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Dear Clients and Friends of the Firm:

Since 2000, Latham & Watkins has provided approximately 3.5 million hours in free legal services to underserved communities and the nonprofit sector, valued at US$1.6 billion. Pro bono is deeply embedded in our firm culture, part of our long-standing commitment to give back to the communities where we live and work.

This year, 93 percent of lawyers around the firm took on matters in nearly every area of public interest law, acting on behalf of veterans, children, prisoners, immigrants, and low-income entrepreneurs as well as in support of criminal justice reform, civil rights, conservation, community development, disability rights, and anti-human trafficking efforts. In addition to directly advising indigent clients, we partner with nonprofits, charities, and NGOs around the globe.

Our efforts in 2018 included advising a nonprofit as it sought regulatory approval for, and ultimately launched, a high-tech system designed to clean up debris in our oceans; representing individuals sentenced as juveniles to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole in resentencing hearings; working to secure benefits for veterans of the US Armed Forces; and leading on cutting-edge matters designed to solidify the rights of LGBTQ+ parents. As the justice gap continues to widen, we will continue to use our resources and experience to meaningfully improve the lives of people in need.

What follows is a glimpse into our pro bono program and our community service efforts. I am so inspired by the breadth and depth of our work, and by the passionate enthusiasm of our lawyers and staff. I am honored to be a part of it all, and very proud to present the 2018 Pro Bono Annual Review.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Trobman
Chair and Managing Partner
MESSAGE FROM THE PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Wendy Atrokhov
Public Service Counsel,
Director of Global Pro Bono

“There are so many roads that lead lawyers to pro bono engagement — but fundamentally, most are driven by a desire to vindicate the universal ideals of fairness and justice. We are fortunate to work in partnership with outstanding legal services organizations to support our individual, nonprofit, and social enterprise clients, and we are very proud of our colleagues who advocate with integrity and conviction on their behalf.”

Jonathan C. Su
Pro Bono Committee Chair

“We aim to be among the most active pro bono contributors in every market where the firm operates. Our program has grown through the initiative and deep commitment of our Pro Bono Committee members and the shared desire by Latham colleagues around the world to engage and serve their communities in this way.”
A GLOBAL LAW FIRM DEDICATED TO PRO BONO

30 OFFICES IN 14 COUNTRIES TOOK ON PRO BONO MATTERS THIS YEAR

177+ MILLION US$ VALUE OF SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2018

NEW MATTERS OPENED IN 2018 836

HOURS OF FREE LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED SINCE 2000 APPROX. 3.5 MILLION

1.6 BILLION US$ VALUE OF FREE LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED SINCE 2000
PERCENTAGE OF LAWYERS PARTICIPATING IN PRO BONO

100% UNITED STATES
93% ALL LAWYERS AT LATHAM
80% ASIA, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST

APPROX. 245,000 HOURS OF FREE LEGAL SERVICES DONATED IN 2018

3,092 LAWYERS, TRAINEES, SUMMER ASSOCIATES, AND STAFF PARTICIPATED IN 2018

78 HOURS AVERAGE PER LAWYER FIRMWIDE DONATED TO PRO BONO IN 2018

100 HOURS AVERAGE PER US LAWYER DONATED TO PRO BONO IN 2018
OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

Our legal work enables our nonprofit partners to do what they do best, from increasing access to justice to protecting the rights of children to ensuring equality for all under the law. We are so proud to partner with so many incredible referral agencies, NGOs, and clients around the world.

What follows is a small sampling of the hundreds of organizations we work with each year.

- 28 TOO MANY
- A4ID
- A BETTER CHICAGO
- ACCION INTERNATIONAL
- ADIE (ASSOCIATION POUR LE DROIT À L’INITIATIVE ÉCONOMIQUE)
- ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS
- AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
- ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
- APPLESEED NETWORK
- ASHOKA
- ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE
- AYUDA
- BAY AREA LEGAL AID
- BETHNAL GREEN LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE
- BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES
- CALIFORNIA INNOCENCE Project
- CAMPAIGN FOR THE FAIR SENTENCING OF YOUTH
- CANCER RESEARCH UK
- CARE
- CASA CORNELIA LAW CENTER
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES
- CHILDREN’S LAW CENTER
- CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AT THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
- COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES IN EAST PALO ALTO
- DC LAW STUDENTS IN COURT EXPUNGEMENT PROJECT
- DROITS D’URGENCE
- EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER
- EQUALITY CALIFORNIA
- EQUIP FOR EQUALITY
- FONDATION GRAMEEN CRÉDIT AGRICOLE
- FOOD FOR SOUL
- GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH
- HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
- HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGAL CENTER
- IMMIGRATION EQUALITY
- INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION
- INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT
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WHAT PRO BONO MEANS TO US

Lawyers in all of our offices undertake pro bono work. A few of our partners and associates explain why.

Kendall Howes
Associate, Los Angeles

“My pro bono clients and their stories constantly inspire and push me to improve my skills as an attorney and to better serve my community.”

Matthew Brill
Partner, Washington, D.C.

“Our pro bono commitment is one of the most rewarding aspects of working at Latham, and I’ve been fortunate to be part of the team working with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty to combat the criminalization of homelessness. We are thrilled to have achieved significant victories for NLCHP this year!”

Priyanka Mehta
Associate, Singapore

“Pro bono is an invaluable aspect of the practice of law. It encourages commitment, compassion, humility, and the ability to make selfless contribution and meaningful impact, and it has given me the opportunity to bridge the gap between unmet legal needs and my duty as a lawyer, which is extremely fulfilling.”
“There’s a unique and special satisfaction in helping charities overcome the legal challenges that might otherwise prevent them from fulfilling their life-changing missions, including serving the underserved and increasing access to justice.”

— Michael Bond
Partner, London

“Participating in our pro bono program has allowed me to use my legal skills to make a real difference in people’s lives. It’s a personally fulfilling experience that pushes me to be a better lawyer and, more importantly, a better person.”

— Ayesha Waheed
Partner, London

“My transactional pro bono work with small businesses has allowed me to connect with low-income entrepreneurs and help them to solve real-world problems, while giving me hands-on experience that is widely applicable to the rest of my practice.”

— Jonathan Guest
Associate, New York
GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

We engage in pro bono work around the world. The pages that follow offer a selection of highlights from our offices.

**BOSTON**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- asylum and immigration, civil rights, domestic violence, Innocence Project, juvenile justice, low-income entrepreneurship, nonprofits and NGOs

**Recent Engagements:**
- Represented a man from El Salvador detained by the local sheriff’s office in violation of a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling that state officials do not have authority to detain individuals based on civil immigration matters alone
- Participated in several legal clinics organized by Project Citizenship to assist eligible US permanent residents with their applications for citizenship

**BRUSSELS**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- animal welfare, education, environment, fair housing and tenants’ rights, nonprofits and NGOs

**Recent Engagements:**
- Advised several nonprofits on compliance with new EU data privacy regulations
- Counseled a nonprofit regarding the compatibility of its models of affordable housing with current law in the European Union

**CHICAGO**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- adoption and guardianship, anti-human trafficking and human rights, asylum and immigration, civil rights, domestic violence, nonprofits and NGOs, prisoners’ rights, special education

**Recent Engagements:**
- Represented a prisoner and other plaintiffs in Section 1983 civil rights litigation
- Secured a favorable settlement for a high school student with schizophrenia and other severe psychological disorders in an action against the public school system, allowing the student to attend her preferred therapeutic day school
**DUBAI AND RIYADH**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- anti-human trafficking and human rights, asylum and immigration, environment, microfinance, nonprofits and NGOs

**Recent Engagements:**
- Represented PILnet and NAHNOO, two international organizations committed to protecting public spaces and cultural heritages, in their joint study on the legal framework for the promotion and preservation of sites in the Middle East and Europe
- Counseled Lights, Camera, Learn, an NGO that uses the art of filmmaking to empower socioeconomically disadvantaged children in the Middle East

**GERMANY**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- anti-human trafficking and human rights, children, community economic development, disability rights, nonprofits and NGOs, social enterprise support

**Recent Engagements:**
- Advised several NGOs, including organizations working to empower and connect teenage girls in Germany and developing countries, providing grief counseling to youth who have suffered a loss, assisting refugees, and running support groups for those dealing with anxiety disorders
- Continued our longtime partnership with startsocial to advise and support some of Germany’s most innovative nonprofits and social enterprises — recent work includes legal support of an organization devoted to collecting interviews from Holocaust survivors and transforming these experiences into stories for children in Germany
LONDON

Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:
- anti-human trafficking and human rights, asylum and immigration, nonprofits and NGOs

Recent Engagements:
- Issued a report — in collaboration with TrustLaw, 28 Too Many, local law firms, and NGOs — summarizing laws related to female genital mutilation in 29 African jurisdictions for use by advocacy organizations seeking to abolish FGM practices
- Researched and evaluated the existing domestic and international policies and laws related to the protection of detained dual-national individuals, and produced a report summarizing these findings for use by advocacy organizations

HONG KONG

Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:
- anti-human trafficking and human rights, asylum and immigration, nonprofits and NGOs

Recent Engagements:
- Worked on asylum matters for Justice Centre Hong Kong, helping asylees from Uganda, Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Central African Republic
- Assisted multiple NGOs with their applications for charitable status, as well as reviewing and drafting supply agreements, support services agreements, and licensing agreements

HOUSTON

Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:
- animal welfare, asylum and immigration, civil rights, disaster relief, estate and end-of-life planning, social entrepreneurship

Recent Engagements:
- Assisted individuals affected by Hurricane Harvey in FEMA-related appeals
- Launched a new initiative, representing an initial cohort of 10 social entrepreneurs with various corporate matters, including entity formation, 501(c)(3) applications, and seed financing
Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:
• corporate and regulatory matters, disability rights, nonprofits and NGOs, real estate, social entrepreneurship

Recent Engagements:
• Advised on an array of corporate and regulatory matters for nonprofits and NGOs, including Ashoka, which invests in social entrepreneurs; Food for Soul, which fights food waste and social isolation; Fondazione Mondadori, which promotes literacy; and Naankuse Foundation, which seeks to conserve the land, cultures, and wildlife of Namibia
• Continued our longtime pro bono support of CCM, a medical charity working to ensure access to healthcare in underserved, disadvantaged areas of the world
**MOSCOW**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- children, disability rights, legal clinics, nonprofits and NGOs, women’s rights

**Recent Engagements:**
- Organized training programs and assisted at student-run legal clinics at local law schools
- Advised ANO Center for Autism, a Russian nonprofit, on the education rights of students on the autism spectrum conferred by federal, local, and international law

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**NEW YORK**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- asylum and immigration, civil rights, criminal justice reform, domestic violence, fair housing and tenants’ rights, LGBTQ+ matters, low-income entrepreneurs, prisoners’ rights, US veterans

**Recent Engagements:**
- Counseled transgender clients in the process of obtaining court-ordered name changes through an innovative clinic with Mt. Sinai Medical-Legal Partnership and Transcend Legal, which helps people get transgender-related healthcare covered under insurance
- Provided support to hundreds of low-income entrepreneurs through our partnerships with New York Small Business Solutions and Start Small Think Big

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**ORANGE COUNTY**

**Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:**
- asylum and immigration, corporate and regulatory matters, domestic violence, environment, impact litigation

**Recent Engagements:**
- Advised The Ocean Cleanup as it prepared for, and launched, its advanced technology designed to rid the Pacific Ocean of debris
- Represented disabled homeless clients in a major lawsuit in Orange County; the parties reached an agreement to provide shelter beds and related services
**PARIS**

*Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:*
- asylum and immigration, children, microfinance, nonprofits and NGOs, social entrepreneurship

*Recent Engagements:*
- Counseled Apprentis d’Auteuil, a French foundation, on the issuance of impact social bonds to finance its innovative programs
- Advised Refettorio Paris, a community kitchen that uses leftover food from high-end restaurants and markets to feed impoverished or marginalized people

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**SAN DIEGO**

*Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:*
- asylum and immigration, domestic violence, environment, nonprofits and NGOs, US veterans

*Recent Engagements:*
- Assisted local US veterans in correcting erroneous military records and obtaining the benefits, including retirement, to which they are entitled
- Counseled asylum seekers, including those with outstanding removal orders, and prepared motions based on the Convention Against Torture

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**SAN FRANCISCO**

*Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:*
- anti-human trafficking and human rights, asylum and immigration, children, civil rights, fair housing and tenants’ rights, nonprofits and NGOs, prisoners’ rights, US veterans

*Recent Engagements:*
- Obtained a reduced sentence for an individual previously sentenced to life in prison without parole at the age of 16
- Represented plaintiffs in impact litigation seeking to abolish cash bail in San Francisco
Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:

- asylum and immigration, corporate and regulatory matters, domestic violence, fair housing and tenants’ rights, US veterans

Recent Engagements:

- Advised the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies on setting up its expert referral database and drafted its terms of use and privacy policy
- Represented domestic violence survivors in filing for and obtaining permanent restraining orders against abusive former partners

Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:

- corporate and regulatory matters, legal clinics, nonprofits and NGOs, social entrepreneurship

Recent Engagements:

- Advised numerous nonprofits, including NaTakallam, which offers language practice to displaced Syrians; Push Pull Give, which offers fitness classes to disadvantaged children; and Justice and Care, which rescues victims of modern slavery and human trafficking
- Drafted a recognition agreement for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:
- asylum and immigration, children, civil rights, elder wills and advance directives, homelessness, LGBTQ+ matters, prisoners’ rights, US veterans

Recent Engagements:
- Reunited immigrant parents who were separated from their children after crossing the border into the United States through court process and informal negotiations with the federal government
- Won a major victory in long-standing litigation concerning the criminalization of homelessness in Boise, Idaho, holding that the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment bars a city from prosecuting people criminally from sleeping outside on public property when those people have no home or shelter to go to

TOKYO

Areas of Pro Bono Engagement:
- asylum and immigration, corporate and regulatory matters, indigent criminal defense, nonprofits and NGOs, social entrepreneurship

Recent Engagements:
- Provided corporate counseling to Ashoka Japan, which invests in social entrepreneurs
- Worked with Justice Centre Hong Kong to research the legal framework concerning asylum in various jurisdictions in Asia
Social entrepreneurs often face a difficult decision early in the life of their emerging company: engage costly corporate legal counsel and divert resources from their core mission, or operate without the protections and benefits afforded by legal structures and contractual arrangements most suited to their organization.

In 2018, our Houston office collaborated with Project Flourish, a Houston-based “social impact accelerator” that provides financial support and mentorship to social entrepreneurs working to transform and renew Houston by addressing major local and global challenges. Our involvement was driven by a desire to supplement the services Project Flourish was providing to these early stage social enterprises with pro bono legal support.

Our collaboration commenced with a special “pitch day” event. We hosted a group of social entrepreneurs in our Houston office and invited each one to present an overview of his or her organization and its legal needs. The requests were broad, ranging from assistance with incorporation to drafting investor agreements for seed financing to applying for nonprofit status.

The missions of these social entrepreneurs were as diverse as their legal needs; their areas of focus included:

- Providing high-impact, low-cost flooring and other construction materials to help build housing for refugee populations around the globe
- Using remote patient monitoring systems to improve the health of the chronically ill, disadvantaged, and disabled
- Establishing a hotline for victims of sex trafficking in Houston
- Repurposing barley that might otherwise go to waste
- Unleashing the power of creativity through art in Houston’s underserved neighborhoods

Since the event, we have continued to work with many of these organizations to address new issues that arise as their companies mature and grow. We are also seeking opportunities to expand our efforts to ensure that promising social enterprises working to improve our communities have the legal resources they require to operate effectively, fulfill their missions, and achieve the greatest impact.
The statistics are grim: The Humane Society of the United States estimates that at least six million companion animals go into shelters every year — and those that fail to find a forever home may be euthanized. Our lawyers draw on decades of pro bono experience in animal rights advocacy to help protect vulnerable creatures from torture and abuse, and to provide free legal services to organizations that are working to criminalize inhumane practices, rescue abandoned pets, and help fight for the safety and security of all animals.

For some two decades, we have offered pro bono support to the Humane Society of the United States, a nonprofit dedicated to animal welfare. This year, our lawyers continued to assist the Humane Society in advancing rulemaking petitions that combat specific forms of animal cruelty. For instance, we helped guide the Humane Society’s legal campaign against puppy mills — inhumane, high-volume breeding facilities that house up to 1,000 dogs at a time. Puppy mills are notorious for their unsanitary conditions, which often spread disease and lead to death for the dogs.

We have also continued to support the Humane Society’s legal efforts focused on banning horse soring, in which chemicals, chains, and cutting are used to intentionally inflict pain on horses, causing a distinctive, exaggerated gait.

Latham assisted Project Chimps on a number of agreements to help it raise funds for operation and expansion. Tucked in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Project Chimps is a 236-acre forested sanctuary established to provide exemplary care to former research chimpanzees. We advised on profit-sharing partnerships with several retailers, including a vineyard and chocolatier, and developed partnership agreements that establish a cooperative working relationship between the parties. As a result, Project Chimps will be able to secure needed publicity and funding that will help advance its efforts to protect and provide these former laboratory chimpanzees with a safe and enriching home.

We also advised several organizations dedicated to protecting the millions of companion animals that enter shelters every year. Our pro bono client Muddy Paws Rescue, a foster-based rescue group in New York City, rescues dogs from the streets and from euthanasia by partnering with shelters across the United States, particularly in regions with a high concentration of kill shelters. A Latham team recently handled a range of corporate governance legal work on behalf of Muddy Paws, helping the organization to remain on solid footing as it concentrates on fulfilling its mission of making sure every dog finds a loving, and permanent, home.

Every year, thousands of cats and dogs are euthanized in the Greater Houston area because of pet overpopulation — a long-standing problem that has only been heightened in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Our pro bono client Rescued Pets Movement saves the lives of companion animals that are at risk of being euthanized in Houston by transporting them to other states with a need for adoptable pets. This year, we advised on the organization’s bank financing for its kennel and clinic. Our lawyers also worked with Rescued Pets Movement to revise its bylaws and develop a sponsor agreement with the foundation of Houston Astros pitcher Lance McCullers, Jr., that will generate funding. Collectively, our broad-based pro bono efforts have provided Rescued Pets Movement with the legal tools it needs to advance its pioneering model of transport-based animal rescue.
We proudly partner with nonprofits, law schools, and other organizations to participate in dozens of legal clinics around the world each year. These clinics provide a platform for our lawyers to directly assist underserved communities. Our work encompasses a variety of issues, from advising low-income tenants facing eviction to assisting eligible US permanent residents in completing their citizenship applications to aiding social entrepreneurs seeking to develop sustainable and scalable solutions to social problems. Through legal clinics, we are able to offer immediate, proactive solutions to legal challenges.

For several years, our Paris office has worked with French humanitarian organization Droits d’urgence to run a biweekly legal clinic at a hospital in the north of the city. Together, we help indigent clients address the legal, cultural, social, and linguistic hurdles that arise when navigating complex government bureaucracies. Our lawyers advise on asylum and immigration, criminal law, debt, and labor and employment, and assist with administrative filings for applications to public benefit programs.

Since 2012, lawyers in our New York office have hosted several clinics, serving more than 400 low-income entrepreneurs seeking to build and sustain small businesses. These enterprises not only increase the financial security of their owners, but also help stimulate economic activity in New York City’s underserved communities. Along with the NYC Department of Small Business Services, our lawyers counsel clients on entity formation, contracts and leases, intellectual property and licensing, and other issues that arise when trying to start or run an enterprise, with the ultimate goal of helping the entrepreneurs attain their business goals.

In London, we held a legal clinic for charities and NGOs focused on the rights of women and children as well as LGBTQ+ individuals, and our lawyers in Houston handled more than 20 estate and end-of-life planning matters on behalf of the city’s low-income residents. In Germany, our lawyers supervised Start Right, a student-run clinic that offers legal advice to social entrepreneurs. Our Washington, D.C. lawyers advised asylum seekers, immigrants, and those wishing to change their names or genders on official documents at an array of free legal clinics held in the community.

And, in Moscow, our lawyers have been instrumental in helping students at leading area law schools, including Moscow State University Law School and the Academy of Foreign Trade Law School, set up legal clinics. We run training seminars for students and staff that cover ethics, best practices, and operations and organizational issues that commonly arise in clinics. While the ultimate beneficiary of these trainings are the clients who attend the clinics, the trainings also help strengthen civil society and develop a commitment to public service among the next generation of lawyers in Russia.
Pollution from floating trash is a global problem. Perhaps most dramatically, floating trash has concentrated in five massive gyres. These gyres are located in some of the most remote areas of the globe, beyond the jurisdiction of any country that might be legally responsible for their disassembly and disposal. Latham & Watkins is helping The Ocean Cleanup as it develops solutions to significantly reduce pollution in our world’s waters.

Founded in 2013, The Ocean Cleanup is a Dutch nonprofit that generates advanced technologies to clean up the accumulation of floating trash larger than five centimeters. Removing this debris from the oceans helps prevent it from breaking down into microscopic particles, which are harder — and eventually impossible — to collect and extract and pose a serious threat to the food chain, including humans.

The Ocean Cleanup’s approach differs from previous attempts to collect floating debris, because it is large-scale, energy efficient, environmentally sound, and may even pay for itself. Its technology includes large floating arrays that intercept floating trash in the concentration zone in the North Pacific Gyre (which is twice the size of Texas). The arrays will harness the force of ocean currents to concentrate and retain the trash in a small area, thereby facilitating removal. Once the trash is removed, it will be transported to a facility on land for sorting and recycling. The Ocean Cleanup hopes to recycle or convert to energy everything it brings ashore, resulting in zero waste.

Developing and deploying this technology has raised a number of novel regulatory issues. Our lawyers have helped The Ocean Cleanup, as a foreign entity, navigate the US regulatory regime and consult with relevant federal and California agencies to determine permissions and permits, and we are now advising on tax, organizational, and technology matters, as well as waste transport and customs issues, to facilitate the next phase of the project.

In the spirit of collaboration and open-source science, Latham has facilitated The Ocean Cleanup’s relationships with several complementary environmental organizations and government agencies. Our lawyers accompanied The Ocean Cleanup to meet with politicians, regulators, and government scientists across the United States.

The Ocean Cleanup released a major scientific study and launched its beta version — System 001, aka Wilson — in the Pacific Ocean in the fall of 2018. As it continues to develop and refine the Wilson prototype, The Ocean Cleanup is learning many valuable lessons, which will enable the organization to bring its operations to scale as it aims to achieve its ambitious goal of a 90 percent reduction in the ocean’s floating trash by 2040.
In August 1955 the body of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black youth from Chicago, was found in the Tallahatchie River. On September 23, in a five day trial held in this courthouse, an all-white jury acquitted two white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, of the murder. Both later confessed to the murder in a magazine interview. Till’s murder, coupled with the trial and acquittal of these two men, drew international attention and galvanized the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi and the nation.
CREATING A NATIONAL PARK

The formal apology delivered to the surviving family of Emmett Till in 2007, more than five decades after Till’s brutal lynching and murder, opened not with a call for closure, but with this call to action: “To overcome the violence of our past, we must first acknowledge it.”

In August 1955, Emmett Till, a joyous 14-year-old African-American boy, left his hometown of Chicago to visit family in Mississippi. The truth about his subsequent kidnapping, torture, and murder shocked America’s conscience — and helped galvanize the civil rights movement. The quick acquittal of Till’s murderers, who later admitted their guilt in a magazine interview, symbolized the fundamental state of racial injustice in Mississippi and many parts of the United States.

The courageous decision of Mamie Till Bradley, the boy’s mother, to hold a public, open-casket funeral for her son, showed the world the human cost of racist violence. Several months after the murder, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Later, she was quoted as saying, “I thought of Emmett Till, and I just couldn’t go back.”

This horrifying legacy lives on in many ways — as does the struggle for equal treatment under the law. Recognizing injustices past and present is essential to building a fairer legal system that protects the rights of all citizens.

This year, our lawyers began working with the Mississippi Center for Justice, a longtime pro bono client, and the Emmett Till Interpretive Center (ETIC) to advocate for national recognition and protection of historical sites connected to the murder of Till to provide future generations a place to learn about this critical part of civil rights history. Our efforts have focused on organizing support for the inclusion of these sites in the National Park System (NPS), which is currently studying a number of potential sites related to civil rights history in Mississippi.

Our lawyers initially brought together ETIC with a number of national groups that advocate for the protection and expansion of national parks. We then helped to collect and deliver critical testimony regarding the historical significance of the Till sites to the NPS for inclusion in its study of potential sites. The study may take up to two years to complete, at which point the US Secretary of the Interior will submit the findings to Congress to determine whether the sites should be added to the park system and designated, collectively, as a national park area. We have also assisted ETIC as it looks for partners and funding for its work.

Latham will continue to help guide the campaign to create a permanent, national site to preserve the memory of Emmett Till and the bravery of his mother, where the public can engage with their stories and reflect on how we can create a future in which racial violence and injustice have ceased to exist.
For more than a decade, Latham & Watkins has partnered with Idaho Legal Aid Services and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) to challenge two statutes in Boise, Idaho, that criminalized sleeping outside. These laws are common in many US cities, perpetuating the cycle of homelessness and leaving vulnerable individuals in debt, burdened with a criminal record, and unable to secure stable housing. After years of hard-fought litigation, the Ninth Circuit ruled in September 2018 that these laws violate the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution. Our lawyers contributed some 7,000 hours to this fight, which established that cities cannot criminalize sleeping outside for homeless individuals who have no available alternative. The court’s decision has already impacted nine states within the Ninth Circuit, spurring some cities to take affirmative steps to change their policies, and could lead to policy changes in other parts of the country.

A team of our lawyers also challenged an ordinance prohibiting panhandling in Springfield, Illinois. We developed and briefed a First Amendment challenge, which was initially unsuccessful before a panel of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, but which ultimately prevailed on rehearing after an intervening decision by the US Supreme Court. Latham originally represented the NLCHP; however, the Seventh Circuit denied the organization’s attempt to intervene in the case. Our firm subsequently took a co-counsel role on behalf of the individual homeless plaintiffs. Following the appeal, the trial court enjoined Springfield from enforcing its panhandling ban. As a result of the litigation, homeless and other indigent people throughout the Seventh Circuit are free to solicit donations peacefully and legally.

When hundreds of homeless residents living on the Santa Ana Riverbed in Santa Ana, California, were swept up in a county-led mass evacuation, many were left with nowhere to go. Emergency and transitional shelters did not offer a stable environment, nor did these facilities accommodate people with disabilities or who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Together with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, our lawyers filed a joint suit, arguing the county violated the Americans with Disabilities Act when it evicted disabled riverbed residents without offering disability-appropriate alternatives. Our filing emphasizes the idea that sheltering oneself is a basic human need and is harmless to others; it also highlights the strong links between disability, unemployment, and poverty. The filing requests that the county be required to provide those homeless residents that it seeks to move with appropriate housing options.

Along with our advocacy efforts, we provide transactional support to organizations that are devoted to serving homeless and low-income individuals. For example, our lawyers have partnered with Food for Soul, a nonprofit founded by Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura that is working to fight food waste and feed the hungry by creating community kitchens (known as refettorios) in previously neglected spaces. Participating chefs use surplus food to cook nutritious meals that are served in welcoming, inclusive hubs. Our lawyers in Milan recently developed a template memorandum of understanding for the organization to use with its operational partners around the world, while our Paris team drafted contracts that facilitated the opening of a community kitchen in the crypt of L’église de la Madeleine, a famous church in Paris. And, in Chicago, our lawyers have been working with Food for Soul as it expands into the United States.

DECRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS
Our world has experienced disasters unprecedented in both number and scale over the past decade. In 2018 alone, the United States coped with devastating mudslides, overwhelming floods, destructive tornadoes, the deadliest wildfires in California’s history, and the most powerful hurricane to make landfall on the East Coast in almost 30 years. Such disasters affect everyone and everything in their path, of course, but they tend to have a particularly catastrophic impact on low-income communities.

In the aftermath of a disaster, survivors frequently confront a variety of complex legal challenges. They may need help filing for benefits and FEMA assistance, replacing critical documents, such as birth certificates, or navigating bureaucracies of various government agencies. Struggling to repair their homes, they may face price-gouging, fraud, or unscrupulous contractors. They may be confronted with unlawful foreclosures or evictions, or become embroiled in landlord-tenant disputes. As a result of these stressors, rates of domestic violence and child abuse often increase.

Despite legal aid’s potential to help in the aftermath of disaster, there is a significant gap in the disaster-response landscape due to the absence of a coordinated effort to address the legal needs of survivors. Many disaster-response organizations are unaware of the legal rights of and issues faced by disaster survivors or the specific needs of low-income communities. Not all court systems or legal service providers maintain disaster-response plans, or have the resources or staff to assist. Sometimes the disaster overwhelms a community’s institutions and organizations, leaving survivors shattered, unsupported, and devastated.

The Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation created the Disaster Taskforce in April 2018 to take a wide-ranging approach to both preparing for disasters and assisting low-income survivors recovering from the impact of a disaster. Co-chaired by Judge Jonathan Lippman, of counsel in our New York office, the Taskforce comprises more than 60 members of emergency response and management, corporations, and law firms as well as legal aid and legal services organizations from across the United States.

Latham serves as pro bono counsel to the Taskforce, undertaking research and investigations, supporting subcommittees, drafting reports and recommendations, and otherwise addressing the Taskforce’s day-to-day legal needs.

To identify best practices from around the country, the Taskforce is convening field hearings in Houston and Miami. First responders, survivors, and representatives from community organizations will share their experiences and accomplishments, helping the Taskforce develop viable, scalable strategies for coping with disaster-related legal issues, with the goal of developing a nationwide framework for a systematic approach to preparing for and responding to the civil legal needs of low-income Americans affected by a disaster. The Taskforce will issue its findings and related report in Washington, D.C. in 2019.

Latham & Watkins 2018 Pro Bono Annual Review
Latham & Watkins has provided pro bono support to asylum seekers and immigrant survivors of human trafficking and violence, as well as to lawful permanent residents pursuing citizenship, for more than two decades. In 2018, colleagues across our US offices assisted more than 500 individual clients on these matters. Within the continuum of this work, we also engage in strategic, high-impact litigation designed to protect the rights of everyone who comes to the United States seeking asylum, protection, and freedom.

The Pentagon estimates that there are some 20,000 non-US citizens serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces. Pursuant to long-standing policy and practice, Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) who had enlisted in the US military were allowed to ship to basic training on the same terms as US nationals (immediately after enlistment). However, in October 2017, the Department of Defense abruptly changed this policy, and prohibited LPRs (but not US nationals) from accessing into military service until the completion of all required background checks. Latham filed suit alongside the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of a class of 3,500 LPRs, seeking a preliminary injunction requiring the Department of Defense to return to the policy and practice it had followed before October 2017. The US District Court granted our motion, finding the policy change “arbitrary and capricious” under the Administrative Procedure Act. The matter is currently on appeal to the US Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit.

In February 2018, the US government arbitrarily denied the refugee applications of a group of Christians, Mandaeans, and other persecuted religious minorities who had fled Iran and were in transit through Vienna. These refugees had been invited to Austria by the US government to complete the processing of their refugee applications under the Lautenberg Amendment — a congressionally enacted program permitting refugee admission to certain vulnerable groups. Historically, the program accepted nearly 100 percent of the applicants, resettling them in the United States within a few months.

However, our clients’ denials left them in limbo in Vienna, facing deportation back to Iran, where they would likely face persecution, imprisonment, or even death. Latham partnered with the International Refugee Assistance Project to file a successful class action that compelled the federal government to reopen every individual’s case in May 2018. Two months later, the court sided with the plaintiffs in certifying a class of Iranian refugees and the US family members who sponsored their applications, and ordered the US government to disclose the basis of denying each individual’s refugee application — a momentous victory that guarantees our clients a proper and fair opportunity to apply for refugee status, just as the Lautenberg Amendment intended.

Since 2008, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) has served as a pathway for juveniles under the age of 21 who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents to obtain lawful permanent residence in the United States. However, in early 2018, without any prior announcement, US Citizenship and Immigration Services began denying all SIJS petitions filed by juveniles between the ages of 18 and 20 years old. This new policy has no basis in law, and has created uncertainty for a vulnerable population. Our lawyers joined the Legal Aid Society in a closely watched class action case with nationwide ramifications. The parties are currently briefing cross-motions for summary judgment, and a decision is expected in the near term. ■
REFORMING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

We work to preserve equal and just treatment under the law through impact litigation, advocacy, and partnerships with public interest organizations at the forefront of the criminal justice reform movement.

Our lawyers are preparing to bring a groundbreaking challenge in collaboration with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law concerning the constitutionality of the manner in which Oklahoma finances its criminal justice system. Oklahoma’s courts are funded almost entirely by fines and fees that counties collect from defendants, including people who are unable to afford the assessed costs, even for petty crimes. Furthermore, the courts often fail to hold judicial hearings to consider a defendant’s ability to afford fines and fees, as required under state law. As a result, many indigent defendants are incarcerated simply for failure to pay assessed costs, whereas more affluent defendants can afford to keep themselves out of jail, which creates a system that is sometimes characterized as a “debtors’ prison scheme.” We are working with the Lawyers’ Committee to challenge this financing structure.

In collaboration with Equal Justice Under Law, our lawyers also led the charge in a high-profile constitutional challenge of San Francisco’s system of cash bail. We represent a class of indigent arrestees who are forced to remain in jail before arraignment under San Francisco’s bail schedule, while equally situated but wealthy arrestees go free. Our attorneys brought the matter to the eve of trial and through renewed summary judgment argument, seeking to invalidate the bail schedule under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment. The court’s upcoming decision will be of particular significance because the bail industry is challenging California’s legislative attempt to repeal cash bail statewide. A ruling on the constitutionality of the bail schedule will therefore have far-reaching ramifications toward vindicating the constitutional liberty rights of the poor.

Latham continued to serve as pro bono counsel to the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, a group of experts, policymakers, and advocates responsible for analyzing criminal justice reforms and the correctional facilities on Rikers Island, which is notorious for violent and inhumane conditions. Chaired by Judge Jonathan Lippman, of counsel in our New York office, the commission released an initial report in April 2017 calling for the permanent closure of Rikers. Since that time, we have continued to represent the commission as it works to implement the report’s recommendations. For instance, in connection with a recent litigation matter, a Latham team helped draft an amicus brief on behalf of several commission members arguing that cash bail should be imposed sparingly on indigent defendants. We also released a progress report that recommends legislative priorities for improving New York’s justice system.

In recent years, our lawyers’ efforts to advance criminal justice reform have expanded to focus on incarcerated youth. We currently partner with the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth to represent prisoners who received life sentences without parole when they were juveniles and — pursuant to recent US Supreme Court decisions — are eligible for re-sentencing. Our clients include a man who has served more than 25 years in prison for his first, and only, criminal offense, committed at age 17. This year, we secured a resentencing for him to a term of years. We are currently preparing this client for his parole interviews, having already coordinated his housing, employment, and other reentry arrangements to help him transition to a new life.
The World Health Organization defines female genital mutilation (FGM) as “procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.” Reports estimate that at least 200 million girls and women living in certain parts of Africa and Asia have had FGM, and the majority of them suffer from complications, such as hemorrhage, tetanus, sepsis (bacterial infection), urine retention, open sores, and injury to nearby tissue. Long-term consequences include recurrent bladder and urinary tract infections, incontinence, cysts, infertility, an increased risk of newborn deaths and childbirth complications, and the need for later surgeries. Recognizing FGM as a form of gender-based violence, the United Nations has called for its ban.

FGM occurs mainly in the 28 countries along a belt stretching from Senegal in West Africa to Egypt in North Africa to Somalia in East Africa as well as parts of central Africa. Latham partnered with TrustLaw, the global pro bono arm of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, to assist 28 Too Many, a small charity incorporated in the United Kingdom that aims to raise awareness about FGM practices in these 28 African countries and to research the existing legal framework on FGM (and implementation thereof) in these countries. The organization also wanted to learn more about the knock-on effect of FGM on the lives of girls and women.

A London-based Latham team coordinated the large-scale research project, which involved more than 55 Latham lawyers across seven offices, three international law firms, several teams of local counsel, and an on-the-ground activist organization in each of the 28 jurisdictions contributing expertise and research.

The first stage of the project included working with local counsel and activists to publish country-specific research reports analyzing the legal position on FGM and implications of eradicating the practice, as well as providing recommendations for advocacy in each country. These reports were sent to policymakers and activists and released to the public via social media. Our reach was broad and immediate.

During the second phase, 28 Too Many and Latham produced an 80-page comparative guide highlighting key cross-border aspects of FGM. For instance, where one country has outlawed FGM but its neighboring countries have not, our research showed that FGM in the “banned” country is most prevalent along the borders with the “not banned” countries. In addition, we found that the fines and penalties for violating FGM bans were relatively low across many countries.

By working with concerned citizens and organizations on the ground, we were also able to explore more practical aspects of enacting and implementing anti-FGM legislation and policies. These included the challenge of enforcing any ban, particularly in rural parts of the affected countries. Through these efforts, and our work to strengthen the network of supporting local counsel in the 28 African countries, we hope to move closer to our shared goal of ending this terrible practice forever.
Serving means rising above self-interest to help others. From risking their lives on the battlefield to aiding communities in need around the globe, members and veterans of the United States military embody the meaning of service — and Latham stands with them.

For many years, we have worked to support and advocate on behalf of active-duty US service members and veterans who have been unjustly denied the full benefits and recognition they have earned by serving their country. Our work includes acting on behalf of those suffering from service-related injuries, litigating for the repatriation of deported veterans, and undertaking investigative reports examining deficiencies in the very system established to support veterans.

Our lawyers work closely with the Lawyers Serving Warriors Program of the National Veterans Legal Service Program (NVLSP) to assist veterans with service-related injuries in pursuing their earned benefits. Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who have medically retired with combat-related disabilities are eligible for combat-related special compensation. This lifetime benefit can provide hundreds of dollars per month in additional tax-free compensation — a critical lifeline for veterans who are unable to work as a result of their combat injuries.

Through our association with NVLSP, this year we continued to appeal disability ratings of individual veterans before the Physical Disability Board of Review.

Disability ratings determine whether the service member, upon retirement, will receive a lump-sum severance payment or lifelong retirement benefits. Because veterans are not provided legal representation before the board, our lawyers step in to help clients navigate the claims and appeals processes to secure the full benefits they are owed. We recently expanded our involvement to include appeals before boards of correction of military or naval records where we assist veterans in their post-separation applications for medical retirement or upgrades to the characterizations of their discharge from the service.

In 2018, we became involved in efforts to represent active-duty service members within the military’s disability evaluation system (DES), participating in one of NVLSP’s first outreach clinics at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where we helped educate active-duty service members on their rights within the DES and screened cases for intake. Our work on DES matters encompasses written appeals as well as representation at administrative hearings where a military board determines a service member’s eligibility for medical retirement benefits.

More than 350 Latham lawyers across 15 offices have taken on over 240 matters on behalf of veterans and active-duty service members in the last five years — helping ensure that those who have served their country receive the benefits they deserve.
SUPPORTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

We have a long history of working with and supporting the LGBTQ+ community on a range of issues, from litigation designed to vindicate civil rights and immigration advocacy to elder care and school anti-bullying support. In 2018, our lawyers collaborated on a landmark child custody case for a same-sex partner, helped transgender individuals legally change their names, and advocated for transgender individuals to be treated equally in the US military.

Latham is supporting the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) in a cross-jurisdiction lawsuit to recognize the rights of a non-biological mother’s relationship with her child. Filed on behalf of a New York non-biological/non-adoptive mother, “Monica” has not seen her child in more than a year and fears permanent separation. LeGaL brought an emergency motion to prevent Monica’s child from being removed from Massachusetts and applied for temporary guardianship for Monica, pending a decision on Monica’s standing as a legal parent. When the current guardian violated the court’s order, taking the child to the biological mother’s home country and leaving the child there, LeGaL filed a complaint for contempt and is seeking the immediate return of the child. Our work on this matter follows our submission of an amicus brief in a landmark 2016 case, in which the New York State Court of Appeals ruled that the same-sex partner of a child’s biological parent should also be legally recognized as a parent, even if the couple was not married and the partner did not adopt the child. Monica’s case could further clarify the legal landscape for same-sex couples with children.

Transgender individuals who transition from one gender to another often face daunting legal obstacles in establishing their new identities. Our lawyers in New York and Washington, D.C. have partnered with Mount Sinai’s Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery and Whitman-Walker Health to assist individuals in effectuating name changes. Legal name changes enable easier access to employment, housing, and education while reducing the risk of public harassment.

In California, our lawyers are working with Equality California, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders to block the federal government’s policy banning transgender individuals from serving in the military. The ban was blocked by several injunctions in 2017. In 2018, the US government revised the policy to allow transgender people to join or serve in the military, but only if they did not suffer from gender dysphoria or had not already transitioned between genders. The US District Court ruled that the 2018 ban is not meaningfully different from the initial ban, and declined to dissolve the injunction. Our lawyers continue their work to help maintain the ability of transgender individuals to serve openly in the US Armed Forces.
AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Firm Lands on ‘Pro Bono Hot List’
In its annual “Pro Bono Hot List” recognizing notable public interest achievements by law firms, the National Law Journal honored Latham for working to reform the criminal justice system in New York City, specifically the city’s main jail complex at Rikers Island. The publication noted Latham’s “Herculean efforts” to “create a road map to improve [New York’s] ailing criminal justice system.”

Since 2016, our lawyers have served as pro bono counsel to the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, a group of experts, policymakers, and advocates charged with analyzing the correctional facilities on Rikers Island, notorious for violent and inhumane conditions. As a result of these efforts, it is now public policy in the city and state of New York to close Rikers. We continue to represent the commission as it seeks to implement the report’s recommendations as well as numerous other reforms to the criminal justice system in New York.

Iranian American Bar Association Honors Latham
At the fifth annual Iranian American Bar Association Conference, a Latham team, led by San Francisco partner Belinda Lee and Century City associate Oliver Rocos, was recognized with a service award for its pro bono work in Doe v. Nielsen.

In February 2018, the US government arbitrarily denied the refugee applications of a group of Christians, Mandaeans, and other religious minorities who had fled Iran and were in transit through Vienna. These refugees had been invited to Austria by the US government to complete the processing of their refugee applications under the Lautenberg Amendment — a congressionally enacted program permitting refugee admission to certain vulnerable groups. Historically, the program accepted nearly 100 percent of the applicants, resettling them in the United States within a few months.

However, our clients’ denials left them in limbo in Vienna, facing deportation back to Iran, where they would likely face persecution, imprisonment, or even death. Latham partnered with the International Refugee Assistance Project to file a successful class action that compelled the federal government to reopen every individual’s case in May 2018. Two months later, the court sided with the plaintiffs, certifying a class of Iranian refugees and their US family members.

Firm Receives Legal Services Corporation Pro Bono Award
The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Board of Directors presented Latham with a Pro Bono Service Award for partnering with Idaho Legal Aid Services and contributing more than 7,000 hours of pro bono service. LSC is an independent nonprofit established by Congress in 1974 to provide financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans. It currently provides funding to 133 independent nonprofit legal aid programs in every state, the District of Columbia, and US territories, including Idaho Legal Aid Services, which nominated Latham for this award.

For more than a decade, our lawyers partnered with Idaho Legal Aid Services and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) to challenge two statutes in Boise, Idaho, that criminalized sleeping outside. These laws are common in many US cities, perpetuating the cycle of homelessness and leaving vulnerable individuals in debt, burdened with a criminal record, and unable to secure stable housing. After years of hard-fought litigation, the Ninth Circuit ruled in September 2018 that these laws violate the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution. The court’s decision has already impacted nine states within the Ninth Circuit, prompting some cities to take affirmative steps to change their policies.
Latham Wins Collaboration Award

At the 2018 TrustLaw Awards, Latham was proud to accept the Collaboration Award, in honor of our firm’s work on behalf of 28 Too Many, an anti-female genital mutilation (FGM) research organization that provides tools and support to those working to end FGM in Africa and around the world. The award commends the “highly effective working relationships between legal teams, NGOs, and social enterprises that have dramatically increased the potential impact of projects as a result.”

Counsel JP Sweny and associates Boin Cheong and Charlotte Hagan oversaw over 55 lawyers from seven Latham offices in groundbreaking research and analysis of existing legal frameworks on FGM in 28 African countries, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Our lawyers led teams from international law firms — as well as local counsel, NGOs, and activists — to produce a comparative guide summarizing the legislation, policies, and charges relating to FGM in 28 African countries. We also helped create detailed country reports to support ongoing advocacy efforts on the ground and in front of various African parliaments.

In addition to receiving the Collaboration Award, Latham was shortlisted for the 2018 Impact Award in recognition of its work with Amnesty International and Save the Children UK on a high-impact project that is currently shaping refugee family reunion law in the United Kingdom.

Of Counsel Inducted into Warren E. Burger Society

Judge Jonathan Lippman, of counsel in our New York office, was inducted into the prestigious National Center for State Courts’ Warren E. Burger Society. The Burger Society honors individuals who have used their time, talent, and support to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in exceptional ways. It is named for the former chief justice of the United States who helped found NCSC in 1971.

As the longest-tenured chief administrative judge in New York State history, Judge Lippman played a central role in many far-reaching judicial system reforms and addressing constitutional, statutory, and common law issues shaping the law of New York, the contours of state government, and the lives of all New Yorkers. He championed equal access to justice, including spearheading efforts to improve funding for civil legal services; created human trafficking courts across New York; and led efforts to reform New York’s juvenile justice system and bail and pre-trial justice systems. He joined Latham in 2016.

D.C. Partner Honored with Multiple Awards

The Capital Area Muslim Bar Association (CAMBA) awarded Washington, D.C. partner Abid Riaz Qureshi with its annual Impact Award. CAMBA is a culturally driven group focused on fostering a sense of community for Muslim Americans in the legal world. Qureshi received the award in recognition of his professional diligence and unwavering commitment to justice, and in acknowledgment of the ways he has shown himself to be a role model within the Muslim-American legal community.

The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia also recognized Qureshi with the Servant of Justice Award, which highlights individuals or organizations who have demonstrated faithful dedication and remarkable achievement in ensuring that all persons have equal and meaningful access to justice. Qureshi served as Global Chair of Latham’s Pro Bono Committee for six years, completing his term in March 2018. Qureshi’s personal pro bono achievements include litigating a case that allowed a Muslim-American film production company to display its comedic advertisements in the NYC subway system and challenging conditions of prolonged solitary confinement for a client on Virginia’s death row.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation honored Latham at the 2018 TrustLaw Awards.
Lawyers Lauded for Pro Bono Commitment

Los Angeles associate Ashley Kim received the Attorney Volunteer of the Year award from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, while New York associates Jessica Rostoker, Amanda Parisi, and Irina Sivachenko were recognized with Sanctuary for Families’ 2018 Above & Beyond Pro Bono Achievement Award. Every year, the staff at this New York City nonprofit, which works with victims of domestic violence and their children, nominates a small number of pro bono teams who have gone “above and beyond” in their representation of, and advocacy for, victims of gender-based violence.

Chicago associate Jamie Friedland received the 2018 Legal Eagle Award from the Independent Voters of Illinois in recognition of his work organizing the efforts of more than 300 other lawyers and translators at O’Hare International Airport, following the January 2017 ban on travel from certain countries. For more than three months, lawyers were stationed at O’Hare 18 hours per day, every day, ready to advise refugees, immigrants, green-card holders, asylum seekers, and other travelers affected by the travel restrictions. The group also set up a 24-hour hotline to continue to answer questions and provide pro bono services at O’Hare.

San Francisco partner Nicole Valco and associate Cameron Clark were honored with the Robert G. Sproul Jr. Award from the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area for their pro bono work. This award recognizes the provision of legal services to under-represented communities and the marshaling of firm resources to defend the rights of the disenfranchised. Our firm and these lawyers, in particular, were praised for their contributions to LCCR, as well as their work staffing the GLIDE Unconditional Legal Service Clinic. At this biweekly clinic, anyone in the community can ask a question and receive information about a legal issue, get help writing documents, or receive a referral for more in-depth assistance.

Firm Receives Philanthropy Award

Latham was honored to receive the Philanthropy Award from the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area at its Diamond 60th Anniversary Gala. In 2017, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Bay merged with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area, with the latter continuing as the surviving corporation. A Latham team based in Silicon Valley offered pro bono advice during the merger, including counseling the CEO and Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area in all aspects of the transaction, preparing and negotiating transaction documents, and assisting with the integration process.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Bay was struggling to maintain its mentoring programs with limited financial and operational resources. The purpose of the transaction was to enable a combined organization to serve a total of nine counties in the Bay Area region, centralizing key functions to offer one of the only year-round mentoring programs for disadvantaged youth in those counties. Combined, the organization reaches more than 1,000 children, 90 percent of whom are low-income, raised in single-parent homes, and qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
Latham Commended for Pro Bono Work in Texas

For the fourth consecutive year, Lone Star Legal Aid honored the firm with its Pro Bono Law Firm Award. Since 1948, Lone Star Legal Aid has provided free legal services to low-income and underserved populations in the Houston area. Latham has helped Houstonians with a variety of estate planning documents, including wills, powers of attorney, and medical directives. The firm was also recognized for the work it has done aiding victims of Hurricane Harvey. Houston partner Joel Mack was given Lone Star Legal Aid’s award for “Most Cases Handled by a Houston Pro Bono Attorney.”

Texas Appleseed honored Latham’s Houston office with its 2018 Pro Bono Leadership Award, recognizing contributions to the community. Texas Appleseed is a member of the National Appleseed consortium, a nonprofit network of public interest justice centers in the United States and Mexico engaged in the areas of education, immigration, financial access, healthcare, and disaster recovery.

D.C. Office Raises Record-Breaking Amount

Our Washington, D.C. office raised a record amount of funds during this year’s Generous Associates Campaign, an effort to generate financial support for the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. Latham is the first firm to surpass US$200,000 in the history of the campaign. The annual two-month summer campaign raised a total of US$2.15 million to support the operations of Legal Aid. This fundraising milestone resonates strongly with Latham, whose associates helped initiate the Generous Associates Campaign more than 25 years ago.

Our fundraising efforts for the Children’s Law Center’s 2017 Champions for Children campaign earned the firm top recognition as well. Latham made it into the organization’s High Flier category, which recognizes organizations that exemplify a deep commitment to bettering the lives of children.

The Children’s Law Center provides free legal services to at-risk children who face abuse and neglect, need loving homes, or have special education and health needs. Each year, it reaches more than 5,000 children and families, including one out of every nine children in D.C.’s poorest neighborhoods. It is the largest legal services organization in D.C. and the only one to focus on children.

American Civil Liberties Union Praises Firm

At its annual luncheon recognizing notable public interest achievements, the American Civil Liberties Union honored the firm with the Immigrant Justice Award. Latham has been at the forefront of helping US veterans apply for immigration status for which they are eligible due to their service to the country. In many cases, US veterans with uncertain immigration status are eligible to qualify for benefits that allow them to naturalize as citizens of their adopted country. However, if these veterans are banished or deported for any reason, they become unable to apply for veterans’ benefits, and face significant legal and logistical hurdles. Over the past few years, Latham has taken on several matters to repatriate banished or deported US veterans and to raise awareness of these issues.
D.C. Office Recognized by Pro Bono Partner

Latham was honored to be recognized as Ayuda’s inaugural Pro Bono Partner of the Year. Ayuda works with immigrants from more than 100 countries currently residing in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, offering multilingual social and legal services.

Over the past year, Latham has partnered with Ayuda to assist with T-visa, U-visa, and asylum-related matters. Our lawyers have also participated in several immigration clinics through Ayuda, including a clinic for DACA renewal and several screening clinics to help local individuals assess their options for immigration-related relief.

However, a change to the policy in January 2018 meant that individuals who are over 18, but not yet 21, no longer qualified for SIJS and were therefore in danger of losing their immigration status. The parties are currently briefing cross-motions for summary judgment, and a decision is expected in the near term.

Firm Praised for Pro Bono Efforts

The Legal Aid Society of New York recognized Latham at its 2018 Pro Bono Publico Awards for outstanding service to the society and its clients. The society is the oldest and largest provider of legal aid to the indigent and the impoverished in the United States. Latham has a long-standing relationship with the society.

A New York-based team, led by partners Rob Malionek and Nick McQuaid, was honored for its work with the society on a federal class action challenging the US Citizenship and Immigration Services’ eligibility interpretation for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). Since 2008, SIJS has served as a legal pathway to obtain lawful permanent residency for unaccompanied minors under the age of 21 who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents.

However, a change to the policy in January 2018 meant that individuals who are over 18, but not yet 21, no longer qualified for SIJS and were therefore in danger of losing their immigration status. The parties are currently briefing cross-motions for summary judgment, and a decision is expected in the near term.

New York partners Commended

New York partner Chirag Dedania received the 2018 Cornerstone Award for outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits from the Lawyers Alliance for New York, the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofits and social enterprises improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. Since 2015, Dedania has volunteered his services to several Lawyers Alliance partners, including drafting agreements and contracts for the Natural Areas Conservancy, NYCEDU.org, and Carl’s Butterflies.

The New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) honored New York partner Jimmy Brandt with its Visionary of Justice Award at the organization’s 2018 gala. The award commends lawyers who have demonstrated a dedication to serving the community through their work. As a legal services organization, NYLAG provides access to justice for low-income New Yorkers who cannot afford private attorneys. Fellow NYLAG board member Joseph Polizzotto lauded Brandt for his legal skills, commitment to helping others, keen judgment, and sense of purpose in supporting social justice causes.
Law Society of Hong Kong Praises Latham

Latham was proud to accept the Silver Law Firm Award from the Law Society of Hong Kong’s Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme at its annual awards program. This award recognizes the outstanding provision of pro bono counsel and community service by our lawyers and staff in the Hong Kong office.

LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York Applauds Latham

The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) honored both Latham and New York counsel Virginia Tent, who oversees the team working with LeGaL.

LeGaL has been at the forefront of ensuring the rights of non-biological, non-adoptive, and non-marital parents. We have been proud to support these groundbreaking efforts as LeGaL’s co-counsel on a matter seeking to establish legal recognition of a non-biological mother’s relationship with her child as well as through submission of amicus briefs on other critical matters.

Longtime Pro Bono Client Bet Tzedek Honors Firm

Latham received the Rose L. Schiff Commitment to Justice Award from Bet Tzedek. This organization provides free, comprehensive legal services for low-income individuals in Los Angeles, increasing access to justice. Our firm has offered pro bono counsel to Bet Tzedek’s clients, including the elderly, Holocaust survivors, and immigrants, for nearly two decades.

Latham Receives Law Firm of the Year Award

Casa Cornelia Law Center offers free legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations in Southern California. As a longtime supporter of the organization, Latham has partnered with Casa Cornelia on a variety of asylum and other immigration matters for nearly two decades.

At its 25th anniversary celebration, Casa Cornelia presented Latham with its Jubilee Law Firm of the Year award. The ceremony “celebrat[ed] the dedication of exceptional attorneys and law firms who have a commitment to the success of Casa Cornelia’s clients and their cases.” Since its founding in 1993, Casa Cornelia has helped more than 10,000 people in San Diego and Southern California. In addition to firmwide recognition, San Diego associate Lindsay Gochnour was recognized with a Pro Bono Publico Award.

New York partner Jimmy Brandt (second from left) is congratulated by Abby Milstein, Chair of the NYLAG Board; Steven M. Cohen, EVP, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel of MacAndrews & Forbes; and Beth Goldman, NYLAG President and Attorney-in-Charge.
LATHAM IN THE COMMUNITY

Around the world, our personnel donate their time, money, and talents to causes that matter. Our community service initiatives range from toy drives to bike rides, from pie-eating contests to preparing and serving meals, from running races to mentoring children. In the pages that follow, you’ll find highlights from 2018.

1 A team from our Milan office participated in the Milano Marathon to benefit children’s charities Fondazione De Marchi ONLUS and Associazione L’Impronta Onlus.

2 Members of our Los Angeles-area offices climbed nearly 1,700 stairs (75 stories) to the top of the US Bank Tower in Los Angeles, the tallest building west of the Mississippi, to support Ketchum-Downtown YMCA’s programs for youth, families, and senior citizens. We’ve participated in this event for more than 20 years.

3 Our inaugural D.C. Walk for Water raised money for The Samburu Project, which provides easy access to clean drinking water to communities in Kenya.

4 In Tokyo, our lawyers and staff “raced for the cure” and raised awareness about breast cancer.

5 Our 10th annual Spring Challenge physical activity competition inspired more than 3,000 lawyers and staff around the firm to get “Fit for Good.” For every 5,000 Fitbit steps reached in a day, the firm donated a school meal to a child in need through the United Nations World Food Programme. With that extra motivation, colleagues got together to run, walk, Zumba, row, cycle, kickbox, bowl, and hike hundreds of millions of steps, resulting in more than 113,000 meal donations.

6 Lawyers from our German offices participated in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge as well as the Commerzbank Cup, which benefited an organization helping children battling cancer.

7 Now in its sixth year, Tour de Law pits law firms in the United Kingdom against one another in a friendly 1,000-kilometer bike race. Participants virtually cycle the distance of London to Paris and back on stationary bikes, raising money for Breast Cancer Care.
8 In support of the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women movement, lawyers and staff in our Houston office dressed in red to raise awareness about heart disease and stroke risks for women.

9 Team Latham participated in annual AIDS Walks around the United States, which benefit organizations providing critical care and services to those living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.

10 Our D.C. office spent a happy afternoon fundraising and socializing with Warrior Canine Connection’s service dogs-in-training.

11 Staff and lawyers in our Hong Kong office put a personal touch on gifts given to the elderly in celebration of Chinese New Year.

12 Members of our D.C. office staged a Bobbing for Apples competition to raise money for the Children’s Law Center.

13 Latham’s Movember USA team helped raise awareness about men’s health.

14 Vincent Nicolai, audiovisual specialist in our New York office, joined hundreds of other motorcyclists for the Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride, a global fundraising ride to support prostate cancer research programs as well as men’s mental health and suicide prevention programs.

15 Our Silicon Valley office organized a “Pie for Justice” Thanksgiving fundraiser, donating the profits to local legal aid organizations.
Lawyers and staff in London spent the night sleeping outside on cardboard boxes, as part of Centrepoint’s Sleep Out. This annual event benefits homeless young people in the United Kingdom.

We partnered with Houston Restaurant Weeks and Houston Food Bank to generate enough money to serve 40,800 meals to those in need.

Each Latham office has its own unique holiday traditions, including decorating the office.

Every year our Boston office assembles gift bags of treats, toiletries, and warm clothes for the homeless women served by Rosie’s Place, and our Frankfurt office participates in Weihnachten im Schuhkarton (Christmas in a Box), collecting and wrapping gifts for children in need.

For more than 30 years, our offices have participated in Adopt-A-Family programs, providing clothing, toys, gift cards, food, and basic necessities to families in need during the holidays.

Our Black Lawyers Group in London hosted Gospel Christmas Carols with the BIGKID Foundation, which works with at-risk children.

For the fourth year, our Houston office teamed up with the Houston Fire Department in support of its Operation: Stocking Stuffer Toy Drive. Our team spread holiday cheer to over 960 families this year and collected more than 2,800 toys.
EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOWS

Each year, Latham & Watkins sponsors a new two-year public interest fellowship through Equal Justice Works. The fellowships address the shortage of attorneys working on behalf of traditionally underserved populations by providing financial and technical support to the fellows to meet pressing needs in their communities. They also help create the next generation of public interest attorneys, as most fellows continue their public service work well beyond the two-year fellowship.

Carolyn Rumer
Equal Justice Works Fellow 2016–2018
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.

“I’m so grateful to Latham & Watkins for the firm’s support. During my 2016–2018 Equal Justice Works Fellowship, I provided advice and representation to increase economic security for low-income survivors of domestic violence in Washington, D.C. by helping them obtain and maintain public benefits, child support, and employment. Financial insecurity is one of the primary reasons why survivors stay, and reunite, with abusive partners. During my fellowship, I increased economic security for more than 175 survivors of domestic violence and their family members. And, thanks to Latham, I have been able to continue this work as a Staff Attorney at Legal Aid to provide comprehensive representation to survivors in crisis.”

Stephanie Ciupka
Equal Justice Works Fellow 2017–2019
Lawndale Christian Legal Center
Chicago, Illinois

Stephanie began her fellowship with the Lawndale Christian Legal Center (LCLC) in Chicago in 2017 by launching a dedicated emerging-adults criminal defense practice to provide holistic legal and social services to underserved court-involved young adults in North Lawndale, a Chicago neighborhood that experiences high levels of incarceration and poverty, with 18- to 26-year-olds particularly at risk.

New neurological research tells us that this time of emerging adulthood is a key moment for positive intervention, but services specific to this population in this area are lacking. Along with offering direct representation to emerging adults in criminal court, Stephanie works with the LCLC social work team and North Lawndale Restorative Justice Hub to connect clients to wraparound services.
Christina Beeler
Equal Justice Works Fellow 2018–2020
Juvenile and Capital Advocacy Project of Texas
Houston, Texas

In 2018, Christina started her fellowship at the Juvenile and Capital Advocacy Project of Texas (JCAP), an organization based at the University of Houston Law Center and dedicated to assisting juveniles and recommending improvements for the juvenile justice system. She provides direct legal representation and community outreach to juveniles in school disciplinary proceedings and the juvenile justice system for school disciplinary infractions in Harris County in Houston, Texas. There are thousands of students in the Houston area who are facing expulsion or suspension from school, or who are facing criminal charges based on behaviors at school, and in need of representation.

Christina focuses on providing representation to those most vulnerable to the school-to-prison pipeline, including students of color, immigrants, and low-income students. She collects data on school disciplinary practices in local school districts and conducts community outreach by providing know-your-rights trainings at local high schools. She also develops outreach program plans with community partners to provide information to the wider education community, as well as students and parents, about the representation JCAP provides, including juvenile record sealing services. Finally, she creates partnerships between JCAP and organizations that provide immigrant services so that juveniles can obtain dual representation for juvenile court and immigration proceedings.

Kaitlin Cutshaw
Equal Justice Works Fellow 2019–2021
Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing
Chicago, Illinois

Kaitlin will begin her fellowship with Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing in the fall of 2019. Her project aims to address housing and student mobility through a school-based legal clinic located in a Chicago neighborhood with high eviction rates. Families who are evicted have higher rates of residential mobility and often experience prolonged homelessness. Children in these families perform worse in school, losing an average of three months of reading and math growth with each transfer. Eviction also impacts the greater community as neighborhoods with high rates of eviction have difficulty maintaining social capital, lack local cohesion, and have little community investment.

The school-based clinic aims to address these problems by providing direct legal services to parents facing eviction, or who are at risk of being evicted. The clinic will offer a wide variety of pre-litigation and litigation services, ranging from addressing poor conditions in rental units to direct representation in eviction proceedings.
In 2014, in honor of the retirement of Chair and Managing Partner Bob Dell, an ardent supporter of pro bono at the firm, Latham & Watkins created an award to be given annually to a Latham lawyer or team who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to pro bono.

This year’s award recipients — Orange County partner Mike Carroll and counsel Nikki Buffa and San Diego associates Bobbi-Jo Dobush and Taiga Takahashi — were recognized for their leadership of a pro bono team advising The Ocean Cleanup, a Dutch nonprofit that generates advanced technologies to clean up the accumulation of floating trash in our oceans.

The Ocean Cleanup’s innovative technology includes large floating arrays that will harness the force of ocean currents to concentrate and retain the trash in a small area, thereby facilitating removal. Removing this debris from the oceans helps prevent it from breaking down into microscopic particles, which are harder — and eventually impossible — to collect and extract and pose a serious threat to the food chain, including humans. Once removed, the debris will be transported to a facility on land for sorting and recycling. The Ocean Cleanup hopes to recycle or convert to energy everything it brings ashore, resulting in zero waste. Latham has helped The Ocean Cleanup navigate the US regulatory regime, consult with relevant federal and California agencies to determine permissions and permits, and collaborate with scientists. We are now advising on tax, organizational, and technology matters, as well as waste transport and customs issues, to facilitate the next phase of The Ocean Cleanup’s project.

To learn more about our work on behalf of The Ocean Cleanup, please see page 25.

The fourth class of Robert M. Dell Student Advocates at Legal Aid at Work are helping to protect the rights of low-wage workers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Latham’s partners endowed this summer program for US law students upon Bob’s retirement as chair and managing partner at the end of 2014.
PRO BONO COMMITTEE

The Latham & Watkins Pro Bono Committee includes partners, counsel, associates, paralegals, and staff from across the firm.

Jonathan Su
Pro Bono Committee Chair

Boston
Joseph Curran
Kenneth Parsigian
Susan Mazur

Brussels
Héctor Armengod
John Wileur

Chicago
Malorie Medellin
Adam Rosenbloom
Nabil Sabki
Nicholas Siciliano
Sarah Smoler

Dubai
Eyad Latif

Frankfurt
Mathias Fischer

Hamburg
Daniel Splittgerber

Hong Kong
Rainbow Au-Yeung
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Tyler Young

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Kimberly Eney
Tax-Exempt Organization Counsel

Vikhyath Veeramachaneni
Pro Bono Coordinator

Wendy Atrokhov
Public Service Counsel,
Director of Global Pro Bono

Laura Atkinson-Hope
Managing Attorney,
Global Pro Bono

Robert Thomas

Stijn Van Osch
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* In cooperation with the Law Office of Salman M. Al-Sudairi

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