

Robinson+Cole

Pro Bono

At a Glance

June 2015

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MESSAGE FROM PETER KNIGHT, CHAIR

Since assuming the role of pro bono partner in November, I've fielded dozens of inquiries and requests from our Robinson+Cole colleagues interested in taking on pro bono cases and opening new matters. The breadth of the matters, the range of worthy clients, and the enthusiasm of our lawyers to do this work is inspiring. The work runs the gamut, from business and regulatory counseling to litigation and tax support and our clients come to us from a host of sources, including our network of approved referral agencies, firm clients, and individual contacts. While I always had a general sense that many of our lawyers were contributing to our pro bono efforts, I now see just how deep and wide that commitment runs.



I am continuing to come up to speed on the mechanics of running our pro bono efforts, from determining whether potential matters meet our pro bono criteria to assisting with NBI. Ed Heath is a patient and willing resource. Please keep the calls coming! There are also a number of guidance documents and forms on the firm's Intranet (at the bottom of the Internal Resources page). Some of these are slightly outdated, but if you have questions, it's a good place to start. We're working on revising the forms.

Thanks to all the lawyers and staff who share the firm's commitment to giving back! It's made my transition an easy one.

POP-UP PIE PARTY RECOGNIZES ROBINSON+COLE'S PRO BONO EFFORTS



The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC) surprised the lawyers in Robinson+Cole's Hartford office on February 20, 2015, when they showed up with over a dozen pies to thank them for their ongoing pro bono work for CVLC. Robinson+Cole has provided pro bono services to CVLC from the time of its early days. Since 2011, the firm has assisted 24 veterans with a wide variety of legal issues and donated an estimated \$170,000 worth of lawyer time.

The pies were generously donated by Lyman Orchards and Bishop's Orchards. Mark A. Dubois, president of the Connecticut Bar Association, was also in attendance.

Photo: From left to right are Robinson+Cole lawyers Peter R. Knight, pro bono partner; William J. Egan; Edward V. O'Hanlan; and Edward J. Heath, with Margaret Middleton from CVLC.

MEGAN NAUGHTON JOINS CONNECTICUT'S STATEWIDE LEGAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Megan R. Naughton, co-chair of Robinson+Cole's Immigration Group, has joined the Board of Directors of Connecticut's Statewide Legal Services (SLS). SLS, part of the Connecticut Network for Legal Aid, consists of several nonprofit legal services organizations whose shared mission is to improve the lives of Connecticut's poorest citizens by providing free legal services to low-income individuals. SLS empowers low-income people in Connecticut to obtain justice by providing tools and information to address their civil legal needs. The organization believes that everyone should have access to justice and provides advice over the phone, mails information, or refers clients to a legal services office or private lawyer at no cost to the client.

ROBINSON+COLE FEATURED IN PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to the tireless efforts of many of our colleagues, the Pro Bono Partnership featured Robinson+Cole in its April newsletter as the subject of its "Volunteer Spotlight." The firm was noted as a "...premier 'go-to' law firm" for the Pro Bono Partnership. Robinson+Cole has handled over 200 matters to date for clients of the Pro Bono Partnership.

The firm has a close and long-standing relationship with the Pro Bono Partnership, which provides free business and transactional legal services to nonprofit organizations serving the disadvantaged or enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Corporate and transactional lawyers in the Connecticut and New York offices interested in taking on a new pro bono matter should contact Peter Knight for a list of current matters.

ROBINSON+COLE NEGOTIATES FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR ECHO

Land use lawyers Brian R. Smith and Evan J. Seeman negotiated a favorable settlement on behalf of Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities, Inc. (ECHO) that will save ECHO more than \$35,000 in real property tax payments. Mr. Smith and Mr. Seeman first challenged the City of Norwich's assessments of three ECHO properties at the local level, before the City of Norwich Board of Assessment Appeals, and then commenced suit in the Superior Court. ECHO can use the savings to further its goal to provide affordable housing to low-income families in southeastern Connecticut.

PETER KNIGHT AND PRIYA MORGANSTERN SPEAK TO QU STUDENTS

Peter Knight, pro bono partner, and Priya Morganstern, director of the Pro Bono Partnership's Hartford

program, traveled to Hamden on April 7, 2015, to meet with students at the Quinnipiac University School of Law to discuss pro bono opportunities for young lawyers. Mr. Knight and Ms. Morganstern gave complementary presentations from their perspectives as a lawyer in private practice and a pro bono services provider. Whether headed for private practice, in-house counsel, or the public sector, the law students were keenly interested in incorporating pro bono work in their practices.

JIM NAULT REPRESENTS ROBINSON+COLE AT INTERVAL HOUSE RECEPTION

Business litigation lawyer James R. Nault represented the firm at a National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) event, the "Night of Giving Reception," held in the Hartford office of Jackson Lewis P.C. on May 5, 2015. In lieu of a registration fee, attendees at the reception, which benefited Interval House Connecticut, were asked to bring gift cards for area grocery stores, drug stores, and department stores; sheets, blankets, and comforters; and pajamas for women and children.

At the reception, which Robinson+Cole co-sponsored, Cecile Enrico, the executive director of Interval House, and Karen Jarmoc, the chief executive officer of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), both spoke about the work their organizations do to combat domestic violence and expressed appreciation for support from the firm and other contributors.

NAWL promotes the interests and progress of women lawyers and women's legal rights. Interval House works to prevent and break the cycle of family and intimate partner abuse by providing a 24-hour hotline, crisis counseling, emergency shelter, support groups, criminal and civil court advocacy, information and referrals, community education, and a program for the children of clients.

BRIAN MORAN RECEIVES COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD FOR *THE JUSTICE IMPERATIVE*



Robinson+Cole partner Brian E. Moran received the Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative's Urdang-Torres Community Impact Award on March 27, 2015, at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, Connecticut, for his book *The Justice Imperative: How Hyper-Incarceration Has Hijacked the American Dream*. This award honors a person, agency, or advocate who has worked tirelessly to promote the betterment of those reentering society from incarceration.

In *The Justice Imperative*, Mr. Moran and the Malta Justice Initiative tackle the problem of the rapidly growing prison population in the United States. The book outlines 30 specific reforms for Connecticut's legislative and executive branches to consider that look to less costly, more effective, and more humane alternatives.

2015 PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

[Peter R. Knight](#) | [Kenneth C. Baldwin](#) | [Karla L. Chaffee](#) | [Kathleen E. Dion](#)

[Edward J. Heath](#) | [Gregory J. Ligelis](#) | [Megan R. Naughton](#)

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