

A large, stylized graphic of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown, rendered in a blue and cyan color palette. The graphic is positioned on the right side of the page, with the text overlaid on its left side. The background is a light, textured blue.

GIBSON DUNN  
2017  
PRO BONO  
REPORT



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Dear Clients and Friends of the Firm:

As lawyers, we have a special ability, and indeed duty, to influence and impact society, in the courts and through pro bono work, and leadership in institutions that promote and uphold the rule of law, individual rights, and human dignity. Our strong tradition of pro bono work reflects Gibson Dunn's commitment to defend the rule of law, civil rights, and fundamental human rights as those are the core principles that define who we are both as individual attorneys and as a firm as a whole.

Over the past year, Gibson Dunn attorneys performed over 180,000 pro bono hours. Over 1,200 individuals worked on a pro bono matter, over 500 new matters were opened, and our lawyers averaged 129 hours of pro bono work on a worldwide basis. As always, our pro bono program was reflective of our firm's diversity and the varied passions of our individual attorneys. We engaged in matters ranging from First Amendment defense, to fighting on behalf of domestic violence victims, to advocating on behalf of the immigrant community and our veterans, just to name a few.

We are also proud to have joined forces in many of these efforts with our commercial clients, who share our values and commitment to the community. We look forward to similar partnerships in years to come.

I am proud to present a glimpse into our firm's most recent pro bono efforts. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many lawyers who worked on these important matters – you make us all very proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken". The letters are fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a smaller "en" following.

Kenneth M. Doran





At Gibson Dunn, the uniting force behind our pro bono work has been – and continues to be – a shared commitment to protecting the U.S. Constitution, upholding the rule of law, and providing access to justice for all. We hope this inaugural Pro Bono Report shines a light on some of the impressive work being done across the firm for a wide array of clients and on broad range of issues.

We are proud to spotlight the impressive commitment shown this past year to work on behalf of the immigrant community. Much of this work kicked off on Friday, January 27, when the now infamous “Travel Ban” was issued. In the days and weeks that followed, we saw the firm step up and come together in an incredible way. Ultimately, over 163 attorneys from 11 different offices were involved in the response to the Travel Ban and the aftermath of the various immigration-related Executive Orders, billing over 2,000 hours to the effort. The firm has also made its mark taking on the representation of several high-profile “Dreamers,” including the case in the Northern District of California that succeeded in obtaining a preliminary injunction preventing the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and requiring its reinstatement on a nationwide basis.

We have also chosen to shine a spotlight on some of the impressive efforts out of our London office in 2017. Changes in legal aid funding, among other things, have created an increased need for pro bono legal work throughout the United Kingdom. We were proud to see our lawyers rising to meet that need, both through individual representation at legal aid clinics in the city and through work with, and on behalf of, a variety of nonprofits and NGOs.

It is with great pride that we share just some of the stories that reflect the extraordinary year our pro bono program has had.



Scott Edelman  
*Pro Bono Committee Chair*



Katie Marquart  
*Pro Bono Counsel & Director*



**\$813,103,958**

VALUE OF PRO BONO SERVICE  
PROVIDED SINCE 2008

**\$128,911,949**

VALUE OF PRO BONO SERVICE  
PROVIDED IN 2017



**181,025**

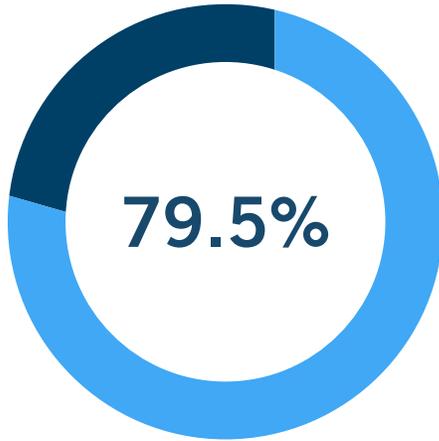
PRO BONO HOURS IN 2017

**1,352,583**

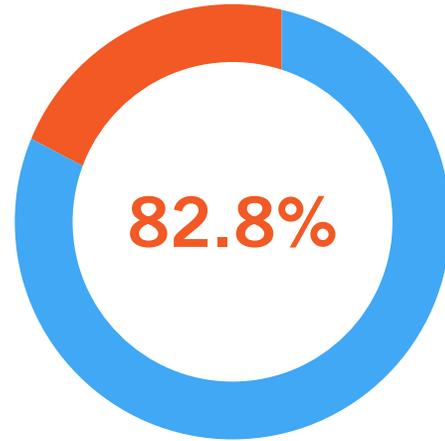
PRO BONO HOURS SINCE 2008

PERCENTAGE OF ATTORNEYS WHO PARTICIPATED  
IN PRO BONO EFFORTS IN 2017

**FIRMWIDE**



**U.S.**



AVERAGE PRO BONO HOURS  
PER ATTORNEY



PARTICIPATING LAWYERS,  
SUMMER ASSOCIATES,  
TRAINEES (LONDON),  
AND STAFF IN 2017

**1,436**





*“Give us your tired,  
your poor . . .”*

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## IMMIGRATION

**Gibson Dunn’s pro bono work on behalf of immigrants and refugees over the last year has been unprecedented in its scale and scope. However, this type of work is nothing new for the firm. In fact, since 2008, Gibson Dunn has dedicated approximately 200,000 pro bono hours to immigration-related matters, including asylum applications, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petitions, U Visas, T Visas, refugee work, DACA applications and renewals, impact litigation, and appellate work on behalf of immigrant rights.**

Since 2008, Gibson Dunn has taken on over 100 cases on behalf of unaccompanied immigrant children seeking refuge in the U.S., most fleeing dangerous, violent conditions in their home countries. One of these children is Oscar, a 12-year-old boy from Honduras abandoned by both of his parents. After Oscar became the target of ongoing gang violence, culminating in the murder and disappearance of multiple relatives and loved ones, he bravely fled his home country to come to the U.S. seeking a better life. Gibson Dunn successfully applied for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Oscar, which will allow him to live here permanently without fear of deportation. Now living happily in the U.S. with his uncle, Oscar currently attends middle school, where his favorite subject is math.



Sam Eisenberg  
Los Angeles

*“The work we did in the immediate aftermath of the Travel Ban was an experience none of us will forget. It is our great fortune to live in the United States. For many of us, that is only possible because our own ancestors were allowed to immigrate to this country, often fleeing similar dangers and hardships to those faced by immigrants today. As lawyers, it is a privilege and obligation to work to ensure that the rights enshrined in our Constitution are protected in court.”*

## “Let the Lawyers In!”

### Gibson Dunn Responds to the Travel Ban

On January 27, 2017, an Executive Order entitled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States Executive Order” – commonly referred to as the “Travel Ban” – was issued. Within hours of its issuance, chaos broke out at airports across the country, as individuals flying into the U.S. were stopped, detained, and in some instances sent back to the countries from where they had just departed.

In anticipation of the events to come, several days before the Travel Ban was issued, one of our longtime legal aid partners, the International Refugee Assistance Project, reached out to enlist our help. As such, when the Travel Ban was issued, the firm was poised to step in and provide much-needed pro bono assistance.



We deployed attorneys to airports around the country at all hours of the day and night to monitor incoming flights, observe the activities of relevant officials and government agencies, and work with our legal aid partners to offer legal services to those in need. We had partners and associates on the ground at Dallas Fort-Worth International Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, Oakland International Airport, and San Francisco International Airport. By the end of the first post-Travel Ban weekend, over 100 Gibson Dunn lawyers had stepped up and offered their help.

In this time of great uncertainty, lawyers throughout the U.S. stepped up, banded together, and worked to protect both the rule of law, and the civil liberties and due process rights of individuals impacted by the Executive Order. Gibson Dunn is very proud to have been a big part of that effort.

**“America is great because of people like you. Thanks for everything.”**

In March 2017, a journey to America that started out as a quest for survival for one brave Afghani family quickly turned into a nightmare. The family of five was traveling to the U.S. on Special Immigrant Visas granted to them based on the father’s years of service as a translator on a U.S. air base in Afghanistan and the multiple death threats he and his family had received from the Taliban as a result of that service.

However, upon arrival at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), rather than being hailed as heroes, the family was inexplicably detained by Customs and Border Patrol for more than 40 hours, interrogated, and threatened with deportation.

Upon learning of the situation late on a Friday night, a team of Gibson Dunn attorneys in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, Denver, Washington, D.C., and New York immediately sprang into action. The team worked around the clock to draft a habeas corpus petition demanding the family’s release, and that they be provided with immediate access to counsel. The petition was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California the next morning.



By early that same Saturday afternoon, the team learned that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials planned to fly the mother and three children, who spoke no English, to a detention center in Texas, while transporting the father to a maximum-security detention center in Orange County, California -- a move they were never able to justify when later questioned in court. Within an hour of learning of this, the team prepared and filed a motion for a temporary restraining order (TRO).

Meanwhile, the team also dispatched three attorneys to LAX to try to find the family. The government had refused to provide the flight information, but with a lot of detective work and a little luck the attorneys were able to track down the family at the departure gate. With less than half an hour remaining before the scheduled departure (and after the plane had

already begun to board), Judge Josephine L. Staton issued a TRO ordering that the family remain within the court’s jurisdiction and be given access to counsel. Our team at LAX used a cell phone to show the order to government officials, airline officials, and airport police. After a few very tense moments, it was determined that the family would not be forced to board the plane.

Two days later, just hours before a scheduled hearing in the case, the government agreed to release all of the family members from custody. The family was admitted as lawful permanent residents of the United States and will be eligible to become U.S. citizens in five years. Upon safe arrival in their new home, the father sent the Gibson Dunn team a text message that read: “America is great because of people like you. Thanks for everything.”

### **Gibson Dunn Represents Dreamer Arrested in Seattle**

On February 10, 2017, Daniel Ramirez was arbitrarily arrested and detained by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement inside his father's home in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Ramirez is a beneficiary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Mr. Ramirez was brought to this country by his parents as a child, and has lived here ever since. Under the DACA framework, individuals brought to the United States as children and who meet specific criteria - including passing a background check and providing fingerprints - may request deferred action from deportation for a period of two years, subject to renewal.



On March 29, 2017, the team successfully secured Mr. Ramirez's release. After 46 days in detention, he was overjoyed to return to safety and to reunite with his family. Today, the battle continues: the Gibson Dunn team is currently fighting Mr. Ramirez's removal proceedings in immigration court and continuing the fight to vindicate his constitutional claims in federal court.

Gibson Dunn, along with Public Counsel, and constitutional scholars Larry Tribe and Erwin Chemerinsky, filed a habeas petition on Monday, February 13, seeking Mr. Ramirez's immediate release on the grounds that his arrest and detention violated his Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights. Our lawsuit asserts that Mr. Ramirez and others like him, whom the U.S. government promised not to subject to such arbitrary detention if they adhered to the rules to live and work here lawfully, must not be expected to live in fear that any day they could be arbitrarily and capriciously arrested and detained.



*“America is known as a country that welcomes people to its shores . . . She lifts her lamp and welcomes people to the golden shore, where they will not experience prejudice because of the color of their skin, the religious faith that they follow.”*

*Ruth Bader Ginsburg*



## **Gibson Dunn Challenges the Unlawful Termination of DACA**

On September 18, 2017, Gibson Dunn filed a complaint on behalf of six young women and men – “Dreamers” – challenging the termination of the DACA program. Each of these clients is a DACA beneficiary who has achieved remarkable success through hard work, fierce determination, and incredible resilience. Brought to this country as young children and raised in families that often struggled with poverty and homelessness, the plaintiffs are also alike in that each has committed to helping others, choosing to direct their time, energy, and considerable talents toward defending, healing, educating, and uplifting individuals and communities that are too often ignored.

Plaintiff Miriam Gonzalez was brought to the United States from Mexico when she was only six years old, and now serves as a Teach For America corps member, teaching math and reading intervention to struggling middle school students. Among the other inspiring Dreamer-plaintiffs

in this suit are an attorney who has built a thriving law practice, a graduate student pursuing her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, a Public Interest Scholar, a medical student, and a special education teacher. While each of these plaintiffs is remarkable in his or her own right, their stories of success - and their commitment to serving others - are common among the nearly 800,000 young Dreamers who have come to rely on DACA.

On January 9, 2018, the Northern District of California granted the plaintiffs request for a nationwide preliminary injunction requiring the immediate reinstatement of the DACA program, including allowing for renewal applications to be processed – an important victory for Gibson Dunn’s clients and for Dreamers across the United States. Through this suit, Gibson Dunn hopes to vindicate these Dreamers’ rights, as well as the constitutional rights of hundreds of thousands of other DACA recipients who have spent virtually their entire lives in the United States, consider themselves to be Americans, and call our nation home.





*“Love is  
love is love”*

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## LGBTQ RIGHTS

### **Fighting the Transgender Military Ban**

The Trevor Project is the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth crisis intervention and suicide prevention organization. It provides phone, text, and online instant messaging services that LGBTQ youth can use to speak with trained counselors. In 2017, the Trevor Project reached out to Gibson Dunn to develop the most effective legal strategy possible to prove to LGBTQ youth that “it gets better” is not merely an aphorism.

In July 2017, the Trump administration issued a directive that would have banned all new transgender recruits from enlisting in the armed forces, would have kicked out any transgender people currently serving, and would have prohibited transition-related surgery for service members. In the immediate aftermath of the enactment of the so-called transgender military ban, the Trevor Project observed a dramatic spike in calls, texts, and online messages from transgender youth. Many of these communications were from young LGBTQ individuals who were contemplating suicide as a direct result of the announcement.

## LGBTQ PARTNERSHIPS

- AIDS Legal Referral Panel
- Human Dignity Trust
- Human Rights Campaign Immigration Equality
- L.A. LGBT Center
- Lambda Legal
- Los Angeles County Bar Association AIDS Legal Project
- Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund
- The Trevor Project

In response, the Trevor Project took action by retaining Gibson Dunn on a pro bono basis to draft and file an amicus briefs in three cases challenging the constitutionality of the military ban. On October 30, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia preliminarily enjoined, in substantive part, the transgender military ban. The court cited the Trevor Project's amicus brief three times; including when describing the harmful effects discrimination has had on transgender youth, and when explaining that being transgender in no way limits one's ability to contribute to society. The brief demonstrated to the court that the announced ban was causing harm, and that the government had not shown any reason for its sudden change in policy with respect to transgender service members. The court explicitly acknowledged that the Trevor Project's amicus brief assisted it in reaching its decision on the preliminary injunction motion.

Thereafter, following in the footsteps of that court, the U.S. District Courts for the Central District of California and the District of Maryland, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, also issued injunctions against the ban.

*“I just want to say THANK YOU for all your efforts. Three references to our work in the decision is something I will be very very proud of years to come. Three of my good friends who identify as trans\* sent me photos of them enlisting this morning which makes me beam with happiness. I've been so proud to be on such a winning team these first few months here at The Trevor Project and we are so grateful for your efforts on this.”*

*Sam Brinton  
Head of Advocacy and Government Affairs  
at the Trevor Project*

## *“Marriage is marriage, and equal is equal.”*

On June 26, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court summarily reversed the Arkansas Supreme Court’s decision in *Pavan v. Smith*, thereby reaffirming the tenet that states may not treat same-sex married couples differently than other married couples. The Court explained that pursuant to its decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, states “may not ... deny married same-sex couples th[e] recognition” they provide opposite-sex couples, including with respect to birth certificates. The case dealt with Arkansas’ refusal to include a non-biological parent on the birth certificate of a child born to a married same-sex couple. In holding as it did, the Court noted that, “*Obergefell* is crystal clear: marriage is marriage, and equal is equal.”

Gibson Dunn represented Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders on a pro bono basis, as amici in the case. In our brief, we argued that the Arkansas Supreme Court’s decision upholding that refusal was contrary to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions guaranteeing marriage equality in both its *Obergefell v. Hodges* and *United States v. Windsor* decisions. The brief also emphasized how important it is to parents and their children for birth certificates to name both parents.

Gibson Dunn has also dedicated hundreds of hours to representing asylum seekers fleeing persecution in their home countries based on their sexual orientation. Two of these clients are a recently married couple from Guatemala and El Salvador, respectively. The wife, a transgender woman from Guatemala, had suffered four severe assaults by co-workers, gang members, and strangers due to their perception that she was a gay man. She was also severely abused by her family. To escape this persecution, she fled to the United States and, eventually, got married. After she married, the firm took on her husband as a client too and, at their request, he joined his wife’s pending asylum application. On April 12, 2017, they were granted asylum. Their new lawful status will let them to obtain work authorization and find employment, which they hope will finally enable them to afford a honeymoon.



*Joe Evall  
Partner  
New York*

*“Not only have our LGBT clients seeking asylum experienced horrific persecution at the hands of their home governments, but many have also been tormented by their families, churches, and neighbors. The teams of Gibson Dunn lawyers who have helped these clients gain asylum in the United States have truly transformed their lives.”*





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## EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WOMEN & GIRLS

**The firm's pro bono program has always devoted significant resources to ensuring that women and girls have access to justice. We have represented low-income women in numerous individual matters, including obtaining protection from abuse, and securing permanent legal status as immigrant survivors of violence. We have helped tackle important issues that impact women and girls everywhere, in collaboration with dozens of nonprofits around the world dedicated to empowering women and girls everywhere.**

### **International Gender Justice Efforts**

Over the last year Gibson Dunn partnered with Cornell Law School to build its Women and Justice Collection. This online database features summaries of and links to international, regional, and U.S. court decisions, as well as legislation and other relevant documents that advance gender justice. The Collection is the first vetted and searchable gender justice database of its kind, providing free legal resources with the goal of advancing access to justice through the use of progressive principles and comparative law.

A team of more than 15 Gibson Dunn attorneys has been researching case law, legislation, and other legal material from jurisdictions worldwide to update and add to the database. In 2017, the team prepared 18 case law or legislative summaries, with plans to soon contribute more from an additional 10 to 20 jurisdictions. We are proud to assist in this important effort to bring access to these important materials to attorneys fighting for gender justice around the work.

## Fighting on Behalf of Domestic Violence Survivors

Many violent domestic relationships tend to follow what is commonly referred to as a cycle of abuse: a tension-building phase, an abusive phase, and, finally, a period of contrition and affection on the part of the abuser toward the victim. This cycle repeats itself until a victim has the courage to break it. But once they do, they often have to face their abuser in court, seeking a restraining order to protect themselves and, in some cases, their children.

Gibson Dunn is proud to advocate for these brave individuals in court. We hope that our efforts afford them the necessary support and empowerment to move forward with their lives. In the last year alone, our firm has prevailed at trial and obtained restraining orders for a number of young women against their abusers.

In addition to fighting for the physical safety and freedom of domestic violence survivors, we have also dedicated time and energy to helping them achieve economic freedom and financial stability. This allows them to – we hope – break the cycle of violence once and for all.

FreeFrom, a nonprofit startup assisting survivors with realizing that economic justice and financial independence, has been our pro bono client since its inception in 2016. FreeFrom's innovative post-abuse focus guides survivors in filing actions for financial compensation, rebuilding consumer credit, and starting small businesses. Gibson Dunn has been advising on a range of issues primarily related to the entrepreneurship program, from performing legal research to drafting form agreements and business license applications for more than two dozen FreeFrom clients.

## Standing Up Against Harassment

In 2017, Gibson Dunn prevailed at a trial in Orange County, California, and obtained a civil harassment restraining order protecting our pro bono client, a young female teacher, against an older man who was a convicted sex offender. The client had purchased a rug from the man at his shop. Thereafter, he began sending unwanted text messages of a personal nature to her.

Then, one night when the client was home alone in her apartment, the man broke in and confronted her in her living room. He claimed that he was worried about her because she had not responded to his texts. She called the police and filed a request for a restraining order. She subsequently learned that he was a convicted sex offender who had committed similar wrongdoings in the past.

At trial, the man was represented by accomplished criminal counsel. Nonetheless, our team won, convincing the court that the client reasonably feared the man and securing a permanent five-year restraining order for her.



## ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS

**Gibson Dunn is proud to provide much needed pro bono legal services to the brave men and women who make such incredible sacrifices for our country. In 2017, our attorneys across the United States staffed legal aid clinics to advise veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces throughout the country. We also took on a number of veterans as pro bono clients, fighting to get them the benefits they deserve. In so doing, we hope to bring access to justice to these deserving individuals, provide them with the ability to heal, and help reduce poverty and homelessness in the veteran community.**

### **Long Fight for Increased Benefits Sees Success**

The firm successfully represented a veteran before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in his appeal of a decision that denied his claim for increased benefits for his back disability. The veteran had been pursuing his benefit claim for the degenerative back disability for 23 years when Gibson Dunn stepped in and took the case on a pro bono basis.

Gibson Dunn crafted a winning appellate position by identifying numerous legal errors in the decision of the Board of Veteran Appeals. Specifically, the Board applied the wrong criteria for evaluating the back disability, failed to provide for and rely on adequate medical examinations that addressed flare-ups and repetitive use of the veteran's back, improperly substituted its own medical judgment for that of a qualified physician, and ignored prior decisions of the appellate court regarding the claim. After reviewing the merits briefing, the Department of Veterans Affairs attorney conceded that the Board had erred in its decision and agreed to a joint motion to remand to apply the proper standards.

### **Gibson Dunn and Fitbit Join Forces to Provide Pro Bono Legal Advice to Veterans**

On October 4, 2017, Gibson Dunn partnered with Fitbit and One Justice to head to Ukiah, California, to provide pro bono legal advice to local veterans. In one day, our combined lawyers served 21 clients. Gloria Lee, VP, Associate General Counsel at Fitbit, said, "Fitbit already knows the benefits of partnering with Gibson Dunn for our most important legal work. The opportunity to work together with OneJustice to provide legal services to the Ukiah veterans community was not only rewarding, but helped further develop our relationship with the Gibson Dunn team. It was also a lot of fun!"

### **Appellate Victory for Former U.S. Marine Corps Veteran**

Gibson Dunn successfully persuaded a federal appellate court to vacate and remand a Board of Veterans Appeals decision that denied service-connected benefits to our pro bono client, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran suffering from combat related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Our briefs identified multiple errors in the Board's decision, including its failure to account for substantial evidence of the severity and extent of the former Marine's PTSD symptoms, which entitled him to a higher rating for his condition. After reviewing the briefs, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of General Counsel conceded that the Board had erred in its decision, and the parties filed a joint petition to vacate the Board's decision.



Sean Twomey  
Los Angeles

*"I am delighted that we achieved another victory for a deserving client through the UCI project," said Sean S. Twomey, attorney at Gibson Dunn and supervisor of the VA Benefits Project.*

*"The Board's decision wrongly downplayed and ignored evidence of the severity of our client's PTSD symptoms. The Court's action not only nullifies the Board's decision, but also specifically mandates that the VA readjudicate the claim giving due consideration to that evidence."*



## DEATH ROW APPEAL

**On May 7, 2015, George Martin walked out of prison and home to his family for the first time in almost 15 years. By his side were attorneys from Gibson Dunn, who had been fighting for him for over a decade. Mr. Martin's story is one that evidences the horrific miscarriage of justice that can result from a broken system and a lack of zealous advocacy, but also the incredible power that exists in a team of dedicated, determined, and highly skilled lawyers who simply refuse to give up.**

On the night of October 8, 1995, the body of a woman was found in her burning car on a back road outside of Mobile, Alabama. Her husband, Alabama State Trooper George Martin, soon became the primary suspect. Mr. Martin consistently denied any involvement and has maintained his innocence to this day. Nevertheless, after the District Attorney's office failed to obtain a grand jury indictment, the State Attorney General's Office took over the investigation and obtained a grand jury indictment and a conviction five years later in 2000. The judge in that case overrode the jury's recommendation of life in prison and sentenced Mr. Martin to death. He would spend the next 15 years of his life in near solitary confinement on death row.

In 2006, Gibson Dunn filed Mr. Martin's first petition seeking a new trial based on multiple grounds: that the State violated its duty to disclose exculpatory evidence under *Brady v. Maryland*; that trial and appellate counsel were constitutionally ineffective; and that both judge and jury had violated Mr. Martin's right to a fair trial. When the Gibson Dunn team moved to access the original prosecution file, however, they ran into stiff resistance from the State and were forced to litigate for six years just to gain access to it. When they finally reviewed the file, they uncovered extensive evidence that had never been produced to Mr. Martin's original defense counsel, all of which they laid out in a 2012 trial involving more than 25 witnesses, more than 100 evidentiary exhibits, and hundreds of pages of detailed briefing.

The undisclosed evidence included the following: At the original trial, the State presented the testimony of a white man who vaguely testified that, on the night of Mrs. Martin's death, he had seen an African American Alabama State trooper in a trooper car in the area where Mrs. Martin's body later was found. The State later argued that the jury could infer that Mr. Martin was the man whom Mr. Taylor saw. But the State withheld notes from the lead investigator that contained the critical observation that the man the witness saw was a "large black male trooper." In contrast, Mr. Martin was 5'6" and probably the shortest trooper in the area at that time. The State also withheld documentation from another interview, in which that same witness identified another trooper - not Mr. Martin - in a photo array of the 13 African American troopers in Mobile County.

On August 30, 2013, Judge Smith ruled that the State of Alabama had violated *Brady* on numerous occasions in connection with Mr. Martin's original trial, and granted him a new trial. The Alabama Supreme Court affirmed that order. At this point, the Gibson team immediately moved for Mr. Martin's release on bond. Despite the pending capital indictment, Judge Smith found that Gibson Dunn had successfully rebutted the presumption of guilt that attaches on a bail hearing. On May 7, 2015, the Gibson Dunn team accompanied Mr. Martin home to his family for the first time in almost 15 years.

After the State decided they would retry Mr. Martin for his wife's death, we moved to dismiss the underlying murder indictment. Almost a full decade after Gibson Dunn filed the original petition for post-conviction relief, Judge Smith dismissed the indictment against Mr. Martin with prejudice, finding that the State had intentionally deprived him of his constitutional right to a fair trial, and that, due in part to the passage of so much time, it would be impossible for the State to provide him with a fair trial today. In late December 2017, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the dismissal. Today, Mr. Martin remains a free man, while awaiting a decision from the Alabama Supreme Court.



## ANIMAL RIGHTS

Many current estimates show that 8 in 10 African elephants are likely to be killed by poachers, causing the African elephant population to decline steadily year by year. Numerous studies report that Kenyan elephants are likely to be extinct in the next decade.

In response to this, Kenya enacted the Wildlife Conservation Management Act, which took effect in 2014. The law provides stiffer penalties for poaching, as well as incentives for communities to engage in wildlife conservation. In order to ensure that this law was implemented successfully and effectively, Lawyers Without Borders asked lawyers and judges from around the world to train Kenyan lawyers, judges, and wildlife officers on how to implement the Act.



Over the past two years, in collaboration with Lawyers Without Borders, Gibson Dunn has sent five teams to East Africa to train over 350 lawyers, judges, and wildlife officers on successfully prosecuting wildlife crimes. Gibson Dunn attorneys trained them on techniques and strategies for convicting poachers - as well as general trial advocacy skills - using the new Wildlife Conservation

Management Act as the foundation for such trainings. Our lawyers also developed a presentation on the use of alternative laws to prosecute people who commit wildlife crimes, including Kenya's Prevention of Terrorism and Prevention of Organized Crime Act.

We have also conducted multiple trainings of wildlife officers on an array of topics, including: appropriate interrogation techniques of suspects and witnesses, how to preserve crime scenes in the wild—where monkeys and other creatures are often too curious to obey caution tape surrounding cordoned off areas, and on how the Wildlife Conservation Management Act can benefit the Kenyan communities they serve.

When our lawyers asked wildlife officers to share why they chose this dangerous profession, the message was clear: This was not a job, but a calling. They felt that they were responsible for ensuring that future generations of elephants and other endangered animals thrived in Kenya. Gibson Dunn attorney Colleen Kenny said of the moment:



*Colleen Kenny*  
Los Angeles

*“I had difficulty holding back tears. The intensity in the room was palpable. These wildlife officers risk their lives to protect their country’s wildlife. Nearly all of the officers have been under gunfire from poachers. Training the wildlife officers was certainly the most rewarding legal work of my career. It is a privilege to work with them.”*

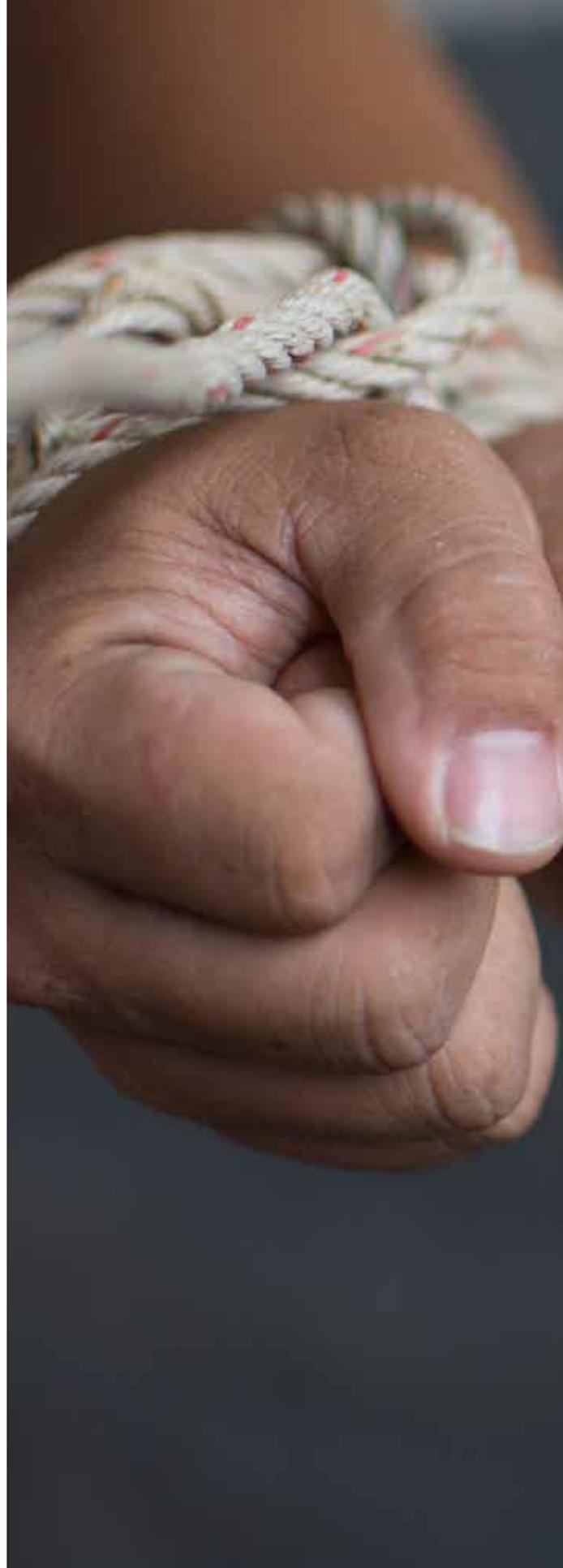
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## ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Human trafficking victims are among the most vulnerable persons in modern society. If they escape their traffickers, they are often alone - far from friends and family, and without financial means to meet basic needs. For the past several years, Gibson Dunn has been at the forefront of efforts to help human trafficking victims through direct representation of individuals and in collaboration with non-profit clients, including the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, the Alliance for Children's Rights, and the National Center for Youth Law.

Criminal cases against traffickers are built on the testimony of victims, and this process can be traumatic, confusing, and emotionally scarring for young victims, particularly when they feel unprepared and unprotected. Gibson Dunn is actively supporting - through research and advocacy - efforts to create policy that ensures immunity from prosecution for commercially sexually exploited children who testify about involuntary participation in trafficking and ancillary crimes.

As part of this effort, the firm is helping to prepare a Victim-Witness Protocol for Los Angeles County, which will serve as a guide to the various involved agencies, including law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Probation Department, and the Department of Mental Health. The goal of the Protocol is to better support youth before, during, and after testimony, and to prioritize these young individuals' safety and health while ensuring that their legal rights are met.





The firm has been proud to represent a number of human trafficking victims on a pro bono basis with applying for both T-visas and U-visas, which are specialized visas available to survivors of human trafficking and other crimes. In 2017, Gibson Dunn represented a Filipina woman applying for a T-visa for herself and a derivative visa for her son. The client, a single mother, was trafficked by an employment agency with promises of being able to provide a better life for her son in the Philippines. Relying upon those misrepresentations, she incurred thousands of dollars of debt from two loan sharks to pay a “placement fee.” Upon arriving in the United States, she suffered from harsh work conditions and large, undisclosed pay deductions, and was not paid for work that she performed. She escaped from her traffickers with another trafficking victim, with whom she became involved in a romantic relationship and had a little boy.

Thankfully, the client was granted a T-visa. She is overjoyed to be able to remain in the United States with her baby son, and bring her older son here through a derivative T-visa.



Asian Americans Advancing Justice honored Gibson Dunn with one of its Volunteer Recognition Awards at the Pro Bono Advisory Council Volunteer Awards event held in Los Angeles, California. Associate Nicole Kim accepted the award on behalf of the firm, and Partner Kevin Masuda (second from left) and associates Eugene Chao and Samuel Eisenberg (far left and far right) were also in attendance.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**We believe that working to protect and sustain our communities includes ensuring that we are taking care of the world around us. One way we do this is by dedicating our pro bono time to helping organizations committed to protecting and preserving our planet, which we hope will help ensure a better future for generations to come. Our clients are all tackling various problems facing the Earth today in unique and creative ways, and we are proud to help support them in their efforts.**

### **Reducing Carbon Emissions**

Plant-for-the-Planet is a global movement initiated in Germany in 2007, by then nine-year-old Felix Finkbeiner. His vision was that the children around the world could – and should – plant trees to reduce CO2 emissions. After one year, 150,000 trees had already been planted.

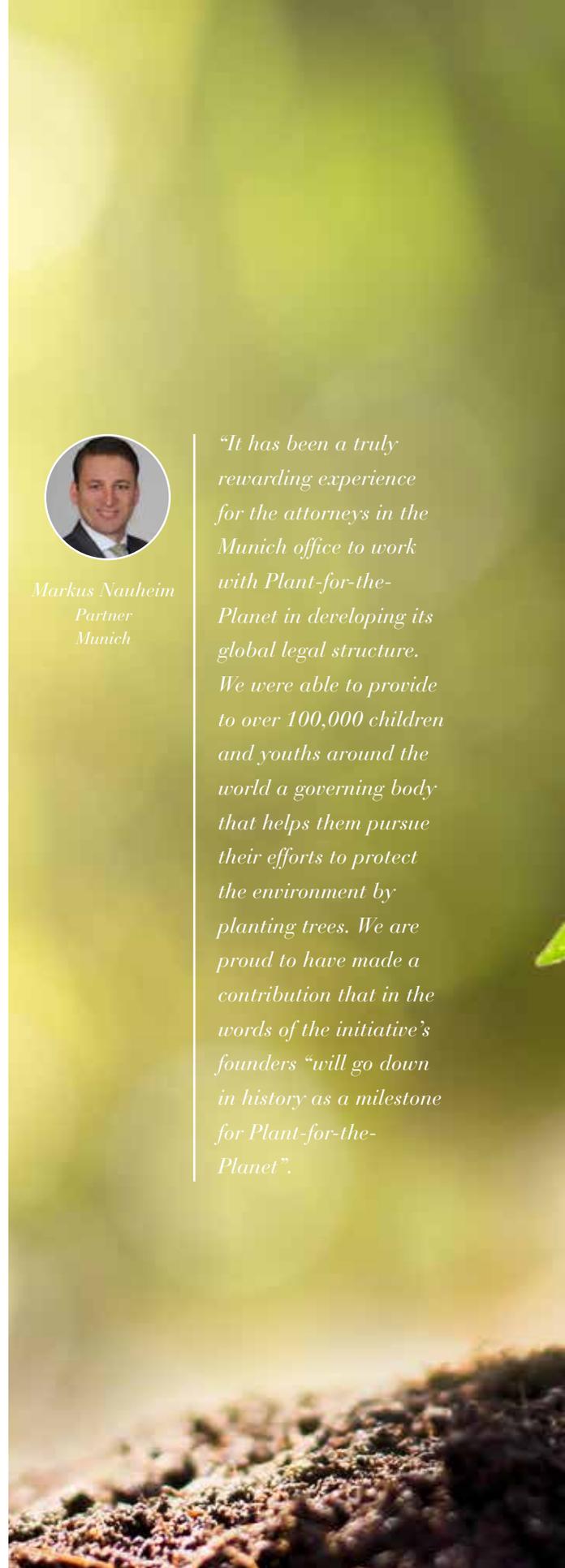
In 2016, 59 children from 20 different countries founded Plant-for-the-Planet, a registered non-profit association under German law. The initiative's stated objective was to encourage children around the world to plant one billion trees in an effort to fight climate change. Gibson Dunn was able to provide pro bono advice to the founders on the overall legal structure, tax considerations, corporate governance, and the foundation of the non-profit association.

Today, more than 100,000 young people in more than 90 countries are actively supporting the Plant-for-the-Planet initiative, and more than 46,000 of these young people having been trained as so-called Ambassadors for Climate Justice. Over 15 billion trees have been planted to date and the goal is to plant 1 trillion trees around the world.



*Markus Nauheim*  
Partner  
Munich

*“It has been a truly rewarding experience for the attorneys in the Munich office to work with Plant-for-the-Planet in developing its global legal structure. We were able to provide to over 100,000 children and youths around the world a governing body that helps them pursue their efforts to protect the environment by planting trees. We are proud to have made a contribution that in the words of the initiative’s founders “will go down in history as a milestone for Plant-for-the-Planet”.*





### **Sustainable Ocean Farming**

For the past two years, Gibson Dunn has been advising GreenWave Organization Corp., a nonprofit organization devoted to mitigating climate change and providing jobs for fishermen as ocean farmers. GreenWave trains prospective new farmers in a method called 3D ocean farming, involving a system of underwater ropes upon which kelp, mussels, scallops and oysters are grown. It also provides the seed for farmers to grow kelp, and assists them in selling what they produce.

This method was named one of the 25 best inventions of 2017 by *Time Magazine*, and GreenWave's founder, Bren Smith, was named by *Rolling Stone* as one of the 25 people shaping the future. Gibson Dunn has advised GreenWave on a pro bono basis on a variety of matters including structuring partnerships with various organizations, nonprofit compliance, and permitting for new ocean farms.

### **Revitalizing the Los Angeles River**

River LA is a nonprofit organization leading the effort to revitalize the Los Angeles River through a variety of creative and collaborative initiatives. River LA recently partnered with architect Frank Gehry, Olin Partners, GeoSyntec and other experts to conduct a thorough study of the LA River, which culminated in the development of the LA River Index. The LA River Index is a publicly accessible website providing a detailed and multi-faceted data set that River LA continues to use to evaluate the River's potential as a public resource. Gibson Dunn, as pro bono counsel, assisted River LA with this project by drafting and negotiating the contracts between the organization and all of the consultants who participated in the study.



## PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES' ELDERLY

**The elderly are among the most at risk members of low income communities, making them especially deserving of pro bono legal services. Unfortunately, the elderly can find themselves the subject of fraudulent schemes to rob them of their homes, their assets, and their dignity. Gibson Dunn is proud to fight to protect the rights of these individuals.**

Betty is an elderly woman who has lived in her Los Angeles home since she purchased it in the early 1970s. In the early 2000s, she fell into a deep depression for nearly a decade, during which time she was unable to leave her home or otherwise care for herself. As a result, she relied on her daughter to assist with her daily needs.

Unfortunately, her daughter - who was suffering from financial difficulties - took advantage of her mother's trust and reliance. In 2008, the daughter convinced her mother that she was dying, and that, in order to avoid the costly probate process, she needed to sign a quitclaim deed to her house. Unbeknownst to Betty, this deed immediately transferred her entire interest in the property to her daughter, who later attempted to evict her mother.

Fortunately, Betty was able to seek pro bono legal help from Gibson Dunn. A team began litigating a real estate fraud case against the daughter in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleging that the 2008 quitclaim deed was the product of fraud and undue influence. In the end, the team was able to secure judgment reestablishing

ownership in our client's favor and cancelling the 2008 quitclaim deed based on a creative judicial estoppel theory—all without the necessity of litigating a difficult trial. And, most importantly, it put Betty back in the only home she had known and loved for 45 years.

In a real estate fraud jury trial, Gibson Dunn secured a complete victory for another pro bono client, Jose, who suffered financial elder abuse and intentional interference with expected inheritance. Jose is an elderly and illiterate monolingual Spanish speaker who was fraudulently tricked into signing away the rights to the home he had shared with his wife for more than 33 years. Immediately prior to his wife's death, his estranged stepson and daughter-in-law tricked her into signing away title to the home. Following her death, they drained Jose's bank account and deprived him of virtually all other assets he had acquired prior to and during his marriage. The stepson and daughter-in-law then sought to evict Jose from the home just 10 days after his wife passed away.

Gibson Dunn filed suit on his behalf and, after a six-day trial, the jury returned a verdict for economic and noneconomic damages totaling over a half million dollars in his favor. The court also reestablished ownership of the home in Jose's favor. Jose was overjoyed to return to his home, where he continues to live today.



## PRISONERS' RIGHTS

**At its core, doing pro bono work is about providing access to justice to all. By providing everyone access to legal representation, you level the playing field and help ensure that everyone gets a chance to tell their story and be vindicated before a court of law. As part of this commitment, Gibson Dunn takes on civil rights claims on behalf of prisoners whose rights have been violated, whether through medical neglect, acts of violence, or failure to respect the need for religious accommodations.**

In early 2015, several Gibson Dunn associates volunteered at Orange County, California's Federal Pro Se clinic and met Mr. J; a former inmate abused by prison officials. The attorneys were moved by Mr. J's plight and decided to take on his case in an uphill battle against the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and several individual Bureau employees.

Mr. J had been sentenced to a minimum security federal prison facility for subscribing to false tax returns. Although he never received a dime from his indiscretions, he did receive a 30-month prison sentence. While he was incarcerated, several correctional officers engaged in a months-long campaign of harassment, retaliation, and abuse against him. When he reported the harassment to prison administrators, they did nothing. Instead, the retaliation continued. Among other things, prison officials wrote Mr. J up for ostensible policy violations and held him for prolonged periods in isolation.

The abuse escalated dramatically one day, when Mr. J was ordered to submit to a strip search in the middle of the prison law library in front of several other inmates. During the course of the search, the offending officer attacked Mr. J, bashing his head into a desk and knocking him unconscious. While Mr. J lay face down in a pool of his own blood, the officer dropped his knee into Mr. J's neck, causing permanent damage to his cervical spine. Following the attack, the officers threw him back in isolation for 128 days, and denied him basic medical care.

Gibson Dunn took on the case after Mr. J successfully defeated an attempt to dismiss the lawsuit he had filed pro se. Our attorneys worked to re-open fact discovery, and depose the defendants and key fact witnesses. Gibson Dunn also secured a leading neurologist to serve as an expert witness. The trial lasted six days. Ultimately, the jury found that our client and his friends' version of events was more compelling and credible than the story told by 19 federal officers. The jury found in Mr. J's favor, and awarded him half a million dollars in compensatory damages and \$175,000 in punitive damages.



## ADVISING NONPROFITS AND NGOS

**Our attorneys around the world are honored to provide extensive and wide-ranging advice to nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations to ensure that these entities are able to effectively pursue their core missions. Our nonprofit clients work in a variety of spaces and on behalf of important causes and vulnerable communities across the globe. It is our sincere privilege to engage with them to help make our societies stronger.**

### Not Impossible Labs

Not Impossible Labs is a nonprofit based in Venice, California. The CEO and Founder, Mick Ebeling, created it on the principle of “Technology for the Sake of Humanity.” Not Impossible seeks to harness technology in new, innovative ways to find low-cost, accessible solutions to a whole host of problems. Current initiatives include: developing new technologies to help disabled children walk, providing educational opportunities to refugees around the world, creating a non-pharmaceutical remedy to reduce Parkinson’s disease tremors, and ensuring access to high-quality ocular care for everyone.

Gibson Dunn has been supporting Not Impossible Labs since 2015. We assist on corporate governance and contract negotiations, and advise on intellectual property rights and health care law, among other things. The firm has contributed close to 1,000 hours of pro bono legal services to the organization, and looks forward to partnering with it for years to come.

### Girls Who Code

Girls Who Code is a U.S. nonprofit whose mission is to close the gender gap in the technology sector. Through both our pro bono and diversity efforts, the firm has been excited to work with the organization in trying to achieve this important goal. Over the last year, among other projects, Gibson Dunn lawyers advised Girls Who Code on its response to potential litigation stemming from a local resident, who was critical of a Girls Who Code local chapter’s use of a town library. We helped the local chapter and its partner library coordinate a response strategy and no litigation was ultimately filed.

The Girls Who Code summer immersion program offers participants in multiple U.S. cities the opportunity to engage in computer science-related projects, such as art, storytelling, robotics, video games, websites and apps. Over the past three years, Gibson Dunn developed presentations that gave more than 200 participants an interactive overview of the way in which the law intersects with technology. In 2017, the programs included 18 substantive panels and featured a wide range of presenters, which included some of our own lawyers and corporate clients, members of the judiciary, and representatives from pro bono and policy-related organizations. For several of the programs, Gibson Dunn partnered with ChIPs, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing women at the confluence of law, technology and regulatory policy.

American Cinematheque  
American Air Museum  
Boys & Girls Club  
Born This Way Foundation  
Crisis Text Line  
The Children’s Society  
Do Something! Inc.  
Friends of the Katy Trail  
First Star

GreenWave Organization Corp.  
The Jericho Project  
Jessie Rees Foundation  
Lineage Project Inc  
Make-A-Wish Foundation of Colorado, Inc.  
The Moving Picture Institute  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation

Reporters Sans Frontières  
The Soldiers Project  
Sciences Po Entrepreneurs  
SeaBubbles  
Tipping Point Community  
Tejon Ranch Conservancy  
Woodall Rogers Park Foundation  
Women’s Heart Alliance

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## INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE: CORPORATE CLIENT COLLABORATIONS

**As part of our pro bono program, the firm has partnered with a number of our corporate clients in order to bring high quality legal services to low-income individuals. We are committed to the principle access to justice must be available to all – not just those who can afford it. We are honored to have clients that hold that same core belief.**

### **The Justice Bus**

The so-called “Justice Bus” is run through an organization called One Justice, which works throughout the State of California to help expand access to legal aid services to low-income and underserved individuals, especially in the more rural parts of California, where legal aid organizations and pro bono attorneys are traditionally less present. The “Justice Bus” takes pro bono attorneys from cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, to more rural areas of the State to staff legal aid clinics for a day.

Gibson Dunn and Chevron have partnered together on four Justice Bus trips over the last few years, working on immigration-related issues, expungements of convictions for low income individuals, and veterans’ benefits. A client at a July 2017 clinic was extremely grateful for the lawyers’ time, and had this to say: “I highly appreciate the help, support, and information that I was provided... And I’ll be sure to invite my family and friends so that they can have the chance to also try to better their lives.”



### **Pro Bono Clinics**

Gibson Dunn has a long history of working with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) to provide much-needed pro bono representation to unaccompanied minors coming into the United States. Starting in 2014, the firm stepped in to help address a bottleneck in the screening and intake stage that had developed, which was preventing some of these children from being ultimately placed with pro bono counsel. This was an alarming situation, as the likelihood of success in these children's immigration cases increases from about 20% to about 80% with counsel.

To resolve this problem, Gibson Dunn developed a series of full-day intake clinics that we hosted at our Los Angeles office. This allowed for many more children to be screened than would otherwise have been possible. To make this happen, we relied not just on our lawyers, but also on counsel at many of our Los Angeles-based clients. At one recent intake clinic, we interviewed 27 children over the course of a single day.

Gibson Dunn's New York office has also hosted a series of legal clinics over the last year, ranging from Naturalization Screening & Application Clinics, to Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Clinics, and Asylum Clinics. All of these have been done in collaboration with Legal Services NYC, whose dedicated staff prepares our attorney volunteers with an in-depth training in the range of topics, and provides ongoing guidance and supervision at the clinics and beyond. These legal clinics have also been done in collaboration with a number of our New York City-based clients, including Barclays, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Viacom.



## GIBSON DUNN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE

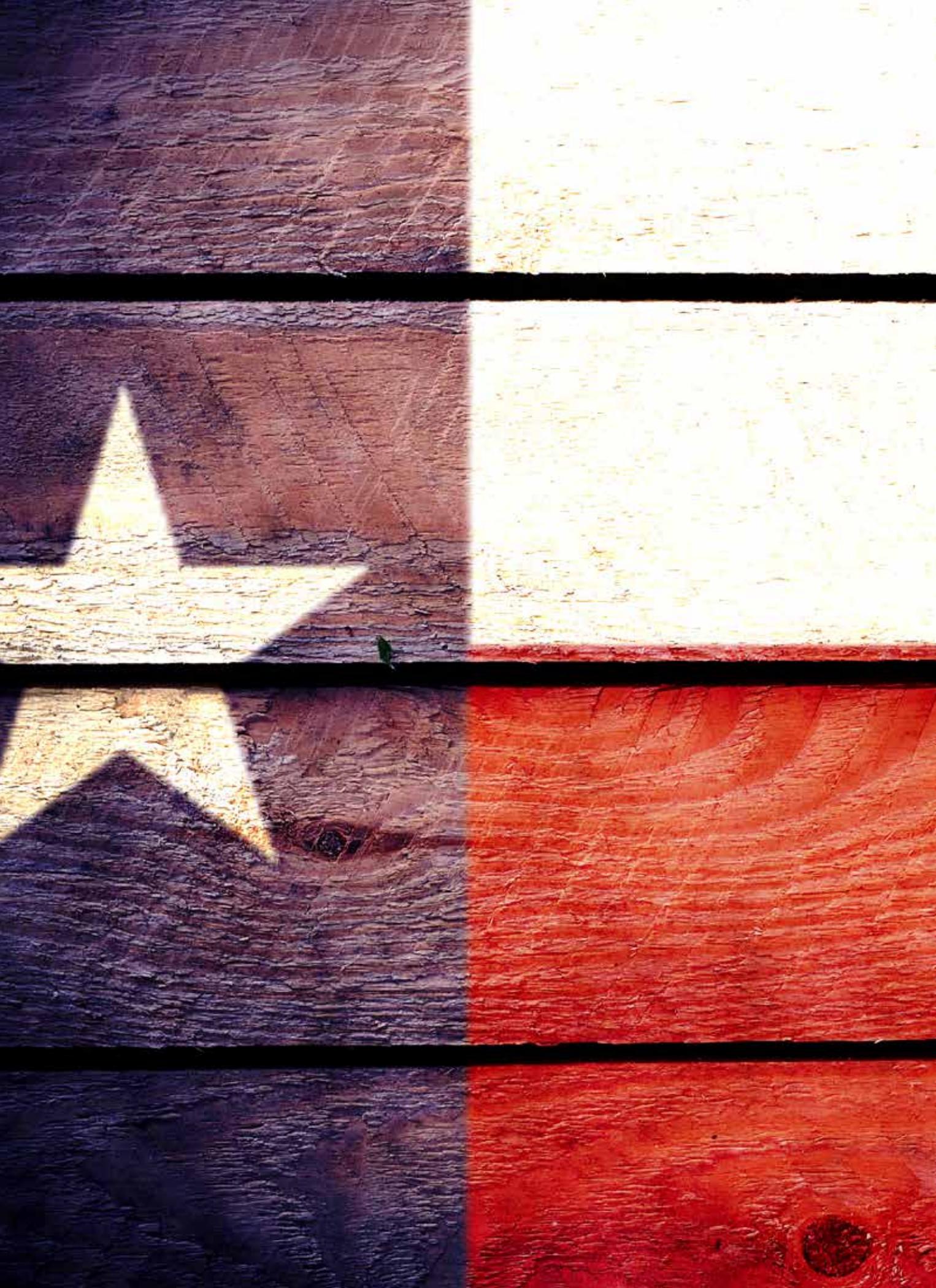
In October 2017, there were over 60,000 homeless people sleeping in the shelter system throughout New York City. The Jericho Project, a New York City based organization, is one of the organizations working to address this crisis by providing supportive housing to homeless families, LGBTQ youth, and veterans across eight multi-family residences in the Bronx and Harlem. In 2017, the Jericho Project provided housing, employment, mental and physical health services for over 2,500 residents.

In December 2017, for the second year in a row, 350 volunteers city-wide came together at the Jericho Project's Day of Action to provide essential amenities to Jericho Project residents, and spread some holiday cheer. These on-the-ground efforts reached over 500 New Yorkers who have struggled with homelessness. As part of this effort, Gibson Dunn lawyers and staff donated care packages to the 80 residents of the Edith MacGuire Residence in the Bronx, and also spent a day decorating the building for the holidays.



In Los Angeles, Gibson Dunn hosted its second Annual Day of Service at the Union Rescue Mission. The Mission has been involved in helping the homeless in downtown Los Angeles for over 126 years, including through providing permanent supportive housing, meals, medical clinics, legal guidance, and educational support. During the Day of Service, Gibson Dunn volunteers provided guests with lunch and had a variety of activities for the kids at the Mission, including face painting, coloring, games, a bouncy house and a puppy/bunny party.





## HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

In late August 2017, the city of Houston, Texas was ravaged by Hurricane Harvey. By the time the storm had run its course, thousands of Houston residents had lost their homes, and thousands more had registered for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance. Gibson Dunn's newly opened Houston office stepped up to support its community in a big way.

Our Houston lawyers volunteered at the Red Cross and other shelters, the Gibson Dunn Houston office hosted a women's client event that raised thousands of dollars for the Houston Food Bank, and the office collected and donated both winter clothing and gently used books to replace donations previously collected by the Houston Bar Association in its annual Campaign for the Homeless clothing drive and the Lawyers for Literacy drive, respectively. A group of Houston lawyers also worked as a team to "muck and gut" a flooded house originally built by a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Houston Bar Association.



Attorneys also volunteered their time and legal services to provide pro bono legal assistance to the affected Houston residents. Together with a corporate client, lawyers staffed legal advice clinics in affected neighborhoods. In addition, through an already up-and-running program called LegalLine, Houston Volunteer Lawyers marshalled the resources of the city's legal community to provide limited-scope advice to individuals with questions about their rights in the wake of the storm. Gibson Dunn's Houston office was proud to staff every Friday session for the life of the program and to boast 100% participation in the program. Lawyers from several of our corporate clients participated in the sessions, working side-by-side with the Gibson Dunn team. As time continued and the need grew stronger, lawyer volunteers from our Los Angeles and New York offices, among others, joined Houston by volunteering their time to answer the lines remotely from cities across the United States.





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## OFFICE SPOTLIGHT: LONDON

Our London attorneys contributed significantly to the firm's pro bono efforts in 2017. The office did close to 7,000 pro bono hours, averaging 74 per lawyer. Over 80% of the attorneys in the office participated, resulting in the equivalent of close to \$6 million in pro bono services being donated by the London office alone in 2017.

The work involved a variety of different matters, including: advising nonprofits and NGOs; providing advice at legal clinics to domestic violence survivors and individuals dealing with housing crises; and conducting critical research and analysis on important issues on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Please enjoy this snapshot of the work done over the past year in our London office. Cheers!

### **Family Law, Domestic Violence, and Housing Law Clinics Launched in East London**

In 2015, Gibson Dunn became a founding member of the UK Pro Bono Collaborative. Since its launch, the Collaborative has sought to identify areas in which access to justice was limited, either by a lack of resources or a lack of available lawyers to provide services. As part of this effort, Gibson Dunn's London office teamed up with several other firms and University House Legal Advice Centre in Bethnal Green to launch two new pro bono clinics in East London, one focused on family law and domestic violence, and the other relating to housing.

In 2017, we sent several attorney volunteers every other week to the clinics. Since inception, over 50 Gibson Dunn lawyers have participated, devoting well over 1,000 hours to the collective projects.

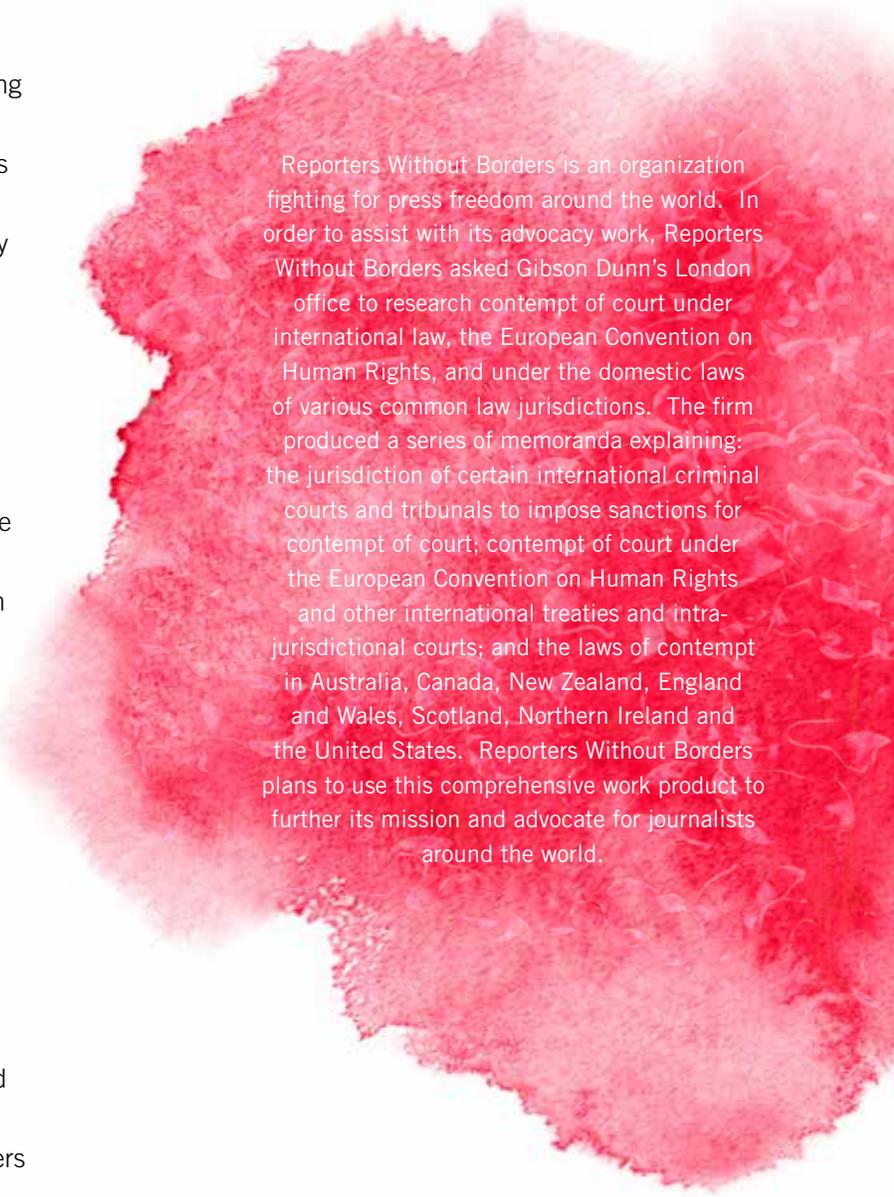
## In Crisis: The World's Youngest Refugees in Peril

Each year, more and more children are being forced to leave their home countries and travel thousands of miles – sometimes unaccompanied by family – in search of protection as refugees or asylum-seekers. By the end of 2016, there were approximately 22.5 million refugees worldwide, of which 51% were children. Unfortunately, for many children, arriving in a new country does not bring them the freedom and safety they were so desperately seeking. Among the issues faced by some child refugees is that, in certain countries, child refugees and asylum-seekers are detained in response to irregular entry or stay violations.

Gibson Dunn, together with local counsel in countries around the world, has identified and analyzed the international and domestic laws relating to the detention of refugee and asylum-seeker children in multiple jurisdictions. The objective of the report is to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its partners in their efforts to protect the interests of children through strategic litigation, advocacy, media campaigns, and other formal and informal mechanisms. The final report aims to identify various legal provisions that could be relied on to reduce or eliminate the detention of child refugees and asylum-seekers.

In November 2017, approximately 20 lawyers and staff from the London office took part in the yearly “Poppy Appeal,” organized by the Royal British Legion as its biggest fundraising campaign. Not only has our London office been a proud supporter of this wonderful charity for a number of years, but our 2017 team raised a record amount in donations. The Royal British Legion provides lifelong financial, social and emotional support to members

and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents. During a period of remembrance, volunteers distribute paper poppies and collect donations in return. The poppies are worn to remember fallen service men and women.



Reporters Without Borders is an organization fighting for press freedom around the world. In order to assist with its advocacy work, Reporters Without Borders asked Gibson Dunn’s London office to research contempt of court under international law, the European Convention on Human Rights, and under the domestic laws of various common law jurisdictions. The firm produced a series of memoranda explaining: the jurisdiction of certain international criminal courts and tribunals to impose sanctions for contempt of court; contempt of court under the European Convention on Human Rights and other international treaties and intra-jurisdictional courts; and the laws of contempt in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the United States. Reporters Without Borders plans to use this comprehensive work product to further its mission and advocate for journalists around the world.

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## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

### **Public Counsel Law Firm Pro Bono Award**

On June 29, 2017, Gibson Dunn was honored by Public Counsel with its 2017 Law Firm Pro Bono Award. The firm was recognized for its work over the years on behalf of Public Counsel clients, committing over 10,000 hours in the last two years alone. The award also specifically recognized the firm's 2017 efforts on several high-profile, complex immigration-related cases, as well as our work in the wake of the Travel Ban. Ted Boutrous accepted the award on behalf of the firm.



### **Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network Pro Bono Service Award**

On June 16, 2017, Gibson Dunn was honored with the Pro Bono Service Award by the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network. The firm was recognized for its contributions over the past several years to the immigrant community in Denver, Colorado, and nationally. The award was accepted by Laura Sturges and Katie Marquart.



## ALSO IN 2017...

- Centro Legal de la Raza's 2017 Pro Bono Champion Award
- Catholic Charities Legal Network's John Carroll Society 2017 Legal Services Award
- Animal Legal Defense Fund's 2017 Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award
- The Legal Aid Society's 2017 Pro Bono Publico Award

## GIBSON DUNN'S FRANK WHEAT MEMORIAL AWARD

Gibson Dunn's Frank Wheat Memorial Awards are given annually to the individual lawyer and team that: demonstrated leadership and initiative in their pro bono work; obtained significant results for their pro bono clients; and served as a source of inspiration to others. The awards are named after former Gibson Dunn partner Frank Wheat, who was not only a giant in the legal community - a superb transactional lawyer, an SEC commissioner, and president of the Los Angeles County Bar - but was also a giant in the nonprofit community.

This year, the team award was given to the team of attorneys that worked tirelessly in the days, weeks, and months following the issuance of the so-called Travel Ban, to protect the due process rights and civil liberties of immigrants around the United States, as well as to help guarantee access to justice for those who might not otherwise would not have been able to afford it.

The firm also handed out two individual Frank Wheat awards, to Michael Holecek and Christopher Leach for their exceptional work on behalf of their respective pro bono clients.



**Michael Holecek**, Los Angeles

Michael Holecek is being honored for his incredible work on behalf of domestic violence victims. He worked on several such pro bono matters in 2017, and was recently selected by the Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation as a 2017 HALO Award winner for that work.

In one of his pro bono matters, Michael successfully argued an appeal to the California Court of Appeal, which reversed the trial court's order granting joint child custody to a proven domestic abuser. The trial court had found that the abuser had placed our client in a headlock while she was pregnant, but nonetheless granted the parties joint custody. On appeal, Michael and the Gibson Dunn team contended that the trial court failed to properly apply California's statutory presumption against awarding child custody to domestic abusers. A unanimous panel of the California Court of Appeal agreed and reversed the custody order. In 2017, Michael also joined the Board of Directors for Family Violence Appellate Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to representing domestic violence survivors in civil appeals.



**Christopher Leach**, Washington, D.C.

Christopher Leach is being honored for his representation of a man whose 1988 trial was tainted by his former lawyer's conflict of interest. The lawyer in question had also represented a co-defendant and negotiated a plea allowing the co-defendant to go free, conditioned on our future client pleading guilty. After challenging this conviction unsuccessfully for nearly 30 years through the state courts, our client filed a habeas petition in federal court, which was also denied without a ruling on the merits.

Christopher took up the appeal of this petition to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. After oral argument, the court ordered the district court to adjudicate the client's conflict of interest claim. At this point, Christopher worked to negotiate a favorable settlement of the remand proceedings in which the State would consent to the vacatur of his client's conviction, thereby mooted his federal habeas case in the district court. On December 7, 2017, the Maryland court entered a consent order vacating the client's conviction.

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