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Dear Colleagues, Clients, Alumni, and Friends of the Firm:

One of the cornerstones of the Gibson Dunn community is our shared commitment to giving back. Our pro bono platform provides us with extraordinary opportunities to make a difference both globally and locally, and I was proud to see these opportunities turned into action in 2021.

In 2021, Gibson Dunn lawyers devoted more than 140,000 hours to pro bono projects, at an average of more than 80 hours per attorney worldwide and more than 90 hours per attorney in the United States. More than 1,000 lawyers dedicated 20 or more hours to their pro bono practice, and nearly 500 new matters were opened. We mobilized to address the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, advised small businesses facing unprecedented challenges during the pandemic, advocated for human rights around the globe, played a leading role in the racial justice movement, staunchly defended the First Amendment, and worked on behalf of domestic violence and human trafficking survivors—the list goes on. Our attorneys are empowered to pursue pro bono matters that resonate with them, and the strength and diversity of our pro bono practice are a testament to their enthusiasm, dedication, and skill.

We are honored to partner with our clients and colleagues to effect positive change around the world. In 2021 alone, we worked with our corporate clients on dozens of pro bono projects—acting on our shared values in service of others.

The pages that follow detail our Firm’s recent pro bono efforts, and I hope you will join me in celebrating this tremendous work. I look forward to everything the Gibson Dunn community will continue to accomplish in 2022 and beyond.

Barbara Becker
Chair & Managing Partner
Our pro bono practice is grounded in the notion that we have the great responsibility and privilege to use our skills to help those in the communities around us who are most in need. The pro bono work we do helps ensure that everyone—not just the privileged few—has meaningful access to the justice system. Our program is dynamic, responding to the changing times and addressing crises in real time, and reflects the diverse interests of our attorneys and the varied needs of the communities we serve.

In 2021, I was proud to see the Firm play a leading role in the effort to support Afghan refugees seeking safety in the United States. Watching the Firm come together during this time of crisis has been inspiring. From inception, the effort was led by passionate attorneys across the Firm who volunteered to work under time pressure in the waning days of August to file applications on behalf of families at risk—often working late into the night and over weekends. As the crisis has continued on, I’ve been even more impressed that the group of volunteers has grown and maintained that same level of commitment. And as we have had the chance to get to know our clients, our resolve to stand with these brave families in their efforts to find safety has only strengthened.

I also want to thank Scott Edelman, who from 2005 to 2021 chaired our global Pro Bono Committee, dedicating hundreds of hours to promoting the work within the Firm while also taking on pro bono clients of his own. Scott’s dedication to the community is inspiring. In addition to helping attorneys find rewarding opportunities and advising on countless pro bono matters at the Firm, Scott also has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of KCET Public Television, as a member of the Board of Directors and President of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, as Regional President of the American Jewish Committee Los Angeles, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Children’s Rights. Today, Scott dedicates considerable time to his work as President of the Board of Directors of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles. On a personal note, I am grateful to him for his friendship and mentorship over the years. Scott has played a tremendous role in shaping our efforts into the thriving, diverse program that it is today, and I know he will continue to help strengthen our program for years to come.

I am proud of all we have accomplished together in 2021. I look forward to what we can achieve in 2022 and beyond. In particular, I know that our shared commitment to helping Afghan and Ukrainian refugee communities will continue unabated. We invite all of you within the Gibson Dunn community, including our clients and alumni, to join us in these efforts.

Katie Marquart
Partner & Pro Bono Chair
In 2021, Gibson Dunn remained committed to pro bono work focused on addressing racial justice and equity issues. Indeed, our commitment in this space has only increased over the last year. After dedicating approximately 18,000 hours to racial equity-related pro bono matters in 2020, the Firm devoted nearly 28,000 hours to racial equity-focused pro bono matters in 2021. This included police and criminal justice reform efforts, advice to minority-owned small businesses, litigation defending the rights of individuals targeted by law enforcement while peacefully protesting the murder of George Floyd, and legal services for the victims of anti-Asian hate, among other matters.
Racial Justice & Criminal Justice Reform

The Alliance for Asian American Justice

The last several years have been marked by a rise in hate crimes. Gibson Dunn is a proud founding member of the Alliance for Asian American Justice (the “Alliance”), a national pro bono initiative committed to standing up for victims, and preventing future acts, of anti-Asian hate. The Alliance is co-chaired by Gibson Dunn partner Debra Wong Yang and White & Case partner Tai Park, who also serve on The Alliance’s Board of Directors alongside Don H. Liu, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal & Risk Officer of Target Corporation; Wilson Chu, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery; and Brian A. Sun, Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright. Gibson Dunn is joined in this effort by a group of Fortune 1000 General Counsel and more than 90 law firms.

The Alliance is coordinating law firm pro bono resources on behalf of victims to assist them in obtaining legal remedies. Victims are referred to participating Alliance law firms based on the geography, expertise, and language and cultural affinity of lawyers. Once matched, volunteers help victims liaise with local and federal governmental agencies, human rights commissions, and other civil remedial agencies. Volunteers also assist victims with exploring avenues for relief through civil law suits, where appropriate, and navigating the social services systems, including housing, victim financial assistance, immigration representation, employment advice, counseling, and other mental health resources. Finally, the Alliance and its member firms can participate in broader educational initiatives, including programs to educate immigrant communities on victim rights and options for seeking relief through the civil and criminal justice system.

The Alliance has provided more than $4 million in pro bono legal services to victims. Gibson Dunn is honored to play a part in this important work.
INTERVIEW WITH ALLIANCE CO-CHAIR
DEBRA WONG YANG

How did you decide to help form the Alliance for Asian American Justice?

My decision to get involved was very personal. It had been an extremely challenging time for me and my family—watching and reading about one incident of hate against the Asian American community after another, each more horrific than the last. As I began to reach out to my friends and colleagues in the community, I quickly realized we were all feeling the same sense of deep grief, but also determination to stand up and do something. I remember thinking, what am I a lawyer for if not this? In many ways it felt like all my years of training and experience, in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, on the bench, and in private practice, had come together for this moment. I knew I could make a difference and I had no choice but to lean into that opportunity.

What was the Firm’s reaction to your decision to pursue this project?

When I made the decision to commit my time to this project, I knew that it wouldn’t be a small undertaking. To do it right, I (and many others) would have to commit substantial effort to get it off the ground and to set the Alliance on a path to success. When I approached our Firm’s newly elected Managing Partner, Barbara Becker, with the idea, her reaction was quick, clear, and decisive: we are behind you 1000%. That commitment has not wavered. I cannot overstate what that meant to me and for the success of the Alliance. That level of Firm commitment allowed me the freedom to think big and to be bold in my aspirations for what the Alliance could become. It also made me proud to be a lawyer at Gibson Dunn.
What came next? How was Gibson Dunn involved in launching the Alliance?

Next came the daunting task of galvanizing the energy, wisdom, and talent of the legal community across the nation into one collective effort to stand up against Asian American hate. I was grateful to lean on so many colleagues at Gibson Dunn to bring this together, in particular Zakiyyah Salim-Williams and Amanda Huynh. Together, we began reaching out to leaders at other law firms and in the business community, forming a collective of over 100 organizations.

Having the opportunity to collaborate with our corporate clients on this effort has been a game changer. At Gibson Dunn, we are lucky to count among our clients so many creative, innovative, and community-minded corporations. Dozens of companies reached out during this effort and pledged support. Their support and thought leadership behind the effort has propelled its success.

How did this effort intersect with some of the other racial justice efforts underway at the Firm?

Gibson Dunn has had a longstanding commitment to fighting for racial justice. Under the leadership of the Firm’s management and, in particular, our Chief Diversity Officer Zakiyyah Salim-Williams, we have also focused on building up a strong internal diversity and inclusion effort that looks to support our existing diverse attorneys and grow those ranks. I was moved by the outpouring of support from all of our lawyers when the incidents of Asian American hate began escalating. I was especially touched by the commitment of our Black lawyers of a $10,000 personal contribution to help further the Alliance’s mission. This work intersected with and further amplified the Firm’s work in the racial justice space under the leadership of Partner and Pro Bono Chair Katie Marquart and so many others.

What do you see as the future of the Alliance?

I am proud of what we created in the Alliance. To be part of the effort to galvanize the Asian American community and lend our collective voice to stand up to hate and violence has been one of the high points of my career. The fight has only just begun. Education and awareness-building are a key part of the effort moving forward. And we will continue to bridge alliances with other minority communities, which I know will strengthen our mission. I am hopeful that, together, we can make meaningful inroads on combatting hate and injustice.
Racial Justice & Criminal Justice Reform

The Jim Crow Juries Initiative

Together with the Promise of Justice Initiative, a New Orleans-based nonprofit, the Firm is working to repair the systemic harms caused by so-called Jim Crow juries—non-unanimous juries that convicted individuals in Louisiana for more than 100 years. Today, more than 2,000 people are still imprisoned due to Jim Crow juries and most are serving life sentences. The U.S. Supreme Court held the practice unconstitutional in *Ramos v. Louisiana* in 2020, but those already convicted and incarcerated pursuant to this abhorrent practice were not granted automatic relief by the decision.

Our work with the Promise of Justice Initiative began by assisting with the review and triage of cases for more than 90 individuals currently incarcerated in Louisiana who are believed to have been impacted by Jim Crow juries. We then prepared and filed motions for post-conviction relief on behalf of more than 30 individual clients. This includes Jamine, who was convicted by a non-unanimous jury and sentenced to 30 years of hard labor after firing a single shot in defense of himself and others at a man with a history of stalking and threatening Jamine and his then-girlfriend; Chevroun, who was convicted by a 10-2 jury of second-degree murder in a trial where there was no physical evidence and a crucial identifying witness recanted his testimony; and Michael, who was sentenced to life at hard labor because of Louisiana’s habitual offender statute.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court’s subsequent decision in *Edwards v. Vannoy*, which found that the *Ramos* jury non-unanimity rule did apply retroactively on federal collateral review, dealt a significant blow to our clients and our hope for widespread federally mandated relief. After *Edwards*, we shifted to an approach emphasizing remedies under state law, negotiation with local DA’s offices, and looking for creative alternative solutions to assist our clients. And, despite the ongoing challenges, there have been some successes.

For example, Timothy was charged in state court with looting during a state of emergency. The jury acquitted him of that charge, but entered a non-unanimous (10-2) verdict convicting him of the lesser offense of attempted looting. Despite a history of only non-violent offenses, Timothy was adjudicated a fourth-time offender and sentenced to 20 years in prison without the possibility of parole. With support from the DA’s office, the Firm moved to reduce his sentence. After two hearings on the matter, the court granted Timothy a downward departure and amended his sentence to 10 years with full credit for time served.
Deon Jones with mentor, legend, and civil rights hero, Congressman John Lewis.

Deon Jones v. City of Los Angeles

Gibson Dunn represents Deon Jones, a Los Angeles-based performance artist, entrepreneur, and Truman Scholar who was shot at close range in the face with a rubber bullet by the Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD") while peacefully protesting on May 30, 2020. The rubber bullet was millimeters away from blinding—or, even worse, killing—Mr. Jones. In December 2020, we filed a lawsuit challenging the LAPD’s use of brutal and indiscriminate force against protesters exercising their inalienable, constitutional right to protest peacefully, and demanding an end to the use of so-called “rubber bullets” or “less lethal” munitions against peaceful protesters.

The lawsuit was met with wide acclaim and broad support, including from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, the ACLU, the NAACP LDF, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Professor Jody Armour of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Professor James Forman, Jr. of Yale Law School. Gibson Dunn is proud to bring this case and is committed to vindicating Mr. Jones’s constitutional rights at trial this summer. No one should ever have to experience the mental and physical trauma he endured.
Racial Justice & Criminal Justice Reform

Police Reform

Gibson Dunn has long engaged in initiatives focused on police reform, beginning with our work with the Leadership Conference Education Fund, which resulted in a report President Obama described as a “starting point” for an effective policing reform agenda. Since then, our work has spanned many states and included both policy reform and direct representation of those impacted by police misconduct.

Together with New York University, we drafted comprehensive model legislation addressing the problem of outstanding law enforcement warrants. The model statute addressed warrant reform from end to end, including: limits to warrant issuance; alternatives to warrants; protocols for issuing warrants; improved access to the court system to more efficiently resolve warrants; improved warrant notification systems; improved oversight of arrest warrants; guidance for managing warrant databases and verification systems; purging stale, inaccurate, or inactive warrants; warrant clearance and amnesty; and modernized warrant systems. Recently, California Assembly member Mike Gipson expressed interest in enacting portions of the model statute in California.

Gibson Dunn Achieves Seventh Circuit Victory in Civil Rights Case

In 2017, Dallas McIntosh sued Wexford Health Sources and multiple jail officials under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for acting with deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs while imprisoned. Mr. McIntosh alleged that a nurse funneled him unprescribed medication under the table and that staff members failed to prevent him from attempting suicide after he became addicted to the painkillers. Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, Mr. McIntosh was required to exhaust all available administrative remedies before he would be given his day in court.

After the magistrate judge determined during a live evidentiary “Pavey hearing” that Mr. McIntosh properly had exhausted his administrative remedies, the district court judge reversed the magistrate judge’s credibility findings. Represented by Gibson Dunn, Mr. McIntosh appealed, arguing the district court erred in reversing the magistrate judge’s credibility findings based on live testimony without hearing from the parties. The Seventh Circuit agreed, adopting Gibson Dunn’s suggestion that it extend precedent that previously had applied only in the context of habeas petition hearings. The holding incorporated Gibson Dunn’s argument that, where “a district judge questions and then rejects the credibility determinations made by a magistrate judge during a Pavey hearing, the district court must hold a de novo hearing to support its own credibility determinations, absent extraordinary circumstances.”
Immigration work has always been at the heart of Gibson Dunn’s pro bono efforts, with our attorneys dedicating hundreds of thousands of hours to immigration- and refugee-related matters in recent years. In 2021 alone, hundreds of Gibson Dunn attorneys across the Firm devoted approximately 35,000 hours to approximately 500 different immigration matters. We represented political dissidents, LGBTQ individuals, journalists, activists, and others seeking asylum in the United States. We helped immigrant victims of crime, trafficking, and sexual assault apply for permanent status in the United States. And we took on large-scale litigation matters to defend the rights of immigrants and refugees, working to ensure that immigrants seeking safety and security in the United States also would find due process and access to justice.
Farmville Detention Center Litigation

In the summer of 2020, Gibson Dunn partnered with the National Immigration Project and the Legal Aid Justice Center to sue the federal government and private defendants on behalf of immigrant detainees at Farmville Detention Center, following the worst COVID-19 outbreak at an ICE detention facility. The outbreak occurred after ICE recklessly transferred 51 individuals who had been detained at facilities that were experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks into Farmville without taking adequate precautions—all so that ICE could simultaneously shuttle additional personnel to Washington, D.C. to address ongoing racial justice protests.

In July 2020, the team filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia on behalf of 14 plaintiffs, alleging that the federal government and the private defendants operating the detention center violated our clients’ constitutional rights. The team subsequently added claims for damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and state law tort claims against the private defendants, as well as claims for damages under the Federal Tort Claims Act against the federal government.

Since then, the litigation has achieved significant victories for our clients. In August 2020, we won a preliminary injunction that prohibited further transfers into Farmville. As a result, today, only 11 people are detained in the facility (which can hold 700). In September 2020, after extensive jurisdictional discovery, we favorably settled our damages claims against private defendants. In February 2022, the court denied in large part the federal government’s motion to dismiss and encouraged the parties to try to resolve the matter, with mediation scheduled for spring 2022.
**Immigration**

“Gibson Dunn has permitted, and indeed encouraged, me to invest in pro bono in ways I didn’t think possible at a law firm. These opportunities have allowed me not only to develop my skills as a litigator—whether by conducting a direct examination in immigration court, or drafting Supreme Court amicus briefs—but, more importantly, to help change the lives of individual asylum seekers. It is hard to overstate what a privilege it is to have clients entrust you with their futures in this country, and what a joy it is to help them succeed.”

—Alexandra Perloff-Giles, Associate, New York


In 2021, Gibson Dunn continued to represent dozens of former immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals in filing amicus briefs in immigration cases at the U.S. Supreme Court.

In *Niz-Chavez v. Garland*, Gibson Dunn filed an amicus brief on behalf of the group in support of Petitioner on a question of enormous practical significance: Must the initial “notice to appear” served on noncitizens to commence their removal proceedings provide—in one document—the “time and place at which the proceedings will be held,” along with charges and other specified information, or may the government cobble together the required elements from multiple documents? In a 6-3 decision, the Court sided with Petitioner, holding that the statute requires the government to provide that notice in a single document because, “[i]f men must turn square corners when they deal with the government, it cannot be too much to expect the government to turn square corners when it deals with them.”

In *Patel v. Garland*, Gibson Dunn submitted an amicus brief in support of Petitioner in a case arguing that a statutory provision should be read to allow Article III courts to review objective, non-discretionary determinations—such as the requirements under Georgia law for obtaining a driver’s license, which played a key role in the case—that inform executive branch discretionary decisions on whether to grant certain forms of relief.

**Gibson Dunn Secures Asylum for Guatemalan Refugee**

On July 9, 2021, Gibson Dunn’s pro bono client Andzony, a 28-year-old Guatemalan refugee, was granted asylum—a significant victory given that he had missed the typical deadline to file for asylum by nearly three years. In 2009, at the age of 16, he journeyed to the United States with a group of total strangers to escape homophobic attacks from street gangs, classmates, and even his own family. The Gibson Dunn team, which was connected to Andzony years after his arrival in the United States, submitted a merits brief arguing he was entitled to asylum despite his failure to timely file an asylum application because he met the criteria for an “extraordinary circumstances” exception. At the hearing, Immigration Judge Denise Hinds Roach was persuaded that Andzony’s youth at the time of filing (age 20) warranted an extraordinary circumstances exception, despite the absence of any binding BIA or Third Circuit case law for an exception on that basis. Judge Hinds Roach granted asylum from the bench at the hearing, highlighting Andzony’s testimony about the United States being a “ray of hope.”
Beginning in August 2021, tens of thousands of Afghans, along with U.S. citizens and permanent residents, tried desperately to flee the country—an exodus that has continued over the past several months. Now, more than six months after the United States completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan, nearly 100,000 displaced Afghans have settled into permanent housing and integrated into local communities throughout the United States, with many Afghans still trapped in Afghanistan facing the very real threat of Taliban reprisals and living through a dire humanitarian crisis. Throughout 2021, a team of Gibson Dunn attorneys worked with hundreds of Afghan clients, both in Afghanistan and the United States, seeking to reach safety and obtain long-term immigration status. The Firm selected these attorneys as co-recipients of the 2021 Frank Wheat Award in recognition of their outstanding pro bono efforts.
As the Taliban seized power in August 2021, a team of Gibson Dunn attorneys—including attorneys from our U.S., Brussels, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, and Singapore offices—came together to identify ways to help Afghan families who feared Taliban violence due to their collaboration with the U.S. military or government, their work to promote the Afghan government and civil society, or their public support for causes seen as antithetical to the Taliban's rule. What began as a very personal mission to help several families at risk of Taliban violence who had personal connections to the Firm quickly evolved into something much bigger. By the close of 2021, the task force included 200 attorneys who had collectively devoted more than 5,000 pro bono hours to the mission—work that was valued at more than $4 million. The Firm had taken on hundreds of individual clients, as well as launched larger-scale initiatives to provide help to Afghan refugees across the globe.

Gibson Dunn is only a small part of the broader legal response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. We are proud to have partnered with in-house attorneys from several of our corporate clients on many of these applications, and we are thankful to have collaborated with attorneys at nonprofit organizations that are on the front lines of these efforts.

“We are so inspired by and grateful for the leadership of Gibson Dunn in co-creating the Welcome Legal Alliance, a tool that helps match the outpouring of support from our nation’s lawyers with Afghan families and individuals facing asylum deadlines and other legal needs critical to building a secure future here in the United States. For the nearly 80,000 Afghan newcomers who have sought refuge in communities across the country since last September, there remains an immense and urgent need for pro bono legal services to help navigate the complex challenges of our immigration system. It is impossible to overstate the importance of having a lawyer by your side—both for the outcome of the case and the human element of knowing that someone cares and will help carry the load.”

—Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome.US
Responding to the Crisis in Afghanistan

Gibson Dunn Teams Help Afghan Evacuees Apply for Immigration Relief

In August 2021, the Firm quickly began filing applications for humanitarian parole, a temporary permission to enter the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit, on behalf of vulnerable families in Afghanistan. The initial efforts focused on a handful of families with a direct connection to Gibson Dunn, such as interpreters who worked with Gibson Dunn attorneys who previously served in the U.S. military, but our efforts quickly expanded to include 300 clients seeking to flee the imminent threat of violence in Afghanistan. Several were interpreters for the U.S. military, while others were members of the Afghan military and Afghan National Police working alongside U.S. forces in hostile regions. Others are women and children whose husbands and fathers already immigrated to the United States on Special Immigrant Visas to begin building a home for their families. Some are being targeted because they were journalists, open critics of the Taliban, female professionals, or members of minority religions. Many of our clients already have faced threats and physical abuse at the hands of the Taliban, while others are being actively hunted by the Taliban. Although many of these families initially wished to remain in Afghanistan to help rebuild their home country, recent developments made them face the difficult reality that they had to leave.

The Firm’s initial wave of pro bono efforts largely focused on filing humanitarian parole applications to help families at risk of Taliban reprisals enter the United States on a temporary basis. As an increasing number of Afghan refugees arrive in the United States, our work expanded to help them settle in new homes and obtain permanent immigration status. We have taken on a number of asylum and Special Immigrant Visa applications, and we anticipate taking on more of these cases in 2022. In particular, we are proud to be part of a coalition of firms representing individuals who were employed by the New York Times in Afghanistan, were evacuated as Kabul fell to the Taliban, and now are seeking asylum in the United States. To date, we have taken on asylum cases on behalf of 20 clients from this group alone.

“My colleagues went from feeling like they had no one in their corner to being represented by one of the most prestigious law firms in the world. This alone means a huge amount, but what is even more important is that they now have the best possible shot at starting a new life in America.”

—Ben Polk, Global Policy Director, International Legal Foundation
In parallel to the Firm’s work with individual clients, Gibson Dunn is a founding member of Welcome.US and the Welcome Legal Alliance. Welcome.US is a national bipartisan effort to bring together individuals, nonprofits, and businesses to help welcome and support Afghan refugees upon arrival into the United States. It seeks to provide access to housing, public benefits, medical care, job training, language classes, and other necessities as this brave group of refugees attempts to restart their lives here in the United States. In October 2021, as part of the Welcome.US launch, Gibson Dunn Managing Partner Barbara Becker participated in a White House roundtable to discuss the role of the private sector in effectively welcoming and resettling Afghan allies. Building on these discussions, the Firm is coordinating with clients and nonprofit partners to facilitate future partnerships, and is a member of Welcome.US’s CEO Council.

The Firm also has taken the lead in forming the Welcome Legal Alliance, under the larger umbrella of Welcome.US. The Welcome Legal Alliance brings together lawyers, law firms, in-house legal teams, law students, immigration lawyers, and legal aid organizations to pool our resources and work together to ensure Afghans arriving in the United States have access to legal services throughout their resettlement process. Working with co-founders Human Rights First and the Afghan American Foundation, the Welcome Legal Alliance launched in March 2022.

A growing list of organizations and law firms, including The American Immigration Coalition, the International Refugee Assistance Project, Kids in Need of Defense, Pars Equality Center, Tahirih Justice Center, the International Rescue Committee, and We the Action, have committed to joining the Alliance. Together, we have ensured that hundreds of Afghan refugee families have access to pro bono legal representation to help them apply for asylum, pursue Special Immigrant Visas, apply for humanitarian parole on behalf of family members, and more. We look forward to continuing to work on these important efforts in 2022 and beyond.

“When the crisis in Afghanistan broke out, it was clear to me and to our Foundation that legal services were going to be a critical element in evacuation and resettlement efforts. It was also certain that leading law firms were going to have a tremendous opportunity to make a contribution by partnering with nonprofits and community groups to contribute top-notch legal talent to this response work. The Welcome Legal Alliance represents the best of what happens when well-meaning and committed people come together for a cause. It will save lives, it will help keep families together, and it will be used as a blueprint for purpose-driven collaboration across sectors.”

– Joseph Azam, Board Chair, Afghan American Foundation

Welcome.US and the Welcome Legal Alliance

Responding to the Crisis in Afghanistan
Promoting the rule of law and defending constitutional rights is at the core of our pro bono practice. Over the years, Gibson Dunn attorneys have fought to preserve First Amendment liberties—including free speech, free assembly, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion. We also have taken on pro bono matters raising important issues related to the rights of criminal defendants, women’s rights, gun control, and other constitutional issues.
Constitutional Rights

Gibson Dunn Assists Legal Aid Societies in Significant Supreme Court Victory Vindicating Confrontation Clause Rights

In *Hemphill v. New York*, --- S. Ct. ---, 2022 WL 174223 (2022), the U.S. Supreme Court addressed the question of whether New York’s forfeiture-by-opening-the-door rule violated the Sixth Amendment. New York’s rule allowed for the admission of evidence otherwise barred by the Confrontation Clause (i.e., testimonial out-of-court statements) when an accused’s evidence “opens the door” to such evidence and the court determines that testimonial out-of-court statements are needed to correct an “incomplete and misleading” impression.

Representing Bronx Defenders, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, Brooklyn Defender Services, Queens Defenders, and New York County Defender Service as amici, Gibson Dunn argued that New York’s rule violated the Sixth Amendment and undermined the accused’s ability to present a valid defense because it precluded the testing of testimonial statements through cross-examination. The Supreme Court agreed. In an 8-1 decision, Justice Sotomayor wrote that “the role of the trial judge is not, for Confrontation Clause purposes, to weigh the reliability or credibility of testimonial hearsay evidence; it is to ensure that the Constitution’s procedures for testing the reliability of that evidence are followed.” And the “trial court here violated this principle by admitting uncontroverted, testimonial hearsay against Hemphill simply because the judge deemed his presentation to have created a misleading impression that the testimonial hearsay was reasonably necessary to correct.”
Constitutional Rights

“Our pro bono partnership with the Giffords Center to Prevent Gun Violence has been incredibly rewarding—and impactful. I can think of no more important issue than preventing senseless gun violence in society. It has been an honor for us to partner with Giffords in both affirmative impact litigation and multiple amicus briefs we filed in important Second Amendment cases.”

— Avi Weitzman, Partner, New York

Gibson Dunn Files Brief Asking Supreme Court to Uphold “Proper Cause” Requirement for Concealed Carry Licenses Under the Second Amendment

In September 2021, Gibson Dunn filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of members of the business community—including a publicly traded financial institution, a Regional Chamber of Commerce, and a large real estate developer—in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen. The case addresses the constitutionality of a New York law requiring individuals to show “proper cause” to obtain a concealed carry license in the state. Amici, as businesses, argue that the more lax concealed carry regime the Petitioners demand the Court impose nationwide will increase gun violence across the country. Businesses are on the front lines facing the resulting violence and bear a disproportionate share of the associated risks and costs. Gibson Dunn’s brief argues that holding the proper cause requirement unconstitutional would hamstring the ability of governments to protect their communities by implementing common-sense gun safety regulations—particularly in the midst of the deadliest year of gun violence in the last two decades. Amici urge the Court to adhere to its promise in District of Columbia v. Heller that the Second Amendment does not provide the “right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose,” and to retain the long-established common-sense regulations of an individual’s ability to carry a concealed weapon in public.

Gibson Dunn Files Briefs Asking Supreme Court to Uphold Roe v. Wade

Gibson Dunn filed two amicus briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, one on behalf of constitutional law scholars and another on behalf of the California Women’s Law Center. The brief on behalf of constitutional law scholars addresses the constitutionality of a Mississippi law prohibiting abortions performed at or after 15 weeks, arguing that overturning Roe v. Wade, which Mississippi asks the Court to do in upholding its law, would place women and their families at the mercy of state legislatures, denying them the basic right to make perhaps the most personal decisions about their bodies, their families, and their futures.

Gibson Dunn also filed an amicus brief on behalf of the California Women’s Law Center highlighting the ways in which Mississippi’s ban on abortions after 15 weeks would lead to a substantial and detrimental increase in interstate travel among women needing abortion care. The brief urges the Court to continue to consider the financial, medical, emotional, and psychological tolls such travel has on women, as well as the ways in which a rise in travel would adversely affect states, like California, that have fewer restrictions on who may receive abortion care.
Constitutional Rights

Gibson Dunn Files Closely Watched Cert Petition in Important Church Autonomy Case

Virginia offers a property tax exemption for church-owned property that is used as “the residence of the minister of any church,” without defining “minister.” Josh and Anacari Storms are college-campus ministers of the New Life in Christ Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, who were denied the exemption because, in the city’s view, they are not “ministers.” To reach that conclusion, the city (and the courts below) advanced their own interpretation of the church’s book of order. Supported by a diverse coalition of amici from a variety of faith traditions—as well as a dozen states—Gibson Dunn represented the church in asking the Supreme Court to summarily reverse the denial of the exemption because civil authorities violate the First Amendment when they engage in their own interpretation of religious doctrine to overrule a religious organization’s determination that a particular official is a minister.
Constitutional Rights

Gibson Dunn Files Amicus Brief Asking U.S. Supreme Court to Permit Judicial Review of Religious Discrimination Claims When Faced with State Secrets Privilege Defense

In September 2021, Gibson Dunn filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of constitutional law scholars in support of Respondents in Federal Bureau of Investigation v. Fazaga. The case concerned an FBI surveillance program that targeted a Muslim community in California and addressed whether the government’s invocation of national security—and specifically the state secrets privilege—suffices to bar the federal courts from adjudicating claims that the government targeted individuals because of their religion in violation of the Free Exercise Clause.

The Gibson Dunn brief argued that, to vindicate the religious freedom rights that the First Amendment enshrines, adherents of all faiths must be provided access to the courts to review claims of religious discrimination. The brief contended that the Court should not allow the executive’s invocation of evidentiary privileges, such as the state secrets privilege, to extinguish such claims. Instead, the brief urged the Court to accommodate the need for meaningful judicial review of constitutional claims, when faced with a state secrets privilege defense, by applying FISA’s in camera procedures, which allow courts to balance national security interests and the vindication of fundamental constitutional rights.
In 2021, defending the rights of LGBTQ members of our communities remained a cornerstone of Gibson Dunn’s pro bono practice. We have represented LGBTQ asylum-seekers, helped transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming clients obtain name and gender marker changes, and partnered with organizations defending LGBTQ rights around the world. In particular, we have maintained a close collaboration with The Trevor Project, the largest LGBTQ youth crisis intervention and suicide prevention organization, and the only nationwide organization that offers accredited, free, and confidential phone, instant message, and text messaging crisis intervention services for LGBTQ youth.
Gibson Dunn Submits Amicus Brief in Adams v. The School Board of St. Johns County, Florida

Gibson Dunn submitted an amicus brief for The Trevor Project in connection with an Eleventh Circuit case focused on the ability of transgender youth to use a restroom that corresponds to their gender identity. This type of discrimination has far-reaching consequences. A national survey conducted by The Trevor Project in 2019 and 2020 found that 61% of transgender and/or nonbinary youth reported being prevented or discouraged from using a restroom that corresponds to their gender identity, and that youth who experienced discrimination on the basis of their gender identity (including in the context of restrooms) reported a far greater rate of suicide attempts than their LGBTQ peers who did not experience discrimination on this basis.

In August 2020, the Eleventh Circuit found that the St. Johns County School District’s policy barring a transgender student, Andrew Adams, from using the boys’ restroom at school violated both the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection and Title IX’s prohibition of sex discrimination. The School Board sought and was granted an en banc rehearing by the Eleventh Circuit. In November 2021, Gibson Dunn filed an amicus brief on behalf of The Trevor Project in support of affirming the Eleventh Circuit’s initial decision. The brief focused on the extensive research conducted by The Trevor Project, which confirms the significant and detrimental effects of policies denying transgender youth access to restrooms that correspond with and affirm their gender identity. The brief also highlighted The Trevor Project’s firsthand experience working with transgender youth and noted the ongoing systemic discrimination that transgender youth face simply for being who they are. As Mr. Adams said, “I was living in every aspect of my life as a boy and now they’re taking that away from me.”

“Over the last year, members of the LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender people and LGBTQ+ youth, have been targeted by campaigns that have resulted in heightened discrimination in employment, housing, family planning, healthcare, and schools, to name a few. My ability to participate in and receive support from the Firm to engage in litigation on behalf of LGBTQ+ rights organizations like The Trevor Project, to research the rights and safety of transgender people in detention facilities, and to provide direct services—fighting obstacles in immigration and asylum, changing identification documents, and filing legal name change applications—feel like liberating acts on both a collective and personal level. I’m grateful for the leadership of lesbian and gay attorney mentors, in addition to the Firm’s allyship and support.”

—Bethany Saul,
Associate,
New York
Gibson Dunn Submits Amicus Brief in Soule v. Connecticut Association of Schools

Gibson Dunn also filed an amicus brief on behalf of The Trevor Project to help protect transgender students’ ability to participate in sports as their authentic selves. Although nearly one in three LGBTQ youth reported participating in sports, many LGBTQ youth report that they choose not to participate in sports because of discrimination or fear of LGBTQ-based discrimination. Transgender and nonbinary youth reported significantly lower rates of sports participation, with many reporting that they feel stressed, use self-harm, and consider suicide due to anti-LGBTQ laws, including bans on their participation in sports. The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference’s sports participation policy allows transgender students to participate in sports in a manner consistent with their gender identities. In April 2021, a federal district court in Connecticut dismissed a challenge to the policy. The decision was appealed to the Second Circuit, and in October 2021, the Firm filed an amicus brief on behalf of The Trevor Project in support of affirming the dismissal.

The brief highlighted The Trevor Project’s daily experiences with transgender youth, as well as its national cross-sectional surveys of LGBTQ youth that demonstrate the profoundly positive impact that affirming policies and environments have on the health and well-being of transgender youth. Many of the transgender youth with whom The Trevor Project works have discussed the joy of being able to participate in school sports in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity—as well as the pain and stigma of being excluded. The brief explained that policies allowing transgender youth to have an equal opportunity to join sports teams that align with who they are provide a myriad of benefits to their mental and physical health and wellbeing, and that denying transgender youth this opportunity is a serious form of discrimination that sends a harmful message of stigmatization and exclusion and deprives transgender youth of the physical, psychological, and emotional benefits of school sports. By allowing transgender youth to participate in sports and protecting them from harmful prejudices and stigma, the Connecticut policy benefits all transgender youth—including those who never join a team—by assuring them their schools welcome them with equal opportunity under the law.
In recent years, small businesses and nonprofits have faced a series of daunting challenges—from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to an ever-changing regulatory landscape. We represent nonprofit organizations and small businesses in our communities to help them navigate a diverse array of legal issues. We provided small businesses, many of them minority- and women-owned, a variety of limited-scope legal consultations and full-scope representations on matters such as vaccine mandates, commercial leasing, doing business online, and other topics. Our attorneys across the Firm also worked with local nonprofit organizations, helping them with everything from nonprofit formation to intellectual property advice.
Advising Small Businesses & Nonprofits

“The pro bono work that we did for Girls Rock! was critical for them to continue to raise funds, maintain a board of directors, employ professionals, and ultimately grow and thrive. As a transactional corporate lawyer, it is deeply meaningful for me to be able to do pro bono work with small businesses and nonprofits and then see them stand on their own two feet and flourish; it is deeply rewarding.”

—Eli Albrecht, Associate, Washington, D.C.

Gibson Dunn Advises Local Nonprofits Serving the Community

Gibson Dunn regularly engages in transactional pro bono work helping small, often historically disadvantaged businesses and nonprofits with compliance, leasing, contract, and corporate matters. These are critical services for such organizations, which otherwise would not be able to afford quality legal assistance. In early 2021, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center approached Gibson Dunn to assist with the representation of Girls Rock!, an organization that serves the Washington, D.C. community by providing music programs for young girls and nonbinary youth with a focus on traditionally underserved communities. They aim to provide a safe space for these youth, who often do not feel accepted.

Girls Rock! wanted to transition from an all-volunteer organization to a more professional nonprofit organization with paid staff. Gibson Dunn met with the client and sketched out a plan to put in place professional organizational documents and a board of directors handbook, helping it transition to an organization with paid staff that was able to react to the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully move much of its programming online. Having a solid legal foundation has allowed Girls Rock! to continue to grow and flourish.

Gibson Dunn’s pro bono work with Girls Rock! was featured in the D.C. Bar’s 50th Anniversary publication of the Washington Lawyer in an article titled, “Pro Bono Support Boosts Nonprofit Serving D.C. Youth.”
Gibson Dunn Advises Peer Health Exchange on Privacy and Intellectual Property Issues

Peer Health Exchange (“PHE”) is a platform that empowers young people with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make healthy decisions. In 1999, six Yale University undergraduates began teaching health workshops in New Haven public schools to fill the gap left by an underfunded and understaffed district health program. In 2003, the founding members of the group established PHE to replicate this successful program in other communities with unmet health education needs. Historically, PHE has done this by training college students to teach an inclusive, skills-based health curriculum to young people—traditionally in under-resourced public schools and now also through virtual platforms.

In 2020, PHE started looking for ways to reach young people directly, outside of schools. They started with social media content, mostly on TikTok, where they garnered more than 22,000 followers, millions of views, and promising engagement. In April 2021, with Gibson Dunn’s advice regarding various privacy and intellectual property issues, PHE launched “selfsea,” a virtual platform for young people to learn from and engage with their college-aged, diverse near-peers to help connect them to health resources. Specifically, Gibson Dunn helped navigate the complexities of creating a tech product that reaches minors and discusses sensitive topics, including health information. The Firm looks forward to advising PHE as it continues to grow and develop its platform.

Gibson Dunn Provides Training on Political Neutrality for Nonprofit Organizations

A Frankfurt-based team conducted a webinar for the German Parity Welfare Association, an umbrella organization for thousands of nonprofit welfare organizations, focused on the requirement to be politically neutral to receive beneficial tax treatment. Nonprofit organizations that enter the public discourse on politically polarizing topics are sometimes accused of violating the requirement of political neutrality, jeopardizing their nonprofit status. To enable nonprofit organizations to maximize the impact of their work while not running afoul of the requirement to be politically neutral, the webinar provided background knowledge and specific guiding principles on the legal framework and the resulting boundaries of nonprofit work. The German Parity Welfare Association asked Gibson Dunn to conduct the training in the context of the recent federal elections in Germany and after the German Federal Fiscal Court revoked the nonprofit status of an organization for failing to maintain neutrality last year.
Advising Small Businesses & Nonprofits

Gibson Dunn Provides Corporate Advice to Nazava Water Filters

Gibson Dunn’s Singapore office worked with Nazava Water Filters (“NWF”) to provide corporate law advice related to the manufacture and distribution of water filter products. NWF’s water filter products are the brainchild of founder Lieselotte Heederik, who was working in Indonesia in the aftermath of the 2014 tsunami and realized that lack of access to safe, affordable drinking water is a prevalent issue and a main cause of health issues in low-income countries. She later built more sophisticated water filters that are able to remove bacteria and impurities from water without the need for users to rely on electricity or other means of boiling or purifying the water. Today, NWF’s water filters are being distributed and sold at a low cost to countries such as Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The Gibson Dunn Singapore office is proud to have helped advance NWF’s mission of providing safe, affordable drinking water to everyone everywhere.

“The pandemic provided many of us with a personal experience of isolation, which for refugee communities is an everyday experience. We are honored to be partnering with Borderless360 in their mission to improve the quality of life of refugee communities in Asia, and in so doing lessen their sense of isolation. Our Asia team is proud to do its part in supporting an institution fighting to make the world a better place.”

—Saptak Santra, Partner, Singapore

Gibson Dunn Provides Corporate and Intellectual Property Advice to Borderless360

Gibson Dunn’s Singapore and Hong Kong offices are currently working with Borderless360 (“B360”), a Singapore-based social enterprise that seeks to raise awareness of, and public engagement with, refugee issues through various projects spanning different areas of advocacy and intervention. B360 has two main projects, both hosted on an online platform: a literary magazine that amplifies and develops the work of refugee citizen journalists, and a dynamic music library that allows visitors to stream music produced by refugee communities. The Firm has been providing B360 corporate and intellectual property law advice and is proud to help advance B360’s mission of promoting cultural integration, networking opportunities, and greater exposure for refugees.
PARTNERSHIPS: ACCENTURE

PRO BONO
Pro Bono Partnerships: Accenture

Accenture and Gibson Dunn have a long history of partnership and collaboration, and the Firm has had the privilege of working closely with Accenture over the last year on growing our respective pro bono programs amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. Together, Accenture and Gibson Dunn collaborated with Start Small Think Big (“Start Small”), a New York- and California-based nonprofit that provides pro bono legal services to small businesses across the country—most of which are minority- and women-owned businesses. As part of the Rapid Response effort Start Small launched to assist small businesses in navigating the unprecedented challenges they faced in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, teams of Accenture and Gibson Dunn attorneys helped assess the businesses’ legal needs and provided full-scope legal representation, where appropriate. Among other things, the small business owners received assistance with issues related to Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”)/Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (“EIDL”) loans, employment, debt/bankruptcy, contracts, and commercial leasing. This innovative project allowed Accenture and Gibson Dunn to provide high-quality legal advice to small business owners facing short deadlines and many competing demands on their time and resources. Approximately 50 volunteers from Accenture and Gibson Dunn partnered to provide hundreds of hours of pro bono legal advice during these consultations.

Accenture is also a valued partner on other core pro bono projects. For example, members of Accenture’s legal team worked collaboratively with Gibson Dunn attorneys to provide pro bono legal services to refugees in the United States. In one project, teams worked with LGBTQ refugees who previously had obtained asylum and sought to apply for legal permanent resident status. Helping these clients adjust their status gives them the freedom to live and work in the United States.
permanently, with greater freedom of movement in and out of the country and the ability to seek U.S. citizenship, among other important benefits. In another project, teams collaborated to help Afghan refugees, who had arrived in the country on humanitarian parole as part of the U.S. government’s evacuation efforts, apply for asylum to obtain long-term immigration status in the United States.

Accenture is a valued partner and advocate as our pro bono practice has continued to grow and evolve, often in response to new crises in the world around us. Most recently, Gibson Dunn and Accenture teamed up with Welcome.US to help Afghan evacuees as they resettle in the United States. Accenture, which has committed more than $2.5 million in cash and pro bono services to support the resettlement of Afghan refugees, is playing a central role in assisting refugees access housing, critical goods and services, employment opportunities, and legal counsel. As an increasing number of Afghans are resettled around the country, Gibson Dunn and Accenture are continuing developing innovative solutions to help meet their legal needs. As members of the Welcome Legal Alliance, Accenture and Gibson Dunn are helping bring resettlement agencies, legal aid organizations, and other nonprofits together with pro bono attorneys from law firms and corporate legal teams. By making it easier and more efficient for nonprofit organizations to connect with qualified pro bono attorneys—while also giving those volunteers access to the mentorship and support they need to represent their clients effectively—the Welcome Legal Alliance lowers the barriers to pro bono participation for attorneys nationwide and helps close the justice gap for the Afghan refugee community in the United States.

We are proud to partner with Accenture’s in-house legal team on these important projects, and we look forward to all that we will accomplish together in 2022 and beyond.

“The power of pro bono partnerships like ours with Gibson Dunn is incredibly impactful. They not only expand our reach and expertise to foster meaningful change, but also energize our people to bring even more passion and purpose to our projects.”

—Aaron Holmes, Senior Managing Director & Deputy General Counsel
Office Spotlight: Hong Kong

Advocacy on Behalf of Domestic Workers

A large portion of the Hong Kong office’s pro bono work focuses on helping one of the most vulnerable populations in the city: foreign domestic workers. Hong Kong’s roughly 370,000 foreign domestic workers have become a vital part of its social and economic fabric. Most of these workers are women and hail from the Philippines or Indonesia, with growing numbers coming from countries such as India, Sri Lanka, and Kenya. Although the Hong Kong government has laws in place to protect these workers and ensure minimum payment and standards of living, these workers are susceptible to serious human and labor rights violations, including physical and sexual abuse. Workers often face exploitation by employment agencies charging illegal placement fees, lending agencies that cripple these workers by lending at exorbitant interest rates, and employers that fail to abide by Hong Kong’s laws regarding minimum wages and rest days.

Gibson Dunn attorneys partner with a number of foreign domestic worker-focused nonprofit organizations, including legal clinics, shelters, and other aid organizations that come to the Firm with their most complex and potentially impactful cases. In many of these cases, workers are seeking redress in Hong Kong courts and tribunals in actions against employers or employment agencies. Hong Kong attorneys have helped these workers draft and revise pleadings, prepare to present evidence to the court, conduct settlement negotiations, and enforce judgements. Hong Kong attorneys also have worked with pro bono barristers to appeal cases to higher courts, resulting in key judgments that have advanced protections for all domestic workers operating in the city.

Apart from litigation assistance, Gibson Dunn attorneys also help in a variety of other contexts. In one case, a Hong Kong attorney represented a worker in negotiations with an agency that had lent
Office Spotlight: Hong Kong

“We view pro bono as an opportunity, not an obligation. Our pro bono clients bring to us their most complex and important matters, providing our attorneys, and in particular our junior associates, with a chance to gain valuable leadership experience on matters that create precedent and impact our community beyond the immediate case. Most importantly, our thriving pro bono practice allows us to show our commitment to a city that is rapidly evolving, and to reiterate the importance of doing good, in addition to doing well.”

—Oliver Welch, Partner, Hong Kong

her money at usurious and illegal rates, resulting in the agency declining to further collect on the loan. On several occasions, our attorneys have advised workers on Hong Kong’s process for screening them as potential victims of human trafficking, and have accompanied workers to the screenings conducted by immigration officials. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the strict border controls that Hong Kong implemented, attorneys also have assisted domestic workers in obtaining visa exemptions and waivers from the usual requirements to exit and re-enter the city at the beginning of a new employment contract.

Gibson Dunn attorneys also have partnered with agencies that work to stop trafficking and abuse of domestic workers before it happens. Many employment agencies in both Hong Kong and the workers’ home countries enable mistreatment by charging workers illegal and exorbitant agency fees, making it difficult for domestic workers to leave abusive employment situations. Fair Employment Agency (“FEA”) is a nonprofit dedicated to placing qualified domestic workers with families at no cost to the worker and to assisting domestic workers who find themselves in dangerous or illegal work environments. Gibson Dunn has been involved with FEA from its inception in 2012, when we assisted the organization with obtaining its tax-exempt status. Over the last decade, FEA has become one of the premier social enterprises in Hong Kong, having ethically placed over 5,000 workers with employers and opened a sister agency and large domestic worker training facility in the Philippines. Along the way, our attorneys have become FEA’s go-to counsel for its most complicated matters. We have assisted on a variety of issues, from corporate governance matters, regulatory advice, and litigation support to guidance in dealing with immigration authorities, contract negotiations, crafting public statements, and dealing with local press.

LGBTQ Rights

The office also recently began advising a student-led initiative entitled “BeEngayged,” which aims to empower the LGBTQ community and advocate for the rights of sexual minorities in Hong Kong by addressing three major problems faced by the LGBTQ community: discrimination, lack of knowledge of LGBTQ rights, and potential gaps within the existing Hong Kong legislation. The Hong Kong office is providing pro bono assistance on assessing the appropriate legal structure for the initiative “BeEngayged,” with plans to eventually assist in the formation of the resulting entity.

Assisting Small Businesses During the Pandemic

“Save Our Restaurants” is an initiative led by a group of students designed to help small and independent restaurant tenants in Hong Kong survive the pandemic by providing them with a
Office Spotlight: Hong Kong

channel to negotiate rental agreements with landlords and by referring them to suitable free legal and/or mediation services where necessary. By assisting the tenants and landlords to find common ground, explore mutually acceptable rental arrangements, and achieve win-win solutions, the students also aim to promote mediation as a means of dispute resolution in Hong Kong. The office is providing pro bono assistance to the students in connection with the implementation of their initiative, specifically, the formation, establishment, and structure of a charitable/not-for-profit organization.

Serve-a-Thon

The office partners with HandsOn Hong Kong, a local nonprofit organization, in its annual Serve-a-Thon, a volunteering initiative that offers a variety of virtual and in-person service opportunities taking place over nine consecutive days. HandsOn Hong Kong aims to raise public awareness around the importance of community service to help address social issues.

During the May 2021 Serve-a-Thon, Gibson Dunn attorneys and staff members participated in three activities organized by HandsOn Hong Kong: a Braille card workshop where participants made greeting cards for those with visual impairments, an upcycling workshop where participants created small gifts for the elderly community using fabric collected from our homes, and a sort-and-pack activity at a local food bank where we prepared packages of donated food and beverage items for distribution to members of marginalized communities.
Pro Bono Awards & Accolades

Union Settlement awarded Gibson Dunn its 2021 Law Firm Partner Award. Union Settlement serves approximately 10,000 East Harlem residents each year, providing them with vital education, wellness, and community-building programs and services.

Giffords Law Center honored Gibson Dunn with its Pro Bono Partner Award. The Law Center selected Gibson Dunn in recognition of the Firm’s action on gun safety, including leading litigation to regulate ghost guns and elevating the voices of shooting survivors.

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association announced Gibson Dunn as a recipient of its 2020 Beacon of Justice Award in recognition of the Firm’s efforts to address systemic racial disparities and advance racial equity.

The Western Justice Center honored Gibson Dunn as the recipient of its 2021 Defenders of Justice Award in recognition of the Firm’s pro bono work to promote racial justice and equity.

The Colorado Lawyers Committee honored Josiah Clarke, Yamini Grema, Patricia Herold, Eva Michaels, Jeremy Ochsenbein, and Laura Sturges of Gibson Dunn’s Denver office for their participation...
Pro Bono Awards & Accolades

PASS Program volunteers provide pro bono representation to help detained asylum-seekers prepare for their Credible Fear Interviews, the first step in applying for asylum.

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program recognized Gibson Dunn as part of its 2021 Pro Bono Awards luncheon. Gibson Dunn received the Silver Award for Pro Bono Service, reflecting our Dallas office’s longstanding commitment to pro bono work and community service.

Neighborhood Defender Service (“NDS”) honored Gibson Dunn at its 30th Anniversary Gala with the Corporate Social Responsibility Award, for the Firm’s steadfast work alongside NDS. NDS is known nationally and internationally for its innovative, community-based, holistic public defense practice. Gibson Dunn has represented NDS for more than a decade on a variety of corporate and real estate matters. More recently, NDS and Gibson Dunn launched a Police Accountability Project aimed at providing pro bono legal services to the Harlem community in relation to any police encounters that took place while protesting or otherwise. The project launched first with a screening project, where 50 Gibson Dunn attorneys helped interview individuals to assess whether they had viable claims against the police. Additionally, attorneys took on a handful of police brutality cases to assist the client in filing a police complaint and, eventually, a civil rights action in federal court; two of these cases already have been settled on favorable terms. Andy Lance and Katie Marquart accepted the award on the Firm’s behalf.

The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (“NIPNLG”) honored Gibson Dunn as one of the recipients of its 2021 Impact in the Courts Award, in recognition of the Firm’s “significant contributions to [NIPNLG] and the immigrant justice movement over [NIPNLG’s] 50 year history,” including the Firm’s leadership and pro bono efforts on high-profile litigation matters on behalf of the immigrant community. NIPNLG is a national membership organization of lawyers working to defend and extend the rights of all noncitizens in the United States, regardless of immigration status, by advocating on behalf of immigrants and providing technical assistance, training, and support to legal practitioners, community-based immigrant organizations, and advocates working to advance the rights of noncitizens. Washington, D.C. partner David Debold, who worked closely with NIPNLG to sue the federal government and private defendants on behalf of immigration detainees at Farmville Detention Center following the worst COVID outbreak at an ICE detention facility, accepted the award on the Firm’s behalf.

Theane Evangelis, a partner in Gibson Dunn’s Los Angeles office and Co-Chair of the Firm’s global litigation practice group, was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Pro Bono Awards & Accolades

“It was an honor to lead the Lawyers’ Committee’s congressional outreach and strategy in support of Assistant Attorney General Clarke’s historic confirmation. In the DOJ Civil Rights Division’s 65-year history, she is the first woman, first woman of color, and first Black woman to be confirmed by the US Senate to lead the Division. Gibson Dunn has a long and proud history of pro bono service, and I’m honored to be part of this important service to the community and nation.”

—Roscoe Jones Jr., Partner, Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. partner Roscoe Jones, Jr. received the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law’s Brooks Burdette “Rising Impact” New Board Member Award in recognition of his leadership and contributions to advancing the historic nomination of Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, the first Black woman, first woman of color, and first woman to lead the Civil Rights Division. Obtaining Senate confirmation was no easy feat, as Democrats and Republicans sparred over her record and support for law enforcement, despite her being a former federal prosecutor who worked closely with law enforcement, and how vigorously she would enforce civil rights laws, especially involving police officers. But Roscoe led the outreach to highlight to senators her two decades of experience in civil rights and time as a federal prosecutor, which was helpful in obtaining Senate confirmation and picking up the critical bipartisan vote of Senator Susan Collins of Maine. Thanks to Roscoe’s strategy and outreach leadership, Assistant Attorney General Clarke was confirmed in a 51-48 vote, with bipartisan support. The Brooks Burdette “Rising Impact” New Board Member Award is awarded annually to a Lawyers’ Committee Board member who has displayed innovative leadership and service in the cause of equal justice under law during the early part of their tenure on the Board.

In December 2021, The Legal Aid Society honored Katie Marquart, Laura Cole, Kelly Ding, and Anna Casey as recipients of its 2021 Pro Bono Publico Award for outstanding service to The Legal Aid Society and its clients. In particular, the team was recognized for their work on behalf of at-risk detainees during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Spotlight on Frank Wheat Winners

Each year, Gibson Dunn acknowledges the exemplary pro bono work done by its lawyers that has changed lives and, in some cases, changed laws. To that end, we created the Frank Wheat Memorial Award. Frank Wheat, a former Gibson Dunn partner who passed away in 2000, 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 a giant in the nonprofit community as well. He founded the Alliance for Children’s Rights, was a founder and trustee of the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, a leader of the Sierra Club, and a former board member at the Center for Law in the Public Interest, which established a fellowship in his name to train young lawyers in public interest litigation. The Frank Wheat Memorial Award is given annually to lawyers who have 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 through their pro bono work.

Individual Award Winner
Charline Yim,
Of Counsel, New York

Individual Award Winner
Brad Hubbard,
Associate, Dallas

Team Award Winner
Afghanistan Crisis Response Team

Team Award Winner
Representation of David R. Faulkner
Spotlight on Frank Wheat Winners

“Bringing David home to his family after 20 years of wrongful imprisonment was a career highlight. Almost as rewarding has been watching him reintegrate into the world over the past year, reforming familial bonds, getting his driver’s license and buying a car, and obtaining full-time employment. There is something very wrong with a criminal justice system that works so hard to protect flawed convictions as was the tragedy of this case. I am so proud of my colleagues who poured themselves into David’s cause for years and would not relent until a small measure of justice was returned.”

—John Chesley, Partner, Washington, D.C.

Representation of David R. Faulkner in Actual Innocence Proceedings

On January 29, 2021, David R. Faulkner returned home for the first time in more than two decades, to the warm embrace of family, friends, and the Gibson Dunn team who had worked nearly seven years to bring him there. Days later, the wrongful charges that had imprisoned Mr. Faulkner for most of his adult life were dismissed and the nightmare of a wrongful murder conviction was ended.

This case began with the brutal murder of Adeline Wilford in January 1987. Ms. Wilford was stabbed repeatedly and left for dead after interrupting a burglary-in-progress at her farmhouse on the outskirts of Easton, Maryland. Police immediately identified a series of palm prints on and just inside an open window, which they determined must match those of the murderer, but the case went cold after dozens of suspects failed to match the prints. In 2000, at the urging of Ms. Wilford’s family, police reopened the investigation. Crediting a witness the original investigators had dismissed (because she had a reputation for dishonesty and because the three individuals she identified did not match the palm prints left at the point-of-entry), the new investigators persuaded two individuals to point to Mr. Faulkner. The State’s case against Mr. Faulkner relied on incentivized testimony from witnesses, with absolutely no physical evidence tying Mr. Faulkner to the crime scene. Although Mr. Faulkner maintained his innocence and presented payroll records showing he was at work in a different county at the time of the murder, he was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In July 2014, a Gibson Dunn team joined forces with the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project to represent Mr. Faulkner in efforts to overturn his convictions using a newly-enacted “actual innocence” statute. The Gibson Dunn effort was massive, beginning with a comprehensive re-investigation of the crime. Gibson Dunn issued over 20 subpoenas and multiple Public Information Act requests, reviewed thousands of documents, and interviewed scores of witnesses. Over the course of this re-investigation, Gibson Dunn and the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project developed substantial new evidence of Mr. Faulkner’s innocence that was not available at his original trial, which became the basis for a Petition for Writ of Actual Innocence filed in July 2015.

Over the next three years, Gibson Dunn attorneys litigated two evidentiary hearings before the Talbot County Circuit Court, totaling more than two weeks and featuring the testimony of dozens of witnesses and hundreds of exhibits. The Circuit Court rejected Mr. Faulkner’s claims of actual innocence both times—separated by a successful interim appeal. Eventually, Mr. Faulkner’s case wound its way to the Maryland Court of Appeals. In January 2020, Gibson Dunn argued to the State’s highest court that the trial court abused its discretion by failing to appropriately assess the cumulative effect of all the newly discovered evidence of innocence. On April 27, 2020,
Spotlight on Frank Wheat Winners

the Maryland Court of Appeals unanimously granted Mr. Faulkner’s Petition for Writ of Actual Innocence and returned the case to the trial court. After initially threatening to re-prosecute Mr. Faulkner, the State informed the trial court on February 3, 2021, that it did not intend to pursue a retrial. Mr. Faulkner was granted his unconditional release and freed from custody that very day—after two decades of wrongful imprisonment.

The team, which contributed more than 15,000 hours valued at more than $10 million to this case, included partners John Chesley, Jonathan Phillips, and Patrick Stokes, of counsel Ryan Stewart, and associates Michael Dziuban, Melissa Farrar, Lisa Bender, Ryan DuBose, Meredith Ashlock, Zachary Kady, Alex Bruhn, Brandon Alan Willmore, Hila Solomon, Amy Feagles, Veronica Till Goodson, Brian Williamson, David Schnitzer, Christine Budasoff, Anna Casey, Sara Akhtar, Katie Magallanes, Shannon McDermott, and Tessa Gellerson.
The Firm recognized New York of counsel Charline Yim for her tireless commitment to enhancing Gibson Dunn’s pro bono efforts in the international human rights arena. For several years, Charline has been instrumental in establishing and expanding Gibson Dunn’s international human rights law practice. As a result of her commitment to excellence, Gibson Dunn has been able to develop strong partnerships with prominent organizations including Human Rights Watch, the Center for Justice and Accountability, the Clooney Foundation for Justice, International Senior Lawyers Project, and the Public Interest Law and Policy Group.

Charline acted as the lead attorney on a number of high-profile matters, including representing Yazidi victims of ISIS in U.S. federal court; representing a Crimean human rights activist in an ongoing case before the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; representing a Cuban human rights activist before United Nations Special Procedures; representing a Kashmiri human rights activist arbitrarily detained in India; representing an Eastern European NGO in preparation of a Global Magnitsky submission to OFAC; providing research support to the UK’s High Level Panel on Media Freedom; providing assistance to a well-known NGO in development of an amicus brief to the International Criminal Court; providing strategic advice to an NGO in negotiation of a multilateral treaty at the United Nations; providing advice to a number of NGOs on sanctions regimes in the United States in connection with President Trump’s sanction of the International Criminal Court; coordinating a training on international arbitration for the Government of Ethiopia; and coordinating a number of law firm partners to develop a multi-jurisdictional analysis of transitional justice mechanisms.

In addition to her excellent substantive work on these matters, Charline simultaneously serves as a mentor for her fellow attorneys, particularly for associates interested in international human rights work. Charline makes herself available to provide advice, actively encourages attorneys to pursue pro bono projects that interest them, and always acts as a support and sounding board on her projects. But for Charline’s initiative and drive, Gibson Dunn would not have the thriving international human rights pro bono practice the Firm has today.

“Pro bono work is some of the most powerful and meaningful work I do as a lawyer. Our partners and clients in these efforts—including NGOs, Yazidi victims of ISIS, as well as human rights activists, journalists, and organizations unlawfully persecuted by States, among others—are courageous. It is an honor to fight alongside them and contribute to their efforts to protect and defend human rights in the United States and around the world.”

—Charline Yim, Of Counsel, New York
“I’m grateful to the Firm for the opportunity and the resources needed to give voice to the voiceless and fight for the rights of crime victims, who are all too often forgotten about or, worse, re-victimized by the criminal-justice system. It was incredibly moving to hear Justice Kavanaugh literally give voice to our client when, at oral argument, he read aloud from our brief our client’s description of toll that the seemingly endless delays in bringing her father’s murderer to justice exacted on her and her family. I’m also extraordinarily grateful to Allyson Ho, the co-chair of the Firm’s appellate practice, for her guidance, support, and unwavering dedication to our clients and their incredibly important pro bono matters, and to the phenomenal team of associates that, time and again, pour their heart, sweat, and tears into providing our pro bono clients with representation that’s second to none.”

—Brad Hubbard, Associate, Dallas

The Firm also honored Brad Hubbard, a litigation associate in the Dallas office, for his commitment to giving voice to the voiceless and standing up for the rights of crime victims. In 2021, Brad took on four separate pro bono matters seeking to defend the rights of crime victims and ensure they are heard in court.

Brad drafted an amicus brief on behalf of a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress standing up for the rights of survivors of sexual assault in the military, arguing that sexual violence has no place in the military and that no statute of limitations bars its prosecution. A unanimous Supreme Court agreed, ruling for the victims and adopting many of the arguments and themes he pressed. Brad also represented Senators Feinstein, Kyl, and Hatch, the co-authors of the landmark Crime Victims’ Rights Act, before both the Eleventh Circuit and the Supreme Court, submitting amicus briefs urging those courts to recognize the hard-fought rights of crime survivors under the Act.

In another matter, Brad represented the adult children of a murder victim, submitting a brief focusing on the hardships and emotional turmoil they endured in the nearly two decades since their father’s murder. The brief was so powerful that, at oral argument, one of the Supreme Court justices took the very unusual step of reading an excerpt from the bench—allowing the victims’ own words to resonate in the courtroom and letting them know their voices had been heard in the highest court of the land.

Finally, Brad represented a justice of the peace seeking to continue his practice of honoring volunteer chaplains of all faiths to counsel and comfort victims and family members at crime and accident scenes who ask for a person of their faith.
## Pro Bono Statistics

### New Pro Bono Matters in 2021
- **475** new matters opened
- **600+** new pro bono clients served

### Pro Bono Hours
- **140,482** in 2021
- **1,464,460** since 2011

### Value of Pro Bono Services Provided
- **$128,373,597** in 2021
- **$1,059,813,818** since 2011

### Participating Attorneys in 2021
- **1,484** Participating Attorneys
- **1,022** Attorneys with 20+ Pro Bono Hours

### Average Pro Bono Hours Per Attorney
- **90.3** in the United States
- **83.2** Firmwide
Gibson Dunn is honored to be a signatory to the Pro Bono Institute’s Pro Bono Challenge, which requires us to use our “best efforts” to perform 60 hours of pro bono work per lawyer each year. We are proud to recognize the following attorneys, all of whom individually billed 60 or more hours to pro bono matters in 2021.

A
Abrams, Jonathan J.
Abrams-Widdicombe, Samantha
Abshez, Natalie H.
Ackerman, Lenore H.
Adler, Daniel R.
Afshar, Syamack
Aguillard, Anna Marie P.
Aguirre, Reuben A.
Ahmad, Zainab N.
Ahmed, Amer S.
Aiken, Matthew G.
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Alhadi, Nadia K.
Allahyarzadeh, Venus
Almaraz Bautista, Ruben
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Anderson, Brian W.
Andrea, Brian K.
Aneja, Nikita L.
Angel, Daniel
Anquetil, Pierre Edouard
Arber, Jacob
Assaye, Grace B.
Averill, Abigail F.
Avunjian, Helen O.
Azad, Ryan

B
Babitz, Alisa
Bach, Nathaniel L.
Balderas, Alisa L.
Balikian, Russell B.
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Barakat, Joseph E.
Barba, Nicholas J.
Baron, Zakary
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Bee, Adrien
Begin, Alexandra S.
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Benvenisty, Jessica C.
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Butler, John M.

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Campbell, Gregory A.
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Casazza, David W.
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Chan, Wai Tung
Chandok, Mitasha
Chao, Elaine Wen Su
Charania, Iman
Chen, Nanding
Cherry, Mark J.
Chesley, John W.F.
Christiansen, Jeremy M.
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Chu, Winson S.
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Clarke, Josiah J.
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Cochrane, Thomas F.
Codd, Harriet R.
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Fortney, Jonathan D.
Freire, Andrew J.
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Fuster, Patrick J.

G
Garcia, Abiel
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Garlick, Dione
Garnick, Adam J.
Garrels, Christopher S.
Geher, Lindsey R.
Geiss, Marcus
Gellerson, Tessa
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Gesing, Kai
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Gharibian, Arlen
Gibbons, Heather C.
Glandorf, David Lee
Glover, Stephen I.
Goldnick, Zoey G.
Gopnik, Trevor B.
Gorman, Joseph A.
Granda, Victoria Carmen
Grant, Shaquille R.
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Wong, Michael Li-Ming
Wong, Terry Y.
Woolley, Monica L.
Wortmann, William L.

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Yang, Betty X.
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Yang, Jialin
Yang, Yeepay A.
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