# WEIL GOTSHAL

**2007 PRO BONO ANNUAL REVIEW** 











#### Pro Bono Committee

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We at Weil Gotshal believe that a great law firm cannot become a great institution unless a pro bono ethic is part of the firm's culture. It is in this spirit that we refer to time spent on pro bono work as "our finest hours."

We are committed to bettering our communities by helping those in need, but we aspire to do even more. We look for and develop innovative ways to deliver our pro bono services – including partnerships with legal services providers and in-house corporate legal staffs – to maximize their effectiveness and to provide models that other firms can emulate.

The cornerstone of our pro bono practice is the firm's ground-breaking pro bono policy. The policy includes the goal that every lawyer perform 50 hours of pro bono work each year; the expectation that every partner work on a pro bono matter every year; and the requirement that every new attorney – from first-year associate to lateral partner – take on a pro bono matter within his or her first two years at the firm.

The policy is working. Firmwide, we performed over 87,000 hours of pro bono work in 2006 – the equivalent of almost 50 full-time lawyers. In the US, we averaged almost 85 pro bono hours per lawyer, and in excess of 90% of our partners did pro bono work.

These extensive efforts spanned a broad array of matters, including civil, human and voting rights; political asylum; and community and economic development. They involved clients around the globe, from micro-entrepreneurs in Harlem to weavers in Varanasi, India. Our pro bono work is the source of great satisfaction and pride, both to the individual lawyers who do it and to the firm as a whole. We have every confidence that, after even a brief perusal of the pages that follow, you will understand why.

Stephen J. Dannhauser Firm Chairman

Steven Alan Reiss Co-Chairman Pro Bono Committee John Strasburger Co-Chairman Pro Bono Committee

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Angela Zambrano



Whether they occur in our own country or across the globe, human rights violations shake the very core upon which our society is founded.

Weil Gotshal has a long-standing commitment to being a guardian to those whose rights are threatened or violated.

#### **Center for Constitutional Rights/Guantanamo**

On December 14, 2006, the second of Weil Gotshal's five clients detained at Guantanamo Bay, Ibrahim al Rubaish, returned home to Saudi Arabia without having ever been charged with a crime. Later that month, the Saudi press announced that Adel al Nusairi, the first of the firm's clients to be repatriated, was being released from the custody of the Saudi Arabian government, along with some 30 other detainees who had been returned home in 2006. Mr. al Nusairi is currently living at home as a free man. Weil Gotshal represented Mr. al Nusairi as part of the initiative by national law firms and the Center for Constitutional Rights to provide pro bono representation for the detainees who, after being held for five years or more without being charged with a crime, should be able to challenge the factual basis for their detention in court. Currently, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the fall as to whether the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, which purports to remove the procedural rights of detainees to rights otherwise available to individuals in the US judicial system, including the right of habeas corpus, is constitutional.

#### Urban Justice Center/Elmaghraby

Weil Gotshal joined with the Urban Justice Center and Koob & Magoolaghan to represent detainees held by the US government in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks in their civil suit against the US, former Attorney General John Ashcroft, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert Mueller and other FBI and Bureau of Prisons personnel for abuses suffered while they were held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. Plaintiffs are two Muslim men, one from Pakistan and the other from Egypt, who lived and worked in the New York City area. They had no connection to the events of September 11th, but were held for months in maximum security detention, where they suffered brutal abuse and mistreatment. After the suit was originally filed, defendants argued that the case should be dismissed because the detainees' treatment was justified by the needs of law enforcement after September 11th. The district court forcefully rejected those arguments in a September 2005 ruling, and several high-level government defendants, including Ashcroft and Mueller, appealed this ruling to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Weil Gotshal was involved in all aspects of the appeal process, while also continuing to litigate in the district court against the other defendants. On appeal, Weil Gotshal attorneys successfully argued that the district court's ruling should be upheld and that the exigencies of September 11th did not entitle high-level officials to qualified immunity for claims related to religious and racial discrimination and the abuse our clients suffered while detained in solitary confinement. The Court does allow for parties to renew their motions after discovery proceedings, but, by virtue of this ruling, the Second Circuit has opened the door to depositions of the former Attorney General, the Director of the FBI, and other high-level government defendants about the extent of their involvement in the imprisonment of Muslim men in the New York area after September 11th.

#### **Death Penalty Appeal**

With the help of General Electric's general counsel, Weil Gotshal is pursuing habeas corpus relief from the death penalty sentence of our client who was convicted of capital murder and two additional counts of murder in 1995 in DeSoto County, Mississippi. There were no witnesses to the murders and our client has consistently denied his guilt. The habeas corpus petition is based on a number of material irregularities, including the Sheriff's pronouncement before any investigation had been performed that our client committed the crime, an undisclosed deal between police and an informant who testified to an alleged jailhouse confession and undisclosed medical treatment of our client by the state with antipsychotic drugs during the course of trial.

#### **Innocence Project/Parole Application**

Weil Gotshal is working with the Innocence Project representing a client in his application for parole stemming from a rape conviction in 1985. The conviction was based on the victim's eyewitness identification from a suggestive lineup procedure. A common element in wrongful convictions overturned by DNA evidence has been eyewitness misidentification – an identification that may come from a faulty lineup procedure which is inherently unreliable. The last several years have revealed cases in which eyewitnesses can be honestly, but utterly, mistaken when they are victims of severe trauma. In fact, several states are reviewing their lineup procedures. Our client's conviction was also based on testimony of an informant whose own fingerprints were on the vehicle in which the rape occurred. The informant later recanted his testimony. At the trial, there was reliable testimony that our client was 180 miles away from the crime scene when the rape occurred. No physical evidence associated our client to this crime, and DNA that could lead to his exoneration has been apparently destroyed by the State.

## uman rights

### **Human Rights Watch/International Criminal Court Project**

Weil Gotshal is assisting Human Rights Watch in monitoring and evaluating the judicial activity of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is based in The Hague. More than 25 Weil Gotshal attorneys worldwide are following and reporting on matters before the ICC, including pending cases involving individuals for whom the ICC has issued arrest warrants on war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Darfur, Sudan. Members of the firm's ICC team prepare summaries of ICC decisions and other important ICC developments to the extent the decisions and developments relate to core human rights issues, including fair trial, witness protection and victim participation. In addition, Human Rights Watch consults the firm's representatives about the significance of these events to particular ICC cases and to the development of international human rights standards.





#### Ashoka Foundation/Friends of Integration Association "Barrier-Free Poland" Campaign

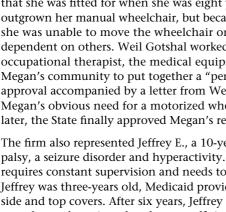
Weil Gotshal's Warsaw office developed a relationship with the Ashoka Foundation in 2005, and Ashoka is now the largest provider of pro bono matters for the office. An example of an Ashoka project is the Friends of Integration Association, a prominent Polish non-governmental organization that is focused on promoting the social integration of people with disabilities. Weil Gotshal has been actively engaged in one of the Association's social campaigns, "Barrier-Free Poland," the goal of which is to improve the access of disabled individuals to public and private facilities in Polish towns. The firm coordinated and led the legal part of the project, helping the Association with drafting leaflets and a "law in practice" guide that instructs individuals on how to initiate administrative proceedings to remove obstacles that prevent disabled individuals from having access to urban infrastructure. The guide contains templates of legal forms used in administrative proceedings, explains the procedures before administrative bodies and provides practical tips. The firm also participated in the Association's consultations with Poland's Parliamentary Commission, as well as government and local authorities, in relation to the campaign.

#### **New York Lawyers for the Public Interest/Medical Equipment for Disabled**

A team of Weil Gotshal attorneys works with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) to obtain necessary durable medical equipment (DME) for disabled New Yorkers. The firm's involvement was prompted by the New York State Department of Health's denial of requests for DME for failure to provide technical information, even when individuals are clearly in need. For instance, the firm represented an elderly Harlem resident whose request for a new electric wheelchair was initially declined despite the fact that her old one was barely functional and extremely uncomfortable. Working with a DME vendor and the Department of Health, the firm was able to obtain approval for our client's request for extensive repairs.

In another NYLPI/DME matter, Weil Gotshal represented Megan Z., a 15-yearold who suffers from spastic quadriplegia and cerebral palsy, in connection with her Medicaid request for a motorized wheelchair. Her doctors and therapists had submitted three separate applications on her behalf over a two-year period, but each was denied by the State because of "missing information." Each time her request was denied, she was forced to continue using a manual wheelchair that she was fitted for when she was eight years old. Not only had Megan outgrown her manual wheelchair, but because of her severe physical disability, she was unable to move the wheelchair on her own and was completely dependent on others. Weil Gotshal worked closely with Megan's doctors, her occupational therapist, the medical equipment provider and members of Megan's community to put together a "perfect application" that was sent for approval accompanied by a letter from Weil Gotshal that further documented Megan's obvious need for a motorized wheelchair. Less than three weeks later, the State finally approved Megan's request for a motorized wheelchair.

The firm also represented Jeffrey E., a 10-year-old diagnosed with cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder and hyperactivity. Jeffrey has no concept of danger, requires constant supervision and needs to sleep in an enclosed bed. When Jeffrey was three-years old, Medicaid provided him with a special bed with side and top covers. After six years, Jeffrey had outgrown the bed, which was worn beyond repair and no longer sufficiently safe. In 2006, Jeffrey's doctors submitted an application to Medicaid for a new enclosed bed, but the State denied the application on the grounds that enclosed beds were no longer considered DME and constituted an unsafe and inhumane restraint. We represented Jeffrey and argued that the State's rules were arbitrary and inconsistent with prior rulings. On the morning of the hearing, the State informed Weil Gotshal that it agreed with the firm's reasoning and would reform its policy regarding the approval of enclosed beds. Within the month, Jeffrey received his new bed.



**Challenges to** the fundamental ideals upon which our society is premised civil and voting rights threaten our democratic existence. **Weil Gotshal** strives to protect the rights of those who have been discriminated against or who are not being

represented.

#### **AALDEF/Voting Rights Lawsuit Against the New York City Board of Elections**

Weil Gotshal, along with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), represents several individual and organizational plaintiffs in a lawsuit alleging violations of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). The complaint alleges that the New York City Board of Elections failed to comply with Section 203 of the VRA, which requires New York City and the Board of Elections to institute certain mechanisms and practices to assist limited English-proficient Chinese-American and Korean-American voters in New York City. The parties have been in settlement negotiations for several months and are hoping to reach a settlement in principle that will include the joint drafting of a new proposed Section 203 Plan to be submitted for preclearance to the US Department of Justice.

#### **Vance Center for International Justice Initiatives/Same-Sex Partnership Rights**

On behalf of the New York City Bar Association's Vance Center for International Justice Initiatives, Weil Gotshal provided pro bono counsel in an important case that could impact same-sex partnership rights across the globe. The firm drafted an amicus brief for submission to the Constitutional Court of Colombia that demonstrated that, since 1996, courts and human rights bodies throughout the world have struck down measures that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in the provision of economic benefits. Subsequently, the Constitutional Court ruled that samesex couples are entitled to register their domestic partnerships and receive certain economic benefits on equal terms with opposite-sex couples. The decision overturned a 1990 law establishing domestic partnership benefits but limiting such benefits to opposite-sex couples by defining a "partnership" as existing only between a man and a woman.





#### Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund/ Lowell Teachers Case

Weil Gotshal and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund won a major victory on behalf of non-native speaking teachers from the Lowell, Massachusetts school systems who were fired when they failed an English fluency test. The arbitrator ruled that Lowell had violated Department of Education policy and state law and had infringed on the teachers' due process rights. The arbitrator also reinstated the teachers with full back pay, thus entitling them to all of their benefits. Following this decision, Lowell filed a motion to vacate the arbitration award with the Middlesex County Superior Court. After extensive briefing and oral argument, the Superior Court confirmed the arbitration award and ordered Lowell to immediately comply with all provisions of the award. Lowell filed further motions in the Superior Court (and later the Appeals Court) seeking a stay of the part of the arbitration award that required the teachers to be immediately reinstated. After extensive hearings and briefing, both courts denied Lowell's motion to stay the arbitration award, and the teachers were finally reinstated. The underlying case is presently on appeal in front of a full panel of the Massachusetts Appeal Court.



Over the past decade, United Nations (UN) committees charged with monitoring governmental compliance with international human rights treaties have broken new ground in translating human rights standards into state responsibility on a broad spectrum of reproductive and sexual rights issues. Weil Gotshal is assisting the Center for Reproductive Rights, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and defending women's reproductive rights worldwide, in updating Bringing Rights to Bear: An Analysis of the Work of UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies on Reproductive and Sexual Rights. Bringing Rights to Bear is a comprehensive legal resource that examines how these issues have been dealt with in the context of six major human rights treaties and charts the collective work of the UN committees since 1992 on a range of reproductive and sexual rights topics. It also documents the key role played by these committees in advancing the recognition, protection and enforcement of reproductive and sexual rights, providing an in-depth analysis of its recommendations to governments. Bringing Rights to Bear provides advocates around the world with a tool to compel their governments to enforce recommendations and assists them by providing input to the committees on how well governments are upholding their obligations to ensure women's reproductive and sexual rights.





### Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs/Hopson

In one of the largest pro bono matters at Weil Gotshal, a DC team of attorneys and staff, along with co-counsel from the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, continues to press a hard-fought employment discrimination class action case against the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. Filed in federal district court in Baltimore, the case alleges racial discrimination in violation of Title VII on behalf of a class of current and former members of the BPD who have been subjected to discrimination on the basis of color and/or race through the intra-departmental disciplinary process. Class discovery, which has been protracted due to numerous disputes caused by defendants' delays, remains ongoing. Next steps include a motion for class certification to be followed by merits discovery and, if necessary, a trial.

## Disabled American Veterans and the National Veterans Legal Services Program/Disabled Veterans Amicus

Weil Gotshal helped improve the law for disabled veterans in a major way when it successfully represented, as amici curiae, two nonprofit groups dedicated to the interests of disabled veterans, the Disabled American Veterans and the National Veterans Legal Services Program. In an appeal before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, disabled veterans prevailed on every issue, reversing the antidisabled veteran state of the law in two key areas. First, disabled veterans seeking to vindicate their rights under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act are now entitled to have their case heard by the Board of Veterans Appeals if they miss the filing deadline as a result of a severe disability or other good reason. Second, disabled veterans who have suffered from discrimination are now entitled to a hearing before the Merits Systems Protections Board if they appeal a denial of benefits under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

#### **PRLDEF/Day Laborers Constitutional Rights Case**

Weil Gotshal, through its externship program, joined forces with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Educational Fund and another law firm to represent six day laborers challenging a New York suburban village's acts of discrimination and harassment. The laborers alleged that the village was using its police force to target Latino laborers in a campaign of discrimination and harassment in a systematic effort to eject them from public spaces, preventing the Latino laborers from exercising their First Amendment right to express their desire to work. The district court for the Southern District of New York found that the village's "publicly-stated specific reason for taking action against the day laborers – that they were overrunning the Village and engaging in anti-social behavior – does not stand up to scrutiny." The district court ruled for the plaintiffs, noting, "the fact that the day laborers were Latinos, and not whites, was, at least in part, a motivating factor in the defendants' actions."



There is no greater reward than assisting the brave individuals who refuse to suffer injustices at the hands of their own governments and seek to pave the way in preventing future abuses and deprivation of rights. That is why Weil Gotshal is determined not to shy away from the most challenging asylum and immigration matters and aspires to be the "go to" firm in such cases.

Over the past several years, the firm has significantly increased its work in the asylum area. In New York, Washington, DC, Dallas and other offices, attorneys at all levels and in a variety of practice areas have assisted asylum applicants from all over the world. The firm has created an "Asylum Practice Group" of associates and partners who have handled asylum cases, thus providing a forum for attorneys to help one another with cases and allow attorneys to strengthen their knowledge of this complex field of law. Clients from Honduras, Guinea, the Dominican Republic, Cameroon, Tibet, Ukraine and other countries have been represented by Weil Gotshal attorneys. Rather than merely accepting easy cases, the firm has taken on "long shots" and obtained asylum on behalf of its clients under difficult circumstances. Asylum cases provide a wonderful opportunity for junior attorneys to work directly with clients, to develop case strategy, and to try a case in front of a judge. The firm intends to expand its practice and train junior attorneys in this area so that we eventually become a "go to" pro bono firm in the asylum area.

#### **Human Rights First/Asylum for Ukrainian Refugee**

Weil Gotshal secured asylum on behalf of a Ukrainian refugee who was subject to religious and political persecution in his homeland. The client fled Ukraine for the US in the early 1990s and Weil Gotshal filed an asylum application for him. That application was denied, but Weil Gotshal appealed all the way to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, where our attorneys convinced the Assistant US Attorney to agree to vacate the denial and remand the case to the immigration court. On remand, the firm compiled substantial evidence of the applicant's persecution and of the ongoing repression of religious minorities in Ukraine. The US Immigration Court granted asylum based on the likelihood that our client would continue to face persecution if he were to return to the Ukraine.

#### **Human Rights First/Asylum for Guinean Woman**

In a case referred by Human Rights First, Weil Gotshal secured asylum for a Guinean woman who was abused by her father, her husband and his family. The types of abuse endured by the client, which we chronicled in her application, included the following: forced marriage to a 39-year old stranger when she was 13; beatings and imprisonment by the local Guinean police after she tried to run away from her father to avoid the forced marriage; and physical, emotional and sexual abuse at the hands of the husband she was sent to live with in Detroit. The Newark Asylum Office initially denied the asylum application after her interview. After vigorous appeals to higher level government officials, including those in Washington, DC, the firm was able to secure another interview for the client, avoiding referral to the Immigration Court. Our client's application for asylum was granted by the Newark Asylum Office after her second interview.

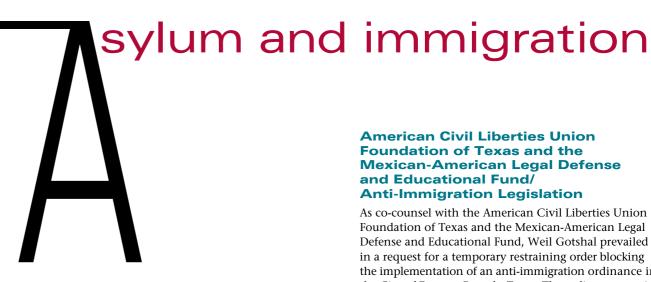


#### National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children/ **Asylum for El Salvadorian Refugees**

Weil Gotshal secured asylum for two young girls from El Salvador, ages 8 and 11, who were the victims of gang violence in El Salvador. From the outset of the proceedings, which took place at the Arlington, Virginia Immigration Court, the legal team expected difficulty because the judge had never granted a gang-related claim. The judge expressed his skepticism on whether our clients had a viable claim under the law, given that US immigration law is notoriously hostile to gang-related claims. We presented testimony from an expert on gangs in El Salvador, our clients' pastor from El Salvador who corroborated the evidence, and the clinical social worker who diagnosed our clients with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. With the girls and their father also testifying, the judge granted asylum under US law on the basis of gang violence for the first time in his tenure on the bench.

#### **National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children/ Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Honduran Youth**

In a matter referred by the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children, Weil Gotshal assisted a 17-year-old pregnant Honduran citizen in her fight to stay in the US. The firm secured Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) for our client, whom firm attorneys met shortly after she came to the US. She left Honduras to seek a better life in the US. After she illegally crossed the border, immigration officials arrested her. While in detention, she discovered she was pregnant, and as an unwed, teenage mother, her parents refused to accept her back in her home in Honduras. As a result, she faced deportation from the US back to Honduras, where she would have to live on the streets with her child, but, with the help of the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children, she was fighting to remain with relatives in the US. Weil Gotshal intervened on her behalf in the midst of deportation proceedings at the US Immigration Court in Dallas. Before she could receive SIJS, the firm assisted local counsel in representing her at a hearing in the Arkansas Family Court which pronounced her a ward of the state and gave guardianship and custody to her uncle. Using the order from the family court, Weil Gotshal attorneys were able to secure SIJS after an administrative immigration proceeding in Arkansas. The firm then succeeded in having her deportation proceedings in Immigration Court terminated and now seeks to adjust her status administratively to that of a legal immigrant – the next step in her path to a green card and citizenship.



#### **American Civil Liberties Union** Foundation of Texas and the **Mexican-American Legal Defense** and Educational Fund/ **Anti-Immigration Legislation**

As co-counsel with the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Texas and the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Weil Gotshal prevailed in a request for a temporary restraining order blocking the implementation of an anti-immigration ordinance in the City of Farmers Branch, Texas. The ordinance requires landlords and property managers of apartment complexes in Farmers Branch to document the US citizenship or "eligible immigration status" of certain tenants prior to allowing the tenants to lease an apartment. If enforced, the ordinance would ultimately require countless Latino families residing in Farmers Branch to either split up or leave the area altogether. Similar laws have already passed in Hazelton, Pennsylvania; Escondido, California; Riverside, New Jersey; Valley Park, Missouri; and Cherokee County, Georgia. Like the laws passed in these municipalities, the Farmers Branch ordinance effectively seeks to regulate immigration at the local level, while imposing severe burdens on tenants, property owners and managers. Courts in other jurisdictions, when faced with similar laws, have enjoined their implementation because immigration law falls under the sole jurisdiction of the federal government. On June 19, 2007, the judge granted plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction, and enjoined the City of Farmers Branch from effectuating or enforcing the ordinance, pending a trial on the merits or other disposition of the case.





When called upon by the organizations dedicated to advocating and caring for the children who so desperately need them. **Weil Gotshal** does not hesitate to step in and help reunite missing and kidnapped children with their parents as well as protect the rights of abused and neglected children.



## National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children/Child Abuse Documentary Broadcast

Weil Gotshal represented the UK's leading children's charity, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in its efforts to obtain an injunction preventing the broadcast of a documentary called "I smack and I'm proud." The program contained depictions of child abuse, and the NSPCC had grave concerns that its broadcast went well beyond provoking debate and could further harm the well-being of the children involved. Although the Court refused to grant an injunction preventing the broadcast, it rejected the broadcaster's argument that the NSPCC did not have standing to intervene under the Children's Act of England and Wales where a child's welfare is at issue. This case therefore clarified an important issue concerning the rights of the NSPCC to intervene in such situations in the future. In connection with the broadcast, Weil Gotshal assisted the NSPCC in filing a complaint with Ofcom, the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries.

### Child Advocate of Rhode Island & Children's Rights/Children in Foster Care

Weil Gotshal joined forces with Child Advocate of Rhode Island and Children's Rights, the national child advocacy group, in commencing a federal class action to bring reforms to the Rhode Island child welfare system and provide better protection for the rights of the approximately 3,000 children living in state custody. The suit cites extensive evidence that Rhode Island has consistently fallen short of its obligations and caused harm to abused and neglected children in its custody. The plaintiffs, ten named children who were abused within the system, are seeking declaratory and injunctive relief to compel the government defendants – the Governor, Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Department of Children, Youth and Families – to reform the state's dysfunctional child welfare system and to bring it into conformity with constitutional and legal norms.

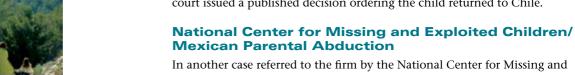


#### **Domestic Custody Dispute to Enforce Parental Rights**

Over the course of a two-year custody battle, Weil Gotshal fought to enforce our client's custody rights over her minor daughter. Following her ex-husband's accidental drowning, a paternal aunt and grandmother took possession of the child, obtained a temporary restraining order restricting our client's access to her daughter and sued for sole custody. On the eve of trial, after nearly two years of contentious litigation, the firm developed and engendered support for a creative settlement agreement resulting in the client receiving primary custodial rights to her daughter. Despite continued contentiousness during the transition process, our client and her daughter remain reunited.

#### National Center for Missing and Exploited Children/ Chilean Parental Abduction

Since establishing a relationship with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Weil Gotshal has won many of the cases referred to it by the Center. One example is the effort in securing an order under The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The order required the reunification of the firm's client, a Chilean national, with his young daughter whom he had not seen for over three years. The mother had previously lied to a Chilean court to obtain permission to take the child from Chile to the US by informing the court that the proposed move to the US was temporary and for the sole purpose of obtaining a graduate degree at Texas A&M University. Based on those false representations, the Chilean court granted her permission to take the child to the US, subject to custody and visitation requirements for the father. The mother's true intention, however, was to leave Chile permanently with her new husband, who was a US citizen. In fact, she never enrolled in any university, and after moving to the US, she denied the client any access to, or communication with, his daughter, even though he continued to provide for her financially. Weil Gotshal filed suit originally in Texas, seeking to enforce the client's visitation and access rights, only to discover that the mother had taken the child to Alabama. The firm then filed suit in Alabama, seeking not just visitation rights, but the outright return of the child to Chile. The firm obtained immediate emergency relief from the Alabama District Court just as the mother was preparing to abscond with the child and move to Australia. After a trial on the merits, the district court issued a published decision ordering the child returned to Chile.



In another case referred to the firm by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Weil Gotshal represented a Mexican citizen and resident whose six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son were abducted by their mother and brought to the US in 2002. The firm's client finally located his wife and children in the US in 2006 and we subsequently filed an action against the wife in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas for violation of the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (the enabling statute of The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction). Following a hearing and settlement conference, the parties reached a settlement that required the wife and children to return to Mexico at the end of the school year and remain there until the wife could obtain legal status for the children to travel between the US and Mexico. The judge entered the settlement agreement as the final judgment in the case and ordered the wife to return to Mexico with the children by no later than June 21, 2007. The wife has not made contact with the client as required by the Court's order, and it is unclear whether she in fact returned to Mexico with the children as ordered. Weil Gotshal has advised the Court of this development and is seeking appropriate relief.

### National Wildlife Federation and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation/Ranch Dispute

For 12 years there has been an ongoing feud between a rancher in Wyoming and the Bureau of Land Management that had surprisingly managed to find an audience with the US Supreme Court. Underlying the drama of a seemingly local dispute over grazing rights and reciprocal access to land were important issues of constitutional rights and novel statutory construction. Weil Gotshal represented, as amici curiae, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural resources, and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation (WWF), which works to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, to protect citizens' rights to use public lands and waters and to promote ethical hunting and fishing. The firm filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court supporting reversal of the decision of the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit that created a new private damages action against individual government employees, based on the alleged state of mind of the officials, for actions otherwise taken in the exercise of lawful regulatory authority. The Court of Appeals' decision interpreted the Fifth Amendment's takings clause to allow suits against individual government employees for denying access to public lands if done in retaliation for being denied access to private property. The firm's efforts have potentially broad implications beyond a local land dispute because the threat of personal liability created by the Court's decision could discourage government officials from working to protect wildlife habitats.

There is no question that the communities in which we live and work each have their own different personalities and needs. In order to effectively give back to our communities, **Weil Gotshal has** worked hard to establish relationships with local organizations devoted to community and economic development.





#### **Persons Displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

Working with a coalition of public interest groups, Weil Gotshal filed a class action lawsuit against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the US District Court for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans on behalf of persons displaced from their homes by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The lawsuit challenges FEMA's administration of its rental assistance program, and its efforts to obtain repayment of disaster assistance previously granted to thousands of people in the aftermath of the storms, under the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, the Administrative Procedure Act and the Stafford Disaster Assistance Act. Weil Gotshal argued that before FEMA discontinues rental assistance, recipients are entitled to adequate notice and opportunity for a hearing. FEMA argued that its financial assistance program is not an entitlement subject to constitutional due process protections. On the firm's motion, the district court granted a preliminary injunction that prohibits FEMA from terminating people from its rental assistance program without providing them due process, including a clear explanation of the reason for termination and an opportunity for a meaningful hearing. The Court also certified the case as a class action. Weil Gotshal's co-counsel are the Public Interest Law Project, the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Texas Appleseed, the Mississippi Center for Justice, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, and the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

#### **Habitat for Humanity/Governance and Infrastructure**

The firm is representing the Budapest chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a not-for-profit that operates worldwide raising funds and resources to build homes for the poor and those who have lost their homes due to natural disasters. Weil Gotshal counseled Habitat in connection with a public prosecutor's action against it regarding the legal operation of two entities in Hungary, and the firm advised Habitat in the negotiations and drafting of a mandate agreement for marketing purposes that will increase public knowledge of its activities and promote donation programs. Weil Gotshal also assisted Habitat in the structuring of various new projects, including the Kiskunhalas project that involved an agreement with the Hungarian town of Kiskunhalas to fund the renovation of a building to be used as a home for a needy family. The firm's work on this project included developing the security structure and various lending instruments and advising on tax-related matters.

### St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation/Clinton Small Business Foundation

To aid small business owners in starting up and successfully maintaining their business, the firm is providing legal services to entrepreneurs and small businesses in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation (Williamsburg and Greenpoint) and the Clinton Small Business Foundation (Harlem) have identified entrepreneurs who, if successful, will help to revitalize and sustain the communities for the benefit of its residents. Weil Gotshal is providing legal services for incorporating businesses, reviewing leases, preparing contracts and loan documents and providing other specific subject-area advice.

# ommunity and economic development





#### **Mediation Advisory Services/Restructuring**

Mediation Advisory Services (MAS) is a UK-based charity that provides mediation services in sensitive family law cases. When its funding was changed from receiving grants from central funds to direct payments by solicitors, the group encountered significant payment delays. This led to severe financial distress and a cash-flow crisis that threatened insolvency. Weil Gotshal advised MAS on a number of connected insolvency, property, corporate and employment issues that were crucial to its immediate survival and, subsequently, to its orderly restructuring. The firm drafted the loan documents that enabled a benefactor to donate emergency funds, thereby initially avoiding insolvency and allowing staff to be retained. Our attorneys also assisted MAS in the negotiation of a factoring agreement that allowed it to raise longer-term financing from solicitors that used the group's mediation services. When such financing ultimately proved insufficient, the firm assisted with the restructuring of the organization and advised on issues regarding the transfer of employees and property issues regarding the landlord. MAS's operations are being transferred to other service providers who will ensure that the local community continues to benefit from these vital services.



### Lawyers Alliance for New York & Citigroup/ Senior Center Legal Assessment and Training Day

Attorneys from Weil Gotshal and Citigroup participated in the second annual "Legal Assessment and Training Day," coordinated by Lawyers Alliance for New York (LANY). The volunteer attorneys assisted 18 member agencies of a Weil Gotshal pro bono client, Council for Senior Centers & Services of New York City, Inc. (CSCS), with a variety of legal issues affecting not-for-profit senior centers, including corporate governance, contracts, employment and real estate law. Prior to the event, LANY conducted a training session on the use of its organizational "assessment tool," which the attorneys used at the Training Day to assess the particular needs of the member agencies. The attorneys also made presentations at legal workshops and met with each agency to provide one-on-one assistance. The Training Day has laid the foundation for numerous new pro bono relationships.

#### The Legal Aid Society/Guide to Small Businesses

Weil Gotshal assisted The Legal Aid Society in preparing a presentation to train pro bono attorneys from New York City's major law firms who provide legal assistance to the Legal Aid's small business clients. The firm worked with Legal Aid to identify obstacles commonly faced by Legal Aid's small business clients and developed a presentation on how bankruptcy and other non-bankruptcy solutions, such as an out-of-court workout with creditors, a refinancing, an assignment for the benefit of creditors or a dissolution might provide benefits to a small business owner. The firm also prepared and disseminated a handbook entitled "Small Businesses in Distress: Bankruptcy and Other Alternatives" that provides greater detail and direction about the specific problems and solutions discussed during the presentation. The handbook addresses diverse topics, including the problems common to small businesses, the advantages and disadvantages of – and alternatives to – filing for bankruptcy, the treatment of executory contracts and other practical information and sample forms and schedules.



The firm's deep commitment to the non-profit sector, both as it relates to our pro bono clients and otherwise, is supported by our Not-for-Profit Practice Group. This group, comprised of Weil Gotshal lawyers from a wide array of practice specialties including corporate, tax, governance, intellectual property and bankruptcy, is dedicated to assure that the firm delivers state-of-the-art services to our not-for-profit clients. Toward this end, the Not-for-Profit Practice Group remains vigilant regarding new and emerging issues relating to the non-profit sector, assists in the institutionalization of the firm's expertise in this area and has assumed primary responsibility for the firm's not-for-profit database. As a result of this group, Weil Gotshal's not-for-profit commercial and transactional practice has experienced considerable growth, and the firm has emerged as a premier provider of legal services in the not-for-profit sector.

Weil Gotshal's Not-for-Profit Practice Group and the Pro Bono Committee introduced the annual Not-for-Profit Board Member Symposium in 2006. The Symposium focuses on good governance in the not-for-profit, foundation and charitable communities, recognizing and responding to the emerging reality of heightened expectations and regulatory scrutiny of these organizations. The program explores fiduciary and ethical duties as defined by current case law and ethical standards, as well as best practices and regulatory and other legal developments. Like the firm's extensive pro bono activities and the Not-for-Profit Practice Group, the annual Symposium has burnished the firm's already strong reputation in this area.

#### **Ashoka Foundation/Varanasi Weavers**

For 500 years weavers in the Indian holy city of Varanasi have hand-woven the finest silk saris. Within the last decade, however, tens of thousands of weavers have been plagued by poverty due to the increase in machinemade imports from Asia. We are working with Darin Gunesekera, a Sri Lankan economist and Ashoka Fellow, in an effort to reestablish traditional weaving in Varanasi and thereby return to the weavers their livelihood. A key to this effort is obtaining, in countries having substantial Indian expatriate communities such as the UK, US and Canada, "Certification Mark" status for VARANASI, for silks made in that city in traditional ways. Certification Marks protect indications of geographic origin such as Bordeaux for wine, Roquefort for cheese and Parma for ham. Once the Varanasi name is protected, Weil Gotshal will continue our work with Mr. Gunesekera to rekindle consumer demand for Varanasi saris within Indian communities in the UK, US and Canada to help the weavers once again earn a sustaining living.

### InfoDev/E-Government for Developing Countries

Weil Gotshal has been involved in a pioneering e-government pro bono project for InfoDev, a group of non-governmental organizations led by Internews and the Center for Democracy and Technology. InfoDev is a global partnership of international development agencies coordinated and served by an expert Secretariat housed at the World Bank that focuses on how information and communication technologies can help to combat poverty and promote opportunity, empowerment and economic growth in developing countries.

The first stage of the project involved surveying the laws relating to freedom of information, e-filings, privacy/data protection and cybersecurity in 30 developing countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America to create a "knowledge map" of existing legislation. The second stage involved drafting model laws, including freedom of information requests, e-filings, data protection and cybersecurity, to serve as a "tool kit" for new legislation. Weil Gotshal drafted the laws using existing legislation from both developed and developing countries, taking into consideration regional differences noted in the surveys completed in the first stage and guidance from non-governmental organizations involved in the project. Using the surveys and the model laws, InfoDev, Internews and the Center for Democracy and Technology will work with the countries to explain and help them understand the intricacies of the legal issues related to the implementation of e-government.



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### Externships

#### Oxfam/Work to End Global Poverty

Weil Gotshal has an ongoing and productive relationship with Oxfam, one of the world's leading charities working on poverty relief on a global scale. Our attorneys have been involved in numerous projects with Oxfam, including drafting contracts, legal analysis and advice on policy initiatives, and associates in our London office have participated in secondments at the general counsel's office at Oxfam Great Britain's headquarters. The firm has also assisted Oxfam with its campaign to ensure that international trade laws provide fair opportunities to developing countries. In addition, one of our partners serves as an advisor to Oxfam America's president and is a member of the Oxfam America Leadership Council. Examples of our recent work with Oxfam include:

#### **Law Firm Consortium**

Weil Gotshal is helping Oxfam coordinate a Law Firm Consortium in order to develop and implement innovative strategies for Oxfam. The Consortium represents an unprecedented initiative with significant potential to leverage Oxfam's impact, as well as offering opportunities for law firms to bring their legal, social and creative capital to the most challenging development issues of the day. The Consortium will provide Oxfam with strategic thinking, legal services and general support and will provide participating law firms with opportunities to engage and train their lawyers on cutting-edge global development issues and innovative pro bono projects.

#### Oxfam America's Coffee Campaign

In connection with Oxfam's Coffee Campaign, Weil Gotshal drafted a side agreement to a licensing contract with Chiquita Brands, a key tool in protecting small-scale farmers during a sensitive negotiation with the company. In another matter for the Coffee Campaign, we reviewed the antitrust implications of the common code for the coffee community, a "multistakeholder" initiative to improve sourcing guidelines by coffee companies. The goal of Oxfam's Coffee Campaign is to create sustainable solutions to poverty in coffee communities by ensuring that coffee farmers and farm workers are compensated fairly.

#### Post-Katrina Gulf Recovery

Weil Gotshal assisted Oxfam with research, advice and drafting assistance to Oxfam in its efforts to ensure that low- and moderate-income households, renters and minorities were not excluded disproportionately from the federal Katrina Recovery Homeowner Grant Program and that the State of Mississippi's action plan fulfilled the basic tenets of the Fair Housing Act. Also in Mississippi, a Weil Gotshal attorney spent ten days with Oxfam helping assess the damage to impoverished and marginalized communities as well as to Oxfam's nonprofit partners in the region. This project resulted in Weil Gotshal assisting the East Biloxi Relief and Coordination Center, an Oxfam partner, with its tax-exempt status. Subsequently, the group was able to secure a \$3 million grant from Oprah Winfrey.

#### Western Shoshone Defense Project

The firm prepared a 16-page analysis of legal protections available for cultural resources for Oxfam partner the Western Shoshone Defense Project. The Defense Project is a grassroots effort to prevent Toronto-based Barrick Gold Corporation from mining the Western Shoshone land in Nevada, which will threaten Native American sacred sites and homelands in Nevada. The Defense Project is working with Western Shoshone leaders on these issues with the goal of resuming communications with the mining companies. Using a training curriculum that we prepared to educate the Shoshone on the structure of a corporation and how it can be influenced, the Western Shoshone seeks to prevent mining on their lands by educating the company on the pressing need for reform in the way it does business on Native American lands.

#### **Trade Liberalization**

We prepared a memo addressing how the degree and pace of trade liberalization in Africa, the Caribbean, and Pacific countries would affect the countries' ability to meet minimum requirements of trade agreements with the European Union. The memo addresses the problem of free trade agreements that, according to Oxfam, will only exacerbate the existing poverty in countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific by imposing hardships on developing country farmers, making access to affordable medicines more difficult, and constraining the kinds of policies developing country governments should enact to protect their own citizens and fight poverty.

#### **Hunger Banquet**

In addition to providing pro bono legal services to Oxfam and its nonprofit partners, Weil Gotshal has been involved in creating programs to educate the public about Oxfam, including the development of a 50-minute workplace version of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet to teach participants about global hunger.

#### Weil Gotshal Externship Program

Weil Gotshal's externships allow full-time associates to work at leading public service organizations. By doing pro bono work exclusively for a period of several months, associates are able to see their efforts make a real difference. The skills and knowledge acquired by the associates during their rotations enhance their abilities and sense of social responsibility, and the program strengthens our relationships with the sponsoring not-for-profit organizations. The following are some of the externships offered:

Weil Gotshal Corporate associates work at **Lawyers Alliance for New York** with a wide variety of clients, advising on matters ranging from economic and community development projects and contract and lease negotiations to mergers of not-for-profit and financial reorganizations.

Weil Gotshal's externship program at the **New York City Department of Law** provides litigation associates the opportunity to assist the Corporation Counsel's office with depositions, motions and trials.

At **Legal Services for New York City**, litigation associates get handson litigation experience in areas such as housing, bankruptcy, social security disability, and parental and children's rights, gaining valuable experience while helping the disadvantaged in the city.

Weil Gotshal and the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint program of the Dallas Bar Association and the Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, work together on the **Lend-A-Lawyer Program** with the goal of helping low-income Dallas residents with their legal problems. While working on-site at the DVAP offices, the Lend-A-Lawyer handles civil cases, participates in weekly legal clinics and works closely with DVAP's mentoring lawyers to assist clients. Weil Gotshal's Dallas summer associates are also able to spend a week of their clerkship at DVAP's offices assisting staff in providing legal services to the poor.

Junior associates from Weil Gotshal's London office participate in secondments at **Oxfam** headquarters. The associates work under the direction of Oxfam's general counsel on a variety of matters ranging from legal and policy aspects of debt and trade issues that affect the world's poor to contract negotiations with Oxfam counterparties in the aid arena. Another junior associate is seconded on a rotation program to the **Bar Pro Bono Unit** one day a week.

Two associates from Weil Gotshal's London office staff the **Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)** in the Royal Courts of Justice in Central London. CAB offices are located in most towns and cities in the UK, with the Central London office being one of the busiest due to its location. Weil Gotshal lawyers join other volunteers in advising walk-in clients on a variety of matters.

New York summer associates are given the opportunity to participate in the firm's pro bono **summer externship program** by spending one or two weeks at a public interest organization. These externships afford summer associates the opportunity to attend pro bono training programs, work alongside staff attorneys, conduct administrative hearings, assist on appeals and interview clients. Apart from externships, summer associates are also assigned pro bono cases under the supervision of attorneys in the various practice groups through which they rotate.

Summer associates from Weil Gotshal's Washington, DC office participate in the **Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless**. With training and attorney supervision, each summer associate provides advice and assistance to potential clients on issues of homelessness, the shelter appeals process, income assistance, medical needs and public benefits issues.

### Legal Aid Society's Economic Development Office Externship

Weil Gotshal began a pilot externship program with the Legal Aid Society's Economic Development Office in Harlem which provides transactional law services to low-income businesses, nonprofit organizations, low-income housing cooperatives and unincorporated community groups. Externs draft and negotiate contracts on a variety of topics, ranging from mergers, acquisitions, dissolutions, restructurings, financings and leasing, to matters involving regulatory compliance, real estate closings, corporate governance, tax exemption filings and housing development issues. This volunteer assistance significantly benefits New York City's poorest communities by increasing jobs, expanding the supply of affordable housing and strengthening neighborhood infrastructure.

### Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund Externship

The firm developed a pilot externship program with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) that promotes and defends the rights of Pan-Latinos and Pan-Latino communities. PRLDEF has primarily been involved in the areas of language rights, bilingual education, housing and employment discrimination, voting rights and ballot reform, as well as immigrant rights.

During the past four months our extern worked with PRLDEF attorneys on several cases, including representing a group of Latino residents, landlords and organizations in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, to enjoin the city from enforcing anti-immigration ordinances which would subject landlords who rent to - and businesses that hire undocumented immigrants to severe fines. The case was tried in the Middle District of Pennsylvania in March 2007, and we are expecting a decision later this summer. The decision will have strong implications throughout the country because other cities have passed or would like to pass similar ordinances.

### Katrina/Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Externship

Weil Gotshal sent attorneys to Mississippi as part of the externship program started by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to provide legal services to victims of Hurricane Katrina. While in Mississippi, the externs provided assistance to the Mississippi Center for Justice at workshops throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast and screened matters for further pro bono work by Weil Gotshal colleagues.





### National Legal Aid & Defender Association Beacon of Justice Award

Weil Gotshal was honored with the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) Beacon of Justice Award for providing pro bono legal assistance to detainees at Guantanamo Bay. The award, given to more than 50 law firms across the country, honors the uncompromising stance taken by Weil Gotshal and the other law firms to provide representation to the detainees, despite opposition, demonstrating an unwavering belief and commitment to fairness and equality under the law for all persons accused of a crime.

#### Legal Services for New York City

Attorneys and staff from the New York office were honored for their pro bono work on behalf of low-income New Yorkers by Legal Services for New York City (LSNY), the largest provider of free civil legal services to low-income individuals in the US for over 40 years. In addition, Weil Gotshal was named the LSNY 2007 Pro Bono Champion.

#### Pro Bono Firm of the Year/Massachusetts Bar Association Access to Justice Awards

Weil Gotshal was named a 2006 pro bono firm of the year by the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) in connection with its work on several pro bono matters undertaken on behalf of Massachusetts residents. The award honors the thirteen attorneys in the Boston office who handled pro bono matters through the MBA's Community Legal Referral Program and Boston Bar Association Business Law Pro Bono Project.

#### 2007 W. Frank Newton Award

The Texas offices received the 2007 W. Frank Newton Award. This award recognizes the pro bono contribution of attorney groups whose members have made an outstanding contribution to the provision of, or access to, legal services to the poor. The award is named for W. Frank Newton, former Dean of Texas Tech University School of Law and longtime pro bono advocate.

#### Warsaw Museum of the History of Polish Jews

A Weil Gotshal partner from the Warsaw office received an award for outstanding pro bono work related to the creation of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The efforts of the partner to raise funds and political support for the project helped create a plan to build a home for the museum in the heart of a former Jewish district in Warsaw.

#### Finalist - Pro Bono Award of the Year

The leading Polish daily newspaper, *Rzeczpospolita*, named a Warsaw partner runner-up for its annual pro bono award. The national award marks achievements in pro bono and Weil Gotshal's nomination marked the first time that a lawyer from an international law firm with offices in Warsaw was in the running for the award. The firm's nomination also marked the first time the committee recognized an individual attorney for work other than lifetime achievement.

### '40 at 50' Award for Commitment of Pro Bono Hours

Weil Gotshal was one of only 17 firms honored by the Chief Judges of the US District Court for the District of Columbia and the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for its commitment to pro bono work. The firm was honored for having 40% or more attorneys providing 50 or more pro bono hours per year.

### Pro Bono Service to The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Weil Gotshal's Washington, DC office was recognized by The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless at the Clinic's annual reception for the firm's pro bono work on behalf of those who are most disadvantaged. Attorneys in the Washington, DC office have devoted numerous hours to the clinic, assisting clients in matters of public and Social Security benefits and Section 8 housing.

#### 2006 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year and Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year for Lend-A-Lawyer Program

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint program sponsored by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and the Dallas Bar Association, recognized Weil Gotshal as the 2006 Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year for its pro bono efforts throughout Dallas County, including its continued support for the Lend-A-Lawyer program, its work in staffing neighborhood legal clinics and for the efforts of its attorneys in representing Legal Aid's clients. In addition, an associate in Weil Gotshal's Dallas office was named 2006 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year for his efforts in the pro bono community, including his participation in the Lend-A-Lawyer program and his representation of other pro bono clients.

#### **Caring Corporation Award**

Weil Gotshal received the Caring Corporation Award from the Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, Inc. (CSCS) for its devotion of pro bono legal services to the group for more than ten years. Weil Gotshal has served as the group's day-to-day counsel and assisted in the development of various programs and services, including "Training Day" in which attorneys from Weil Gotshal, Citigroup and Lawyers Alliance for New York provided legal advice to CSCS member senior centers.

#### The Lawyer's Pro Bono Team of the Year Award/Recognition of Weil Gotshal's Commitment to Fight Poverty

In 2006, our London office was instrumental in setting up a new pro bono organization, Advocates for International Development (A4ID), an inter-firm organization which aims to harness pro bono skills in support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and communities engaged in the fight against poverty. In recognition of the enormous support A4ID has garnered from the UK legal community and its work in mobilizing 1,400 attorneys to work with major NGOs, it was named Pro Bono Team of the Year by *The Lawyer*. Weil Gotshal attorneys are members of the group's Advisory Committee and Board of Directors.

#### The Richard House Care Award

The firm's London office was honored with the Richard House Care Award in recognition of the continued support provided to a hospice in East London that provides end-of-life care for children and for the firm's work in 2006 in building a wheelchair-friendly garden on the grounds.

#### The John Edward Smith Child Advocacy Award

An attorney in Weil Gotshal's Miami office received the John Edward Smith Child Advocacy Award from Lawyers for Children America for his work with abused and neglected children in Miami's dependency court system.

### American Bar Association's National Public Service Award

A Weil Gotshal partner received the National Public Service Award from the American Bar Association's Business Law Section for his work leading a team of attorneys from three Weil Gotshal offices in representing the United Nations World Food Programme in the world's first weather derivative transaction for humanitarian emergencies. This transaction provided contingency funding in the event that data collected from monitoring stations in Ethiopia during a growing season was indicative of a likely drought. The award is presented annually to an attorney who has demonstrated dedication to the innovative development and delivery of pro bono legal services to the poor in a business context.

### New York City Bar Association/CityBar Public Service Network

A Weil Gotshal partner was honored by the CityBar Public Service Network for his work as pro bono general counsel of New Heights Youth, Inc. New Heights Youth is a not-for-profit educational organization that runs a six-day-a-week program for more than 700 youths in troubled New York City neighborhoods, preparing them for success in high school, college and life. The CityBar Public Service Network is an affiliate of the NYC Bar Association that promotes public service in the legal community by linking hundreds of attorneys with not-for-profits.

#### ABA Pro Bono Publico Award

In recognition of Weil Gotshal's lengthy and productive relationship with five national legal service organizations, five organizations jointly nominated the firm for the prestigious American Bar Association Pro Bono Publico Award. The organizations that recognized the firm for its pro bono contributions were the Lawyers Alliance for New York, New York Lawyers in the Public Interest, Legal Services for New York, The Legal Aid Society and the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

#### The Legal Aid Society

Nineteen Weil Gotshal attorneys were honored for their outstanding representation of the Legal Aid Society on a variety of crucial pro bono matters. A longtime supporter of the work of the Society, the firm has undertaken the representation of elderly, juvenile and disabled immigrants, disabled juveniles who had lost benefits, low-income families faced with eviction, foster children, not-for-profits and prisoners subject to mistreatment and denied medical care. In addition, the firm's Pro Bono Counsel was awarded Pro Bono Counsel of the Year for her longstanding dedication to the Society.

### Center for Family Representation Pro Bono Award

At the Center for Family Representation's Fifth Anniversary Benefit, Weil Gotshal received the Pro Bono Award for its work in assisting the Center in its mission to provide free legal services to parents in crisis who are attempting to be reunited with their children who were previously removed to foster care.

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### 50-hour-plus performers

Miriam A. Buhl Noel L. Griswold Ngowari Adikibi Phyllis DePaola John A. Halbleib David G. Adler Warren T Ruhle Paulette C. Deruelle Christopher K. Aidun Gemma Bullmore Petr Hanzal Justyna Derylo-Lopez Margaret H. Allen James N. Bunch Katherine Doorley Nicole M. Harder Jo Nan Burns David W. Dummer Julie Harkness Alejandra M. Almonte Ferdose Al-Taie Simon Burrows Paul Dutka Zachariah Harrington Ashley R. Altschuler Konrad L. Cailteux Chrystal L. Dyer-Laroche Catherine R. Hartman Jeffrey C. Angerman Sheryl L. Calabro Matthew R. Elkin James R. Harvey Linda E. Calles Matthew J. Antonelli Matthew S. Ellis Amy B. Heller Bradley R. Aronstam Caitlyn M. Campbell Frik Encarnacion Adam C. Hemlock Paul Asofsky Robert F. Carangelo Lisa R. Eskow Penelope Hewitt Scott J. Atlas Steven C. Carlson Brian J. Eutermoser David A. Hickerson Karina Aust Kathleen Carnev Elizabeth H. Evans Robert R. Hindman Lawrence J. Baer Melissa M. Carvalho Garrett Fail Cara M. Hirsch Robert M. Castle Conrad G. Bahlke Christopher E. Farmer Laura Hirsch Barbara Baker Alicia L. Cate Nelly Fay Mark Hoenig David J. Ball Jr. **Dolores Cavatore** Alan R. Feigenbaum Jeffrey G. Homrig Hannah L. Field Karen N. Ballack Steven Cherensky Konstantin Hoppe Jill D. Chesler Lisa Fine Kent H. Barnett Tracy L. Horton Sarah E. Barrows Anupama Chettri Rip J. Finst Christine Howard Sara Coelho Samantha G. Fisherman Seth A. Bayles Clinton R. Hutchings Vance L. Beagles Amanda L. Cohen Barry Fishley Peter D. Isakoff Stella V. Belvisi Paul T. Cohn Daniel J.Melman Nick Flynn Norma N. Bennett Andrew J. Colao Aaron D. Ford Flisa Jaclyn Victoria A. Bennett Alison E. Cole Michael R. Franzinger Mark A. Jacoby Joseph F. Bernardi James Cole Jared R. Friedmann Joshua Janow Elizabeth Berry Howard B. Comet Idit Froim Christine T. Jarmer David R. Berz Marco Compagnoni Thomas C. Frongillo Shirley Jean Mamoni Bhattacharyya Annemargaret Connolly Morgan F. Frontczak Michael Jones Kimberly S. Blanchard Cabrach J. Connor Yolanda C. Garcia Rupert J. L. Jones Allen S. Blaustein Lisa M. Cooke Larry J. Gelbfish Anne-Sophie Julienne Lindsay M. Germano David M. Blittner Keith L. Cooper Anita E. Kadala Benton B. Bodamer Arthur Cormier Stephen A. Gibbons Stephen D. Kahn Jason Bonilla Keith Brian Gibson Peter S. Kaldes Andrew F Costa Andrew E. Borteck Cyrille Couadou Eleanor H. Gilbane Jaime S. Kaplan Sally A. Box James Cousins Stuart J. Goldring Hope L. Karp Lynda M. Braun Lianne Craig Michelle R. Goldstein-Roman Katarzyna Kazmierska Paul Bravo William R. Cruse Lyuba Goltser Monika Kierepa Carmen E. Bremer John B. Daily Alejandro Gonzalez Elyse G. Kirschner Michael Brien Ronald F. Daitz Max A. Goodman Jeffrev S. Klein Vernon S. Broderick Brian J. D'Amico William H. Gordon Liani G. Kotcher Karen Brooks Matthew W. Goulding Debra A. Dandeneau Robert Krasnodebski Brandye L. Brown Stephen J. Dannhauser Mava M. Grant Kevin Kudlac Margaret P. Brown Richard J. Davis Rebecca Grapsas Isabella C. Lacavo Marzena Buchman Scott R. Dayton Holly J. Gregory Michele C. Lamberti Yehudah L. Buchweitz Timothy E. DeMasi David Griffiths LaRae Lankford

Michelle V Larson Frin J Law Cleveland Lawrence Caryn C. Lederer Joseph H. Lee Elisa R. Lemmer Richard L. Levine Jason Lichter Brian J. Link Christopher M. Lopez Marianna S. Lopez Douglas E. Lumish Michael Lynch Eric C. Lyttle Deborah A. Maher Natalie C. Maksin Lavell Malloy Charles J. Maples Steven M. Margolis Johanna Markson Gail J. Marshall Daniel B. Martin Meagan Martin Margaret M Masters Marie L. Mathews Sylvia A. Mayer Carlyn S. McCaffrey Dominic T. McCahill Edward McCarthy Tracy L. McCreight Nathanial J. McPherson Kevin F. Meade Abram Medellin Sonal N. Mehta James L. Messenger Robert L. Messineo Allan S Metrick Agnieszka Michalska Ira M. Millstein Michael F Mittelman Paige Holden Montgomery Sarah E. Moore Jeff M. Morneau Richard A. Morrison Stuart Morrissy

Philip F. Repash Roman Rewald Steven Rich Thomas A. Roberts Charles E. Roh, Jr. Stuart M. Rosen William Rosen Shayne Hurst Newell Debra Roth Amber H. Rovner W. Andrew Ryu Laura L. Saal Andrea C. Saavedra Simon Saitowitz Poornima Sampath Mythili Sampathkumar Jodi E. Samuels James E. Sanborn Peter Sandel Silke Sandmann Melanie P. Sarwal Lori M. Schiffer Christopher R.J. Pace Adam M. Schloss Michaela C. Schmitt Peter J. Schwartz Tomer Schwartz Mark Schwed Lori A. Seavev Meghann M. Seifert Sharon E. Selby Payal K. Shah Robert C. Shmalo Amber Short Christine Shrestha Lauren P. Sierchio Mary Jean M. Potenzone Cecilia A. Silver Marsha E. Simms Cinthia J. Simon Daniel Simonyi Randi W. Singer Michael H. Radolinski David R. Singh Christopher Smith Michael Smith Martin A. Sosland Edward Soto David N. Southard

Matthew D. Morton

Kathleen E. Murphy

Heidi L. Naunton

Douglas A. Nave

Edward E. Neiger

Stacy Nettleton

Alexander W. Ng

Yen P. Nguyen

Barbara Nichols

Glenn W. Nick

Michael Nissan

Robert C. Odle, Jr.

Sophia Nuon

Rima J. Oken

Eric Ordway

Eric W. Ostroff

Danitra T. Oliver

Joanne Osendarp

Patrick J. O'Toole, Jr.

Nicholas J. Pappas

Sabrina A. Perelman

Meredith Parenti

Brittany R. Perez

Leslev Phillips

Ryan M. Philp

Tomasz Piasecki

Lianne Pinchuk

Margarita Platkov

Robert T. Polemeni

Ryan P. Poscablo

Lougran Potter

Robert R. Powell

Michal Prochwicz

Lydia T. Protopapas

Laura J. Protzmann

Anant P. Raut

Aparna Ravi

Deepak Reddy

Edward R. Reines

Steven A. Reiss

Debora Motyka

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