

Jenner & Block Receives Corporate Pro Bono Partner Award

Publications

August 23, 2021

The Pro Bono Institute (PBI) honored Jenner & Block with its Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO) Partner Award for the collaborative efforts with McDonald's Corporation and the National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC) in achieving asylum for several pro bono clients.

For several years, volunteers from the legal department of McDonald's have partnered with Jenner & Block and Goldberg Kohn Ltd. on approximately 20 cases referred by NIJC, working collaboratively to represent immigrants applying for asylum.

By working together, the in-house and law firm lawyers and staff share resources and divide responsibilities, such as interviewing and developing rapport with clients who have been through harrowing situations; drafting the client's affidavits and briefs; reviewing medical, news, and police reports; gathering personal statements from the client's relatives; meeting with expert witnesses; and preparing for immigration court hearings. The partnership has obtained asylum for numerous individuals who are fleeing persecution and violence in their home countries, and seeking to create a new life for themselves and their families in the United States.

Partner Wade A. Thomson leads the collaborative efforts of this important partnership. Other firm lawyers and staff involved throughout the collaboration include Partners Jennifer S. Amerkhail, Mark Davis, Terri L. Mascherin, Mike McNamara, Andrew F. Merrick, Megan B. Poetzel, Gay Sigel, and Howard J. Symons; Associates Umer M. Chaudhry, Brian B. Druchniak, Brenna J. Field, Maria del Carmen González, Meg Hlousek, Sam Jahangir, Ari Kanavy, Elpitha B. Lambros, Lindsey A. Lusk, Philip B. Sailer, and Hope H. Tone-Keefe; Attorneys Jennifer Beach, Edmundo Cuevas, Pedro Fernandez, and Anthony Nguyen; and several professional staff members including Terri Busch, Zulaikha Master, Fallon McDowell, Tricia Peavler, Margaret Petit, Paul Ramonas, and James Walsh.

Mr. Thomson and the legal teams were recognized for the CPBO Pro Bono Partner Award on October 14 at 6:30pm ET during PBI's Annual Awards Gala.

Related Attorneys

Jenny Beach

Special Counsel
jbeach@jenner.com
+1 312 840 8652

Mark Davis

Partner
mgdavis@jenner.com
+1 202 639 6057

Mari Carmen Gonzalez

Associate
mgonzalez@jenner.com
+1 312 840 7334

Lindsey A. Lusk

Partner
llusk@jenner.com
+1 312 840 7367

Terri Mascherin

Partner
tmascherin@jenner.com
+1 312 923 2799

Michael McNamara

Partner
mmcnamara@jenner.com
+1 213 239 5149

Andrew Merrick

Partner
amerrick@jenner.com
+1 312 840 7695

Megan B. Poetzel

Partner
mpoetzel@jenner.com
+1 312 923 2823

Philip B. Sailer

Associate
psailer@jenner.com
+1 312 840 7267

Howard J. Symons

Partner
hsymons@jenner.com
+1 202 639 6078

Wade A. Thomson

Partner
wthomson@jenner.com
+1 312 840 8613

Hope H. Tone-O'Keefe

Partner
htoneokeefe@jenner.com
+1 312 840 7286

Shaun M. Van Horn

Partner
svanhorn@jenner.com
+1 312 840 8868

Related Capabilities

Real Estate and Hospitality

Related Locations

Chicago

© 2026 Jenner & Block LLP. Attorney Advertising. Jenner & Block LLP is an Illinois Limited Liability Partnership including professional corporations. This publication, presentation, or event is not intended to provide legal advice but to provide information on legal matters and/or firm news of interest to our clients and colleagues. Readers or attendees should seek specific legal advice before taking any action with respect to matters mentioned in this publication or at this event. The attorney responsible for this communication is Brent E. Kidwell, Jenner & Block LLP, 353 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654-3456. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Jenner & Block London LLP, an affiliate of Jenner & Block LLP, is a limited liability partnership established under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA and is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority with SRA number 615729. Information regarding the data we collect and the rights you have over your data can be found in our Privacy Notice. For further inquiries, please contact dataprotection@jenner.com.

Stay Informed

