

# 2013 PRO BONO ACHIEVEMENTS



Kirkland is committed to providing legal services without charge to those who cannot afford counsel, with the goals of improving lives, bettering communities and deepening our own professional experience.

At Kirkland & Ellis, pro bono isn't just a professional priority — it's a passion. Our legal professionals continually demonstrate their dedication to providing counsel and representation to everyone who needs it and not just to those who can afford it.

In 2013, Kirkland's commitment was more evident than ever before. The Firm set an all-time high pro bono program participation rate, with 67.7 percent of attorneys performing at least 20 hours each of pro bono work. This reflects a 14 percent increase over the previous year's record participation rate of 59 percent. On average, Kirkland attorneys devoted more than 80 hours each to pro bono work, a 13 percent jump from 2012.

As we continue to nourish and grow important partnerships with legal services organizations and other institutions providing pro bono assistance, we invite you to join us in our commitment. We are eager to continue exploring ways we can work together on compelling pro bono projects.

On behalf of our Global Management Executive Committee, I thank our legal professionals, clients, legal services organizations and partners for their 2013 pro bono contributions. Together, we are effecting meaningful change and providing valuable help to those who need it most.



Jeffrey C. Hammes, P.C.  
Chairman, Global Management Executive Committee

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Kirkland's total pro bono hours  
climbed 14 percent from 2012 to

**113,629 hours**

# LGBT RIGHTS

**6,647  
hours**

**dedicated to LGBT-  
related pro bono  
matters in 2013**



Kirkland partner Jordan Heinz stands with plaintiffs Mercedes Santos and Theresa Volpe, and Erik Roldan and Chris Clark of Lambda Legal.

**As he watched Mercedes Santos and Theresa Volpe become the first same-sex couple to get married in Illinois after a landmark court ruling in February 2014, intellectual property partner Jordan Heinz remembered a moment five years earlier.**

He was interviewing them as potential plaintiffs for a state constitutional challenge of same-sex marriage. He asked each of them what they meant to one another, as lawyers were asking all of the potential couples.

“The strength of their relationship was just palpable,” Heinz recalled. “Tears were rolling down their faces as each described the love she had for the other person. It was that kind of intensity of emotion we were looking for ... To watch them finally get married five years later was really quite special.”

The ceremony that formally brought together Ms. Santos and Ms. Volpe was the end of a multiyear pro bono journey. They were one of 16 same-sex couples that Kirkland, along with Lambda Legal, represented in Illinois state court in a lawsuit filed in May 2012 against the Cook County Clerk. They argued that the ban on same-sex marriage was a violation of the Illinois Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection and due process.

The Firm litigated the state case for 18 months with a team led by Heinz and fellow partners Emily Nicklin and Amy Crawford. That

case became moot when the Illinois General Assembly passed a marriage equality bill, and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed it into law in November 2013. However, because of state procedural rules, same-sex marriages could not start until June 1, 2014.

For some same-sex couples in which one of the partners was terminally ill, that wait would have been too long.

As a result, the Firm and Lambda Legal immediately filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of a class of all same-sex couples in Illinois who wished to marry and a subclass of couples who likely could not wait until June to marry due to a terminal illness. The suit sought a declaration that Illinois' marriage ban was unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and a temporary restraining order (TRO) on behalf of the subclass of ill couples.

The court granted the TRO, and Kirkland moved for summary judgment on behalf of the broader class of all same-sex couples. On February 21, 2014, the court granted Kirkland's motion for summary judgment, noting the question before it had become "why should we wait" for all gay and lesbian couples that want to marry. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: the time is always ripe to do right."

"Kirkland never hesitated to jump in and co-counsel with us on three separate lawsuits seeking equality for same-sex couples," said Camilla Taylor, counsel and National Marriage Project director at Lambda Legal. "We couldn't be more grateful for the consistent, zealous and brilliant work of the Firm's lawyers."

**"Our partnership with Kirkland was directly responsible for our success in our fight in the courts for the freedom to marry in Illinois."**

CAMILLA TAYLOR, counsel and National Marriage Project director at Lambda Legal

Same-sex couples began applying for marriage licenses within hours of the ruling, and 80 received them within a few days. For Ms. Volpe and Ms. Santos, a Cook County judge waived the normal 24-hour waiting period to wed. Flanked by their daughter and son, the couple married immediately.

"For me, watching their ceremony provided great closure in terms of the long battle this has been," said Heinz, who also led Kirkland's federal litigation team. "And this is what we were fighting for the entire time, which was really cool to see.

"They said, 'Thanks for never stopping the fight.'"

## AWARD

### **National Center for Lesbian Rights Community Partner Award**

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) honored Kirkland with a Community Partner Award during its 36th Anniversary Celebration. The award recognized Kirkland's efforts as pro bono counsel for a variety of NCLR matters, including several significant lawsuits. Founded in 1977, the NCLR advances the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy and public education.

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# CLIENT PARTNERSHIPS

## The hundreds of child support matters that wind their way through Kings County Family Court in Brooklyn, New York, had some unique observers in the summer of 2013.

Three dozen law students, who were summer associates in the New York offices of the 15 firms in the Pfizer Legal Alliance (PLA), sat in the back of the cramped courtrooms with clipboards and spreadsheets. They noted whether the magistrate explained the complicated courtroom process and rulings in terms that a layperson could understand or lost composure with the self-represented litigants.

Afterward, the summer associates, including six from Kirkland, asked self-represented litigants to complete brief surveys to gauge whether they felt the proceeding was fair and if they understood what happened in the courtroom.

“I was surprised by the fact that many of the proceedings were procedurally complicated and difficult to follow, even for a rising third-year law student,” said Firm summer associate Sara Winik, a student at the University of Michigan Law School.

Over the course of eight weeks, Kirkland’s summer associates — supervised by intellectual property partner Jeannie Heffernan and corporate associate Adrian Smith — donated more than 150 pro bono hours as part of this joint research effort between the National Center for Access to Justice (NCAJ) and the PLA. The Firm submitted the summer associates’ completed magistrate evaluations and litigant surveys to Deloitte LLP, which analyzed the data for NCAJ’s Access to Justice Index

([www.justiceindex.org](http://www.justiceindex.org)). NCAJ is a nonprofit housed at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and dedicated to achieving reform that helps people obtain justice from the courts.

The Justice Index is an online, comparative measure of state courts across the country in four areas: the number of civil legal aid attorneys serving the poor, systems available to assist self-represented litigants, systems available to assist those who speak limited English and systems available to assist people with disabilities.

“Every year, the Firm offers a number of opportunities to summer associates to become involved in pro bono work.”

JEANNIE HEFFERNAN, Kirkland & Ellis intellectual property partner

When the PLA’s Pro Bono Committee asked its partner law firms to volunteer and train its summer associates as court observers, Heffernan said Kirkland’s decision to participate was a “no-brainer.”

“Every year, the Firm offers a number of opportunities to summer associates to become involved in pro bono work so that they see it as an ordinary part of their practices,” said Heffernan. “In terms of going to court, interacting with litigants and judges, all of Kirkland’s summer associates had high praise for the program and really thought it was worthwhile.”

*The National Law Journal* profiled this pro bono project in July 2013.

“It would be great to see the work we did and the time that litigants gave to take our survey materialize into actual changes that will help improve the litigants’ experience,” Winik said.

A separate Kirkland team of three attorneys provided additional research for the Justice Index. They investigated whether individual states prohibit charging deaf or hearing-impaired people for sign language or other interpretation services.

## LEADING THE WAY IN KENYA

As part of the Pfizer Legal Alliance and its “L.E.A.D.” — Lead, Engage, Advance and Develop — program for associates at alliance firms, Kirkland intellectual property associate Ferlillia V. Roberson traveled to Kenya for three weeks in August 2013 for a pro bono training program with Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB). She joined Judge Ann Claire Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, several other federal judges and National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) instructors to provide trial advocacy and litigation training to more than 100 Kenyan attorneys and magistrate judges.

The Judiciary of Kenya, formed by a new constitution passed in 2010, is similar to the adversarial U.S. legal system. LWOB used a



Kirkland associate Ferlillia V. Roberson (center) stands with Summer Austin Davis of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings; Judge Donald Graham of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida; Chief Judge Gregory Sleet of the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware; and Shayon Smith of Goodell, DeVries, Leech and Dann.

customized adaptation of the NITA-style “learning-by-doing” method, leading participants through a full mock trial.

“The trip was an amazing, life-changing experience,” Roberson said. “To see how the Kenyan legal system has evolved was educational and empowering, and the program was also an opportunity to enhance my own skills as a trial attorney.”

## AWARD

### Urban Justice Center Community Justice Award

The Urban Justice Center (UJC) recognized Kirkland for its pro bono work on behalf of the UJC and its clients. The UJC serves New York City’s most vulnerable residents through a combination of direct legal service, systemic advocacy, community education and political organizing.

## FELLOWSHIPS

### Equal Justice Works Fellowships

In 2013, Kirkland co-sponsored three Equal Justice Works Fellowships with clients Medtronic in Minnesota, Avis Budget Group in New York and Aon in Chicago. In Chicago, Fellow Karla Altmayer works at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago on the Agricultural Women’s Advocacy Project, and Fellow Aimee Rodriguez works at Equip for Equality, representing Cook County Juvenile

Court diverted youth with disabilities to address their educational needs to prevent school exclusion, increase academic achievement and decrease recidivism. New York Fellow Colleen Manwell works at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, providing representation for women and children with psychiatric disabilities to combat the collateral consequences faced as a result of contact with the criminal justice system.

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# AFFORDABLE HOUSING



The purchase of a suburban apartment complex for a few million dollars rarely makes *The Wall Street Journal*, let alone gets featured as a “Deal of the Week.”

But that’s what happened in April 2013, when the paper highlighted a new joint venture and Kirkland’s pro bono work representing the Housing Partnership Network (HPN), a collaboration of 12 housing and community

development nonprofit organizations, to form Housing Partnership Equity Trust REIT I, LLC (HPET).

HPET is a private, social-purpose real estate investment trust (REIT) — the only REIT owned and operated by nonprofit organizations — that acquires apartment buildings across the United States, mainly in communities where rising real estate values have prompted landlords to convert low-income housing into luxury dwellings.

The 12 nonprofit members own equity stakes in the REIT and acquire and redevelop existing multifamily properties as affordable rentals. They also take small stakes in the acquired buildings that they operate and manage.

Since 2012, HPET has raised more than \$100 million in equity and debt from private-sector investors, including Citigroup Inc., Prudential Financial, Inc., the Ford Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Several of the housing nonprofits first came to Kirkland in 2011 for legal help on structuring.

“We did a lot of what we would do for any typical real estate private equity fund,” said tax partner Tom Geraghty, who worked on the Firm’s pro bono team with private funds partner Kelly Ryan and debt finance partners Samantha Good and Fred Lim.

As described in *The Wall Street Journal*, HPET's Kirkland-devised REIT structure, which is exempt from corporate taxes as long as it distributes all of its taxable income each year as dividends, "gives it access to low-cost capital and the financial ammunition to compete with deep-pocketed investors who are increasingly looking for older buildings to buy, fix up and charge higher rents."

HPET's first acquisition, a 128-unit apartment building serving a working-class section of Aurora, Illinois, sold for \$5.2 million in a joint venture with Mercy Housing Lakefront (MHL), one of HPN's member organizations.

"We're losing affordable units like crazy," Cindy Holler, president of MHL, told *The Wall Street Journal*. "We were only able to get this property because of this REIT structure."

Typically, multifamily affordable housing transactions depend on project-specific subsidies and investments from tax credit and subsidy programs at the local, state and federal levels, and negotiating project-based financing agreements with multiple private financial institutions and investors. This approach makes it difficult to acquire properties quickly, manage operations, raise capital and fuel growth.

"We're losing affordable units like crazy ...  
We were only able to get this property because  
of this REIT structure."

CINDY HOLLER, president of MHL

MHL closed on the Aurora property in three months instead of the two years it typically takes to raise project financing through nonprofit channels.

HPET has completed two more acquisitions in California and Virginia and plans to raise \$500 million to acquire, renovate and operate more than 7,000 affordable housing units nationwide.

"It's great for HPN to use the legal services we provide to corporate clients to buy and renovate all these affordable housing units that it otherwise would not have been able to purchase," Geraghty said.

## AWARD

### Lawyers Alliance for New York Cornerstone Award

Lawyers Alliance for New York presented Kirkland with a 2013 Cornerstone Award, New York's highest business law pro bono honor. The Cornerstone Awards recognize outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofit groups that improve the quality of life for low-income New Yorkers. Kirkland attorneys have volunteered with Lawyers Alliance since 2003, providing pro bono legal assistance to 40 of the organization's nonprofit clients.

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# IMMIGRATION

**When a comprehensive immigration reform bill reached the floor of the U.S. Senate in mid-2013, Kirkland's pro bono work was instrumental in informing the debate.**

Working with the National Immigration Forum (NIF), Firm attorneys provided ongoing, real-time analysis of the numerous amendments to Senate Bill 744, titled "Border Security, Economic Opportunity and the Immigration Modernization Act." Founded in 1982, NIF is among the country's premier nonprofit organizations working to achieve federal immigration solutions through policy expertise, communications outreach and coalition-building work.

In his first year at Kirkland, Palo Alto corporate associate Federico Baradello collaborated with a Washington, D.C., partner and expanded the analysis for NIF into a Firmwide pro bono project involving 58 associates and summer associates, 16 partners, and more than a dozen legal and case assistants. They formed teams of attorneys in six of Kirkland's U.S. offices, each led by a reviewing partner.

Debate on the Senate floor began on June 7, 2013. During the next two weeks, Firm attorneys provided NIF with close to 200 amendment analyses, typically turning them around within 24 hours. The summaries were instrumental in helping NIF to provide vote recommendations to senators and to educate and inform myriad constituencies.

"The project was a phenomenal experience and an opportunity to collaborate across the Firm on a critical, high-impact issue," Baradello said.

Kirkland later learned that the amendment analyses were of such high quality that NIF was receiving calls from immigration advocacy organizations and Senate offices eager to see them.

Baradello said it was "gratifying and rewarding" to learn that the Firm's work was reaching a wider audience. "It really makes you recognize that the work you do has an impact."

**"The project was a phenomenal experience and an opportunity to collaborate across the Firm on an important, high-impact issue."**

FEDERICO BARADELLO, Kirkland & Ellis corporate associate

The timing of the Senate debate turned out to be serendipitous with an event hosted in the Firm's Washington office. Through a contact that Baradello had at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from his time as a political science Ph.D. candidate, the Firm invited and hosted then-DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano for a roundtable discussion on June 21, 2013, with U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) and 20 top executives from companies including 3M, Bank of America, Boeing, Citigroup, Franklin Square Group, General Electric, Honeywell, Intel, Medtronic, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Raytheon, SAIC, Siemens, Textron and UBS.



Former DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano participated in a roundtable discussion that Kirkland hosted in June 2013.

Participants discussed skilled worker visas, particularly how the skilled worker visa program would change based on the Senate immigration bill, and cyber security. Secretary Napolitano recognized Kirkland's pro bono work in providing the amendment analyses to NIF.

Less than a week after the event, the immigration bill passed the Democrat-controlled Senate on June 27, 2013. It awaits action in the House, where because of the Hastert Rule, Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will not allow a floor vote of the legislation without the majority support of the Republican caucus.

"This issue affects some of the most vulnerable members of society and is a key component to unleashing our country's economic potential," said Baradello. "I'm glad Kirkland is able to play a role in moving this forward. I hope, though, that it does not become a hollow effort because of the House's failure to act."

## KIRKLAND HELPS AMEND AND REAUTHORIZE VAWA

Kirkland, on behalf of Legal Momentum and the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, was also involved in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which became law in March 2013.

Firm lawyers spent hundreds of hours researching, drafting and negotiating proposed VAWA amendments, including the immigration provisions of the act, to ensure that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking have the legal protections and access to services they need. The new law expands VAWA to include critical protections for victims of domestic violence, including LGBT individuals, Native-American women and immigrants; it also includes amendments supporting sexual assault victims on college campuses and reauthorizes the critical Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

"It really was an inside look at legislative drafting as several Kirkland lawyers were working side-by-side with committee staff on Capitol Hill," said environmental partner Jeanne Cohn-Connor, who led the Firm's pro bono team. "It was a great opportunity to effect change on a large scale."

## FELLOWSHIP

### Kirkland & Ellis New York City Public Service Fellowships

In 1995, Kirkland pledged \$1 million to endow the Kirkland & Ellis New York City Public Service Fellowships, which provide annual fellowships to one Columbia and one New York University law student for one year of post-graduate, public service work in New York City. The 2013 recipients of the fellowship were Dahsong Kim from NYU and Sarah McCarthy from Columbia. During the 2013-2014 fellowship year, Dahsong is working with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Her project focuses on providing linguistically and culturally competent services to Asian immigrant victims of trafficking in New York City, with a focus on immigration relief. Sarah is working with The Children's Law Center in New York, where she represents adopted children who returned to Family Court because their adoption was no longer viable.

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# VETERANS' RIGHTS



## 86 veterans

assisted by Kirkland  
attorneys in 2013

Kirkland litigation partner William Burgess was looking at the website for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in early 2013 when he saw an order that Marva Sneed, a *pro se* claimant, was looking for new counsel.

"It looked like she had a sympathetic case and a real legal issue in which the Federal Circuit might be interested," Burgess said.

Mrs. Sneed's husband, Vietnam War veteran Reginald Sneed, suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, degeneration of the vertebrae, ringing in the ears and other service-related disabilities. In 2001, he fell and suffered a spinal cord contusion, rendering him a quadriplegic and confining him to a wheelchair. Mr. Sneed died in 2003 when a fire broke out in the nursing home for paralyzed veterans where he lived.

For the next eight years, Mrs. Sneed pursued a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), arguing that her husband's death was attributable to his service-connected disabilities. The VA denied the claim, and the Board of Veterans' Appeals affirmed the denial in 2011.

Mrs. Sneed attempted to retain an attorney to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, but a day before the filing deadline, the attorney told Mrs. Sneed she was not taking the case. Mrs. Sneed eventually filed a *pro se* notice of appeal late, and the veterans court dismissed her appeal in the fall of 2012, ruling attorney abandonment did not qualify her for an extension on the filing deadline.

"This had been an eight-year battle for her, and to have it end that way was upsetting," said intellectual property associate Benjamin Herbert.

The Firm contacted Mrs. Sneed and agreed to take on her appeal. Kirkland filed two briefs, and Burgess handled the oral argument before the Federal Circuit in September 2013.

"I think it made her particularly happy to read the briefs and listen to the oral argument and to feel like someone actually understood her case and told her full story to the Federal Circuit," Burgess said.

In a 2-1 precedential decision, the Federal Circuit held in December 2013 that the abrupt withdrawal by Mrs. Sneed's former attorney constituted extraordinary circumstances that justified an extension on her filing for appeal: "The hardship of default resulting from attorney abandonment is particularly difficult to bear in the context of an appeal to the Veterans Court, which is often the veteran's first opportunity to be represented by an attorney."

Herbert said Mrs. Sneed was "ecstatic" about the decision, which received favorable press coverage. Several other veterans' cases in the Federal Circuit have already cited *Sneed v. Shinseki* as precedent.

"She was tremendously grateful for the work that Kirkland did for her," Herbert said.

"I think it made her particularly happy to read the briefs and listen to the oral argument and to feel like someone actually understood her case and told her full story to the Federal Circuit."

WILLIAM BURGESS, Kirkland & Ellis litigation partner

The Federal Circuit's ruling remands Mrs. Sneed's claim back to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for a review on the merits. Through contacts developed from serving as clerks at the Federal Circuit, Burgess and Herbert found new counsel for Mrs. Sneed to continue litigating her benefits claim.

"It made me happy to help her out and get her back into court," Burgess said.

## AWARD

### American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois Edwin A. Rothschild Civil Liberties Award

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois honored Kirkland with the Edwin A. Rothschild Civil Liberties Award. The award recognizes Kirkland's pro bono work with the organization, including in *Jimmy Doe v. Cook County*, a class action challenging the conditions of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center; *Williams v. Blagojevich*, a class action on behalf of people with mental illness living in Institutions for Mental Diseases; *Lynch v. SOI*, an amicus brief urging that the Illinois Human Rights Act be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity; and *Bassett v. Snyder*, a domestic partner benefit case.

## FELLOWSHIPS

### PILI Internships

Each year, Kirkland funds internships for law students as part of its commitment to the Public Interest Law Initiative® (PILI), an organization facilitating equal access to justice. Kirkland sponsors postgraduate PILI Fellowships, in which incoming Kirkland lawyers work at legal service organizations across Chicago while studying for the bar exam and may help clients become citizens, buy homes, adopt children, secure disability benefits and gain asylum. Kirkland sponsors more PILI Fellows than any law firm in Chicago.

# LEGAL CLINICS

**The idea started as a “circle of friends,” a partnership between Kirkland and the Friendship Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.**

In Southwest Washington, where 88 percent of children live in poverty and the median household income is \$7,800, pro bono legal services did not exist until Rev. J. Michael Little, a Georgetown University Law Center graduate and the church’s senior pastor, approached Kirkland through one of his parishioners, who is a secretary at the Firm.

Starting with a donation from the Kirkland & Ellis Foundation, Kirkland of counsel Thomas Gottschalk and partner Jennifer Levy, one of the Firm’s pro bono coordinators in the Washington office, founded the nonprofit Jeremiah’s Circle of Friends (JCF) legal clinic in 2009 with Rev. Little. JCF was the first and only pro bono legal clinic in Southwest Washington, serving clients in matters involving family law, housing issues, benefits and a variety of other legal issues.

“We thought we would have a few folks trickling in every week,” Levy said. “But it turned out the need was much greater than we ever anticipated.”

Within two years, the Firm was administering and staffing more than 450 matters. In late 2012, Kirkland approached the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia — the oldest and largest general civil legal services organization in Washington — about a possible partnership to expand its presence into Southwest Washington.

“The attraction was not only Legal Aid’s infrastructure and administration, but its subject matter expertise and oversight,” Levy said.



Kirkland partner Jennifer Levy (right) signs a pledge on behalf of the Firm, which committed to donating \$125,000 a year for a minimum of five years for the Legal Aid Society to take over operations at the JCF legal clinic.

In April 2013, Kirkland announced a pledge of \$125,000 per year for a minimum of five years for the Legal Aid Society to take over the management and operation of the JCF legal clinic. Both *The Washington Post* and *Legal Times* published features on the new partnership.

“Kirkland’s multiyear commitment to Legal Aid and this project are unprecedented in our more than 80-year history,” said Executive Director Eric Angel. “This new project will enable us to make justice real for hundreds upon hundreds of additional Washington residents.”

Firm volunteers continue to staff the Legal Aid Southwest site during clinic hours on Tuesdays and Fridays, conducting initial applicant interviews. Kirkland attorneys handle the clinic's cases pro bono under Legal Aid supervision.

Approximately 270 Firm attorneys and staff donated more than 23,860 pro bono hours to JCF before Legal Aid Society opened the expanded legal service center, and since then, Kirkland has devoted thousands more hours to the clinic and matters referred from it.

Legal Aid Southwest is the first pro bono project to which Kirkland has made a multiyear financial pledge of this scale.

"You can see real, tangible effects," Levy said.

"Hundreds of low-income D.C. residents in need have come through that clinic. I'm proud of our lawyers and proud of Kirkland for committing the resources to make this project an enormous success ... It's humbling to see what great work is happening there."

The legal clinic has become a signature part of Kirkland's Washington office pro bono program, as well as a major source of legal aid in the city.

**"We thought we would have a few folks trickling in every week ... But it turned out the need was much greater than we ever anticipated."**

JENNIFER LEVY, Kirkland & Ellis litigation partner

"We have been able to expand the reach of D.C.'s oldest and largest general civil legal services organization into an underserved quadrant of D.C. where poverty is high, and hundreds of residents have benefited already," Mr. Angel said. "We have been so impressed by — and appreciative of — the deep and sustained commitment that Kirkland has to making this pro bono collaboration a resounding success."

**23,860  
hours**

**dedicated to the  
JCF clinic since its  
inception in 2009**

## AWARD

### **Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs Outstanding Achievement Award**

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs honored Kirkland with an Outstanding Achievement Award for pro bono work with the committee's Disability Rights Project. The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs was established in 1968 to provide pro bono legal services to address discrimination and entrenched poverty in the Washington, D.C., community.

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# GLOBAL OUTREACH

**300+**  
**nonprofit**  
**organizations**  
**and small**  
**businesses**

**provided with**  
**transactional advice**  
**by Kirkland attorneys**  
**in 2013**

Kirkland attorneys continue to provide pro bono legal advice to global charities — including GiveDirectly and Global H2O — that are improving the lives of people in developing countries.

## GIVEDIRECTLY

GiveDirectly describes itself as “a radical new way to give: directly.” Founded in 2008 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by a group of advanced-degree candidates in economics at Harvard and MIT, GiveDirectly aims to cut out the middleman and give money directly to poor people in need in Kenya and Uganda.

GiveDirectly allows donors to give via its [www.givedirectly.org](http://www.givedirectly.org) webpage, with donations transferred electronically to recipients’ cell phones. After that, recipients can use the money to pursue their own goals. Early data show kids were found to be less likely to go hungry, while financial investments nearly doubled among GiveDirectly recipients.

The screening process is simple and targets families living in houses with thatched roofs, typically these nations’ neediest. Grants average \$1,000 each over a nine-month period and are sent directly via SMS. In the past fiscal year, more than \$6 million was distributed, reaching more than 30,000 men, women and children in the two East African countries. As a nonprofit created by donors, GiveDirectly is focused exclusively on giving to the poorest possible households at the lowest possible cost, to the extent that some 90 percent of every donated dollar gets into the hands of the poor.

For its efforts, GiveDirectly was recently named by *Fast Company* as one of the world’s “Top Ten Most Innovative Companies in Finance.”

A New York-based Kirkland team consisting of partners Matthew Hurlock, Daniel Lavon-Krein and David Grenker and associates

Mary Mazzello and Adam Kobler has provided pro bono counseling to GiveDirectly on several recent transactional projects. The team has advised GiveDirectly with regard to compliance with anti-money laundering and solicitation laws, intellectual property protection, and advice regarding corporate governance policies and practices.

### GiveDirectly's Influence in Kenya



“What really blew me away about GiveDirectly was how profoundly sophisticated the leadership of the organization turned out to be. Not only were they deeply concerned with the plight of poor people in developing nations, but also very professional and savvy in how to accomplish their goals,” Lavon-Krein said.

### GLOBAL H2O

Similarly, a London-based Kirkland team led by partner Stephanie Biggs has helped Global H2O in achieving its goal to provide clean water to communities in developing countries through the construction of wells, rain-harvesting facilities and spring boxes. As with GiveDirectly, the nonprofit's goal is to identify where it can significantly improve lives in a short period of time with minimal expense and complexity. The Kirkland team helped Global H2O establish itself as a separate U.K. legal entity registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

## AWARD

### Law360 Pro Bono Firm of 2013

*Law360* named Kirkland as a Pro Bono Firm of 2013, citing the Firm's work on issues such as voting rights and same-sex marriage. The list recognized 20 firms that showed a continuing commitment to providing free legal work and that won notable victories for clients between June 1, 2012, and June 1, 2013.

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# ANTI-TRAFFICKING

**From comprehensive statutory review to drive legislative improvements to representation of individual victims, Kirkland lawyers around the world took up pro bono work aimed at aiding trafficking victims in 2013.**

Washington partner Jeanne Cohn-Connor and of counsel Tefft Smith led a team helping the Alliance to Rescue Victims of Trafficking in its application to become a 501(c)(3) organization providing shelter and rehabilitation services to young women who are the victims of human trafficking.

The first shelter is planned for Washington, D.C., where it will help 10 to 15 trafficked young women by providing housing and support services, including therapeutic, educational and artistic opportunities. The expectation is that the Washington shelter will serve as a model for additional shelters around the country.

Corporate associate Eric Malis, who took a key role in setting up the nonprofit, said, “This work has been extraordinarily fulfilling as we are working to fill an unmet need for some of our most vulnerable children.”

A Washington-based team led by Cohn-Connor and partners Sara Michaelchuck Webber and Brian Benczkowski represented one such trafficking victim. The Kirkland team assisted the client, originally from Central America, in her application for a T visa from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. T visas protect trafficking victims by allowing them to remain in the United States while assisting in a trafficking investigation or prosecution. Applicants must demonstrate that

they would suffer extreme hardship were they to be removed from the United States.

“Seeing our client thrive, especially after the unbelievably difficult circumstances she had been in before, particularly when she was so young, has been incredible,” Cohn-Connor said. “Work like this has been extraordinarily rewarding and is one reason why so many of us went to law school in the first place.”

In New York, Kirkland attorneys led by partners Edward Sadtler, Patricia Carson, Oliver Bennett and Dan Forchheimer got involved with the cause through a project with Sanctuary for Families.

The team began work on a 50-state survey of statutes relating to anti-trafficking and prostitution laws and enforcement, which will become part of an important summary report that will serve as a resource for advocates to prevent exploitation and violence against women being trafficked.

More than 60 Kirkland lawyers have donated nearly 1,900 pro bono hours to this project. Sanctuary for Families honored Kirkland with its 2013 Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Award for its work.

“Our work has given Sanctuary for Families a unique and important tool for their advocacy efforts at state and national levels and will significantly improve the rights of some of their most vulnerable and traumatized clients: women, girls, men and boys who are victims of sex trafficking,” Bennett added.

Chicago-based partner Nader Boulos led another team that provided the Anti-Defamation League with research and analysis of how human traffickers are prosecuted under both Illinois state law and

federal law, as well as how Illinois law and public policy treats trafficking victims. Kirkland subsequently proposed a model state policy that seeks to punish traffickers, protects trafficking victims and includes training for law enforcement.

“Work like this is one reason why so many of us went to law school in the first place.”

JEANNE COHN-CONNOR, Kirkland & Ellis transactional partner

Other Chicago-based Kirkland teams led by litigation partners Leonid Feller and Leslie Smith have assisted the Legal Aid Society in launching its Attorneys Tendering Legal Aid to Survivors of Sex Trafficking (ATLASST), a program providing holistic legal services to individuals who have previously been coerced into the sex industry. Chicago law firms provide free legal assistance in a variety of areas that such individuals commonly face, including financial recovery from traffickers, the expunging of prostitution convictions that were the

result of trafficking, family law issues and immigration concerns.

As part of its involvement in this new program, in March 2013, Kirkland obtained the first-ever relief granted under the Illinois Justice for Victims of Sex Trafficking Crimes Act of 2011, when the court vacated a client's previous criminal convictions and expunged her prior arrests.

Kirkland lawyers in Europe also took up the cause of trafficking victims in 2013. Munich-based partner Leo Plank and London-based partner Stephanie Biggs led a team that provided pro bono assistance to a Romanian charity that helps trafficked girls with their recovery. Known as Associata Reaching Out, the organization seeks to rescue trafficked girls and operates a shelter where the children receive psychological care and other assistance to transition back to normal life. The Kirkland team assisted Associata in drafting funding requests from international organizations and the European Union, and in establishing a community-based tourism project that provides work for formerly trafficked girls.

## AWARD

### Sanctuary for Families Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Award

Sanctuary for Families honored Kirkland with a 2013 Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Award at its annual ceremony and benefit. The award recognizes members of the legal community who have gone “above and beyond” by providing outstanding pro bono representation and advocacy to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and related forms of gender

violence. In presenting Kirkland with the award, Sanctuary for Families recognized intellectual property partners Oliver Bennett, Patricia Carson and Daniel Forchheimer as lead members of an interoffice Kirkland pro bono team that worked with the organization in conducting a 50-state survey of statutes relating to anti-trafficking and prostitution laws and enforcement.

### A note from the Pro Bono Management Committee

In 2013, a record number of Kirkland lawyers participated in the Firm's pro bono program, devoting more than 113,000 hours of free legal service to pro bono clients. This fourth edition of our Pro Bono Achievements highlights some of the outstanding results Kirkland lawyers and staff achieved for pro bono clients in 2013. These stories illustrate how meaningful this work can be.

Pro bono is a professional responsibility of each and every attorney, in order to make legal representation available to all who need it, not just those who can afford it. The Pro Bono Management Committee's goal is to engage ever-increasing numbers of Kirkland lawyers in worthwhile and rewarding pro bono work.

The Committee thanks all the lawyers and staff members who take on pro bono representations for their support of the Firm's commitment to pro bono and for their personal commitment of time and energy on behalf of their pro bono clients.

Marjorie Lindblom and Thomas Yannucci, Co-chairs

[www.kirkland.com/probono](http://www.kirkland.com/probono)

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