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Dear Friends:

While our economy struggled to get a foothold on the slippery climb out of the deep recession in 2010-11, we are pleased to report that the City Bar Justice Center recruited and trained 2,400 pro bono attorneys and assigned 1,282 pro bono cases that leveraged over $18,000,000 worth of free legal services for the growing population of the poor in New York City. The strong foundation of pro bono in the New York legal community gave us traction to maintain services during the recession. At this time of increased need, access to justice must remain a primary concern of our profession, and we are very fortunate to have a dozen strong programs at the City Bar Justice Center to serve the need.

The Justice Center specializes in both innovative pro bono projects designed to mobilize pro bono lawyers to meet the emerging issues of our times, such as consumer debt and bankruptcy, veterans’ benefits, and labor and sex trafficking, as well as long-term projects in areas of persistent need, like asylum, homelessness, cancer advocacy, elderlaw, and domestic violence. Some of our pro bono projects, such as the innovative Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project, present opportunities for non-litigators to take on transactional work. Law firms particularly like partnering with client in-house legal departments on community clinics for entrepreneurs.

The Justice Center’s Legal Hotline makes it easier for hundreds of low-income callers each month to obtain fast, simple legal advice when appropriate as well as referrals. The Legal Hotline has expanded its capacity to provide services to respond to the increased need for legal assistance.

We continue to benefit from the Justice Center’s strong relationship with the New York City Bar, which allows us to mobilize all segments of the profession, from law firms and corporate legal departments to government offices, non-profits, and law schools. Together we are able to represent low-income clients in need, foster strategic relationships, educate the public, and impact public policy on important legal issues of the day, like the need for counsel for immigrants in detention.

Thank you for supporting the Justice Center’s work over the past year. We must continue to nurture the legal profession’s commitment to pro bono legal services, because low-income clients need our help more than ever with expected cutbacks to government-funded civil legal services in the coming year. With your ongoing support and assistance, we look forward to continuing to help close the justice gap in services for poor and low-income New Yorkers.

Very truly yours,

Samuel W. Seymour
President

Barbara Berger Opotowsky
Vice President

Jay Holtmeier
Chair

Lynn M. Kelly
Executive Director, Justice Center
SAVING LIVES THROUGH THE LAW

Client Story
Ms. B was brought to the U.S. from Zimbabwe as a nanny for a diplomat’s family who promised her schooling, shelter, and a good salary. Once here, however, the family broke its promises, requiring Ms. B to be on call 24 hours a day, paying her below minimum wage, refusing to allow her to use their phone or eat food in the house, and subjecting her to verbal abuse. When the diplomat left the U.S., Ms. B moved to New York City, where she met Mr. W., a U.S. citizen. However, after just two months of marriage, her husband became abusive, and one night he choked, raped, and threatened to kill her. Ms. B contacted the police, and the Queens District Attorney’s office referred her to the City Bar Justice Center’s Immigrant Women and Children Project. IWC matched Ms. B with a terrific team of volunteer attorneys from Skadden Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Through Skadden’s efforts, in April of 2011, Ms. B finally received permanent resident status. “These pro-bono cases affected me on a very personal level,” said Monami Chakrabarti, one of the attorneys who worked on Ms. B’s case. “Pro bono cases are also a great way to develop your advocacy skills as a lawyer. You really take ownership of a case from start to finish.”
IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT SEX

The City Bar Justice Center’s Immigrant Women and Children (IWC) Project combats the scourge of trafficking in human beings brought into this country and forced into illegal labor as household slaves, restaurant and construction workers, or, as is commonly known, sex workers. Sometimes the victims are used for multiple purposes. Through our partnerships with law enforcement and community groups, we have been on the legal frontlines of this work for 15 years, making the Justice Center one of the leading organizations in this important field.

Stepping Out of the Shadows
IWC partners with volunteer attorneys to assist immigrant survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, child abuse, and violent crimes in their immigration matters, and to help them regain their lives and emerge from the shadows. The Project also provides direct legal representation on complex or difficult cases. IWC accepts cases from the public and from community-based and domestic violence organizations, law enforcement, and prosecutors’ offices. IWC clients come from around the world, including from China, India, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad, Mexico, Jamaica, Colombia, Brazil, Great Britain, Nigeria, Russia, and many other countries.

Educating Here and Abroad
As a leading legal expert in human trafficking, IWC trains attorneys, law enforcement, and social and medical service providers on human trafficking, domestic violence, and other violence-related issues affecting immigrants, as well as on available legal remedies. The Project also works with government officials and with other advocates to impact laws and policies relating to immigrant crime victims, and is a founding member of city, state, and national coalitions of service providers. IWC staff members have worked with the Department of State on training abroad on these topics.

In the last three years:

- **28** firms and corporations recruited and trained by IWC
- **140** IWC cases accepted by pro bono attorneys
- **600+** applications filed for immigration relief

“I thought this was a tremendous opportunity, not only for our pro bono program in general, but also for our corporate associates.”
— Rebecca Behr
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

“It’s a wonderful experience to help stabilize people who have been victims of violent crimes by assisting them with immigration applications. It can be a life-changing experience and open all sorts of doors for our clients.”
— Suzanne Tomatore
Project Director, IWC
PROTECTING LIVES THROUGH THE LAW

Varick Removal Defense Project
There is a looming crisis in the lack of counsel for detained immigrants from New York City who linger for months in detention centers in numbers that have nearly tripled in the last five years. As reported recently in The New York Times, “Immigrants’ fate in deportation cases often comes down to whether they can afford a lawyer. Immigrants with legal representation are at least five times as likely to win their cases as those without....”

433
Detained immigrants counseled by Project volunteers

174
Pro bono volunteers trained

21
Law Firms participated

10
Clients released and reunited with family after pro bono representation by Project volunteers at removal hearings

60%
Of detained New Yorkers have no representation in Immigration Court proceedings
REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Refugee Assistance Project represents individuals who have suffered torture and other forms of persecution in their home countries and who are seeking asylum in the U.S. The Project also assists with family reunification for asylees by filing relative petitions and obtaining asylum-related benefits such as employment authorization, refugee travel documents, and green cards.

Client Story

Mr. T, a Tibetan monk, came to the U.S. to seek asylum based on persecution he suffered at the hands of Chinese authorities who arrested, tortured, and imprisoned him for refusing to sign a document denouncing his religious and cultural beliefs.

John Schmitt, a partner at Patterson Belknap and Mr. T’s pro bono attorney, said, “I’ve practiced law for over thirty years and it’s been a deeply rewarding career. I can say, however, without hesitation, that there is no professional moment in those thirty years that has more meaning for me than the first time I sat next to a client in Immigration Court as his application for asylum was granted from the bench.”

IMMIGRANT OUTREACH PROJECT

This project organizes volunteer immigration attorneys to staff community education and outreach events where individual counsel is offered to immigrants interested in regularizing their status. This collaborative project works with partners including the American Immigration Lawyers’ Association, NYC Chapter; the Children’s Aid Society; and the South Queens Boys and Girls Club. The goals are to help immigrants avoid legal problems in the future and to provide them with accurate information to help prevent notario fraud.

VARICK REMOVAL DEFENSE PROJECT

This pro bono project recruits volunteer attorneys to represent detained immigrants who are long-term residents with family and ties to New York City.

Client Story

When Mr. A, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, ducked under a turnstile 15 years ago, he had no idea that he would find himself, at 57 years old, detained in removal proceedings. Mr. A’s pro bono attorney applied for cancellation of removal and, after spending seven months in detention, Mr. A was finally released after a hearing before the Immigration Court at which the immigration judge ruled in favor of granting cancellation of removal.

“Deportation for [long-term permanent residents] is not sending them home, it is sending them into exile.”
— James Grohsgal
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

“Immigrant detainees are chronically underserved and need your help.... Cancellation cases are winnable and can be professionally rewarding.”
— Daniel Kahn
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
BUILDING LIVES THROUGH THE LAW

Veterans Assistance Project clinic.
**VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

Launched in 2007, the Veterans Assistance Project recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono assistance to veterans filing disability benefit claims before the New York Regional Office of the Veterans Administration. Assistance ranges from locating service documents and medical records to preparing and filing claims and directly representing veterans at hearings. To date, the Project has leveraged over half a million dollars in free legal services for veterans.

**Client Stories**

When Mr. B, a Vietnam War veteran exposed to Agent Orange and suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), had his claim for service-connected disability benefits denied, he sought help from the Veterans Assistance Project. Lee Potter, a partner from Duane Morris LLP, successfully reopened the claim and won Mr. B a 70% disability rating, entitling him to $1,228 per month and almost $25,000 in retroactive benefits.

Ms. J was the victim of sexual harassment while serving in the army in the early 80s. As a result, she developed a variety of mental health conditions for which she was receiving benefits at a disability rating of 70% prior to seeking legal assistance. Martin Beeler, an associate with Covington & Burling LLP, worked with Ms. J for over three years until recently winning a disability rating of 100%. Ms. J now receives $2,774 a month and was additionally awarded $77,000 in retroactive benefits.

**LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE HOMELESS**

Since 1991, the Legal Clinic for the Homeless has provided advice, advocacy, and representation to families residing in homeless shelters, most of whom are young single mothers with babies and toddlers, on a variety of matters related to public benefits. The Clinic conducts free legal clinics at homeless shelters, and trains and mentors volunteers at partnering law firms and corporate legal departments to recover all public benefits owed to the clients.

**Client Story**

Ms. S, a domestic violence victim, and her four children, all under eight years old and two with special needs, have been in and out of shelters since 2008. The family had been cut off of cash assistance, with no money to get to doctors’ appointments or buy essentials like diapers or laundry detergent. Also, Ms. S’s Medicaid was not active because she had missed an appointment when she was hospitalized, and she was experiencing significant health problems. Lissa Schaupp, a maritime lawyer at Holland & Knight, determined that Ms. S’s cash assistance case had been closed without notice to her in violation of state law and that the client was getting too low a benefit check. Following a fair hearing, the City resolved the case in Ms. S’s favor, issuing her over $2,500 in retroactive benefits. She used the money to buy diapers, clothing, and shoes for her family.

It is not often that we hear of such caring from attorneys that are willing to fight for the little guy, especially the veterans. We have an 84-year-old World War II veteran that cried at a group meeting because he was so happy that he had an attorney and a major law firm that was going to fight for him.

— Veterans Assistance Project client
IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH THE LAW
FORECLOSURE PROJECT

The Foreclosure Project recruits, trains, and mentors pro bono attorneys to assist homeowners in an effort to preserve homes and minimize damage to creditworthiness. The Project provides legal representation at court conferences, advice, brief services, and referrals. Since its inception in June 2008, the Foreclosure Project has provided legal assistance to over 550 homeowners facing foreclosure in New York City and is the largest pro bono foreclosure project in New York State. The Project shares its expertise on an active listserv it created and oversees on Pro Bono Net.

Client Story

When Mr. and Ms. P received a notice in June 2009 that their home was to be sold at a foreclosure auction the next month, the Foreclosure Project’s Director, in a seldom-used procedure, got the Appellate Division to sign an order stopping the sale and giving the family their day in court. The Project submitted additional papers arguing that the lender was prohibited from foreclosing until it properly processed a loan modification application under the federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). The court denied the motion to vacate the foreclosure judgment, but after a motion to reargue the case the lender finally approved Mr. and Ms. P for a trial modification plan. Recently, Mr. and Ms. P received their fully executed countersigned permanent modification agreement from the lender. Even better, HAMP’s rarely used 2MP program was used to extinguish the second mortgage automatically. Mr. and Ms. P’s home was now secure.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENTREPRENEUR LAW PROJECT

The Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project (NELP) provides low to mid-income micro-entrepreneurs with the legal services necessary to launch their businesses. NELP’s volunteer attorneys guide clients through such matters as incorporation and tax issues, commercial lease negotiations, copyrights, trademarks and patents, and license and permit applications. Volunteer attorneys also offer presentations and legal clinics at community-based organizations.

Client Story

Ms. K, a Brooklyn sculptor, first approached NELP at an outreach event in Queens, and later attended one of NELP’s small business legal clinics. Living off a dangerously low income, she was seeking commissions, for which she needed to create a contract. At the clinic, Ms. K met with several volunteer attorneys from Linklaters LLP and Barclays Capital, who drafted a sample contract for her. A few months later, Ms. K found an agent interested in her work and reached out to NELP again for further assistance with the drafting and negotiation of a contract between her and the prospective agent. NELP placed her with Rustin I. Paul from Blank Rome LLP, who helped Ms. K draft a contract with favorable terms.

NELP has been extremely helpful in both screening potential clients and providing support and guidance when needed. I thank them for all their effort and hard work.

— Rustin I. Paul
Blank Rome LLP

Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project since inception:

30 law firms, corporations, and 15 community-based organizations partnered with NELP to help 4,000 clients
CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY PROJECT

The Consumer Bankruptcy Project is one of only two pro bono bankruptcy projects in New York City providing legal assistance to low-income consumers with outstanding debts. The Project recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys to advise clients of their rights and responsibilities regarding outstanding debts, assists debtors filing pro se bankruptcy petitions, and provides pro bono representation to debtors in contested matters. Where appropriate, volunteers prepare the forms and schedules necessary for debtors to file pro se Chapter 7 cases and advise them on the steps needed to successfully obtain discharge. The Project also oversees the Bankruptcy Pro Bono Panel, which provides pro bono representation in matters referred by bankruptcy judges of the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

ELDERLAW PROJECT

The Elderlaw Project maintains the dignity and independence of elderly people by training volunteer attorneys to draft life planning documents for elderly New Yorkers, specifically wills, living wills, health care proxies, and powers of attorney. At legal clinics at senior centers throughout Manhattan, staff and volunteer attorneys provide seniors with advice and representation on the topics of life planning, government benefits, consumer issues, and more. Staff and volunteer attorneys also provide training and public education on legal issues of interest to the elderly at senior centers throughout the City.

CANCER ADVOCACY PROJECT

The Cancer Advocacy Project (CAP), established in 1994, is a resource for cancer patients, cancer survivors, and their families who are experiencing a variety of legal problems or complications. Assistance with wills, public benefits, discrimination in the workplace, health law, and insurance issues is made available free of charge to New Yorkers who are unable to afford an attorney.

LEGAL HOTLINE

The Legal Hotline is the largest free general civil legal hotline in New York City providing assistance to low and moderate income callers on a variety of legal issues. Annually the Legal Hotline handles nearly 10,000 callers with questions about their legal needs.

PUBLIC SERVICE NETWORK

The Public Service Network fosters public service in the legal community by matching attorneys with legal and non-legal volunteer opportunities in the not-for-profit sector. Examples of volunteer opportunities include providing legal services to individual clients or nonprofit organizations, assisting with policy and legal research, providing advice with management assistance, and helping with program development issues. The Network also promotes pro bono development by working with law firms and corporate counsel offices to help them design, implement, or improve upon internal pro bono programs. To date, Network attorneys have donated over 135,000 hours of public service to New York City area nonprofit organizations.

“I like helping individuals through what seems to be a very scary and complicated system. Taking a couple of hours to help people who may not have the opportunities I have had is truly rewarding. It is even more rewarding when you can help those who have fallen on bad times, and by a stroke of bad luck have lost everything and need a fresh start. The clients seem incredibly grateful for the services CBP provides, which makes it an even more fulfilling experience.”

— Christopher Desiderio
Nixon Peabody LLP
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc.
April 30, 2011

### Assets

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<th>04/30/11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment (net)</td>
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**Total Assets**                                          | $7,030,234| $5,649,785|

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

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<th>Description</th>
<th>04/30/11</th>
<th>04/30/10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Fund Balances</td>
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**Total Liabilities and Fund Balances**                    | $7,030,234| $5,649,785|

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**Sources of Operating Support**

- **Corporate & Law Firms**: 44%
- **Government**: 28%
- **Foundations & Trusts**: 11%
- **Individuals**: 8%
- **Bar Association Support**: 4%
- **Donated Services**: 5%
- **Expenses by Function**
  - **Legal Services**: 75%
  - **Public Education & Research**: 15%
  - **Fundraising**: 6%
  - **General & Administrative**: 3%
CORNERSTONES OF JUSTICE
In recognition of those firms and corporations which sustain the City Bar Justice Center by supporting both the Annual Appeal and Gala at a leadership level. We are deeply grateful for your longstanding partnership and generosity.

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The Office for Diversity works with New York City legal employers to foster more diverse work environments. In 2003, the Association announced the adoption of the Statement of Diversity Principles. The Statement is the most recent effort by the Association to voice its commitment to enhance diversity in the legal profession. The Statement defines diversity as an inclusive concept, encompassing race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, nationality, age, and marital and parental status.

The Office for Diversity annually tracks the progress of signatory law firms on key diversity representation metrics, and publishes the results.

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The New York City Lawyer Assistance Program recognizes that alcohol and drug addictions, depression, and stress can impair an attorney’s ability to perform, resulting in personal and professional devastation. Each year the program responds to over 2,000 members of the legal profession and their families who are experiencing problems with alcohol, drugs, depression, and stress, as well as other addictions and mental health issues. Free confidential help is offered to attorneys, judges, law students, and their families in order to address the problem, identify the appropriate resources, and begin the recovery process.

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The Vance Center seeks to promote internationally an ethic of societal responsibility in the legal profession; access to justice; legal reforms to strengthen democratic institutions; access to opportunity in the legal profession through the use of the resources and expertise of the Association, its committees and membership; and the development of partnerships across borders to support social justice.

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South African Visiting Lawyer Program
The Vance Center conducts an intensive one-year fellowship program in corporate law for South African lawyers from previously disadvantaged communities to assist in developing the next generation of black lawyers in South Africa.

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• Jeremy G. Epstein Awards for Outstanding Pro Bono Service on Justice Center projects
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The City Bar Justice Center’s mission is to increase access to justice by leveraging the resources of the New York City legal community. Drawing upon our relationship with the New York City Bar, the Justice Center provides legal assistance to those in need; mobilizes lawyers, law firms, corporate legal departments, and other legal institutions to provide pro bono legal services; educates the public on legal issues; fosters strategic relationships; and impacts public policy.

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