



2025

Pro Bono Report

www.troutman.com/pro-bono



For the **good**
of everyone

Contents

Introduction	3
Driven by Shared Values	4
Advancing Justice in Six Key Areas	5
2025 by the Numbers	6
Case + Attorney Spotlights	7
Serving Our Communities With Our Clients	22
Confronting the Justice Gap	23
Troutman Pepper Locke Pro Bono Team	24



For the **good** of **everyone**

Introduction



Harriet Miers, Senior Counsel
Chair, Texas Access to Justice Commission
Co-chair, Legal Services Corporation's Leaders Council

The Legal Services Corporation estimates that an astonishing **92% of the civil legal needs of low-income Americans go unmet** because they cannot afford counsel. This means that millions of individuals and families face legal challenges that threaten their most basic needs, including housing, education, safety, medical help, financial security, and family stability, without a lawyer by their side, even in dire circumstances. This reality is frequently referred to as the “justice gap.” It is critical that we make immediate progress on this justice gap and eventually close it.

While individuals and families bear the most devastating consequences of the justice gap, small businesses and nonprofits operating on lean budgets also find themselves frequently unable to retain counsel to help them navigate important legal issues like governance, compliance, contractual relations, employment matters, intellectual property issues, and tax obligations.

Our lawyers and business professionals at Troutman Pepper Locke volunteer tens of thousands of hours every year to meet the legal needs of those who cannot afford counsel. We provide free legal representation to qualifying individuals, families, nonprofits, and small businesses. We advocate for legal aid funding. We serve on boards and provide financial support to legal aid organizations and other nonprofits providing legal aid, championing the critical services they offer in our communities.

At Troutman Pepper Locke, we are committed to doing our part to close the justice gap. Our pro bono work is a reflection of our deepest values — as attorneys, as people, and as members of our communities. **Our commitment is to help ensure justice is accessible to all, not just those who can afford it.**

Driven by **Shared 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, nonprofits, and small businesses, enabling them to grow and thrive.



COLLABORATION

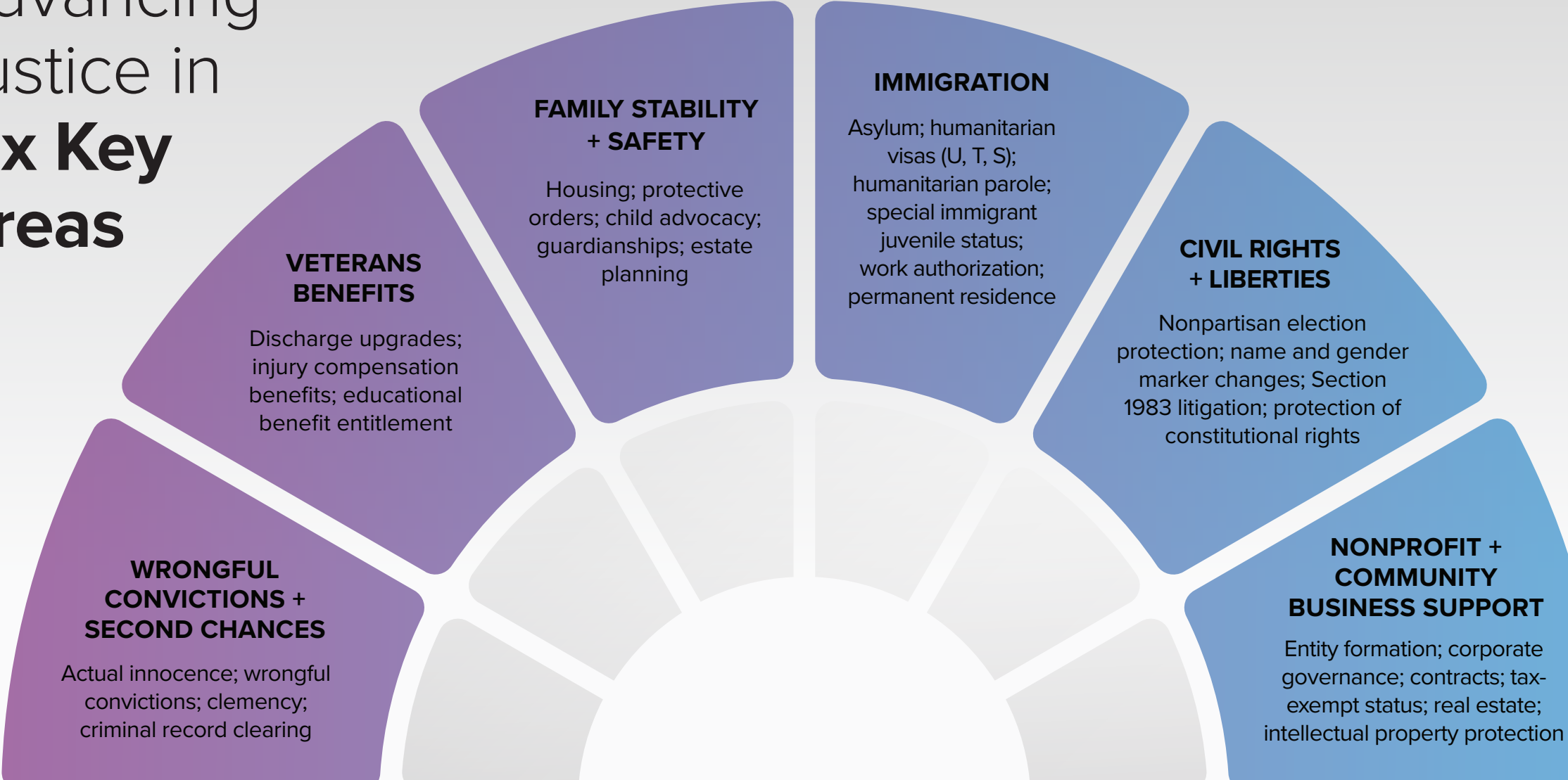
Working together with legal aid organizations, corporate legal departments, and law schools to extend our reach and deliver valuable legal solutions to more people.



COMMUNITY

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

Advancing Justice in **Six Key Areas**



**WRONGFUL
CONVICTIONS +
SECOND CHANCES**

Actual innocence; wrongful convictions; clemency; criminal record clearing

**VETERANS
BENEFITS**

Discharge upgrades; injury compensation benefits; educational benefit entitlement

**FAMILY STABILITY
+ SAFETY**

Housing; protective orders; child advocacy; guardianships; estate planning

IMMIGRATION

Asylum; humanitarian visas (U, T, S); humanitarian parole; special immigrant juvenile status; work authorization; permanent residence

**CIVIL RIGHTS
+ LIBERTIES**

Nonpartisan election protection; name and gender marker changes; Section 1983 litigation; protection of constitutional rights

**NONPROFIT +
COMMUNITY
BUSINESS SUPPORT**

Entity formation; corporate governance; contracts; tax-exempt status; real estate; intellectual property protection

2025 by the Numbers

55,344 Pro bono hours	92% Firmwide associate participation	1,400+ Pro bono matters (for 1,000+ clients)
230+ Family Stability + Safety matters	100+ Civil Rights + Liberties matters	520+ Nonprofit + Community Business Support matters
150+ Immigration matters	95 Wrongful Conviction + Second Chance matters	80+ Veterans Benefits matters

Securing Freedom After 27 Years: Righting a Decades- Old Wrong

In 2025, Troutman Pepper Locke, working with the **Duke University School of Law Wrongful Convictions Clinic**, secured the release of **Benjamin Cole** — a man who had spent nearly 27 years in prison for a murder he has always maintained he did not commit. Cole was sentenced to life in prison for a 1998 murder in Greensboro, North Carolina, despite evidence placing him in Dayton, Ohio, at the time of the crime and there being no physical evidence connecting him to the killing.

The Duke Law clinic spent years reinvestigating the case and filing multiple post conviction motions, with Troutman joining the effort in 2024. Their work uncovered

powerful new evidence, including misidentification by a key witness and constitutional violations stemming from the state's failure to disclose exculpatory evidence at trial.

In May 2025, the Troutman–Duke team presented Cole's case at a multiday evidentiary hearing. On the strength of their presentation, the State offered an *Alford* plea, allowing Cole to maintain his innocence while pleading to a lesser charge. Cole accepted the offer and was resentenced to time served. After nearly three decades, he walked out of prison and back into the arms of his mother, sister, and family — **a free man at last**.

“The outcome in Mr. Cole's case — his release from incarceration and freedom to finally go home to his family — is a clear example of how rewarding pro bono work can be and why it is so important.”

Edward M. Nogay, Associate



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

A member of the firm's White Collar Litigation + Investigations practice, **Eddie Nogay** focuses on conducting high-stakes internal investigations for some of the largest financial institutions in the country — work that demands precision, persistence, and a commitment to uncovering the truth. Those same instincts made him a natural fit for a team working to do exactly that on behalf of an innocent man.

Eddie was part of the Troutman team that partnered with the Duke University School of Law Wrongful Convictions

Clinic to secure the release of Benjamin Cole, who spent nearly 27 years in prison for a murder he always maintained he did not commit. The effort was led by former Troutman partner Matt Orso — now a federal judge — whose experience and leadership helped drive the matter to resolution, with Eddie and Troutman partner Heryka Knoespel providing critical support alongside Duke's clinic. Together, the team reinvestigated the case, uncovered powerful new evidence, and presented Cole's case at a multi-day evidentiary hearing — ultimately securing his release and his freedom to go home to his family.

For Eddie — who, as a Charlotte office pro bono ambassador, introduces his colleagues to pro bono opportunities at the firm — the case illustrates vividly what is possible when the firm commits its resources to pro bono work. **“When we apply the same level of effort, dedication, and zealous advocacy to pro bono matters that we bring to our daily client work,”** Eddie said, **“we help correct systemic imbalances, strengthen public confidence in the legal system, and give individuals and communities a fair chance to fight against injustice.”**



Edward M. Nogay

Associate • Charlotte

WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS + SECOND CHANCES

Securing Freedom After 27 Years: Righting a Decades-Old Wrong

CASE TEAM:



**Heryka
Knoespel**

FIRM ALUMNI:

Matt Orso

A Sustained Fight for Veterans' Education Benefits

After years of litigation and a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that continued to resist even after a landmark Supreme Court ruling, Troutman Pepper Locke and **Dominion Energy** have secured access to educational benefits for veterans previously shut out thanks to a sustained fight that could positively affect millions.

In 2024, the firm and Dominion Energy secured victory in the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in ***Rudisill v. McDonough***, which affirmed the rights of veterans to receive additional education benefits owed to them under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The promise of these benefits is a key part of what makes military service worthwhile for many veterans, yet for years the VA interpreted the law in a way that left some of the nation's longest-serving veterans shortchanged.

Rather than implement the ruling broadly, the VA continued to deny benefits to veterans who had served continuously, arguing the decision applied only to those

with a break in service. Troutman Pepper Locke pushed back, and in May 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims sided with veterans. The VA has since dropped its appeal, opening the door to educational benefits for up to 1.2 million additional veterans — **a hard-won result after years of litigation and agency resistance.**

This development underscores the firm's commitment to protecting the rights of U.S. veterans and showcases the strength of its nationally recognized Appellate + Supreme Court and Regulatory Investigations, Strategy + Enforcement practices. Their team's combined efforts

“As the veterans themselves have put it, benefits they will now receive are lifechanging.”

Mary Grace Metcalfe, Partner



secured bipartisan support from every state attorney general, affirming that the VA lacked authority to deny educational benefits to the nation's longest-serving veterans.

Although there is still work to do, the VA's action acknowledges the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Rudisill* and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims' holding, confirming that long-serving veterans are entitled to educational benefits under both the Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills. **It is an important step toward ensuring that *Rudisill* is applied fully and consistently to all qualifying veterans.**

ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

The veterans' cases and rulemaking challenge Troutman has brought alongside the Commonwealth of Virginia, VFW, and IAVA represent a sustained effort over more than a decade by more than a dozen attorneys, including **Mary Grace Metcalfe**, a partner in our New York office who represents clients at all stages of litigation and mediation while also advising a wide variety of clients facing investigations by federal and state agencies.

By leveraging the full resources of the firm and our colleagues at Dominion Energy across multiple cases

in coordination, we have been able to secure broader and more immediate results than we would have in any case individually. To date, the VA estimates that over 2.2 million veterans are potentially affected by the decisions in our cases.

"This would not have been possible without the organization and support afforded by the firm's pro bono office," Mary Grace said. **"The ability to plan, coordinate, and sustain a legal campaign like this is exactly why our clients choose Troutman Pepper Locke."**

Mary Grace Metcalfe

Partner • New York



VETERANS BENEFITS

A Sustained Fight for Veterans' Education Benefits

CASE TEAM:



Lauren H. Miller



Jeff P. Johnson



Timothy McHugh



Trey Smith



Misha Tseytlin

Protecting Legacies + Building Intergenerational Wealth

Dominion Energy / LEARN VA

In 2025, Troutman Pepper Locke launched a pilot program with **Dominion Energy** and **LEARN VA** to help Virginia families protect “heirs’ property” — land passed down without a will or formal title transfer. This form of

ownership can leave families legally vulnerable and at risk of losing property that has been in their possession for generations, a problem that falls hardest on low-income communities in Virginia.

Through the pilot, LEARN VA — founded by Karla Carter, assistant general counsel at Dominion Energy — identifies eligible individuals in need of assistance. Troutman Pepper Locke and Dominion Energy attorneys then provide pro bono legal representation, focusing on title search analysis and transfer of ownership, to help families secure clear legal title before disputes arise.

Through this partnership, we’re tackling legal challenges that prevent families from achieving stable property

ownership — which can be detrimental to innumerable aspects of everyday life — and the ability to pass on this important asset to the next generation.

“Partnering with the community to help ensure that property rights that were long and hard earned are protected is a great way for our company to demonstrate full engagement in alignment with our customers and stakeholders,” said Carlos M. Brown, president of Dominion Energy Services, Inc.

Alongside our partners, we will continue to build out this pilot into 2026, with a focus on sustainability and measured growth while we pursue our goal of keeping families in their homes and on their land.

“I can’t speak highly enough of Dominion Energy... It’s amazing that such a large corporation is willing to throw that weight behind the little guy.”

Sami Leigh Alsawaf-Bleakley, Associate



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

Sami Leigh Alsawaf-Bleakley handles a range of commercial real estate transactions, including the acquisition, sale, leasing, and development of real estate and data centers. In her pro bono work, she's able to leverage the experience she's gained building a commercial real estate practice with what drove her toward law school in the first place – helping those less fortunate.

For the heirs' property partnership, that means helping community members keep land in their family by

stabilizing property ownership and empowering families. **"It's about helping families essentially keep a member of their family safe,"** Sami said. **"The land is part of the family."**

Beyond her own cases, Sami serves as a pro bono ambassador for Troutman Pepper Locke's Richmond office, helping colleagues find their own entry point into pro bono work — whether that's a single matter, a clinic, or an ongoing partnership like the firm's program with Dominion Energy.

"Troutman wants to make it as easy as possible for attorneys to participate in pro bono work, which I think is unique to Troutman."

Sami Leigh Alsawaf-Bleakley,
Associate

**Sami Leigh
Alsawaf-Bleakley**

Associate • Richmond



FAMILY STABILITY + SAFETY

Protecting Legacies + Building Intergenerational Wealth

PROJECT TEAM:



**Sarah B.
Bures**



**Brooks M.
Smith**



**William G.
Homiller**



**Xijia
Yuan**



**Bhakti
Raval**

Securing Safety, Status + a Path Forward

For many of our clients, a favorable immigration outcome is not simply a legal victory — **it is the difference between safety and danger, family separation and reunion, uncertainty and the ability to build a life.** Troutman Pepper Locke's immigration pro bono practice

is powered by attorneys across the firm and by **The Pepper Center for Public Service**, a stand-alone organization created and supported by the firm, through which retired partners and counsel dedicate their time and talent alongside Troutman attorneys toward achieving meaningful, lifechanging results through pro bono and public service initiatives, including immigration.

One powerful example of this work involves a Salvadoran LGBTQ client whom the firm first helped win asylum in Immigration Court. Building on that earlier success, a team that included Pepper Center Fellow **Lisanne Crowley** secured the next critical step for him, a green card that gives him long term security

in the United States. When the team learned that his two young daughters were living in California and also needed protection, they partnered with Orange County associate **Edgar Vargas**, who quickly got up to speed and represented the daughters at their in person USCIS interview in San Bernardino. Together, the team obtained derivative asylum status for both children. It is the kind of result that shows what a national firm can do when it works as one — lawyers in D.C. and Orange County coordinating across offices so that a father and his daughters can move forward in safety, together.

In each case, the team is as critical as the person leading it. Since she was a paralegal prior to law

“Our case ... highlights the very real people affected by U visas and immigration policy.”

Julie Webb, Partner

The Pepper
Center
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

school, **Sophia Dauria** has worked with New York Legal Assistance Group on immigration matters affecting women who are not U.S. citizens who've experienced domestic abuse by their U.S.-citizen partners. On her first set of cases, she and her team successfully sought green cards for women who had received U visas as a result of cooperating with the prosecution of their abusers. Now an associate, Sophia teams with other associates, paralegals, and legal assistants to help these women navigate an immensely complex system. "I find the work incredibly rewarding," she said. "I think we all want to help each other, whether it's our colleagues or our clients."

In another matter, partner Julie Webb's persistence made all the difference for a domestic violence survivor represented through the National Immigrant Justice Center. The client was seeking U nonimmigrant status, a benefit designed for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse, and required a waiver of inadmissibility. Julie helped her file a revised U visa application, secured a bona fide determination and temporary employment authorization, and then confronted a series of setbacks: USCIS denied the application based on a misunderstanding or misapplication of the facts and law and then denied the appeal on the same grounds. Undeterred, Julie moved to

reopen and submitted a supplemental brief. After months of silence, USCIS granted the U visa and the waiver of inadmissibility. The client's U status will be valid for four years, and after three years she will be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence. She and her family, including a new grandchild, were overjoyed.

These examples are just a snapshot of what our immigration teams and Pepper Center Fellows do throughout the year. **They stand beside people at some of the most difficult moments of their lives, help them navigate the complex immigration system, and find a path to safety, stability, and a future with their families.**



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

A Chicago-based partner whose practice centers on complex commercial litigation and antitrust class actions, **Julie Webb** brings to every matter the kind of persistence that high-stakes disputes demand. That same persistence — tested over nearly a decade — defines her pro bono work as well.

When Webb inherited the U visa case, the representation was already years in the making and its outcome uncertain. She brought in new associates to support the effort and saw it through. “The size and strength of the

firm allowed us to continue serving the client well,” she said, “despite personnel changes that naturally occur when a long wait for a government decision is involved.”

It is an illustration of what institutional commitment to pro bono looks like and just how critically it is needed.

“Our case — like every case, frankly — highlights the very real people affected by U visas and immigration policy,” she said. **“Despite the significant delays, the government ultimately did the right thing.”**

“I find the work incredibly rewarding. I think we all want to help each other, whether it’s our colleagues or our clients.”

Sophia Dauria, Associate



Julie Webb

Partner • Chicago

IMMIGRATION

Securing Safety, Status + a Path Forward

ATTORNEYS MENTIONED:



**Lisanne
Crowley**



**Sophia
Dauria**



**Edgar
Vargas**

Protecting a Church's Mission to Shelter People Experiencing Homelessness

A Troutman Pepper Locke pro bono team stepped in to defend **The Rock Church** in Colorado after the Town of Castle Rock moved in 2023 to shut down the church's "On Site Temporary Shelter Ministry" on zoning grounds.

For five years, the church had operated RVs stocked with food and clothing on its 54 acre campus, serving members of the community experiencing homelessness.

The team filed a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado and secured a preliminary injunction — which meant people who depended on the shelter were not left without it during the coldest months of the year.

In June 2025, the Town of Castle Rock agreed to a settlement that ensures the church can continue providing these essential services. "We are pleased that we can continue our church's mission," Pastor Mike

Polhemus said in a statement posted by First Liberty Institute, which Troutman partnered with on this matter. "We love Castle Rock and are committed to working with the Town of Castle Rock to provide assistance to those in need, thus helping to reduce homelessness in our community."

Under the settlement, the church can expand the on site shelter from two RVs to seven, and the city agreed to pay the church's attorneys' fees. In a joint statement, the town acknowledged the value of the church's services, while the church affirmed its responsibility to be a good neighbor — **a resolution that allows the ministry not only to continue, but to grow.**

"This is a powerful testament to [the church's] willingness to resolve this case in good faith with the town, so that it could continue its charitable ministry without any legal uncertainty."

Kevin LeRoy, Counsel



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

Kevin LeRoy is counsel in the firm’s Business Litigation practice where he’s had significant involvement in high-stakes appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit courts of appeals, and state appellate courts.

In his pro bono practice, Kevin helps nonprofit organizations solve complex legal problems preventing them from achieving their public-spirited missions. As an appellate attorney, he’s able to help religious organizations stand up for their constitutionally protected free-exercise rights — like in Rock Church.

Alongside a cross-office group of attorneys led by Appellate + Supreme Court practice partner Misha Tseytlin, Kevin and his team quickly got up to speed with the help of nonprofit public-interest firm First Liberty Institute and were able to secure a powerful preliminary injunction, ultimately forcing the Town of Castle Rock to the settlement table.

“It was very gratifying that the church was able to secure quick relief before the bitter winter cold in Colorado set in,” Kevin said.

“While all the work that the firm does for our clients is important, it is especially humbling to be part of a case that has such concrete results for needy individuals’ well-being and for the fundamental free-exercise rights of a church.”

Kevin LeRoy, Counsel



Kevin LeRoy
Counsel • Chicago

CIVIL RIGHTS + LIBERTIES

Protecting a Church’s Mission to Shelter People Experiencing Homelessness

CASE TEAM:



Misha Tseytlin



Josh Davey



Dylan DeWitt



Alex Hill



Carson Cox

FIRM ALUMNI:

Nick Gouverneur
Robin Platte

Using IP Rights to Build Vital Services in Developing Regions

In 2025, a team led by partner **Ben Wagner** facilitated the acquisition of multiple patents for **FERMBLOC** foam blocks, a patented building material that enables the rapid construction of durable structures where

traditional methods are often out of reach. Protecting this technology — which has the power to accelerate the construction of buildings vital to underserved communities around the world — is at the heart of Troutman Pepper Locke’s work with clients **Lazarian World Homes** (LWH) and **International Hope Builders** (IHP), two nonprofits providing critical infrastructure in developing regions. To date, LWH has used the technology to build more than 100 medical clinics, schools, churches, and orphanages, and licensing fees generated from the FERMBLOC patents will be reinvested to fund additional projects, extending the

reach and impact to more communities worldwide.

In a gesture of appreciation, IHP dedicated a medical clinic built using FERMBLOC technology in Honduras in honor of Wagner — The Ben Wagner and Family Clinic, which is set to deliver crucial health care services to hundreds of people in the community.

“I am deeply honored by this dedication,” said Wagner. **“Moments like this underscore the significant role that strategic legal support plays in humanitarian efforts, showcasing the transformative power of intellectual property in driving positive change.”**

“The impact of our efforts translates to real-world differences. It was the honor of a lifetime.”

Ben Wagner, Partner



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

A top-ranked intellectual property litigator based in San Diego, **Ben Wagner** has spent his career delivering results for clients navigating some of the most complex IP and commercial disputes in the country — from startups to multinationals with globally recognized brands. Ben also devotes significant time each year to pro bono work through the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, helping domestic violence survivors obtain restraining orders — work that earned him the organization's **Pro Bono Publico Attorney of the Year** award. It is that commitment to using legal skills where

they are needed most that made the FERMBLOC opportunity feel, in Ben's words, like “a natural fit.”

Seeing the FERMBLOC patents translate into medical clinics, schools, and orphanages serving communities across the developing world is a reminder of what the profession, at its best, can accomplish — and the dedication of a clinic in Honduras in his name stands as perhaps the most personal testament to that impact he has ever received.

“Sometimes we need something obvious to remind us that our skills really can make a difference on a humanitarian level.”

Ben Wagner, Partner



Ben Wagner

Partner • San Diego

NONPROFIT + COMMUNITY BUSINESS SUPPORT

Using IP Rights to Build Vital Services in Developing Regions

CASE TEAM:



**John
Morrissett**



**Lauren
Alvarez**

FIRM ALUMNI:

**Ginger Turner
Chris Franich**

Technology as a Tool for Justice

eMerge

In 2025, **Troutman eMerge** brought its full eDiscovery and legal technology capabilities to pro bono work by partnering with the **Georgia Innocence Project**. eMerge, which typically supports complex litigation and investigations across the firm, applied the same data, process, and technology tools to help a legal services

organization do more with limited resources — a distinctive way we leverage the firm’s unique resources in our pro bono practice.

The Georgia Innocence Project works to correct and prevent wrongful convictions in Georgia and to support people who walk out of prison after years — sometimes decades — lost to an unjust sentence. By streamlining case review and evidence analysis, the eMerge team is helping make this demanding, resource intensive work more efficient and, ultimately, more effective.

Working alongside **Apparo** — a nonprofit that connects

organizations to technology and process improvement resources — eMerge attorneys and technologists evaluated GIP’s data and document management systems and, after a series of discovery sessions, delivered key findings and recommendations, including a three-year implementation roadmap.

Streamlining intake and case setup alone is projected to free up roughly a quarter of a full-time staff role. Eliminating manual searches and consolidating client data will save hours, sometimes days, per case. Improved documentation practices are expected to strengthen both revenue tracking and the organization’s

“Seeing our contributions lead to concrete results will be thrilling.”

Alison Grounds,
eMerge Managing Partner

troutman
emerge[®]

+

**GEORGIA
INNOCENCE
PROJECT**

+

Apparo

ability to demonstrate impact to funders. And as cases move faster, more investigations can be completed in less time, potentially leading to more exonerations.

For a small nonprofit doing high-stakes work, operational efficiency isn't an abstraction; it directly affects how many people can receive help. **Wrongful convictions are never undone quickly, but the eMerge team was proud to help make the path to justice a little shorter.**

ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

As the founder and managing partner of Troutman eMerge, **Alison Grounds** has built one of the legal industry's most recognized eDiscovery and data management practices — combining litigation strategy, information governance experience, and AI-driven technology to help clients manage complexity, reduce risk, and find the facts that matter.

The Georgia Innocence Project engagement asked them to apply it somewhere different — not to a dispute, but to a mission.

What the team encountered when they looked closely at GIP's work left a mark. **“Our goal was to relieve burdens from the GIP team who is doing such wonderful work in the community,”** Alison said. **“Seeing our contributions lead to concrete results will be thrilling.”**

The work exemplifies what eMerge does best: **delivering a practical path forward.** It reflects what Alison calls “giving back through expertise.” With 425 pro bono hours invested in 2025, the eMerge team demonstrated that the same rigor applied to the most complex litigation can, in the right hands, help make justice move a little faster.

Alison Grounds

eMerge Managing Partner • Atlanta



WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS + SECOND CHANCES

Technology as a Tool for Justice

PROJECT TEAM:



Jennifer S. Knox



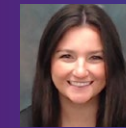
Julia Tyson



Nick Peterson



Carley Barnes



Julianne Bruno

Serving Our Communities With Our Clients

Pro bono work is most powerful when it is a shared endeavor. In 2025, Troutman Pepper Locke partnered with corporate clients across the country to host clinics serving veterans, small business owners, nonprofits, and individuals facing serious legal, financial, or health challenges — working together to bring more attorneys, more resources, and more impact to the communities we serve.

These partnerships on clinics included:



Vanguard, Wells Fargo, Chick-fil-A, Regeneron, and others joined in October 2025 to mark Pro Bono Week by partnering on more than 10 clinics that helped meet a range of pressing legal needs for cancer patients, small business owners, and low-income community members.



RBC Capital Markets partnered with us and the National Veterans Legal Services Program to interview veterans seeking upgraded discharge status — work that resulted in full representation for many veterans.



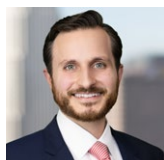
Duke Energy joined us for our annual Driver's License Restoration Project Clinic in North Carolina, where 24 volunteers assisted 70 individuals in understanding their rights toward pursuing license restoration.



Southern Company collaborated with us and the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel to help 10 local nonprofits identify their legal needs through our annual Nonprofit Legal Check-Up with Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta.

These partnerships reflect something we believe deeply: **that closing the justice gap is a shared responsibility.** We are grateful to these and all corporate clients who bring their talent and commitment to this work alongside us. We look forward to doing more together.

Confronting the Justice Gap: A Call to Action Through Pro Bono Service



Amin Al-Sarraf
Partner

The justice gap is not an abstraction. It is a crisis hiding in plain sight — one that touches nearly every community in this country, regardless of income or ZIP code. I have seen it firsthand, from my work co-chairing the California Bar's Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to volunteering at a weekly legal clinic in downtown Los Angeles, where nearly every person who walked through the door had a legal problem threatening the very foundation of their life — their home, their livelihood, their access to health care.

Nationally, more than 90% of low-income Americans receive inadequate or no help at all for their civil legal problems. That is not a gap. That is a structural failing. This is why the pro bono work we do at Troutman Pepper Locke — and the corporate client partnerships that amplify it — matters so much. It is one of the most direct tools we have to confront that failing head-on.



Every consultation we do is a powerful reminder that the law, and legal advocacy, is not an abstract concept; it is a life returned. It is the difference between a life of fear and a life of safety. Every hour our attorneys volunteer, every clinic we host, every client we serve is a step toward a more just and equitable society. That is a responsibility we take seriously and one we are proud to share with the clients and partners who join us in this work.

There is still far more need than there is representation. The work in these pages is part of our ongoing effort to narrow that gap and to use our skills where they are most needed. In the year ahead, we invite you — our colleagues and our clients — to take on a matter, join a clinic, or partner with us on a new initiative, and help close the justice gap for more people in our communities.

Troutman Pepper Locke **Pro Bono Team**



**Sara B.
Richman**

Partner, Chair of Pro Bono
sara.richman@troutman.com
215.981.4658



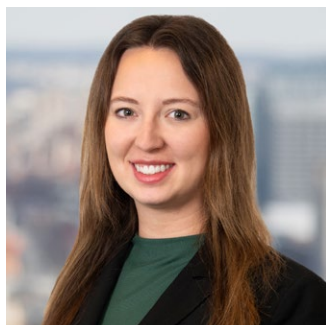
**Sarah B.
Bures**

Pro Bono Director + Counsel
sarah.bures@troutman.com
804.697.1394



**Madeline M.
Moore**

Pro Bono Director + Counsel
madeline.moore@troutman.com
212.704.6258



**Donna
Hendrickson**

Sr. Pro Bono Coordinator
donna.hendrickson@troutman.com
215.981.4616



**Gaby
Mendoza**

Pro Bono Coordinator
gaby.mendoza@troutman.com
404.596.4845



**Susana
Salazar**

Pro Bono Coordinator
susana.salazar@troutman.com
202.220.1407

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.

2025

Pro Bono Report

www.troutman.com/pro-bono

This publication is for informational purposes only. This publication does not constitute legal advice. Any communication that you send to Troutman Pepper Locke or its attorneys through our website will not create an attorney-client relationship and may not be treated as confidential.



troutman
pepper locke