



2007 - Volume 1

for the public good



The publication highlighting
select pro bono work of
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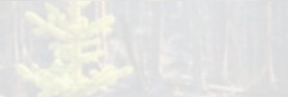
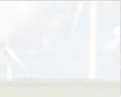


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Building on Traditions

By Peter Kalis, Chairman and Global Managing Partner and Kari Glover, Global Integration Partner

In this, our first pro bono publication as K&L Gates, we celebrate the robust public service traditions of our legacy firms. We also look forward to the many possibilities for K&L Gates' continued service to the global community in which we live and practice.

The articles in this publication highlight just a few of the pro bono projects our lawyers are working on around the world. A common theme in these efforts is protection of the most vulnerable individuals among us – children and victims of domestic violence, immigrants fleeing violence and persecution, the homeless, indigent tenants facing eviction, and survivors of hurricane Katrina. Another theme is assistance to communities and community organizations – including efforts to increase affordable housing, to provide water and sanitation to the developing world, and to protect civil rights and civil liberties.

In addition to the many lawyers providing regular pro bono service, we are also honored to have among our ranks leaders of the bar for whom pro bono, access to justice and the rule of law are core principles and primary objectives. During his term as president of the American Bar Association, Michael Greco's ABA Commission on a Renaissance of Idealism in the Legal Profession helped re-invigorate lawyers' historical commitment to providing pro bono legal services to those in need and volunteering for public service in communities throughout America. Likewise, Bill Neukom, president-elect of the ABA, is spearheading the World Justice Project to advance the rule of law in the United States and abroad. Access to justice, and therefore pro bono legal services, is a central principle of this far-reaching project.

Our firm's institutional commitment to pro bono is reflected in K&L Gates' participation in the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge. Leadership is provided by a firm-wide committee, chaired by a member of the firm's Management Committee, and supported by a network of pro bono office coordinators.

We trust you will find the reports in this publication interesting and inspiring. Providing pro bono publico service to our communities – service for the public good – is not only part of our tradition, it is our future.

Katrina Survivors Navigate FEMA Maze



Nearly two years since Hurricane Katrina submerged New Orleans and ravaged the lives of so many Americans, many survivors are still struggling to obtain necessary assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In fact, FEMA has instituted widespread recoupment actions, demanding the return of thousands of dollars from individual survivors because of insufficient documentation and the arcane application of agency rules. Working with legal service providers Pro Bono Project in New Orleans and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid in Texas, K&L Gates lawyers in New York and Washington, D.C. have come to the assistance of many of these survivors.

In some of these cases, Katrina survivors were wrongfully denied assistance or face recoupment actions because of the “shared household” rule. Citing this rule, FEMA mandates that everyone who lived together before Hurricane Katrina must live together after, and only the “head of household” will receive assistance for the entire pre-disaster household.

For hurricane survivors, this rule denies reality. Following the storm, thousands of New Orleans residents were evacuated in a chaotic and disorganized manner. Family and friends were scattered across the country, often without any knowledge of where their loved ones were or, in some cases, whether they had survived. For some, FEMA simply deemed the first person to apply for assistance the “head of household” and denied the remaining family members’ applications for assistance. In other cases, FEMA initially provided assistance to all of the scattered family members, but later sought recoupment of thousands of dollars in rental assistance paid to the additional family members.

In addition to the head-of-household rule, FEMA sometimes cites insufficient proof of occupancy as grounds for denial of assistance. Because so many Katrina survivors literally lost everything,

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securing tangible proof that the survivor lived in New Orleans at the time of the storm can involve extensive fact-finding. Many clients lost every shred of paper they ever possessed, escaping only with the clothes on their backs. Making this process even more complicated, many survivors lived in deep poverty and lacked many of the more common sources of proof of residence, such as credit card statements, cable bills, driver's licenses, insurance policies or magazine subscriptions. In addition, many landlords were local residents as well and lost all copies of the leases needed for tenants to prove occupancy.

In still other cases, FEMA's denial of assistance or commencement of a recoupment action is simply a result of poor record-keeping. In one case, FEMA sought the recoupment of more than \$10,000 in rental assistance from a poverty-stricken Katrina survivor. In reality, this person had never applied for or received any rental assistance, which FEMA admitted during the appeals process.

K&L Gates lawyers have provided invaluable assistance for survivors in all of these situations. After an applicant is denied assistance or becomes the target of a recoupment action, the survivor has 60 days to formally appeal the denial or have the recoupment terminated. K&L Gates lawyers carry out the necessary factual investigation and draft appeal letters for the survivors.

These efforts have been met with considerable success. In a number of cases, FEMA has awarded K&L Gates' clients the assistance they had been wrongfully denied and terminated recoupment actions. In fact, there have been a number of instances where FEMA not only terminated a recoupment action because the client was initially eligible for the assistance received, but the agency also granted those clients additional assistance for which they were eligible.

The efforts of these K&L Gates lawyers go beyond mere financial results. As an attorney for the New Orleans-based Pro Bono Project explains it, many Katrina survivors now "feel like someone is out there fighting for them."

K&L Gates Rocks Against Cancer

K&L Gates provides pro bono advice to the Great Northern Aid Trust, a charity that stages high-profile "Versus Cancer" rock concerts benefiting those suffering from cancer in the UK and around the world. The organization staged this year's concert, featuring Noel Gallagher, Paul Weller, Ian Brown, the Charlatans, Echo and the Bunnymen, the Smiths' Andy Roarke and many more artists, at the Manchester Evening News Arena on March 30. The trust plans to release a DVD of this and last year's concerts.

London lawyers Nigel Davies, Nick Brown and Lucy Otterwell worked to obtain clearances for the recording and subsequent uses of the performances, while Nigel Beadsworth helped to establish the charity. In addition, the K&L Gates team stepped in to negotiate an on-the-spot agreement mid-way through the concert when the string section performing with Noel Gallagher refused to allow the recording of their performance unless they were paid musicians' union rates for any commercial exploitation.

The charity's upcoming plans include a structural expansion and a two-day outdoor event featuring the Rolling Stones.

Associates Team on Challenging International Custody Case

In one of the first collaborations of the firm's newly combined San Francisco office, associates Amanda Kostner and Deirdre Digrande teamed up to represent pro bono a mother seeking the return of her abducted child.



K&L Gates became involved in the case when the mother, a Mexican citizen, requested the assistance of the U.S. government after her ex-boyfriend, a Mexican citizen with a U.S. green card, abducted their then 11-month-old daughter. Her application was referred to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which acts for the State Department in Hague Convention matters. Through a contact in K&L Gates' Dallas office, the NCMCEC came to work with Amanda and Deirdre.

The facts of this case made it particularly challenging. The mother and the child, a U.S. citizen, lived with the father in California for the first four months of the girl's life. During this time, the relationship between the mother and father deteriorated and ended with the father sending mother and daughter to Mexico for an indefinite period of time. While in Mexico, the mother decided that life there was better than returning to live with the father. The father did not protest this arrangement, but instead allowed the two to remain in Mexico for the next seven months.

After seven months, the father traveled from California to Mexico, abducted the child, then 11-months-old, and brought her back to the

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United States. Once he had physical custody, the father petitioned the California court to gain sole legal custody. At this point, the mother filed her petition under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, which implements the Convention in the United States, for the return of her child.

In order for the child to be returned to the temporary custody of her mother pending custody proceedings in Mexico, the mother needed to establish that Mexico had become the child's habitual residence during her seven months of residence. Under the controlling case law, the court must consider the parents' last shared mutual intent regarding the child's residence. What made this case unique was the child's young age: here, she was only 11-months-old when the abduction took place. Few cases under the Hague Convention consider children so young, and thus, many of the factors that courts consider, such as the child's school, church, sports and other activities, are not applicable to a young child.

Additionally, the father submitted himself to the jurisdiction of the Mexican authorities by agreeing to pay child support and seeking to obtain a visitation agreement. The lawyers seized on the father's actions to argue that behavior, not stated intentions, is the most reliable means by which to determine the parties' true intentions regarding the child's habitual residence.

Deirdre, an eighth-year associate, and Amanda, a first-year, described this case as an intellectual as well as emotional challenge, given the mother's poverty and her desperation to be reunited with the daughter she has not seen in nearly a year.

After four days of testimony and oral argument, the court ruled in favor of the father, finding that, although it was a close case, the facts demonstrated the mother's unilateral intention, rather than the parents' shared intention, for a change in habitual residence to Mexico. The child remains in the father's custody for the present while the mother, with Deirdre and Amanda's assistance, secures a family law attorney to represent her in custody proceedings in California.

Though the petition was unsuccessful, Amanda and Deirdre appreciate the invaluable courtroom experience and the opportunity to work with a pro bono client. They have, additionally, received high praise for their work from the judge, the district attorney who represented the state of California in the proceedings, and the NCMEC.

Washington Supreme Court Upholds Protections for Domestic Violence Victims

K&L Gates Seattle partner Laura Clinton argued a case before the Washington Supreme Court that set standards for the protection of domestic violence victims. In *Gourley v. Gourley*, a father facing domestic violence charges and a restraining order argued that, in granting a petition for protection order, the commissioner improperly considered hearsay evidence and violated his due process rights by refusing to allow cross-examination of the child victim.

The court's ruling upheld protections for the victims of domestic violence, finding that respondents in state civil protection order proceedings are not automatically entitled to full trial-like proceedings or to cross-examine their victims, and confirming that hearsay can be considered at such hearings. See *Gourley v. Gourley*, 158 Wn.2d 460 (2006). In supplemental proceedings, the court granted an award of more than \$35,000 in attorneys' fees, confirming the majority rule that where a prevailing party is entitled to fees on statutory or other grounds, courts will award those fees regardless of whether the work was undertaken on a pro bono basis. In this case, any part of the fee award recovered will go to the Northwest Women's Law Center, the nonprofit agency for which the firm's team served as cooperating attorneys.

Anchorage, Newark Give 100 Percent



In 2006, K&L Gates offices in Anchorage and Newark reported an impressive success: 100 percent lawyer participation in their respective pro bono programs. Additionally, both offices met the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, devoting well over three percent of total lawyer billable hours to pro bono work.

Steve Timoni, Newark partner and pro bono coordinator, attributes the office's strong participation to the variety of matters offered – from litigation to transactional – giving lawyers a choice of interesting and rewarding opportunities. The lawyers can fit pro bono hours into their schedule by taking advantage of short-term, fixed-commitment projects, as well as longer-term, more complex matters. The office's lawyers complement the diversity of the program with ongoing feedback and communication, so the pro bono experience is recognized, worthwhile and educational.

In Anchorage, lawyers also chose from a varied selection of pro bono matters. Last year, Anchorage pro bono projects included:

- representing an elderly retired individual in litigation regarding suspended benefits,
- assisting several Hmong families with guardianship and marriage issues,
- providing general corporate advice to several non-profits,
- representing individuals in child custody matters, and
- representing a rural non-profit in negotiating a contract for the design and construction management of a theater and community center.

K&L Gates' Anchorage lawyers also continued their long-time teaching at Alaska Legal Services Corporation-sponsored family law clinics, which are designed to help pro se filers handle their own dissolutions, divorces or child support modification motions.

Congratulations to both offices for giving 100 percent to their communities through the K&L Gates pro bono program.

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Why Work Pro Bono?

Two lawyers reflect on how K&L Gates' pro bono program can enrich a career.

...it has
been an
invaluable
experience.

Learning through Service

By Daniel Suckerman, Associate, Newark

First-year associates do not often have the opportunity to handle a transaction from start to finish. With the Newark pro bono program, and pro bono client Our House, Inc., I have been able to see a matter through completion, aiding an important community resource in the process.

Our House is a non-profit organization that provides a healthy, safe and stimulating environment for developmentally disabled adults. Part of Our House's mission includes purchasing and maintaining group homes where each resident receives individualized treatment, and is encouraged to reach their potential for a productive and enjoyable life. Our House has group homes located throughout New Jersey, and, with K&L Gates' help, the organization is in the process of adding two new group homes. Additionally, we are assisting in the advancement of a line of credit to ensure the goals of Our House are well-funded.

From the moment I began work on this matter, it has been an invaluable experience. On the first home purchase transaction, I was assigned the project from the beginning – negotiating the contract. Along with the assistance and watchful eye of senior real estate associate Mark Mako, I negotiated the contract terms on behalf of Our House. We also helped Our House obtain a mortgage loan for the property. This too required negotiation of the loan commitment terms with the lender. Through various letters and phone calls with the lender's counsel, we obtained favorable terms for Our House, so the purchase of the group home will become a reality. Additionally, acting as purchaser's counsel requires the drafting of numerous documents, particularly with a non-profit corporation that is highly regulated by the state. Although I have assisted in the drafting of loan and transactional documents in the past, it was a different experience to work on the project from the ground up, and obtain the information directly from the client.

These pro bono transactional projects have allowed me to take initiative and develop my legal acumen through hands-on experience. The hours and hard work pay off when you hear the praise from an appreciative client, and you know that in a small way, K&L Gates is assisting in Our House's exceedingly worthwhile mission.

Pro Bono Work Does Double Duty

By David R. Fine, Partner, *Harrisburg*

Before I had the opportunity two years ago to file an amicus curiae brief in the Ninth Circuit on behalf of Legal Momentum (previously the NOW Legal Defense Fund), I had only a general sense of the dangers faced by victims of domestic violence. The issue had not directly touched my life, so I knew domestic violence was pervasive and horrible, but I had little more insight than that.

Then Legal Momentum asked our firm to prepare an amicus brief in support of the petition for review filed by a woman from Honduras who came to the United States, married and then found that her spouse was an abuser. She left him and then moved, but he followed her – first across the contiguous United States and then to Alaska. There, immigration authorities found her and prepared to deport her. Her fear was that, in Honduras, she'd have even less protection. An immigration judge gave scant attention to her claims of abuse, despite the federal Violence Against Women Act, which includes provisions directed specifically to the special and difficult circumstances of immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. In preparing the amicus brief, which described the need for immigration authorities and courts to give due consideration to VAWA in cases of alleged abuse, I worked with lawyers from Legal Momentum and other advocacy groups. I learned a great deal, and when the Ninth Circuit granted the woman a new immigration hearing, I was proud of the part our firm played.


We accept (and, indeed, seek out) pro bono work because it is a part of our duty as professionals. It can be, however, much more. While not every pro bono project exposes a lawyer to major public issues or problems, it is the rare pro bono effort that doesn't in some way broaden the lawyer's perspective. One need only read through the pages of this publication to see how diverse the engagements are and to appreciate how they must inevitably teach the lawyers involved not only about the pertinent legal issues, but also about the factual and social landscape from which the matters arise.

Pro bono legal work is also a wonderful way for more junior lawyers to gain hands-on experience in the law. For example, several of K&L Gates' offices accept appointments from federal courts of appeals to represent indigent litigants, most of them inmates seeking habeas corpus relief. As a result of 1996 legislation, an inmate seeking to appeal the denial of a habeas petition must obtain a "certificate of appealability" from the district court or the court of appeals. The certificate describes the issue or issues the inmate may appeal.

Because of this, lawyers taking on habeas appeals generally have the issues already chosen, a fact that makes many of those appeals helpful and appropriate vehicles for training more junior lawyers. Habeas appeals are helpful vehicles because it is critically important for law firms to train their lawyers, and there is no substitute for actual experience with real cases. We don't, as a rule, confront habeas issues for our clients outside the pro bono arena, but the skills our lawyers gain in researching, briefing and arguing are universal to appellate work, whether the subject is habeas, products liability, employment discrimination or any of the dozens of other areas in which we assist our clients.

There are many more examples, but the point is that pro bono work can do "double duty" for the lawyers who take it on. The lawyers can meet an important professional responsibility, but they can also expand their knowledge of the world and sharpen their skills in ways that are valuable for all clients.

Massachusetts Memorial Honors Fallen Firefighters



When the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts needed pro bono assistance with its Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Boston partner Thomas A. Hickey III found it easy to answer the call. Tom first met the organization's leadership in the mid-70s, when he served as counsel to the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Service. A mutual respect developed over the years, intensifying when the lawyer's son became a Massachusetts firefighter.

"K&L Gates
is a true
community
partner."

Located at the Massachusetts State House, the memorial will honor all past, present and future firefighters. Construction began in March, to be completed later this year. The memorial will stand 10 feet tall, depicting three firefighters in search-and-recovery mode. The sculpture will be anchored by a Ring of Honor, made up of 780 engraved bricks and stones that were available only to members of the fire community as a way to remember their fallen comrades.

K&L Gates was responsible for negotiating and drafting the contract between the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Fund and the artist and sculptor. Because the memorial is being installed on the grounds of the Massachusetts State House, the firm worked closely with various architectural and historical commissions. In addition, the firm provided counsel regarding suitable installation guidelines and relevant warranties from the construction counterparts.

"K&L Gates is a true community partner," said Robert McCarthy, president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts and treasurer of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Fund. "They have been invaluable in providing pro bono legal services from the inception so that we could focus on designing and building a first-class tribute to our firefighters. We look forward to continuing this partnership as we enter the final stages and the memorial goes from dream to reality."

More than \$1 million has been raised for the memorial through the Ring of Honor, a Firefighter's Gala held last June, a new firefighter's memorial license plate open to all Massachusetts drivers, and corporate and private donations.

London Lloyd George Statue Slated for Unveiling

Thanks to lawyers in K&L Gates' London office, a statue of former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George is due to be unveiled in Parliament Square London in October 2007. Property partner Piers Coleman led the pro bono team and advised on the surprisingly involved and unsurprisingly ancient statutory consents required to erect the statue. Construction lawyers Kevin Greene and Edward Banyard Smith negotiated a contract with the statue's sculptor, Professor Glynn Williams.

David Lloyd George, who was nicknamed "the Welsh Wizard" by admirers, is recognized as one of the great social reformers and is most famous for introducing the liberal "People's Budget" as chancellor of the exchequer in 1909. He went on to serve as prime minister between 1916 and 1922.

Mergers Expand Girl Scout's Reach

For more than 15 years, Spokane of counsel Peter Moyé has supported the Girl Scouts Inland Empire Council's efforts to help girls build character and skills for success in the real world. As pro bono general counsel, Peter recently served as the closing agent in the council's sale of property and drafted a reciprocal easement to provide a septic system for some of the council's summer camp property in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Peter also advised on the recent merger of the Inland Empire Council with the Girl Scouts Mid-Columbia Council. The merger enables the new council to serve high-quality program content on a consistent basis to more than 5,200 girls in 21 counties throughout Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Peter assisted in drafting the new council's proposed bylaws, articles of amendment, articles of merger and agreement of merger.

Likewise, attorneys in the Seattle office have had a long and rewarding relationship with the Girl Scouts-Totem Council and are currently advising the council on its merger with the Pacific Peaks Council, located in southwestern Washington. The new council will serve most of Western Washington, with more than 28,000 girls in 17 counties.

UK Community Center Settles Employment Claim

K&L Gates' London employment practice came to the rescue of the South Mitcham Community Centre when the SMCA found itself on the wrong end of a former caretaker's employment tribunal claim for constructive dismissal. The caretaker resigned and brought the claim following a disagreement regarding his performance, overtime and his personal use of the center. The claim was not a strong one and had undoubtedly been brought with a view to force the SMCA to offer a settlement payment. K&L Gates agreed to represent the SMCA pro bono, and trainee solicitor Susannah Jarvis took on the day-to-day running of the case. The claim was finally settled shortly before the hearing on terms favorable to the SMCA. The client, who dreaded reliving these discussions before the Employment Tribunal, was grateful for the firm's efforts.



Pro Bono Project Aids Immigrant Justice

Since the project's inception in 2003, K&L Gates has been a strong supporter of Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice, a Seattle-area joint initiative of the ABA Commission on Immigration and the Microsoft Corporation that offers free legal assistance to detained immigrants seeking asylum or other forms of relief before the immigration courts. Over the last several years, the firm has also had the privilege of representing many individual clients through VAIJ. At last count, 15 K&L Gates lawyers had worked on VAIJ cases, often handling multiple representations. In addition, one of the firm's lawyers spent a year on staff with VAIJ through K&L Gates' Public Interest Fellowship program.

The matters referred by VAIJ could not be of more critical and life-changing importance to the clients, which make the representations among the most meaningful that lawyers can encounter. Currently, partner Tom Wolfendale and associate Cris Leffler are representing a 17-year-old Honduran youth, who is seeking asylum in this country following a life of parental abuse and gang violence. The two will work in the state courts and the federal immigration court to seek long-term protection and residency for this client.

In another case referred by VAIJ, associate Carley Andrews recently received word that her client has been found eligible for U visa relief, a form of relief available to persons in the United States who have been victims of certain crimes and have been helpful to law enforcement officials in investigating or prosecuting such crimes. The client is a teenage girl, now 17, who entered the United States when she was 16 years old. A victim of a sexual assault crime, the girl was apprehended by immigration authorities, and has spent the better part of a year living in government custody while applying for U visa relief. Her eligibility for such relief allows her to remain in the United States, be released from custody, and apply for an employment authorization.



Family Granted Asylum – and a Second Chance

With the support of K&L Gates, a Haitian family was granted political asylum – and the chance for a new life in the United States.

The family initially came to the United States to visit relatives. Prior to their arrival, the family experienced several attacks by armed men who opposed the husband and father's efforts to promote democratic political and economic changes in Haiti. A few days after they arrived, they learned that the man's cousin, who had been very active in the same political group, was shot dead in the street. Relatives believed this to be a politically motivated killing and warned the family not to return to Haiti. The family needed assistance in seeking asylum to remain in the United States.


as interpreters; Chris Michalski, who served as an asylum officer in a mock interview; and Sue Harmon, Ava Hom, Jennifer Cowan, Michelle Borello and Mary Ann Roman, who provided extensive support. In addition, Woody Turner recruited a volunteer plastic surgeon to conduct a medical exam of the man's wife to confirm the nature of wounds she had sustained during a previous attack in Haiti.

At the successful conclusion of this project, Jennifer Georges remarked, "As a society, Americans too often take basic freedom for granted. Working on immigration matters, and specifically asylum cases, I am reminded how lucky I am to live in the United States and partake in the many freedoms granted by our Constitution."

[The parents] can now look forward to ... raising their two young children without fear of political intimidation.

Two local organizations, the pro bono asylum project administered by the Jewish Family & Children Services of Pittsburgh's Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center and the Allegheny County Bar Association, referred the Pittsburgh family to K&L Gates. The firm's team included Erin Pohland, Barbara Bower and Jamie Burchianti-Lopez, who prepared the asylum application; Jennifer Georges and Eliza Hall, who acted

As a result of the asylum grant, the husband, an engineer, and his wife, a biology teacher-turned-healthcare assistant, can now look forward to gaining meaningful work and raising their two young children without fear of political intimidation.



Washington, D.C. Nonprofit Makes Affordable Housing a Reality

On January 25, 2007, THC Affordable Housing closed on the purchase of a vacant 32-unit apartment building in northwest Washington, D.C. This deal marked the latest success in a seven-year partnership between parent organization Transitional Housing Corporation and K&L Gates lawyers in the firm's Washington, D.C. office.



“The attorneys at K&L Gates played a critical role ... and we couldn't have done this without their help.”

THC is a nonprofit that provides transitional housing to formerly homeless families in Washington, D.C. When the organization made plans in 2005 to create an off-shoot nonprofit, THC Affordable Housing, Inc., K&L Gates corporate partner John Steele and associate Staci Newman offered their services pro bono to help bring the entity into existence. The organization had as its charter to develop affordable housing for very low- and moderate-income individuals and families in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The two performed the legal work to create THCAH and to apply for its tax-exempt status, which THCAH received in August 2006.

The firm's services came into play again in the fall of 2006, as THCAH searched for properties that would be suitable for development into affordable housing. K&L Gates assisted THCAH in those efforts, and when the time came for THCAH to negotiate the contract to purchase the northwest Washington, D.C. apartment building, the firm took the lead. John Steele, Staci Newman and corporate partner Roger Wise created Fort Stevens Thirteenth Place Limited Partnership, a limited partnership that took title to the property, and Thirteenth Place Affordable Housing LLC, a

limited liability company that is the initial general partner of a limited partnership. Corporate paralegal James Catano assisted with numerous filings of certificates and business license applications, and made sure that all necessary documents were prepared properly.

"The attorneys at K&L Gates played a critical role in guiding us through the ins and outs of the IRS tax-exempt application and partnership formation, and we couldn't have done this without their help," said Suzanne Welch, director of affordable housing development. "As a former attorney, I understand the time and the hard work required in these types of deals."

THCAH now faces the daunting challenge of securing and raising funds to renovate the long-vacant property into attractive living space for its residents, as well as providing residential services that will enable residents to prosper.

"We greatly appreciate the commitment and support from all of our friends at K&L Gates and look forward to inviting you to the ground breaking and eventual grand opening of 32 units of newly renovated affordable housing to see the fruits of your labor," said executive director Polly Donaldson.

THCAH plans to develop other properties for affordable housing in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and these properties may involve tax credits and partnerships with other nonprofit developers. K&L Gates will continue to play an important supporting role as legal counsel to THCAH.

K&L Gates also continues to partner with parent organization THC, and hosted THC's "Living in the City" gala celebration on June 1 on the ninth floor terrace of the Washington office.

UK Charity Promotes Tourism for All

The growth in demand for travel has meant that the world is now a much smaller place. While many people can travel and experience new destinations with relative ease, Tourism for All UK is a national UK-registered charity that provides information to people with disabilities and others who may require accessible accommodations and other tourism services.

The London office has undertaken a wide variety of pro bono work for Tourism for All, including:

- drafting a fund-raising agreement for the sale of advertising space in a national guidebook;
- producing a contract to provide call center services to the charity; and
- answering specific questions about the application of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Later this year, the firm will also review the charity's constitution. K&L Gates looks forward to continuing to build our relationship with Tourism for All UK.

Portland Receives Pro Bono Challenge Award

In 2006, attorneys in K&L Gates' Portland office provided more than 1,043 hours of pro bono service, including assisting Hurricane Katrina survivors, helping local government draft municipal debt legislation, serving Mercy Corps and working on a land trust to protect Oregon's natural heritage. This work earned them the Oregon State Bar Association's Pro Bono Challenge Award for the Highest Level of Service for Direct Representation in 2006.

In addition, the Oregon State Bar is undertaking a new program to persuade more law firms to integrate explicit support of pro bono work into their firms' policies and practices; such support will hopefully lead to more attorneys doing more pro bono work. To this end, the Bar's Pro Bono Committee recently developed a model pro bono policy and other tools for Oregon law firms to use in crafting their own written policies. Associate Phil Bender, who currently serves as the committee's secretary, endorsed the use of the legacy Preston Gates firm's pro bono policy as an example of a functional and effective means to both promote and guide firm attorneys' pro bono work. Phil also served on the subcommittee that drafted the model policy, a worksheet to guide firms through the creation or modification of their own policies, and a handbook that discusses the issues that can arise when crafting a pro bono policy.

In addition to providing guidance in the development of a model policy and supporting materials, K&L Gates participated, along with several other firms, in a test run of these tools. During the test run, the firm provided feedback to the Bar on early drafts of the materials and evaluated the firm's existing pro bono policy in light of the materials.

Ridley Named Volunteer of the Year

Honoring the Dallas lawyer for his work on behalf of low-income tenants, the Housing Crisis Center named K&L Gates partner Paul Ridley 2006 Volunteer of the Year. A fixture at the HCC's weekly landlord-tenant clinics, Paul devoted many hours to advancing the mission of the HCC and assisting its clients. The organization presented Paul with the award at a lunch in his honor in April.

The HCC was founded in 1978 to combat homelessness and assist the elderly, the disabled and families with children obtain decent, affordable housing. Through its staff of 20 employees and 200 volunteers, the HCC assists approximately 20,000 Dallas residents resolve issues with their landlords, avoid eviction and find decent housing. The HCC offers a variety of programs, including educational programs; regular clinics where volunteer lawyers are available to advise and educate tenants about their rights; and a volunteer attorney program that matches pro bono counsel to low-income tenants in need of representation in eviction proceedings and other litigation against landlords. The HCC also provides transitional housing to families with children who have lost their housing.

For several years, the Dallas office has supported the HCC by staffing a monthly clinic and representing low-income clients in landlord-tenant matters.

Paul devoted many hours
to advancing the mission
of the HCC and
assisting its clients.

