

PRO BONO PROGRAM

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

One of Greenberg Traurig's core tenets is to positively impact the communities where we live and work, and in 2023 we saw incredible work from attorneys across our Global Pro Bono Program making that concept into a reality.

In 2023, we saw continued growth as more of our people spent more time than ever on pro bono. From arguing a case that helped close a critical loophole and make New Jersey criminal trials more fair, to GT attorneys standing up for transgender rights by helping orchestrate a campaign that resulted in an amendment to the Illinois Name Change Statute, our GT colleagues did truly remarkable work in the last year.

Another important pillar of GT's pro bono and philanthropic mission is our annual participation in the Equal Justice Works (EJW) Fellowship Program. Inside this report, you will read about an additional major firm milestone of 2023: sponsoring our 200th and 201st EJW fellows and surpassing the number of fellows sponsored by any other law firm or company.

Since 1999, GT has contributed more than \$14.5 million to this program, and our fellows have provided more than 680,000 attorney hours on behalf of underrepresented populations.

We have seen incredible growth in pro bono participation over the last few years, and that growth has directly contributed to the betterment of the lives of individuals and our communities. I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in 2024.



WHAT WE DID

Greenberg Traurig's approach to pro bono service is attorney-driven and diverse. Rather than committing to one project, we commit to as many as feasible so long as they meet one key metric—impact. We take pride in making a direct and positive impact on the communities we serve. Our pro bono work spans jurisdictions, practices, and ideologies.

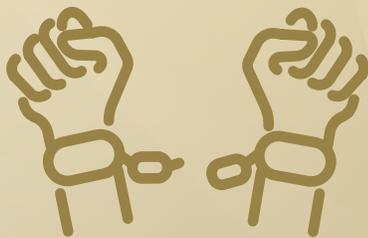
IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  *REAL*
EDUCATION **CORPORATE** *ESTATE*
HUMAN RIGHTS &  **LANDLORD-**
SOCIAL JUSTICE **TENANT**
CRIMINAL JUSTICE *NON-PROFIT*
 **SMALL BUSINESS VETERANS &**
 **MEDIATION** **ACTIVE MILITARY**
ARTS **HEALTHCARE & MEDICINE**
LGBTQ+ **LABOR &** **GOVERNMENT LAW, POLICY & LOBBYING**
EMPLOYMENT  **LITIGATION**
LEGAL CLINICS  **WOMEN & FAMILIES**



HIGH PROFILE

CASES AND PROJECTS

We represent a wide range of underserved individuals and communities, including refugees seeking asylum, children entitled to special education services, veterans seeking benefits and the wrongfully incarcerated, among many others. Here is a small sample of what we did in 2023:



INNOCENCE PROJECT

New Jersey Supreme Court Embraces Greenberg Traurig and Innocence Project Arguments to Adopt New Witness Identification Standards

The New Jersey Supreme Court GT recently issued a unanimous opinion that will make criminal trials in the state fairer by curtailing first-time in-court witness identifications (FITIC IDs), an inherently suggestive procedure where defendants are positively identified for the first time during trial from the witness stand, rather than in pre-trial investigations.

The opinion was issued in a case argued by GT lawyers, who were representing the Innocence Project as friends of the court. The case, *State v. Watson*, was an appeal by Quintin Watson, who was convicted of robbing a bank in January 2017 based on a FITIC ID by a witness who, before trial, had failed to identify him in a photo array and, in fact, identified another person after first not choosing anyone “because they all looked alike.”



**JOYFUL
HEART
FOUNDATION**

GT Represents Joyful Heart Foundation in the Passage of Statewide Sexual Assault Kit Tracking Legislation

GT represented the Joyful Heart Foundation on a pro bono basis in the passage of a law implementing a statewide electronic tracking system for sexual assault kits. With the recent passage of this legislation, the implementation of the tracking system will streamline the chain-of-custody process to the benefit of law enforcement agencies and provide sexual assault survivors with certainty regarding the processing of their kit. The Joyful Heart Foundation was founded by actress Mariska Hargitay, who plays Olivia Benson on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Through her role, Mariska Hargitay learned staggering statistics about sexual assault and founded this organization to advocate on behalf of survivors.



**TRANSFORMATIVE
JUSTICE LAW
PROJECT**

Litigation to help eliminate discrimination in the application of the Illinois Name Change Statute

GT represented a group of transgender women challenging the constitutionality of certain restrictions contained in the Illinois Name Change Statute as applied to them. Together with a coalition that included lawyers from the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois and others, the firm took on the litigation in *Reyna Angelina Ortiz, et al. v. Kimberly M. Foxx, et al.* as part of a larger legislative strategy to effect a change in the law. After nearly four years, the lawsuit was dismissed as moot because amendments to the bill were passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the Illinois governor in February 2023.

HOW WE

SHINED IN 2023

ABA Military
Pro Bono Project
**OUTSTANDING
SERVICES
AWARD**

(firm)



**PRO BONO
INNOVATORS**

by Bloomberg Law

(Chicago and Mexico City offices)

HONORS

from the Veterans
Consortium

(individual)

Pro Bono Publico Law

**FIRM OF
THE YEAR**

by the Utah State Bar
Association

(Salt Lake City office)

**NORTH STAR
LAWYERS**

by the Minnesota
State Bar Association

(six individuals)

KIND Fresno's
Pro Bono

**ADVOCATE
OF THE YEAR**

(individual)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service from the
Judges of the United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago
Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

(Chicago office)

Shortlisted for TrustLaw
International Law

**FIRM OF
THE YEAR**

Award for
Pro Bono Work *(firm)*



Empire State
Counsel 2023

OUTSTANDING

Pro Bono
Volunteer Award

(individual)

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS

Greenberg Traurig celebrated a significant milestone when it sponsored its 200th and 201st Equal Justice Works fellows in the 2023 fellowship class, solidifying our position as the largest sponsor with the most fellows since the organization's inception.

Since our first class of EJW fellows in 1999, GT has invested more than \$14.5 million into the program, which has allowed the firm to make an even greater impact on more people and communities than we ever thought possible.

GT's fellows have provided more than 680,000 attorney hours on behalf of underrepresented populations in more than 50 cities and over 120 legal services organizations across the country. Among GT's former fellows, over 80 percent remain in public interest law today.





200+

NUMBER OF FELLOWS
HOSTED BY GT



62

LAW SCHOOLS
REPRESENTED



51

CITIES ACROSS
THE UNITED STATES



29

ISSUE
AREAS



680K+

ATTORNEY
HOURS



\$14.5

MILLION INVESTED
TO SUPPORT

EJW fellowships last for two years, and each fellow works with a host organization concentrating on one legal issue or community for the duration of their program. The fellowship programs are designed to effect change in communities and throughout the country by mobilizing lawyers and advocates to work on behalf of vulnerable populations in need of free legal services. They also give fellows the opportunity to work with a legal services organization to design and implement an innovative project in response to a specific or emerging need.

GT's 2023 class of 12 fellows focus on issues that include criminal justice reform, immigration, racial justice, and more.

GT is proud to co-sponsor fellows with firm clients including The Clorox Company Foundation, Discovery, Financial Services Southern Company, UPS, and Western Union.

GT'S EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS 2023 FELLOWS ARE:



ISABEL DUFFORD

Colorado Legal Services



ARU GONZALEZ

Public Counsel



ELISSA GRAY

*Family Violence Appellate Project; co-sponsored
by The Clorox Company Foundation*



KATIE MARTINEZ

*School Justice Project; co-sponsored
by Steptoe & Johnson LLP*



JUSTIN MCCARROLL

Georgia Resource Center



MEGHAN MCLEROY

*Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice;
co-sponsored by Southern Company*



MARY MERKEL

The Bronx Defenders



HEATHER ODELL

*Catholic Charities Legal Services,
Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.*



SAMANTHA PFAFF-GOLDSTEIN

*Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project;
co-sponsored by Western Union*



LIA RAVES

*Illinois Prison Project; co-sponsored
by Discover Financial Services*



CHRIS ROGERS

*Texas RioGrande Legal Aid; co-sponsored
by Texas Access to Justice Foundation*



ZOE SIEPERT

*Georgia Legal Services Program;
co-sponsored by UPS*

[Click here for more information on GT's fellows.](#)

PRO BONO IN ACTION

Greenberg Traurig collaborates with non-profit organizations, clients, government entities, and others on a variety of pro bono initiatives aimed at improving our communities. Below are some examples from the past year.

GT HOSTS FINANCIAL DAY OF SERVICE EVENT WITH JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

GT partnered with JPMorgan Chase & Co. to assist local Tampa-based nonprofits with governance checkups as part of the annual Financial Institution Pro Bono Day. The event was hosted in partnership with Bay Area Legal Services. GT attorneys and members of JPMorgan's legal team were paired with the executive director and nonprofit board members to assist with nonprofit governance procedures reviews.

ASYLUM APPLICATION HELP CENTER IN NEW YORK

New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced the success of the Asylum Application Help Center, revealing that over 1,300 asylum applications have been submitted since its launch in June. The center, a pioneering model in the nation, combines support from government, law firms, corporations, nonprofits, and universities to provide extensive pro se application assistance. Mayor Adams acknowledged the collaborative efforts of over 30 private law firms, including GT, and welcomed leading universities like New York University to contribute undergraduate and graduate student application assistants during the fall semester.

TRAINING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

In 2017, GT Mexico City was the first firm in Mexico to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). That inaugurated the Network of Pro Bono Allies of the UNHCR in Mexico which today has more than 10 law firms. Our attorneys in Mexico City are leaders in the pro bono representation of refugees in Mexico and consistently assist the UNHCR in training other firms in asylum law.

GT SILICON VALLEY HOSTS PRO BONO CLINIC WITH EBAY

GT Silicon Valley partnered with eBay and Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto to host a pro bono clinic in their offices on July 14. Volunteers participated in a declaration drafting clinic with clients eligible for dismissals for low-level criminal offenses.

HELPING PHILADELPHIA'S FAMILIES KEEP THEIR HOMES

GT Philadelphia has prioritized and amplified pro bono projects that support low- to moderate-income families under threat of losing their homes due to “tangled titles,” a citywide concern where deed ownership is muddled by insufficient probate or otherwise compromised deeds—typically related to familial possession—and less-than-scrupulous actors seek to lay claim to such properties. GT engages in this work through its ongoing sponsorship of and connection with Philadelphia VIP, the city’s premier pro bono hub, which matches legal practitioners with individuals, families, and organizations whose revenues are at or beneath the poverty line but need help addressing civil legal matters.

GT'S GLOBAL PLATFORM AFFORDS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH MANY ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

GT PRO BONO

IN THE NEWS

PRO BONO INNOVATORS HONOREE 2023 GREENBERG TRAUIG

GT was included among Bloomberg Law’s “Pro Bono Innovators” for 2023. Bloomberg featured work by our Mexico City office assisting the Afghanistan Women’s Flag Football Team in an effort that paved a new path for asylum seekers in Mexico, and our Chicago office for a comprehensive legal and political strategy that helped eliminate discrimination in the application of the Illinois Name Change Statute.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR PRO BONO LEADERS IN 2023

Caroline Heller was quoted in a Law360 article titled “Top Priorities for Pro Bono Leaders In 2023.” Caroline discussed areas of focus for Greenberg Traurig’s pro bono program, including increasing our capacity to assist refugees and a focus on assisting children with special needs, families, veterans, and the LGBTQ community.

IN THEIR WORDS: ATTORNEYS' MOST MEMORABLE PRO BONO WORK

Shirin Afsous was interviewed for a Law360 Pulse article titled “In Their Words: Attorneys’ Most Memorable Pro Bono Work.” Shirin discussed her work on behalf of an Afghan woman living in Virginia who was trapped in an abusive relationship.

GREENBERG TRAURIG GUIDES AFGHAN WOMEN TO SAFETY IN MEXICO

Elba Gutiérrez was featured in a Law360 article discussing GT’s work to secure political asylum for the members of Afghanistan’s Women’s Flag Football Team and their families, who became targets for persecution after the Taliban took control of the country in 2021. Elba states, “It’s not only about getting people out of vulnerable situations, but also providing them with other opportunities.”

IAN MARX BALANCES COMMERCIAL LITIGATION SUCCESS WITH THE ‘PRIVILEGE’ OF PUBLIC INTEREST WORK

Nominated for “Attorney of the Year” by the New Jersey Law Journal, Ian Marx was the subject of a feature story about his success as a commercial litigator and as a lawyer committed to the public interest.



Greenberg, Traurig, LLP



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GT_Law



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