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

ACLU Foundation of Southern California
- Artistic Expression Award to Partner Andrew "AJ" Thomas and Associate Lisa Kohn (2014)
- Homeless Rights Advocacy Award (2018)

Agahozo Shalom Youth Village
- Anne Heyman Spirit Award (2014)

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
- Among top 10 firms, nationwide, every year since 1990
- 2015 AmLaw Global Legal Award, “Citizenship” category, for pro bono project of the year

Catholic Immigration Legal Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
- Board of Immigration Appeals Pro Bono Project (2018)

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

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 Brij Patnaik (2017)
Distinguished Fellow Alumni Award to Partner Andrew W. Vail (2014)
Recognition Roster (2010-2018)
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 Partners J. Kevin McCall, Landon S. Raiford, Andrew W. Vail and Associates Lindsey A. Lusk and Briana T. Sprick Schuster; and Partner Catherine L. Steege (2019)
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service to Partner Craig C. Martin and Associate Elin I. Park; Partners Robert L. Byman and Jennifer S. Senior and Associate Roni J. Cohen; and Partners Melissa M. Root, Stephen R. Brown, Justin C. Steffen, Jeffrey A. Atteberry and Rachel S. Morse; Of Counsel Daniel R. Murray; Associates Christopher M. Sheehan, Laura L. Norris, Anna J. Mitran and Matthew T. Gordon; Special Counsel Paul Alp; Staff Attorney Laura B. Duchesne; and Discovery Attorney Dusan Sarapa (2018)
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 lawyers have received the award:


2018: Partners David W. DeBruin and Sarah F. Weiss

2017: Partner Erica Ross and Associates Daniel A. Epstein and Alan Iverson

2016: Partners Jessica Ring Amunson, Barry Levenstam and Gail H. Morse and Associate Rafi W. Mottahedeh


2014: Partner Reena R. Bajowala and Associate Matthew D. Cipolla

2013: 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

2012: Partners Richard F. Levy and Katya Jestion and Associate Marisa K. Perry

2011: Associate Kyle A. Palazzolo

2010: Partner Jeffrey A. Koppy and Associates Elisabeth Genn, J.H. Jennifer Lee and Danielle F. Tarantolo

2009: Partner Brian J. Fischer and Associates Lindsay C. Harrison and Andrew W. Vail

2008: Partners Iris E. Bennett and Terrence J. Truax and Associates Joshua A. Block and Matthew S. Hellman


2006: Partners Patricia A. Bronte, Thomas J. Perrelli and Associate Martina E. Vandenberg

2005: Associates Brian P. O'Donnell and Amy L. Tenney

2003: Partners Thomas P. Sullivan and William M. Hohengarten

2002: 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**


Partner Gabe Fuentes To Speak at NU Law’s Celebration of Bluhm Law Clinic’s 50th AnniversaryOctober 12, 2018

Partners David Saunders and Andrew Vail Invited to Meeting of the General Consulate of Mexico in ChicagoJune 07, 2018

“The Role of Clemency in the Criminal Justice System,” Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of ChicagoJune 06, 2018

“Pro Bono Perspectives: Best Practices for Matters Serving the Public
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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 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

Firm and Knight First Amendment Institute Win Appellate Victory in
Landmark Case About Twitter as a Public Forum
July 9, 2019

Firm Team Receives Victory for Obama Presidential Center when Judge
Dismisses Lawsuit
June 12, 2019

Team Authors Amicus Brief in Iowa Transgender Dispute
March 15, 2019

Firm Files Major Brief for United Nations re: Mexican Border Asylum Ban
Cases
December 6, 2018

Partner Todd C. Toral Quoted in ABA Journal Article on USS Cole
Bombing Trial
November 5, 2018
Partners Andrew Vail and David Saunders Appointed "Consultant Lawyers" by the Consulate General of Mexico August 16, 2018

Firm Prevails in Important First Amendment Case about Twitter as a Public Forum May 23, 2018

Firm's US Supreme Court Win Featured in The New York Times April 24, 2018

Firm's Amicus Brief Challenges Juvenile Interrogation Methods in Dassey Case March 26, 2018

Jenner & Block Team Wins High-Profile Dispute Over IRS Felony Tax Obstruction Statute March 21, 2018

Partner Jessica Ring Amunson Wins US Supreme Court Victory on behalf of Pro Bono Client February 21, 2018

Team Wins Victory for Former Students of Now-Defunct ITT Technical Institute in "Landmark" Settlement January 24, 2018

Partner Adam Unikowsky Counts Another Victory before the US Supreme Court January 22, 2018

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

Pro Bono: Second Chances — The Story of Jesse Webster

Firm Files Amicus Brief in Case Challenging Mississippi's “Unnatural Intercourse” Law

Pro Bono: 30 Seconds to Lose Your Life, 30 Years to Get it Back — The Story of Johnnie Lee Savory

Firm Wins Victory in Dispute over Motorboat Limits on Michigan Lake

Partner Keri Holleb Hotaling Helps Launch Task Force Aimed at Drawing University-Based Law Clinics in Fight Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Firm's Amicus Brief in Michigan Criminal Case Receives Much Media Attention

In Voting Rights Case, Firm Wins US Supreme Court Victory on Behalf of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission

Partner and Litigation Department Chair Craig Martin Joins Initiative to Increase Legal Services for the Poor

Firm Wins Chance for Pro Bono Client Convicted of Murder to Show Actual Innocence

Jenner & Block Wins Far-Reaching Sentencing Case as US Supreme Court Rules 7-1 in Welch vs. US

Judge Grants Preliminary Approval of New York Access-A-Ride Settlement

BuzzFeed Publishes Feature Article on Firm's Pro Bono Client Who Hopes Disproven Arson-Investigation Techniques Will Free Him

Firm Represents Nonprofit Beyond OCD to Help Further Its Mission
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

In Firm Win, Fifth Circuit Voids Death Sentence for Pro Bono ClientDecember 21, 2015


Firm Wins US Supreme Court Victory for Pro Bono Client Kevan BrumfieldJune 18, 2015

Partner Michael DeSanctis Argues Before U.S. Supreme Court On Behalf Of Intellectually Disabled Person On Death RowApril 2, 2015

Firm Team Wins Immigration Case for Pro Bono Client with Precedent-Setting RulingMarch 12, 2015

Firm Clears Critic of Bite-Mark Identification in Dispute with Professional OrganizationFebruary 16, 2015

Jenner & Block Wins Pro Bono Victory for Illinois Student Newspaper Editor in First Amendment Rights MatterFebruary 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 Row October 2, 2014

Firm’s Pro Bono Services Play Key Role in Building Jesse White Community Center September 23, 2014

Partner Vince Lazar and Firm Team to be Honored by American Liver Foundation September 16, 2014

Family Defense Center to Honor Louis Fogel September 9, 2014

Firm Represents Central American Women and Children Asylum-Seekers September 3, 2014

Firm Reclaims AmLaw #1 Pro Bono Firm Ranking July 2, 2014

Slachetka Receives "Rising Star" Award from National Immigrant Justice Center June 13, 2014

DNA Evidence Exonerates Juan Rivera June 11, 2014
Firm Scores Pro Bono Victory in Asbestos Fraud Case May 29, 2014

Ling Named to Chicago Legal Clinic Board of Directors May 2014

Firm Honored with Inaugural Anne Heyman Spirit Award for Pro Bono Work in Rwanda May 19, 2014

Two Firm Teams Receive Awards for Pro Bono Representation May 14, 2014

Shriver Center Bestows Pro Bono Award on Firm April 24, 2014

D.C. Chief Judges Again Honor Firm as Pro Bono Leader April 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 Asylum March 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 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

Thomas P. Sullivan Receives George N. Leighton Justice Award November 18, 2013
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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


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

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

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 Heart of the Matter 2017 Report
February 16, 2018

Partner Robert L. Byman Explores the Controversial History of Jury Nullification
October 10, 2017

“The Silvonus Shannon Story,” The Bencher
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
Jenner & Block is proud of its 2018 pro bono results:

August 26, 2019

Firm Team Achieves 11th Circuit Victory in Pro Bono Voting Rights Case

On August 22, a Jenner & Block team won a significant victory when the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed a lower court’s decision entering judgment against the American Civil Rights Union (ACRU), in its lawsuit against the Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Dr. Brenda Snipes. The appellate court rejected ACRU’s arguments as contrary to the statutory text of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and discerned “no clear error in the district court’s factual findings.”

In ACRU v. Snipes, ACRU alleged that Snipes failed to make reasonable efforts to conduct voter list maintenance programs, violating Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The ACRU also claimed that Snipes failed to respond sufficiently to written requests for data regarding the offices implementation of programs and activities for ensuring the accuracy of official lists of eligible voters for Broward County, further violating Section 8 of NVRA. After finding that the ACRU’s notice letter to Snipes was the only correspondence sent and did not disclose potential NVRA violation or probationary time to remedy it, the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida dismissed the allegation, sua sponte.

In July 2017, a five-day bench trial proceeded solely on the ACRU’s contention that Snipes failed to make “reasonable effort” to remove ineligible voters by reasons of death or change in address. The court found every piece of evidence offered by ACRU unconvincing, concluding that the organization’s accusations were thoroughly unfounded and held that Broward County’s voter list maintenance program was fully compliant with federal law.

On March 30, 2018, Judge Beth Bloom ruled in favor of Dr. Snipes and SEIU. In doing so, the judge wrote that Dr. Snipes “implemented a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters by reason of death or change of address.” The judge also held that the ACRU failed to prove a violation of Section 8 of the...
NVRA. “The court recognizes that the NVRA has a nationwide application, and for that reason, it declines to apply a subjective approach that would vary widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction,” she wrote. Partner Kali Bracey and Associate Tassity Johnson, joined by former partner Carrie Apfel and former associate Marina Jenkins successfully tried the case.

In March 2019, Partner Jessica Ring Amunson argued the appeal in the 11th Circuit. The appellate court affirmed the district court in full. On appeal, the ACRU argued that the NVRA’s mandate to remove voters ineligible due to relocation or death extended to other categories of potential ineligibility, that the HAVA also broadened the NVRA’s list maintenance obligations, and that National Change of Address procedure outlined in the NVRA for removing relocated voters from the rolls did not create “safe harbor” of reasonable list maintenance. The appellate court found that all three arguments were completely contrary to the language and purpose of the NVRA and HAVA. Moreover, after “thorough review[ ]” of the record, the court “discern[ed] no clear error in the district court’s factual findings.”

In addition to Ms. Amunson, the firm team on appeal included Partner Kali Bracey and Associates Tassity Johnson and Manuel C. Possolo. Paralegal Cheryl Olson and Docketing Assistant Tyler Edwards also assisted at the trial and appellate levels.
Bono Voting Rights Case

TAGS: <a class="ba" href="/library/blogs/20/tags/479">Appellate</a>, <a class="ba" href="/library/blogs/20/tags/386">Supreme Court</a>, <a class="ba" href="/library/blogs/20/tags/312">Litigation</a>, <a class="ba" href="/library/blogs/20/tags/479">Voting</a>

PEOPLE: <a class="ba" href="/people/JessicaAmunson">Jessica Ring Amunson</a>, <a class="ba" href="/people/ManuelPossolo">Manuel C. Possolo</a>, <a class="ba" href="/people/TassityJohnson">Tassity Johnson</a>, <a class="ba" href="/people/KaliBracey">Kali Bracey</a>

August 22, 2019

Precious Jacobs and Garrett Fitzsimmons Named “Pro Bono Superstars” by The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Jenner & Block Partner <a href="https://jenner.com/people/PreciousJacobs">Precious S. Jacobs</a> and Associate <a href="https://jenner.com/people/GarrettFitzsimmons">Garrett Fitzsimmons</a> will be honored as 2019 “Pro Bono Superstars” by The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE). The award recognizes and celebrates all CAASE pro bono partnerships and the exceptional representation CAASE pro bono lawyers have provided to survivors of sexual exploitation and harm. Ms. Jacobs and Mr. Fitzsimmons are being recognized for their work in successfully resolving a dispute on behalf of a woman who was brought to the United States under false pretenses, exploited and sexually assaulted.

CAASE will present the honorees with the “Pro Bono Superstars” award at a ceremony at the CAASE office on Thursday, September 5.
Precious Jacobs and Garrett Fitzsimmons Named “Pro Bono Superstars” by The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

August 21, 2019

Three associates based in the firm’s Los Angeles office led a team that obtained a five-figure settlement for a wheelchair-bound prisoner in a civil rights claim against a prison physician.

Associates Wesley M. Griffith, Alexander M. Smith and Effiong K. Dampha led the team, which included support from Partner Kirsten Hicks Spira.

Pro bono client Hilliard Williams filed a Section 1983 lawsuit against a physician at the California Medical Facility, a state prison, for not providing him adequate pain medication following second-degree burns to his face, neck, arm and chest. Despite our client’s repeated statements to the defendant that he was in severe pain, and the conclusion of four other doctors who examined him that day that he was in pain, the defendant did not administer medication or inquire if the client was in pain, in violation of prison policy.

The case settled a week before it was scheduled to go to trial in the Eastern District of California. Although one in ten lawsuits filed in federal court is a Section 1983 claim, these are frequently dismissed early and are known to be difficult cases to advance so close to trial.
thanked the team repeatedly for its dedication to pro bono, which is a core value of the firm, and its willingness to commit extensive resources to the matter. <p><a addthis:url="https://jenner.com/library/posts/19233" addthis:title="Jenner & Block Associates Secure Five-Figure Settlement in Civil Rights Case" class="addthis_button_linkedin"></a><a addthis:url="https://jenner.com/library/posts/19233" addthis:title="Jenner & Block Associates Secure Five-Figure Settlement in Civil Rights Case" class="addthis_button_twitter"></a><a addthis:url="https://jenner.com/library/posts/19233" addthis:title="Jenner & Block Associates Secure Five-Figure Settlement in Civil Rights Case" class="addthis_button_google_plusone_share"></a><a addthis:url="https://jenner.com/library/posts/19233" addthis:title="Jenner & Block Associates Secure Five-Figure Settlement in Civil Rights Case" class="addthis_button_pinterest_share"></a><a addthis:url="https://jenner.com/library/posts/19233" addthis:title="Jenner & Block Associates Secure Five-Figure Settlement in Civil Rights Case" class="addthis_button_facebook"></a><p class="tags">TAGS: <a class="ba" href="/library/blogs/20/tags/477">Section 1983</a></p><p class="tags">PEOPLE: <a class="ba" href="/people/AlexanderSmith">Alexander M. Smith</a>, <a class="ba" href="/people/WesleyGriffith">Wesley M. Griffith</a>, <a class="ba" href="/people/KirstenSpira">Kirsten Hicks Spira</a>, <a class="ba" href="/people/EffiongDampha">Effiong K. Dampha</a></p>August 20, 2019 <a class="content" href="/library/posts/19265">Firm Secures DC Circuit Decision Overturning Convictions on 6th Amendment Grounds</a><p>A Jenner & Block team of Partner <a href="https://jenner.com/people/LindsayHarrison">Lindsay C. Harrison</a> and Associate <a href="https://jenner.com/people/JamesDawson">James T. Dawson</a> succeeded in persuading the D.C. Circuit to overturn the convictions of pro bono client Pheerayuth Burden and his export business, Wing-On LLC. Mr. Burden was charged with exporting gun parts without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA). At trial, the testimony of a key prosecutorial witness was admitted through videotaped deposition; he was unavailable for questioning because the US government had deported him prior to the trial. The firm argued that the admission of the deposition constituted a violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment,
which guarantees the right of the defendants to confront the witnesses against them at trial. On August 20, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, in its ruling, agreed to vacate all charges, citing the district court’s error in admitting deposition testimony. The firm also won a second issue related to the jury instructions for a willful violation of the AECA, which criminalizes willful violations of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

August 2, 2019

Jenner & Block Associates

Secure Favorable, Rare Outcomes for Two Pro Bono Clients

Through Jenner & Block’s work serving on the Criminal Justice Act panel in the United States District Court for the Southern District New York, a team of associates secured favorable, rare outcomes in two pro bono matters. The first involved a client who was charged with serious violations stemming from a series of armed robberies. While his involvement in these offenses was minor; however, one of his charges carried a seven-year mandatory minimum sentence.
sentence due to the use of a gun during the robberies. Led by Associates &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/Edelirivera">Edelí Rivera</a&gt; and &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/Jessicamartinez">Jessica A. Martinez</a&gt;, with supervision from Partner &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/KatyaJestin">Katya Jestin</a&gt;, the team negotiated an agreement with the government that allowed the client to plead to a lesser charge. And even though he still faced 41 to 51 months’ imprisonment under the lesser charge to which he pled, the client was sentenced to only 16 months in jail, 14 of which he had already served. After the proceedings concluded, Edelí’s effective oral advocacy earned high praise from presiding Judge Andrew L. Carter, Jr.&lt;/p&gt;&lt;p&gt;The second pro bono matter involved a client being investigated for embezzlement from a labor union. For almost two years, Associate &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/AliArain">Ali M. Arain</a&gt; led the case, supervised by Partner &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/AnthonyBarkow">Anthony S. Barkow</a&gt; and assisted by Associates &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/LoriDay">Lori B. Day</a&gt; and &lt;a href="https://jenner.com/people/JacobTracer">Jacob Lincoln Tracer</a&gt; and law clerk Andrew D. Whinery. The team persuaded the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York to give our client a rare deferred prosecution agreement, providing that if our client pays back the money at issue, he would not be prosecuted and will have no criminal record. The client repeatedly thanked Ali and the team, stating that they had “saved his life,” “gave him his humanity” and “treated him with dignity and respect.” &lt;/p&gt;
Rare Outcomes for Two Pro Bono Clients"

A firm team successfully proved that Chicago police had no reason to arrest our pro bono client on charges of carrying a gun without a concealed carry permit. In granting the firm’s motion to suppress evidence, Judge Steven Watkins stated that the stop and arrest of the firm’s client were improper. At issue was the gun that the client was carrying when police stopped him as he walked home in his Chicago neighborhood. The client legally purchased the gun, and he had a valid Firearm Owners Identification card, but he did not yet have a conceal carry permit. The arresting officers claimed that the client was looking into a window of a commercial business, and once stopped, one officer claimed he saw a “bulge” protruding from the client’s waistband, giving him probable cause to search. However, the team developed a creative defense strategy for the evidentiary hearing in Cook County Criminal Court. The client was put on the stand wearing exactly the same hooded sweatshirt and winter jacket he was wearing the night of the search. The team put a replica gun in the client’s waistband, illustrating that the officer could not have seen any “bulge.” The client and the officers were also questioned about the client looking into the window. The judge found the stop, and therefore the arrest, to be improper.

The firm team included Partners and and Associate.
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TAGS: <a class="ba"
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class="ba" href="/people/SarahWeiss">Sarah F. Weiss</a>,
<a class="ba" href="/people/MiriamWayne">Miriam J. Wayne</a></p>