

As we begin 2018, please take a moment to celebrate the pro bono accomplishments of our attorneys, paralegals and staff in the past year. In 2017, we devoted over 3,000 hours to pro bono work, which included helping immigrants fleeing violence abroad, sick and elderly tenants facing homelessness, neglected and abused children, victims of domestic violence, disabled veterans, and non-profits serving the needy, the arts and the environment. S&G received two major awards in recognition of its services:

## Hartford County Bar Association's 2017 Pro Bono Award

In presenting this award at the annual Law Day Celebration, the Executive Director of Statewide Legal Services commented that "Shipman & Goodwin's firm-wide culture embodies the very ethos of pro bono public legal services. . . . [S&G lawyers] deeply understand that no case is too small and no client should be barred from the courthouse door because they lack the wherewithal to buy legal assistance."



## Greater Hartford Legal Aid's Law Firm Leader Award

GHLA presented its first ever Law Firm Leader award to S&G for "Outstanding Leadership and Investment in Justice," in recognition of long-time service on the GHLA and GHLA Foundation boards (**Morgan Rueckert**, **Pat Fahey** and **John Lawrence**), extraordinary financial support, and pro bono legal services. At a ceremony hosted by The Hartford and attended by many of our clients, as well as state and local leaders, GHLA's Executive Director declared that "these remarkable contributions -- time, money, caring about GHLA's mission -- demonstrate Shipman & Goodwin's commitment to our community and to equal access to justice."



## DC Office Helps Refugee Children, Inmate Seeking Parole, the Dying

In partnership with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), our DC lawyers and paralegals obtained Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings on behalf of three children who fled El Salvador to escape abusive home conditions and gang violence and to rejoin family members living in the US. A team of **John DiMarco**, **Alison Baker**, **Corinne Lane**, **Alison Miller**, **Kate Hance**, **Greg Gomperts** and **Robert Donovan** secured orders in Fairfax Juvenile Court granting sole custody of two minor children to their aunt in Virginia. The children had experienced beatings and sexual abuse at home. **Alex Karam** and **Ingrid Smith** obtained a custody order in state court for a minor child who came to Virginia last year to join his mother after his aunt became too ill to care for him and his father refused to support him. All three children were targeted by gangs in El Salvador, which the State Department has described as having among the highest levels of murder and gang violence in the world. From client interviews through merits hearings, our teams helped their young clients complete the first step in the immigration process: obtaining state-court findings that they had been abandoned by relatives in El Salvador and that it was unsafe for them to return there. We will continue to represent the children in the next phase of the process in US Immigration Court.



Through a program developed by the Washington Lawyers' Committee, **Alex Karam** persuaded the US Parole Commission to grant parole to a 71-year-old inmate who had served almost 38 years for offenses including a second-degree murder committed in 1979. Alex successfully argued that his client's stellar prison work record, participation in vocational and educational programs, health issues and desire to return to his family and community warranted parole at this time. Corrine Lane continued her association with DC Appleseed, including its efforts to pass legislation improving end-of-life care.

## REELU Practice Group Partners with NHLAA to Protect Vulnerable Tenants

When we opened our New Haven office in 2015, the REELU Practice Group reached out to New Haven Legal Assistance to find ways S&G could support legal aid work in that community. As part of that ongoing partnership, we represented multiple tenants in 2017 who were facing evictions in New Haven Housing Court, including clients coping with severe physical and mental disabilities and advancing age while they dealt with possible homelessness. (**Greg Muccilli, Amber Sarno, Joe Williams, Chris Drury, Beth Caron** and **Jeffrie Hausman**)



Also in conjunction with NHLAA, **Greg Muccilli** represented an affordable housing cooperative owned by low-income residents in the sale of a 31-unit affordable housing complex to a local developer. As part of the high-profile deal that S&G negotiated, the developer agreed to pay off the cooperative's outstanding operating expenses and notes to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, repay the owners their membership fees and provide substantial relocation expenses to the residents. The developer will now tear down and rebuild the property, enabling the coop members to return as tenants to a vastly improved new building.

## Helping Immigrants At Home and Abroad Contend with Changing U.S. Law

After the Trump administration issued an Executive Order in late January banning entry by refugees and citizens from seven Muslim nations, S&G lawyers went to Dulles Airport and Newark Airport to help advise foreigners arriving from abroad about their legal rights under the travel ban. (**Michelle Beecy** and **Jenna Gallagher**). We participated in a clinic in Bridgeport CT to help enrollees in the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) program prepare renewal papers within new deadlines imposed by the administration. (**Alfredo Fernandez, Shari Goodstein, Nate Plotkin,** and **Andy Zeitlin**). In conjunction with the International Refugee Assistance Program, we represented refugee families from Syria and Iraq, seeking to relocate to the United States to escape violence and religious persecution. (**Ashley Marshall** and **Vaughan Finn**)



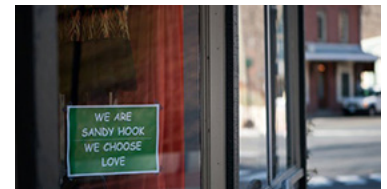
## Representing Abused and Neglected Children

Through Lawyers for Children America, we represented seven children, ranging in ages from one to 15, placed under the protective supervision of the Juvenile Court because of neglect or abuse by their parents. The problems included inadequate medical care, unsafe living conditions, school absenteeism, and parental substance abuse and run-ins with the police. Our lawyers are working with the Department of Children and Families and the parents to correct these conditions or find safe placements for our clients with other family members. (**Andrea Gomes, Lara Greenberg, Jeffrie Hausman, Jenna Montesano, Sarah Westby** and **Andy Zeitlin**)



## Assisting Parents of Sandy Hook Victims

**Sue Murphy** and **Pat Fahey** represented Safe and Sound Schools, founded by parents of Sandy Hook victims to provide resources to communities to improve school safety. Safe and Sound and one of its founders, Michele Gay, were targeted by a so-called Sandy Hook "truther" who peddled the idea on YouTube that the Sandy Hook tragedy was a hoax orchestrated by the government or others to restrict gun rights. This person posted a video and interview with Michele Gay to his YouTube channel with a voice over disparaging and mocking Safe and Sound and Ms. Gay. Sue and Pat persuaded YouTube to remove the video and to revoke the user's account because the altered video infringed Safe and Sound's copyright, was not fair use under the Copyright Act, and was defaming, disparaging and harassing. We also represented the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, an *amicus curiae* in the lawsuit brought by the estates of Sandy Hook victims against the manufacturer, distributor and retailer of the Bushmaster XM-15 rifle used in the tragedy. (**Vaughan Finn**)



## Representing Disabled Veterans

We represented six Army and Navy veterans, who suffer from a variety of physical and mental disabilities and are seeking disability benefits or discharge upgrades based on their service experiences. Our clients included a veteran of the Iraq War who served in Mosul and Baquba and was diagnosed with severe PTSD after being exposed to IEDs, mortar and rocket attacks, and witnessing the death of a close friend while clearing a building targeted by insurgents. (**Beth Caron, Chris Engler, Vaughan Finn, Ben FrazziniKendrick, Jill O'Toole, Amber Sarno, Joe Williams and Sue Murphy**)

**Ben FrazziniKendrick** also successfully represented an 88-year old, legally blind veteran of the Korean War, who was unjustly accused of misappropriating funds by the CT Veterans of Foreign Wars in a Superior Court lawsuit.



## Inmate Civil Rights Litigation

We were appointed by US District Judge Michael Shea to represent an inmate bringing an Eighth Amendment claim that he was targeted by a Correctional Officer for abuse at a New Haven facility, where a steel door was slammed onto his head and caused permanent injuries. Judge Shea appointed us to file an opposition to the State's summary judgment motion, which involved multiple trips to two separate incarceration facilities as it appeared that the State was retaliating against our client for pursuing his claim. (**Glenn Cunningham, Johnathan Seredynski, Jeffrie Hausman, Drew Kadow, Patricia Vargo and Ron Peterson**)



## In addition, we also:

- Represented Future 5, Inc., which helps motivated low-income high school students in Stamford, by negotiating and signing two leases for contiguous properties, more than doubling the space available to serve its students in what is affectionately known as the "clubhouse." (**Rebecca Brown and Greg Muccilli**)
- Represented tenants in four eviction matters referred by Greater Hartford Legal Aid, including a 74-year old woman suffering from renal failure and a tenant with multiple mental handicaps. (**Laurann Askloff, Alex Cox and Vaughan Finn**)
- Participated in New Haven Project Youth Court, a diversionary program for young first-time offenders who have committed low-level misdemeanors and whose cases are "tried" before high school volunteers who act as jurors and attorneys. The trials take place in the courtroom of US District Judge Jeffrey Meyer, who sometimes presides himself. (**Amanda Oakes and Jaime Welsh**)
- Provided employment advice to the Women's Center of Greater Danbury, which offers emergency shelter and support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence (**Keegan Drenosky and Clarisse Thomas**), and to Our Children's Center, which provides early childhood daycare programs in the Hartford area (**Jarad Lucan**).
- Revised the Rental Lease and Tenant Manual of Open Door Shelter in Norwalk CT, which provides shelter, food and other services to the homeless. (**Dame Catalan, Lisa Zana, Mary Jo Andrews and Jenna Montesano**)
- Provided multiple legal services to Simply Smiles, an organization dedicated to providing bright futures to impoverished children and families, with project sites in Mexico and on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota. Our work included drafting releases specific to the Zika virus for volunteers in Oaxaca, Mexico, where the organization operates a children's home, and obtaining a long-term lease for land on the South Dakota reservation. (**Sarah Westby, Dame Catalan, Clarisse Thomas, Greg Muccilli, Henry Zaccardi, Chris Engler and Lisa Zana**)

- Counseled individuals about how to file pro se divorces at Statewide Legal Services' Family Law Clinic. (**Julia Camarco, Jaime Welsh, Stephanie Gomes-Ganhao, Robert Day, Latonia Williams, Kim Cohen** and **Jenna Montesano**)
- Assisted with the formation and structuring of two Connecticut non-profits: Theatre Arts & Opportunities Foundation (Rad Tahiliani, Tasha Marrero and Patti Chouinard) and Greenwich Athletic Foundation (**Rad Tahiliani, Tasha Marrero, Ray Casella, Lou Schatz** and **Patti Chouinard**)
- Continued serving as general counselors to Blue Latitudes, whose Rigs-to-Reefs Exploration Program helps convert retired off shore oil and gas rigs into artificial reefs. Our work involved leasing and corporate strategy issues; we also assisted in the drafting, negotiation, and review of sub-contractor agreements and consulted on recent Rigs-to-Reefs legislation proposed in California. Blue Latitudes was named one of *Forbes Magazine's* Top 30 under 30 in the Energy Sector in 2017. (**Christine Donnelly, Andrea Gomes** and **Andrew Davis**)
- Assisted the Guilford ABC (A Better Chance) program, which offers young women of color from under-represented communities the opportunity to attend a high quality public high school and live in a caring community, address issues relating to the safety of its housing. (**Greg Muccilli** and **Matt Ranelli**)
- Helped Social Promise, a non-profit that expands access to health care and education for children in Uganda, recover funds in a contract dispute. (**Steve Forte**)
- Represented the New Haven Symphony Orchestra in a contract dispute. (**Greg Muccilli** and **Andy Zeitlin**)
- Acted as trustees for incapacitated or deceased persons. (**Brenda Eckert, Anne Littlefield, Rose Frink-DeBaise, Ashley Marshall, Lisa Waller, Nikole McCarthy** and **Catherine Welz**)
- Continued to provide multiple legal services to Mill River Collaborative, which maintains a park in downtown Stamford. (**Mike Widland, Katie Kasinskas, Cheryl Rodzen, Keegan Drenosky, Christine Chipman** and **Dan Schwartz**)



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

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