DLA Piper's North America Pro Bono Contribution: 2022



Mapping impact

1. ATLANTA

DLA Piper volunteers, among them Jamie Konn, teamed with the UPS legal team to host a virtual clinic to assist Atlanta Legal Aid in preparing applications for rental assistance for tenants facing the threat of eviction.

3. BALTIMORE

A group of volunteers from numerous practice groups is providing ten Baltimore artists and creatives with startup legal advice as part of the Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network (BCAN), an initiative of the Maryland Institute College of Art.

2. AUSTIN

In an ongoing project in collaboration with Dell and the Austin Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Melody Aaron, Jane Li, Victoria McGuire, and J.Pieratt, with administrative support from Brittany Mason, successfully protected two Austin Community Members from eviction as part of the Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas housing stability initiative.

4. BOSTON

A team led by Ellen Scordino achieved a victory on behalf of a young asylum seeker before the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit sitting en banc. The First Circuit's opinion in this case could impact how immigration courts assess information from law enforcement databases relating to gang activity.

5. CALGARY

Malinda Yuen worked with Cody Koblinsky preparing a research paper on victim and witness protection measures available in Canada in universal jurisdiction prosecutions, such as crimes against humanity or genocide, which have occurred outside of Canada but over which Canada may take jurisdiction in certain circumstances.

6. CHICAGO

Dominique Gonzales received the National Immigrant Justice Center's Rising Star award for her commitment to ensuring access to justice on behalf of immigrants. Richard Klawiter was honored with Legal Aid Chicago's 2022 Champion of Justice Award.

7. DALLAS

In 2022, the Dallas Office began staffing a monthly virtual intake clinic with the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program and will take ownership of a clinic for every month of 2023.

8. HOUSTON

In 2022, DLA Piper was named Pro Bono Firm of the Year by the Houston Tahirih Justice Center in recognition of the firm's 10+ years of advocacy for the rights and safety of immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. Cara Vasquez accepted the award on behalf of the firm.

9. LOS ANGELES

Connor Scott successfully obtained asylum for his transgender client who suffered abuse and persecution in her home country in Central America.

10. MEXICO CITY

The Mexico City office participated in a pro bono project called the "Dr. Vagon." This project involved medical training by a team that traveled throughout the northern state of Chihuahua providing free healthcare to low-income communities. As part of this project, DLA Piper provided free legal orientations to local communities that could not afford proper legal advice, covering family, labor, and real estate related matters.

11. MIAMI

DLA Piper received the John Minor Wisdom Award from the ABA Litigation Section's Access to Justice Committee at the Section's annual conference in Miami. Office Managing Partner Josh Kaye accepted the award, which honors firms and legal professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of justice in their communities.

12. MINNEAPOLIS

In the past year, a majority of our Minneapolis lawyers have focused at least part of their pro bono efforts on assisting forcibly displaced persons, including Afghans, Ukrainians, and individuals from other countries fleeing violence.

13. MONTREAL

Carly Meredity works closely on employment law issues with the Nature Conservancy and serves as a Director of a halfway house.

14. NEW YORK

Anna Finger successfully obtained custody and an order of protection for her client, a survivor of domestic violence.

15. NORTHERN VIRGINIA

John Dwyer's work helping people obtain disability benefits was recognized during the Celebration of Pro Bono in the Washington, DC office on November 9 and featured in *Washington Lawyer* magazine.

16. PALO ALTO

Lawyers from our Palo Alto office helped close to a dozen DACA recipients renew their applications with in-house lawyers from a Bay Area client and Centro Legal.

17. PHILADELPHIA

Ray Williams, Chris Halliday, Ryan Dieter, Meagan Ekimoff, Jean Gabat, David Kurlander, James McGraw, David Pennant, Haley Torrey and Joe Wolfe worked with lawyers from Jazz Pharmaceuticals and the SeniorLAW Center to draft life planning documents for low-income Philadelphians.

18. PHOENIX

Kevin Criddle, Chris Provera, Steve Autenrieth, Jordan Correll, Mikaela Colby, and Nick Young assisted 46 veterans with legal issues at Maricopa County's Stand Down event.

19. RALEIGH

Jacki Park helped to review files of veterans who were discharged under other-than-honorable conditions and who may be eligible for discharge upgrades.

20. SACRAMENTO

Carissa Bouwer assisted food banks, LGBTQ healthcare services organizations, and low-income entrepreneurs with their trademark and other intellectual property questions and has helped large nonprofit organizations revise and negotiate sponsorship and promotion agreements.

21. SAN DIEGO

Matt Schwartz provides ongoing legal assistance to the Randy Johnson Foundation, a nonprofit that provides resources to military families, children and the San Diego community through education, housing and outdoor activities.

22. SAN FRANCISCO

John Phillips and Caroline Lee successfully fought off an appeal of The Nature Conservancy's trial victory, protecting the environmental nonprofit's ownership and management of Staten Island in Sacramento California for migratory bird habitat.

23. SEATTLE

Dave Freeburg helped secure asylum for his client, a professional soccer player who fled his home in West Africa after two brutal attacks by anti-gay groups.

24. NEW JERSEY

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) honored Gina Trimarco with its Pro Bono Advocate of the Year award for her work on asylum cases.

25. VANCOUVER

Justina Driedger is assisting a mother with a committeeship application under the Patients Property Act as she seeks to be appointed guardian of her severely disabled son. Justina will represent the mother in a three-day petition hearing in 2023.

26. WASHINGTON, DC

Mike Hazzard lead a team that won asylum case for a 14 year old girl and her family ending years of uncertainty about whether or not they would be able to stay in the US.

27. WILMINGTON

Christina Houston served as Delaware counsel to The Nature Conservancy for its Blue Bond deal with the Government of Belize, which was awarded the 2022 Grunin Prize.