



Arent Fox

Pro Bono

2019 Annual Report

Smart In
Your World



A Message from Our Chair


Since our founding in 1942, Arent Fox has emphasized *pro bono* work as an essential part of our legal practice and a unifying aspect of our firm's culture and community. We encourage our attorneys and staff to contribute their time and legal knowledge to combat inequities in legal services throughout the United States and abroad.

Over the past year, our attorneys and staff have contributed over 17,000 hours of *pro bono* work through various individual and firm efforts. They have provided assistance on myriad issues, including housing, immigration, fine arts, elderly care, policing, religion, and youth programs. Critically, their efforts have assisted communities and individuals by providing legal services that might otherwise have been unavailable to them. This year, we are especially proud of our work with immigrant families on the US - Mexico border, which mobilized attorneys and staff in all of our offices.

Through this report, we hope you gain further insight into our firm's commitment to *pro bono* work and to bettering the communities in which we live and work.

Thank you for your interest in our *pro bono* efforts.


Mark M. Katz
Chair



"Arent Fox has emphasized *pro bono* work as an essential part of our legal practice."

Mark M. Katz
Chair

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Public service is a pillar of our firm and fundamental to the practice of law.

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Mission

Lawyers have a special obligation to the administration of justice. Arent Fox believes that community service and *pro bono publico* work are integral to the practice of law and the firm has made it a priority to give a voice to those who otherwise might not be heard.

Looking Back at 2018

Over the years, our attorneys and staff have contributed hundreds of thousands of hours, to ensure that the firm remains at the forefront of the private bar's effort to address unequal access to legal representation.

Award Winners

Marc L. Fleischaker Award

For Outstanding Work by
Partners & Counsel

David L. Dubrow, *Partner**

Richard A. Newman, *Partner*

Kelli Scheid Smith, *Partner*

Albert E. Arent Award

For Outstanding Work by
Associates & Staff

Mohammed T. Farooqui, *Associate*

Eva J. Pulliam, *Associate*

Karen E. Reyes, *Project Assistant*

**Representing the entire Support Immigrant Families team. For the full list of award winners, please see page 12.*



+250 Pro Bono Matters

17,500 Pro Bono Hours

+325 Participating Attorneys & Paralegals

Pro Bono Honor Roll

250+ Hours

Jon Bouker
Hunter T. Carter
Mohammed T. Farooqui
Marc L. Fleischaker
James H. Hulme
Abigail M. Kagan
Richard J. Krainin
Bernice K. Leber
Richard A. Newman
Karen E. Reyes
Emily B. Slavin

150–249 Hours

Alison Lima Andersen
Alexander S. Birkhold
Roger O. Chao
Sylvia G. Costelloe
Mary Joanne Dowd
Andrew J. Dykens
Wesley T. Gee
Matthew I. Levine
Henry Morris, Jr.
Alexander S. Osterlind
Nancy A. Noonan
Karoline M. Nunez
Warren C. Seay, Jr.
D. Jacques Smith
Kelli Scheid Smith

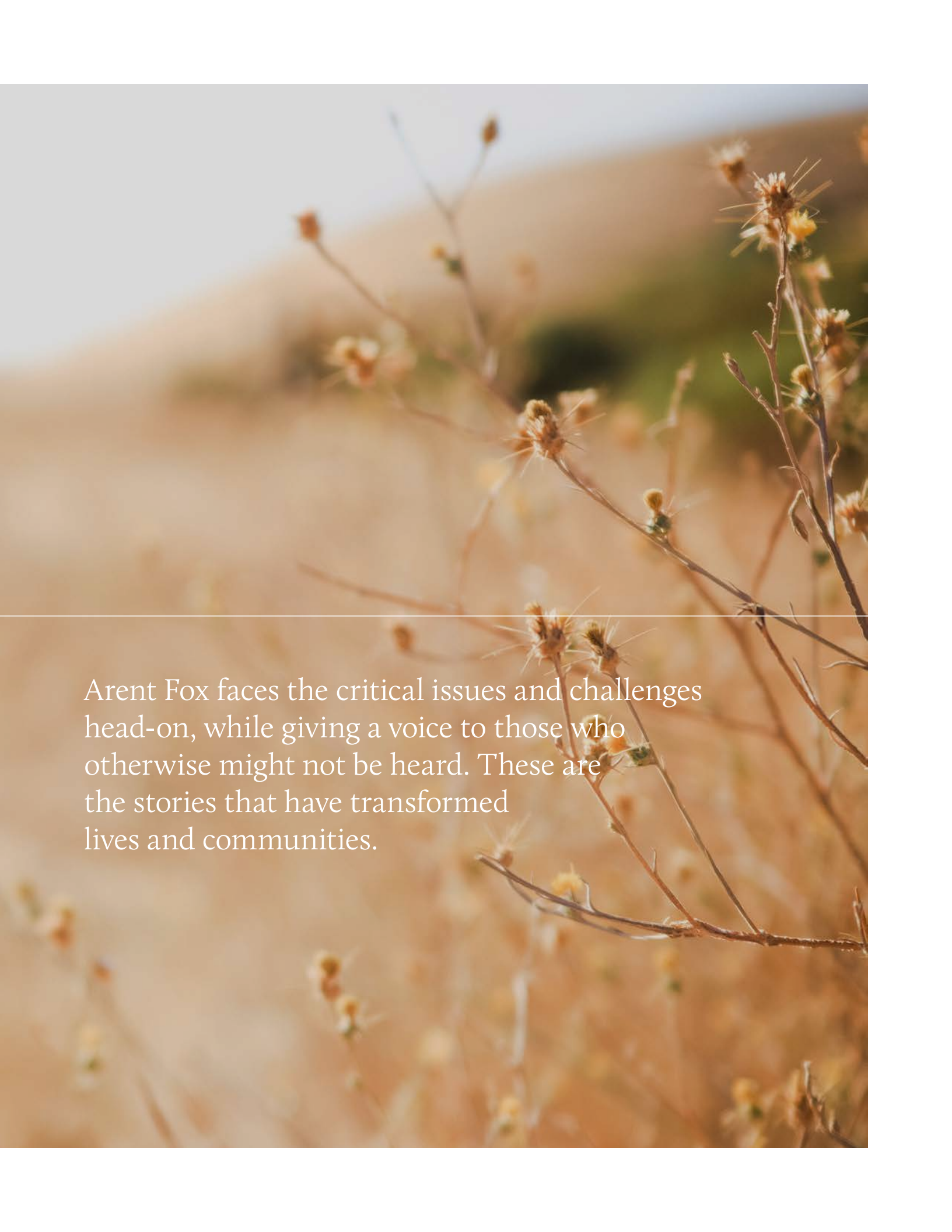
50–149 Hours

Deborah A. Adams
Debra Albin-Riley
Taniel E. Anderson
Alissa F. Bard
Ismael Bautista, Jr.
Jimeelah Berryman
Robert L. Capers
Omelia M. Chan
William R. Charyk
Jacob M. Christensen
Jill Clough
Michael F. Dearington
Pamela M. Deese
Jason Denaburg
David L. Dubrow
Carlos Estevez
Barnabas T. Fekete
Joshua Fowkes
Darrell S. Gay
Jacob M. Gilbert
Michele L. Gipp
Susan M. Gordon
Aimee M. Hall
Jessica L. Harrington
Claudia D. Hartleben
Kathleen R. Heilman
Rachel Hold-Weiss
Brandi G. Howard
Kenneth S. Jacob
Les Jacobowitz
Marylee Jenkins
Mark M. Katz
Susie Kim
Susan S. Kleiman
Gerard Leval
Angelica V. Lewis

Yvonne Li
B. Thorne Maginnis
John Malone
David M. Martin
Donald C. McLean
Andrew M. Murad
Matthew Nolan
Catherine M. O'Brien
Victor M. Padro
Harsh P. Parikh
Nadia A. Patel
Eva J. Pulliam
Rachel J. Richardson
Alexandra M. Romero
R. Erica Roque
Joseph Rosenberg
Jule Rousseau
Ankit Shrivastava
Zach Smith
Hillary M. Stemple
Brian J. Stevens
Michael L. Stevens
Annie Y. Stoops
Daniela Galeano Valencia
Karen N. Van Essen
Barbara S. Wahl
Richard J. Webber
Cynthia M. Weiss
James M. Westerlind
Christopher K.S. Wong
Rachel E. Yount
Temitope K. Yusuf
Laura E. Zell



Features



Arent Fox faces the critical issues and challenges head-on, while giving a voice to those who otherwise might not be heard. These are the stories that have transformed lives and communities.



Mobilizing to Reunite Families at the Border

Arent Fox is well-known for its strong sense of community and company culture. In 2018, this generosity of spirit was collectively displayed in the firm's response to the humanitarian crisis at the country's southern border.

Attorneys and staff from every office came together to produce a powerful, multifaceted program of pro bono support for immigrant families detained at the border. The efforts kicked off with a call-to-action email from New York Partner David Dubrow. Following a realization that "lawyers have a special contribution to make here," David sent a firmwide email that resulted in over 90 commitments to help. David recounts, "Others were also looking for a way to help and I knew we could have much greater impact as a group."

The expressions of support quickly coalesced into the Support Immigrant Families Initiative, led by a Steering Committee consisting of David; Pro Bono Committee Chairs Marc Fleischaker and Jon Bouker; Nancy Noonan, who oversees all immigration pro bono work at the firm; Ismael Bautista, Jr. (LA); Beth Brownstein (NY); Rob Capers (NY); Andrew Dykens (NY); Lewis Goss (DC); Scott Peeler (NY); Frank Petrilli (SF); Jennifer Terry (LA); and Cynthia Weiss (DC). The committee established a plan of action that included on-the-ground volunteer work, pro bono legal support, policy advocacy, and fundraising.

The firm sent volunteers to Texas and Georgia to assist the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) over the course of three separate trips. For those unable to travel, the Steering Committee identified opportunities to provide remote support to people in Texas through telephonic participation in hearings and remote preparation of legal papers, and also

formed bonds with local organizations through which attorneys could provide research, policy, and impact litigation support.

Committee member and Partner Scott Peeler piloted a fundraising campaign that immediately affirmed Arent Fox's firmwide commitment to the Initiative's endeavors. Attorneys and staff at Arent Fox made donations that surpassed the Initiative's goal of \$50,000 within fewer than two days. A \$50,000 match by the firm brought the total amount of funds raised to more than \$100,000, leading Scott to note that "the level of personal and collective generosity at this firm is absolutely incredible." The contributions funded the travel expenses for each of the three trips and provided financial support to Central American Legal Assistance, the Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition, Catholic Charities, the Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, and other organizations in the community that are involved on the front lines.

In August, a group of Arent Fox volunteers traveled to Karnes City, Texas. There, they partnered with RAICES to provide legal services to detained asylum-seekers at the Karnes County Residential Center, a facility that housed approximately 700 fathers and sons who had recently been reunited after forced separation. In many cases, this separation had lasted several months and spanned multiple detention centers across the United States. Some volunteers served as lawyers and others as bilingual translators to provide counseling on the asylum process and draft requests for rehearings for detainees.



Support Immigrant Families Initiative Team Award Recipients

Mariana Acuna - DC
Alison Andersen - DC
Ismael Bautista, Jr. - LA
Alexander Birkhold - LA
Jacob Christensen - SF
Yolanda Cruz - NY
David Dubrow - NY
Caroline English - DC
Sarahi Estrella - DC
Carlos Estevez - NY
Joshua Fowkes - DC
Lewis Goss - DC
Jessica Harrington - DC
Claudia Hartleben - DC
Angelica Lewis - DC
David Martin - DC
Nancy Noonan - DC
Karoline Nunez - DC
Victor Padro - NY
Nadia Patel - DC
Scott Peeler - NY
Sylvia Ponce - NY
Karen Reyes - DC
Jule Rousseau - NY
Warren Seay, Jr. - DC
Emily Bayer Slavin - DC
James Westerlind - NY
Laura Zell - DC



“The level of personal and collective generosity at this firm is absolutely incredible.”

Scott Peeler

Government Enforcement & White Collar Co-Practice Leader

Each attorney-translator team met with eight to 12 fathers a day, seeking to make a difference by appealing decisions, by helping eliminate procedural barriers that stood in the way of substantive resolution, and in some cases, by simply listening. For many families, the Arent Fox volunteers were the first people to take the time to listen to their stories since they entered the United States.

The second trip took place in September. During this trip, a team of attorneys and staff from the firm’s DC and San Francisco offices volunteered with the SPLC’s Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative (SIFI). They worked with SIFI to obtain release for individuals detained at a federal detention center in rural Ocilla, Georgia — one of three facilities that are the subject of an SPLC-led lawsuit based on detainees’ severely reduced access to legal representation and other alleged constitutional violations.

Over the course of the week, the volunteers interviewed 23 individuals to complete SIFI intake forms designed to help the organization determine eligibility for assistance for release on bond, as well as drafted pleadings and visa certification requests to government agencies, assisted with a sexual assault investigation, and spoke to detainees’ loved ones to provide updates on their legal options.

In October, Arent Fox volunteers returned to the Karnes Family Detention Center, again partnering with RAICES to conduct intake, help fathers and sons prepare for credible fear and reasonable fear interviews, and assist with advocacy declarations. As in the previous trips, the group of attorneys and staff provided crucial assistance to incarcerated children and parents at the border by offering legal expertise and support.

The work is ongoing. Most recently, Arent Fox completed a lengthy research memorandum for Central American Legal Assistance and presented their conclusions to a large group of asylum advocates in the New York City area. The research unpacked then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ opinion in the asylum case *Matter of A-B-*, which would seemingly make it much more difficult for asylum applicants fleeing domestic violence or gang violence to be deemed eligible for asylum. Our attorneys researched what particular social groups may be deemed eligible for refugee status under the Immigration and Nationality Act and compiled arguments that asylum applicants and their advocates might make to undercut the applicability and impact of the *A-B-* opinion.

The Support Immigrant Families Initiative showed the strength of Arent Fox’s culture, its connections across offices, and its ability to unite to represent the unrepresented. The firm has long held that pro bono efforts are a necessity in our current legal system, and the crisis for immigrant families at the border in 2018 held this to be true. A detainee with legal representation is ten times more likely to win his or her case, yet a significant number of detainees at border detention centers lack access to an attorney. Over the past year, Arent Fox made a combined effort to counteract this shortcoming. The inspiring number of attorneys and staff who donated, planned, traveled, or otherwise contributed reaffirmed Arent Fox’s company values and demonstrated the work that can be accomplished through unity and determination. 🇺🇸



Making a Difference in Homes and on the Stage

Honoree

Richard Newman, *Partner*

Who We Helped

Arena Stage
Washington Housing
Conservancy

Throughout his career, Richard Newman has dedicated his pro bono efforts towards helping to keep workers in their homes and actors on the stage. This year was no different, as Richard contributed *pro bono* legal services to the Arena Stage and the Washington Housing Conservancy.

Arena Stage is a Washington, DC-based theater that produces 10 shows a season and promotes various artistic programs, such as the Playwrights' Arena, the Actors Arena, and Arena Civil Dialogues, as well as initiatives that include commissioning playwrights, funding of resident artists, and artistic fellowships. The organization was initially a paying client. They acquired a significant portion of long-term debt associated with construction of the Mead Center for American Theater and Richard began to support the organization on a pro bono basis.

Richard and his team successfully advocated on behalf of Arena Stage to convince a consortium of five Banks and the District of Columbia to write off most of the debt and negotiated an arrangement for the payment of the balance due. In addition to his legal support to Arena Stage, Richard also serves on its Board of Trustees.

Thanks in part to the work of Richard and his team, Arena Stage continues to showcase “the transformative power of theater to understand who we are as Americans.”

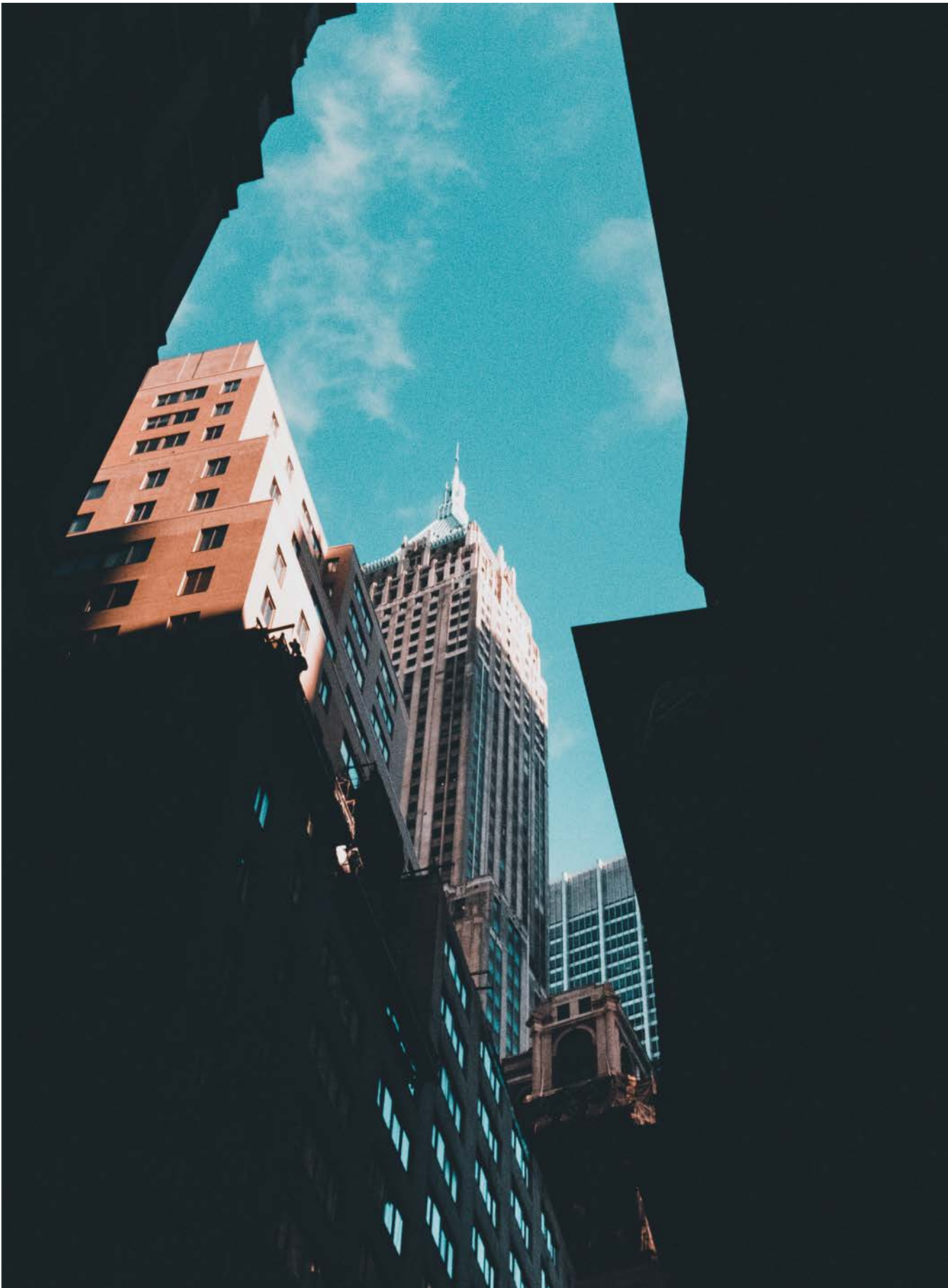
This year, Richard also contributed a significant number of hours in pro bono legal service to the Washington Housing Conservancy. The Washington Housing Conservancy describes itself as “an independent non-profit organization created to acquire, develop, own and operate workforce housing in High-Impact Locations” (rapidly growing areas that are affordable today but are expected to become less so over the next 5-10 years).

While there are programs and subsidies to fund and support tenants in low-income housing, little attention has been paid to workforce housing. In these conditions, the question arises: how do we make housing affordable for the teachers, firefighters, ambulance drivers, and civil servants upon whom we all depend?

Working with the Federal City Council and JBG SMITH Properties, Richard has developed a unique funding structure for addressing this need in the metropolitan area. If it is successful, this will be a model that can be applied nationally. Using a combination of financial engineering, tax exemptions, and tax subsidies, it is expected that this program will preserve over 3,000 units of workforce housing in its first three years.

Most importantly, this approach is not limited by the need to seek philanthropic support after its first year, nor is it constrained by limits on the volume of tax credits or housing subsidy funding. Instead, the Conservancy is intended to be a completely self-funded operation after its inception. Because of its funding structure, the Conservancy is expected to be a powerful engine to address the workforce housing needs of our communities.

Richard is responsible for the architecture of this program and the governance mechanism, and he is expected to continue to serve as lead counsel to the Conservancy as they start to acquire projects and deliver on the goal of serving the housing needs of the Washington, DC community later this year. 🏡



Justice and Integrity in New York

This year, Arent Fox recognized New York Associate Mohammed T. Farooqui for his work regarding the New York Police Department and the New York Legal Assistance Group.

Mohammed assisted New York Partner Rob Capers on the work associated with his appointment to a panel reviewing the NYPD's process for disciplining its police officers. The panel, appointed by NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill in June 2018, was tasked with conducting a top-to-bottom review of the NYPD's internal disciplinary system and drafting a thorough report detailing findings and recommendations for the Commissioner's review and, ultimately, for disclosure to the public.

The panel included Mary Jo White of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, the former US Attorney for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York and former Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission; retired US District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York Barbara Jones of Bracewell LLP and Rob, who is the former US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. The panelists were supported by teams of associates and staff assigned to the matter from the three members' respective firms.

The panel reviewed thousands of pages of documents and interviewed dozens of stakeholders, elected officials, and executive-level members of the NYPD. Mohammed was selected to be Arent Fox's team lead and worked with teams from Debevoise & Plimpton and Bracewell to coordinate drafting of the report. He worked with Associate Roger Chao and others who participated in meetings, drafted memoranda, and assisted in preparing drafts of the portion of the report and recommendation that Arent Fox was responsible for providing to the panel.

On January 25, 2019, the panel issued its report to the Police Commissioner, and on February 1, the Panel held a press conference and publicly released the report. Ultimately, the 57-page report provided four key areas of focus for improving the NYPD's disciplinary system: transparency, accountability, the appearance of favoritism, and unnecessary delay. The panel indicated that "every [NYPD] member must be held to high standards by an exacting and fair disciplinary system if the [NYPD] is to maintain its strength and integrity, both in fact and in the eyes of the public it serves."

Mohammed was also recognized for his work with the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). The organization provides free civil legal services to New Yorkers who cannot afford a private attorney. This past year, attorneys at Arent Fox worked with NYLAG in a number of areas, including special education, immigration, and trusts and estates.

As a member of the Pro Bono Committee at Arent Fox, Mohammed has worked closely with New York Partner Temitope Yusuf to expand and strengthen Arent Fox's relationship with NYLAG. He has also arranged to have Arent Fox host NYLAG clinics, including upcoming trainings for NYLAG's litigators. In addition to his work assisting on and staffing a wide range of matters, Mohammed is joining NYLAG's new Associates' Advisory Board. This Board is responsible for deepening and broadening NYLAG's work and mission by serving as ambassadors for the cause among their professional and personal networks, contributing time, talent, and resources and connecting the organization with financial and in-kind resources to help ensure New Yorkers in need have access to justice. 🇺🇸

Honorees

Mohammed T. Farooqui, *Associate*

Who We Helped

New York Police Department
New York Legal Assistance Group



Pro Bono Growth in San Francisco

Service to community-oriented organizations has risen every year since Arent Fox's San Francisco office opened in 2013.

In 2018, Arent Fox's San Francisco office demonstrated steady commitment to supporting diverse causes as *pro bono* counsel to the organizations outlined below. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Arent Fox Partner Kelli Scheid Smith and Associate Eva Pulliam, a number of new *pro bono* clients called on the firm for assistance with their legal needs so that they were able to continue to support their organizations' causes. In the year ahead, the San Francisco office hopes to increase its service to philanthropic causes and help *pro bono* clients achieve their missions.

The Center for Talent Innovation Inc. (CTI) focuses on driving and disseminating research to better leverage talent across the divides of gender, race, generation, geography, and culture. Their research studies and work with individual companies have spearheaded more than 400 new best practices that go beyond access and opportunity to retention and acceleration of highly qualified women, LGBTQ employees, and other previously excluded minorities.

Youth Service America (YSA) is an international nonprofit committed to engaging youth, educators, community organizations, and families to serve their communities through volunteering, community service, and voting/civic engagement. In addition to large-scale activation campaigns such as MLK Day of Service, YSA also provides \$500,000 of grants annually for youth-led service projects, as well as a variety of free resources and trainings so that youth can lead high-quality service-learning opportunities.

Arent Fox Partner Kelli Scheid Smith serves as outside general counsel to both of these clients, assisting them in all manner of matters including commercial agreements, corporate governance, tax, employment, and leasing. "These organizations signify an important commitment to diversity and inclusion and youth engagement – I am proud to counsel them through their business matters so that the level of service to their mission continues unimpeded," said Kelli.

The Coalition of Black Excellence (CBE) works to unify and elevate African American business professionals and community members through networking, educational

programming, and volunteer activities. Their signature annual event, CBE Week, attracts hundreds of attendees to panel discussions, a parade, and a gala that educates, celebrates, and uplifts the Black community. Eva Pulliam advises on the sponsorship and marketing activities for CBE Week and helps organize the event's activities. "My work with CBE has been a great opportunity to tie in to the San Francisco Bay Area. I have enjoyed meeting so many different and impressive Black business and community leaders in the Bay. When you truly believe in the mission of your client, the legal work is that much more enjoyable," Eva noted.

The Allen Temple Baptist Church is a religious organization with a history of standing as a pillar against injustice, from reaching out to incarcerated individuals to combatting the fear and lack of knowledge surrounding HIV/AIDS through critical medical and social services and awareness education. Through its position in the community, the Church collects information about its members, visitors, employees, and more. Eva, a member of the Church, is reviewing their internal data privacy program, assisting with the preparation of their privacy policies, and advising on their IT protections.

Eva also advises the **Recharge Group**, an organization led by members of a private social club in the Financial District of San Francisco called The Battery, that aims to increase the number of African American members in the club. The Recharge Group is a separate entity from The Battery that formed in early 2016 in response to an underrepresented African American contingent. Eva is advising the organization on its trademark needs and assisting with other advertising and privacy-related matters.

Arent Fox's ability to build deep client relationships is evident throughout all of these engagements. The San Francisco office's *pro bono* clients mirror Arent Fox's own dedication to diversity and inclusion, community service, and good works. So far in 2019, the San Francisco office has shown no signs of slowing down the pace of its *pro bono* service and commitment to a diverse array of causes. 🏳️‍🌈

Honoree

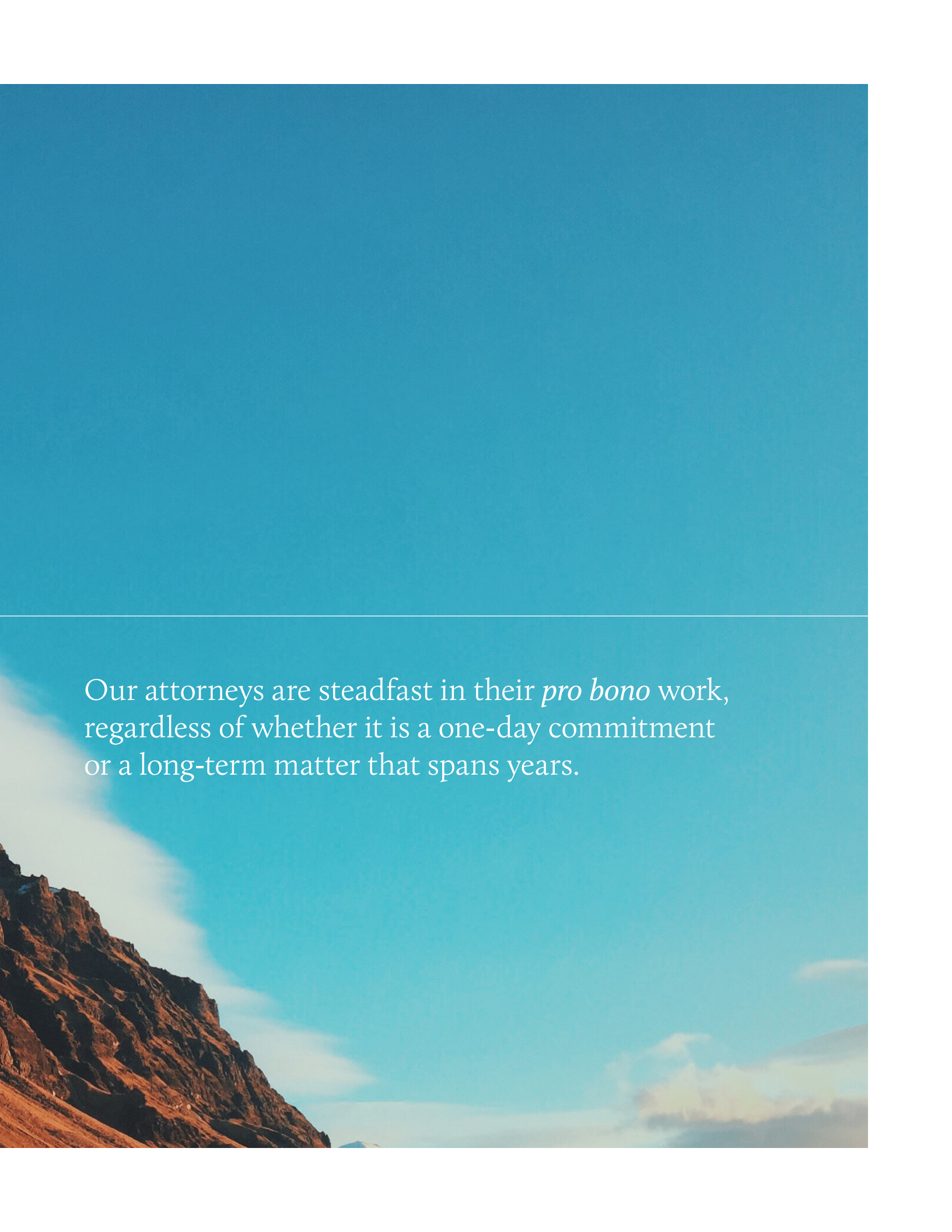
Kelli Scheid Smith, *Partner*
Eva Pulliam, *Associate*

Who We Helped

The Center for Talent Innovation Inc
Youth Service America
The Coalition of Black Excellence
The Allen Temple Baptist Church
Recharge Group



Our Pillars



Our attorneys are steadfast in their *pro bono* work,
regardless of whether it is a one-day commitment
or a long-term matter that spans years.



Leadership

Council for Court Excellence Leadership Role

Partner James H. Hulme was elected Vice President of the Council for Court Excellence (CCE) at the nonprofit's semi-annual board meeting held in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. In his role as Vice President, Jay will work with CCE's board and staff leadership to bring broader exposure to CCE's justice reform work and help continue the organization's recent success.

Founded in 1982, CCE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization that envisions a justice system in the District of Columbia that equitably serves its people and continues to be a model for creating stronger and more prosperous communities. CCE identifies and proposes solutions by collaborating with diverse stakeholders to conduct research, advance policy, educate the public, and increase civic engagement.

University of Utah Board of Trustees Appointment

Partner Lowell Brown was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. Lowell is an active alumni of the law school.

Judicial Elections Evaluation Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association

Partner Jerry Abeles served once again as Chair of the Judicial Elections Evaluation Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Every two years, the JEEC investigates and rates the qualifications of candidates for judicial office in Los Angeles County. This year, they looked at the qualifications of 28 candidates for 11 contested seats. The committee spent hundreds of hours interviewing, investigating, and then rating whether each candidate is qualified, well qualified, exceptionally well qualified, or not qualified to serve as a superior court judge.

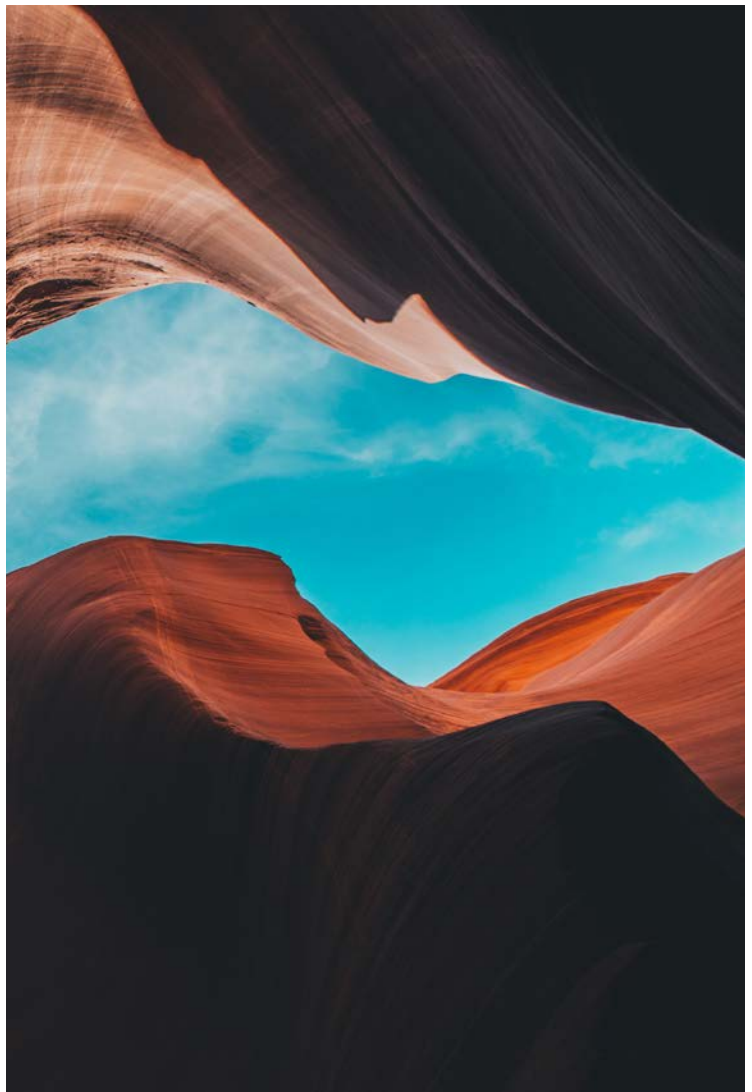
2018 International AIDS Conference

Partner Jon Bouker served as a United States delegate at the *2018 International AIDS Conference* in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Jon spoke with delegates in the Conference's global village about the effects of the expanded Mexico City Policy is having on organizations in developing countries. Additionally, Jon discussed the political climate in Washington and the Dutch government's support for programs benefiting the health of women and girls around the world.

The International AIDS Conference, the largest conference on any global health issue in the world, provides a unique forum for the intersection of science, advocacy, and human rights. This year, notable speakers included Charlize Theron, Prince Harry, and Elton John.

Advisory Board of the University of Oklahoma College of Law Center for International Business & Human Rights Meeting

Partner Lee Caplan, who leads Arent Fox's Corporate Social Responsibility group, participated in the inaugural meeting of the *Advisory Board of the University of Oklahoma College of Law Center for International Business & Human Rights*. The Center, the first of its kind at a US law school, provides expertise with the aim of positively influencing contemporary international business and human rights issues, with a particular focus on the information and communications technology and energy sectors. The meeting took place in Norman, Oklahoma and involved leading representatives from information and communications technology and energy companies, civil society, law firms, and government and international organizations. 🇺🇸



Service

Speaking Your Language

Our work in 2018 reflects the importance of being able to effectively communicate with those who need our help. Project Assistant Karen Reyes provided a substantial amount of Spanish translation services in the past year, and in doing so, helped a variety of *pro bono* clients.

Karen was part of the team that traveled to Karnes City, Texas to work on site for one week at the Karnes City Residential Center. Karen provided translation assistance in order to inform detainees about their legal rights, options for fighting deportation, immigration courts, and general information about the deportation process. She provided simultaneous translation between attorneys and detainees during initial intakes and drafting of legal declarations and supporting documents, and also helped prepare detainees for Credible or Reasonable Fear interviews with asylum officers.

Karen also regularly supports the DC Affordable Law Firm (DCALF) team with translation assistance. Over the past year she assisted approximately 15-20 clients. In addition, she provided translation services for nearly 10 other *pro bono* matters throughout the year.

Clemency Project Client Released Early from Prison

As part of the firm's participation in the *Clemency Project*, Arent Fox won clemency for federal inmate Ronald Toms from President Obama during the final week of his Administration. Mr. Toms was convicted of conspiracy, crack distribution, and a gun charge in the District of Columbia and was sentenced to life in prison in 1993. Due to changes in federal sentencing law and guidelines, Mr. Toms most likely would not receive a life sentence today. President Obama commuted the sentence from life to 352 months (29 years), allowing Mr. Toms, with time served and good time credits, to expect a release date in March 2019.

However, Mr. Toms called Arent Fox in December 2018 to let us know that he was released early as a result of additional good

time credits. He is back living in the District, has a job, and is married. He is so grateful for the help he received through the Clemency Project.

Mr. Toms' case required considerable work by the firm in consultation with the Clemency Project. Counsel Paul Lynd in San Francisco prepared and presented the petition, Associate Sean Clerget in DC assisted in reviewing the matter and recommending it for a petition through the Clemency Project, and Partner James Hulme in DC assisted in presenting a motion to the District Court for release of Mr. Toms' records.

Panel Presentation with the Center for Health and Gender Equity

In July 2018, Arent Fox hosted the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), a longstanding *pro bono* client of the firm, for a panel presentation showcasing polling and research work it has funded regarding health care policy for women and girls around the world. Partner Jon Bouker provided opening remarks and Emily Leongini, Cynthia Weiss, and Alexandra Romero who have done work for this vital cause were in attendance as well.

Access to Justice Commission Honors Arent Fox

In May 2018, the DC Access to Justice Commission and District of Columbia Attorney General Karl A. Racine honored Arent Fox and nearly 50 other law firms that participated in the Raising the Bar in DC Campaign in 2017. Arent Fox was singled out for donating at the platinum level — the organization's highest level of giving.

Each honored firm donated a benchmark percentage of revenue to local legal services providers in 2017. In total, the firms gave more than \$5.5 million to organizations that serve indigent District residents with urgent legal issues. The amount raised was the highest level of giving in DC Access to Justice's history.



“Al Arent’s legacy of public service endures. Throughout the firm’s more than 75-year history, we have sought to address unequal access to legal representation through our unwavering pledge to provide pro bono counsel to those in need.”

Venice Family Clinic Pro Bono Representation

In 2018, Arent Fox was retained on a *pro bono* basis to represent Venice Family Clinic, a large community health center based in the Venice area of Los Angeles that was founded by volunteer physicians in 1970. The Clinic provides health care services to low-income individuals in West Los Angeles, including over 3,000 homeless people. It is one of the largest community health centers of its kind in the US.

The firm provides a range of *pro bono* legal services to the clinic, such as counsel on consent and bioethics, labor and employment issues, HIPAA and medical record counseling, and legal advice in connection with a variety of contracts and agreements. Partner Lowell Brown, who also previously served as a Venice Family Clinic board member and now serves on its advisory board, leads this engagement and is supported by Partners Debra Albin-Riley, Tom Jeffry, and Mark Phillips, as well as Counsels Sarah Benator and Susie Murphy, and Associates Harsh Parikh and Diane Roldán.

Defending DC’s Emergency Water Supply and First Amendment Rights

The Audubon Naturalist Society expressed gratitude in a recent letter thanking Partner Don Mitchell for his *pro bono* work in defense of ANS and its partner environmental groups in a lawsuit brought by Pulte Homes, one of the top five residential builders in the nation. The case ultimately both secured these citizen groups’ First Amendment rights and affirmed Montgomery County’s decision to protect an environmentally sensitive watershed in northern Montgomery County outside of Washington, DC.

Pulte assembled hundreds of acres of land in the Ten Mile Creek watershed — the DC region’s only nearby emergency water

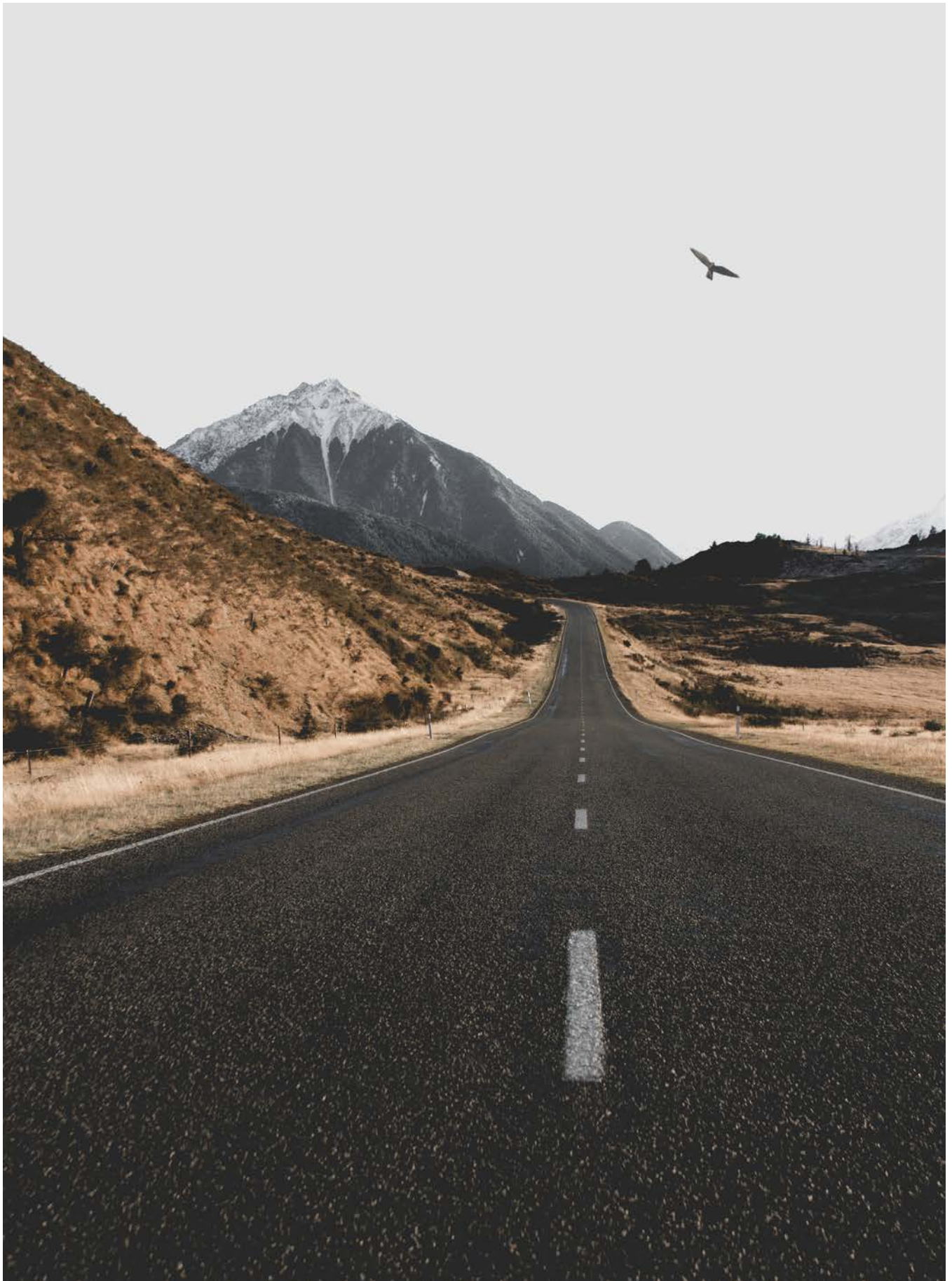
supply — on which it planned to build 1,000 houses. When Montgomery County citizen groups organized to oppose the project and were successful in limiting the development, Pulte filed suit against the County and then issued subpoenas seeking the citizen groups’ communications with the public, the County, and each other. Don, who has long served as outside counsel for ANS, agreed to also defend the rest of the groups, and moved to quash the subpoenas on the grounds that enforcing them would violate the citizen groups’ First Amendment rights to organize for political activity and infringe their right to petition their government. Don also argued that prior to issuing a subpoena, Pulte should have to make a showing that it possessed protected constitutional rights in the first place, citing the Fourth Circuit’s Gardner case — which states that developers have no protected interest to develop property that is subject to a discretionary Master Plan — as precedent.

In March 2017, the Maryland federal court agreed and quashed the subpoenas. Subsequently, the district court dismissed Pulte’s claims, following the Gardner doctrine. Pulte appealed to the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which affirmed the district court on the basis of the Gardner doctrine and subsequent Gardner-like decisions in November 2018. ANS thanked Don for protecting their First Amendment rights and helping them avoid a “terrible precedent” on land use planning.

Schedule H Clinic: Legal Counsel for the Elderly

In October 2018, Arent Fox hosted a clinic for the Legal Counsel for the Elderly. Schedule H is a local tax credit available to homeowners and renters in the District of Columbia that use a high portion of their taxable income on housing costs. A team of nine Arent Fox lawyers assisted 11 clients in completing 21 Schedule H applications, totaling almost \$20,000 in Schedule H Credits. These refunds will go a long way for these clients, since many rely on these funds to afford medical, food and many necessities.





LGBTQ Rights

An Arent Fox team is working on a Ninth Circuit Appeal for a gay German citizen who is married to an American man. Our client allegedly committed crimes while he was in the United States and his B-2 Visa expired before same-sex marriage was recognized. After his Visa expired, he was taken into custody and charged as removable (because he was not married to a US citizen) and he was ultimately convicted and deported. Our client now has to meet an extremely high standard to be admitted back into the country. The case concerns a constitutional due process issue unrelated to our client's sexual orientation, but the fact that he was unable to marry his partner played a role in his original deportation. Arent Fox briefed the case and will have oral argument at the Ninth Circuit in the summer of 2019. Karen Van Essen is leading the Arent Fox team, which also includes Associates Alexander Birkhold, Diane Roldán, Annie Stoops, and Yvonne Li.

Jewish Social Service Agency Recognizes Arent Fox

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) awarded Arent Fox its President's Award in 2018 in recognition of the firm's contributions and continued support of JSSA. Arent Fox was the first recipient of the award in many years. Partner David Greenberg accepted the award on behalf of the firm at JSSA's 2018 Spring Benefit on April 22, 2018.

DC Affordable Law Firm Update

The DC Affordable Law Firm (DCALF) had another successful year as an Arent Fox partner and subtenant. DCALF is a joint venture organized by Arent Fox, Georgetown Law Center, and DLA Piper. Each year, six lawyers are selected from Georgetown's graduating class to participate in a fellowship program/law firm. Beginning in September, they take part in an intensive three-month training program taught by Georgetown professors and legal practitioners with law firms and legal service organizations in the District of Columbia. Following the training program, they spend a year as lawyers with DCALF. At the end of the year, the young lawyers have a tremendous range of experience, and move on to the next phase of their careers. In addition, they receive a Master of Laws in Civil Justice degree from Georgetown. DCALF is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, one of the first law firms that charges fees to receive that designation.

DCALF clients are individuals living or working in the District who make too much money to receive free legal services from organizations such as Legal Aid, but not enough money to afford the fees that lawyers normally charge. DCALF has a broad range of practices but focuses primarily on family law, housing law and immigration law, areas in which individuals

would likely be without legal counsel without the help of a law firm like DCALF. The lawyers are in Superior Court on a very regular basis and get tremendous experience in litigation, counseling, and negotiations. Now in its fourth year, DCALF has had 23 lawyers and represented more than 600 clients. It currently has eight lawyers, a legal assistant, an office manager, and an Executive Director.

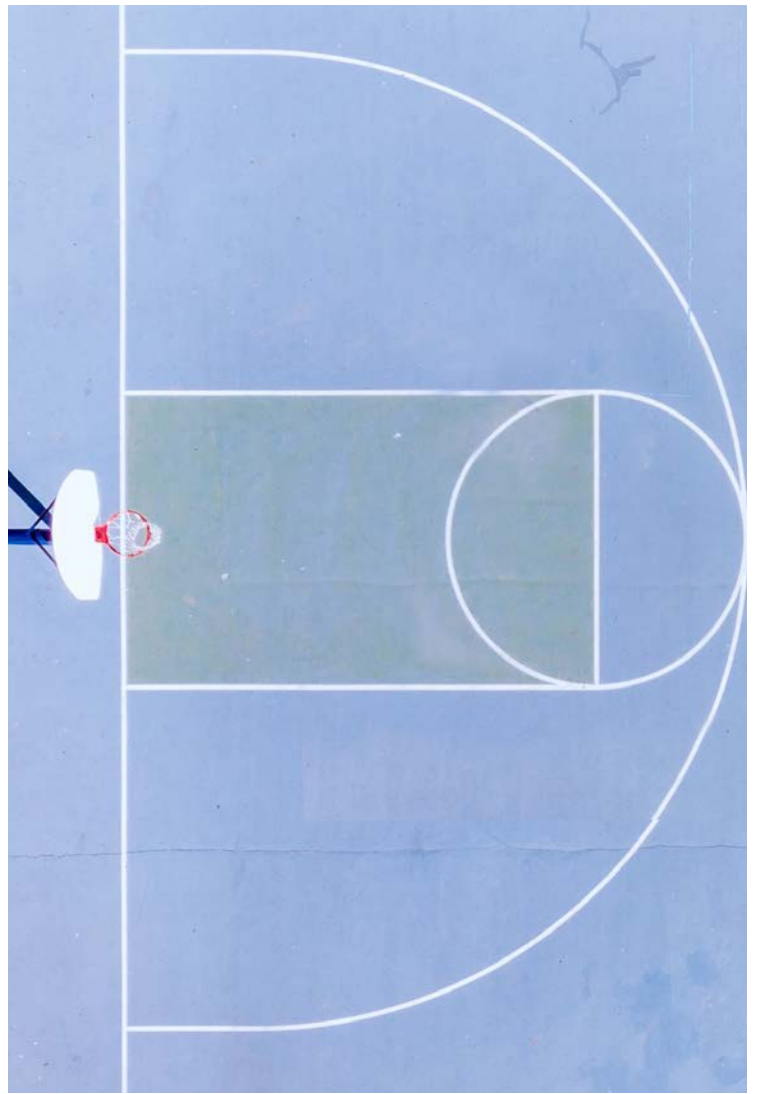
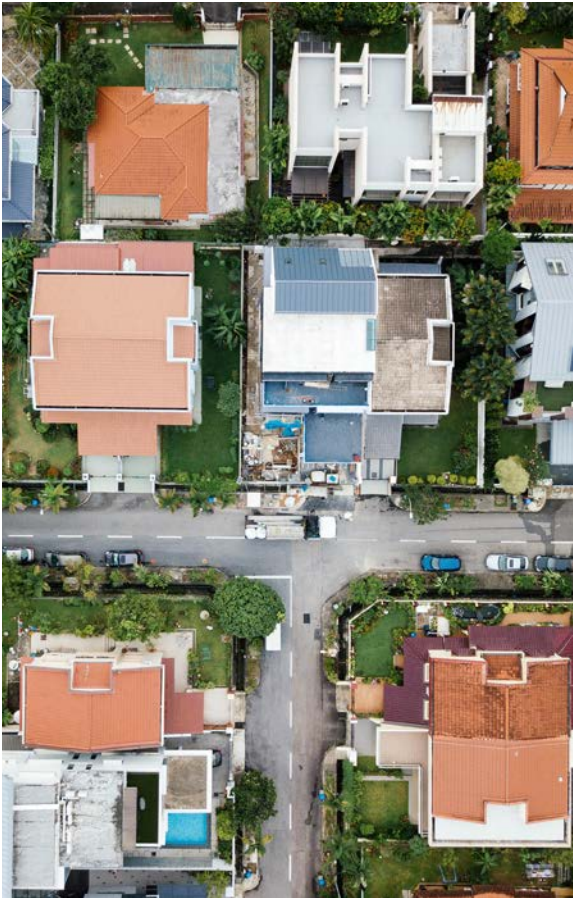
Marc Fleischaker served as Executive Director of DCALF in 2017, and is now Chair of the Board of Directors. He will become Executive Director again in April 2019. Other Arent Fox Board members are Nancy Noonan and Jeff Jordan. At least 20 additional Arent Fox lawyers have served as mentors for the DCALF lawyers and help on cases being handled by DCALF.

DC Bar's Landlord Tenant Resource Center

Since launching in January 2017, Arent Fox's Pro Bono effort to support the DC Bar's Landlord Tenant Resource Center (LTRC) has assisted 441 low-income District residents, spending nearly 600 hours advising on their residential housing disputes.

The LTRC provides free legal information to landlords and tenants involved in litigation at the Landlord and Tenant branch of the DC Superior Court. Known as "eviction court" to seasoned attorneys, the Landlord and Tenant branch processes 35,000–40,000 cases each year. Since 2014, the number of eviction lawsuits in DC has risen by 10 percent, spurred by an increase in landlords alleging delinquent rent payments, many of which amount to fewer than \$100. Over 99 percent of tenants sued have no legal representation, rendering them highly susceptible to negative outcomes regardless of the facts and merit of their cases.

Every four weeks, three Arent Fox attorneys staff the LTRC, counseling as many *pro se* litigants as possible, almost all of whom have hearings that day. Through its team of 23 attorneys and support staff, Arent Fox has established itself as one of the most reliable contributors to the LTRC, with many attorneys making additional time to volunteer to staff the Center. 🐶



Community

Costumes for a Cause

Nominated partners and administrative directors in NY and DC donned Halloween costumes to raise money for good causes this year. The NY office costume party raised approximately \$6,000 to benefit the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The DC office held its own costume party for the second time and raised approximately \$1,200 for CAIR Coalition.

Washington Lawyers' Committee Civil Rights Scavenger Hunt

In June 2018, Arent Fox participated in the inaugural Washington Lawyers' Committee Civil Rights Scavenger Hunt. Participants were provided a clue sheet with 26 clues that sent teams to all four quadrants of the District over the span of 2.5 hours. The firm has longstanding history with the Washington Lawyers' Committee. Our Founder, Al Arent, attended the 1963 meeting where the idea for the Lawyers' Committee was initially formed and Arent Fox has been supporting civil rights cases ever since.

Lawyers Have Heart Run/Walk

Arent Fox sponsored the American Heart Association's 28th Annual Lawyers Have Heart 10K Race and 5K Run/Walk at Georgetown's Washington Harbour. Lawyers Have Heart is one of the American Heart Association's largest fundraisers. The Arent Fox team was led by Lianne Childress, Steve Coffin, Sarah Jones, and Justin Yourko. With 50 participating team members, including attorneys, summer associates, staff, family, and friends, Arent Fox raised more than \$2,000 in donations. The firm also donated \$3,000 to sponsor the event. Arent Fox is proud to show our support for the American Heart Association.

Annual Justice Jog Run/Walk

In September, attorneys and staff from the Los Angeles office participated in the Greater Los Angeles Chapter Association of Legal Administrators' 11th Annual Justice Jog 5K/10K Run/Walk. The run helped GLA ALA support their partner, CASA of Los Angeles (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an organization that recruits, trains, and supports court-appointed volunteers to advocate on behalf of children. Attorney Kenya Williams and Litigation Data Analyst Nathan Low participated in a team representing the firm.

GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament

On May 30, 2018, Arent Fox organized the Annual DC Public Schools GeoPlunge Tournament. US geography game GeoPlunge motivates children to learn more about our country and enhances teamwork, social skills, and self-esteem. More than 100 kids played for championship trophies. At the conclusion of the event, one of the kids was overheard yelling, "This was the best day ever!"

On December 11, 2018, Arent Fox organized the 14th Annual GeoPlunge tournament at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. More than 200 children from 28 area schools competed in the event.

Partner Alan G. Fishel, founder of GeoPlunge, coordinated the efforts for these events, which were supported by various Arent Fox employees, including Teresa Polino, John Lund, Voron Xarya, Tim O'Brien, Andrew Bowles, Crystal Boyer, Gabriella Del Gandio, Isabelle Yourick, Inemesit "Set" Braxton-Brown, Alfredo De La Cruz, Chris Donofrio, Jenn Stecco, Cassondra Bever, Shaunice Thomas, Eran Swartz, Toussaint Johnson, and Steve Draughn. 🐾

Arent Fox is committed not only to being Smart in Your World, but to being part of your world.

From coast to coast, our attorneys invest significant time and effort in serving as leaders for community organizations.

Stanley H. Abramson

Woodbine Brotherhood Synagogue
Member – Board of Trustees

Debra Albin-Riley

Library Foundation of
Los Angeles
Director

Edward S. Atkinson

San Francisco Housing Action Coalition
Executive Committee Member

Linda A. Baumann

Washington Drama Society
d/b/a Arena Stage
Member – Board of Trustees

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National Executive
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Director – Chairman of the Board

Jon S. Bouker

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Chair – Board of Directors

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Chair – Board of Directors

DC Federal Law Enforcement
Nominating Commission
Commissioner

DC Access to Justice Commission
Commissioner

DC Public Library Foundation
Member – Board of Directors

Federal City Council
Trustee

National Women's History Museum
Member – Board of Directors

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Los Angeles Sports Council
Member – Board of Directors

Randall A. Brater

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Board Member

The Legal Aid Society of the
District of Columbia
Board Member/Trustee

Lowell C. Brown

Venice Family Clinic
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Western Los Angeles County
Council, Boy Scouts of America
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American Bar Foundation
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Wilburn L. Chesser

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Law & Policy
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Sarah Cohn

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d/b/a Arena Stage
Member – Young Patrons Board

Andrew M. Crisses

NC Police Foundation
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Michael F. Dearington

DC Bar Association
Board Member – Young Lawyers Section

Pamela M. Deese

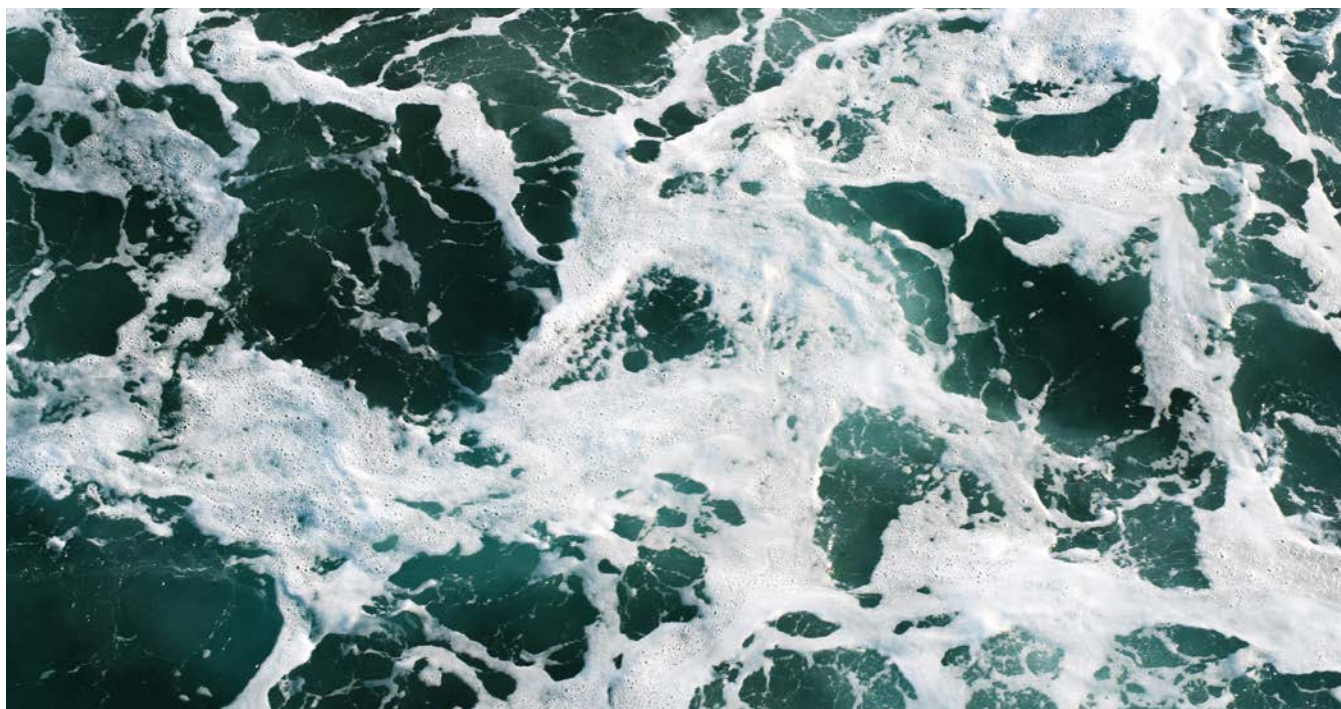
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The Information Technology
& Innovation Foundation
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Lawyers' Committee for Civil
Rights Under Law
Member – Board of Directors
& Executive Committee

DC Affordable Law Firm
Chairman, Director

DC Public Defender Service
Member – Board of Directors

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Member – Executive Committee
& Former Chairman

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Member – Board of Directors; Treasurer

Gerard Leval

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President

Richard A. Newman

Washington Drama Society
d/b/a Arena Stage
Trustee – Board of Trustees

Washington Hebrew Congregation
Member – Board of Directors & Treasurer

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Nolan Family Charitable Foundation
President

World Partnerships
Chairman – Board of Directors

St. Anselms Abbey School
Trustee

Nancy Noonan

DC Affordable Law Firm
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Member – Law School Board of Advisor

International Centre for Settlement
of Investment Disputes
Member – Panel of Arbitrators
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Washington Hebrew Congregation
Member – Board of Directors

Kenya Williams
Whittier College
Member – Board of Trustee

The image features a solid blue background. A thin white horizontal line runs across the middle of the frame. On the right side, there is a vertical strip of a decorative, repeating pattern that looks like a stylized, overlapping scale or a textured surface. The text "Looking Forward" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image.

Looking Forward



The Year Ahead



“We remain committed to continuing our *pro bono* efforts at home and abroad in an effort to change lives.”

Mark M. Katz
Chair

At Arent Fox, we are committed to the public interest. We believe that lawyers have a special obligation to the administration of justice and, further, that community service and pro bono work are integral to the practice of law.

Over the years, our attorneys and staff have contributed hundreds of thousands of hours to addressing unequal access to legal representation. 2019 will be no exception. We are energized by the resilience, integrity, and strength our pro bono clients demonstrated this year and remain committed to continuing our pro bono efforts at home and abroad in the year ahead.

We will continue to support communities in need – and we will consider it a privilege to do so. As a firm, we will persist in taking actions that can impact the law and make the world a better place.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Arent Fox’s pro bono efforts. To learn more about the firm’s pro bono work and stay up to date on our current projects of note, please visit us online at arentfox.com/probono.

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ARENTFOX.COM/PROBONO

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Warren Seay



About Us

Founded in 1942, Arent Fox is internationally recognized in core practice areas where business and the law intersect. With more than 450 lawyers, the firm provides strategic legal counsel and multidisciplinary solutions to a global roster of corporations, governments, and trade associations.

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