

In 2016, Shipman & Goodwin lawyers, paralegals and staff devoted over 3000 pro bono hours to helping needy individuals and non-profits in Connecticut, Washington DC and New York City. At the top of the list were our efforts to protect individuals and families from eviction and homelessness. In April, the firm received the 2016 Partnership Award from ImmaCare Inc., our longtime client that provides shelter and supportive housing for chronically homeless people in Hartford. The award recognized the wide variety of services that S&G has provided over the years. As ImmaCare's Executive Director acknowledged in making the award, "I'm not sure if ImmaCare would exist today if it were not for Shipman & Goodwin." A colleague added, "we all know you do this with love in your hearts." Congratulations to the S&G team, which includes **Mary Jo Andrews, Christine Donnelly, Peter Murphy, Kate Mylod, Cheryl Rodzen, Amber Sarno, Arnold Shimelman, Arlene Stover and Henry Zaccardi.**



Many other people at S&G provided pro bono services in 2016 "with love in their hearts." The following examples give a sense of the breadth of our work in the past year:

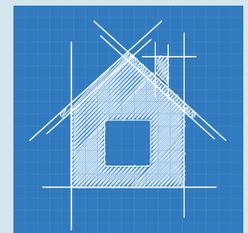
## Helping Veterans Obtain Disability Benefits, Discharge Upgrades and Housing

Through referrals from the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, S&G helped veterans request benefits for service-related disabilities, apply to upgrade their discharge status, and avoid eviction. Our clients included veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who are suffering from PTSD and depression, disabled veterans and their families who were facing eviction from their homes, and a legally blind veteran in his late 80s who was subjected to a frivolous lawsuit for actions he took as an officer of the VFW. (**Alison Baker, Harry Burgess, Mike Cummings, Lee Duval, Chris Engler, Vaughan Finn, Ben FrazziniKendrick, Marc Herman, Sue Murphy, Jill O'Toole, Nate Plotkin, Diane Polletta, Katie Sadowski, Paul Sanson, Amber Sarno, Joe Williams**)



## Defending Vulnerable Families In Eviction Proceedings

We continued our partnership with New Haven Legal Assistance, Greater Hartford Legal Aid and Statewide Legal Services to represent low-income individuals and families facing summary eviction in Housing Court. We represented over 20 tenants, including single parents of young children, persons suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, and individuals with mental and physical disabilities. We negotiated settlements for our clients that allowed families to stay together while looking for a new home, to retain valuable housing subsidies, to remain in their children's school districts, and to avoid retaliation for reporting conditions (oil spills, broken locks, mold, vermin) that made their homes uninhabitable. (**Laurann Asklof, Carolyn Cavolo, Vaughan Finn, Andrea Gomes, Jeffrie Hausman, Marc Herman, Greg Muccilli, Matt Ranelli, Chasity Roberts, Amber Sarno, Joe Williams**)



## Protecting Immigrant Children from Deportation, Helping Syrian Refugees

Through referrals from the Center for Children's Advocacy, we helped children from Central America and the Caribbean escape abuse, neglect and violence in their home countries and seek Special Immigrant Juvenile Status in the United States. In December, the Torrington Probate Court granted our petitions for SIJS findings for two children who were exposed to chronic violence in El Salvador, including death threats by gang members. (**Chris Cahill, Alfredo Fernandez, Vaughan Finn, Mike King**)



Through the International Refugee Assistance Project, we are working with students from UConn Law School to help a Syrian refugee family currently living in Lebanon apply to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for refugee status and resettlement in a third country. In addition to the father and mother, the family consists of five young daughters, including one with a serious medical problem. (**Ashley Marshall**)

## Parole and Clemency Projects, Resources for Indigents in Criminal Cases

Through the DC Prisoners' Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, we represented a 70-year old inmate in a proceeding before the US Parole Commission. As a result of a recent ruling by the Commission, our client, who has already served almost 37 years, was eligible for a new parole determination under guidelines in effect in 1972. At the hearing, we presented letters of support, certificates of accomplishment and our client's own testimony to demonstrate his stellar work record and personal development during his lengthy prison term. Although our client was denied parole (as have almost all inmates being reconsidered under the 1972 guidelines) thanks to our advocacy efforts, he received a new hearing date in one year, whereas most inmates have received new hearing dates in three or five years. We will represent our client in his next hearing and assist him in his ongoing efforts to spend his remaining years with his family. **(Alex Karam)**



We participated in Clemency Project 2014, the clemency initiative launched by the Obama Administration to address the large number of federal inmates who are serving disproportionately long sentences for non-violent offenses, by reviewing prisoner files to identify appropriate candidates for the program. **(Chris Engler, Andrea Gomes, Ken Rock)**

We prepared a detailed analysis for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut of the adequacy of existing resources for representing criminal defendants in Connecticut state courts. **(Laura Fisher)**

## Supporting Non-Profit Arts Groups

We assisted Sankofa Kuumba Cultural Arts Consortium, a Hartford area African arts organization that provides services and programming for local youth through the public schools and after-school, in connection with the disposition of property located in Hartford. **(Christine Donnelly, Tasha Marrero, Kate Mylod, Cheryl Rodzen, Arlene Stover)** We also provided tax advice and representation to the Connecticut Arts Council Foundation to enable it to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status as a charitable organization. **(Ray Cassella, Pattie Chouinard, Robert Day)**



## Maintaining Park Land in Stamford

We represented the Mill River Collaborative, a non-profit that helps maintain and operate Mill River Park in downtown Stamford, in connection with a donation of residential property. Our representation included drafting conveyance documents and assisting with due diligence. The proceeds from a future sale of the property will be used to fund the Collaborative's continuing operations. **(Mike Cummings, Melissa Mazal, Cheryl Rodzen, Katie Sadowski, Clarisse Thomas, John Wertam, Mike Widland)**



## We also:

- Represented a non-profit that works to expand access to health care and education for children in Uganda in a contractual dispute **(Steve Forte)**
- Advised tenants and family members at Statewide Legal Services' Security Deposit and Family Law Clinics **(Lee Duval, Alfredo Fernandez, Sue Murphy, Amanda Oakes, Latonia Williams)**
- Provided employment and other advice to a variety of non-profits **(Julia Camarco, Pattie Chouinard, Keegan Drenosky, Chris Engler, Laura Fisher, Cathy Intravia, Jarad Lucan, Matt Monteith, Peter Murphy, Dan Schwartz, Anthony Shannon, Clarisse Thomas, Sarah Westby)**
- Tried a case in Small Claims Court to recover a security deposit from an overreaching landlord **(Alfredo Fernandez)**
- Represented children in abuse and neglect proceedings **(Vaughan Finn, Amber Sarno, Sarah Westby)**
- Worked with DC Appleseed to improve end of life care **(Corrine Lane)**
- Performed a variety of legal services for Blue Latitudes' Rigs2Reefs Exploration Program, which turns retired offshore oil and gas platforms into artificial reefs **(Andrew Davis, Christine Donnelly, Andrea Gomes, Miriam Lewis)**
- Gave trusts and estates advice to non-profits **(Bernardo Cuadra, Danielle Ferrucci, Rose Frink)**
- Provided regulatory and licensing advice to an organization that will take children and young adults on hiking and camping trips throughout the Northeast **(Bill Roberts, Katie Sadowski, Barbara Villandry)**
- Acted as guardians, trustees and conservators for incapacitated persons **(Brenda Eckert, Laura Fisher, Anne Littlefield, Lori Romano, Sara Garcia)**

Special thanks to the many, many people who made this possible.