

McGuireWoods

# PRO BONO

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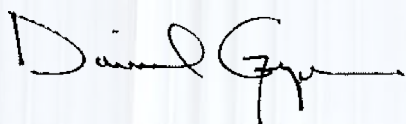
Making The Difference



At McGuireWoods, our lawyers have chosen careers in the law for two reasons: We are passionate about making sure justice is served and passionate about our clients.

From death penalty cases and housing law to transactions for nonprofit organizations and immigration, our lawyers strive to meet the legal needs of marginalized people. But to make the most powerful impact on our communities, we collaborate where possible with firm clients, legal aid organizations, and other groups to better serve those in need and develop innovative avenues for pro bono assistance. Our collaborations have transformed legal services and serve as models for increased access to justice nationwide.

A justice system is far more powerful when lawyers are willing to provide pro bono service to the eight in 10 low-income Americans who don't have access to counsel for their civil legal needs. Be it through dedication, partnership or innovation, McGuireWoods' lawyers focus on helping pro bono clients in matters that impact their lives.



**DAVID GREENSPAN**  
PRO BONO PARTNER



# PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS

More than a decade ago, McGuireWoods began cultivating pro bono partnerships with clients across the country. The result? Today, there are more than a dozen pro bono collaborations firmwide.

Working together to serve under-resourced people strengthens client relationships and McGuireWoods is committed to such pro bono partnerships.



**OUR BALTIMORE OFFICE** partnered with a Fortune 100 energy client to conduct legal intake clinics, five years in a row.



**OUR CHARLOTTE OFFICE** partnered with a banking client on two healthcare power of attorney clinics for low-income LGBTQ clients ... with a banking client on a driver's license restoration clinic ... and with banking clients on a "Wills for Warriors" clinic, providing estate planning for veterans, three years in a row, and a wills clinic with Habitat for Humanity.



**OUR CHICAGO OFFICE** partnered with one of the largest utility companies in the United States to hold a legal clinic helping immigrant children enroll in the DACA program.



**OUR DALLAS OFFICE** partnered with a leading multinational banking and financial services client for an intake clinic for victims of domestic violence.



**OUR JACKSONVILLE OFFICE** partnered with a financial services client to help low-income individuals with healthcare directive documents.



**OUR LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES** partnered with a leading multinational banking and financial services client on multiple expungement clinics.



**OUR NEW YORK OFFICE** partnered with a leading electronics corporation to work at a veterans hospital assisting with legal issues and with a banking client to provide estate planning advice to LGBTQ veterans.



**OUR PITTSBURGH OFFICE** partnered with a Fortune 500 bank to assist unaccompanied immigrant children seeking asylum in the United States ... and with a bank on a clinic for nonprofit clients ... and with a client to support a fellow at the Education Law Center.



**OUR RALEIGH AND CHARLOTTE OFFICES** partnered with a leading multinational banking and financial services client for a clinic to assist individuals transitioning out of homelessness, four years in a row.



**OUR RICHMOND OFFICE** partnered with Capital One on a clinic to help pro bono veteran clients prepare wills.



**OUR SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE** teamed up with a leading multinational banking and financial services client on a veterans legal intake clinic.



**OUR TYSONS OFFICE** co-hosted a legal clinic with a bank holding client and others to provide program audits to more than 10 local nonprofit clients.

# PRO BONO INNOVATION

In addition to representing pro bono clients successfully and partnering with existing organizations, McGuireWoods develops groundbreaking ways to achieve pro bono goals and expand access to legal services.

2010

## JusticeServer

The firm partnered with clients and pro bono groups to create JusticeServer, a groundbreaking case management and referral tool that provides private-practice lawyers with direct electronic access to pro bono case files from legal aid organizations. The system has expedited the handling of 20,000-plus legal aid cases involving more than 50,000 clients.

2016

## The Triage Project

We partnered with the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation to launch the Triage Project, a first-of-its kind pro bono initiative that expands legal aid in Virginia and serves as a model nationwide. The plan made Richmond the first U.S. city to outsource legal aid matters in 12 practices to private-practice lawyers, allowing legal aid groups to focus on other core areas.

2018

## Charlotte Triage & the Eviction Project

We expanded our novel pro bono initiative to North Carolina, with Charlotte Triage, which focuses on five areas of law: domestic violence, evictions, expunctions, healthcare benefits, human trafficking, special education needs and special immigrant juvenile cases.

2020

## Medical-Legal Partnership

McGuireWoods launched an innovative pro bono medical-legal partnership with Dominion Energy and VCU Health to better serve the pro bono legal needs of the Richmond community. VCU Health refers pro bono clients to the MLP for assistance with matters involving educational advocacy, housing, family law, immigration, and wills and powers of attorney.

**“Highly Commended”**

in *Financial Times*’ North America Innovative Lawyers report for the Triage Project and for winning largest U.S. single-plaintiff human trafficking award.

Named twice to *The National Law Journal*’s **Pro Bono Hot List**, recognizing the firm’s leadership expanding access to justice.

Earned **“Standout”** rating — the highest possible — in *Financial Times*’

North American Innovative Lawyers report for JusticeServer.

Named

**Litigation Firm of the Year**

by Human Trafficking Legal Center’s board of directors.

**“Commended”** in *Financial Times*’ North America Innovative Lawyers report for efforts to halt Virginia’s unconstitutional practice of automatically suspending driver’s licenses for failure to pay court fines and costs and for helping pass the HAVEN Act to provide relief for service members facing financial distress.

Received Pro Bono Institute’s **Corporate Pro Bono Partner Award** twice for Charlotte Triage and the medical-legal partnership with Dominion Energy and VCU Health.

Named a **Finalist** in Chambers USA Awards: Diversity & Inclusion for Pro Bono Program of the Year.

Received North Carolina State Bar’s **Outstanding Pro Bono Collaborative Service Award** for Charlotte Triage.

**Won** Chambers’ Diversity & Inclusion Awards: North America for Veterans Program of the Year.

Received inaugural **Frankie Muse Freeman Organizational Pro Bono Award** from Virginia State Bar’s Access to Legal Services Committee.

Received Association of Fundraising Professionals’ **Outstanding Philanthropic Organization Award** for the Charlotte region for civic service, philanthropy and pro bono service.

Received **“extraordinary commitment”** citation from the Legal Services Corp.

Received joint **Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year** award from Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center.

Included as a signatory firm in the Pro Bono Initiative’s **Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge**.

Presented with Mecklenburg County Bar’s **Collaborative Pro Bono Project Award**.



# REAL-LIFE **IMPACT**

## **LARGEST SINGLE-PLAINTIFF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARD IN U.S. HISTORY**

McGuireWoods won nearly \$8 million in damages for a human trafficking survivor in a federal lawsuit against a “regimented cult” and the group’s leader, who forced our client to work since she was a child without pay, benefits or breaks for a decade. Our team argued for a novel prevailing wages formula and won a federal civil suit for our pro bono client that now serves as a model in this developing area of law.

## **FOURTH AMENDMENT WIN AT U.S. SUPREME COURT**

The U.S. Supreme Court sided with our client and ruled decisively that police officers without a warrant cannot use the automobile exception to enter a home’s curtilage to access a vehicle. The ruling, which provided needed clarity to the scope of the automobile exception, will now become part of police training across the country, and the case will stand as a major bulwark protecting the sanctity of the home from creeping exceptions.

## **SETTLED LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTE FOR DEPLOYED NAVY PETTY OFFICER**

The firm successfully settled a case in which the landlord of a deployed Navy petty officer had obtained default judgments, seized money from the petty officer’s bank accounts and tried to garnish her Navy wages. McGuireWoods, which represented the petty officer pro bono, persuaded the court to vacate the default judgments, leaving her eligible for the security clearance she needed to maintain her career in the Navy.

## **WON ASYLUM FOR WOMAN FLEEING PERSECUTION IN CAMEROON**

The firm won a grant of asylum for a woman who faced further imprisonment, injury or even death due to her sexual orientation if repatriated to Cameroon. The ruling allowed our client to remain in the United States and placed her on the path to citizenship.

## **OBTAINED EXPUNCTIONS FOR VETERANS**

Legal professionals from the Austin, Dallas and Houston offices participated in a pro bono expunctions clinic in partnership with Metroplex Veterans Legal Services to benefit low-income, disabled, unemployed or homeless veterans in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley.





## **ASSISTED TENANTS FACING EVICTION**

McGuireWoods worked with various organizations to help develop the Eviction Diversion Program, where volunteers negotiate payment plans between tenants and landlords.

## **HELPED KIDS FLEEING VIOLENCE**

McGuireWoods represented children and their families fleeing violence in Central America as they navigated the complicated family and immigration courts.

## **POSTHUMOUS LAW LICENSE FOR JAPANESE ACTIVIST**

Japanese immigrant and activist Sei Fujii immigrated to the U.S. in 1903 and earned a law degree from the University of Southern California. However, he was not allowed to become a lawyer due to xenophobic immigration laws. Undaunted, Fujii championed the civil rights of Japanese in America from 1911 until his death in 1954. McGuireWoods successfully persuaded the California Supreme Court to posthumously admit Fujii to the state bar.

## **ADVOCATED FOR DISABLED VETERAN'S RIGHTS**

An elderly, disabled veteran had served in the Army during the Korean War and developed subsequent foot and back pain, but over the ensuing years, Veterans Affairs twice denied his claims for benefits. We won \$80,000 in back benefits for him, plus ongoing monthly benefits from the Veterans Benefits Administration and VA medical care.

## **PARTNERED WITH VERIZON ON COMMUNITY CLINIC**

In 2007, lawyers from McGuireWoods and AOL, now part of Oath (a Verizon company), formed a community legal clinic in the Southgate neighborhood in Reston, Virginia — home to hundreds of international émigrés. In monthly clinics, McGuireWoods and Verizon lawyers have paired in what has become one of the most enduring collaborative pro bono legal access organizations in the country.



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For questions about McGuireWoods' pro bono program, contact:  
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Angie Zimmern, pro bono director, [azimmern@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:azimmern@mcguirewoods.com)



# WHAT OUR PEOPLE SAY

## WHY MCGUIREWOODS EMPHASIZES PRO BONO

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**ANGIE ZIMMERN**

SENIOR COUNSEL AND PRO BONO DIRECTOR, CHARLOTTE

The obligation to provide pro bono service is binding on all lawyers in private practice and in-house. That is why we have made it central to our mission at the firm and also established lasting pro bono partnerships with our valued clients. These partnerships are a win-win-win for our lawyers, for our corporate clients seeking to do more pro bono and, most importantly, for the pro bono clients we serve by partnering.

## WHY I DO PRO BONO

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**JEFFREY BROWNING**

PARTNER, SAN FRANCISCO

I do pro bono because I like helping people, and I like to help people help people. Pro bono offers a way to include in the busy lawyer's schedule a slice of time that helps people just to help them, not because I am getting paid. That seems like the right thing to do.



McGuireWoods is a thriving, full-service firm with 1,100 lawyers in 21 offices worldwide. Over our 190-year history, we have earned the loyalty of our many longstanding clients with deep and broad legal expertise; a passion for understanding their businesses and markets; innovative delivery of practical, business-minded solutions; and unmatched client service.

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