

MOPROBONO

Fall 2018 Update

MORRISON
FOERSTER

INSIDE

- 3 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
- 4 VERBATIM
- 6 WHO DOES IT
- 8 PRO BONO NEWS BRIEFS
- 9 SECURING INCREASED
STIPENDS FOR HAWAII
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
- 10 PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR
SAME-SEX COUPLES IN ASIA
- 11 CONTINUED ADVOCACY
FOR LITERACY RIGHTS
IN CALIFORNIA
- 12 PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF
ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA
- 13 THIS IS PERSONAL
- 14 MOFO PLEDGES MILLIONS
IN PRO BONO SERVICES TO
SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY
- 15 MOFO SCHOOL DISTRICT
SETTLEMENT REQUIRES MAJOR
IMPROVEMENTS FOR STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES
- 16 KATHI PUGH AWARD
- 17 MOFO STAFF MEMBERS GIVE BACK
- 20 PRO BONO HONORS, AWARDS,
AND RECOGNITION
- 21 UNWAVERING COMMITMENT
TO PRO BONO
- 22 GET INVOLVED

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



When I signed a pledge on June 25 that made MoFo one of 34 law firms committed to reunifying migrant families and ensuring representation for legitimate asylum seekers, our pro bono team heard almost hourly from attorneys who wanted to help.

That help has thus far required eight MoFo pro bono volunteers to travel to some of the most remote parts of the United States.

“I flew into Atlanta, Georgia, and then I took another hour-long flight into a city called Albany and then I drove an hour to the town where I actually stayed in a hotel. The immigration detention center was another 30 to 40- minute drive out into the country, in the middle of nowhere,” explains New York-based restructuring counsel Erica Richards. Erica assisted Southern Poverty Law Center staff attorneys with drafting motions requesting that detained immigrants be released on bond—something that can go a long way toward helping a detainee prevail on his or her immigration application. “I met with a young woman who has lived in the U.S. since she was an infant and was picked up at her high school graduation party by ICE,” Erica describes. “She was 18, so they walked into her graduation party and took her into custody, and she has not been able to return home since then.”

Erica and the rest of our pro bono team have made a real difference in the lives of detainees like the ones she worked with and in the lives of parents separated from their children as a result of the government’s family separation policy. When you read details of the change our pro bono lawyers effected in detention centers in Texas and Georgia—and the lengths they went to achieve those results—I think you’ll be moved.

This is just one example of the extraordinary pro bono and community-related work that you will read about in the Fall Edition of *MoProBono*. Whether advocating for the most underrepresented members in our community, or offering their time to train lawyers in Kenya about how to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in pursuit of economic and human prosperity, our lawyers’ willingness to take on matters and initiatives to help make the world a better place is nothing short of inspiring.

Please take the time to read their stories and think about how you too can contribute your time to help us carry out our firm’s proud pro bono mission.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren'.

Larren

VERBATIM

SHRUTI CHANDHOK, HOWARD MORRIS

MOFO LAWYERS TAKE A WHIRLWIND TRIP TO KENYA TO TRAIN LOCAL LAWYERS ON THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Fun, collaborative, and exhilarating: these are just a few of the adjectives MoFo London associate [Shruti Chandhok](#) and head of restructuring in the London office [Howard Morris](#) used to describe their whirlwind summer trip to Kisumu and Mombasa, Kenya. They visited these locations to lead a professional development workshop series for local lawyers on the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights.

The full-day workshops were designed to arm lawyers with the information and tools they need to implement the UNGPs, to help businesses both small and large, domestic and international to recognize and meet their human rights obligations and to prepare lawyers to undertake the necessary human rights due diligence work.

Using the UNGPs to Shape the Law

Understanding the UNGPs will be integral to Kenya's success, says Howard, because they can help local legal professionals and business leaders shape their country's laws, exercise responsible control over their natural resources, and better promote economic prosperity.

"Conducting business while properly respecting land rights and labor wages, without discrimination on the grounds of religion or tribe, and with equality between the genders helps address social and tribal divisions and exploitation of people by unscrupulous businesses," says Howard, who has visited and worked in Kenya and its neighboring countries on this and several other occasions.

The trip was the first of its kind for Shruti, a member of the firm's litigation department and global anti-corruption practice.

"The groups we spoke with were highly inquisitive. They were interested in hearing about how

compliance with human rights regulations would allow their clients to be ahead of the curve as well as provide new business for law firms. With a background in white-collar law, I was able to use the anti-bribery and corruption framework as an excellent contemporary exemplar of how compliance matters more to corporations of all sizes," says Shruti.

Leveraging the Power of Education and Social Media

Howard and Shruti presented on the key UNGP themes during the workshops, often fielding questions and weighing in on real-life scenarios related to some of the following topics:

- The scope of businesses' responsibility to respect human rights;
- Judicial grievance mechanisms;
- Understanding the pressure on companies to respect human rights; and
- How to make human rights part of your business.

"What has been mostly a remote issue can now be brought to light by using the power of the consumer to influence businesses to do the right thing."

Howard believes that, in addition to education and enforcement of the UNGPs, social media will be an increasingly powerful tool for Kenyans to use to shed light on abuses of human rights. According to Howard, human rights abuses that were secret in years prior are now getting much-needed exposure through social media sharing.

“What has been mostly a remote issue can now be brought to light by using the power of the consumer to influence businesses to do the right thing,” he says.

Howard notes additionally that, “Although there is a significant

problem of corruption in the country, the Kenyans we met have a determination to fight to clean up business and politics, they have a proud and effective legal profession, an acute realization of their heritage, a beautiful natural environment, and a growing and aspiring middle class.”

The Kenya workshop marks the sixth of its kind conducted in the region. Other workshops have taken place in Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Zanzibar, and Rwanda. Funding and technical support for the workshop series were instituted by the Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK) and UKAid. Morrison & Foerster partnered with Advocates for

International Development (A4ID), the regional bar association of East Africa, the East Africa Law Society (EALS), and numerous global law firms and professional services companies on the campaign.

Reflecting on their experience, both Howard and Shruti agree there is a significant case to be made for investing human resources and capital in Kenya.

“The silver lining is that there is a real hunger for economic progress and respect for human rights among the general population,” adds Howard.



Shruti Chandhok



Howard Morris

WHO DOES IT

MOFO PRO BONO TEAMS RECONNECT SEPARATED FAMILIES AND COUNSEL DETAINED IMMIGRANTS

Morrison & Foerster received an urgent message in August from the Immigration Justice Campaign seeking volunteer Spanish-speaking lawyers to travel to El Paso, Texas, to assist with the crisis resulting from the federal government's decision to try to discourage family migration from Central America by separating parents and children. MoFo attorneys responded to the call.

Thus far, those lawyers have reunited two girls with their fathers, arranged for communication between another father and son who hadn't spoken in months as a result of their detention, and prepared numerous detainees for possible credible fear interviews (CFIs) or reasonable fear interviews (RFIs) that will determine their ability to pursue asylum in the United States.

Reuniting Families

Flying into Texas and Georgia, Alexis Amezcua, Lauren Bennett, Justin Fisch, Andrew Kissner, Julian Radzinschi, Erica Richards, and Claudia Vetesi visited detention centers in some of the most remote and desolate areas in the United States.

For Alexis, a MoFo litigation partner based in San Francisco, the effort included sitting for hours in a rental car in a parking

lot outside the Otero County Detention Center in New Mexico in temperatures hovering around 100° Fahrenheit. From that car, she tried to effect the reunification of a Guatemalan detainee named Jorge with his 14-year-old daughter, Nely, using only her MoFo Wi-Fi hotspot and her cell phone.

Alexis, her fellow litigation partner Claudia, and Lauren, an associate, had driven to New Mexico after flying into El Paso, Texas, to meet with detainees who they and other members of the MoFo team would represent.

The mother of two very young girls herself, Alexis describes how daunting it was having Jorge's reunification with his barely teenaged daughter riding on Alexis's ability to reach the right person in an intensely bureaucratic system.

"I was knocking on the doors of offices at that New Mexico detention center, trying to get more information about whom I should be calling. It felt like I was being passed from bureaucrat to bureaucrat," Alexis says, adding that she had to arrange for communication between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which was responsible for detaining Jorge, and the Department of Health & Human Services, the agency responsible for Nely's detention at a children's facility in Florida.

The whole situation was further complicated by the fact that

Alexis had to advocate for her client over the phone.

"But I was like a dog with a bone, a tenacious mother who was not going to stop until I got somebody on the line to commit to a date and time when Jorge and Nely would be reunited," she says. Alexis achieved her goal, arranging for the father and daughter to be reunified within the week at Annunciation House, an El Paso immigration services agency.

Within hours of their arrival in El Paso, Alexis, Lauren, and Claudia also arranged for another Guatemalan detainee, Jose, who was being held at a detention center in West Texas, to speak with his son Mateo, who was in a center for detained immigrant children in Florida. The two had not spoken in months.

New York associate Andrew Kissner, who initially supported the effort to help Jose from afar, traveled to El Paso in September for a follow-up visit. Andrew continues to advocate for Jose's release from detention and for his reunification with his son.

Just before Andrew's trip, New York associate Julian Radzinschi also traveled to El Paso to meet with a new client who had been detained in Texas since June while that client's five-year-old daughter was being held in a New York shelter.

"My client was supposed to be reunified in mid-July," Julian explains. "But the government is quite

slow when it comes down to effecting these reunifications. I spoke at length to ICE and to other bureaucrats to try and push the reunification forward, but they find ways to pass responsibility off to someone else,” he says, echoing Alexis’s frustration.

While Julian was in El Paso, supervising attorney Ruti Smithline attended an immigration court hearing for the child in New York and made contact with the legal services organization that was assisting the child. On October 5, after weeks of Julian’s tenacious advocacy—the legal services organization fondly described him as a “zealous and kind mosquito”—Julian’s and Ruti’s clients were reunited and the two are now living in Tennessee.

Counseling Detainees

Not all of the MoFo attorneys who have taken on pro bono work with detainees have worked with individual clients. For example, Erica Richards, N.Y.-based counsel in the Restructuring and Insolvency Group, spent a week in June assisting individuals at an immigration detention center in a rural Georgia town.

“I was inspired by a presentation given at MoFo by the Immigration Justice Campaign and the Southern Poverty Law Center,” says Erica. “The presentation was in February, long before family separation was even an issue.” (The Morrison & Foerster Foundation helped to kick-start the Campaign with a donation of \$10,000 in early 2017.)

Erica helped Southern Poverty Law Center staff attorneys with screening, initial intake, and motion drafting for bonds. Getting out on bond, Erica explains, can go a long way toward

helping a detainee prevail on his or her immigration application.

“If they’re out on bond, they can work, make connections, look for an attorney (or help their attorney if they are lucky enough to have counsel), and do all the things that would support their application,” she explains.

New York attorneys Chanwoo Park, Max Zidel, and Katie Viggiani prepared immigrant detainees at the Albany (N.Y.) County Correctional Facility for their CFIs with supervision from MoFo partner Jamie Levitt. Their efforts came about as a result of the Department of Homeland Security’s transfer of over 300 immigrant detainees from federal detention facilities at the U.S. border to the Albany County Correctional Facility. Most of the detainees were subject to the Trump administration’s zero tolerance policy of criminally prosecuting anyone who enters the United States other than at border checkpoints, and some of the detainees are parents whose children were separated from them while they await criminal prosecution.

In August, San Francisco associate Justin Fisch went down to El Paso, where he spent approximately 10 days meeting with about 40 parents to gather information that would help other pro bono lawyers individually represent those parents. Justin also prepared some of the detainees for possible CFI interviews. After being released, one of the parents with whom Justin worked said Justin’s visits had given him strength during his detention.

Justin relayed a heartbreaking story from one of the Guatemalan detainees he counseled.

“His daughter, who was four years old and can’t speak a word of Spanish—she spoke a Mayan language called Q’anjob’al—had been detained for three months at a place in Phoenix, Arizona, where nobody spoke her language. Just imagine that.” Justin observed, “The long-term repercussions of this policy remain to be seen.”

The work continues. Interested lawyers should contact Senior Pro Bono Counsel Jennifer Brown to get involved.



PRO BONO NEWS BRIEFS

MoFo lawyers continue to undertake a wide variety of pro bono work. Here are a few of the many matters that our lawyers have handled in recent months.



HELP FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY RECENT WILDFIRES

Continuing its tradition of helping communities to chart a path forward in the wake of unanticipated natural disasters, a MoFo team recently developed the *Summer 2018 California Wildfires Helping Handbook*. The guide is designed to provide information on a wide variety of topics that touch on the law to ease the burden on the thousands of people who were affected by these recent events. The *Handbook* gathers in one place up-to-date, practical information on many subjects, including, among others, housing, government benefits, insurance, FEMA assistance, replacement of lost documents, and fraud prevention. The *Helping Handbook* is now available online.



SUPPORTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Joe Palmore, co-chair of the firm’s Appellate and Supreme Court Practice Group and Managing Partner of MoFo’s Washington, D.C. office, has filed two amicus briefs over the last few months in support of access to health care. The first brief was filed in the Northern District of Texas on behalf of a group of law professors, opposing a government-supported effort to invalidate the Affordable Care Act’s protection for people with pre-existing conditions. The second was filed in October in the District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of 12 health care organizations—such as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association—that collectively represent millions of people with serious health conditions. This brief opposed a new government rule that would allow for the proliferation of substandard health plans known as “short-term, limited duration” insurance plans.



WINNING RESTITUTION FOR A VICTIM OF FRAUD

A team led by London associate Jason Mbakwe, supported by paralegal Alex Konjuhi and trainee solicitor James Colautti, and with supervision from Jonathan Wheeler, helped to secure judgment against a fraudster who had conned an elderly immigrant pensioner into handing over her family’s life savings. Our client gave more than £70,000 to her local shopkeeper, who traded on their common roots in Afghanistan to persuade her to invest the funds in hopes of helping her family join her in London. The shopkeeper then denied receiving the money or even knowing our client. Her six years of mostly self-represented efforts to recover the funds went nowhere. After months of preparation and a dramatic two-day trial, our client was granted judgment for the entire sum, plus damages and interest. The defendant was subsequently ordered to pay pro bono costs totaling £54,167.50 (believed to be a record amount) to the Access to Justice Foundation, a charity that connects individuals to pro bono assistance.

SECURING INCREASED STIPENDS FOR HAWAII CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

A MoFo pro bono team directed by Marc Peters recently obtained a settlement with the Hawaii Department of Human Services that will provide more than \$86 million to Hawaii's foster care families over the next 10 years. This agreement brings a close to a federal class action lawsuit that was filed in December 2013 by foster parents, with the support of nonprofit Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. The case arose because Hawaii was failing to meet its obligation under federal law to provide foster parents with sufficient stipends to pay for children's basic needs. When the case began, Hawaii had not increased its foster care payments for 24 years.

Under the terms of the settlement, reimbursement rates will increase to \$649 per month for foster children ages five or younger; \$742 for ages 6–11; and \$776 for ages 12 and up. Additionally, the annual clothing allowance for each foster child will increase by between \$210 and \$426, depending on the age of the child. The settlement will remain in place for 10 years, during which time DHS has agreed to pursue increases to the reimbursement amounts as inflation increases the costs of caring for foster children. The successful brokerage of this deal resulted in an agreement that is supported by the legislature, the attorney general, and the governor and has been signed into law.



When the case began, Hawaii had not increased its foster care payments for 24 years.

PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES IN ASIA

Our firm's offices in Tokyo and Hong Kong have taken leadership roles in promoting equality for same-sex couples in Asia. In Tokyo, we are a founding partner of the LGBT Lawyers and Allies Network (LLAN), which began as an ad-hoc group of volunteer lawyers in 2016 but now, because of our efforts, is a recognized Tokyo nonprofit. MoFo pro bono attorneys recently joined forces with LLAN to persuade the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and four similar groups to adopt a "Viewpoint" that recommends that the government of Japan permit same-sex couples to marry.

In Hong Kong, Morrison & Foerster was part of a 31-member-strong coalition of international financial institutions and law firms who supported a British lesbian's ultimately successful case that overturned the Hong Kong Immigration Department's decision to deny her a spousal visa when her female domestic partner accepted a job in Hong Kong. In the landmark case, *QT v. Director of Immigration*, the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal ruled unanimously that QT should be granted a spousal visa.



The ruling “affirms what millions of us in this wonderful and vibrant city know to be true, that discrimination based on sexual orientation, like any other form of discrimination, is offensive and demeaning.” – QT

CONTINUED ADVOCACY FOR LITERACY RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

In California, a team led by Michael Jacobs and Jack Londen is advancing a case that aims to ensure equal access to literacy for all students in the Golden State. The case, *Ella T. v. State of California*, argues for recognizing a constitutional right to literacy for the state's schoolchildren. Working with the pro bono law firm Public Counsel, our team seeks to level the playing field in California's primary and secondary educational system so children acquire the basic tools of reading and writing no matter their race, income level, or zip code.

In July 2018, Los Angeles Judge Yvette Palazuelos denied the State of California's motion to dismiss the case, allowing it to proceed to trial. This landmark case demands that the State of California ensure that all students enjoy the benefits of the following:

- evidence-based literacy instruction at the elementary and secondary level;
- a stable, supported, and appropriately trained teaching staff;
- opportunities for their parents and families to engage in students' literacy education; and
- school conditions that promote readiness for learning.

This case stands as a corollary to *Gary B. v. Snyder*, the first federal case seeking to recognize a right to literacy under the U.S. Constitution.



PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA

A Morrison & Foerster pro bono team is making headway with a federal lawsuit on behalf of Georgia voters to challenge the state's unsafe elections system, which uses all-electronic voting machines without independent paper backup. Georgia is one of just five states that rely on these antiquated systems, leaving the state especially vulnerable to election interference through cyberattack—a vulnerability that in Georgia's case has been verified by independent experts.

In late August, U.S. District Court Judge Amy Totenberg denied the state's motion to dismiss the suit and scheduled a hearing on plaintiffs' request to safeguard

the integrity of the election by using the state's absentee ballot system to run an all-paper election in the November midterms.

The court denied that request, fearing that instituting this change so close to the upcoming election could introduce controversy, confusion, and chaos. However, Judge Totenberg made clear that change is coming to Georgia's voting system, writing that "the Plaintiffs' evidence as to the problems of security, accuracy, reliability, and currency of Georgia's system and software" had "hardly been rebutted" by the state and advising the state that "further delay is not tolerable in their confronting

and tackling the challenges before the State's election balloting system."

Commenting on the ruling, Washington, D.C. partner David Cross, who is leading the pro bono team, promised, "We will continue the fight for all Georgia voters – and the Court makes clear that while we lost this initial battle, we are on track to win the war for safe, secure, transparent, honest elections in Georgia."

This case, which continues in litigation, has received notable attention across several media outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *Bloomberg*, and Infosecurity Group.

"We will continue the fight for all Georgia voters – and the Court makes clear that while we lost this initial battle, we are on track to win the war for safe, secure, transparent, honest elections in Georgia."

THIS IS PERSONAL

MORRISON & FOERSTER PRO BONO REPORT



Read our Pro Bono Report, *[This is Personal](#)*, for an in-depth look at MoFo's work on voting rights, reproductive freedom, aid to small businesses, and many other topics from the perspective of our lawyers, who bring their passion and commitment to these important efforts every day.

MOFO PLEDGES MILLIONS IN PRO BONO SERVICES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY

San Francisco corporate partner Susan Mac Cormac attended the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, which included the announcement of Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy. As a founding member of LSE, MoFo has pledged to provide \$2 million in

pro bono legal services by the end of 2020 to organizations focused on developing and bringing to scale new approaches to building a more sustainable global economy. Suz has been a driving force behind MoFo's pro bono support for sustainability initiatives.



MOFO SCHOOL DISTRICT SETTLEMENT REQUIRES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A MoFo pro bono team and its co-counsel, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, recently settled a suit requiring the Mount Vernon (N.Y.) City School District to significantly improve its compliance with laws and regulations governing the education of students with disabilities.

The suit, *M.H. v. Mount Vernon City School District*, claimed that the District systematically failed to provide legally required educational services to support children with disabilities.

The settlement secures system-wide changes that will

benefit all students in the District who have special needs.

“We realized through our work on this case that the failures we encountered didn’t simply apply to a handful of students,” said Morrison & Foerster associate Sarah Prutzman, the firm’s pro bono team leader on the case. “There were *many* students whose educational needs were being neglected.”

The agreement secured by Sarah, her fellow team members, and their co-counsel requires the District to, among other things, undertake approximately 90 concrete remedial actions designed to improve

educational services for students with disabilities, including implementing a data system that allows for real-time monitoring of the district’s delivery of special education services.

The agreement also requires the District to meet certain performance metrics, such as improving its graduation rate for students with disabilities to at least the statewide average by June 2021.

“The failures we encountered didn’t simply apply to a handful of students. There were many students whose educational needs were being neglected.”

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRO BONO: KATHI PUGH AWARD

New York litigation associate Adam Hunt received the fifth annual Kathi Pugh Award for outstanding pro bono service on October 26, 2018, the culmination of “Celebrate Pro Bono Week” at the firm.

Ruti Smithline, a partner in the Securities Litigation, Enforcement, and White-Collar Criminal Defense Group, presented the award. Jamie Levitt, Chair of The Morrison & Foerster Foundation, said, “Adam epitomizes the MoFo ideal of integrating pro bono into his legal career from the start, consistently providing outstanding service to all his clients, pro bono and billable alike.”

Since joining the firm in 2009, Adam has invested thousands of hours in serving pro bono clients. In a case begun during his first full year at MoFo, Adam won asylum for a refugee from the Republic of Congo, who endured extreme brutality at the hands of a Congolese regime—including the murder of his uncle as well as severe persecution and torture—because his uncle, a prominent member of an opposing political party, criticized the regime in a news article.

Adam is also deeply involved in high-profile impact litigation. One case, begun in 2010 and still far from resolved, aims to increase the support New York State provides to children

in foster care through the stipends paid to foster parents. Since 2013, Adam has been integral to a team that worked with the New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation to win far-reaching reforms to the use of solitary confinement in state prisons. Adam also dedicated hundreds of pro bono hours to a case, settled in 2016, that ended New York City Police Department practices that subjected the city’s Muslim communities to unwarranted government surveillance.

With the honor of the Kathi Pugh Award comes the privilege of directing a \$10,000 donation, jointly funded by the firm and The Morrison

& Foerster Foundation, to a nonprofit organization that enhances access to justice. Adam chose the New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation and the Education Law Center in Newark, N.J. to share the funds.

The Kathi Pugh Award was established by Morrison & Foerster in 2013 when Kathi Pugh retired after two decades of running the firm’s pro bono program. It recognizes the values, enthusiasm, and compassion that Ms. Pugh brought to the pro bono program and celebrates the remarkable ways that lawyers like Adam Hunt proudly carry out Kathi’s pro bono legacy.



From left to right: Adam Hunt, Ruti Smithline, and Jennifer K. Brown, Senior Pro Bono Counsel.

MOFO STAFF MEMBERS GIVE BACK

The volunteer spirit at MoFo doesn't end at pro bono legal work. Many staff members contribute time and energy to make the world a better place, in many different ways.

Children Inspire Many At MoFo to Lend a Hand

- The Northern Virginia office has made this a group project, partnering with the Britepaths organization and its Food4Thought partner Cedar Lane School to fight child hunger in Fairfax County. Deidre Moore, who is director of administration for the office, organizes the effort. Lawyers and staff contribute food or funds to fill bags with healthy meals, drinks, and snacks that are distributed for weekend consumption to children who receive free or reduced-price meals during school days. Each month, the office provides 20 huge bags of food for the students and, this summer, doubled its efforts and provided 40 bags. The MoFo Virginia group also stuffed 20 backpacks with school supplies for students as they returned to school this fall.
- Just a few miles away in the Washington, D.C. office, staff members Katie Coleman, Thomasina Jasper, and Mike

Willens continue the office's long tradition of volunteering with the Everybody Wins! DC Power Lunch program, by serving as reading mentors for students at the public elementary school near our office there. And, thousands of miles away, senior patent filing specialist Aurelia Caparas from the Palo Alto office is organizing a "Paint Night" to raise funds for science supplies at her daughter's school in Santa Clara.

- Rose Sheehan has volunteered for 10 years with the San Diego chapter of Distinguished Young Women, helping 11th grade girls gain confidence and new friendships through its "Be Your Best Self" scholarship competition. Paula Thomas, a San Francisco legal administrative assistant, is co-chair for youth activities at the local Elks Lodge, which include holiday parties, a "pool day," and school supply drives.
- Six-year-old soccer players in Connecticut and high school wrestlers in California have something in common: both are coached by MoFo staff. Josh Roy, managing attorney in the New York office, just returned to coaching first and second grade girls' soccer after taking a few

years off. David Ridnell, senior paralegal in San Francisco, coaches youth wrestling at Wan-tu-Wazuri Wrestling Club and Oakland Tech High School, attending practices and tournaments around California and the West Coast.

Children Are Not the Only Beneficiaries of MoFo Volunteerism

- Matt Satlak, who is an attorney development analyst in San Francisco, is an officer and board member of Argonne Community Garden in the Richmond neighborhood. The garden has been growing fresh vegetables for local food programs and supporting programs for youth and seniors since 1975. Matt is also studying food insecurity in the Tenderloin neighborhood as part of his graduate school program.
- Senior Paralegal Lisa Harger, impressed with the Arthritis Foundation's emphasis on nutrition to help manage inflammatory diseases, co-chaired this year's Washington, D.C. *Walk to Cure Arthritis*. Litigation docket specialist Annie Cipiti finds her volunteer opportunities through New York Cares and is currently a

literacy tutor, meeting weekly with an adult student to help with mastering reading. Evelyn Hernandez, a client account manager in San Francisco, gets so much out of volunteering to interpret for clients at MoFo's immigration clinics and at Centro Legal de la Raza that she is now enrolled in a legal interpretation/translation certification program at San Francisco State. The pro bono team's administrative manager, Sandra Nazzal, is enrolled in a different program, this one at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, where she is learning to become a docent who will one day enrich the experience of museum visitors.

- Frank Gelat, lead client account manager in the finance department in San Francisco, was a volunteer last summer with an NGO teaching English to youth in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon in the Middle East. He

has since joined the board of the organization and started a music program recruiting volunteers to teach music in the camps. This past June, with the help of a few local music ensembles and many volunteers, he produced a benefit concert (<https://youtu.be/nH4IaMRcwIc>) that raised \$23,000 to buy instruments and hire teachers to provide continuing music education in the refugee camps. If you or anyone you know would like to help or participate, whether as a volunteer, as donor of musical instruments, or in any other capacity, please contact Frank (fgelat@mofo.com).

- Bridget Salazar, Bay Area Lateral Attorney Recruiting Manager, founded a nonprofit organization called Global Healthcare Project upon graduating from UC Berkeley in 2004. She returns to rural Guatemala (see below) every year with volunteers

from the Project to develop and implement programs that combat poverty, malnutrition, and the cycles of disease in the community of Pueblo Nuevo. One highlight in the last year was securing donations to purchase a prosthetic leg for a nine-year-old girl named Claudia in Pueblo Nuevo who had never been able to walk. The effort involved numerous trips, but, finally, Bridget traveled with Claudia and her mother to Guatemala City, where she received her new leg and walked upright for the first time. Claudia can now go to school in her village.





PRO BONO HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation Recognizes MoFo

Earlier this year, Morrison & Foerster received the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation Award in recognition of the firm's collective and sustained contributions to the Foundation's program, which refers social enterprises to the pro bono programs of firms in Lex Mundi's network.

Attorneys in several offices have served clients who were referred by the Foundation.

In San Francisco, Jaelyn Liu, Patrick Huard, Ali Assareh, Ben Fox, and Anisah Giansiracusa are advising social enterprises in Cameroon and Kenya that work to improve living standards for local farmers in those countries, and Jesse Finrock will be training social enterprises in the Foundation's network on innovative corporate structures for social entrepreneurs.

In New York and San Francisco, Miriam Wugmeister and Allison Dale are advising Benetech, a nonprofit that uses technology for social good, on data privacy issues relating to its Bookshare program, which is the largest digital library for people with print disabilities.

In London, Dan Coppel and Robbie Somerville are advising Days for Girls International, which supports girls internationally by increasing access to menstrual care and education. Adam Westhead, Andrew Boyd, Simon Arlington, Rayhaan Vankalwala, and others are advising Aeropowder, a social enterprise that creates novel materials from waste feathers from the poultry industry.

Glenn Kubota from Los Angeles and Jillian Pesin-Fulop from San Francisco are providing patent advice to Bempu Health, a startup based in India, for its neonatal hypothermia monitoring bracelet.

American Immigration Council Honors MoFo for Tireless Pro Bono Work

In June 2018, the American Immigration Council honored a MoFo pro bono team, composed of more than 90 lawyers from offices around the globe, for its exceptional work on the case *Doe v. Johnson*. The MoFo team is working in tandem with the American Immigration Council (AIC), the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the ACLU of Arizona, and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), to challenge immigration detention center conditions in the United States. The lawsuit claims that these short-term immigrant detention

centers in the "Arizona sector" at the southern United States border violate constitutional requirements for meeting the basic needs of the thousands of immigrants who pass through them each year. As the lawsuit notes, the facilities are widely known as hieleras, or iceboxes, because they are often kept at extremely cold temperatures.

According to AIC executive director Beth Werlin, "These talented litigators have worked tirelessly over the past three years to fight for humane conditions in the hieleras. The hieleras are notorious for being freezing, overcrowded, and filthy, and yet the government has detained individuals in these cells for days at a time, depriving them of beds, adequate food and water, and basic sanitation and hygiene items. Our honorees rose to the challenge and demanded that the government put an end to this practice," she said of the MoFo's team's ongoing tireless work on the case.

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GETTING INVOLVED

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