO, added, “This mutually beneficial settlement agreement has set the foundation for meaningful progress to safeguard our valuable water resources.”

The firm’s team in this matter was led by Partner [Jill M. Hutchison](https://jenner.com/people/JillHutchison), assisted by Partners [E. Lynn Grayson](https://jenner.com/people/EGrayson), [Steven M. Siros](https://jenner.com/people/StevenSiros) and [Allison A. Torrence](https://jenner.com/people/AllisonTorrence); Of Counsel [Stephen H. Armstrong](https://jenner.com/people/StephenArmstrong) and [Anne \(Andi\) Samuels Kenney](https://jenner.com/people/AnneAndiKenney); and Associates [Alexander J. Bandza](https://jenner.com/people/AlexanderBandza) and [Laura C. Bishop](https://jenner.com/people/LauraBishop).

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