





25 Years of Shelter

As we mark the 25th anniversary of Mintz Levin's pro bono Domestic Violence Project, we look back with thanks and pride at the individuals at the firm who have helped survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to protect themselves and their children. We are particularly proud of the early proponents of our Domestic Violence Project, who saw the struggles of their clients in the context of a broader social problem and urged us to promote legal remedies. The state and federal laws that the firm has gone on to help draft, support, and enact have benefited survivors throughout our own communities and well beyond them.

Today our focus on preventing violence against women is recognized nationwide. Whether our attorneys are writing a brief for a critical Supreme Court case, assisting nonprofits and coalitions that benefit survivors and their families, or serving on boards of directors for organizations that are trying to eradicate the violence, we are engaged and making a difference.

Our motivation, as always, begins with our clients and their stories. Getting to know people and their struggles inspires us to do all we can on their behalf. Through the firm's pro bono program, we use our knowledge of the legal system to help underserved individuals and families live safely and with dignity.

It is important to remember, as one of our attorneys notes in these pages, that legal decisions have consequences for real people. Our concern for our clients compels us to do whatever we can to help them access the rights and protections available under the law.

R. Robert Popeo
Chairman

Robert I. Bodian
Managing Member

Susan M. Finegan
Chair, Pro Bono Committee

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Hidden Roots Revealed

Oscar Ramírez Castañeda doesn't remember his mother and eight brothers and sisters, or what happened to them in 1982 the day members of Guatemala's special forces, the Kaibiles, came to their village of Dos Erres. It was the height of the Guatemalan civil war, and the military men were looking for stolen rifles and the insurgents who'd taken them.

The Kaibiles never found what they came for, but by the time they were through with Dos Erres, its population of about 250 men, women, and children had been slaughtered or flung wounded into the town well and left to die.

The brutality of Guatemala's military in Dos Erres, though exceptional, wasn't unprecedented. About 200,000 Guatemalans—more than 80% of them Mayan—were killed in the country's 36-year civil war. When the fighting ended in 1996, combatants on both sides were granted amnesty. The peace treaty also called for the prosecution of those responsible for atrocities, however, and most of those war criminals were members of the military.

Oscar was one of only two village residents, both young boys, spared by Kaibiles military leaders during the Dos Erres massacre.

No one is sure why a lieutenant took three-year-old Oscar with him that day instead of taking his life, but the boy's green eyes and less Mayan appearance may have set him apart from the other village children. The lieutenant introduced Oscar to his own family as his biological child, and when the Kaibiles leader died later in a road accident, the man's mother and sister considered Oscar one of the family. In their home, the deceased lieutenant was honored as a model son, brother, father, and war hero.

In 1998, following the death of the lieutenant's mother, Oscar moved to the United States, eventually making his way to Massachusetts. He found employment at a grocery store and was soon working as a supervisor. At 32, he was holding down two jobs and supporting a wife and three children when he received a strange e-mail from Guatemala. In that message, a Guatemalan prosecutor said she had strong evidence to suggest Oscar had been kidnapped, and that he was really the son of a Dos Erres farmer who had been away from the village when it was destroyed.

A DNA test resolved Oscar's doubt, and soon he was communicating daily with his biological father. Although Oscar welcomed the man into his life, he found it more difficult to reconcile what he'd learned about the massacre with what he thought he knew about the lieutenant, whose family had treated him well.

The firm's relationship with Oscar began in 2011 with a call from the Boston office of the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (PAIR). At the request of R. Scott Greathead, a New York lawyer working with human rights organizations in Guatemala, the nonprofit organization was looking for Boston attorneys who could co-counsel Oscar's asylum case.

continued



"Thank you for helping me and my family. Without your legal work, we would not have been able to stay here in the United States. In Guatemala we would have been in danger, and life for my family would be much harder today. We are so thankful for your help and friendship!"

Oscar Ramírez Castañeda
Mintz Levin client



Hidden Roots Revealed *continued*

As Oscar's understanding of the Dos Erres massacre has grown, he has become a key figure in ongoing efforts to prosecute surviving war criminals. His DNA evidence and live testimony have been critical to continuing prosecutions, and he and his family would be the target of death threats, or worse, if he were forced to return to Guatemala.

A team including Pro Bono Chair Sue Finegan and former Mintz Levin attorneys Jamie Arterton and John Koss agreed to co-counsel with the New York attorney to provide Oscar and his wife with representation. Meeting frequently with Oscar, Mintz Levin's attorneys worked to understand his story, complete his application, and prepare him for his important interview with an asylum officer. The case also required them to resolve legal complications related to the time that Oscar had spent in the United States.

Knowing how critical it was for Oscar to communicate the gravity of his situation clearly and persuasively to his asylum officer, the Mintz Levin team spent numerous hours helping him prepare. By then, attorneys Martha Koster and Jonathan Ursprung as well as former Mintz Levin attorneys Marisa Howe and Marbree Sullivan had joined Sue, Jamie, and John to work on the project.

In late 2012, Oscar and his wife received the good news that they'd been granted asylum. In the interim, Oscar has continued to support efforts to bring the remaining Kaibiles leaders to justice. In Guatemala, five former soldiers have been sentenced to lengthy terms for their roles in the massacre.

In the United States, which supported Guatemala's military during the country's civil war, ex-Kaibiles who lied on their immigration applications have been convicted of fraud. Before sentencing a former officer to the maximum 10-year sentence for immigration fraud in February 2014, a US federal judge heard a victim impact statement from Oscar, who asked the judge to consider the pain the man had caused the victims, including Oscar's mother and siblings, his bereaved father, and Oscar himself, who was denied the opportunity to grow up with his family.

Today seven known former Kaibiles soldiers associated with the massacre remain at large. In Guatemala, old divisions are still apparent, and the government, whose president is a former military leader, hasn't consistently backed efforts to pursue justice. To date, the Dos Erres atrocity remains the only civil war crime for which participants have been convicted.

Back in Massachusetts, immigration attorneys Michele Frangella and Cassie Ramos and legal assistant Dayan Tabares recently worked to secure green cards for Oscar and his wife, and those cards have now been approved. Oscar is still coming to terms with his complex history, but he is pleased that he has been able to speak for so many victims who can no longer speak on their own behalf. His family, now including four children, still gathers for holiday celebrations with the Mintz Levin team.



Democracy in Balance

For African Americans in the South in the early- to mid-1900s, literacy tests, poll taxes, intimidation, and death threats made participating in the democratic process nearly impossible. In 1940, 70 years after the 15th Amendment granted all races the right to vote, only 3% of southern black men and women of voting age were registered and able to vote.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped turn the tide by invalidating state and local registration laws and practices that prevented black citizens from voting. To further increase participation, Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), which requires state motor vehicle agencies to offer voter registration to individuals applying for driver's licenses. Applicants aren't required to provide evidence of citizenship, but must swear, under penalty of perjury, that they are US citizens.

Proposition 200, an Arizona law passed by ballot initiative, threatened to undermine voter registration reforms by requiring proof of citizenship. After the law resulted in the rejection of close to 30,000 registration applications—a large percentage of them submitted by Latino and African Americans—several Arizona residents and a nonprofit organization sued the state.

When the US Supreme Court agreed to consider *Arizona v. Intertribal Council of Arizona* on appeal, Elise Boddie, then director of litigation for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, contacted attorney Jerry Gotkin to see if Mintz Levin would co-author an amicus brief outlining why the NVRA had been enacted and why Proposition 200 undermined its aims.

Jerry and Mintz Levin attorney Mike Arnold were pleased to have the opportunity to influence the case's outcome. "We knew it could have an enormous effect on future federal elections, and therefore on the direction of the country," Mike says.

"We were also proud to work again with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, for whom we had previously—and successfully—worked on an amicus brief in aid of assuring an African-American woman of her right to become the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court," Jerry adds.

The team researched the congressional record, legislative history, and Proposition 200. They also looked at the impact of registration laws on minority voters and on curbing voter fraud. The NAACP incorporated Mintz Levin's research into its brief, which Jerry and Mike edited.

In June 2013, in a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court invalidated Proposition 200's proof of citizenship requirement because it conflicts with the requirements of the National Voters Rights Act. Writing for the majority, however, Justice Scalia noted that while the constitution gives Congress the power to ensure that eligible individuals can vote, it also gives states the power to say who can vote. He also provided a potential roadmap to implement a proof of citizenship requirement through alternative legislative and administrative maneuvers. Although Arizona may eventually use that roadmap, the firm's brief reminded the judges that their decisions have real consequences, "in this case, for people who have historically been disenfranchised for dubious reasons," Mike says.



"We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with Mintz Levin on this important amicus brief, which describes the manner in which Congress enacted the NVRA to usher in a period of electoral expansion. Our brief successfully argued to the Supreme Court that, absent full enforcement of the NVRA, measures such as Arizona's Proposition 200 would undermine the hard-fought progress that has been made in combating discrimination in our political process."

Ryan Haygood
Director
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational
Fund Political Participation Group



Bright Horizons

Not long after “Sylvia” moved to the United States from Haiti to join her fiancé, a US citizen, the young woman began to realize she’d picked the wrong man. Sylvia’s fiancé wouldn’t let her go out alone, talk to neighbors, communicate with her family, or learn English. He also began to abuse Sylvia physically and verbally. Nevertheless, Sylvia and the man married and had children. They were together until, after a particularly violent episode, Sylvia was able to contact a neighbor and ask for help. The police arrested Sylvia’s husband, and Sylvia and her children moved to a shelter.

In 2012 the firm was contacted by Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston about Sylvia’s case. After the severe emotional and physical harm she had suffered, Sylvia was trying to move on, and the organization was looking for a legal team to help her resolve her immigration issues.

Mintz Levin attorneys Emily Kanstroom and Jenni Mather McCarthy stepped forward to work on Sylvia’s case. With assistance from former Mintz Levin project analysts Anagha Prasad and Adrienne Darrow, and translation support from legal assistant Marie Jezequel, they helped Sylvia file a petition through a program introduced by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The VAWA petition program helps victims of domestic violence seek legal US immigration status.

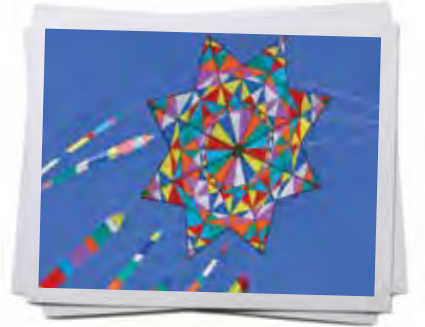
At the time Sylvia didn’t speak English. “In some ways, it felt as though I was her voice. She and I communicated in French, and I translated for the team,” Emily says. To file a strong VAWA application, it was important to fully understand the abuse Sylvia had suffered. “The words I chose to convey what she said became her narrative in English; I hung on her every word,” Emily says.

Sylvia’s attorneys also filed for temporary employment authorization, and filed to adjust Sylvia’s status to that of a lawful permanent resident, with a green card, in the event that the VAWA petition was approved. Former Mintz Levin project analyst Emma Nitzberg helped manage the paperwork.

In 2013, the goal was to keep Sylvia eligible to remain in the country, work, and receive public benefits while her VAWA petition was processed. The legal team helped Sylvia reapply for Haitian Temporary Protected Status, and obtained a determination of VAWA eligibility so Sylvia could receive benefits while her status was pending.

In August 2013 the VAWA petition was approved, and the jubilant team began to prepare Sylvia for her immigration interview. At that successful meeting, held in March 2014, the immigration officer announced that Sylvia would get her green card. It took additional work, but in May 2014, the card arrived, and the team—deeply inspired by their client’s unwavering strength and resilience—met with Sylvia to deliver it in person. “It was an incredible—and emotional—moment for us all!” Emily says.

“Achieving this life-changing result for Sylvia, a client who would not otherwise have had legal representation, was a deeply moving experience,” Jenni adds.



“I don’t have words strong enough to express my gratitude to Emily Kanstroom, Jennifer Mather McCarthy, and the whole Mintz Levin team. These determined and devoted lawyers were always there to listen, and they supported me with professionalism and kindness. Now I can offer my children a better future.”

*“Sylvia”
Mintz Levin client*



Violence by Any Other Name

It's an all-too-familiar story: after months or years of escalating threats, desperate calls to 911, attempts at separation, and even the filing of protective orders, an abusive domestic relationship ends in murder. Often, the assailant's weapon is a gun.

Tragedies of this type make headlines across the United States almost daily. According to the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women, female partners are more likely to be murdered with a gun than by all other means combined. In recent decades, however, victims' advocates have worked to pass laws that are making a difference.

In 1996, Frank Lautenberg, the late senator from New Jersey, sponsored Section 922(g)(9) of Title 18 of the United States Code, the "Lautenberg Amendment." The provision bans the possession of firearms by individuals convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, including cases involving the use or attempted use of "physical force."

By adopting a narrow interpretation of those words, a recent ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit threatened to undermine the law. In *United States v. Castleman*, the Supreme Court heard the case on appeal, and considered whether James Castleman's conviction for "intentionally or knowingly caus[ing] bodily injury" to the mother of his child qualified as "a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" as construed in the Lautenberg Amendment.

Mintz Levin attorneys Andy Nathanson, Kim Parr, and Helen Guyton worked with the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and members of its coalition, along with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, and Legal Momentum to submit an amicus brief arguing for a broad interpretation of the law's language. The brief sought to educate the judges about domestic violence, highlight the correlation between the presence of firearms and the likelihood that domestic violence will escalate to homicide, and analyze the Lautenberg Amendment's intent. Andy and Kim researched and wrote the brief, with supporting research by attorney Ernie Cooper. Helen, NNEDV's outside counsel, managed the project.

Ultimately, the judges agreed with the brief's interpretation of the Lautenberg Amendment, ruling against Castleman and concluding that the statute did not require the degree of severe "physical force" the Sixth Circuit had demanded. In the majority opinion, Justice Sonia Sotomayor cited the brief several times, while Justice Antonin Scalia, concurring in part, noted with displeasure that the majority had based its definition of domestic violence on the one the brief advanced.

In particular, the ruling acknowledged that while the word "violence" generally implies substantial force, its meaning in the context of domestic violence is broader, encompassing verbal abuse, emotional manipulation, and other threatening behaviors. Since domestic violence typically involves a pattern of escalating abuse, the decision will help protect victims before abuse becomes lethal. "The decision strengthens protections for survivors across the country," Kim says.



"I must say, as someone who has filed many amicus briefs over the years, I'm not sure I recall one that was as impactful as yours."

Jonathan Lowy
Director, Legal Action Project
Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence



Still Life After War

Before retiring from a 20-year career with the US Navy, Krishna Jackson worried about her transition to civilian life, and the stories she heard from other veterans didn't help. One acquaintance spent more than four years looking for a good job and had to move in with his parents to make ends meet. As the sole breadwinner for her daughter, a young nephew, and her disabled mother, Krishna didn't have that kind of safety net.

Then Krishna heard about REBOOT. Created by a San Diego-based nonprofit called the National Veterans Transition Services, Inc., REBOOT is a free, three-week series of workshops designed to help members of the military transition to civilian life by "rebooting" their skills. The program takes a comprehensive approach, addressing personal, lifestyle, and career issues that can affect an individual's success.

For several years attorney Jeremy Glaser and former Mintz Levin attorney Jake Romero have reviewed licensing contracts for the course materials used in REBOOT workshops. Last year, Mintz Levin deepened its long-standing pro bono relationship with National Veterans Transition Services when Jeremy joined its board. Now, in addition to reviewing contracts, he provides the board with legal counsel as well as governance advice based on best practices.

"This work gives us the opportunity to do something important for our young veterans," Jeremy says. "As a society, we have a moral obligation to help these men and women reintegrate."

At her first REBOOT meeting, Krishna was skeptical, but she soon found her fears about the future giving way to excitement. When the workshop's facilitator reminded the participants of the benefits of life beyond the military, "it was like having an epiphany," Krishna says. "I could be there for my daughter's birthdays and not have to have her look me in the eyes and ask me not to leave again? I liked how that made me feel."

The facilitator also helped participants identify the strengths they'd gained through their service. In the Navy Krishna served as a photographer and combat documentation specialist. In Bosnia her work included documenting the exhumation of mass graves. She also covered brigade missions in Afghanistan and documented counter-piracy operations in the Somali Basin and Gulf of Aden.

Today Krishna is pursuing a bachelor's degree, working part time as a photographer and media specialist, and receiving care for her disabilities. She also writes *Invisible Warriors* (<http://invisiblewarriors.wordpress.com>), a blog about the challenges facing women veterans. While her transition to civilian life hasn't been easy, REBOOT has made the difference. "In addition to igniting the optimist in me, REBOOT provided me with resources. They helped me find an advocate to file my Department of Veterans Affairs disability claim, they put me in touch with representatives from local schools to pursue my education, they taught me networking skills and took me to events to help me connect with employers, additional veteran resources, entrepreneurs, and best of all, veterans just like me," Krishna says.



"Pro bono legal services from attorney Jeremy Glaser and others at Mintz Levin help our organization provide veterans like Krishna with high quality REBOOT workshops that give them the tools and support to transition to civilian life successfully."

Maurice Wilson
Director
National Veterans
Transition Services, Inc.



Route to Security

“Marissa,” 13, relies on California Children’s Services for medical care, including regular doctors’ visits and physical therapy to treat her cerebral palsy. Her mother lives in Mexico and hasn’t seen her in eight years, and her father no longer contacts her at all.

Since Marissa’s mother left her in Los Angeles in 2006, Marissa has been cared for by her grandmother, who receives support for Marissa from the local Regional Center, a nonprofit organization that provides services for people with developmental disabilities.

In early 2013, a social worker from Public Counsel, a public interest law firm, contacted Mintz Levin to help Marissa file an I-360 petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Undocumented children whose petitions are granted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services may apply for legal permanent residence in the United States.

Mintz Levin attorney Nada Shamonki worked with Marissa and her grandmother for several months to prepare Marissa’s story and her application. Petitions for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status are granted only to applicants who can demonstrate that they have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. In Marissa’s case, making that argument wasn’t difficult.

“The biggest challenge was communicating with Marissa and her grandmother,” Nada says. Nada’s assistant, Jazmin Leon, helped translate for the clients, who primarily speak Spanish. Public Counsel’s social worker, Beth Tsoulos, also speaks Spanish and was a very helpful resource. To overcome communication challenges associated with Marissa’s cerebral palsy, Nada put her young client at ease. “We found that taking the pressure off of Marissa to communicate quickly made the process much easier. Keeping things lighthearted and playful also helped Marissa relax,” Nada says.

On July 23, 2013, Marissa’s long-term prospects improved considerably when she was granted Special Immigrant Juvenile Status in probate court. “We were lucky that since Marissa was under 14 years of age, she did not have to be interviewed by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent. This made the petition process much easier for Marissa,” Nada says. Had her petition been denied, Marissa would have been deported back to Mexico, where she would have had little access to medical care to treat her cerebral palsy and limited opportunities to continue her education. In Los Angeles, Marissa attends a public school that provides her with an individualized learning plan and opportunities for one-on-one learning.

Marissa’s status as a legal immigrant also entitles her to access resources such as the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants. Currently Nada is helping to appeal a decision by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services on the amount due to Marissa under that program.

With reliable and continued support, Marissa is now focused on learning English and doing well at school. “I found the experience of helping Marissa very rewarding,” Nada says. “It was really inspiring to see that my work was able to change someone’s life in a very tangible way.”



“Thanks to your dedicated assistance, this client now has opportunities and services open to her that were not available before your intervention. You handled her case with special care and attention and gave her the sense of security and confidence so needed with this process.”

Beth Tsoulos
Senior Social Worker
Public Counsel Children’s
Rights Project



Breaking the Silence

Lauren Dunne Astley had just graduated from Wayland High School in suburban Boston, Massachusetts, and was set to attend Elon University in the fall of 2011. The 18-year-old with a bright smile, sunny personality, and strong network of friends loved fashion, singing, and helping others. “She was brave,” remembers her father, Malcolm Astley. “She wanted to make things better.”

That desire to improve the world brought her to New Orleans several times to volunteer in the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina, and to counter-demonstrate at an anti-Islam demonstration.

Lauren cared also that her ex-boyfriend, a high school football star set to attend Trinity College, was having trouble getting over their recent breakup. After getting off work at a nearby mall on July 3, Lauren met her ex alone at his parents’ home, where he brutally murdered her.

To everyone around Lauren, her murder was shocking. The signs that something was potentially violent in their three-year relationship were so nuanced. In hindsight, Malcolm says, you think about those clues: Lauren’s friends didn’t like her boyfriend, the couple tried to break up several times before, and Lauren and her boyfriend spent most of their time at his home.

“Breakups are one of the hardest things we deal with as humans,” says Malcolm, a retired principal with a doctorate in education. “To parents, the clues that a relationship or a breakup is dangerous can be subtle or undetectable, but kids tell other kids if something is wrong.”

With the help of friends and neighbors, Malcolm and Lauren’s mother, Mary Dunne, also an educator, set up the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund—a nonprofit with the mission to fund educational programs that promote healthy teen relationships and the arts and community service, two of Lauren’s interests. One of the nonprofit’s accomplishments is being part of successful efforts to fund pilot programs to teach dating violence prevention in schools throughout Massachusetts.

One in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse by a dating partner, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That’s why it’s so important to Lauren’s father that kids and teens are taught healthy relationship and breakup skills as well as also how to help peers who may be in dangerous relationships. This educational goal is one of the primary focuses of the fund.

“It was an honor to help Lauren’s father, Malcolm Astley, and the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund with strategic advice, including ensuring that legislators learn how important it is to educate children and teens on this issue,” says Mintz Levin attorney Sue Finegan, who along with attorney Helen Guyton, former project analyst Amarynth Sichel (now working with ML Strategies), summer associate Phil Chang, and Nancy Sterling and Julie Cox from ML Strategies assisted the nonprofit. “This work planted the seed for a pilot innovation fund, passed by the legislature this year, to develop the best curriculum on dating violence for children in Massachusetts,” Sue says.



“Educating children and teens on healthy relationships and the tools to deal with breakups can help prevent the terrible harm that happened to my daughter.”

Malcolm Astley
Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund

*Artwork:
Designed by artist Josh Winer, this mosaic honoring the life of Lauren Dunne Astley hangs in the courtyard of her alma mater, Wayland High School. It was created with the help of current and former Wayland High students and teacher David Schmirer.
Photo: Michelle Leinbach*



Loan Rangers

A single mother's paycheck goes mostly to a rent-to-own store. A family faces homelessness as their home is being foreclosed. A college graduate tries to get out of poverty, but student loan debt holds her back. These are just a few of the low-income consumers that the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) aims to protect.

From its headquarters in Boston, NCLC works with attorneys across the country as well as the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau to combat unfair lending and debt collection practices, help consumers get mortgages refinanced, and encourage the regulatory environment to work for consumers and not against them. The goal is a more just economy for vulnerable consumers and those in need. "These are folks who have very few assets to begin with, and the great recession hit them particularly hard. They lost jobs, had their homes foreclosed on, and saw their credit card debt soar as they tried to make ends meet," says NCLC's Director of Finance Margaret Kohler.

Back in 2007, Mintz Levin began assisting NCLC with acquiring its headquarters building so the nonprofit could devote more of its resources to its work on behalf of vulnerable consumers. "In helping NCLC move from leasing to owning and then rehabbing its headquarters space seven years ago, Mintz Levin and the rest of the NCLC team used a relatively new federal urban redevelopment incentive program—New Markets Tax Credits—in combination with tax-exempt bonds to deliver the lowest possible cost to NCLC," says Greg Sandomirsky, an attorney in Mintz Levin's Public Finance Practice. "This innovative financing used the bonds as leverage in a manner that allowed certain special investors to agree to forgive repayment of a portion of their investment in the project."

In 2013, NCLC had an opportunity to refinance its bonds at a lower rate. Yet finding a deal that would work for everyone involved was difficult, until NCLC again enlisted the help of Mintz Levin. "Greg and I knew we could get NCLC a lower interest rate to reduce its monthly payment without the complicated and costly restructuring originally proposed by the lender's counsel," says attorney Poonam Patidar, who worked with Greg on the refinancing. "We had to 'sell' our theory to the bond counsel, bank counsel, investor's counsel, and tax credit counsel, and had to keep their attention on the deal despite the end-of-the-year rush that many transactional lawyers face. While the savings was small in comparison to large complex transactions, it made a huge impact for NCLC. We eventually closed on New Year's Eve."

The new refinancing means NCLC pays less for its occupancy costs, and has more money to devote to its mission. It's smart business for everyone NCLC touches.



"The original deal orchestrated by Mintz Levin saved NCLC a couple million dollars. This new refinancing saves NCLC an additional million or so. All this 'new' resource simply allows us to devote more time and energy to representing the needs of low-income consumers across the country. These have been especially heady times for our advocacy, and we would not be as fully engaged without these deals and without the generous help of Mintz Levin."

Will Ogburn
Executive Director
National Consumer Law Center

Margaret Kohler
Director of Finance
National Consumer Law Center



Flight to Freedom

“Isabella” has endured trauma that no one, let alone a teenage girl, should ever experience. She was only 16 when she was smuggled into the United States by sex traffickers, after fleeing years of misery in South America.

Growing up, Isabella was beaten and abused by her family members. She was forced to work various jobs instead of attending school and often went hungry because her family neglected to feed her. Then one day a seemingly kind woman came along and offered Isabella the opportunity for a better life.

The woman said that her associates would give Isabella a safe home in the United States and pay for her travel expenses. Isabella accepted the offer, but soon thereafter, she discovered that the woman had lied about her intentions. In fact, the woman and her associates were sex traffickers. They subjected Isabella to horrible abuse before abandoning her in the United States near the border with Mexico.

Isabella was taken into custody by immigration officials and faced deportation. Alone and scared, and unable to speak the language, she was fortunate to have her case referred to Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a nonprofit organization that helps unaccompanied immigrant children find legal help. KIND contacted Mintz Levin, and Isabella was soon introduced to attorney Alec Zadek.

Isabella’s goal was to remain in the United States and become a lawful permanent resident. Together, Isabella and Alec determined that her best option for achieving that outcome was to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

The first step was to obtain a court order holding that Isabella had been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Once Alec and his team, by then including former Mintz Levin project analysts Kyle Crawford and Adrienne Darrow, had obtained this holding, they petitioned United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to grant Isabella’s status request. This process involved hearings in Immigration Court and an interview of Isabella by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent.

“An important part of our representation was working with Isabella’s caseworkers from Lutheran Social Services,” Alec says. Isabella’s caseworkers scheduled therapy sessions on the heels of her stressful legal appointments and helped Isabella to adapt to her new surroundings. Alec, who had experience representing another sex trafficking survivor, worked with Isabella’s case workers to ensure that she had access to counselors who could help her cope with the trauma that she had suffered and was forced to relive through the court proceedings.

In June 2013 Isabella was awarded Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and six months later, her petition for Lawful Permanent Resident Status was granted. At 18, Isabella is now a legal resident of the United States, and she can move forward with her life.



“Alec navigated the varying legal intricacies and adjudication venues with intelligence and grace. Most of all, he elicited the trust of his client, whose life was being changed for the better as Alec moved the case towards final resolution in record time. I cannot speak highly enough of his skill and commitment to protecting the rights of children who come alone to the United States.”

Laurie Carafone, Esq.
*Supervising Attorney for
Pro Bono Programs, Boston
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)*



Untangling the Ladder

After undergoing chemotherapy and having more than a foot of his large intestine removed, “Jim” couldn’t sit for long periods of time and needed to stay close to a bathroom to deal with his gastrointestinal problems. He couldn’t return to his job and struggled to pay his bills.

When Jim’s application for Social Security benefits was denied, his social worker at Boston’s Dana Farber Cancer Institute referred him to Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston, a group that gives low-income patients legal help to tackle nonmedical issues that can complicate recovery.

Social Security applicants whose applications are denied have a short window of time to request reconsideration. Without any indication of why Jim’s application was denied, his original legal team quickly submitted the request for reconsideration, and turned to Mintz Levin for assistance.

Attorney Jill Collins and former Mintz Levin attorney Kaci White contacted the Social Security Administration immediately and repeatedly to determine the reason for the denial. “It seemed we jumped through the agency’s hoops for months just trying to get information,” Jill says.

Eventually they reached a supervisor who provided access to Jim’s files, which revealed why his application was unsuccessful. Jim’s general practitioner had written a letter on his behalf, but he didn’t say Jim would be disabled for at least a year—a precondition for receiving Social Security Disability Insurance. Jim’s file also indicated that although he was below the means threshold, his application for Social Security Income hadn’t been processed. At that point, however, Jim’s request for reconsideration had already been denied, which meant that he had to wait nearly a year for a full appeals hearing.

After Kaci left the firm in 2012, attorney Carol Cleary joined the case, and she and Jill worked with Dana Farber’s staff to submit updated records. Jim’s oncologist, who was familiar with Jim’s surgery and symptoms, wrote a letter explaining why he wouldn’t be able to work for at least another year.

Jill and Carol had a 3½-hour prep session with Jim a few days before his hearing, and spent another hour with him that morning. At the hearing Jim did very well, though he had to stand and was in great pain. A potential problem arose, however, when the Social Security Administration called an occupational expert who testified that Jim could work in a variety of office jobs. “The expert was very adversarial, and we were a little shocked by his opinion,” Jill says.

Jill argued persuasively that it wasn’t possible for Jim to work, particularly at his last job as a ticket salesman for a tour bus company. The hearing’s examiner agreed, and Jim’s Social Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance benefits were granted retroactively.

“Jim is an upstanding citizen with a long work history. He wants to work, but is unable to do so in his current medical condition, and I think the medical examiner understood that,” Jill says. In 2014 Jill has worked to address a tax lien on Jim’s benefits and to have the benefits extended. Now in his mid-40s, Jim hopes to someday work again.

“Leading our client on this lengthy legal journey demonstrated why so many people who do not have legal assistance give up on the process of securing the benefits they are eligible to receive.”

Jill Collins
Mintz Levin attorney



Pride of Place

Back home in Jamaica, “Darell” was rendered homeless, shot at, beaten, knifed, and even set on fire, all for being gay. Homophobia is pervasive and sanctioned by Jamaican law and society, and openly gay men are routinely tortured or killed.

More than 10 years ago, Darell fled Jamaica and moved to the United States. He filed an application for asylum without the help of a lawyer and was denied. His deportation wasn’t enforced until 2011, when Darell came to the attention of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Through counsel, Darell filed a motion with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to stay his deportation and reopen his immigration case. One BIA panel, which rules on removal or deportation, rejected Darell’s motion to stay deportation, concluding that his motion to reopen would not succeed. When a second panel considered the motion to reopen, however, it concluded the opposite, and ordered the case reopened. The result of these inconsistent BIA decisions was that Darell won the right to be heard in his asylum case, but was deported before that could happen.

To compound the problem, on remand from the BIA, the immigration judge closed the case, claiming that the proceedings were moot in light of Darell’s deportation. Darell’s counsel appealed, but the BIA affirmed the ruling. It seemed Darell was running out of options in the United States.

With his life in peril, Darell reached out to Mintz Levin attorneys Narges Kakalia, Terry McMahon, and Andy Nathanson, who filed a petition for review to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The court examined the procedural history and noted the bad faith that the BIA had displayed by deporting Darell and then using his involuntary departure as a basis to deny him his day in court. The Third Circuit directed that the case be reopened, which the BIA promptly did. Upon remand again, the judge made no attempt to close the case, but instead scheduled an asylum hearing.

Narges and Terry then began the uphill battle of bringing Darell back to the United States to participate in his hearing. Such a post-deportation return is virtually unheard of, and therefore not a single immigration attorney contacted, either inside or outside the firm, could provide advice on how to successfully return a deported client to the country.

After rigorous advocacy, the Mintz Levin team finally convinced the government to return Darell to the United States. Then Narges and Terry, assisted by summer associates Rachel Gholston and Daniel Woofter, now associates at the firm, began to prepare Darell for his hearing.

In an emotionally fraught moment, Darell’s immigration woes came to a fitting conclusion in 2013 when the judge granted him asylum. The court credited Darell’s success to his attorneys’ creativity, excellent brief-writing, and “very tenacious” lawyering. “Hearing the judge say ‘welcome to the United States’ was deeply gratifying and emotionally overwhelming for everyone in the courtroom,” Narges says. “It was particularly rewarding to watch Darell’s face as the significance of that statement dawned on him.” Today Darell lives in safety in the United States and is pursuing his GED. He plans to get certified to teach elementary school.



“When I was granted asylum I felt so good inside, knowing that I have the opportunity to live life the way I want. The lawyers at Mintz Levin stood up for me and fought for what is right for my well-being. They never give up! Each and every day, I thank them so much for being there for me.”

*“Darell”
Mintz Levin client*



Partnering for Protection *Additional Pro Bono Highlights from 2013*

Access to Justice Commission and Access to Justice Fellows of Massachusetts

In 2012, the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission sponsored an innovative, statewide pilot project pairing senior attorneys with nonprofit and legal service organizations, providing critical legal assistance to underserved populations. In the program's inaugural year, the commission selected seven distinguished lawyers who had retired or were transitioning into retirement to serve as Access to Justice fellows. The Access to Justice Fellows Program expanded in its second year, with 12 senior attorneys taking on projects bringing legal services to those who need them most. This year's participants are accomplished members of the Massachusetts Bar who have worked in law firms, the financial industry, government, solo practice, and legal services. Retired Mintz Levin attorney Rosemary Allen participated as a fellow this year. Rosemary worked at Veterans Legal Services, developing a pro bono panel for the program.

Fellows commit 10 to 20 hours per week to their partner organizations and are working on projects including establishing a volunteer attorneys program, mentoring and training young lawyers, working with nonprofits on corporate governance, representing asylum seekers, assisting the poor in preparing wills and health care proxies, improving foster parents' access to the legal process, and expanding urban agricultural opportunities.

Program creators and Mintz Levin attorneys Martha Koster and Sue Finegan are working to further expand the program and secure funding for administrative support. This coming year, in an exciting development, the firm is working closely with the Lawyers Clearinghouse, which has agreed to fund a half-time staff attorney to manage the project. The program will expand to include 17 fellows, including the former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation

The American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote diversity in the intellectual property field by providing scholarships and mentoring to underrepresented minority law school students pursuing careers in IP law. Mintz Levin has been a key supporter of the organization since its inception. Attorney John Delehanty, a board member and former president of the American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation, has provided advice and assistance on a number of legal matters.

Association of Corporate Counsel—Northeast's Clinic in a Box Program

The Association of Corporate Counsel is a global bar association that promotes the common professional and business interests of a variety of in-house counsel through educational and networking opportunities as well as advocacy initiatives. One such initiative is the Clinic in a Box Program. In 2013, Northeast's Clinic in a Box Program was hosted and organized by Mintz Levin for the third year in a row. Coordinated by attorneys Katy Ward and Sue Finegan and project analyst Ana Lopez, the program successfully brought together over 40 in-house counsel, some of them clients and former Mintz Levin attorneys, to advise 12 nonprofit clients on issues that affect the stability and continued success of their organizations. Mintz Levin attorneys Allan Caggiano, Anthony Hubbard, Drew Matzkin, and Jack Schecter led workshops on issues related to intellectual property law, employment law, and other general corporate matters. The clinic provided a rewarding interaction between nonprofits and in-house counsel volunteers.



Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo) Clinic

APBCo is a membership organization primarily comprised of full-time pro bono partners, counsel, and coordinators at major commercial law firms. In 2013, APBCo initiated a series of new collaborations across the country, in nine cities, designed to expand national law firm efforts to increase access to justice. Mintz Levin participated in the launch of the Small Business Legal Academy in New York City in October 2013. The goal of the initiative was to bring law firms, legal service providers, and fledgling small businesses from low-income communities together on a large scale, through workshops and individual legal counseling. Mintz Levin attorneys Jesse David and Louis Froelich as well as former project analyst Anthony Arias gave advice to small business owners about contracts, nonprofit formation, employment law, personnel management, intellectual property issues, and commercial leases.

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is an organization committed to ending sexual violence through healing and social change. This past year, Mintz Levin attorney Christine Wahr and former Mintz Levin attorneys John Koss and Martha Zackin began the process of representing the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center in a criminal court action to ensure that the clinical and legal records of a victim of sexual assault remain sealed. Beyond protecting the victim's own right to have her personal records remain private, the confidentiality policy that the Mintz Levin team is helping to strengthen is vital to programs involving victims of sexual abuse. By preventing defendants from accessing the records of their victims, this work will help ensure that victims of sexual abuse aren't deterred from seeking out the incredibly important legal and clinical support that advocacy organizations like the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center provide.

Brain Observatory

The University of California, San Diego is setting up the Brain Observatory, an organization dedicated to promoting wider access and study of the human brain. Specifically, the organization is working to set up a library where brains can be donated so that all researchers can have access to a brain database. Mintz Levin attorneys Laura Graham, Andy Skale, and Katy Ward are providing the Brain Observatory with guidance and advice to register as a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit and meet state filing requirements.

Buzzards Bay Coalition

Buzzards Bay Coalition is dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of the bay and its watershed. The organization works to improve the health of the bay ecosystem through education, conservation, research, and advocacy. Mintz Levin provided the Buzzards Bay Coalition with strategic legal advice about limiting groundwater discharge of pollutants from a municipal wastewater treatment facility. Through extensive research and evaluation of potential claims, attorneys Ralph Child, Jeff Porter, Colin Van Dyke, and Katy Ward, legal specialists Katherine Durham and Travis Leach, and summer associates Matt Karambelas and Kaoru Suzuki, now associates at the firm, worked with the organization's staff and board to develop an effective strategy.

Chelsea's Light

In 2010, 17-year-old Chelsea King was raped and murdered by a convicted sex offender when she went running near her home in Poway, California. Chelsea's parents founded "Chelsea's Light" to unite people who are passionate about protecting children and inspiring positive change in their communities. The foundation helped get "Chelsea's Law" passed and signed into law in California. The law increases penalties for sex offenders and increases the monitoring of paroled sex offenders. The foundation's goal is to see Chelsea's Law passed in all 50 states and targeted efforts are currently under way in Illinois, Ohio, and Texas.

Chelsea's Light has been assisted in a variety of ways by Mintz Levin attorneys Helen Guyton, Cynthia Larose, Lindsay Leone, Amy Malone, Andy Skale (a Chelsea's Light board member), Tali Tuchin, and Katy Ward as well as former Mintz Levin attorney Jake Romero. The Mintz Levin team worked to develop an analysis of all 50 states' child protection laws regarding penalties for sexual offenders. In addition, Katy Ward worked with the organization to update its articles and bylaws. The firm has also assisted with contract work as Chelsea's Light puts together a documentary that encourages awareness about sexual predators. The film will premier at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2015.

Domestic Violence Project

Mintz Levin's Domestic Violence Project was founded in Boston in 1989 and is now active in several Mintz Levin offices. Through the years, hundreds of the firm's attorneys, paraprofessionals, and staff members have worked on behalf of individual survivors. Beyond helping victims directly, attorneys have served as legal counsel for more than 25 nonprofits dedicated to combating domestic violence and sexual assault, and have partnered with these organizations to advocate for legislative reform and to write amicus and appellate briefs at the state and federal levels.

This past year, one of the many domestic violence cases Mintz Levin assisted with involved "Sarah," a victim who had been suffering abuse since 2006 from her now ex-husband. On multiple occasions, the abuser hit and threatened Sarah, causing her to fear for her own safety and the safety of her son. In 2013, Sarah obtained a temporary abuse prevention order against the defendant, but the defendant continuously violated this order through repeated calls and threats. Looking to extend the order permanently, Sarah was referred to Mintz Levin. Sarah's ex-husband never appeared at the hearing, but attorney Samantha Kingsbury, with the assistance of former project analyst Emma Nitzberg, nevertheless helped Sarah obtain a permanent restraining order against the man and his new wife.

Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism is a nonprofit organization established with the goal of improving the quality of life for people and families living with autism. The foundation is dedicated to increasing the awareness of autism and the unique challenges that families of autistic people face. In addition, the organization supports these families by helping them find the resources they need and by funding advocacy programs as well as educational, therapeutic, and recreational opportunities. Mintz Levin attorneys Tom Burton, Ken Gantz, and Jason Georgitis assisted the organization with general corporate matters as well as legal work related to a lease agreement.

Economic Justice Project

With the Economic Justice Project, Mintz Levin's transactional attorneys use their skills and resources to help low-income entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding small businesses located in underserved communities in Greater Boston. Twice a year, the attorneys involved with the Economic Justice Project conduct pro bono clinics to address the issues facing small businesses. Some of the entrepreneurs with whom the attorneys meet in Boston go on to become clients, who typically need assistance with a range of issues relating to entity-formation, employment, real estate, and intellectual property protection. Former Mintz Levin attorney Tavis Morello and former project analyst Raj Dhaliwal coordinated the projects in 2013, and currently attorneys Caroline Gammill and Lindsay Leone and project analyst Krissy Chapman oversee the work. Attorneys Eric Blythe, Adam Coffin, Esther Cho, Sue Finegan, Bret Leone-Quick, and Jack Schecter along with former Mintz Levin attorneys Manny Vazquez and Adam Veness also contributed to the Economic Justice Project in 2013.



Anti-Defamation League

It would be hard to find any American who did not want to protect and fight for our First Amendment right to free speech. But it gets complicated when that right collides with other interests, such as ensuring public safety and protecting women's access to health care. A Massachusetts statute that created a 35-foot buffer zone around entrances to reproductive health care facilities to give patients unhindered access was challenged by anti-abortion protesters as impinging on their freedom of speech.

"Having a buffer zone isn't saying you can't talk to people or express your point of view," says Mintz Levin attorney Chip Phinney, who along with attorneys Rob Buchholz, Sue Finegan, Jeff Robbins, and Rebecca Zeidel filed a Supreme Court amicus brief in the case, *McCullen v. Coakley*, on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League and a dozen other religious and cultural organizations in November 2013. "It's just saying, 'give people some space,' literally and figuratively. It's a tool of government to use to keep order while respecting people's rights."

The amicus brief argued that Massachusetts didn't act out of thin air when creating its buffer zone statute for reproductive health care facilities. As Rebecca notes, the brief shows that buffer zones have been used in different contexts at the local, state, and federal levels, and "courts have relied on case law upholding buffer zones around reproductive health care facilities to evaluate the First Amendment implications for buffer zones for houses of worship and funeral services."

"This was a collaborative effort between ADL's civil rights department and Mintz Levin," says Jeff, who also serves on the board of the Anti-Defamation League in New England. "Amicus briefs are tremendously nuanced things. When you're filing in the Supreme Court, it has to be exacting and sophisticated."

The Supreme Court concluded that the law was content neutral and served legitimate government interests, but also held that the statute was not sufficiently narrowly tailored.

The Anti-Defamation League's National Chair Barry Curtiss-Lusher and National Director Abraham Foxman said in a statement issued after the decision, "We welcome the Court's unequivocal endorsement of other buffer zone laws and its recognition of the importance of women's unimpeded access to reproductive health care facilities."

A new statute is already in the works for Massachusetts.

Greater Boston PFLAG

Greater Boston PFLAG consists of parents, families, and allies of LGBT people, all working together to change attitudes and advance equality and societal acceptance of LGBT individuals. In addition to sponsoring parent support groups and engaging in public advocacy, Greater Boston PFLAG conducts anti-bullying and diversity trainings in schools, religious organizations, and businesses throughout Massachusetts. During the past year, Mintz Levin attorneys Jessica Catlow, Meryl Epstein, Anthony Hubbard, and Patricia Moran and former Mintz Levin attorneys Adam Veness and Martha Zackin have worked with the organization on corporate governance, nonprofit, contract, and employment matters.

Guitars Not Guns

Using music as a catalyst, Guitars Not Guns helps divert children and teens from self-destructive influences such as drugs, alcohol, and gang-related activities by encouraging them to use their creativity to foster personal development. The Guitars Not Guns program provides free guitars and lessons to at-risk youth, hoping to engage their creative potential. Students who stick with the program and learn some basic songs and music theory participate in public performances and get to keep their guitars so they can continue to develop as musicians.

Mintz Levin attorneys David Barmak and Thomas Boisvert, and legal specialist Jacobo Dib, have been assisting the organization at both the national and local Washington, DC area chapter levels. Mintz Levin's work has included helping with various general corporate matters, including registration of Guitars Not Guns in DC, Maryland, and Virginia; review of a number of contracts; and helping to address and stop another organization from using the Guitars Not Guns name in an ongoing dispute that has helped to maintain the survival of DC Guitars Not Guns. The firm has also helped get "Guitars Not Guns" trademarked by the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Hatzalah is the largest volunteer ambulance service in the United States, with 14 local chapters in the New York metropolitan area, over 1,000 emergency medical technicians, 180 paramedics, and 80 ambulances. Mintz Levin provided a variety of legal services to the organization, under the guidance of attorney Jeff Moerdler.

Human Rights Campaign

As the largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, the Human Rights Campaign represents a grassroots force of over 750,000 members and supporters nationwide—all committed to making the Human Rights Campaign's vision a reality. Founded in 1980, the Human Rights Campaign advocates on behalf of LGBT Americans, mobilizes grassroots actions in diverse communities, invests strategically to elect fair-minded individuals to office, and educates the public about LGBT issues. Mintz Levin has served as pro bono counsel to the Human Rights Campaign since 1995 and has provided the organization with advice and assistance on a wide range of issues. Over the past few years, the firm has provided trademark and copyright advice and assisted the organization with trademark prosecution. Specifically, attorney Christine Baker has made key contributions to the Human Rights Campaign through her work with trademark prosecution.

Jane Doe Inc.

Jane Doe Inc. is a nonprofit coalition that provides sexual and domestic violence advocacy as well as expert support and resources to over 60 community-based member programs statewide. These local programs are the hubs of expertise in their communities, advocating on behalf of victims and offering confidential support and services to tens of thousands of victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence and their families each year. This past year, Mintz Levin attorneys Peter Biagetti and Sue Finegan acted as outside legal counsel and assisted the organization with a variety of legal issues, including employment, legislation, governance, and regulatory matters. In addition, over the

past year, attorneys Stefanie Abhar and Todd Rosenbaum, along with former Mintz Levin attorneys John Koss and Amy Malone, assisted Jane Doe members with litigation and real estate matters at domestic violence shelters and rape crisis counseling centers in the Boston area.

Jericho Road Project

Jericho Road Project is a nonprofit that bridges communities by matching the professional talents of volunteers with the needs of community-based nonprofit organizations to promote community development, strengthen social services, and enrich the lives of volunteers. Over the past year, attorneys Esther Cho and Anthony Hubbard and former Mintz Levin attorney Adam Veness assisted the nonprofit by reviewing its governing documents. They also helped to develop a draft affiliate site agreement, a document that reflects the nonprofit's new approach to expanding its reach to other cities and states through local partners.

Jericho Road Lawrence

Jericho Road Lawrence, an affiliate of the Jericho Road Project, was born out of the passionate desire of a small group of individuals to address dramatic socioeconomic disparities in Greater Lawrence, Massachusetts. In 2012, Mintz Levin was approached by a Boston-based referral agency, the Lawyers Clearinghouse, regarding our involvement in Jericho Road's pilot program on culturally inclusive boards. Although Lawrence's population is over 70% Latino, the representation of Latinos and Latinas on nonprofit boards is poor. In partnership with the YWCA of Greater Lawrence, the pilot program launched in 2012 and provided a three-part training series to approximately 10 carefully selected Latino and Latina professionals in the community who were interested in serving on local nonprofits' boards. Attorneys Anthony Hubbard and Manny Vazquez designed and presented two interactive workshops; each participant was then matched with one of 10 preselected nonprofits, whose board members also participated in the training. The program was such a success in the first year that the Mintz Levin team was asked to continue to provide updated and more efficient training and workshops to the participants and the nonprofit boards in 2013.

Keeping a Family United

Last fall, “James” and “Stephanie,” a married couple with a young child, approached Mintz Levin attorney Joe Curtin about a matter that would potentially split their family. James, a foreign national, had previously won a prestigious fellowship and was almost done with his graduate coursework at a local university. Under pertinent regulations, James was required to return to his home country for two years upon completion of his graduate studies. Stephanie and their child, both of whom are US citizens, had no such obligation.

Normally, this “two-year home residency requirement” is not a problem for a foreign national and his or her US citizen spouse. However, this case deviated from the norm. Stephanie had been battling a very complicated illness for years and required continuity of care from her US physicians. James and Stephanie, with the assistance of prior counsel, petitioned the US government twice for a waiver of the home residency requirement. The government rejected both petitions. Further complicating the matter, Stephanie was diagnosed with cancer two days before the second rejection. As a result, Stephanie required emergency surgery, other treatment, and even closer monitoring than before. Her medical condition placed the family in a precarious situation: they could either comply with the terms of James’s visa and return to his home country, which would inhibit Stephanie’s continuity of care, or split up. Joe brought this matter to the attention of attorneys Susan Cohen and Ari Stern along with attorneys Erin Brummer and Cassie Ramos, as well as project analyst Caroline Puckowski. The Mintz Levin team developed a compelling letter brief which analyzed the hardship Stephanie would face if (a) James went back to his home country, leaving Stephanie to care for herself and her son, or (b) the whole family went to James’s home country, where Stephanie might not qualify for health insurance, and by extension, would not receive proper medical care.

Upon review of Mintz Levin’s advocacy, the government granted a waiver of the two-year home residency requirement. James may now remain in the United States, and Stephanie, consequently, is not forced to decide between her husband and her health.

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Mintz Levin attorney Ben Hincks first met “Chris” through a mentorship program at the Citizen Schools Eighth Grade Academy Writing Program. As the two of them spent more time together, Ben learned that Chris, a 17-year-old originally from the Dominican Republic, had come to the United States as an undocumented immigrant eight years ago with his younger sister, “Carla.” They were coming to live with their father, also an undocumented immigrant. When Chris and Carla arrived, their father took them to Massachusetts to live with his then-girlfriend. Soon, Chris and Carla were moved to another girlfriend’s apartment, where they spent close to eight years. During this time, Chris’s and Carla’s father disappeared for extended periods of time, while the girlfriend that they lived with cared for them. This became so routine that their father’s now ex-girlfriend became their new legal guardian.

Spending more time with Chris through Eighth Grade Academy, Ben also met “John,” Chris’s “Big Brother” from the Big Brother Big Sister Program. Chris and John were extremely close. So much so that John had become a father figure to Chris and had offered to be Chris’s legal guardian. Ben wanted to help, so with the assistance of attorney Wynter Lavier and project analyst Ana Lopez, the Mintz Levin team got Chris’s legal guardianship transferred to his “Big Brother” John. Chris now happily lives with John and his family. Carla, who has grown close to her father’s ex-girlfriend, remains in her care but sees her brother several times a week.

In addition, Ben, Wynter, and Ana have been working to help the siblings obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status so they can eventually become US citizens. After prevailing at Probate and Family Court by demonstrating that Chris and Carla have been abandoned and neglected, they are now in the process of submitting petitions to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to achieve that status.

Lambda Legal

Founded in 1973, Lambda Legal is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people, and those with HIV. Lambda Legal achieves recognition of these civil rights through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.

As a nonprofit organization, Lambda Legal offers representation and advocacy to all clients free of charge. This past year, Mintz Levin attorney Aaron Tidman assisted Lambda Legal with research on how certain federal nondiscrimination laws might be applied to the state foster care system and what enforcement mechanisms are available to protect LGBT youth in out-of-home care.

Lawyer for the Day at Boston Housing Court

Lawyer for the Day is a joint effort of the Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Real Estate Section of the Boston Bar Association, which recruits Boston attorneys to give advice and provide limited representation to pro se tenants facing eviction. Mintz Levin’s participation began as a pilot program in 2010 and became a monthly event in 2011. Under the guidance of the program’s directors, attorney Katy Ward and former Mintz Levin attorney Nick Bentley, 15 other Mintz Levin attorneys represented tenants in Housing Court in 2013, including Stefanie Abhar, Fred Armstrong, Susan Carlson, Adam Coffin, Stephen Cole, Jill Collins, Hannah Coman, Andrew Dean, Kelly Frey, Caroline Gammill, Ken Gantz, Jason Georgitis, Caitie Hill, Emily Kanstroom, Lindsay Leone, Nate McConarty, Maura Pelham, Jennifer Sacco Smith, and Allison Whitmore as well as former Mintz Levin attorneys Manny Vazquez and Adam Veness. Mintz Levin attorneys also began representing clients from the program. Attorney Esther Cho has now joined Katy in overseeing the project.

Elizabeth Stone House

The Elizabeth Stone House is dedicated to serving homeless families and individuals in a goal-oriented, outcome-driven environment. The agency helps to resolve the issues that make people homeless, including domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental illness, so that they can attain and maintain permanent housing, personal safety, and economic stability.

Last year was a very exciting time for the agency’s staff and board. Approximately five years ago the board decided that its building could no longer adequately serve the agency’s influx of women and children or host its numerous community outreach programs. After four years of searching for a new site, an abandoned auto body shop became available within only a few blocks of the agency’s transitional housing building.

A team of Mintz Levin professionals from the Real Estate and Environmental Law practices worked to make purchasing the new site possible. First the firm’s attorneys refinanced the existing mortgages on the old building, leaving the agency with only one mortgage at a low interest rate. Then the team negotiated and executed a purchase agreement for the new construction site on very favorable terms for the agency. In addition, during the due diligence period for the purchase agreement, the Mintz Levin environmental team obtained a state grant for assessment, identified environmental issues, and determined the costs of addressing those issues. The attorneys then negotiated a \$250,000 purchase price reduction to cover environmental costs, and subsequently applied for a federal grant to finance the cleanup. Finally, the team negotiated and executed an asset purchase agreement to sell the old building to another nonprofit agency.

The cost of the new building is close to \$20 million and will enable the agency to increase the number of women and children it can house in transitional and permanent housing as well as provide more outreach services. For the first time in its history, the agency will have a large day care center and playground space for the many children of the residents and community members it serves. All of the legal work needed to make this project possible was accomplished by attorneys Walter Boldys, Maryann Civitello, and Ray Estes in the Real Estate Practice, attorneys Susan Phillips and Jennifer Sulla in the Environmental Law Practice, and legal specialists Katie Durham and Michelle Morgan, with support from the firm’s Pro Bono Committee.

Lawyer's Clearinghouse

The Lawyers Clearinghouse is an organization dedicated to providing pro bono legal services to residents of homeless shelters and others in need in the Boston area. Mintz Levin is a partner of the Lawyers Clearinghouse, and for more than 20 years many Mintz Levin attorneys, project analysts, and summer associates as well as Mintz Levin in-house clients have contributed to the organization's efforts by representing its clients in a wide variety of housing, immigration, social security, and other matters. Attorneys Kelly Frey, Samantha Kingsbury, and Colin Van Dyke coordinate Mintz Levin's participation in the Lawyers Clearinghouse legal clinics, and dozens of attorneys, paraprofessionals, and summer associates participated this past year. Mintz Levin partnered with in-house attorneys from Liberty Mutual and attorneys from federal agencies in these clinics.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

For 52 years the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has honored marines by educating their children. The privately-funded, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization provides scholarships for post-high school education and career training to all qualified sons and daughters of marines and navy corpsmen. Particular attention is given to children with a parent who has been killed or wounded in action, and those who have demonstrated financial need. The Scholarship Foundation's Heroes Tribute Scholarship Program for Children of the Fallen provides up to \$30,000 over four years to every child of a marine, or navy corpsman serving with the marines, who has been killed in combat since September 11, 2001. Since 1962, the organization has awarded more than 30,000 scholarships valued at over \$80,000,000. For the 2013–2014 academic year, scholarships were awarded to 2,042 students, totaling more than \$6,600,000.

Mintz Levin provides legal services in a variety of areas, including trademark, copyright, data security, information privacy, insurance, trust and estate, corporate, and investment-advisor relationship matters. The firm's legal support for the Scholarship Foundation was led by attorney Kevin Ainsworth

(a director and general counsel of the Scholarship Foundation) and included attorneys Nancy Adams, Adam Gale, Cynthia Larose, Marty Lorenzo, Peter Miller, Justin Nahama, and Shoshana Speiser.

Massachusetts Children's Law Center/Equal Justice Works and Biogen Idec

Equal Justice Works Fellowships provide lawyers with the opportunity to positively impact thousands of adults, children, and families in need in communities across the country. The program's fellows design unique projects that serve and address a range of legal issues including domestic violence, homelessness, community economic development, immigration, civil rights, juvenile justice, employment rights, health care, consumer fraud, and environmental justice.

In 2012 and 2013, Mintz Levin and Biogen Idec cosponsored Rajan Sonik, a recent Harvard Law School graduate who used his fellowship to advocate for low-income children with sickle cell disease. Currently, Biogen Idec and the firm are partnering to cosponsor a second Equal Justice Works fellow, Paul Eaton. Paul, a recent graduate of Boston College Law School, is developing a medical-legal partnership with the Massachusetts General Hospital–Chelsea Healthcare Center through his placement at the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts to provide legal advocacy for children from Chelsea who are at risk for school exclusion or face barriers to educational access.

Melanoma Education Foundation

The Melanoma Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization devoted to saving lives by increasing awareness of melanoma, a common skin cancer that is often deadly unless detected early. Mintz Levin has provided pro bono legal services to the Melanoma Education Foundation since its inception in 2000, overseen by attorney Larry Schoen. During the past year, attorney Christine Baker of the New York office worked with the foundation on various trademark issues relating to the organization's educational literature and materials.

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty

The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, also known as the Met Council, is one of New York's largest human services agencies, providing 100,000 New Yorkers with critical services in their fight against poverty every year. Since 1972, Met Council has been a defender and advocate for New Yorkers in need and has raised awareness around the growing problem of Jewish poverty.

Met Council provides services ranging from domestic violence counseling to kosher food pantries to career training. This past year, Mintz Levin attorneys Jeff Moerdler, Mark Nemes, and Amy Williams assisted the Met Council by closing a complicated set of transactions that concluded a 10-year effort by Mintz Levin to begin the development of an assisted living facility on Staten Island. Jeff, with the assistance of attorneys Amy Lu and Mike Solet, also advised on tax and bond financing issues related to the use of a portion of that facility.

National Domestic Workers Alliance

Founded in 2007, the National Domestic Workers Alliance is the nation's leading voice for millions of domestic workers in the United States, most of whom are women. The organization is powered by 39 local, membership-based affiliate organizations of more than 10,000 nannies, housekeepers, and caregivers for the elderly, located in 14 states plus the District of Columbia. Attorneys Richard Block and David Katz provided employment advice by reviewing and drafting employment policies and independent contractor agreements, and conducting a wage and hour audit.

New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program

Through the New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program, Mintz Levin attorneys use their skills and experience to help unrepresented litigants address family law issues, including child support, visitation, and custody. The program began in Brooklyn Family Court and has since expanded to



Manhattan, Queens, Bronx, and Richmond Counties, with over 200 participating attorneys from more than 35 major law firms and companies. Since its inception, the program has helped more than 1,200 families. Each month, the attorneys involved with the program meet with litigants for one-time sessions that typically last about 30 minutes each. Attorney Kimberly Gold has coordinated the program for Mintz Levin since 2012. Attorneys Kelly Graf, Bethany Hickey, Elizabeth Kurpis, and Todd Rosenbaum, along with former Mintz Levin attorney Rob Rosen, also participated in the New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program in 2013.

Pacific Arts Movement

The Pacific Arts Movement is a media arts organization that focuses on using American and Asian international cinema as a catalyst for positive social change. Born in the San Diego area, the Pacific Arts Movement promotes artistic excellence, innovation, and an independent voice by partnering with schools and presenting culturally enriching programs that are otherwise inaccessible to the public. Mintz Levin has been assisting the Pacific Arts Movement since 2011. In addition to helping the organization with day-to-day corporate work, over the course of the past six months, attorneys Eddie Rodriguez and Brandon Willenberg have assisted the Pacific Arts Movement with complicated employment and tax matters.





Philanthropy Connection

The Philanthropy Connection is a nonprofit organization formed in 2012 by successful and influential women in the Boston community who come together to engage in collective philanthropy. The nonprofit makes high-impact grants to nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts that work to improve the quality of life for individuals and families living in Massachusetts. The Philanthropy Connection is a unique organization: after carefully selecting the grantee organizations and awarding the grants, the members of the Philanthropy Connection remain involved in collaborating with the grantee organizations. A year after its inception, the Philanthropy Connection grew from a group of a few women to over 130 members, each contributing \$1,000. The Philanthropy Connection has awarded five nonprofit organizations with \$26,000 grants, and is continuing to expand its membership and local impact. Mintz Levin attorneys Peter Demuth and Christina Frangos have played a key role in the organization's development. The Mintz Levin team continuously provides general corporate representation to the Philanthropy Connection, advising at board meetings, assisting with filings, and working with the board and membership on matters of corporate governance.

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project

The Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (PAIR) is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers and immigration detainees in Massachusetts. One such case that came to Mintz Levin through PAIR involved "Miguel," a fifteen-year-old who fled abuse in his native Guatemala and journeyed to the United States alone. From the time he was six, Miguel was forced by his father to work in the fields. At first he worked alongside his father, who beat him regularly with a rake or pliers or whatever he could find, causing injuries that went untreated. When Miguel was 10, his father, an alcoholic, stopped working and drank all day, making Miguel work in the fields by himself to support his family. Miguel had to leave school at 12 because he couldn't keep up with the farm work. His father continued to be abusive to Miguel and his mother, whom Miguel tried to protect. After a dangerous trip across the border, Miguel was caught by immigration authorities who detained him and allowed him to come to Boston to stay with a relative while his deportation case was pending.

Attorneys Sean Grammel and Martha Koster and legal assistant Dayan Tabares took Miguel's case through the PAIR Project and began the process of getting him Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, designed for children who come alone to the United States fleeing abuse, abandonment, or neglect. In March, the Probate and Family Court granted the team's petition and found that Miguel met all the criteria for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. His petition is now pending before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In the meantime, he is going to school regularly and doing well in his relation's care.

Protecting a Mother's Domestic Support Award—GLAD

After years of litigating with her ex-spouse over child custody and the dissolution of her marriage, "Anna" had her award for attorney's fees upheld by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Payments from her ex-wife, "Mary," were to begin in the fall of 2012, but rather than pay the fee award due to Anna, Mary took extraordinary steps to avoid this

obligation. She filed for bankruptcy in the Eastern District of Michigan, where she had relocated, arguing that the fee award arising out of the dissolution of a marriage between two women could not be enforced because of the then-in-effect Defense of Marriage Act (and under similar Michigan state law). Mintz Levin responded to the call from the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) to represent Anna in the bankruptcy case and preserve Anna's right to seek payment of the fee award. Mintz Levin attorneys Kim Parr and Adrienne Walker immediately brought litigation in Mary's bankruptcy case for a determination that the fee award could not be discharged in bankruptcy. In arguing that the fee award was a domestic support obligation, they asserted that the fact that it arose from the dissolution of a marriage and child custody dispute between two women was not relevant to the legal issues before the bankruptcy court. The Bankruptcy Court in Michigan deferred to the Massachusetts courts, so Kim and Adrienne then took Anna's case to the Massachusetts Essex Probate and Family Court. After an extended period of deliberation, the court issued its ruling in the spring of 2014—agreeing that Anna's fee award could not be discharged in Mary's bankruptcy case.

Rare Genomics Institute

Rare Genomics Institute is a nonprofit organization that gives families afflicted by rare genetic disorders access to genome sequencing and expert analysis by bringing together scientists and patients and leveraging the crowd-funding capabilities of the Internet. With the guidance and advice of Mintz Levin attorneys Quincy Ewell, Carrie Roll, and Andy Roth and legal assistant Jennifer Friedman, Rare Genomics Institute was granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and is in the process of completing its state charitable solicitation filings.



RESPOND, Inc.

New England's first domestic violence agency and the second oldest in the nation, RESPOND, Inc. is a pioneer in the movement to end domestic violence. For over 40 years, RESPOND has provided life-saving shelter, support services, training, and education to more than 75,000 members of the community. Mintz Levin attorneys Stefanie Abhar, Andrew Dean, Meryl Epstein, Anthony Hubbard, and Drew Matzkin provide day-to-day legal advice on matters involving employment, real estate, intellectual property, and corporate governance for the organization.

Riverdale Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association

The Riverdale YM-YWHA (Riverdale Y) is an organization that brings together members of the Jewish and wider community to grow, learn, and deepen their understanding of themselves and their connections to their community. Mintz Levin attorneys Andy Roth and Nili Yolin assisted the Riverdale Y in restructuring its relationship with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Riverdale. Attorneys Amy Lu and Jeff Moerdler handled a refinancing of the Riverdale Y's mortgage, assisted with a capital grant, and negotiated a license agreement for use of part of its facilities. Andy and attorney Sarah Lowe also assisted the Riverdale Y with various corporate matters. Mintz Levin attorney Kim Gold advised on advertising and nonprofit law compliance issues.

San Diego Better Business Bureau

The Better Business Bureau of San Diego is a nonprofit organization that seeks to foster an ethical marketplace where buyers and sellers can trust each other. The organization provides free and accessible educational information and expert advice to consumers and businesses alike. This past year, Mintz Levin attorney Andy Skale continued to serve as an arbitrator on multiple matters before the Better Business Bureau. He has written opinions that serve as a final judgment on a variety of these cases.

Sanergy

About 2.3 million people, or 60% of Nairobi's population, live in slums, and most have little to no access to formal sanitation services. Contact with the human waste that trickles through the slums and pollutes the water sources is a leading cause of diarrheal diseases, and the second leading cause of child mortality in the developing world. Sanergy, a for-profit social enterprise, franchises specially designed low-cost, high-quality toilets to entrepreneurs living in the slums of Nairobi who own and operate them as businesses. The waste is collected daily and converted to organic fertilizer for use by farmers, which helps combat Kenyan food security challenges. Sanergy has created more than 450 jobs in the economically depressed slum of Mukuru, franchised toilets that serve 15,000 people a day, and enabled the removal of more than 2,000 metric tons of pathogen-filled human waste from this slum in the past year. Sanergy is now expanding into a neighboring slum as demand for its sanitation services grows. In 2013, Mintz Levin attorneys including Tom Burton, Hannah Coman, and Kristin Gerber provided strategic legal advice to Sanergy's board of directors and management team, negotiated several significant grant and research agreements, and drafted important governance policies, including a child protection policy and a whistleblower policy, for this growing organization.

Self Help Africa

For almost 30 years Self Help Africa has worked with rural communities to help them improve their farms and their livelihoods. The mission of the organization is to empower rural African communities where close to 75% of the population relies on small-scale agriculture to achieve economic independence. Self Help Africa focuses on tackling the challenges faced by rural farming communities to generate real and sustained economic progress. Specifically, Self Help Africa works with local staff and partners in nine countries, supporting communities to grow more food, diversify their farm production, develop new off-farm enterprises, and sell their surpluses. The organization supports rural

micro-finance programs, assists producers to organize into farmers' associations and cooperatives, and enables farm families to access markets and add value to their produce. Under the leadership of attorney Ben Hincks, Mintz Levin has played a major role in the success of Self Help Africa by providing corporate legal advice on a variety of matters, including taxes and employment.

Sports Legacy Institute

The Sports Legacy Institute (SLI) is dedicated to advancing the study, treatment, and prevention of the effects of brain trauma in athletes and other at-risk groups, including members of the military. Through its efforts, SLI aims to keep athletes safe and promote awareness of the risks of concussions. Mintz Levin and the Sports Legacy Institute have worked together as the organization has grown and widely increased awareness of concussion risks. Attorneys Joe DiCioccio, Brian Dunphy, Anthony Hubbard, Cynthia Larose, Kate Stewart, and Steve Weiner, along with former Mintz Levin attorneys Quincy Ewell and Geri Haight and paralegal manager Anne Leland, have provided the Sports Legacy Institute with guidance and advice on a range of health law, corporate, contract, and intellectual property issues.

Strike 3 Foundation

The Strike 3 Foundation is a charitable agency that heightens awareness, mobilizes support, and raises funding for childhood cancer research. The agency was founded in 2008 by Red Sox pitcher Craig Breslow. At age 14, Craig's sister was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. More than 15 years later, she lives an unrestricted life as a cancer survivor. Unequivocally, this success story is attributed to continued advancements in pediatric oncology treatment and research funded largely through generous donations and charitable efforts. Mintz Levin attorneys Cynthia Larose and Julia Siripurapu assisted the Strike 3 Foundation by providing advice on privacy issues in connection with an online initiative requiring the collection of information from children.

Surviving in Numbers

Surviving in Numbers is a sexual assault and domestic violence awareness and prevention project. The organization was founded by Alison Safran, who launched the project after she was sexually assaulted. Although Alison contacted police and went through the legal process, she did not feel justice had been served. As a result, Alison reached out to multiple colleges and other organizations throughout the country, partnering with them to develop Surviving in Numbers to help prevent cases of sexual assault and domestic violence. Since the organization's inception in October 2012, Mintz Levin has incorporated the organization as a nonprofit, and Mintz Levin attorneys Meryl Epstein, Kristin Gerber, Cynthia Larose, Julia Siripurapu, and Susan Weller, along with former Mintz Levin attorney Tavis Morello, paralegal manager Anne Leland, and summer associate Kaoru Suzuki, now an associate at the firm, worked with Surviving in Numbers on corporate governance, nonprofit, intellectual property, privacy, and contract matters.

Team IMPACT

Team IMPACT is a nonprofit that was chartered to improve the quality of life for children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses. At its core, the organization harnesses the power of teamwork by matching children with college athletic teams and, to the greatest extent possible, become official members of the teams for the duration of their treatment and beyond. Mintz Levin has assisted Team IMPACT since its inception, providing advice related to corporate structure, reviewing leases used in the course of the organization's mission, and assisting in the hiring of a new executive director, among other projects. This past year, attorneys Scott Ford and Anthony Hubbard and former Mintz Levin attorney Martha Zackin helped resolve a contract dispute, facilitated a search for a new director for the organization, and reworked Team IMPACT's bylaws.

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

When charges were dropped against former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier for financial crimes and crimes against humanity in Haiti, the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti did not give up. The Boston-based nonprofit, founded and led by former Mintz Levin attorney Brian Concannon Jr., and the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux went back to work.

"After the judge dismissed the charges against Duvalier in February 2012, we fought back through an appeal and the [political violence] charges against him were reinstated in February 2014," says Brian, who back in 2011 worked with an international team of organizations and law firms including Mintz Levin to help bring the former dictator to justice. "We used the examination questions written by Mintz Levin, and the research underlying them, to prepare the case for this successful appeal."

The Mintz Levin team included attorneys Nick Cramb, Yalonda Howze, and Martha Koster, and more recently, attorney Emily Kanstroem and summer associate Julia Lindsey. "The people in Haiti have been denied justice for so long," says Martha. "Being able to play a role in the possible reversal of that injustice is a primary reason that we do this pro bono work: to make things better for deserving people."

Haiti, under Duvalier's rule, and his father's before him, was a place where citizens were arrested for their political ideas. Those who were arrested either went missing, were confirmed executed, or were tortured. Their dictatorship lasted nearly 30 years.

Duvalier also embezzled public money, leaving the country lacking the funds for infrastructure projects to provide clean water and basic sanitation to its cities. The government's lack of respect for the rule of law also extended to unenforced building and zoning codes, which, along with the lack of sanitation and clean water, left the Haitian people vulnerable to catastrophe in the 2010 earthquake and disease afterward.

The world recently learned that Duvalier has passed away. Although the future of the case is now uncertain, the legal work has established that there is no statute of limitations when it comes to pursuing crimes against humanity.

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening relationships between patients and caregivers with the goal of promoting compassionate care. The center was established through the vision of Ken Schwartz, a former Mintz Levin attorney who, while battling cancer, recognized how the human kindness he received from his caregivers made his plight a little more bearable.

Since helping to start the organization many years ago, Mintz Levin has played a major role in the success of the Schwartz Center. Mintz Levin attorney Steve Weiner serves as the organization's general counsel, and attorneys Peter Biagetti and Tony Starr serve on the board. In addition, over the past two years, attorneys Stefanie Abhar, Roy Albert, Dianne Bourque, Sue Finegan, Elissa Flynn-Poppey, Kim Gold, Bethany Hickey, Sarah Hogan, Rachel Irving, Samantha Kingsbury, Christine Wahr, and Susan Neuberger Weller as well as former Mintz Levin attorney Quincy Ewell and legal specialist Jacobo Dib have lent additional pro bono support. The Mintz Levin team has helped the organization write and update its bylaws, address governance concerns, draft and review contracts, and handle intellectual property, trademark, and government relations issues.

Veterans Association of North County

Veterans Association of North County, located in Oceanside, California, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by a group of dedicated veterans to provide support and resources to empower other veterans, members of the military, and their families. The association is an umbrella organization that represents more than 30 veteran organizations spanning all branches of military service and encompassing all generations, from active duty through retirees. The mission is to serve as a one-stop resource center for all veterans and military, centralizing the services of diverse agencies to assist with jobs, education, finances, health and wellness, and family issues.

Mintz Levin assisted the Veterans Association of North County and another nonprofit, Interfaith Community Services, to structure a contribution and license agreement permitting Interfaith Community Services to provide faith-based family counseling at the Veterans Association of North County's Oceanside facility. This faith-based family counseling would complement the association's social service programs, including employment assistance, continuing educational support, financial counseling and services, and health and wellness counseling. However, the association's lease with the city of Oceanside would not allow a sublease, so Mintz Levin attorney Scott Biel helped the association structure a relationship with Interfaith Community Services that allowed it to occupy space and provide a contribution to the association, thereby avoiding the premium on the rent that the association would have paid for the space to provide the counseling. As a result of the transaction, the Veterans Association of North County received funds to increase the scope of its services.

Volunteer Lawyers Project: Chapter 7 Initiative

The Volunteer Lawyers Project was established to provide legal representation in civil matters to the indigent of Boston, primarily through the pro bono services of private attorneys and paralegals. It is among the oldest organized pro bono efforts in the country. Mintz Levin works with the Volunteer Lawyers Project to provide pro bono representation to clients seeking consumer debt relief through Chapter 7 bankruptcy. A large team of Mintz Levin attorneys, summer associates, and legal specialists, led by attorney Adrienne Walker, with the help of attorneys Eric Blythe and Kevin Walsh, have helped lead numerous low-income clients toward financial independence.



Pro Bono Committee

Peter Biagetti	Narges Kakalia
Jeff Davis	Muriel Liberto
John Delehanty	Nada Shamonki
Sue Finegan (Chair)	Colin Van Dyke
Hope Foster	Katy Ward
Michelle Gillette	Steve Weiner
Helen Guyton	Alec Zadek
Alison Haile	
Anthony Hubbard	Ex-Officio Member: John Regier

We particularly want to recognize **John Markey**, long-time Chairman of the Pro Bono Committee; those committee members whose terms ended in the past year; and assistants **Marie Jezequel** and **Emily Paone**, project analysts **Candice Porter**, **Kristen Chapman**, and **Dana Lindberg**, and former Mintz Levin project analysts **Emma Nitzberg**, **Kyle Crawford**, and **Devon Cain** for their assistance with the administration of the pro bono program.

Service on Nonprofit Boards of Directors

In 2013, hundreds of Mintz Levin attorneys and staff members volunteered their time by serving on the boards of directors of nonprofit organizations in their communities.

To view a list of these board members and the organizations they served, please visit the Community Service page on our website at www.mintz.com/community-service-volunteers



Above and Beyond *Award Winners*

Mintz Levin was selected for the **National Legal Aid and Defender Association 2014 Beacon of Justice Award**, which honors law firms that have created and implemented innovative strategies to improve life outcomes for those unable to afford counsel.

Jane Doe Inc. recognized Mintz Levin and attorneys Peter Biagetti and Sue Finegan with the inaugural **Kelly Timilty Advocate for Justice Award**. Jane Doe Inc. honors those who have made a significant impact on improving the lives of victims and survivors of domestic violence.

The **Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court** named Mintz Levin as part of its **Supreme Judicial Court Honor Roll** for the firm's 2012 pro bono hours and pro bono policies.

The **Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (PAIR)** recognized attorney Sue Finegan and former Mintz Levin attorneys John Koss and Jamie Arterton, and ML Strategies manager and former Mintz Levin project analyst Amarynth Sichel, with its **Outstanding Achievement Award** for their tremendous effort on a political asylum case for a Guatemalan massacre survivor, Oscar Ramírez Castañeda. Read Oscar's story on page 5.

The **National Association of Attorneys General** awarded attorney Francis Bellotti with the **President's Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his lifelong service and commitment to the attorneys general community.

The **United States Bankruptcy Court** named attorneys Eric Blythe, Richard Mikels, Adrienne Walker, and Kevin Walsh as well as former Mintz Levin attorney Ella Shenhav as members of its **2012 Pro Bono Honor Roll**.

Massachusetts Weekly named attorney Maryann Civitello among its **Top Women of Law** in recognition of Maryann's formidable legal skills, demonstrated every day in her outstanding real estate representation, and her exceptional dedication to community service, including most especially her leadership of the Elizabeth Stone House.

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly named attorney Susan Cohen as part of its **Circle of Excellence**, which recognizes women who are two-time honorees of the "Top Women of Law" award and who continue to exemplify professional, civic, and mentoring achievements, year in and year out, in the Massachusetts legal community.

The **International Bar Association** awarded attorney Sue Finegan the prestigious **2013 International Bar Association Pro Bono Award**, given to one individual whose legal career has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to pro bono work and whose efforts have made a substantial impact.

The **Women's Bar Foundation** awarded attorney Sue Finegan the **Lelia J. Robinson Award** for capturing the spirit of Lelia J. Robinson, the first woman admitted to practice in Massachusetts. The award recognizes women who have captured the spirit of pioneering in the legal profession, served as mentors and role models, or made a difference in the community while exemplifying professional excellence.

Mintz Levin and attorney Kim Gold received recognition by the **New York State Courts Access to Justice Program** for the firm's commitment and Kim's leadership in promoting access to justice.

The **Women's Bar Association** named attorney Kanasha Herbert among a group of rising stars who will participate in the organization's **Women's Leadership Initiative**, a program that brings senior women attorneys and up-and-coming stars of the legal profession together for mentoring and leadership development.

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and **Massachusetts Bar Association** honored Kanasha Herbert with a **2014 Up & Coming Lawyer** award. The award recognizes attorneys that have been members of the bar for 10 years or less, have distinguished themselves in practice and the community, and "appear poised for even greater accomplishments."

The **Boston Business Journal** named Mintz Levin Chairman Bob Popeo among its **Power 50: Most Influential Bostonians**, a list of heavy hitters comprised of "the ones getting things done and leading change in the Boston economy."

Aaron Tidman was selected as **City Year's Washington, DC Idealist of the Year (2014)** for his dedication to LGBT rights, domestic violence cases, and other human rights. The award recognizes volunteers in the corporate world who embody the spirit of idealism and have shown a commitment to improving the Washington, DC region.

The **National LGBT Bar Association** included attorney Aaron Tidman on its list of **Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Class – 2013**, recognizing outstanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender professionals under the age of 40 who have distinguished themselves in their fields and demonstrated a profound commitment to LGBT equality.

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and **Massachusetts Bar Association** honored Katy Ward for her commitment to pro bono by selecting her for their **2014 Excellence in Pro Bono Award**.

The **Boston Bar Association** selected attorney Katy Ward for its **2014 Public Interest Leadership Program**, a highly selective program that promotes civic engagement and public service by advancing the leadership role of lawyers of service to their community.

The **National Association of Health Services Executives** honored Stephanie Willis for her dedication and work in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Stephanie Willis was selected as **City Year's Washington, DC Idealist of the Year (2013)** for embodying the spirit of idealism in her community through her dedication to pro bono work. The award recognizes volunteers in corporate organizations that show a commitment to improving the Washington, DC region.

The **Boston Bar Association** selected attorney Alec Zadek for its **2013 Public Interest Leadership Program**. The program is extremely competitive and selects attorneys that have demonstrated a dedication and commitment to public service.

At the firm's annual pro bono reception, Mintz Levin presented former Mintz Levin attorney Ella Shenhav with the **2013 Richard Mintz Pro Bono Award** in recognition of her leadership in pro bono, working with clients on immigration, domestic violence, and bankruptcy cases.

At the firm's annual pro bono reception, Mintz Levin presented attorney Alec Zadek with the **2014 Richard Mintz Pro Bono Award** for his tireless advocacy on behalf of domestic violence and trafficking victims.

At the firm's annual pro bono reception, Mintz Levin presented attorney Ken Novack with the **2014 Lifetime Achievement Award** for his vision and leadership in focusing the firm's pro bono and community service efforts on domestic violence.

At the firm's annual pro bono reception, Mintz Levin presented the **San Diego Office** with the **2014 Special Recognition Award** for developing and sustaining a vibrant Domestic Violence Project supporting domestic violence victims in the trial and appellate courts.

2013 Pro Bono Participants

Darren Abernethy · Mary Adams · Nancy Adams · Kevin Ainsworth · Ani Ajemian · Roy Albert · David Alin · P. Anthony Arias
Nicholas Armington · Michael Arnold · Jamison Arterton · George Atanasov · Avisheh Avini · Christine Baker · Brandon Barker
David Barmak · Brian Bartlett · Christine Bazzinotti · Ingrid Beattie · Katharine Beattie · Eoin Beirne · Nicholas Bentley · Peter Biagetti
Alden Bianchi · Scott Biel · Evan Bienstock · Jehanne Bjornebye · Travis Blais · Daniel Bleck · Richard Block · Joseph Blute · Eric Blythe
Thomas Boisvert · Walter Boldys · Dianne Bourque · Michael Brown · Erin Brummer · Erin Bruynell · Robert Buchholz · Mahiri Buffong
Jessica Bumpous · Elizabeth Burnett · Thomas Burton · Allan Caggiano · Devon Cain · Jacquelyn Cannata · Megan Capasso
Susan Carlson · Amanda Carozza · Keith Carroll · Jessica Catlow · Philip Chang · Kristen Chapman · Peter Chavkin · Ralph Child
Esther Cho · Nancy Chow · Maryann Civitello · Carol Cleary · Adam Coffin · William Coffman · Bret Cohen · Susan Cohen · Stephen Cole
Jillian Collins · Hannah Coman · Michael Connolly · Ernest Cooper · Julie Cox · Nicholas Cramb · Thomas Crane · Sara Crasson
Kyle Crawford · Julian Crump · Stephen Curley · Joseph Curtin · Deborah Daccord · Kathryn Dahlen · Micha Danzig · Adrienne Darrow
Samuel Davenport · Jesse David · Jeffry Davis · William Davis · Andrew Dean · Robert Delahunt · John Delehanty · John Dellapa
Peter Demuth · Andrew DeVoogd · Daniel DeWolf · Rajdeep Dhaliwal · Nishant Dharia · Rebecca Diamond · Jacobo Dib
Joseph DiCioccio · Christophe Difo · Amanda Duke · Joseph Dunn · Brian Dunphy · Katherine Durham · Eric Eastham · Meryl Epstein
Raymond Estes · C. Quincy Ewell · Ann Fievet · Gregory Fine · Susan Finegan · Elissa Flynn-Poppey · Daniel Follansbee · Scott Ford
Russell Fox · Camille Framroze · Michele Frangella · Christina Frangos · Eric Freeman · Kelly Frey · Jennifer Friedman · Louis Froelich
Adam Gale · Ramon Galiana · Caroline Gammill · Steve Ganis · Kenneth Gantz · Michael Gardener · Megan Gates · Robert Gault
Jason Georgitis · Kristin Gerber · Laurie Gerner · Richard Gervase · Rachel Gholston · Stefanie Giuliano Abhar · Lisa Glahn
Jeremy Glaser · Alison Glover · Kimberly Gold · Jerome Gotkin · Kelly Graf · Laura Graham · Sean Grammel · Elizabeth Greenberg
Thomas Greene · Stephen Gulotta · Helen Gerostathos Guyton · Geri Haight · Alison Haile · Nathan Hamler · Douglas Hauer
Irwin Heller · Kanasha Herbert · Daniel Herling · Caitlin Hill · William Hill · Benjamin Hincks · Sarah Hogan · Ann-Ellen Hornidge
Erin Cornell Horton · Yalonda Howze · Anthony Hubbard · Matthew Hurley · Marie Jezequel · Paul Johns · Kevin Johnson
Narges Kakalia · Emily Kanstroom · Eleanor Kapustin · Matthew Karambelas · David Katz · Susan Kealy · Thomas Kelly · Jennifer Kiely

Alice Kilpatrick · Samantha Kingsbury · Maryanne Kline · John Koss · Martha Koster · Jonathan Kravetz · Angela Kung · Elizabeth Kurpis
David Lagasse · Cynthia Larose · Wynter Lavier · Heidi Lawson · Travis Leach · Meredith Leary · Lelia Ledain · Michelle Leinbach
Anne Leland · Jazmin Leon · Lindsay Leone · Breton Leone-Quick · Matthew Levitt · Muriel Liberto · Michael Lieberman
Danielle Lifrieri · Joseph Lipchitz · Daniel Long · Ana Lopez · Marty Lorenzo · Mary Lovejoy · Karen Lovitch · Sarah Lowe · Amy Lu
Tony Ly · Ann Maas · Amy Malone · Kim Marrkand · Jennifer Mather McCarthy · H. Andrew Matzkin · Peter McCarthy
Nathan McConarty · James McKnight · John "Terry" McMahon III · Colin McNiece · Jessica Mendoza · Richard Mikels · Peter Miller
Tracy Miner · Alexandra Mishkin · Jeffrey Moerdler · Mary Lee Moore · Patricia Moran · Tavis Morello · Michelle Morgan · Evan Nadel
Justin Nahama · Andrew Nathanson · Kenneth Nee · Mark Nemes · Susan Neuberger Weller · Michael Newman · Andowah Newton
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Alex Peters · Aquayah Peters · Christopher Pfefferle · Susan Phillips · A. W. "Chip" Phinney · Rachel Irving Pitts · R. Robert Popeo
Candice Porter · Jeffrey Porter · Caroline Puckowski · Cassie Ramos · Sophie Rand · Joan Raulston · John Regier · Amalia Reiss
Paul Ricotta · Jeffrey Robbins · Eddie Rodriguez · Bridget Rohde · Carrie Roll · Kara Romagnino · Jake Romero · Robert Rosen
Todd Rosenbaum · Andrew Roth · Joel Rothman · Jennifer Rubin · Melanie Ruthrauff · Jennifer Sacco Smith · Harvey Saferstein
Gilbert Samberg · Gregory Sandomirsky · Enrique Santiago · James Sasso · Jack Schecter · Gabriel Schnitzler · Laurence Schoen
Donald Schroeder · John Sefick · Jessica Sergi · Nyisha Shakur · Nada Shamonki · Ella Shenhav · Robert Sheridan · Sarah Sherman
Farrah Short · Amarynth Sichel · Benjamin Sigel · Julia Siripurapu · Adam Sisitsky · Andrew Skale · Maxwell Solet · Shoshana Speiser
Samuel "Tony" Starr · Nancy Sterling · Ari Stern · Kate Stewart · Jennifer Sulla · Kenneth Sullivan · Marbree Sullivan · Sahir Surmeli
Kaoru Suzuki · Dayan Tabares · Lori Tarpinian · Reena Thadhani · Tyrone Thomas · Aaron Tidman · Tali Tuchin · Jonathan Ursprung
Paula Valencia-Galbraith · Colin Van Dyke · Manuel Vazquez · Adam Veness · Matthew Vittiglio · Ben Wagner · Christine Wahr
Adrienne Walker · Ellen Walsh · Kevin Walsh · Lucy Walsh · Mary Walsh · Katy Ward · McKenzie Webster · Stephen Weiner
Rachel Weisblatt · Allison Whitmore · Brandon Willenberg · Amy Williams · Stephanie Willis · Adisty Wilson · Daniel Woolfer
Stephen Wright · Hang Mui Yau · Nili Yolin · Martha Zackin · Alec Zadek · Rebecca Zeidel

Information contained herein may be considered attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Looking Forward

When obstacles, unexpected turns, and fatigue slow us down and prevent us from getting where we'd like or need to be, we call on whatever resources we can to help us keep going. Some have a rich network of relationships and assets for support, but most of our pro bono clients are not so fortunate. Be it faith, hope, grit, or courage, there is something essential that they summon to keep moving, even when pushed to their limits.

The strength and graceful persistence demonstrated by so many of our clients, as illustrated by their stories in this book, inspire us all. Sometimes it isn't what our clients need that encourages us to continue our work, but what they have already managed to achieve, and how they continue to amaze us.

For more information about our pro bono efforts, please contact

Sue Finegan

Chair of Mintz Levin's Pro Bono Committee

SFinegan@mintz.com





Boston | London | Los Angeles | New York | San Diego | San Francisco | Stamford | Washington

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