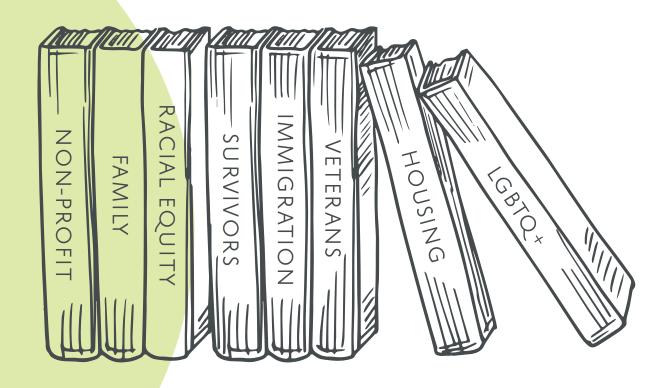
## BENDING THE ARC

REAL PRO BONO STORIES 2021





**52,088** Total Pro Bono Hours

## BY THE NUMBERS

Total Pro Bono Matters

Timekeepers With More Than 100 Hours

Years of Meeting and Exceeding the PBI Challenge

100% Participation for 13 Consecutive Years

	HOURS	MATTERS
Racial Equity	13,439	282
Survivors of Abuse	11,117	195
Non-Profit Assistance	8,074	279
Children	6,967	177
Immigration	6,209	179
Fellowships	6,098	190
Family Law	4,898	165
Church Hill	4,357	136
Prisoners	4,336	36
Disabilities	4,286	147
Veterans	4,188	101
Women's Rights	3,877	75
Housing	3,563	143
COVID-19	2,179	27
International Work	1,287	18
Small Business	1,275	25
Amicus Briefs	1,250	17
LGBTQ+ Advocacy	1,209	21
Elder Law	707	27
Environmental	500	6
Animal Rights	306	8



### **FELLOWS**

#### GERI GREENSPAN

s a senior pro bono fellow, Geri Greenspan (Richmond)

represents low-income clients as part of the firm's partnership with the University of Virginia School of Law and Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) in Charlottesville. Geri's practice focuses exclusively on pro bono matters, and concentrates on representing and advising domestic violence

survivors seeking court protection from an abusive partner for themselves and their children.

Geri has helped two victims of domestic violence obtain permanent resident status through selfpetitions under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Both clients were

induced by their husbands to come to the US from their

home countries, only to find that nothing about their lives here was as promised, including how they were treated by their husbands. After escaping physical violence by staying at the local domestic violence shelter, they sought Geri's services. Geri helped both clients obtain divorces while preparing their immigration applications. Both clients were able to establish their independence in the US through employment, and one is even happily re-married.

#### CAROLINA RIVAS

arolina Rivas (New York) assists low-income clients with immigration matters, dividing her time between clients at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and the Legal Aid Society in New York City (LASNY). Carolina advises migrant youth, including unaccompanied children, on potential immigration relief applicable to their circumstances.

Over the past year, Carolina obtained guardianship and

special findings orders in New York County Family Court, as well as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) approvals for two brothers from Ecuador.

While growing up in Ecuador, their father exposed them to domestic violence and subjected them to severe physical abuse.
Now in the United States, the brothers

have the support of their older sister who was appointed their legal guardian. They are learning English and thriving in high school. The older

brother wants to pursue
a military career and
the younger brother
wants to be
an architect.

#### MICHAELA ROSS

ichaela Ross (Richmond) assists low-income clients with a variety of civil pro bono matters, dividing her time between clients at the firm's George Hettrick Community Law Center in Church Hill and Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. Michaela concentrates on housing cases in Richmond, Henrico, and Chesterfield General District Courts. She defends tenants from eviction. assists them in wrongful evictions and tenant's assertions of poor conditions, and also handles family law and guardianship matters.

Michaela's client experienced issues with a landlord neglecting to address mold in

their apartment. The client had lived in their apartment over ten years and reported to their landlord several times that there was mold in their kitchen. The landlord, a notorious large property management company with a history of failure to fix, refused to fix the kitchen mold. The client creatively withheld their rent by sending photos of the money orders until the landlord agreed to fix the issue.

However, to legally withhold rent, the rent must be paid into court, which the client did not know about because they never received tenant's rights

documents from the landlord. The landlord filed for eviction and Michaela helped the client set up for legal withholding. Due to the landlord never supplying the mandatory tenant's rights documents when the lease was renewed, the eviction was dismissed and the client was awarded half of their withheld rent. This case, in particular, created new law that the landlord has to provide the tenant's rights document

was renewed post
the requirement
being enacted,
even if the
tenant originally
moved in
prior to the
requirement.

to tenants if their lease

#### HENRY STURM

s the firm's first pro bono fellow in Houston, Henry Sturm assists low-income clients on civil legal aid cases through Houston Volunteer Lawyers,

the pro bono arm of the Houston Bar Association. He also assists the organization with its virtual clinics. His practice focuses exclusively on pro bono housing, family law, criminal record expungement, and guardianship matters.

Henry assisted a client whose criminal record was prohibiting them from obtaining

gainful employment.
While reviewing
the client's record,
Henry noticed
one matter
was still active,
even though the
case had been
dismissed. Henry

contacted the DA's Office to close this case, making it eligible for expunction. Once both cases were verified to be eligible, Henry obtained confirmation from the DA's office that they would not oppose the petition to expunge and filed for expunction. Once Henry receives the agreed order from the DA to file for the judge's signature, the expunction will be successful and the client can finally apply for jobs without the threat of their past criminal history.

# PRO BONO COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

CHAIRS



KIM MACLEOD Firmwide Chair



**GRETA GRIFFITH** Atlanta



**SCOTT BRISTER**Austin



NICK STELLAKIS
Boston



**BOB HAHN**Charlotte



**FAWAZ BHAM**Dallas



JARED GRODIN
Houston



**NEIL KELLY** Houston



JULIA TRANKIEM Los Angeles



**ALEX YOUNG**Los Angeles



**JAMIE ISANI** Miami



ROB RICH New York



**BOB TATA**Norfolk



MAYA ECKSTEIN
Richmond



MIKE GOLDMAN Richmond



CHIP NUNLEY
Church Hill



IAN BAND Washington, DC



**KEVIN HULL** Washington, DC

## E. RANDOLPH WILLIAMS

#### AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### Given to lawyers who dedicate 100 or more hours to pro bono clients.

#### **ATLANTA**

Lawrence J. Bracken II Andrew S. Koelz

#### **BOSTON**

Britt E. Anderson Brian J. Bosworth Timothy J. Fazio Nicholas D. Stellakis

#### **CHARLOTTE**

Kate Perkins Ryan G. Rich

#### **DALLAS**

Scott L Austin Fawaz A. Bham Jennifer L Clyde Aliza P. Malouf Nikki Skolnekovich Kathleen J. Wu

#### **DUBAI**

Martin A. Skehill Patricia M. Tiller

#### **HOUSTON**

Adrianna E. Culbreth
Catherine A. Diktaban
Paige Dusthimer
Thomas W. Ford Jr.
Ashley L. Harper
Ross Hill
Sami M. Khan
Garrett Korbitz
Georgia L. Lucier
Rachel Morico
Henry R. Sturm
Russell Tan

#### **LONDON**

Ryan T. Ketchum Stephanie L Levy James D. Simpson, Jr.

#### **LOS ANGELES**

Navy K. Binning Blake E. Guerrero Michael A. Pearlson Shane A. Wilson

#### MIAMI

María A. Castellanos Natalia C. San Juan

#### **NEW YORK**

James C. Coromilas Sherli M. Furst Jane C. Hopwood Maeve Olney Robert A. Rich Carolina M. Rivas Jenna N. Rode Joseph J. Saltarelli Angelina M. Yearick

#### **NORFOLK**

Sharon S. Goodwyn

#### RICHMOND Heidi W. Abbott

Benjamin C. Ackerly Matthew P. Chriss Trevor S. Cox Mayme Beth F. Donohue Maya M. Eckstein Enyonam O. Enninful Douglas M. Garrou Michael P. Goldman Geri M. Greenspan Natalie Harris Michelle L Hayden-Winston Ian P. Hutter Pete M. Johnson, III Sherry B. Kooyman Pierce Lamberson Elbert Lin Toby P. Long Kimberly C. MacLeod Stephanie E. Meharg Matthew Nigriny Rachel W. Northup Chip Nunley Sean B. O'Connell John D. O'Neill, Jr. Anna K. Page Sarah Y. Reyes Michaela B. Ross Carl R Schwertz Michael R. Shebelskie Nathaniel S. Shepherd William P. Sowers Jack H. Spain, Jr. Andrew J. Tapscott Gary E. Thompson Thomas R. Waskom Mark W. Wickersham Eric Wilson Brian A. Wright Iennifer E. Wuebker

#### **WASHINGTON, DC**

Ian P. Band lason P. Brown F. William Brownell Kevin E. Gaunt Thomas B. Griffith Alexandra K. Hamilton Andrew Kasnevich Suzan Kern Chuck Knauss Leslie W. Kostyshak Jeffrey N. Martin Lorelie Sue Masters Garrett J. Moore Kelly R. Oeltjenbruns **Derry Sandy** Daniel A. Schultz Carter C. Simpson Daniel R. Stefany Paul M. Tiao Steven I Wood Jessica G. Yeshman



## AWARDS + RECOGNITIONS

Hunton Andrews Kurth has been honored with a wide variety of awards and recognitions in FY22 for its commitment to pro bono:

#### 2021 OUTSTANDING LAW FIRM CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Houston Bar Foundation

#### 2021 GOLD AWARD FOR PRO BONO SERVICE

Dallas Volunteer Lawyers Program

#### 2022 BEACON OF JUSTICE AWARD

National Legal Aid & Defender Association



JORGE AVILES
Washington, DC
DC Bar Foundation's
Young Lawyers Network
Leadership Council



FAWAZ BHAM
Dallas
Dallas Volunteer
Lawyers Program
2021 Lawyer of the Year



JENNA RODE
New York
Her Justice
2021 Commitment
to Justice Award



MAYA ECKSTEIN
Richmond
Protect Our Defenders
2021 Justice Award



NATE SHEPHERD
Richmond
VA Access to Justice
Commission Pro Bono
Service Champion

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ADOPT-A-BASE VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) PROGRAM WITH FORT LEE, VA

A collaboration between the IRS' Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC), the Section of Taxation of the American Bar Association (ABA), and the Armed Forces Tax Council (military installations), Hunton Andrews Kurth attorneys instruct tax law to military personnel who will prepare or assist in preparing returns for other military personnel and their dependents at the Fort Lee military base.

#### DALLAS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT VIRTUAL CLINICS

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, Hunton Andrews Kurth teamed up with the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) to launch the organization's first virtual legal aid intake clinic and restore access to vital pro bono services for area residents and the clinics continue to be held virtually today. Hunton Andrews Kurth dedicated more hours of pro bono service to DVAP clients and programs than any other firm of its size with approximately 4,900 hours dedicated to pro bono clients and more than 1,200 hours to DVAP programs in 2021.

#### HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS EVICTION DEFENSE ATTORNEY PROGRAM

Hunton Andrews Kurth volunteers are defending tenants through the Eviction Defense Attorney Program of Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL). The program assigns participating firms to cover weekly hours at the courthouse with the goal of having complete coverage for any eviction trial scheduled at any point during the week. Seventeen lawyers dedicated a combined 775 hours to the program.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST PROJECT AFGHAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SCREENING**

Lawyers spanning eleven offices have been volunteering with Human Rights First (HRF) to support Project Afghan Legal Assistance. The project was launched in response to the crisis in Afghanistan and to provide legal assistance to Afghan refugees who fled the country. Since the project started in the fall of FY22, Hunton Andrews Kurth attorneys have been involved with the screening of over 100 refugees and have taken approximately 25 of these matters full representation.

#### MAIP 20-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE PROJECT AND SCREENING COMMITTEE WITH KOCH INDUSTRIES, DOMINION ENERGY, AND OTHER CORPORATE CLIENTS

This past fiscal year, Hunton Andrews Kurth volunteers dedicated over 1,000 hours to reading and screening files from prisoners who are seeking assistance from the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project (MAIP). Volunteers also partnered with corporate clients to review the cases of MAIP's exonerees in an effort to develop a basis for reform proposals to prevent/reduce wrongful convictions.

#### NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM MEDICAL RETIREMENT CLINIC WITH CAPITAL ONE

The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) engaged the firm to assist the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Warrior Care Coalition Program in FY22. Volunteer attorneys from Hunton Andrews Kurth, Capital One, and an NVLSP mentor gave brief legal advice regarding the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) process and discussed the specifics of the service members' and/or veterans' IDES cases. The Remote Medical Clinic was attended by ten veterans. Eleven volunteer attorneys from Hunton Andrews Kurth and five Capital One volunteer attorneys provided assistance during the remote clinic.

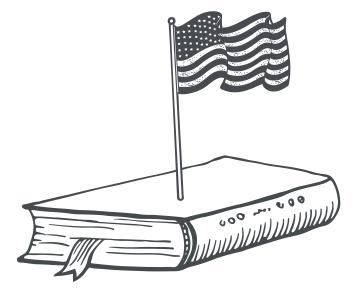
## IMMIGRATION

∎im Fazio. Brian Bosworth. **Britt Anderson** and **Maureen** Maher-Patenaude (Boston) have worked with the PAIR Project in Boston to seek asylum for deserving individuals on a pro bono basis. In 2021, they completed an asylum application for a young man who fled Turkey, having been persecuted for his religious and political beliefs. He and his family follow the teachings of the peaceful Gulen Movement, which the current Turkish government claims is a terrorist organization. The client has been subject to arrest and physical abuse, and has seen numerous family members imprisoned and indicted for so-called political crimes. In order to build an effective case for the client, the team has worked diligently through multiple in-person and Zoom meetings to gain the client's trust, build relationships, and delicately unpack his story, and is now working to persuade US Citizenship and Immigration Services to grant an asylum application for their client.

The team is currently working to get the matter on an expedited hearing list so the client can travel and reunite with his family, who he has not seen in five years. While the client awaits his hearing, he is working and studying towards becoming a researcher in international relations and security studies.

**'endy McGraw** (Norfolk) is assisting a family of Afghan refugees with their asylum applications. Wendy first got involved with the matter when she screened and agreed to represent a woman through Human Rights First's Project Afghan Legal Assistance. The client had experienced threats from the Taliban in Afghanistan due to her education and employment as a mid-wife and in a vaccination clinic. The Taliban had a history of burning down the clinic, kidnapping her co-workers, and attacking the hostel where the client and other students studied and trained because they believe women should not work and perceived the women as criminals through the assumption that they treated Americans, supported the international community, and otherwise supported women's empowerment. Now that she is in the United States, the client hopes to continue to pursue her education in the medical field.

Through her conversations with the client, Wendy learned her two brothers and father were also seeking asylum and/or special immigrant visa assistance and after screening the client's family members, Wendy agreed to take their cases as well. The father worked as an interpreter/translator for the US military, and the brothers also worked in roles supporting the US military and/or the Afghan National Police. The family had received threats related to this work, including an attack on the family home.



### HOUSING



oug Garrou (Richmond) had a successful matter referred by the firm's George Hettrick Community Law Center in Church Hill. In 2014, the clients purchased their home via a "contract for deed" arrangement. In the years since, they made payments to the seller towards owning the home, and improved the property in numerous ways. But when the housing market became hot, and the property value increased substantially, the seller tried to sell the home out from under the clients. A purported "new owner" bought the house and promptly tried to evict the clients.

Doug argued at the eviction trial that the clients were not renters, but in fact possessed the property under a claim of title, thus taking the dispute out of the jurisdiction of the General District Court. In establishing the client's bona fide claim to title, Doug pointed out that although only the clients had signed the contract for deed in 2014, the original property owner had signed the back of a utility bill acknowledging receipt of the down payment required by the contract. He argued that these documents could be considered together and, along with the parties' past performance, satisfied the statute of frauds.

The General District Court agreed that the matter was a bona fide contest over title, and dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. If the clients had lost the eviction proceeding, they would likely have lost more than \$150,000 in equity in the house.

Simultaneously, Doug filed a Circuit Court action to quiet title, and a memorandum of lis pendens to help ensure that the house wouldn't be "sold" yet again. The clients' Circuit Court lawsuit is currently pending.

ed Huffman and Charlie Truslow (Dallas) have dedicated dozens of hours over the past fiscal year to the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program's Eviction Clinic. Through this program, tenants facing eviction receive free legal assistance on the day of their eviction hearings at Dallas County Justice Courts, including in some instances through direct legal representation in court. In addition to providing general advice to clinic applicants, Ted and Charlie have directly represented a number of individual tenants at their eviction hearings, obtaining positive results for the client each time.

Most recently, Charlie represented an elderly woman who dealt with serious, ongoing health problems due to complications from COVID-19 that affected her ability to pay rent. The client had applied for governmental rental assistance and done everything she could to work with her landlord while awaiting for the rental assistance to process, but her landlord proceeded with eviction proceedings anyways. Before the Justice Court, Charlie was able to show how the landlord's action were legally and procedurally improper on a number of grounds, and the case was dismissed. The client, who had no prior knowledge or experience navigating the court system, with great emotion expressed her gratitude for the assistance at the hearing.

## NON-PROFIT + SMALL BUSINESS

unton Andrews Kurth represented Goodwill Industries of South Florida (Goodwill) pro bono in both its COVID-19 business interruption insurance claim and in a declaratory judgment suit filed in federal court by one of Goodwill's liability insurers. In the declaratory judgment action, Goodwill's insurer asserted no coverage for a wrongful death suit and refused to settle the suit against Goodwill, despite a demand from Plaintiff that was within insurance limits. If the case was not settled. Goodwill faced a punitive damages claim and a compensatory damages claim in excess of insurance limits, as well as the potential for a runaway verdict given the alleged facts. Fortunately, after prevailing on insurance motions practice and after obtaining helpful testimony from the insurer's corporate designee witness through deposition, the Hunton Andrews Kurth insurance team was able to convince the liability insurer to provide a defense to Goodwill in the underlying wrongful death suit and then settle the suit with insurer funds. By doing so, the insurer confessed judgment for the coverage case under Florida law and was even required to pay costs under Florida law.

The Hunton Andrews Kurth team consisted of Walter Andrews. Casey Coffey, Andi DeField, Adriana Perez and Vivian Chapunoff (Miami) and Jorge Aviles (Washington, DC). Other Hunton Andrews Kurth attorneys who assisted with these matters are Kevin Small (New York), Cary Steklof (Miami), Geoffrey Fehling (Boston), Rachel Hudgins (Atlanta), and 2021 summer associate Jae Lynn Huckaba (Miami), who will join the insurance team this Fall.

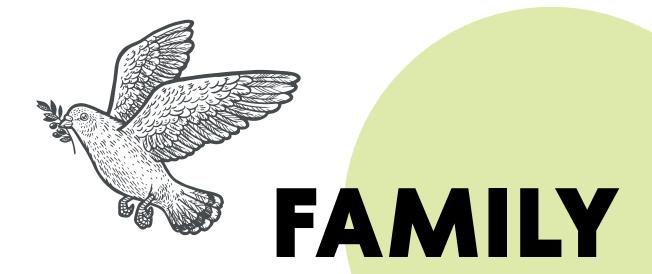
As a surprise to the Hunton Andrews Kurth team, the Goodwill Board and Executive team presented an award at their annual meeting and gave a speech about how grateful they were for Hunton Andrews Kurth's pro bono work and support.

alifornia lawyers Alexis
Romero, Christopher
Hasbrouck, and Rebecca
Hoffman (Los Angeles) assisted
a Los Angeles area entrepreneur
with kickstarting her small
business, a Chinese Taiwanese
store offering pantry staples
and home and kitchen tools. Gu
Grocery was started by the client,
a second generation Chinese
American artist, pastry chef, and
fermentation educator. She wears

various hats in the food industry as a freelance food stylist, private chef, cooking teacher, and baker. Over the years, the client's experience working in the food industry and running many successful small cottage-industry and social media-based businesses led her to start a small business encapsulating all her previous ideas and businesses, Gu Grocery (Gu meaning "mushroom" in Mandarin).

While the client is searching for a space to grow Gu Grocery, Los Angeles lawyers assisted the client with corporate formation, general advice on the commercial leasing process, and employment distinctions. Gu Grocery is currently operating as a pop-up and online market in Los Angeles.





oe Buoni, Paige Dusthimer and former associate Allison Ebanks (Houston) represented an indigent client in her divorce proceedings and fight for sole custody of her three young children. Following years of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse of the client and children, the husband, who is an alcoholic, promised the family a fresh start living abroad. However, the abuse continued during drunken rampages. The client eventually fled the foreign country, with her children in tow, and returned to the US with little to no assets. Upon the husband's return to Texas, he continued the abuse during visitations with the children and repeatedly stalked the client and their children to the extent that law enforcement became involved. Through numerous evidentiary hearings, the team successfully obtained protective orders against the husband. The team also discovered the husband withdrew over \$100,000 in cash, which he admittedly gambled away. Raising more concern, the husband repeatedly

indicated in numerous communications and before the court that he wishes to move the children to a country that is not a member of the Hague Convention or to a country in which they can obtain citizenship and passports. The team was set for trial in March 2022. On the eve of the final trial setting, the parties entered a Rule 11 Agreement, satisfying the client's expectations of higher child support obligations, prohibition of overnight visitations of the children with the husband, supervised visitation or unsupervised visitation with alcohol monitoring, restrictions on travel to and applications for passports in any country by the father, and assigning liability of all amicus fees incurred to the husband. Thereafter, the husband became defiant and attempted to withdraw his consent to the Rule 11 provisions, arguing before the court that he should be able to take his children to other countries to obtain citizenship and passports. His defiance escalated with him sending death threats to the amicus attorney. As such, the team was forced to appear before the court yet again. Joe and Allison argued for entry of their proposed decree premised on the Rule 11 terms with added injunctions to prevent further abuse of the client and the children. Based upon their arguments before the court, the judge accepted the team's proposed decree, bringing this long-lasting litigation to an incredibly successful conclusion.

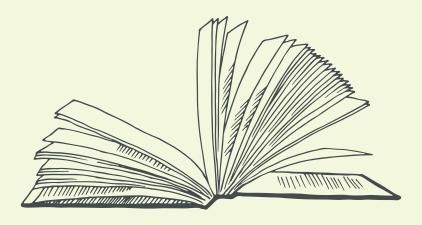
#### FAMILY

n early 2021 the firm accepted a referral from the Atlanta Legal Aid Society to assist a senior living on disability payments with enforcing the terms of a 2014 divorce decree against her ex-husband. The ex-husband had failed for over seven years to convey to the client his ownership interest in their jointly owned, marital residence, as required by the divorce decree, and failed for years to make monthly alimony payments of \$1,000. When the client tried to enforce the alimony payments herself, her ex-husband insisted that she should get remarried. Matt Calvert (Atlanta) filed a motion to hold the ex-husband in contempt, to enjoin him to sign a deed conveying his property interest to his ex-wife and for a judgment in the amount of the alimony arrearage. After

accepting service of the motion papers, the ex-husband, who initially responded that he did not understand the provision of the divorce decree with respect to the marital residence, reluctantly agreed to sign a deed conveying his property interest to his ex-wife. He continued, however, to refuse to make alimony payments, based on alleged unemployment.

Following an evidentiary hearing, the DeKalb County Superior Court entered a Final Order declaring the exhusband in willful contempt for non-payment of alimony and entered a judgment in the amount of \$57,360, the full amount of the alimony. Though relived to have finally secured sole title to her residence, the client remained frustrated by her ex-husband's refusal to resume making alimony

payments. Following discovery of records from the exhusband's bank, we determined that the client was receiving direct deposit of wages in excess of \$3,000 per month from an employer. After service of an income deduction order, the client was able to garnish one month's wages, following which the ex-husband quit work, rather than allow the income deduction order to remain in place. By renewing the document request to the ex-husband's bank we discovered a new employer, on whom the income deduction order was once again served, resulting in resumption of alimony payments. Currently pending is a motion to hold the ex-husband in contempt for failure to comply with an order compelling discovery.



### INTERNATIONAL

ontinuing a long-standing relationship dating back to 2018, in December 2021 Hunton Andrews Kurth attornevs delivered on the most recent in a series of pro bono projects for our client the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), in coordination with the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP)—a pro bono legal services mobilizer and enabler that seeks to support and advance the provision of top-tier pro bono legal services to governments, civil society actors, and social enterprises in countries predominantly in the Global South, to assist them in driving inclusive, accountable, and sustainable development.

In line with key objectives of ISLP and aligned to the specific interests of ZELA, a team of Hunton Andrews Kurth attorneys across the firm's London and Dubai offices have been working on a number of projects for ZELA and ISLP, which have focused on advising ZELA on public-private partnerships (PPPs) and procurement best practices, contract negotiation, and contract transparency, and performance monitoring and accountability, in the context of the mining and minerals and broader extractives sectors in Zimbabwe.

The Hunton Andrews Kurth team is led by partner James D. Simpson, Jr. (London) and special counsel Martin A. Skehill (Dubai) and also includes associates Stephanie L Levy and Yousef Shakah (London). Partner Jason B. Parker (London) is also a member of the board of directors of ISLP and has also led pro bono efforts in other African countries, such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Zambia.



Our team is extremely delighted to have had the opportunity to support ZELA and ISLP over the past four years. The natural resources sector is extremely important to Zimbabwe, and we are committed to providing our experience and expertise so that the country, its citizens and local communities truly benefit from investments in this area.



JAMES D. SIMPSON, JR.

## RACIAL JUSTICE

unton Andrews Kurth attorneys partnered with attorneys at the national civil rights organization Muslim Advocates to achieve a significant victory in the case of Qasim Rashid, a Muslim politician and public figure who received online death threats and harassing religious comments from a white supremacist.

On March 13, 2018, Joseph Cecil Vandevere used Twitter to send Rashid several Twitter messages filled with anti-Muslim slurs and threats, including a picture of a man who had been violently lynched and asked him to "VIEW YOUR DESTINY." Though Vandevere was serving a ten-month sentence at Federal Correctional Institution, Loretto in Pennsylvania because of the threats, he was set to be released from prison in October of 2021. Out of concern for the client and

his family's safety as well as racial justice, the firm sued the white supremacist in the Eastern District of Virginia under a state statute prohibiting intimidation or harassment motivated by religious, racial, etc. animosity.

After months of litigation, and with trial scheduled for March 2022 in Alexandria, VA, the defendant agreed to the entry of a consent judgment. In addition to paying damages of \$10,000, he concedes that he "subjected Plaintiff Rashid to acts of intimidation or harassment," that his communications were "motivated by religious animosity towards Muslims," and that he "is deeply remorseful and accepts responsibility for the harm he has caused to Plaintiff Rashid and his family.

The firm team was led by Ryan Rich (Charlotte), Maya Eckstein, Sean O'Connell and Ann Hancock (Richmond).

The case also garnered a large amount of support on Twitter with our grateful client tweeting, "I am extremely privileged to be a human rights lawyer, to have this platform, to have amazing world class legal support from @HuntonAK and @MuslimAdvocates. Not everyone is so fortunate. I wanted the next person who got such a threat to know they have legal recourse to hate."

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We have been proud to represent Mr. Rashid—a powerful voice for many who have been unfairly marginalized—and to work towards justice so that our diverse backgrounds can bring us together, not drive us apart.



#### RACIAL JUSTICE

unton Andrews Kurth has represented the City of Richmond on a pro bono basis regarding the City's decision to remove Confederate war memorials in the City. Initially, the team obtained reversal of a temporary injunction barring the City's removal of its Confederate monuments. The plaintiff, who has remained anonymous throughout the litigation, sought to preserve the monuments and was granted a temporary injunction against further removals in July after Mayor Levar Stoney ordered the removal of the monuments.

On August 26, 2020, the Supreme Court of Virginia vacated the temporary injunction, holding that the plaintiff had failed to allege a viable cause of action and was therefore not entitled to the injunction. The team also successfully defeated a second action filed in the Supreme Court of Virginia by the same anonymous plaintiff, as well as a separate action by different plaintiffs in the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond seeking to require the City to restore the removed monuments.

"We are pleased with the Supreme Court's decisions, as well as the dismissal of the separate action by the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond and pleased that the City can continue to move forward with its removal and disposition of the monuments." said **Bob Rolfe** (Richmond), the litigation special counsel who led the matter for Hunton Andrews Kurth.

The team now turns to the remaining monument honoring A. P. Hill. Because Hill is buried beneath the monument, they have filed an action in the Circuit Court City of Richmond asking for permission to move the remains as part of implementing the City's decision to remove the monuments honoring Confederate soldiers

"We are glad to be able to support our local and state officials as they make important and challenging decisions affecting our community," added Doug Granger, managing partner of the firm's Richmond office. "We have participated in the resolution of many important legal issues affecting Richmond and the surrounding area over the years. We are proud to be part of Richmond's continuing evolution."



We are glad to be able to support our local and state officials as they make important and challenging decisions affecting our community.

#### **99**DOUG GRANGER



### VETERANS

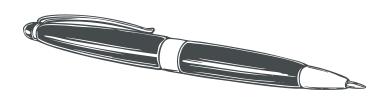
he Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) recently issued a decision in an application filed by Maeve Olney (New York) on behalf of her client.. The client was one of thousands of veterans who were administratively separated from the military on the basis of an alleged personality disorder, which medical evidence indicates she does not actually have. Rather, the client is a survivor of military sexual trauma who suffers from PTSD and depression.

Hunton Andrews Kurth received the case through the firm's partnership with The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). The firm's team filed a claim before the ABCMR asking the Board to remove the personality disorder designation from the client's discharge paperwork, Form DD-214, and grant medical retirement. While the ABCMR denied the request for medical retirement, the Board did agree to remove the personality disorder designation and issue a new DD-214 that reflects a better narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority." This change should remove much of the stigma surrounding the circumstances of the client's discharge from military service. While NVLSP does not believe

there is sufficient legal basis to warrant appealing the denial of medical retirement, the client was nevertheless pleased with the decision and grateful for the assistance of Hunton Andrews Kurth and NVLSP.

Other Hunton Andrews Kurth attorneys who assisted with this matter are **Danielle Dobrusin** and Christopher Adan (New York).

**vevin Gaunt** (Washington, DC) represented a distinguished Navy SEAL who experienced heavy combat in Afghanistan as a platoon heavy weapons specialist in SEAL Team 10. The client repeatedly encountered intense direct fire, rocket, and artillery attacks during numerous missions over the six-month deployment. After his 2004 deployment, the client returned home and sought assistance for depression and other issues stemming from the psychological trauma he experienced in Afghanistan. When the issues began affecting his ability to perform his job, the client was incorrectly administratively separated for an adjustment disorder rather than being medically retired for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. In 2020, Kevin successfully represented the veteran in front of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, and the client was granted permanent medical retirement as his disability resulted from a combatrelated injury. Following the successful medical retirement ruling, Kevin decided to stay on board and got to work assisting the veteran with an application for Combat-Related Special Compensation. In March 2021, the veteran's medical retirement status and the evidence demonstrating that his disability was directly related to combat convinced the Combat-Related Special Compensation Board to approve the application and award the client six years of CRSC back-pay at 100% disability.



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### Human Rights First Project Afghan Legal Assistance – 880 Hours (428 full rep)

Screen evacuees and provide intake services and in some cases representation for immigration status.

Jason Beach (Atlanta); Elizabeth Sherwood (Boston); Quince Thompson (Charlotte); Reed Bartley, Jimmy Bui, Charles Truslow, and Raegan Watchman (Dallas); Jaclyn Barbosa, Brandon Bell, Tad Davidson, Catherine Diktaban, Paige Dusthimer, Phillip Guffy, Ashley Harper, Justin Hicks, Clayton Holland, Garrett Korbitz, Crawford LeBouef, Allison Mantor, Thomas McCulloch, Robert McNamara, Samantha Rachlin, Kelli Rice, Henry Sturm, Russell Tan, Allison Tanton, Laura Trenaman, and Holly Williamson (Houston); Navy Binning and Steve Morphy (Los Angeles); Veronica Adams, Brittany Buhler, Demi Grekos, Fernando Margarit, Andrej Micovic, Devin Moore, Forrest Murphy, and Lieselot Whitbeck (Miami); Gary Abelev, Eric Fidel, Matthew Hayes, Sam Kardon, Carolina Rivas and Susan Saslow (New York); Wendy McGraw (Norfolk); Rafia Ali, Shannon Daily, Diana Dominguez, Katherine Durante, Christina Edwards, Enyonam Enninful, Sevren Gourley, Ian Hutter, Christine Klein, Kim MacLeod, Courtney McMullan, Ryan Pedraza, Kate Saltz, Madison Sherrill, J.R. Smith, Charles Wallace, Thomas Waskom, Lawton Way, Amy Williams and George Zhu (Richmond); Helena Abebe, Ian Band, Jason Brown, Steven DiBeneditto, Fazili Faheem, John Foley, Suzanne Haynie, Ali Hylander, Andy Kasnevich, Suzan Kern, Phyllis Marcus, Sona Rewari, Shaena Rowland, and Andrew Turner (Washington, DC)

#### University of Texas Admissions Policy Texas - 794 Hours

Partnering with LCCRUL to defend UT's race-conscious admissions policy.

Neil Gilman, Gus McKenzie, Erica Peterson, Ryan Phair, Carter Simpson, Daniel Stefany and Destiny Stokes (Washington, DC); Nick Stellakis (Boston)

#### **HVL Eviction Defense – 775 Hours**

Lawyers serve as "attorney of the day" in county courts for tenants facing eviction.

Brandon Bell, Michael Bender, Taylor Calfee, Adrianna Culbreth, Paige Dusthimer, Jared Grodin, Ashley Harper, Ross Hill, Neil Kelly, Zachary Monty, Rachel Morico, and Henry Sturm (Houston)

#### ABA Free Legal Answers - 704 Hours

Virtual advice legal clinic where qualifying individuals post civil legal questions online and volunteer lawyers provide basic legal advice.

Michael Perry (Boston); Linda Trees (Charlotte); Jason Antrican, Hannah Bradley, Courtney Butler, Kathleen Dill, Savannah Gibbs, Ian Goldberg, Emma Ivory-Ganja, Garrett Korbitz, Crawford LeBeouf, Anna McGuire, Alexander Miron, Rachel Morico, Austin Priddy, Christopher Richardson, Casey Shaw, and Timothy Strother (Houston); Gabriel Lopez and Michael Sanchez (Miami); Cindy Garo, Matthew Kugler, Cheng Jean Liang and Ruby Wang (New York), Matt Leopold (Washington, DC)

#### Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project (MAIP) Screening and Retrospective – 1,019 Hours

Review case files of MAIP's successful exonerations and screen potential future cases.

Britt Anderson, Brian Bosworth and Martin Gaynor (Boston); Tara Elgie (Dallas); Harve Truskett (Houston); Lauren Bachtel, Brandon Brown and Brit Dufilho (New York); Timothy Biller, Alyson Brown, Cassandra Collins, Merideth Daly, Maya Eckstein, Christina Edwards, Catherine Freeman, Ryan Glasgow, Mike Goldman, Tyler Laughinghouse, Kim MacLeod, Laura Marshall, Matt Nigriny, Rachel Northup, Justin Paget, Hillary Patterson, Travis Randle, Emily Sanford, Nate Shepherd, Brendan Staley, Jess Tobin and Martha Warthen (Richmond); Ali Hamilton, Kerry McGrath, Daniel Stefany and Jessica Yeshman (Washington, DC)

#### Prisoners' Rights Matter – 544 Hours

Represent client in suit against Georgia Department of Corrections for failure to treat client's medical condition.

Larry Bracken, Andy Koelz, and Laura Wagner (Atlanta); Casey Coffey (Miami) and Reiko Koyama (Washington, DC)

#### **Human Trafficking Matter – 414 Hours**

Representation of clients in an appeal of judgment regarding human trafficking matter.

Dora Luo and Yanchen Wang (Beijing); Peter Partee (New York); Maya Eckstein (Richmond)

#### **Child Abduction Matter - 401 Hours**

Assisting a father in an international child abduction matter.

Trevor Cox and Maya Eckstein (Richmond); Greg Waller (Houston)

## LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

**ACTS** 

Agudath Israel of America

Alliance for Children's Rights

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)

American Welfare League of Montgomery County

Amnesty International USA (AIUSA)

**Appleseed** 

Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo)

Asylum Seeker Advocate Program (ASAP)

Atlanta Legal Aid Society

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF)

Bet Tzedek

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.

Brennan Center for Justice

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition

Cardozo/Google Patent Diversity Project

Catholic Charities Dallas

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS)

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

Child Advocates, Inc.

Children's Law Center

Christian Legal Aid of the District of Columbia

City Bar Justice Center

Commonwealth Catholic Charities

Community Tax Law Project (CTLP)

Council for Children's Rights

Cuban American Bar Association

Dallas Evictions 2020

Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP)

D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center

Delaware Community Legal Aid Society

Georgia Justice Project (GJP)

Georgia Lawyers for the Arts (GLA)

Genesis Women's Shelter

Greater Richmond Bar Foundation

Her Justice

Housing Crisis Center

Housing Resource Line

Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL)

Houston Young Lawyers Foundation

**Human Rights First** 

Human Trafficking Institute

Human Trafficking Legal Center

Inner City Law Center

Innocence Project at the UVA School of Law

International Literacy and Development (ILAD)

International Refugee Assistance Project

International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP)

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) Law Firm Antiracism Alliance (LFAA) Lawyers for Good Government

Lawyers Alliance for New York

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC)

Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia

Legal Counsel for the Elderly

Legal Information Network for Cancer

Legal Services of Greater Miami

Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont

Mediation Program of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project

Mosaic Family Services

Muslim Advocates

National Endowment for Democracy

National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)

NC LEAP (Lawyers for Entrepreneurs Assistance Program)

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

PAIR Project

Pro Bono Partnership

Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta

Pro Bono Partnership of New York

Protect Our Defenders

**Public Counsel** 

Restoration Immigration Legal Aid Richmond Behavioral Health Authority

Sanctuary for Families

Southern Center for Human Rights

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

Start Small Think Big

The Legal Aid Society of New York

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)

United States Coast Guard

University of Richmond School of Law Pro Se Mediation Project

University of Virginia School of Law First Amendment Clinic

Virginia Equality Bar Association

Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legal Clinic

Virginia Holistic Justice Initiative

Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC)

Volunteers Lawyers Project

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLANY)

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS)

We The Action

Whitman-Walker Health Clinic

William & Mary Law School Elder and Disability Law Clinic



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