

## PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE

### AT A GLANCE

A little help goes a long way. At McDermott Will & Emery, our uniquely congenial atmosphere carries far beyond Firm camaraderie. We recognize the importance of compassion and charity, as our lawyers and staff regularly set aside time to contribute to and serve the needs of the less well-off members of our community. McDermott dedicates a *Pro Bono* & Community Service Committee to ensure that all of our *pro bono* clients receive the first-rate care and services they deserve, providing greater opportunity to justice.

### A Look to the Future

We are especially passionate about issues involving children. McDermott lawyers and staff devote their time and talents to support and reach out to the next generation. We focus on the following programs:

- *KidsFirst*: We offer free legal representation to children with differing needs, such as guardian *ad litem* services for children in the abuse and neglect system, and counseling and representation for children with special education needs. We also pursue school eligibility for immigrant and undocumented children and address legislative policy issues.
- *Equal Justice Works*: As part of a program committed to granting under-represented populations access to justice in the United States, McDermott sponsors three new lawyers as *Equal Justice Works* Fellows on two-year assignments at established nonprofit organizations. One fellow, hosted by The Children's Law Center in Washington, D.C., is helping children with disabilities gain access to special education services. Another is hosted by Protection & Advocacy Incorporated in Los Angeles and is working on helping African-American and Latino children access special education services, as well as mental and physical health care. The third, sponsored by the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois, works to ensure that children in the Illinois foster care system receive the educational and health care services they need.
- *Partners in Reading*: In 2001 McDermott launched a volunteer tutoring program committed to helping children in inner-city schools improve their reading and grammar skills. Now, more than 100 of our lawyers and staff participate in the weekly *Partners in Reading* program.

### Outreach

Because our commitment to the community extends beyond legal services, McDermott offers administrative guidance, consulting and training to nonprofit organizations.

- *Administrative services*: document creation, graphics support, invoicing and video conference equipment loans
- *General consulting*: marketing and communications consultation, office security and employee safety programs, individual and small business financial planning and budgeting, and mentor program development
- *Research and organization services*: business and legal research, cataloging books and periodicals, records management and organizing collection materials
- *Seminars/skills training*: computer training, business writing, goal setting, effective communication skills, stress management, office and business etiquette, job placement and career counseling
- *Technology consulting*: website development, virus checking, work station engineering and internet connection maintenance

### Our Practice

- Capital/appellate
- Civil
- Criminal and *habeas corpus*
- Guardianship *ad litem*
- Immigration
- International
- Litigation
- Political asylum
- Social security benefits
- Special education
- Transactional

### Community & Support Services

- Administrative services
- General consulting
- Legal services
- Research and organization services
- Seminars/skills training
- Technology consulting

### Contact

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## Successes

Our *pro bono* practice's success is measured by the positive effect it has on people's lives. The following list includes just a few of our many *pro bono* cases and projects.

- We filed an *amicus* brief on behalf of police advocacy and educational associations before the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the respondent in *Town of Castle Rock, Colorado v. Gonzales*. The brief argued that the lack of action taken by the police department violated the respondent's constitutional right to procedural due process under the 14th Amendment. We are now encouraging state legislatures to address the issue through appropriate protective legislation.
- We have embarked upon an exciting global project for a *pro bono* client, AIESEC, the world's largest student organization. Present in more than 800 universities in 89 countries and territories, AIESEC is an international, apolitical, charitable foundation consisting of students and recent graduates interested in economics and management. AIESEC aims to provide an international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential so as to positively impact society. Through our network of international offices, we provide advice on AIESEC's activities in its many jurisdictions. We advise on data protection, employment, general commercial, sponsorship and tax issues.
- We successfully convinced a U.S. immigration judge to grant political asylum for our client, a 24-year-old Nigerian. The client fled his country after receiving severe threats from the People's Democratic Party of Nigeria.
- Partnering with the Public Interest Law Institute, a *pro bono* team performs legal assessments for The Branch Family Institute, a small nonprofit organization that offers economically disadvantaged families free supervised visitation and safe exchanges for minors. We advise The Branch Family Institute on its organizational structure, as well as corporate finance, intellectual property, employee benefits, real estate and tax issues.
- Through KidsFirst, we have obtained thousands of dollars in past and future social security benefits by representing disabled children and their families in benefit denial appeals. We are proud to have committed lawyers onboard, such as a McDermott partner who, in addition to successfully handling a social security disability appeal for a *pro bono* client, helped place him in a school that specifically met his educational needs.

Our *pro bono* practice is widely recognized and acknowledged.

- Our Silicon Valley office received the "Guardian of Justice" award at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County's 9th Annual Awards Luncheon.
- Our Washington, D.C. office was named co-recipient of the *District of Columbia Bar's Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year* award and the *Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs Vincent E. Reed Award*.
- *The American Red Cross* presented us with its highest honor, the Circle of Humanitarians Award.

## Our Firm

McDermott Will & Emery is a leading international law firm with a diversified business practice. We represent a wide range of commercial, industrial and financial enterprises, both publicly and privately held. Our clientele include some of the world's largest corporations, small and medium-sized businesses, and individuals.

Currently numbering 1,000 lawyers, we have offices in Boston, Brussels, Chicago, Düsseldorf, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Munich, New York, Orange County, Rome, San Diego, Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C.