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Troutman Pepper Partners With Rising for Justice to Help Pro Bono Client Move Forward With Life

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WASHINGTON – A pair of Troutman Pepper attorneys recently helped to convince a court to seal arrest records of a pro bono client who had spent more than two decades dealing with difficulties associated with them. Washington Associates [Quintessa Davis](#) and [Sahara Shrestha](#) partnered with Rising for Justice as part of the legal nonprofit’s [Expungement Program](#), which helps District residents pursue the complicated process of clearing or sealing their criminal records.

Davis and Shrestha’s client had three arrests on his record – all had ended in non-conviction; however, their mere existence was enough to interfere with his ability to obtain higher-paying, stable employment. He had spent years juggling three jobs to make ends meet, and when he applied for new positions, he worried his arrests would be misinterpreted as convictions.

In their motion to the court, Davis and Shrestha were able to show the difficulties their client faced in obtaining meaningful employment because of his former arrests – one more than 20 years old. They also successfully demonstrated their client’s deep desire to move forward from the mistakes from his youth. The court ordered his records sealed.

“This case was a meaningful experience, and I hope it inspires other attorneys to use their unique skill set to help others in need.” Davis said. “Our 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, and we hope to take on an additional case in the future,” Shrestha added.

While the representation was a departure from the clients the associates typically represent – electric and gas utilities and renewable energy companies – they gained meaningful experience in court, something Troutman Pepper’s pro bono program is all about. Each year, firm attorneys dedicate thousands of pro bono hours in support of nonprofits, immigrants, military veterans, children, the wrongfully convicted, civil rights and social justice initiatives, and so many more. Learn more at troutman.com/pro-bono.

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