

FOCUS ON

# Pro Bono and Community Service



## PROFOUND REWARDS

### Reflection of firm values

We support and stand with organizations that further diversity, inclusiveness, and access to justice. Many attorneys serve as directors of the boards of nonprofit organizations, and we confirm our commitment as signatories to the DC Bar Pro Bono Challenge.

### Agents of change

The impact of even a few volunteer hours can last a lifetime. Our work has created social safety nets for the disadvantaged, taught job skills to the unemployed, and forged thriving partnerships that elevate our communities.

### Beyond an obligation

Stepping outside of practice areas creates new opportunities. Firm policies support billable-hour credits and office-to-office challenges. Our attorneys and staff build skills, make new connections, and expand their professional networks.

## PRO BONO AT WORK

**7,800+**  
pro bono hours annually



**100 hours** of billable hour credit for associate pro bono work



DC Bar Pro Bono Challenge

**62%**

of EBG attorneys perform pro bono work



**32% growth**

in pro bono participation in the last 3 years



**150+**  
pro bono clients



**50+**  
nonprofit board memberships

*“I am so proud to have launched our pro bono program over a decade ago and to be part of building our firm’s pro bono culture. Last year, a majority of our attorneys firm-wide performed pro bono service. We have come a long way, and we are focused on continuing to make a difference and servicing the needs of our communities.”*

Carrie Valiant, Chair, Epstein Becker Green’s Pro Bono Program

# Giving 'til it helps

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At Epstein Becker Green, we believe in the transformative power of pro bono and community service work—for both our clients and our professionals. The opportunity to connect and make a difference in a personal way is a privilege that enriches our lives and invigorates our practice.

Our commitment to giving back is as strong and varied as the needs of our communities. For more than 40 years, we have provided legal, financial, and other resources to resolve disputes and champion causes involving criminal law, financial rights, immigration rights, military affairs, education, tenants' rights, and more.

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# Help 'til there's hope

The most important measure of the value of our pro bono time—over 7,800 hours total for 2019—is its impact on our clients and communities.

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## Additional selected pro bono clients

- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- District Ethics Committee of the Supreme Court of New Jersey
- District of Columbia Bar
- El Paso County, Texas, Boarder Network for Human Rights
- Georgetown Village
- Immigration Equality
- Literacy, Inc.
- National Health Law Program
- NJ LEEP, Inc.
- Seabury Resources for the Aging
- Street Law
- Student Conservation Association
- Surfrider Foundation
- Translators Without Borders



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## Securing basics changes lives

Life's essentials—housing, sustenance, and family—are the focus of our work with the DC Bar Pro Bono Center's Advocacy & Justice Clinic. We make this part of the Summer Associate Program to immerse future lawyers in our pro bono culture from the start. We've negotiated landlord disputes so clients too frail or poor to move can remain in their homes. We've cut through red tape to restore benefits to people struggling with rejected disability claims. And our work on divorce, custody, and domestic issues has helped families move forward in a positive direction. The pro bono center serves more than 17,000 at-risk DC clients each year, and we are proud to have made a direct impact on those in need.



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## Safe havens for those at risk

Being LGBT is a crime in more than 70 countries, with many victims of homophobia and gender discrimination seeking refuge in the United States, according to Immigration Equality. The New York nonprofit's 99% asylum-win rate underscores the importance of quality legal counsel in the asylum process. Since starting our partnership with Immigration Equality in 2017, we have helped several LGBT and HIV-positive clients apply for asylum, including a transgender young man from Paraguay and a lesbian victim of homophobic attacks in Jamaica. Our clients' determination and courage inspire our commitment.



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## A lifeline of dignity

Keeping older adults healthy, independent, and safe is a monumental challenge. Seabury Resources for Aging has been meeting that need for nearly 100 years. Focused on affordable programs for housing, transportation, and social engagement, Seabury maintains dignity for the elderly and eases the burden on their caregivers. Serving 15,000 Washington, DC-area residents, the nonprofit requires well-tuned operations, management, and governance. We counsel Seabury on labor relations and union organizing, public contracting, financial reporting, and management issues, and we proudly serve on its board of directors.



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## Honoring those who serve

We support our armed forces and their families on several fronts. For example, our health care and life sciences attorneys advised on the launch of the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals—a Maryland facility that provides low- and no-cost mental health services to adults in the military and their children.

We also assist individuals directly through community outreach and veterans' legal clinics. For example, we are working with a decorated veteran of the war in Afghanistan to reverse a less-than-honorable discharge, restore his rights, and upgrade his status.

# Hope 'til there's change

When help creates hope, communities thrive. Our attorneys and staff provide valuable assistance across our neighborhoods and beyond. Through actions large and small, we bring change that elevates our communities.



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## Partner with the Peace Corps

David Poppick (Of Counsel) wanted to stretch his global awareness and impact the lives of everyday people. We supported his decision to take a sabbatical with the Peace Corps in the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

During his service, David trained Georgian lawyers on U.S. laws protecting human rights and gender equality and prohibiting discrimination. In addition, he provided organizational and operational counsel to a care center for people with disabilities.

*“The 26 months I spent with the Georgian people not only created lifelong friendships but energized my professional perspective and global outlook.”*

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## Pipeline Programs

Education and employment are key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Every year, Epstein Becker Green hosts a Future Lawyers Program, where college students come together to learn about preparing for a career in law and choosing a law school.

In addition, we are a sponsor of Street Law's Legal Diversity Pipeline Program, a program where law firms partner with a high school and teach lessons and lead activities designed to increase students' knowledge and interest in the law and legal careers.



## Inspiring good works

### Setting a moral compass: Robert D. Reif Fellowship

Known for his unwavering moral compass and high ethical standards, partner Robert D. Reif left a legacy of leadership when he passed away in 2012. In Bob's honor, we joined with the American University Washington College of Law to establish the Robert D. Reif Fellowship. Reif Fellows research issues of legal ethics and values, including sexual harassment protections, substance abuse, and ethical treatment of immigrants in the legal community, keeping Bob's convictions relevant for next-generation lawyers.

### Fulfilling a promise: The Amanda Rose Laura Foundation

The Amanda Rose Laura Foundation honors the life of Amanda Laura, the daughter of our colleague Anthony Laura and his wife, Rosemary. Her death in 2017, at age 25, was a loss felt across the firm. Amanda was passionate about closing the educational gap for underprivileged students, serving as a Teach For America educator in Chicago, and winning a Fulbright grant to teach disadvantaged children in Madrid. To carry on Amanda's commitment, the nonprofit foundation advances educational opportunities for underserved students.

### Protecting the animal kingdom

The fight to halt the brutal poaching and trafficking of animals is a worldwide effort. In South Africa, despite wildlife protections, campaigns to save endangered species are meeting limited success.

Trying to turn the tide, the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) offers breeding programs for rhinos, African elephants, ground hornbills, cheetahs, and other at-risk animals. Inspired by their mission, Member of the Firm Allen Roberts and his wife established a nonprofit charity, U.S. Friends of HESC, which has raised more than \$2 million to support HESC's operations and the reintroduction of orphaned and injured animals to the wild.

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### Organizations we support

- The Bowery Mission
- Dress for Success
- Gifts for the Homeless
- Humane Rescue Alliance of Washington, DC
- New York Cares
- Toys for Tots
- Various hurricane and hunger relief organizations

