

ASSISTING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

For the past several years, Latham & Watkins has partnered with Bet Tzedek Legal Services, and more recently with the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network, to assist Holocaust survivors in applying for German government social security pensions available under the law known by its German acronym ZRBG. In addition, we have worked to assist Holocaust survivors in applying for the related German Ghetto Work Payment (GGWP) program benefit, created by the German government to provide a one-time payment to Holocaust survivors who conducted voluntary work in Nazi-controlled ghettos during World War II.



As a testament to the efforts of attorneys, paralegals and professional staff across the United States and Germany, the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network was honored by the American Bar Association with its prestigious 2009 "Pro Bono Publico Award."

Under the GGWP government directive, first announced in October 2007, Holocaust survivors—many of whom are in their late 80s or older and live on fixed incomes—may be eligible for a one-time payment of 2,000 euros. This latest program was designed to provide a benefit to survivors whose ghetto labor had not to date been recognized under other programs and who may have been unsuccessful in seeking ZRBG benefits.

A number of Latham offices have been among the leaders of this multi-firm effort to help Holocaust survivors. Led by Pro Bono Counsel **Amos Hartston**, teams of Latham attorneys and paralegals from across our US and German offices participated in clinics and home visits and provided other support for the ZRBG and GGWP programs. In total, more than 250 Latham attorneys and 30 paralegals from our Chicago, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Los Angeles, New Jersey, New York, Orange County, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. offices took part in this initiative, providing more than 5,600 hours of pro bono legal services to Holocaust survivors.

Leading our office teams are partner **Bruce Prager**, associates **Stephen Amdur**, **Will Reckler**, **Bethany Turke** and **Virginia Tent** and secretarial coordinator **Anna Bravo** in New York; associate **Kira Dabby** and paralegals **Kim Barrett** and **Judy Calderon** in New Jersey; associate **Mia Sussman** in Washington, D.C.; Pro Bono Counsel **Amos Hartston** and associate **Julie Gerchik** in Los Angeles; associate **Jennifer Reass** and paralegal **Rob Dickson** in Orange County; associates **Dan Lenerz** and **Adrianna Kripke** in San Diego; associate **Soleil Teubner** in San Francisco; partner **Brad Kotler** in Chicago; partner **Dirk Kocher** and associates **Frederick Staudacher**, **Jan Spangenberg**, **Astrid Link** and **Julia Wahrendorf** in Hamburg; and counsel **Thies Deike** and **Mathias Fischer** and associates **Annette Roskopf**, **Thomas Kunze**, **Christian Badura** and **Britta Fuchtenbusch** in Frankfurt.

The program expanded rapidly across the United States and other countries in 2009, with thousands of survivors screened for eligibility under the GGWP program. In addition, Bet Tzedek and the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network have partnered with Latham in New York, Los Angeles and Germany to provide additional support for applications in GGWP and ZRBG cases. ■