

Pro Bono Update

GROOM LAW GROUP

Our dedication to pro bono services is more than a professional responsibility, it's a commitment to our community. At Groom, every client — pro bono or otherwise — receives the same exceptional level of service, care and attention. As part of our pro bono commitment, support and involvement from everyone at Groom is not only welcome — it is encouraged.



The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia Making Justice Real Pro Bono Award (June 20, 2019)



Miriam's Kitchen Breakfast Sponsorship (Nov. 21, 2019)

Our Partners



Our Recognition

*The Legal Aid Society of the District of
Columbia Making Justice Real
Pro Bono Award*

An award recognizing the firm for its outstanding pro bono collaboration and service. Groom was commended for the significant number of pro bono cases that it had taken since forming a partnership with Legal Aid 18 months prior and the quality of representation Groom attorneys provide their pro bono clients.

*The Asian Pacific American Legal
Resource Center*

Groom lawyers – Sarah Adams, Ed Meehan and Matt Muma – recognized at APALRC’s 21st annual dinner for successfully contesting a post nuptial agreement.

District of Columbia Courts’ Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll

The District of Columbia Courts, in partnership with the D.C. Access to Justice Commission and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center, recognizes attorneys who contribute 50 hours or more of pro bono work to low-income individuals. For 2019, 20 Groom attorneys qualify, 8 of whom qualify for High Honor Roll, an honor reserved for lawyers who contribute over 100 pro bono hours (indicated by an asterisk below).

Katie Bjornstad Amin	Kelly Geloneck*	Louis Mazawey*	Alex Ryan
Mark Bieter*	Sarah Humble	Ross McSweeney	Stephen Pennartz
Kimberly Boberg*	Christine Keller	Ed Meehan*	David Powell
Jim Cole	Meredith Kimelblatt*	Matt Muma*	Kevin Walsh
Shaun Gates	Michael Kreps	Paul Rinefierd*	Elizabeth Woods

Our Progress

The D.C. Bar outlines ethical obligations for its members and law firms, encouraging pro bono services. With this in mind, during 2019 52 Groom lawyers and staff members worked on 36 pro bono cases serving approximately 43 clients.

Our Pro Bono Work

Groom is proud of its pro bono work made possible through strong collaborations with local legal service organizations, firm clients, and others. When the odds have been stacked against clients and their families, Groom lawyers and professional staff members have worked tirelessly and skillfully to provide guidance through tedious administrative processes, vital mediation and complex court hearings to achieve favorable outcomes.

Pro bono work not only affords Groom the opportunity to leverage its talent and expertise to serve our community, it also provides invaluable experience and perspective to our lawyers, particularly those new to practicing law.

While Groom lawyers and professionals bring together the firm's collective expertise in employee benefits, health and retirement matters to service our pro bono clients, the types of pro bono matters that we handle expand far beyond these core areas of law. Our pro bono work encompasses all types of law, including:

- Asylum
- Benefits
- Child Custody
- Disability Benefits
- Estate Planning
- Financial Education
- Home Care
- Housing
- Immigration
- Incarceration Innocence Review
- Litigation
- Mediation
- Social Security Benefits
- Supplemental Security
- Income Tax

Proper legal representation is critical for many of these thorny, complex matters yet, for those who are most vulnerable, it is often unobtainable. Groom is deeply committed to bringing access to justice to our community members in greatest need by providing sophisticated legal services.

Representative Cases

Represented mother in child custody dispute with the child's father where factors involving efficient reliability, proper medical care, financial stability, and violence were involved. Following a series of depositions and a one day trial, the Groom lawyers were able to secure the mother full legal custody, full physical custody and regularized child support with monitored visitations with the child's father. Additionally, upon Groom's post-trial submission of fact and law, the judge overseeing the case adopted all of the conditions that Groom lawyers included.

Represented a spouse in the successful contest of a post nuptial "agreement" obtained by alleged coercion and trickery that would have left her destitute. Groom lawyers had the agreement overturned following a three day trial, then negotiated a settlement of marital property and child support including multiple pension and retirement funds.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Ed Meehan, Pro Bono Committee Chair
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The information contained within has been updated as of March 2020.

Pro Bono Committee Members

Ed Meehan, Chair
Stacey Bradford
Nuvia Gomez
Sam Levin
Ross McSweeney
Jessica Winslow

"I don't know where to begin and how to express my gratitude for all the help, protection, guidance and allocating significant resources for my cause...

From the bottom of my heart a million THANK YOUs. Words are not enough to express what you have given me, it was a priceless gift."

– Client

"[T]hank you for organizing and hosting our Schedule H Clinic yesterday. I think it was very successful! Thanks to the hard work of volunteer attorneys and support staff, Willis Towers Watson & Groom Law Group were able to serve 9 low-income seniors in applying for 21 Schedule H applications, totaling over \$15,000 in credits. As you may guess, these credits will go a long way for our clients. Many of them rely on the credits each year to pay for things like housing cost, food, and medicine. They are so appreciative of the empathy and kindness displayed by the volunteer attorneys."

– Client

"Legal Aid is grateful for its pro bono partnership with Groom Law Group and for the commitment the firm has made to improve access to justice and help low income individuals and families in DC achieve stability, security, and the benefits to which they are entitled. The firm has truly made justice real for their pro bono clients."

– The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia