

CLEARY GOTTlieb

# Pro Bono Practice Highlights

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# 2023 At-a-Glance

**Top Pro Bono  
Firm, Ranked  
No. 26**

*American Lawyer*

**President's Pro Bono  
Service Award**

*New York State Bar Association*

**Institutional  
Cornerstone  
Award**

*Lawyers Alliance  
for New York*

**Pro Bono  
Publico Award**

*The Legal Aid Society*

**700+**

Pro Bono  
Clients Served  
Globally

**95%**

U.S. Lawyer  
Pro Bono  
Participation

**International  
Pro Bono  
Excellence  
Honoree**

*Cyrus R. Vance Center*

**ODEIB  
Educational  
Pipeline Award**

*New York City  
Bar Association*

**85,000+**

Global Pro Bono and  
Public Service Hours

**Marvin Frankel  
Award for  
Pro Bono Service**

*Human Rights First*

**100%**

Summer Associate  
Pro Bono  
Participation

**96**

Average Pro Bono  
Hours Per  
U.S. Lawyer

**PILnet Local  
Impact Award**

*Legal Helpdesk for  
Asylum Seekers by  
Brussels Bar Association*

**Most Effective Pro Bono  
Partnership**

*LawWorks, Afghan Pro Bono Initiative*

**Pro Bono  
Team of the Year**

*Kids in Need of Defense  
(KIND)*

**Collaboration  
Award**

*Inaugural National Literacy  
Trust Business Awards*

# Pro Bono at Cleary Gottlieb

Rooted in a culture of professional responsibility, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to improving the communities in which we live and work, Cleary Gottlieb fully embraces the duties of good global citizenship through our pro bono efforts. Our dedication to pro bono work mirrors our approach to our paying cases: prioritizing the needs of the client. At Cleary, addressing the legal needs of marginalized communities is not just an obligation, but a core aspect of our firm's ethos.

Our Pro Bono team offers a wealth of experience in the law of tax-exempt organizations, humanitarian immigration relief,

civil and criminal litigation, and educational pipeline work. Our Pro Bono Committee has three geographic-specific cohorts and includes partner-level Committee Chairs along with members at all levels of seniority situated across our offices, creating ample opportunity for pro bono engagement.

Cleary's Pro Bono team looks to our legal services partner organizations to advise us on how we can deploy the firm's resources in ways that prioritize community and global needs. We work hand-in-hand with these organizations, to effect meaningful change and work toward equal access to justice for all.

## Pro Bono Leadership



**Jeremy Calsyn**  
Partner  
*D.C. Pro Bono Committee  
Co-Chair*



**Christopher P. Moore**  
Partner  
*London Pro Bono Committee  
Chair*



**Gwendolyn Washington**  
Pro Bono Attorney



**Patrick Fuller**  
Counsel  
*D.C. Pro Bono Committee  
Co-Chair*



**Katherine Hughes**  
Pro Bono Counsel &  
Director



**Yudany Oviedo**  
Senior Pro Bono Specialist



**Roger Cooper**  
Partner  
*NY Pro Bono Committee  
Co-Chair*



**Byron Spring**  
Pro Bono Managing  
Attorney – EMEA



**Olivia Kreidler**  
Pro Bono Specialist



**Liza Lenas**  
Partner  
*NY Pro Bono Committee  
Co-Chair*



**Nigar Shaikh**  
Pro Bono Attorney



**Kalia Onabanjo**  
Community Engagement  
Specialist



**Maureen Linch**  
Partner  
*CA Pro Bono Committee  
Chair*



**Ludivine Van der Heyden**  
Pro Bono Immigration  
Attorney



**Joanne Altman**  
Pro Bono Administrative  
Assistant

# Immigration

Representing immigrants and refugees is at the core of Cleary's pro bono practice, and we have devoted hundreds of thousands of hours in support of these efforts. Our immigration work includes asylum, habeas petitions, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Violence Against Women Act self-petitions, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, T-Visas, U-Visas, Temporary Protected Status, refugee resettlement, cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, and naturalization. We work hard on behalf of our clients to obtain life-saving humanitarian immigration relief in the United States. The firm also litigates matters to uphold and defend the rights of immigrants to ensure that, once they are in the United States, they are guaranteed due process and access to justice.

**200+**

Full Representation  
Immigration  
Clients

**21,000+**

Global  
Immigration  
Pro Bono Hours

**50+**

Global  
Active Asylum  
Matters

**16**

Individuals Reunited  
in the U.S. through  
Consular Processing





# Immigration

## FTCA Litigation

Cleary is committed to providing holistic support to our humanitarian immigration clients. For example, we have been working with a Russian/Ukrainian physician couple who faced prosecution and imprisonment as a result of their public opposition to the war with Ukraine. Upon fleeing to the United States, the couple fled Russia for the United States, where they were arrested and detained in Louisiana by ICE.

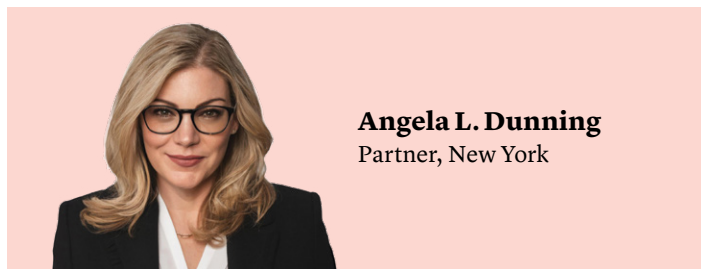
We have now successfully secured asylum for them and are currently working to adjust their status to lawful permanent residents. In addition, we are representing them in their Foreign Tort Claims Act cases with RFK Human Rights, asserting misconduct and negligent acts of immigration officers during their inhumane six-month ICE detention.

Cleary and RFK Human Rights are also representing a lawful permanent resident who was wrongfully deported back to the Gambia and suffered severe medical neglect as a result in a separate FTCA litigation.



**Kenneth S. Blazejewski**  
Partner, New York

“After the tragic events surrounding the American withdrawal from Afghanistan, I jumped at the opportunity to represent Afghan asylum applicants arriving in this country. I was awed by the bravery and accomplishments of my clients, which included an Afghan journalist from *The Washington Post* fleeing retribution from the Taliban and a group of Afghan college students eager to continue their education in America. As a corporate lawyer, I was particularly grateful for Cleary’s deep immigration experience and resources, which allowed me to get up to speed quickly on the asylum application process.”



**Angela L. Dunning**  
Partner, New York

“It is an honor to represent those who have fought through unspeakable hardships, persecution, and, in some cases, torture and near-death, to reach the United States in search of a safe, new life for themselves and their children. I have been so fortunate to meet and work with brave asylees from around the world and watch them thrive upon securing the immigration relief to which they are entitled under the law. We do asylum work to make a positive change in the lives of others, but our own lives are enriched many times over in return.”

## Humanitarian Immigration Relief in Times of Global Crisis

**Affirmative Asylum:** Cleary is proud to continue its work representing dozens of Afghan nationals with their asylum claims and has already successfully secured asylum for a female journalist working for *The New York Times*, a former student of the American University in Kabul, and a displaced student now at Bard College.

**Temporary Protected Status:** Cleary is also committed to deploying its resources swiftly to meet the needs of communities in crisis, including assisting Ukrainian and Venezuelan nationals with pro se clinics to help prepare their Temporary Protected Status applications.

**Thought Leadership:** The firm has also actively engaged with numerous nonprofits and governmental bodies to brainstorm and troubleshoot efforts to respond to the increased numbers of new arrivals in our country and especially in New York City. We continue to bring thought leadership and technical expertise to these conversations, serving as a go-to firm for piloting new projects.

# Human Rights & Domestic Policy

Cleary is deeply committed to the advancement of justice and positive social change at home and around the world. Internationalism is at the core of our identity as a firm, and we frequently leverage the experience, knowledge, and passion of our lawyers, clients, and legal service organizations to advance social change in the areas of human rights, women's empowerment, reproductive rights, and policy reform.

**11**

Cleary Offices  
Engaged in  
Human Rights  
Pro Bono

**238**

Cleary Personnel  
Engaged in  
Human Rights  
Work

**6,500+**

Human Rights Pro Bono Hours Globally



**Rishi N. Zutshi**  
Partner, New York

“Human Rights Watch, the ACLU, and the Sentencing Project are doing critical work to champion the right to vote for people whose rights have been limited based on their interactions with the criminal justice system. I am grateful that our team has had the opportunity to contribute to these efforts, which seek to bring more people into our electoral process and to achieve a fairer and more democratic society.”



## Human Rights & Policy



### International Human Rights

We partner with the leading international organizations to fight for transparency, equality, and truth. This critical work includes:

- Monitoring the criminal trials of vulnerable individuals around the world, including political dissidents, journalists, and members of the LGBTQ+ community
- Launching a collaborative project with the Clooney Foundation for Justice that examines the efficacy of human rights decisions and involves 156 attorneys across 11 of our offices
- Embedding within a transitional justice team to provide legal and technical support in the implementation of a new governance framework in a nation that has been devastated by conflict
- Providing strategic litigation advice to the Vance Center's innovative human-rights-based Women in Prison project



### Reproductive Rights

More than ever, we stand committed to ensuring that everyone has access to the reproductive and maternal healthcare care they want and need.

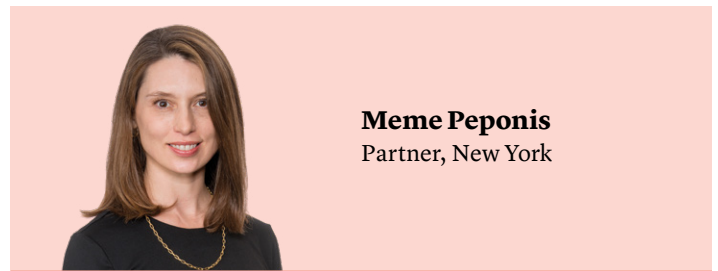
- Our longstanding partnership with the Center for Reproductive Rights encompasses legal projects that advance access to sexual and reproductive healthcare around the world.
- We have forged partnerships with the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, If/When/How, and others to support critical research in the wake of the *Dobbs* opinion.
- We are particularly proud of our work in Alabama, where we have worked with Pregnancy Justice to end the imposition of unconstitutional bail conditions on pregnant women and new mothers.
- We support various nonprofits with corporate and strategic litigation advice as they expand their activities in response to increasing restrictions on access to maternal and reproductive healthcare.



### Gun Policy & Safety

Gun safety advocacy work has been a focus of Cleary's pro bono practice since the Sandy Hook school tragedy in 2012. Since those early days of engagement, we have worked on a range of matters to address this public safety epidemic, developing relationships with the leading organizations in this space, including the Brady Center, the Giffords Law Center, and Everytown for Gun Safety.

From our amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which was cited in the dissent, to developing a critical report analyzing national legislation on the prohibition of firearms for violent hate crime offenders, to providing significant support in *Soto v. Bushmaster*, our commitment to pursuing a safer world for all is clear.



**Meme Peponis**  
Partner, New York

"It has been my honor to collaborate with teams of Cleary associates over the years in support of advancing and upholding human rights around the globe. From our work with IRAP in response to the fall of Kabul in 2021 to partnering with PILPG to support peace-building efforts in regions transitioning out of conflict, our lawyers have been passionate advocates for justice and equality. This work is especially meaningful to me, and I look forward to finding new ways to support our lawyers in collaboration with our partners in the field."



# Criminal Justice & Reform

Criminal defense and criminal justice reform are a cornerstone of Cleary's pro bono practice. With our legal services partners, we tackle these issues on multiple fronts — by representing and advocating for individuals, seeking post-conviction relief, drafting model legislation, pursuing policing reform through strategic litigation to address systemic injustices, and more. In all of our work on these complex issues, we aim to realize a more equitable justice system for all.

## KEY PROJECTS

**The Bronx  
Defenders**

**Redefining  
public  
defense.**

Co-counseled with **The Bronx Defenders** to win substantial settlement for a client who sued the NYPD after she was arrested without basis and subjected to physical and emotional harm.

**THE  
LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY**


In partnership with **The Legal Aid Society Case Closed Project** and **Verizon**, assisting eligible low-income New Yorkers with their applications to seal eligible criminal convictions.

**ACLU**  
Maryland

Working with the **ACLU of Maryland** and the **Maryland Parole Partnership** to represent elderly and otherwise vulnerable clients serving life sentences in Maryland in their parole proceedings.

**THE  
LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY**

Securing resentencing relief for eligible clients serving lengthy terms under New York's innovative Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act in partnership with **The Legal Aid Society**.



**“The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned.”**

Attorney and advocate **Bryan Stevenson**, in his memoir *Just Mercy*

## Criminal Justice & Reform

### Policing Reform & Accountability

As part of our longstanding commitment to racial justice and policing reform, Cleary and the Washington Lawyers Committee recently filed a § 1983 civil rights action against a special police officer agency following an unprovoked and brutal assault on our client. The case raises concerns about the authority granted to special police officers in D.C. and the use of those agencies without community consent.

We are also co-counseling with The Bronx Defenders in a long-running class action lawsuit against the City of New York and the NYPD arising from their practice of illegally using and sharing information from sealed arrest records in defiance of privacy laws—a practice that disproportionately harms Black and brown New Yorkers. After we filed in 2018, the NY Supreme Court ordered the NYPD to overhaul its technological systems to end the practice after ruling the City was in violation of NY’s sealing laws. The NYPD has appealed the remedial order giving force and effect to the preliminary injunction stopping the NYPD’s systematic violation of sealing statutes and the First Department recently heard oral argument. We continue to litigate this matter and many others, working to ensure institutional accountability and long-term reform.

### Post-Conviction Advocacy

Beyond achieving systemic change, Cleary is committed to providing holistic post-conviction representation to those charged with crimes. For example, we recently successfully appealed multiple armed robbery convictions on behalf of a client who has maintained his innocence throughout. As part of the appeal, the team litigated a petition for ineffective assistance of counsel, challenging the convictions based on our client’s former defense counsel’s failure to challenge deficient photo identifications and cellphone tracking evidence. The team consulted with a cell phone expert whose research revealed that our client’s cellphone was several miles away from the scene of the alleged robberies.

The motion was recently granted, vacating our client’s convictions. We supported the client in entering a plea agreement, which resulted in his release from prison. He is now living with family and has reintegrated into his community.



**Tom Bednar**  
Counsel, Washington, D.C.

“Trial lawyers have to be fighters, and our team of litigators is fighting for a good cause. Private security guards acting under color of law not only didn’t protect our client—they viciously attacked him in front of his small children. We are fighting to hold these officers and their employers accountable, while also advocating for reform, so that this does not happen to anyone ever again.”



**Victor Hou**  
Partner, New York

“I believe the highest calling in our profession is representing clients who feel powerless and without a voice and advocating for them relentlessly until their voice can be heard and justice can be done. There is no greater reward than walking beside your client out of the courthouse into freedom and the light of day.”



# Corporate & Transactional Focus

The knowledge and skills of our corporate and transactional attorneys have allowed us to expand our practice into impact investing, environmental law, complex tax and nonprofit law matters, and broader small business support. Our corporate practice groups engage in a wide range of pro bono work, from structuring social impact investing funds, to documenting bond deals to fund environmental conservation, to negotiating commercial leases in support of nonprofit clients. We look forward to continuing to find new and creative ways to support our communities.



**40**

Partnerships with  
in-house teams



**120**

Attorneys participated in  
transactional legal clinics



**155**

Nonprofits supported  
throughout the year



**92%**

Participation among all  
corporate associates



**Francesca Odell**  
Partner, New York



**Synne Chapman**  
Associate, New York

“For many small business owners, the journey from concept to reality can be difficult, particularly when access to resources and traditional sources of funding is not available. I am immensely proud of the firm’s pro bono work that empowers small businesses owned by women and persons of color by providing a broad array of critical legal advice. I am also honored to serve as the chair of the Board of Start Small Think Big, which is dedicated to creating equity in entrepreneurship and helping small businesses thrive across the United States. This work brings significant joy and purpose to me and many of my Cleary colleagues.”

“I am grateful I have had the opportunity to develop a robust corporate pro bono practice at Cleary. Our pro bono team puts forth tremendous effort to organize clinics throughout the year where we are able to help small business owners navigate their legal issues, from pre-formation to formation and beyond. It’s an amazing feeling to empower our clients to feel more comfortable and confident navigating the legal side of the business world.”

## Corporate & Transactional Focus



### Nonprofits

This year, Cleary supported 155 nonprofits, charities, NGOs, and more across hundreds of pro bono matters that intersected with nearly all of the firm's practice areas. We are deeply committed to supporting our clients through each stage of the nonprofit lifecycle and are very proud of our work to advance the nonprofit sector, including through Bar association activities and local specialist networks.

Recent work includes:

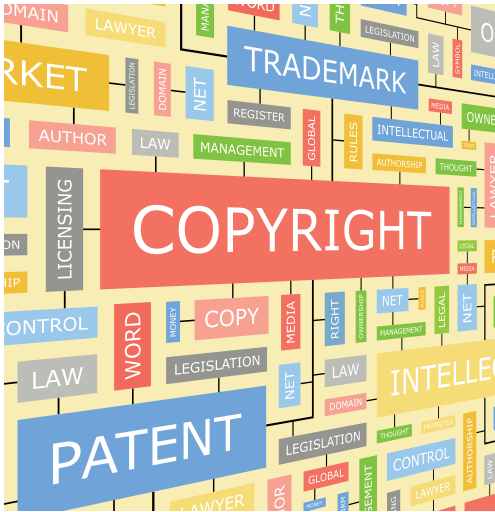
- Creating a partnership with the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to assist gun-violence prevention startups with nonprofit compliance
- Providing tax and benefits advice to one of New York City's largest public defender organizations
- Forming a nonprofit to support women transitioning out of prison in Louisiana, founded by Louisiana's first woman to be released following changes to the law on juvenile life without parole sentences
- Assisted client to register her environmental education workshops corporation as a nonprofit and to obtain expedited tax-exempt status

### Small Businesses

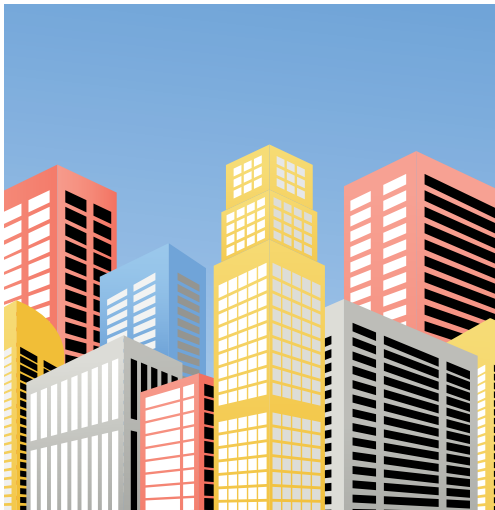
Cleary's commitment to supporting local small businesses runs deep and is the foundation of our commitment to economic equality.

- For years, we have hosted regular small business clinics, offering focused legal advice that leverages our collective experience from around firm. Through these efforts, we have advised hundreds of small businesses in New York City and across the country, primarily helping low-income entrepreneurs move forward with legal formalization and business expansion, and, in recent years, ensuring their basic survival.
- Our small business work extends to complex long-term projects, including restructuring multi-owner companies, negotiating financing arrangements with governmental agencies, spinning off business units, and transferring assets. Our teams regularly work creatively with for-profit structures and benefit corporations to ensure their continued success.





Clary's intellectual property and data privacy group is truly a powerhouse when it comes to providing our corporate and transactional clients with domestic and international advice on challenging structuring and compliance questions. Our work runs the gamut from supporting the smallest of startups with best practices advice on doing business online, copyrights and trademarks, and licensing issues to supporting nationally renowned theaters, artists, human rights organizations, and reproductive rights nonprofits with advice on how best to protect and leverage their IP assets to advance their missions. The group also regularly provides educational workshops that allow our clients to learn more about the space.



Cleary's pro bono clients engage in sophisticated real estate transactions involving leasing, property transfers, air rights, affordable housing, and more. We are incredibly proud of the support our real estate team provides, and even more impressed by the good that arises from their work. For decades, the team has used its skills to advise clients including **Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, Coney Island Prep, Breaking Ground, Mutual Housing Authority of New York, The Nature Conservancy**, and many others. The team also regularly assists local entrepreneurs with real estate advice to launch businesses that contribute to community and individual success.



Our funds team, working collaboratively with practices from across the firm, has supported dozens of clients focused on pursuing innovative revenue-generating activities and creating positive change in our world. We have supported a fund that directs capital to underrepresented founders of color and those committed to creating inclusive cultures. We've also worked closely with **The Nature Conservancy** on a fund that will strengthen the structures and practices around conservation efforts in targeted regions in Africa. For **Acumen**, we helped build a first-of-its-kind fund that provides capital to support African agricultural technology startups focused on climate change concerns.

## Corporate & Transactional Focus



**Roopan Gill**  
MD MPH FRCS,  
Vitala Global

“As CEO of Vitala Global, I’m thrilled to highlight Cleary Gottlieb’s valuable support of our mission to advance access to reproductive healthcare. Their legal team has been instrumental in our nonprofit startup journey, from navigating the 501(c)(3) formation process to guidance in IP and privacy law. Their expertise facilitated our U.S. market entry and helped us form strategic partnerships with the leading nonprofits in this space.

The legal team’s commitment to health equity aligns with our user-centered approach, and ensures that our work prioritizes the needs of the underserved communities we aim to support through our digital platform, Aya Contigo. Grateful for our ongoing collaboration with Cleary Gottlieb.”



**Justin Jamail**  
General Counsel,  
New York Botanical Garden

“Cleary Gottlieb’s unsurpassed combination of sound business judgment and sophisticated legal expertise has made a tremendous impact on the New York Botanical Garden’s ability to bring more low income senior housing to our neighborhood in the Bronx, finance our sustainability goals onsite, and advance our efforts to apply our botanical collections and plant science expertise toward addressing the global biodiversity and climate crises. For over 130 years the mission of NYBG has called us to be a resource for our community and the world, and we are so grateful for this partnership with a firm equally committed to the values inherent in good global citizenship.”

### KEY CLIENTS & PARTNERS





# LGBTQ+ Rights

Our LGBTQ+ rights practice seeks to uplift, amplify, and protect the rights of LGBTQ+ communities both at home and abroad. Our work in this area is multi-faceted, spanning strategic litigation advice and individual representation in matters such as name changes, immigration, amicus briefs, and nonprofit formations, among other legal matters. At a time when queer and transgender rights are under political and social attack, Cleary is proud to stand with the trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming community in asserting the fundamental rights and dignity of all people, regardless of their sexuality, gender identity, or gender expression.

## Supporting LGBTQ+ Nonprofits

- We are assisting several nonprofits with formalizing their status as nonprofits and obtaining recognition of their tax-exempt status, including IraQueer, Pride Wide, and others.
- For example, we are assisting MJR Love with formalizing as a nonprofit and to secure tax-exempt status. MJR Love aims to provide education and training services to educators working to empower transgender and gender non-conforming youth and their allies.

70

LGBTQ-Focused  
Organizations  
Supported

11

LGBTQ-Focused  
Amicus Briefs  
Filed Since 2021

2,800+

Hours Devoted to LGBTQ+ Issues



**Carmine D. Boccuzzi Jr.**  
Partner, New York

“It has been an absolute privilege and honor to collaborate with a group of brilliant Cleary associates and our invaluable partners at the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF). Together, we’ve crafted a series of amicus briefs advocating for the rights of nearly 60 transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming adults. *Amici* come from all walks of life and make impactful, wide-spread contributions to their communities. Our *amicus* brief brings their courageous stories to the court and public, highlighting why this community deserves the support and respect of all.”





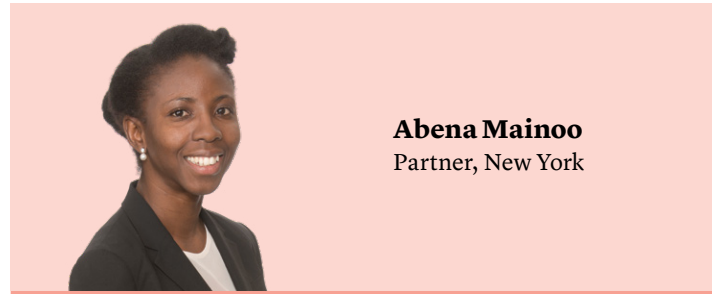
# Advancing Access to Civil Justice

## Voting Rights

Voting rights advocacy is a pillar of Cleary's civil rights and racial justice docket. In late 2022, to support equal access to voting, Cleary Gottlieb, the ACLU Voting Rights Project, and the UCLA Voting Rights Project filed a federal lawsuit against Dodge City, Kansas, as well as the Dodge City Commission and its elected members, challenging the commission's at-large method for elections. Although the city's growing Latine population comprises 64% of the city's population and 59% of its voting-age population, there have been no Latine-preferred candidates elected since at least 2000.

The lawsuit argues that the at-large system dilutes Latine residents' voting power in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and that it's possible to draw a single-member commission map providing Latine residents the opportunity to elect candidates of choice in at least two of the city's five districts.

The team engaged in a week long trial in February 2024 and is awaiting a decision.



**Abena Mainoo**  
Partner, New York

"My pro bono work has complemented other aspects of my practice throughout my career. This work enhanced my ability to discover the facts to advocate effectively for my clients, first taught me to marshal the work of a team of experts to support our clients' case, and provided early trial experience, including evidentiary motions, arguments, and witness examinations. Currently, I represent plaintiffs challenging an election system that denies their community equal opportunities to participate in the political process. Work to protect voting rights is essential, and I am appreciative of Cleary's support of this endeavor."

## Supporting Families Seeking Education Accommodations

Cleary partners with **Mobilization for Justice** and **Advocates for Children** to fight for children with disabilities to have access to legally required educational supports. We work with parents in multiple languages to bring successful claims against the NYC Department of Education (DOE) on behalf of their children, challenging the DOE's failure to provide a free and appropriate public education.

Most recently, we successfully advocated on behalf of Spanish-English bilingual twin siblings with severe learning impairments, who were denied an appropriate public education, by respectively securing for each child 700 hours and 800 hours of compensatory tutoring. Because of our quick successes in these cases, the twins' parents are now considering bringing a case on behalf of their third child who has faced similar challenges in accessing educational supports.

## Advocating for Survivors of Gender Violence

Cleary Gottlieb has a long-standing and vibrant pro bono practice supporting gender violence survivors. Our work in this area includes representing clients in petitioning for civil protection orders, assisting trafficking survivors seeking post-conviction relief, and filing amicus briefs in Hague Child Abduction Convention cases on behalf of domestic violence survivors who have had to flee their countries to protect themselves and their children from their abusers.

Most recently, Cleary is proud to participate in Sanctuary for Families' Narkis Golan International Child Abduction Initiative. Named in memory of a courageous Sanctuary client, the Initiative is dedicated to increasing access to justice for gender-based violence survivors involved in international parental abduction cases. Through this initiative, the firm supports Sanctuary in conducting screenings and intakes of potential clients, working to assess their potential Hague Convention claims, and identifying ways to keep them and their children safe.

# Cleary Gottlieb's Public Interest Fellowship

The firm is exceptionally proud of the Cleary Gottlieb Fellowship Program, which enables New York-based first-year associates to pursue one-year placements at our legal services partner organizations in an effort to support the delivery of critically needed legal work to underserved communities. Cleary Fellows work across a broad range of practice areas with host organizations, including the ACLU Voting Rights Project, Acumen, the Clooney Foundation for Justice, Legal Services NYC, the Office of the Appellate Defender, Start Small Think Big, and The Legal Aid Society.



**Lindsey M. Song**

Associate Program Director, Family Law Project Queens Family Justice Center, Sanctuary for Families

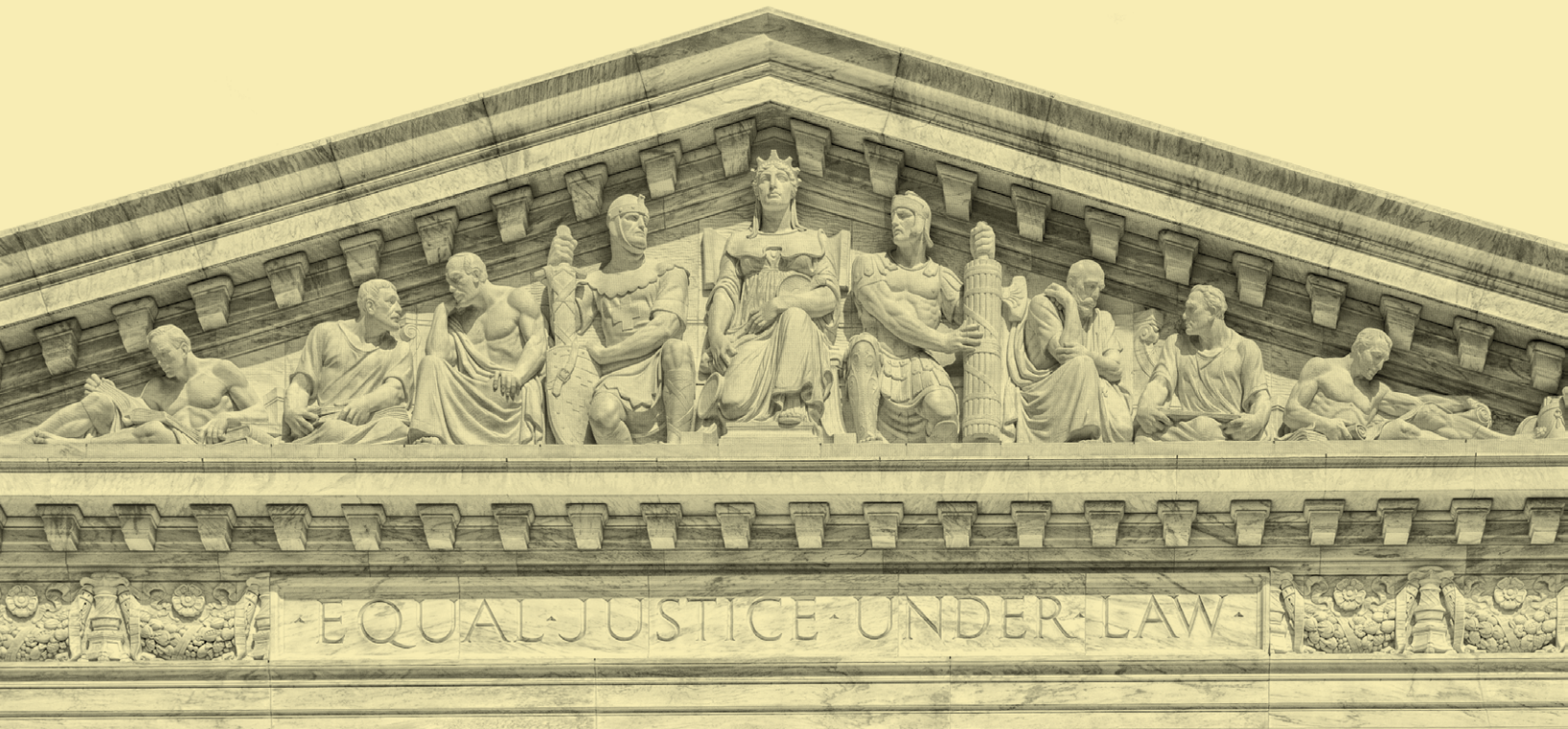


**Karen Wang**

Current Cleary Fellow, Sanctuary for Families

“Sanctuary for Families is so grateful for Cleary’s partnership through the Public Interest Fellowship initiative. This year, Sanctuary has been thrilled to work with Cleary Fellow Karen Wang. Karen has been a hardworking and passionate addition to several Sanctuary programs and has assisted with trial preparation, legal research, and supporting clients through difficult court scenarios. We are so grateful to Cleary for enabling this opportunity.”

“Joining Sanctuary as a Cleary Fellow has given me the opportunity to develop strong legal skills while affecting real change for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. The Cleary Fellowship has given me the resources and support I need to grow into a better advocate and a better lawyer.”



## What Pro Bono Means to Us



**Michael Gerstenzang**  
Partner, New York

“Pro bono work is central to who we are at Cleary—our lawyers at every level of seniority, across all practice areas and geographies, are committed to addressing the complex legal needs of the communities in which they live and work. The dedication and enthusiasm of our people to create a lasting, positive impact on the lives of others is remarkable.”



**Katherine Hughes**  
Pro Bono Counsel & Director

“Cleary’s pro bono practice is committed to improving the lives of the most vulnerable. We consistently go above and beyond to advance that mission, providing support to small businesses, to immigrants and refugees, to advocates for civil rights, and to nonprofits globally. I am continually inspired by this collective effort in pursuit of positive change.”



**Charlotte Chun**  
Associate, Silicon Valley

“Pro bono is about paying it forward. We take all of the protection and uplifting support we’ve received in our lives and extend that treatment to our clients. Pro bono work isn’t a siloed part of our legal practice, but rather, a part of our personal identities. There is no greater honor than to be accepted as a member of a client’s community and to be seen as someone who will advocate for them just as we would for our own loved ones.”



**Anirudh Sivaram**  
Associate, New York

“I feel lucky to have had the chance to work with our incredible partner organizations on a variety of projects focused on advancing and protecting reproductive rights and women’s and girls’ rights, both within and outside the United States. It’s especially rewarding to have been able to do that as part of teams with other Cleary lawyers from around the world.”



**Andrew Wasilick**  
Associate, New York

“Working with nonprofits and local small businesses to help them fulfill their goals and carry out their missions is one of the best aspects of my work at Cleary. Pro bono is a great way for me to give back to the community, while also allowing me to develop practical legal skills needed as an attorney.”



**Jessica Hollis**  
Associate, D.C.

“Pro bono has been an important part of my work from day one. Applying the skills and level of client service that I’ve learned at Cleary to advocate for individuals and nonprofits has been a rewarding way to stay engaged in the community and learn more about the law.”



# Highlighting EMEA Pro Bono

Pro Bono is central to our identity throughout the world. Cleary lawyers work together across practice areas, jurisdictions, and time zones to help those who need it most. Over the past year, we have reunited Afghan families across borders, advised displaced persons seeking shelter and healthcare, and advocated for the rights of vulnerable groups. At Cleary, we combine a commitment to supporting our local communities—serving front-line legal clinics and national nonprofits in the countries where we operate—with broader multi-jurisdictional and comparative legal analyses for international NGOs. The variety and internationalism of our pro bono efforts make Cleary a unique place to practice law.



Brussels  
London ● ● ● Cologne  
Paris ● Frankfurt  
Milan ●  
Rome ●

Beijing ●  
Seoul ●  
Hong Kong ●

Abu Dhabi ●



## Highlighting EMEA Pro Bono

In 2023, our EMEA lawyers dedicated thousands of hours to helping those in need. In London, we represented a young Afghan woman in a successful application to bring her parents and sister to safety in the United Kingdom. We defended the rights of a disabled child before the courts in Paris. In Brussels, we staffed a front-line clinic offering direct support to those fleeing conflict. In Italy, we advised a variety of organizations supporting those with a disability, protecting the environment, and promoting the arts.

Throughout EMEA, our lawyers work tirelessly to defend vulnerable groups, underserved communities, and individuals on death row. We work across offices to prepare cutting-edge multi-jurisdictional advice in areas of human rights, public international law, and sustainability. We are extremely proud of the variety of issues on which we advise pro bono, both in EMEA and globally, as well as the talented individuals who make this work possible.

### We support a variety of local and international NGOs, including:



**Save the Children®**

Save the Children in connection with projects to support women and girls in Africa.



Special Olympics Italia on various ongoing corporate, charity, and governance matters.



The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network, an organization helping refugee entrepreneurs to turn their business ideas into a reality.



**Toynbee Hall**

Toynbee Hall's monthly women-only Free Legal Advice Clinic in East London, which Cleary sponsors and staffs.



**Brussels Pro Bono Roundtable** May 24



**Laurie Achtouck-Spivak**  
Partner, Paris



**The London Legal Walk** June 13

“Pro Bono enables me to work with colleagues across our EMEA offices to support those who need it most. We have developed strategies with our pro bono clients to help those displaced by climate change and worked with our partners to defend the rights of women and girls around the world. The sheer variety of our pro bono opportunities in Europe makes Cleary a unique place to work.”



# Commitment to Community Service

Cleary is committed to supporting professional and educational pipelines for underserved young people around the world. We partner with numerous organizations to bridge the opportunity gap, enabling students to excel in higher education, the workplace, and as community leaders.



Our decades-long partnership with the **Washington Irving Campus** has a direct impact on graduation rates and college acceptances. More than 300 Cleary volunteers have made a profound impact by helping students with college admissions coaching, mock trials, mentoring, internships, and book clubs.



For close to a decade, Cleary has hosted a select group of student interns through the **Legal Outreach** summer program for a week of legal research, contract negotiation, brief writing, and litigation training. Year after year, our summer associates and attorneys collaborate to make this program a success for all participants.



Cleary is a founding member of **City Solicitors Horizons** in London, an initiative that helps students from traditionally under-represented backgrounds in the legal profession access skills training, mentoring, and work experience. Many of our mentees under this scheme have secured training contracts at top London firms.



**Kyle A. Harris**  
Partner, New York

“For over three decades, Cleary’s partnership with the Washington Irving Campus and Legal Outreach in New York City has exemplified the transformative potential of educational pipeline initiatives. As the program supervisor, I take immense pride in our commitment to not just prepare public high school students for college, but to empower them to find bright futures beyond those institutions, both within and outside the legal industry. We provide earnest mentorship, set high standards, and equip our students with opportunities to realize their great potential. We view this opportunity to invest in the future of our community as an honor and our responsibility.”

# Commitment to Public Service

Our lawyers and staff are committed to tackling many of the biggest challenges our communities are facing today. Dozens of Cleary lawyers serve on the boards of directors of nonprofit, academic, and arts organizations around the world. A sample of U.S. lawyers serving on the boards of our partner legal services organizations include:



**Charles W. Allen**  
Partner  
Lawyers Alliance for New York



**David H. Herrington**  
Partner  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law



**Nowell D. Bamberger**  
Partner  
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs



**Daniel Ilan**  
Partner  
Volunteers Lawyers for the Arts



**Jonathan Blackman**  
Senior Counsel  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law



**Mitchell A. Lowenthal**  
Senior Counsel  
Urban Justice Center



**Carmine D. Boccuzzi Jr.**  
Partner  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest



**Rahul Mukhi**  
Partner  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest



**Roger A. Cooper**  
Partner  
The Legal Aid Society



**Francesca L. Odell**  
Partner  
Sanctuary for Families  
Start Small Think Big



**Lev Dassin**  
Partner  
City Bar Justice Center  
New York City Bar Fund



**Lisa M. Schweitzer**  
Partner  
Mobilization for Justice



**Lawrence B. Friedman**  
Senior Counsel  
Family Legal Care



**Matthew D. Slater**  
Senior Counsel  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law



**Kyle A. Harris**  
Partner  
The Bronx Defenders



**Lisa Vicens**  
Partner  
Her Justice, Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, Office of the Appellate Defender



# Pro Bono Events

We regularly bring the firm together to explore current issues and developments in the pro bono space, while also celebrating the many ways our attorneys and our Cleary Fellows engage in critical work on behalf of their pro bono clients to address the most significant legal issues of our time. This year's special events included:



## Getting Incorporated: Nonprofit Formation and Structuring with the New York State Bar Association

*April 2023*



## Developments in Voting Rights Litigation with the ACLU Voting Rights Project

*April 2023*



## Exploring Cleary's JONAH Case Challenging Conversion Therapy

*June 2023*



## Advocating for a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

*June 2023*



## Overtuning the Death Penalty: Cleary's Pro Bono Commitment

*November 2023*



## Annual Holiday Small Business Pop-Up Shop in Partnership with Start Small Think Big

*November 2023*

**“If you see something that is  
not right, not fair, not just,  
you have the moral obligation  
to do something about it.”**

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**John R. Lewis**



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Founded in 1946 by lawyers committed to legal excellence, internationalism, and diversity, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is a leading international law firm with approximately 1,100 lawyers around the world. The firm has 16 closely integrated offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Paris, Brussels, London, Frankfurt, Cologne, Rome, Milan, Hong Kong, Beijing, São Paulo, Abu Dhabi, Seoul, and the Bay Area.

Under the rules of certain jurisdictions, this may constitute Attorney Advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

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