



2019

PRO BONO ANNUAL REPORT
BENDING THE ARC

HUNTON
ANDREWS KURTH

FIRM PRO BONO NUMBERS

48,407

Total pro bono hours

4,568

Hours dedicated to LSC funded legal service providers

1,213

Total pro bono matters

147

Timekeepers with more than 100 hours recorded

116

Legal service provider partners

27

Years of meeting and exceeding the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge

100%
Participation for the
11th consecutive year

FAMILY LAW

TOTAL HOURS: 4,302

12

Adoptions

170 hours

Los Angeles lawyers partner with the Alliance for Children's Rights to represent children in their adoptions.

19

Child Custody Cases

424 hours

83

Divorces

1,036 hours

62

Wills and Estate Planning Matters

1,013 hours

65

Guardianships

1,284 hours

This past year, a team of Hunton lawyers and paralegals, led by **Andrea Field** (Washington, DC), was instrumental in the resolution of a years-long dispute over custody and visitation issues involving a now 12-year-old child. Serving as guardian ad litem for the child, the team was able to persuade the court to grant an order terminating the custody and visitation rights of a parent who had physically and psychologically harmed the child. Now, for the first time in his life, the child is living full-time in a stable environment with no fear of harm.

CHILDREN'S LAW

TOTAL HOURS: 6,959

205

Total Matters

Mark Vowell (Dallas) assisted AT LAST!, an urban boarding house for impoverished children, with leasing a new space so that the non-profit could accommodate more children. AT LAST! assists young students with schoolwork, proper nutrition, and provides a safe place to sleep, in an effort to lessen intergenerational poverty and empower families.

HOUSING LAW

TOTAL HOURS: 3,691



Chip Nunley (Richmond) leads efforts to assist tenants in some of Richmond's most impoverished and dilapidated apartment buildings. This past year, Chip and other Richmond lawyers assisted hundreds of tenants in court with wrongful evictions, unlawful detainers, and assertions.

In a separate effort to address Richmond's housing crisis, **Josh Hanbury** (Richmond) and **Jenny Daglio** (Richmond) coordinate volunteers to serve as neutral parties in unlawful eviction cases filed in the City of Richmond General District Court under the City's new Eviction Diversion Program.

PRISONERS & JUSTICE REFORM

TOTAL HOURS: 3,044



Clemency and Post Conviction Relief Matters



Innocence Project Matters



Prisoners' Rights Matters



Expungement or Restoration of Rights Matters

Brendan Staley (Richmond) presents seminars at Virginia prisons to help offenders seeking reinstatement of their driver's license after release. The program, sponsored by Drive to Work, provides offenders with an overview of the necessary steps to restore their driving privileges and access available resources to assist in their reintegration as productive citizens.

Larry Bracken (Atlanta) and his team have served as co-counsel with the Southern Center for Human Rights on prisoner rights matters, which include constitutional rights cases stemming from prison gang violence, deprivation of medical care, abuse of prisoners by guards, and failure to provide reasonable accommodation of prisoners with physical disabilities. Over the last 18 years, our Atlanta lawyers have worked with SCHR to improve prison conditions across the state of Georgia. **The Atlanta office was recognized for this work in 2015 with the SCHR's annual Justice Ally of the Year Award.**

CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES

TOTAL HOURS: 1,808

A team led by **John Schronce** (Richmond), partnering with the First Liberty Institute, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia asserting violations of the Fair Housing Act and the Virginia Fair Housing Law on behalf of a retired couple who was threatened with eviction for holding a Bible study in their apartment complex. After discovery and a settlement conference, the defendants agreed to all of the relief the couple sought.



10
Matters

APPELLATE LAW

TOTAL HOURS: 1,609



15
Total Matters



12
Amicus Briefs

Trevor Cox (Richmond) and **Matt McGuire** (Richmond) filed an amicus brief in the US Supreme Court in support of the State of North Carolina's position in *Allen v. Cooper*, a case concerning the States' sovereign immunity from suit for alleged violations of federal copyright law. Prepared on behalf of both law professors and scholars in constitutional and intellectual property law, the brief argued that Congress did not validly abrogate States' immunity when it enacted the Copyright Remedy Clarification Act of 1990. In a decision issued in March 2020, the Court unanimously sided with the position advocated by the law professors and scholars.

Elbert Lin (Richmond) filed an amicus brief at the US Supreme Court supporting the petition for certiorari in *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*. Written on behalf of the Islam & Religious Freedom Action Team of the Religious Freedom Institute, this brief demonstrated how government actors in the Eleventh Circuit may evade judicial scrutiny of an unconstitutional policy by changing the policy before resolution of the case. Overturning this rule would help vindicate constitutional violations, particularly against minority religious groups who rely on nominal damages to remedy the harms they suffered. Associates **Erica Peterson** (Washington, DC), **Kelly Oeltjenbruns** (Washington, DC), and **Matt Revis** (Washington, DC) assisted in drafting the brief.

The Human Trafficking Legal Center asked **Stuart Raphael** (Washington, DC) to file an amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit in support of the plaintiffs' position in *Martinez-Rodriguez v. Giles*. The case concerns important legal issues arising under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which creates a private cause of action for damages against any person engaged in the use of forced labor or who engages in the trafficking of forced labor. The plaintiffs are six professional veterinarians from Mexico who claim that the defendants wrongfully induced them to travel to Idaho with the promise of employing them as skilled animal scientists, only to subject them to abusive conditions performing menial labor at the defendants' dairy farm. Stuart's brief argues, among other things, that the threat of deportation is a common tool used by human traffickers to coerce victims into forced labor. The Ninth Circuit is hearing oral argument in the case in June 2020, and Stuart is sharing oral argument time with appellants' counsel.

Lorie Masters (Washington, DC) and a team of lawyers across the firm filed an amicus brief on behalf of United Policyholders in the California Supreme Court in support of a question certified to the court by the Ninth Circuit in a case appealing a lower court decision denying Advertising Injury Coverage for Yahoo's TCPA liabilities.

In *US v. Valencia*, the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit appointed **Maya Eckstein** (Richmond) to represent Miguel Valencia in his appeal of an order denying the motion he filed to reduce his sentence following an amendment to the US Sentencing Guidelines. The court found his case represented a question of first impression for the Court. The US attorney found that his review of the appellate brief filed by Eckstein, **Nick Stellakis** (Boston) and **Trevor Cox** (Richmond), convinced him that the amendment did, in fact, apply to Mr. Valencia. As a result, the US filed a motion to remand the case and the district court ordered Mr. Valencia's immediate release.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

TOTAL HOURS: 421

14

Total Matters

Firm lawyers in New York regularly volunteer with the City Bar Justice Center's Legal Clinic for the Homeless, providing advice and/or representation to homeless shelter residents on a variety of matters related to public benefits.

VETERANS MATTERS

TOTAL HOURS: 4,666



Total Matters



Veteran's
Benefit Claims



Military Sexual
Trauma Matters
(MST)



Coast Guard
Matters

Frederick Eames (Washington, DC) leads a team of pro bono volunteers assisting the Merrill's Marauders Association in enlisting Congressional support for legislation that would award a Congressional Gold Medal to its soldiers for their service. The Bill has passed in the Senate.

Lawyers in Boston, Miami, New York, Norfolk and Washington, DC participated in the firm's Coast Guard partnership representing USCG service members. The partnership was founded by **Wally Martinez** (New York) in 2012. **Bob Tata** (Norfolk) assisted with three Coast Guard cases this year.

An all-female team of lawyers, as requested by the client due to certain sensitivities, developed a winning strategy that included deciding to forgo a personal hearing that the client previously requested from the VA to increase the client's overall chance of success.

Shannon Daily (Richmond) and **Maeve Olney** (New York) led the team on the difficult military sexual trauma case.

SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

TOTAL HOURS: 791



Firm lawyers served 37 small businesses through referrals from Washington, DC Area Lawyers for the Arts, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in New York, DC Bar Pro Bono Center, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, Greater Richmond Bar Foundation, Georgia Lawyers for the Arts and the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice, Start Small Think Big, Dade Legal Aid and the New York Lawyers Assistance Group (NYLAG).

Fawaz Bham (Dallas) and **Dan Garner** (Dallas) organize and lead Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program's Small Business Clinics. They also recently helped DVAP transition to a remote clinic platform in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMMIGRATION

TOTAL HOURS: 5,916

146

Total Matters

15

Asylum Cases

9

Family Separation

10

U-Visa

40

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

9

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

10

Human Trafficking

Lawyers from Charlotte, Houston, New York, Richmond and Washington, DC assisted San Antonio Region Justice for Our Neighbors and their clients in a contentious immigration matter in McAllen, Texas. The team filed a brief in support of a Honduran teenaged mother and her infant daughter for a Temporary Restraining Order (“TRO”) to stop their removal to Guatemala. Based on Hunton’s and SARJFON’s filings, at the TRO hearing, the Department of Homeland Security agreed to release the family, cease their removal proceedings, and allow the family to remain in Texas to apply for asylum. **Suzan Kern** (Washington, DC), who dedicated over 180 pro bono hours to immigration matters this year, referred the matter to the group.

IMMIGRATION GLOSSARY

Asylum

Humanitarian protection for people (and immediate family members) who have fled their countries of origin because they were persecuted or have a “well-founded fear” of being persecuted in that country by a government actor, or by a private actor the government will not or cannot control, on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

Permanent residence (a green card) for immigrant children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents and who are placed under the custody of a state court or a court-appointed state agency or individual.

U Nonimmigrant Status

Nonimmigrant legal status for people (and immediate family members) who are victims of qualifying crimes, suffered substantial harm from the crime, and assist or are willing to assist law enforcement officials in detecting, investigating or prosecuting the crime.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Petitions

Under VAWA, the qualifying spouses, parents or children of abusive US citizens or permanent residents may “self-petition” for permanent residence without the sponsorship of the abusive relative.

HEALTH AND DISABILITY LAW

TOTAL HOURS: 1,739

31
Matters Dedicated to
Individuals with Disabilities
750 hours

26
Matters Dedicated to
Organizations Assisting
Patients with Terminal Illnesses
989 hours

Richard Massony (Richmond) and **Emma Weiss** (Richmond) led a partnership between Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP and Faison School for Autism to provide pro bono guardianships for families at the school. These families are now able to assist their autistic adult children with important legal, financial, and medical decisions.

A team of lawyers, led by **J.C. Chenault** (Richmond), represented Heart Havens, a non-profit organization that provides residential support to adults with developmental disabilities, in seven separate matters in 2019. Heart Havens operates four different locations in Virginia and seeks to empower disabled adults to live a productive and fulfilling life.

COVID-19 RESPONSE & DISASTER RELIEF

TOTAL HOURS: 100

During the last month of FY20, the firm quickly responded to clients' needs amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic. Within days of the nationwide lockdown, the firm established a COVID-19 Pro Bono Task Force to address the needs of our pro bono clients and legal service provider partners. The firm-wide Task Force, led by **Austin Maloney** (Richmond), **Lee Davis** (Houston) and **Jared Grodin** (Houston) has developed an external pro bono resource page on the firm's website and an internal website for Hunton lawyers to access pro bono opportunities in each office.

Emily Cabrera (The Woodlands) and **Siddharth Sethy** (Washington, DC) assisted low-income victims of the 2018 Cyclone Gita in American Samoa with their FEMA appeals.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

TOTAL HOURS: 399

Beth Coplowitz (Miami) and **Jonathan Kurry** (Miami) lead a firm-wide team exploring animal importation laws for the ASPCA.



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

TOTAL HOURS: 600



RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND DIVERSITY MATTERS

TOTAL HOURS: 1,149

Dan Campbell (Richmond) led a team that assisted the Chickahominy Tribe in acquiring 105 acres of land along the James River in Charles City County, Virginia, returning tribal lands to the Chickahominy after several centuries.



21
Matters

CONSULTS / HOTLINES / CLINICS / INTAKES

TOTAL HOURS: 3,832

24 Legal Service Providers Served Across Firm Offices

CHURCH HILL OFFICE

TOTAL HOURS: 4,409

44

Housing Matters

65

Uncontested Divorces

28

Guardianships

8

Protective Orders

3

Adoptions

4

Custody Cases

The George Hettrick Community Law Center in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond was established in 1990 as a satellite office to provide pro bono services to financially limited persons in the Richmond area.

Chip Nunley serves as the managing partner of the office and **Sandy Reynolds** is the office's manager and administrator. The Church Hill office offers legal services in the following subject areas:

- Family Law (uncontested divorce, adoptions, name changes)
- Housing and Real Estate (landlord-tenant and housing issues)
- Guardianships
- The office also accepts all uncontested divorce case clients from the general Richmond area who are referred by the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

TOTAL HOURS: 12,375

- 347** Total Matters
- 254** Non-Profits Served
 - 5** Animal Rights
 - 32** Arts / Historical / Cultural
 - 27** Health, Illness & Disability
 - 13** Children's Education & Development
 - 4** Access to Nutrition and Clean Water
 - 3** Conflict Resolution
 - 12** Environmental
 - 4** First Responders
 - 5** LGBTQ+
 - 48** Low-Income Communities (including housing, homelessness, education and hunger)
 - 9** Diversity
 - 5** Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
 - 14** Religious
 - 20** Schools & Universities
 - 4** Trafficking
 - 7** Veterans
 - 11** Women's Causes

Ed Colbert (Washington, DC) and **Steven Becker** (New York) have long-standing relationships with the Special Olympics organization. Ed advises Special Olympics (Nationwide) on IP and other related matters. Steven Becker (New York) and New York lawyers provide advice to Special Olympics NY. The Special Olympics organization provides athletic training, events and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Advised by **Joe Saltarelli** (New York), The Alliance for Positive Change is an organization dedicated to assisting New Yorkers living with HIV and other chronic illnesses to obtain medical care, community and peer support and housing in order to maintain a happy and stable life.

Goodwill Industries of Central Virginia is advised by retired partner, **Ben Ackerly** and **Jason Harbour** (Richmond). The business model of Goodwill Industries goes beyond the storefront by training people for jobs, placing them in jobs in the community and financing much of it through the operation of Goodwill Stores that are stocked by donations from the local community.

AWARDS

Jared Grodin (Houston) received Houston Volunteer Lawyers' (HVL) Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Achievement. HVL recognized Jared for his exceptional dedication and service in handling pro bono guardianship cases. Since 2015, he has managed 11 guardianship cases involving parents fighting to continue caring for their adult children with disabilities.

Hunton Andrews Kurth pro bono fellow **Pradine Saint-Fort** (New York) was given Cornell Law School's Pro Bono Award. Pradine's alma mater recognized her and the value of public and private partnership that has allowed her to represent migrant youth in immigration matters.

National Veterans Legal Services Program awarded **Kevin Gaunt** (Washington, DC) with its 2019 Lawyers Serving Warriors® Excellence Award. This national award is given annually to a volunteer attorney who has provided exemplary pro bono services to veterans and service members.

PRO BONO IN THE MEDIA

New York lawyers, including **Patrick Robson** and **Sima Kazmir**, continue to assist sets of twins and multiples who were unknowingly separated at birth and adopted by different families as part of a study using twins to evaluate the effects of nature vs. nurture. The documentaries, *The Twinning Reaction* and *Three Identical Strangers*, detail the experiment.

Brian Saunders (Washington, DC) regularly takes on matters from the Animal Legal Defense Fund combatting personal and roadside attraction zoos. He recently took on an illegal animal practice that was highlighted on Netflix's *Tiger King*.

Featured on this NPR's *This American Life*, **Geri Greenspan** (Richmond) and **Toby Long** (Richmond) are currently seeking clemency for a prisoner who suffers from a rare genetic disorder to be transferred from a prison to a secure hospital.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP has a variety of strong pro bono partnerships with client corporations. In the past year, lawyers in Charlotte, Miami, Richmond, and Washington, DC have partnered with financial institutions and corporations on wills clinics, housing clinics, Medicaid appeals and veterans' matters.

Tim McHugh (Richmond), co-counseled with Dominion Energy's David DePippo, successfully challenged the Department of Veterans Affairs' administration of GI Bill educational benefits to deliver a major decision by the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The decision's widespread implications could restore billions of dollars in GI Bill benefits for millions of post-9/11 era veterans.

Charlotte lawyers partner with Wells Fargo in a clinic setting to assist pro bono clients with Medicaid appeals through the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

Led by **Maria Castellanos** (Miami), a team of Miami lawyers, in collaboration with a financial institution, participates in Legal Services of Greater Miami's Landlord/Tenant Clinic.

Richmond lawyers participate in wills drafting clinics in collaboration with lawyers from Dominion Energy's legal department. Washington, DC lawyers also participate in Legal Services of Northern Virginia wills clinics with Northern Virginia based financial institutions and corporations.

LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

BY HOURS

| | |
|---|-------|
| National Veterans Legal Services Program | 2,691 |
| Central Virginia Legal Aid Society | 2,406 |
| Houston Volunteer Lawyers | 1,764 |
| Kids in Need of Defense | 1,629 |
| Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program | 1,334 |
| Legal Aid Justice Center | 1,312 |
| First Liberty Institute | 957 |
| Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project | 929 |
| Legal Aid Society of New York | 920 |
| Legal Counsel for the Elderly | 705 |
| Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services | 630 |
| Greater Richmond Bar Foundation | 558 |
| Children's Law Center | 490 |
| Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation | 470 |
| Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law | 425 |
| Commonwealth Catholic Charities | 423 |
| Delaware Community Legal Aid | 408 |
| City Bar Justice Center | 387 |
| American Bar Association Free Legal Answers | 366 |
| Human Rights First | 306 |

LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

BY MATTERS

| | |
|---|----|
| Central Virginia Legal Aid Society | 72 |
| Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program | 69 |
| Houston Volunteer Lawyers | 55 |
| National Veterans Legal Services Program | 51 |
| Greater Richmond Bar Foundation | 31 |
| Legal Aid Justice | 28 |
| Legal Aid Society of New York | 23 |
| Kids in Need of Defense | 21 |
| Legal Counsel for the Elderly | 19 |
| Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation | 13 |
| Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta | 12 |
| Commonwealth Catholic Charities | 11 |
| Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy | 11 |
| Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services | 10 |
| International Refugee Assistance | 10 |
| Delaware Community Legal Aid | 8 |
| City Bar Justice Center | 8 |
| Legal Services of Northern Virginia | 6 |
| Legal Services of Greater Miami | 5 |
| Washington, DC Lawyers' Committee for Civil Right Under Law | 5 |

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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New York

Nick Stellakis

Boston

Bob Tata

Norfolk

Julia Trankiem

Los Angeles

Alex Young

Los Angeles

FELLOWSHIPS IN NEW YORK, RICHMOND AND CHARLOTTESVILLE

TOTAL HOURS: 5,143



GERI GREENSPAN

46 Total Matters | 18 Protective Orders | 12 Immigration Matters | 4 Custody Cases

Geri represents low-income clients as part of the firm's partnership with the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) in Charlottesville. Geri's practice focuses exclusively on pro bono matters assigned to her by the Legal Aid Justice Center, which include representing and advising clients on housing, public benefits, immigration, and civil rights matters. In FY20, Geri became a member of the Charlottesville Human Trafficking Task Force and a regular volunteer for LAJC's Medical / Legal Partnership with the UVA Hospital. Geri also became a member of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance's Public Policy Committee, helping to draft and pass four pieces of legislation to help protect domestic and sexual violence survivors in Virginia. On top of Geri's caseload from LAJC, she is currently seeking clemency for a prisoner who suffers from a rare genetic disorder and assisting in a separate prisoner's rights case in Virginia.



PRADINE SAINT-FORT

48 Total Matters | 17 KIND Cases | 23 Legal Aid Society of New York Cases

As the firm's New York pro bono fellow, Pradine assists low-income clients with civil pro bono matters, dividing her time between clients at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and the Legal Aid Society in New York City. Her practice focuses exclusively on pro bono guardianship, family law, and immigration matters. Pradine advises migrant youth, including unaccompanied children, on potential immigration relief applicable to their circumstances. For these youth, relief is often rooted in claims for asylum or special immigrant juvenile status. She concentrates on identifying and assisting clients with the preparation and presentation of these and other claims. Pradine's representation of youth includes appearances before New York State Family Court, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (Immigration Court), as well as the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.



MORGAN COLONNA

21 Total Matters | 1,103 hours providing consults to low-income clients in the Church Hill office
11 Family law matters

As the firm's Richmond pro bono fellow, Morgan assists low-income clients with a variety of civil pro bono matters, dividing her time between clients at the firm's Church Hill pro bono office and the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc. in Richmond. Her practice focuses exclusively on pro bono housing, family law, employment, and guardianship matters. In FY20, Morgan was selected to serve as the attorney member of the City of Richmond's Project INVEST team, as she regularly volunteered with the City of Richmond's Eviction Diversion Program, the CVLAS's Medical/ Legal partnership with VCU hospital, and led Hunton's involvement with the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce pro bono civil legal clinic.