



The Pro Bono Publicist

Arent Fox: A Community of Service

Spring/Summer 2005

Path Cleared for St. Coletta to Establish Special Education School in District

A team of Arent Fox attorneys and staff has been providing pro bono legal services to St. Coletta of Greater Washington in its efforts to establish a school for intensive special education students in the District of Columbia. St. Coletta operates an award-winning school in Alexandria, Va. Three years ago, members of the business community and senior management at the District of Columbia Public Schools approached St. Coletta asking that it move its program into the District as part of a unique public-private partnership to improve the District's ability to educate severely disabled students. Since that time, the Arent Fox team, including attorneys **Elizabeth Pierce, Sean Glynn, Alex Bahn, Gene Tibbs, Jon Bouker** and **Chip Ferguson** and legal assistant **Carmen Zollman**, have advised the school on a variety of issues – from assisting with general corporate matters, to the establishment of a charter school, to navigating the bureaucracies of myriad District agencies. The team's most critical contribution to date has been the negotiation of an agreement with DCPS to ensure coverage of 100 percent of the costs in operating the new school. This unprecedented arrangement required months of negotiation amid multiple changes in senior management within DCPS.

With this agreement in hand, St. Coletta has been able to secure financing for the new school and move on to the development and construction phase of the project, which will be located on the "Reservation 13" property recently transferred from the federal government to the District. Construction is expected to begin in the next few weeks and conclude in time for the school to accept 250 of the District's most severely disabled students in the fall of 2006. Arent Fox continues to provide support to St. Coletta in a variety of zoning, permitting, leasing and other matters related to the construction of the new school.

Children's Role in Enforcement of Protective Orders in Domestic Abuse Situations Staked Out in AF Team's Brief

When the Appellate Advocacy Network on Violence Against Women wanted to file an *amicus* brief in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *City of Castle Rock, Colorado v. Gonzales*, which presented the court with the rights of children to enforcement of protective orders against their abusers, they turned to their friends at Arent Fox. Having previously drafted several successful appellate court *amicus* briefs for AAN and its affiliated organizations, Arent Fox attorneys were ready to take on this new challenge. Attorneys **Alan Fishel, Deanne Ottaviano, Anne Milem, Anne Hamilton, Janine**

GOT A PRO BONO PROJECT? If you are interested in doing pro bono work, please contact Deanne Ottaviano, another pro bono committee member, or complete a pro bono request form, available on WebFox on the Pro Bono page or under "Forms." If you want your pro bono or volunteer work to appear in the next issue of *The Pro Bono Publicist*, please e-mail a brief description of the work to Poorvi Bhutwala. This newsletter is a service of the Arent Fox Pro Bono Committee.

Carlan, Jennifer Myron, Marcy Karin, Anita Khushalani, and Poorvi Parkhie worked on the amicus brief, as ably assisted by legal assistant **Jack Dowd**. The *Castle Rock* case presented the issue of whether an abused wife and her now-deceased children have the right to sue the town government for the failure of its police department to take action to enforce a temporary restraining order and child custody order issued to protect the family from a violent husband and father. The *amicus* brief filed by the Arent Fox team argued for the protection of the procedural due process rights that were due to the Gonzales children.

The factual history of the case is undeniably tragic. Jessica Gonzales sought and received a protective order in May 1999 requiring her estranged, violent ex-husband to stay away from her and their three daughters, ages 7, 9 and 10. Police failed to enforce the order and her husband kidnapped the three girls from their yard in June 1999. After reporting her daughters missing to the police, Ms. Gonzales later learned that her ex-husband was with the girls at a nearby amusement park. She called the police again and pleaded for help. She alleged that they took no action, even after she called four times and went to the police station personally to seek assistance. Ten hours after the kidnapping, Mr. Gonzales went to the police station in the middle of the night and opened fire with a handgun he had recently purchased. Police killed him and later found the three children's bodies in his pickup truck. They had been killed with their father's gun while they slept.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit ruled that Jessica Gonzales can sue the town of Castle Rock, Colo. for failing to enforce the restraining order. The narrow majority found that Gonzales had a strong case that police failed to follow proper procedures and heed her repeated calls for help. The Arent Fox team's challenge was to convince the U.S. Supreme Court that the 10th Circuit's decision was right not only

based on its reasoning, but also because the Gonzales children had their own right to protection under the order. Ultimately, more than 20 domestic violence and children's organizations signed on to the brief drafted by Arent Fox, including firm pro bono client WEAVE. (For more on Arent Fox's work with WEAVE, see article below.)

Court Ruling Sends Good News To Death Row Inmate Matthew Hyde

Since 2000, Arent Fox attorneys **Caroline English, Kate Briscoe, Maha Jweied, and Lisa Estrada** and legal assistant **Alayne O'Neill** have been representing James Matthew Hyde in post-conviction proceedings in Alabama. Mr. Hyde was convicted of first-degree murder for a shooting that took place when Hyde was 17 years old. At Hyde's trial, the jury returned a sentence of life without parole, but the judge overrode the jury's recommendation and sentenced Hyde to death. Hyde has been on death row in Alabama since 1996. Since Arent Fox took the case, the team has focused on a direct appeal to the United States Supreme Court and state post-conviction proceedings.

A March 1, 2005, decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Roper v. Simmons*, dramatically changed the landscape of Mr. Hyde's case. In that case, the Supreme Court held that the juvenile death penalty is unconstitutional. Since March 1, the Arent Fox team has filed numerous briefs seeking judicial recognition that Mr. Hyde's death sentence is now unquestionably unconstitutional and a court order vacating Mr. Hyde's sentence and ordering his immediate removal from death row. Simultaneously, we are pursuing post-conviction appeal proceedings relating to Mr. Hyde's conviction and will seek relief from his unconstitutional death sentence in the appeals court, if necessary. Although the wheels of justice are moving slowly, we anticipate that Mr. Hyde will be removed

from death row within a short time, in a huge victory for Mr. Hyde and his lawyers.

Immigration Appeal Win for Arent Fox

The Supreme Court case *INS v. St. Cyr*, 533 U.S. 289 (2001), restored to certain immigrants with criminal convictions who were subject to deportation the right to apply for a waiver from deportation in order to remain in the United States. Since the *St. Cyr* decision was issued, **Kristine Dunne**, with assistance from immigration attorney **Suzy Hung** and legal assistants **Dalisay Limjap** and **Michele Blackwell**, has represented two such individuals who seek waivers from deportation.

The Immigration Court has not been entirely sympathetic to granting deportation waivers for *St. Cyr* applicants. In one of the cases **Kristine** has been handling, the Immigration Judge dismissed the immigrant's waiver application for lack of prosecution and ordered the immigrant to be deported. **Kristine** initially filed a motion for reconsideration, which was fully supported by the then-Immigration and Naturalization Service (now Department of Homeland Security), which serves as the opposing party in immigration proceedings. However, the Immigration Judge never ruled on the motion for reconsideration. As a result, in April 2003 **Kristine** filed a notice of appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) seeking to have the Immigration Judge's dismissal order vacated and the case remanded for a hearing on the merits.

After waiting *two years* for a briefing scheduling from the BIA, **Kristine** filed an appeal brief in April 2005. In an unprecedented showing of support, counsel for the Department of Homeland Security filed an appeal brief in "non-opposition" to having the lower court's decision vacated and the case remanded. The BIA issued its decision granting the appeal on May 31, 2005. The case will now be remanded to the Immigration Court for a hearing on the

merits, and hopefully enable the client to remain in the United States with her young children.

Court Tackles Child Custody, "Marriage Affirmation" Issues in Break-Up of Civil Union

The Court of Appeals of Virginia is currently considering a landmark case brought to them by Arent Fox attorneys **Joe Price**, **Kavitha Babu**, **David Modzeleski** and **Lisa Vollendorf Martin** (who has now left the firm to join the staff of firm pro bono client WEAVE). Our client, Janet Miller-Jenkins is contesting Virginia's exercise of jurisdiction over a child custody case and its refusal to enforce a prior custody order of a Vermont court. The case will have significant implications as more jurisdictions begin to recognize gay civil unions, more gay couples carry or adopt children and as those couples with children end up separating. In this instance, there is a clash not just between two lesbian parents over a child, but also between the courts of two states with differing views on gay marriage.

Janet and Lisa Miller-Jenkins lived in Virginia in a lesbian relationship from February 1998 to July 2002. In December 2000 they traveled to Vermont and entered into a civil union. After entering into the civil union they returned to Virginia where they decided to have a child together through artificial insemination. The child was carried by Lisa Miller-Jenkins and was born in April 2002. In July 2002 the couple moved to Vermont, which they thought would be more welcoming to a gay family.

After living in Vermont for more than a year the couple chose to separate. Although Janet urged Lisa to remain in Vermont, Lisa chose to move back to Virginia, insisting on bringing the child with her. In November 2003 Lisa sought to have the marriage dissolved in family court in Vermont, requesting that Janet be awarded suitable parent/child contact. In June 2004 a

temporary order was granted, giving Janet visitation rights.

Lisa refused to comply with the order and on July 1, 2004 – the same day that Virginia's "Marriage Affirmation Act" became law – instead asked a Virginia court to redetermine custody and visitation rights, denying Janet any rights based on Virginia's new law which did not recognize gay marriages. In late 2004, the Vermont court held Lisa in contempt for refusing to comply with the order and, responding to Virginia's subsequent granting of Lisa's petition for custody, noted that the Virginia court's exercise of jurisdiction was not in accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act and the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA). The Virginia finding under the Marriage Affirmation Act is the one currently on appeal to the Court of Appeals of Virginia. **Joe Price** should be arguing the case shortly.

Trademark Litigators Win Settlement for Parents for Autistic Children

Bill Marames, Leo Loughlin, Rachel Schaffer and **Joe Price** represented Parents for Autistic Children (PACE) against a former officer in trademark litigation regarding the right to use the mark "PACE." The ex-officer filed suit against our client several months ago during negotiation of a settlement. The Arent Fox team counterclaimed against him on grounds of trademark infringement and tortious interference. After intense negotiations due to the former relationship between the parties, the case settled on favorable terms three days before the start of trial.

Hearing Sought to Release Rodolfo Cabrera Aquino

David Dubrow, Scott Peeler, Steve Kimelman, and Suzy Hung, with help from **Senator Dale Bumpers, Craig Engle** and **Dan Renberg**, have been representing Rodolfo Cabrera Aquino in a false arrest claim for the past thirteen months. Mr.

Cabrero Aquino was arrested after receiving a last-minute telephone call to pick up his cousin, who had no money to pay for a cab from the airport after having arrived in the United States illegally. The INS charged Mr. Cabrero Aquino with smuggling illegal aliens into the United States, charges that had no basis. Indeed, even the judge who heard the case told the prosecutor that the case should never have been brought. All of this was complicated by the fact that Mr. Cabrero Aquino, who is married and has two children with special needs, did not have a legal status to be in the United States, despite the fact that he has been here for nearly ten years. Using all the political muscle possible to get a meaningful hearing in the hopes that Mr. Cabrero Aquino would be given a reprieve, the Arent Fox team worked diligently to secure Cabrero Aquino's release, while recognizing that this was a difficult case.

Sadly, the case has not had a happy ending. On May 19, 2005, Rodolfo Cabrero Aquino was ordered removed from the United States to Mexico. On the criminal front the team successfully convinced the prosecutor that Mr. Cabrero Aquino was not an alien smuggler. Unfortunately, due to policy constraints and directives the best the prosecutor felt she could offer was (i) a plea to a misdemeanor under the smuggling statute and (ii) a letter which **Scott** and **David** could present to immigration officials stating that after its investigation the prosecutor believed that Mr. Cabrero Aquino was not an alien smuggler but rather was merely picking his cousins up at the airport. While the Arent Fox team could have gone to trial to prove his innocence, the decision was made to accept the offer so Mr. Cabrero Aquino could get out of jail after 7 months of incarceration.

On the immigration front, the AF team took advantage of a rarely used procedure to attempt to keep Mr. Cabrero Aquino in the United States. Notwithstanding the undeniable legal right of immigration officials to remove Mr. Cabrero Aquino, AF lawyers requested the use of prosecutorial

discretion to keep him here on equitable grounds. The team assembled an impressive booklet which included a compelling argument and appendices of educational and medical records of Mr. Cabrero Aquino's children as well as letters of support from **Senator Bumpers** and numerous members of the community. With the help of **Dan Renberg** and **Craig Engle**, the team was able to both deliver this booklet to the highest decision-maker at Immigration and to discuss the case with him. In the end, the Immigration official decided he could not make an exception for Mr. Cabrera Aquino because his case was similar to so many other tragic cases.

While the Arent Fox team is very disappointed in the outcome, they always recognized that it would be difficult to keep Mr. Cabrero Aquino in the United States given that he had entered the United States illegally, even though he had made timely application under the Amnesty Act for labor certification. Mr. Cabrero Aquino's family is very thankful for the efforts expended on his behalf, and feel that, notwithstanding the outcome, every possible avenue was pursued to keep Mr. Cabrero Aquino in the country.

Indigent D.C. Residents Get One-on-One Attention At Legal Aid Society

For many years, Arent Fox has supported the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia by volunteering to perform intake of walk-in clients with legal problems. Legal Aid's clients are among the poorest residents of the District. Some 20 Arent Fox attorneys, including partners and associates, regularly perform intake every Tuesday and Thursday. The volunteers include **David Bailey, Kavitha Babu, Rhonda Barton, Randy Brater, Kate Briscoe, Robert Carpenter, Steve Cohen, Gretchen Dixon, John Hsu, Lisa Hudson, Sam Huang, Rachel Schaffer, Jim Kaminski, Marcy Karin, Peter Macleod, Jennifer Myron, Nancy Noonan, Deanne**

Ottaviano, Ross Panko, Elizabeth Pierce, Darien Reddick, Jeffrey Rummel, Amy Schoenhard, and Rebecca Silberbogen. These attorneys sit down with walk-in potential clients of Legal Aid, address legal issues that include family disputes, landlord/tenant law issues and public and disability benefits and appeals, provide clients with self-help advice, and draft a short summary of the potential client's issue so that Legal Aid can evaluate the case for internal staffing or pro bono distribution.

The intake program is a fantastic way for attorneys to gain exposure to different areas of the law and for younger attorneys to gain practical experience meeting clients and handling their needs. More than 10,000 people visit Legal Aid each year, and by helping out with intake, Arent Fox attorneys assist Legal Aid with its mission to meet the legal needs of those in our community that cannot afford an attorney.

According to one Arent Fox associate, **Amy Schoenhard**, "the most rewarding aspect of [her] volunteer work with Legal Aid is to [be able] to point people in the right direction, be it at Legal Aid or by referral to another place where they can finally get the representation and advice that they need." In addition to their time, Arent Fox associates have also generously contributed financially to Legal Aid's mission over the years. This year's Generous Associates Campaign runs from May 16-June 30. If you are interested in learning more about the intake program or donating to the campaign, please contact **Randy Brater**. Participation in the intake program requires a short training session. The next one will be held in Fall 2005.

AF Works with WEAVE on Domestic Violence Issues

Arent Fox attorneys **Marcy Karin, Janine Carlan, Lisa Vollandorf Martin, Amy Schoenhard, Maha Jweied, David Modzeleski, Jarrod Becker, Kavitha Babu, Melissa Droller, and Sarah Cutchins** have been working on a variety of projects with

WEAVE (Women Empowered Against Violence), an organization dedicated to providing legal and social services to victims of domestic violence in Washington, D.C. (Indeed, Lisa Martin has become so dedicated to the cause that she has agreed to accept a full-time position on WEAVE's staff as their director of public policy, a position in which **Lisa** plans to continue her work with Arent Fox attorneys.) In the last many months, our work with WEAVE has included a major research project on teen dating violence; research on the availability of civil protection orders for abused women who are wards of the District but are in an independent living program; research on the ability of minors to establish paternity in the District; and representation of individual victims of domestic violence seeking civil protection orders.

Clearing the Way for Literacy

The Literacy Assistance Center (LAC) is a nonprofit organization that provides free technical assistance, data management, professional development services, and other support to New York City's adult literacy community. Recently, LAC turned to **Joshua Dicker** and **Sheree Reinbach** for assistance when it was awarded a contract from the New York State Department of Education to advance the use of distance learning to increase adult literacy in New York City and to maintain a database of information of educational resources. That contract required LAC to set up an advisory board to evaluate and review its work. **Josh** and **Sheree** drafted the authorizing documents to form the advisory board including resolutions, bylaws, a conflicts of interest statement and confidentiality statement.

Another Year of Varied Activities at 'Adopted' Randle Highlands School

Arent Fox has been busy at Randle Highlands again this school year. In the past year, Arent Fox has sponsored a bake

sale and a jazz happy hour and raised \$1,600 from these two events. The proceeds from these fundraisers will be used to purchase equipment for the school's new gym. The Randle Highlands team also conducted a successful uniform drive, donating 45 uniforms to needy students, and hosted a Literacy Night, at which teachers, parents and students read bedtime stories while sipping hot chocolate. In May, a team of Arent Fox attorneys and staff hosted the GeoPlunge tournament once again at the school. Nearly 150 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students participated in the tournament by playing a variety of the many versions of the award-winning educational game GeoPlunge, which was developed by **Alan Fishel**, an Arent Fox attorney, to enable children and adults to learn a ton of U.S. geography through a host of fun, creative and exciting card games. Participating attorneys and staff in Randle Highlands events and on the Randle Highlands committee include **Rachel Schaffer, Michelle Blackwell, Jewel Crawley, Deanne Ottaviano, Michelle Reid, Alan Fishel, Barbara Dixon, Roberta Fairley, Jewel Crawley, Donna Badgett, Brandi Richardson, Jessica Taverna, Barbara Lebenberg, Jeffrey Rummel, Denise DeLorey, Tim Bucknell, Heather MacNeil, Suzanna Nussear, Janelle Rynes, Sarah Clark, Mary Ellen Meagher, and Robin Hayutin.**

Ifetayo Arts Center Gets Helps In Finding a New Home

Karen Candreva has been representing Ifetayo Cultural Arts Facility, an arts and cultural organization dedicated to supporting the creative, educational and vocational development of youth and families of African descent by providing programs in cultural awareness, performing and visual arts, as well as academic enrichment, health and wellness, and professional skills development in connection with its search for a home for its activities. **Karen** has been negotiating directly with the hospital that owns and

operates the building in which the center is to be located, and has also been working closely with the general contractor and architect who are designing and will be constructing the fit-out work, which includes some base building work as well. The whole task has been made more complicated by some contentious issues relating to HUD, Health and Human Services and Department of Health requirements and restrictions, including the uncovering of a significant issue of noncompliance by the hospital. **Karen** looks forward to resolving the lease issues and moving on to the negotiation of the construction agreement between Ifetayo and the general contractor.

AF Associate Helps Draft Model Procurement Laws For Developing Countries

At the invitation of UNCITRAL and as a delegate of the International Bar Association, **Lisa Miller** has been participating as an observer to the UNCITRAL Working Group on Proposed Revisions to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services. UNCITRAL is in the process of drafting reforms to the Model Law and is seeking input of member countries and invited observer entities. The basic principles that underlie the Model Law include: competition, transparency, fairness, efficiency, nondiscrimination (equal treatment of bidders), integrity and objectivity in the procurement process. Consistent with those central principles, the Working Group seeks to make it easier for nations – in particular developing and transition-economy nations – to adopt the Model Law as the foundation of a properly functioning government procurement system. The Model Law provides important guidance to developing nations in the establishment of public procurement systems that meet internationally recognized standards. Compliance with the principles set forth in the Model Law is also

often a prerequisite to a country's eligibility to receive development funds from the World Bank and similar development/funding agencies for the implementation of public procurement projects, making the process and the resulting model code, incredibly important to Third World nations.

The project has required **Lisa** to review and comment on draft procurement codes, travel to New York in April for a Working Group meeting, and prepare for and participate in the next Working Group meeting in Vienna this November. **Lisa** was chosen to participate in this effort because of her position as chair of the Public Procurement Subcommittee of the International Bar Association.

Nipping Credit Card Abuse in the High School Classroom

The Southern District and Eastern District of New York Bankruptcy Courts have implemented a new initiative entitled the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) Program, and **George Angelich** is helping to kick off the program. Recognizing that many high school students use credit cards but fail to appreciate the added expense of buying on credit, two New York State judges have initiated the CARE Program, one of similar programs being adopted throughout the country, and will bring bankruptcy judges and bankruptcy attorneys to New York City classrooms to speak about the thoughtful and responsible use of consumer debt. Look for our other New York bankruptcy attorneys to participate too!

Legal Programs at Banneker High Enter Eighth Consecutive Year

For the eighth consecutive year, Arent Fox has coached a group of students from Benjamin Banneker High School to the championship round of a citywide mock trial run by the Street Law Clinic of Georgetown University Law Center. During the fall, Arent Fox attorneys taught

classes at Banneker on contemporary legal topics, including religious profiling and the Patriot Act, the Fourth Amendment, the juvenile death penalty, family law, guardian ad litem, privilege law and trial preparation.

Arent Fox also hosted a career development workshop for the Banneker Street Law class. During this field trip to our office, the students were welcomed by Managing Attorney **Bill Charyk**, participated in a career planning discussion, and heard from an alumnus who works at the firm, as well as members of the marketing, library, and legal assistant teams. Each student also had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a partner or senior associate.

Marcy Karin ran the Banneker program, with help from **Jacques Smith, Kristine Dunne, Maha Jweied, David Modzeleski, Ernest Tuckett, Lisa Vollendorf Martin, Poorvi Bhutwala, Scott Ward, Lisa Estrada, Brandi Richardson, Kavitha Babu, and Kate Briscoe**. Twenty-seven additional attorneys, legal assistants and firm employees met with the students during their field trip to Arent Fox.

New York Attorneys Work with Neighborhood Housing Services

Karen Candreva, Miriam McKibben and **Sheree Reinbach** are working with the Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of New York City. NHS is a nonprofit organization with a mission to increase and protect real estate investment in underserved low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The Arent Fox attorneys are working with NHS to sell nine homes in the Bronx that have been renovated through the federal government's HPD and HUD programs.

AF Associates Assist in Adoption Process

When a foster mother asked the Children's Law Center to help her adopt two of the children in her care, **Eric Baxter**

and **Kavitha Babu** stepped forward to help. For years, the foster mother has provided emotional and financial support as well as a safe place to stay for four of the thirteen children of a mentally ill and addicted woman, along with two other children in the foster mother's care. The foster mother rescued the children from abuse, neglect and sexual abuse at the hands of their ill mother and her boyfriend, after a court proceeding determined that the birth mother was not fit to raise the children. Now, the foster mother hopes to formalize her relationship with the children, and is starting by petitioning to adopt two of the siblings. **Eric** and **Kavitha** are helping the foster mother navigate the complex court process, which involves identifying and locating the children's absent father.

Operation Arent Fox

During the year-end holiday period, the New York and Washington offices conducted a campaign to collect items for U.S. troops serving overseas in a project termed "Operation Arent Fox." Attorneys and staff donated small snacks, personal hygiene products, beanie babies, books and much more to send to troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Due to the generous contributions received, Arent Fox was able to fill almost 150 boxes of items, which were sent to many different divisions serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Colleen O'Hara, Brandi Richardson, and Heather MacNeil** led the effort in Washington and **Kay Carson** and **Barry Gogel** led the effort in New York. The firm received several letters of thanks from grateful soldiers who had spent the holiday season away from home. Check out page 10 for two thank you letters Arent Fox received from our troops.

Secure the Call Puts '911 Phones' In the Hands That Need Them

This spring, **Cynthia Newman** and **Sylvia Brown Olivetti** co-chaired a Secure the Call Campaign at Arent Fox's Washington office to collect used cell

phones and convert them into 911-only emergency use phones for distribution to sensitive populations. Secure the Call is a nonprofit coalition of more than 60 local organizations in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas, including police and sheriffs' departments, battered women's shelters, neighborhood watch groups, senior citizen centers, and school crossing guards and bus drivers. Secure the Call collects the phones and then wipes them clean of any service, numbers and address books and reprograms them for 911-only use. The phones then are distributed to those likely to need emergency assistance. Through the efforts of **Cynthia** and **Sylvia**, Arent Fox was able to donate more than 80 cell phones and assorted accessories to the effort.

Other Pro Bono Matters

- **Suzy Hung** and **Marsha Wertzberger** have been advising a pro bono client regarding immigration options after the denial of her political asylum application.
- Together with Legal Aid of NY, **Alison Besunder** and **Lauren Tabak** have been representing a Vietnam veteran who is the subject of immigration removal proceedings for a felony conviction from 20 years ago. Although the team successfully convinced the immigration judge to dismiss the case against the veteran with prejudice, the government is in the process of appealing the decision.
- **Doug Bush** and **Eric Baxter** have been representing a woman who lost her health and then her small business in a dispute with her prior business partner, who had sought to saddle her with considerable I.R.S. debt. Through negotiations and settlement with the former partner, Eric and Doug were able to convince the business partner that he must assume responsibility for the debt. They continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the business partner lives up to his obligations.
- **Lisa Hudson** has been volunteering with the AARP Tax-Aide Program in Annandale, Va. She has assisted elderly and low-to-moderate income taxpayers prepare their tax returns.
- **Ralph Taylor** serves as chapter president and legal advisor to the District chapter of the American Liver Foundation.
- **Barry Gogel** has been representing a Haitian immigrant seeking employment authorization and permanent status. The case is awaiting adjudication by Citizenship and Immigration

Services and an application for employment authorization (Form I 765) is pending.

- **Joshua Dicker** and **Melissa Llanera** have been counseling the Middle East Studies Association of North America on requirements for consents for transfer and merger of a 501(c)(3) New York corporation into an Arizona nonprofit corporation under New York and Arizona state statutes.
- **Richard Newman** serves as general counsel of Discovery Creek Children's Museum, for which he has done several major license agreements with the Park Services in the District and Fairfax, and the U.S. Park Service, for DCCM to run educational centers, as well as a children's vaccination project center in the District.
- **Susan Kleiman** advises Whitman Walker Clinic, the D.C. Bar, and Cornerstone on all aspects of their benefits needs.
- Since March, **Jeff Vanacore** has been volunteering as a mentor at the Murray Bergtraum High School for Business Careers in Manhattan through a Community Justice Program created by TASC (The After School Program). His "mentee" is a 14-year old student from Bangladesh. The program's goal is to decrease juvenile crime by providing a good venue for positive social interactions among youth and adults working in the law enforcement and legal communities. In addition to increasing youth confidence in the integrity and fairness of the criminal justice system, the program hopes to help adults working in the juvenile justice system view youth as individuals making positive contributions to their local communities.
- As part of the firm's ongoing Social Security Disability Clinic with firm client Whitman-Walker Clinic, **Benjamin Peltier** and **Georgia Ravitz** represent an H.I.V.-positive single mother whose request for disability benefits was denied by the Social Security Administration. Ben researched and drafted an appeal of the denial and is awaiting a determination from SSA. **Richard Liner** also has an SSI disability case through the clinic, which he has been working on with **Ron Clark**. Richard's case is also pending before the Appeals Council.
- **Savalle Sims** represents a father in a custody dispute initiated by the minor child's mother. Her work has included the negotiation of a complex custody settlement agreement and extensive counseling regarding compliance issues related to terms of the settlement agreement.
- **Jon Bouker**, **Brandi Richardson**, and **Amy Demske** provide strategic advice and counsel to Second Chance Employment Services.
- **Gene Tibbs** has been acting as outside general counsel for Cornerstone on all real estate-related matters

Operation Arent Fox Thank You Letters:

Dear Colleen and Friends,

We just wanted to say thank you for the great packages that you sent. We really appreciate your support! Things are going well here in Baghdad. The dining facility did a great job for us on Christmas. It's never the same as it is at home but with everyone's support it definitely helps lighten the spirits.

We truly appreciate the snacks and other items that you sent. I have passed out the items to members of our squadron who would also like to say thank you. A little about us, we are a Security Forces squadron made up of several squadrons from across the United States from Alaska to Georgia and everywhere in between. We are responsible for keeping the military side of Baghdad's International Airport and our camp secure. Again thank you for your generosity and support, it is truly appreciated! Below is a photo of a few of our troops.



Thanks Again,

