

PRO BONO REPORT

2024

**FOR THE
GOOD OF
EVERYONE**

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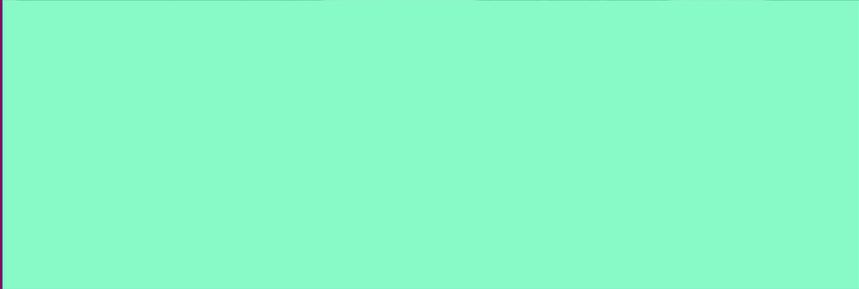


troutman
pepper

FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE

Pro bono publico. For the public good. At Troutman Pepper, we believe justice shouldn't be a luxury, that everyone deserves access to it. It's why we're passionate about making a difference in our communities, and why pro bono is at the heart of who we are and what we do.

It is estimated that 92% of the civil legal needs of low-income individuals in the United States go unmet. As a top law firm, we are equipped to make a real difference, and we believe it is our professional obligation to do our part to address this justice gap. Through our pro bono work, we demonstrate our commitment to representing the underrepresented – and to our belief that justice shouldn't be a luxury.



OUR PRO BONO WORK PROMOTES IMPORTANT VALUES

EQUITY

Advancing social equity by ensuring that everyone, regardless of their economic status, has an advocate to protect their rights and advance their interests.

JUSTICE

Pursuing justice by protecting the rights of the underserved, working to remedy wrongs, and demanding that laws are applied fairly and impartially to everyone.

OPPORTUNITY

Providing essential legal support to entrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofits, enabling them to grow and thrive.

COLLABORATION

Working together with legal aid organizations, corporate legal departments, and law schools to extend our reach and deliver valuable legal solutions to more people.

COMMUNITY

Using our collective skills and resources to care for and strengthen our communities through our pro bono work.



ADDRESSING CRITICAL NEEDS

6 Focus Areas

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Child advocacy, housing, benefits, adoptions and guardianships, estate planning

IMMIGRATION

Asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, green card applications, work authorizations, visa applications (U, T, S), humanitarian parole and habeas petitions

NONPROFITS & LOW-INCOME ENTREPRENEURS

Corporate governance, mergers, contracts, leases, employment, intellectual property protection, entity formation, nonprofit tax status

VETERANS

Discharge upgrades, injury compensation benefits (CRSC, TSGLI), estate planning

SOCIAL EQUITY

Name changes, asylum based on LGBTQ+ persecution, criminal justice matters, voter protection

WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS & SECOND CHANCES

Actual innocence and habeas matters, criminal records expungements, clemency



2023 AT A GLANCE

Every year, we dedicate thousands of hours to our pro bono practice. We draw on the talent and expertise of our attorneys, legal professionals, and legal aid partners to address the legal needs in our communities and the issues we are most passionate about.

41,953

Pro Bono Hours

111

 Legal Aid Partners

Our recent pro bono work has directly helped:

500+

 Students

120+

 Immigrants

420+

 Families/ Children

30+

 Veterans

with the potential to benefit 1.7 million veterans thanks to the *Rudisill* case

200+

 Small businesses and nonprofits

1,092

Active Pro Bono Matters

SPOTLIGHT

LANDMARK VICTORY FOR VETERANS AT THE SUPREME COURT

Nine-year legal battle unlocks additional educational benefits for 1.7 million veterans.

SPOTLIGHT

Rudisill v. McDonough focused on the VA’s interpretation of education benefits under two different programs: the Post-9/11 GI Bill that Congress enacted in 2008 to provide “enhanced educational benefits” in recognition of the “especially arduous” wartime service required of veterans, and the peacetime Montgomery GI Bill enacted in 1984.



FBI agent and decorated war veteran James Rudisill served three periods of active-duty service. He used the Montgomery benefits for his undergraduate education, and later applied for post-9/11 benefits for Yale Divinity School. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs granted him only the remaining Montgomery benefits.

The ensuing legal battle lasted almost nine years. Dominion Energy Senior Counsel Dave DePippo and Troutman Pepper partner Tim McHugh have worked with Mr. Rudisill from the start, representing him from the Board of Veterans Appeals through the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to the Supreme Court of the United States. Countless Troutman Pepper attorneys, staff, and summer associates

contributed to the effort along the way, including Troutman Pepper partner Misha Tseytlin who argued the case in front of the Supreme Court. The Court sided 7-2 in favor of Mr. Rudisill.

“Today is momentous for millions of veterans, and we are relieved by the Court’s decision,” said David DePippo, Senior Counsel at Dominion Energy. “The case stretched for the better part of a decade, but we are proud of the lasting effects it will have for our country’s deserving military veterans.”

Troutman Pepper’s Timothy McHugh said, “As a veteran myself, it is hard to express how immensely gratified I am that the nation’s highest court not only heard our case, but sided with us. I could not have asked for a better end. It will be one of my greatest career accomplishments.”

The decision will allow approximately 1.7 million (and growing) post-9/11 veterans to receive additional education benefits owed to them under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“This fight was for all military veterans who, like me, were denied what they were promised after their service to our country. It has been humbling to represent the veterans’ community, and I am so grateful for my legal team and the Court’s decision here.”

— James Rudisill, U.S. Army veteran

SECURING COMPENSATION FOR FORMER GLEN MILLS SCHOOLS STUDENTS

Hundreds of former students of a now-closed Pennsylvania reform school are receiving meaningful compensation, thanks to a innovative pro bono collaboration.

SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT

The Glen Mills Schools was the oldest court-ordered reform school and residential program for boys in the United States. Students alleged that they were subject to abuse and education deprivation while attending the school.



In 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services revoked the school's licenses to operate as a result of the abuse. A subsequent Pennsylvania Auditor General's report stated that the school's administrators and staff failed to protect the students, and failed to comply with child abuse laws.

The Education Law Center and pro bono counsel brought a class action lawsuit against GMS and other defendants, alleging that GMS was a site of pervasive abuse and intimidation that disproportionately impacted Black students and students with disabilities. In 2023, one of the defendants – Chester County Intermediate Unit – reached a \$3 million settlement with the plaintiffs. This meant eligible GMS students could submit claims and receive compensation for suffering or witnessing abuse, as well as for certain educational expenses.

Troutman Pepper collaborated with several corporate partners, including J.M. Smucker and American Legal Claim Services to assist with this massive project. With each partner responsible for a different aspect of the project, we notified approximately 1,800 students of their rights to receive compensation, helped students submit affidavits in support of their claims, tracked the claims and amounts sought, reviewed claims and made eligibility determinations, and managed and disbursed the settlement funds. Because of this collaborative effort, more than 600 claims were submitted and reviewed for eligibility award determinations. Hundreds of GMS students received compensation for the harm they suffered and now have the financial means to obtain an education.

SERVING NONPROFITS WITH THE PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP OF ATLANTA

Troutman Pepper and PBPA enjoy an enduring partnership that serves Atlanta's nonprofits.

SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT

Every year, Troutman Pepper hosts a nonprofit check-up clinic in its Atlanta office. Law firm and in-house attorneys team up with PBPA to identify and address the legal needs of Atlanta nonprofits. From that clinic and other PBPA referrals, the firm commits to helping dozens of nonprofits with their legal needs. In 2023 alone, our attorneys contributed over

1,200 hours to 95 legal projects referred by PBPA. We assist nonprofits with incorporation and obtaining tax-exempt status, contract review and drafting, employment law advice, intellectual property protection, corporate governance, real estate transactions, regulatory compliance, and risk management issues, among other things.

Troutman Pepper was honored to be recognized as PBPA's Law Firm of the Year for 2023. Our partnership with PBPA is a highlight of our pro bono practice. Through this work, our lawyers are able to use their expertise and skills to help the nonprofits that are so important to our Atlanta community.

Troutman Pepper attorneys are grateful for the opportunity to partner with PBPA and in-house lawyers to provide free legal services and education to nonprofits. Over the years, have dedicated over 7,300 hours to over 550 legal projects referred by PBPA.



“We are proud of our longstanding relationship with the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and believe strongly in their mission to help local nonprofits thrive by connecting them with the right legal resources. Their model of pairing up law firm and in-house lawyers is highly effective and fun! We look forward to continuing our relationship with PBPA for a long time to come.”

- Halli Cohn, Troutman Pepper Partner and Member of the PBPA Advisory Board.

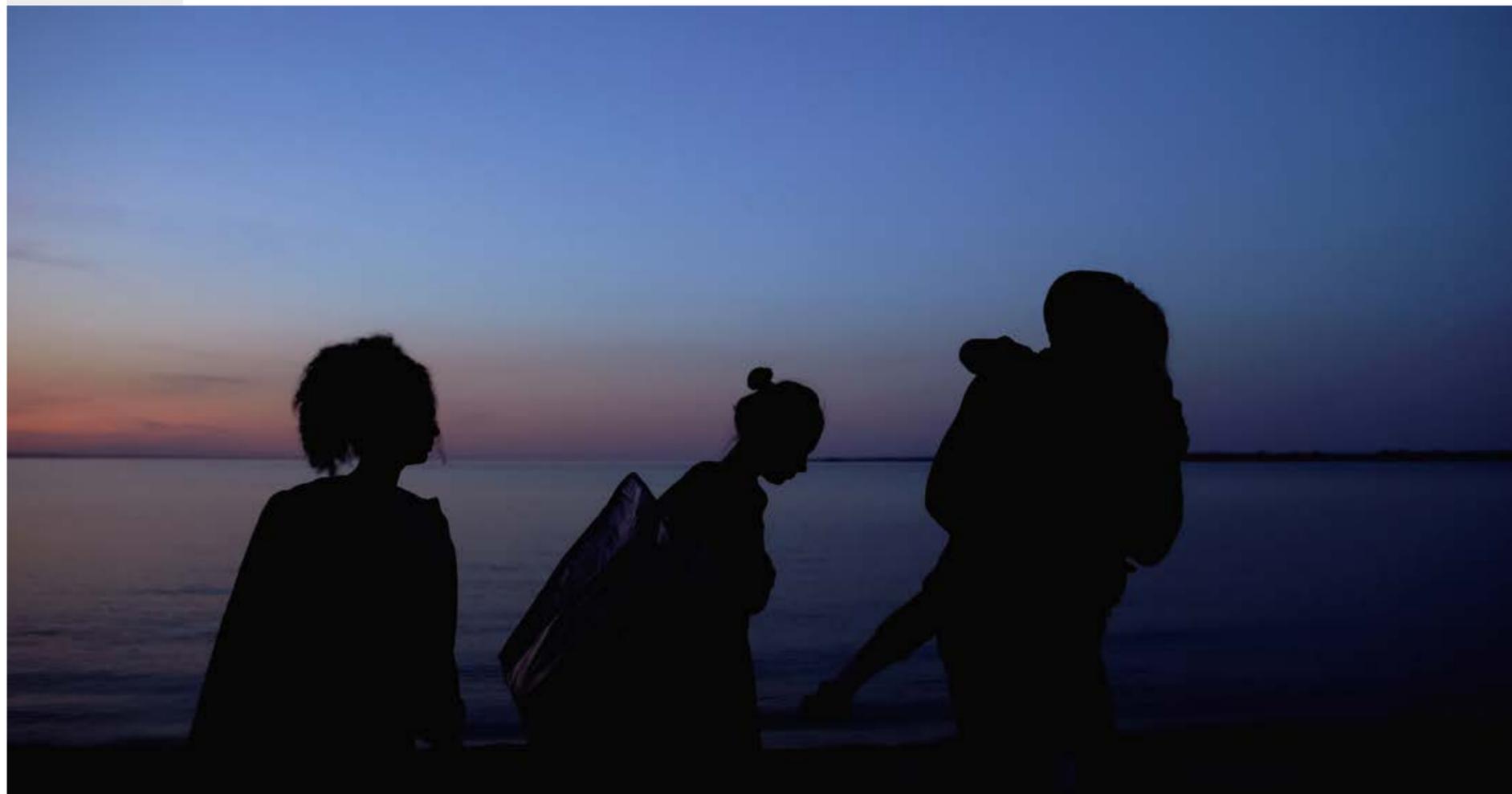
SPOTLIGHT

After more than a decade of relentless abuse, our client can build a better life for her and her children.

ASYLUM FOR JORDANIAN WOMAN ESCAPING DOMESTIC ABUSE

SPOTLIGHT

Although she sought help from the Jordanian authorities on multiple occasions, our client was discouraged from pursuing legal action and was told to reconcile with her husband. It wasn't until 2019 when she arrived in the United States that she and her children had the opportunity to escape.



In late 2023, the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center engaged Linnea Kelly, an associate in Troutman Pepper's Health Sciences Practice, and Andy Rogoff, a Fellow with the Pepper Center for Public Service, to make the case that our client should be granted asylum so that she should be safe from the abuse of her husband. In turn, they engaged Dr. Hasan Hafidh, an expert in immigration, asylum, and human rights in the Middle East. He provided a detailed report supporting the client's claim that Jordan would do nothing to deter or punish the abuse she had suffered.

In April 2024, Kelly tried the case before an immigration judge. The client's testimony outlining the extensive trauma she had suffered was corroborated by text messages from her abusive husband and from witness statements obtained from family friends. The cumulative weight of the factual evidence plus the thorough expert report persuaded the judge that she could not safely return to Jordan. As a result, the judge ruled in favor of granting asylum to her and her four children.

“This case was a powerful reminder of the impact that legal advocacy can have on individual lives. Being able to secure asylum for our client and her children, who have endured so much, was an incredibly rewarding experience. It underscores the importance of our work, and I am honored to have contributed to this significant milestone in our client's journey to freedom and safety.”

— Linnea Kelly

SPOTLIGHT

THE PEPPER CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Pepper
Center
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Founded in 2018, the Pepper Center for Public Service harnesses the expertise and passion of Troutman Pepper's retired partners and senior counsel for the good of our communities. In the five years since it was established, the Center has become a thriving hub for critical analysis and thoughtful action, with its 50+ Fellows focusing their efforts on urgent needs in the areas of immigration, education, and civics.

The Center's distinguished group of retired partners and senior counsel join forces with Troutman Pepper associates to tackle complex and important pro bono matters. For example, Center Fellows have handled dozens of immigration matters, representing individuals in affirmative and defensive asylum cases, T- and U-Visa matters, green card applications, and proceedings in which immigrants seek relief under the Convention Against Torture, the Violence Against Women Act, and other protections. Our work spans every forum in which immigration matters are handled, from administrative applications through federal appellate courts. Pepper Center Fellows bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to these matters, as

well as a passion for supervising and mentoring the firm's associates. This collaboration not only enhances the quality of our pro bono services but also fosters the professional growth of our junior attorneys.

Pepper Center Fellows also focus their pro bono efforts on non-partisan election protection work. Recognizing the fundamental importance of free and fair elections to our democracy, Pepper Center Fellows volunteer their time and expertise to assist voters, develop educational materials on election law and procedure, encourage involvement in our civic processes, and defend the integrity and independence of election officials – all to ensure that every eligible voter can cast their vote and have it counted. Every election cycle, the Center and the firm dedicate thousands of pro bono hours to this effort, believing it is our collective obligation to protect the integrity of the electoral process.

In addition to its pro bono legal work, the Pepper Center for Public Service places a strong emphasis on community service, with a particularly robust commitment to public

education. One of the Center's flagship initiatives is the Law and Justice Mentoring Program, launched in collaboration with the Philadelphia School District. This program provides students from under-resourced high schools insight into and experience with the legal profession through a semester long course, followed by internships and guidance from our experienced attorneys. By fostering a deeper understanding of law and justice, Pepper Center Fellows aim to inspire the next generation of leaders and advocates.

The Pepper Center for Public Service embodies the unwavering commitment to public service that is a hallmark of Troutman Pepper and its individual attorneys. The firm and the Center are proud of our pro bono work and the tangible impact it has on individuals and communities. We will continue to collaborate, to leverage our legal expertise, and to tackle the urgent issues facing our communities.

PERSPECTIVES

COMMITTING TIME, TALENT, AND RESOURCES TO TACKLE BIG ISSUES

Focusing on the people
who make a difference



“I am constantly in awe of my colleagues. They are talented and tenacious, unafraid of tackling tough issues, generous with their time, and committed to doing good – exactly the kind of advocates and counselors you’d want in your corner.”

– Sara Richman

Sara Richman

Sara is a litigator with nearly two decades of experience representing healthcare and insurance industry clients in litigation and government investigations. Two years ago, Sara shifted gears and became the firm’s first full-time pro bono partner. In this role, Sara is responsible for leading the firm’s pro bono practice across all 23 of its offices.

Sara prioritizes pro bono opportunities that directly benefit people and entities in the firm’s local communities, align with the firm’s values and DEI priorities, support attorney development, and foster collaboration with community organizations and in-house legal teams.

Her personal pro bono practice focuses on issues of social equity, protections for children, and election integrity. But, for Sara, the best part of her job is supporting her colleagues, collaborating with community partners and in-house teams, and celebrating our shared success.

DJ Griffin

As an associate in Troutman Pepper's Corporate group, DJ has actively engaged in a wide array of pro bono initiatives, extending his expertise beyond his corporate practice and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to pro bono. DJ's pro bono efforts include representing tenants suffering housing issues with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, drafting policies for the Georgia Society to Prevent Blindness, assisting clients with criminal record expungements through the Georgia Justice Project, representing children in asylum immigration matters with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), and assisting former school students who suffered abuse and education deprivation in obtaining settlement funds through the firm-wide Education Law Center Project. DJ believes that pro bono work is a linchpin of our legal community, embodying the profession's commitment to justice, public service, and professional growth.

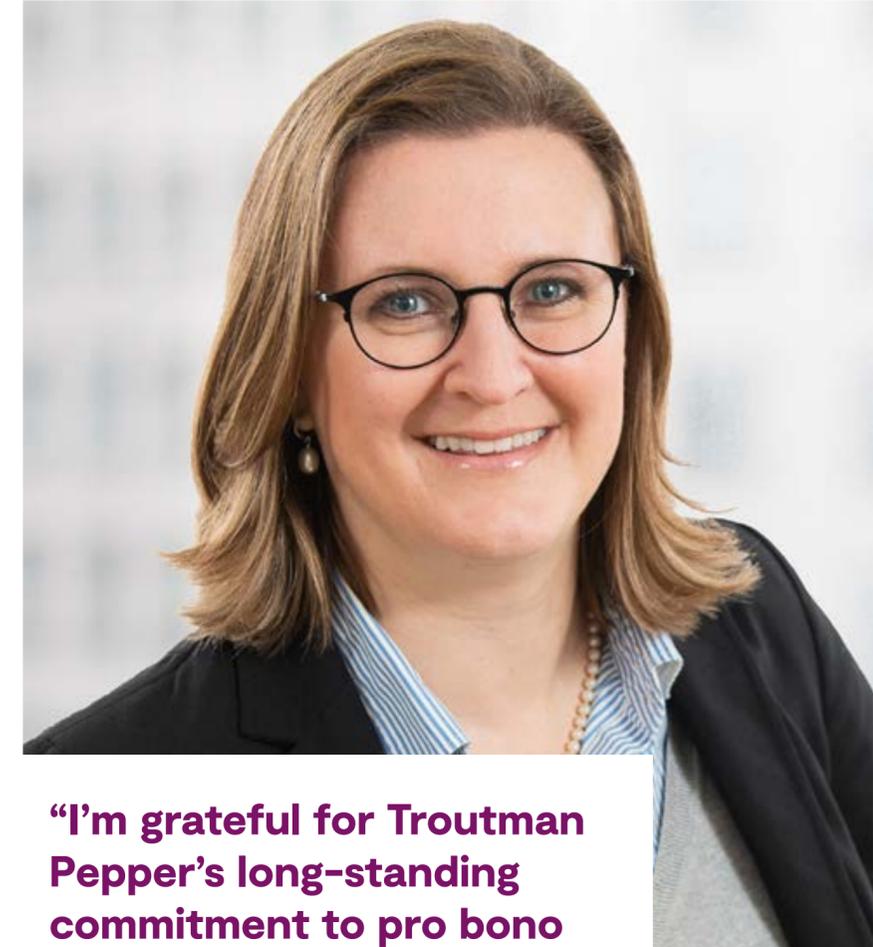


“Volunteering my legal services to those who might not otherwise have access to them has given me a strong sense of purpose. It has been deeply rewarding to know that my work is making a tangible difference in people’s lives.”

- DJ Griffin

Elizabeth Holt Andrews

Elizabeth serves as lead appellate counsel for high stakes and complex matters across the country, with particularly deep experience on the West Coast. Her work spans industries and practice areas across the Firm, including consumer financial services, class actions, insurance matters, employment issues, and general business litigation disputes. As an appellate litigator, Elizabeth maintains a robust pro bono amicus practice, frequently focusing her written advocacy on meaningful causes like veterans' benefits and the protection of domestic abuse survivors. Elizabeth also assists the Firm's pro bono clients in other ways, serving as pro bono counsel to the Board of the San Francisco Girls Chorus and as a member of the Advocacy Advisory Council for Community Legal Aid of Southern California.



“I’m grateful for Troutman Pepper’s long-standing commitment to pro bono work, which makes it possible for my colleagues and me to make a meaningful contribution of our time and effort to deserving causes.”

- Elizabeth Holt Andrews

Nicholas Ramos

For his corporate clients, Nick Ramos helps in navigating all aspects of federal, state, and local regulatory compliance programs. He takes a similarly comprehensive approach to providing pro bono legal services, not only representing veterans in fighting for the benefits they have earned but recruiting others to do the same. Nick co-leads Troutman Pepper’s partnership with the National Veterans Legal Services Program, a national nonprofit focused on ensuring the government delivers on benefits to our nation’s veterans and active-duty personnel. NVLSP is one of the firm’s top pro bono partners in terms of matters accepted and hours donated; in 2023, 61 Troutman Pepper volunteers worked on 35 NVLSP matters, logging over 1,800 pro bono hours.

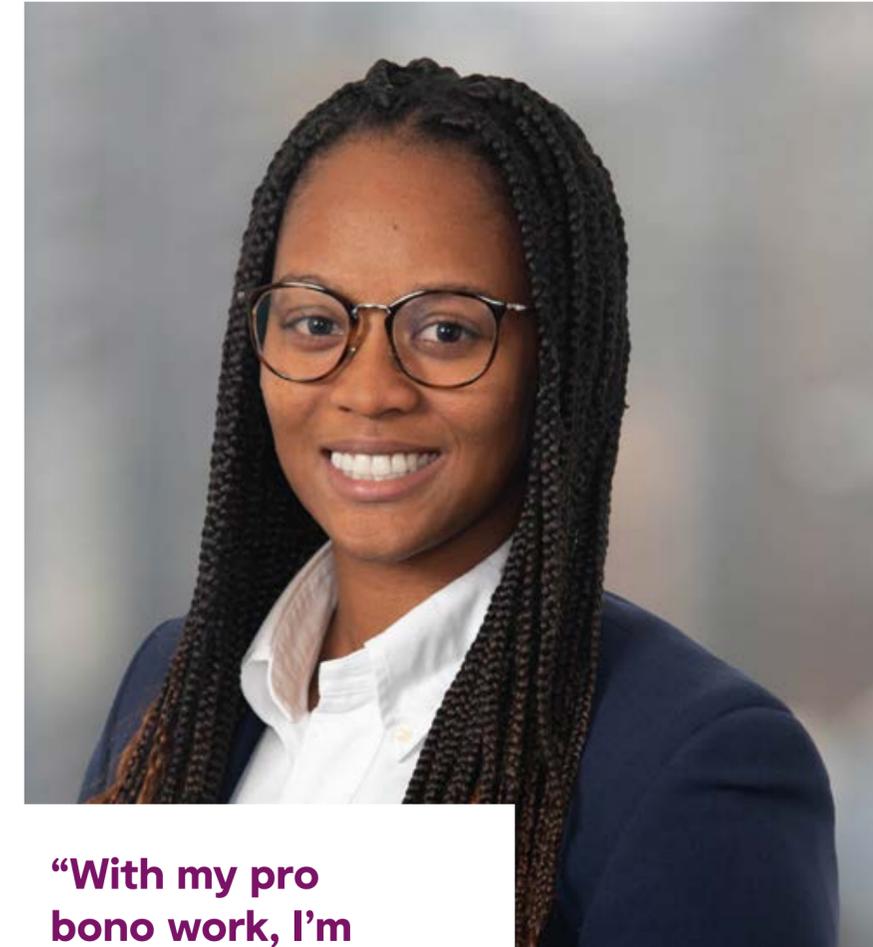


“When I left military service to attend law school and become an attorney, I promised myself that I would stay connected to the military community by dedicating my pro bono practice to assisting veterans, and I have done so since my 1L summer.”

– Nicolas Ramos

Taylor M. Williams

As a Villanova law student, Taylor provided pro bono legal services to Philadelphia-area community enterprises, nonprofit organizations, entrepreneurs, and small businesses through the school’s Clinic for Law and Entrepreneurship. Now, as an associate in Troutman Pepper’s corporate practice, Taylor represents clients in private investment transactions, mergers, and acquisitions. She has successfully completed buy- and sell-side transactions in a wide range of industries and has experience in general corporate governance and organizational structuring. Taylor applies her experience and expertise in pro bono matters for nonprofits and small businesses, with a particular focus on supporting Black entrepreneurs.



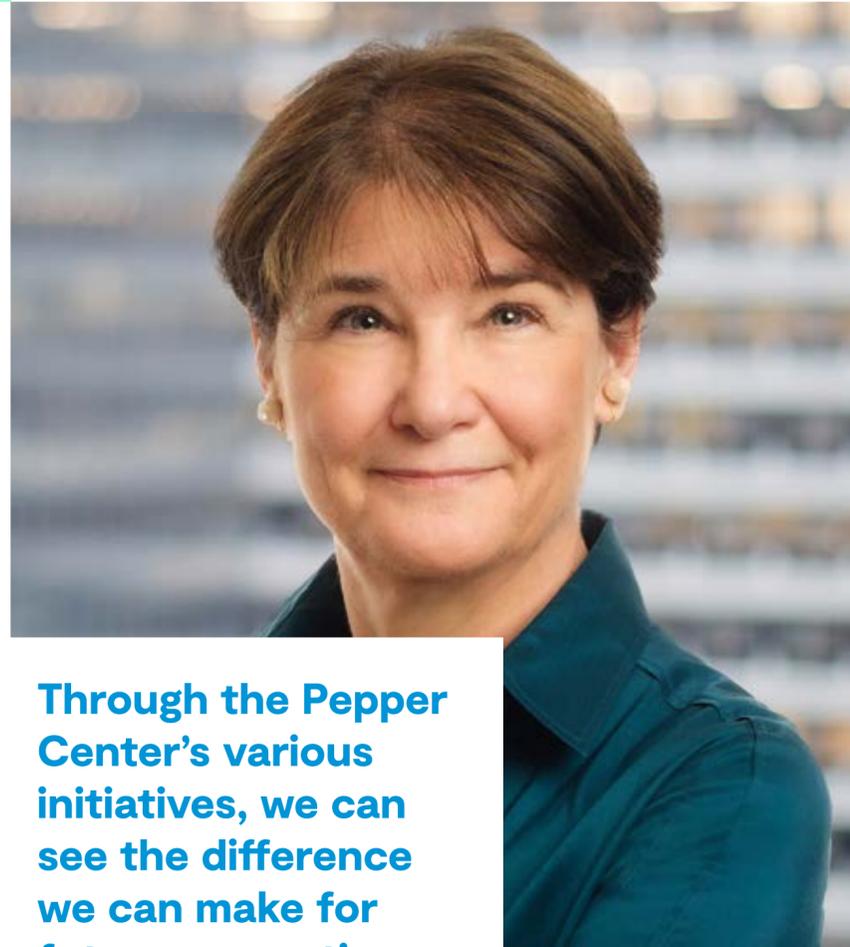
“With my pro bono work, I’m able to help Black entrepreneurs pursue wealth-generating opportunities, while promoting legal and social equity.”

– Taylor Williams

Amy Ginensky

A seasoned litigation attorney, retired partner Amy Ginensky spent her illustrious career at Troutman Pepper in various high-level positions, including chair of the firm's Media and Communications and First Amendment practices and chair of our Commercial Litigation Practice Group. As President and CEO of the Pepper Center for Public Service, she and other retired Troutman Pepper partners and counsel work together and collaborate with key community stakeholders to find solutions to the tough problems facing our communities.

For example, Amy, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, launched a mentoring program that provides education and experiential opportunities to high performing students in under-resourced schools, introducing them to the legal field. In addition, Amy's dedication to non-partisan election protection work has led the Center and the firm to become an important member of a coalition of community organizations that assist voters and work to protect the integrity of our elections.



Through the Pepper Center's various initiatives, we can see the difference we can make for future generations, while at the same time enriching the lives of Center Fellows through meaningful work and relationships.

- Amy Ginensky

David Golden

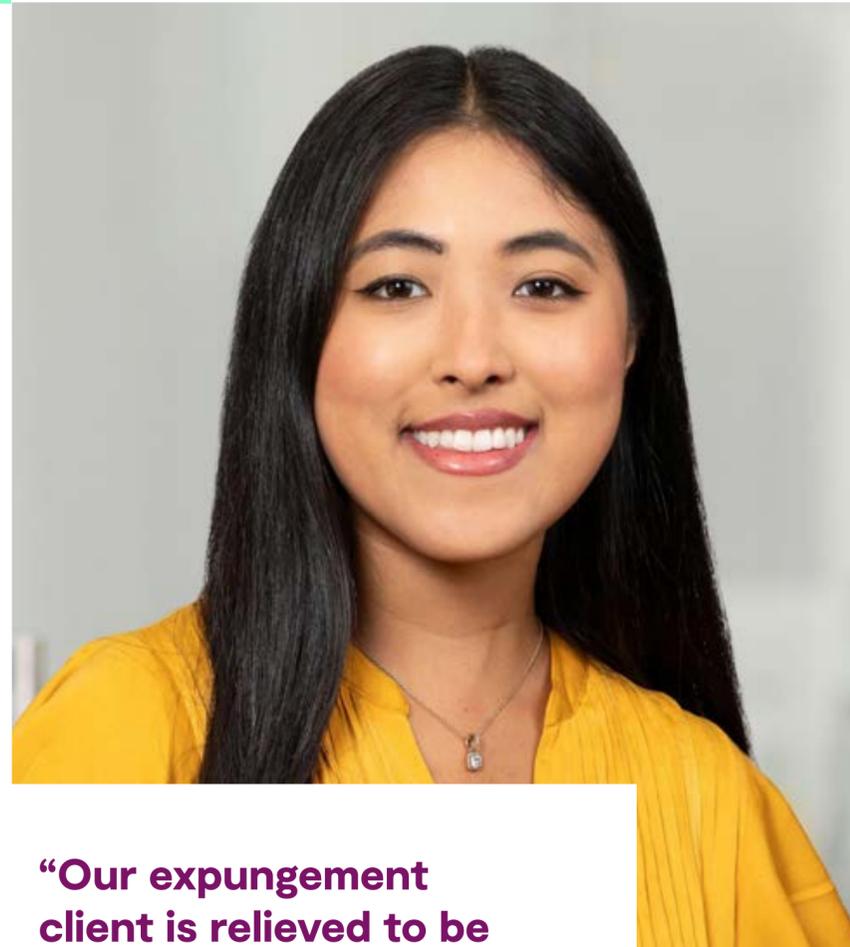
David Golden is a seasoned tax attorney with an impressive career spanning over four decades. While his successes for corporate clients are many, David's dedication to providing pro bono legal services to deserving nonprofits sets him apart. Throughout his tenure, David has provided expert tax advice to countless nonprofit organizations and has been instrumental in assisting many nonprofits with the formation and maintenance of their 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. In addition to his pro bono representation of individual organizations, David is a dedicated educator and faculty member for the firm's annual Nonprofit Legal Check-Up with the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. In this capacity, he shares his wealth of knowledge with other volunteer legal professionals, enabling them to counsel numerous nonprofits.



Sahara Shrestha

Sahara is deeply committed to serving the D.C. area through her extensive pro bono work. In addition to serving as a pro bono ambassador at the firm, Sahara actively volunteers with the DC Volunteer Lawyer’s Project, assisting domestic abuse survivors and at-risk children seeking refugee status and asylum. Sahara also works on criminal expungement matters with Rising for Justice and wrongful conviction cases with the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project.

In her daily practice, Sahara represents electric utilities and renewable energy clients before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the D.C. Circuit and advises hydropower clients on FERC licensing and compliance, as well as electric utility clients on transmission, interconnection, and market design issues. This stark contrast between Sahara’s daily practice and pro bono work highlights how, with training and partnerships, attorneys can effectively assist clients in areas beyond their usual scope of expertise.



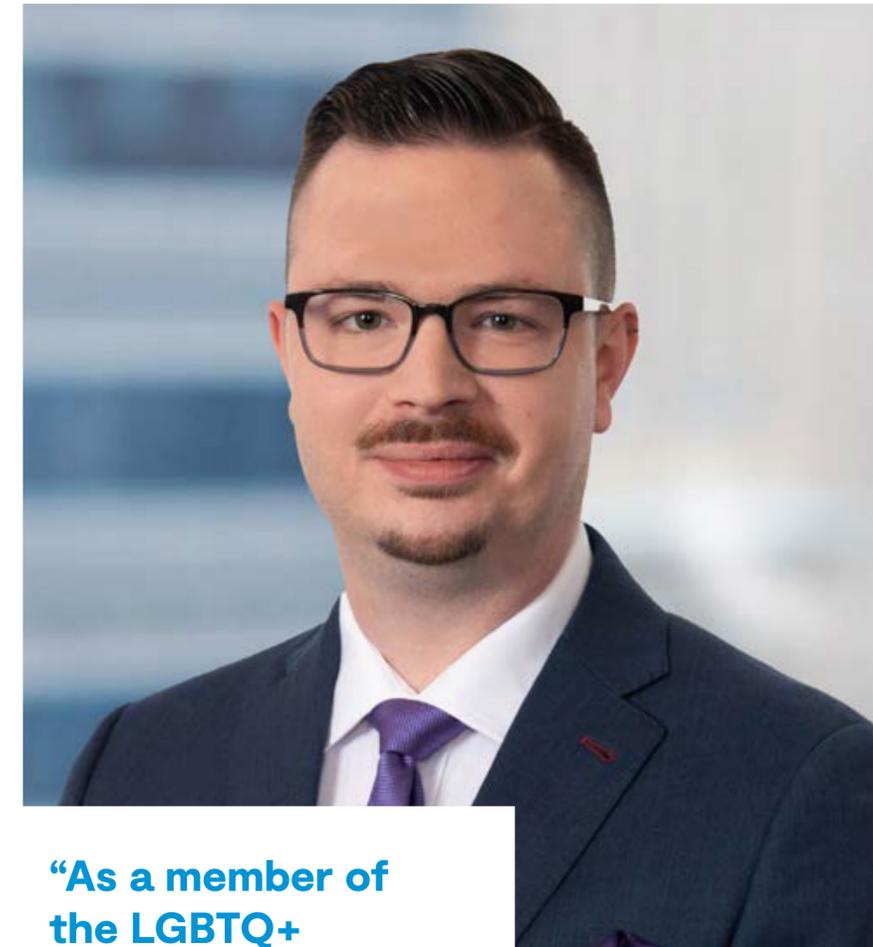
“Our expungement client is relieved to be able to put his past in the past and move forward with his life. It was a wonderful experience partnering with Rising for Justice.”

– Sahara Shrestha

Sean M. Craig

For Sean, pro bono work is an opportunity to provide representation to those who might not otherwise receive it. It’s also an opportunity to make a positive impact in the LGBTQ+ community.

Sean has experience with legal work in multiple areas, including the higher education and insurance industries, as well as conflict of law issues between states, insurance, and employment statutes. His pro bono work allows him to focus his efforts on name change matters for transgender individuals. Recently, he was elected to the board of directors for the Philadelphia LGBTQ Bar Association, where he will serve for the 2024 term.



“As a member of the LGBTQ+ community myself, it was important to me to do pro bono work that served that community in some way.”

– Sean Craig

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To learn more about the work we do or to collaborate with us on our next pro bono project, email us at probono@troutman.com



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