2021 PRO BONO ANNUAL REPORT







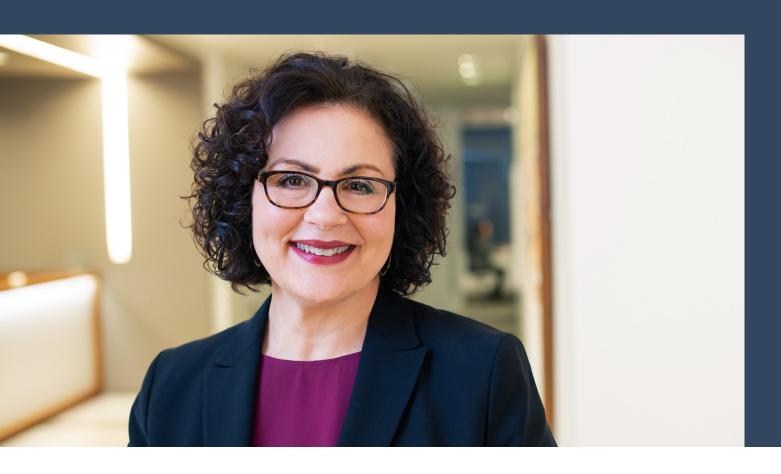
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Stay the course. For the past two years, the Stinson community has shown resolve in its ability to overcome adversity posed by the pandemic, social unrest and political turmoil worldwide. Our pro bono program aims to provide a sense of stability for our pro bono clients as they grapple with eviction, domestic violence and life in a new country. In the face of uncertainty, we are resolved to stay the course as a law firm and for the clients we serve.

Legal representation matters. The practice of law is a profession, and we take seriously Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which lays out each attorney's responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. As a signatory to the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Bono Challenge®, we strive to donate 3% of total billable hours to pro bono every year. In 2021, we surpassed that goal, donating over 22,000 hours to pro bono legal services.

Our clients' stories matter. Through the pages of our 2021 Pro Bono Annual Report, you will learn about the strength and resolve of the clients we have been honored to represent and the nonprofits that provide a safety net and enrich our communities. My hope is that these stories will inspire each reader to take on one more case, help one more person, or further one more cause in 2022.

I am grateful for my colleagues' generous donation of time and their commitment to stay the course. Thank you for taking a moment to read about how we honor our commitment to pro bono legal service.

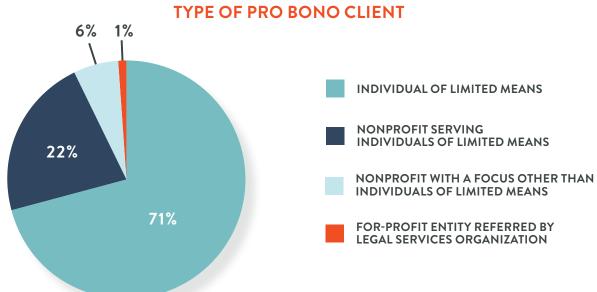
Allison Murdock, Managing Partner

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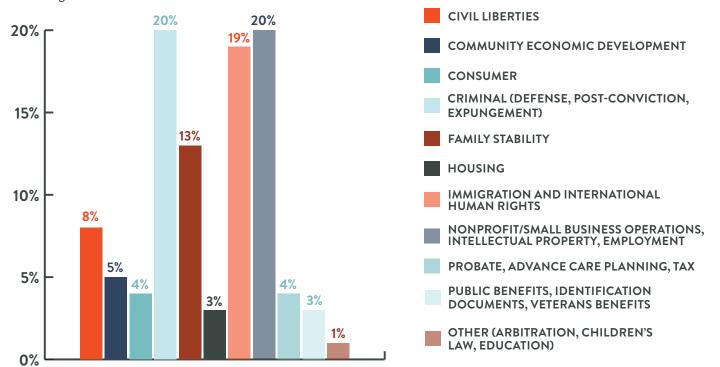
In 2021, Stinson donated 22,405 hours to pro bono legal work. During national Pro Bono Week, Stinson recognizes timekeepers who have made a significant contribution to the firm's pro bono program over the past 12 months. Contributor Ribbons are awarded to timekeepers who donated 20-49 hours, Professional Ribbons are awarded to those who donated 50-99 hours and Champion Ribbons are awarded to those who logged 100 or more hours.





AREAS OF PRACTICE

Pro bono services spanned a wide array of practice areas with nearly 60% of hours donated to criminal defense, post-conviction and expungement cases; representation of nonprofits and low-income entrepreneurs; and matters involving immigration and human rights law.





SEEKING RACIAL JUSTICE

In 2021, Stinson deepened its commitment to antiracism efforts through upstream, systemic projects and downstream pro bono work that addresses the impact of racist policies. These efforts, which account for approximately 30% of Stinson's total pro bono work in 2021, were recognized by the National Legal Aid & Defender Association with a 2021 Beacon of Justice Award.

THE LAW FIRM ANTIRACISM ALLIANCE

Launched in the summer of 2020, the LFAA is committed to leveraging the collaborative efforts of nearly 300 law firms, in partnership with legal services organizations, to amplify the voices of communities and individuals oppressed by racism, particularly anti-Black racism, to better use the law as a vehicle for change that benefits communities of color and to promote racial equity in the law.



Since its origination, LFAA Working Groups have been convening with experts in their respective fields to develop a Systemic Racism Legal Inventory (SRLI) on problematic laws, rules, regulations and policies and developing projects that address areas of concern. The following partners served as Stinson's 2021 LFAA Working Group representatives:

WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES		
Access to Justice	Thomas Nelson, Minneapolis	
Banking/Consumer Issues	Bob Monroe, Kansas City	
Child Welfare	Jarrod Kieffer, Wichita	
Criminal Legal System	Perry Glantz, Denver	
Disability Justice	Carrie Francis, Phoenix	
Education	Robin Carlson, Kansas City	
Employment	Bernadette Sargeant, Washington, DC	
Environmental Justice	Robert Botts, Jr., Denver	
Healthcare	Mary Foarde, Minneapolis	
Homelessness	<u>Tim Laycock,</u> Kansas City	
Housing & Home Ownership	Erin Marino, Dallas	
Immigration	Alisa Nickel Ehrlich, Wichita and <u>Harvey Reiter</u> , Washington, DC (co-chair of the working group)	
Philanthropy	Sara Welch, Kansas City	
Policing	Bryan Rose, Denver	
Public Benefits	Sara Noel, Minneapolis	
Reproductive Justice	Janet Hendrickson, Ph.D., St. Louis	
Voting Rights	Eric Whytsell, Denver	

Racial Justice Curriculum and Trainings

Stinson's Diversity & Inclusion and Pro Bono departments meet monthly to discuss the firm's work with the LFAA and to further coordinate efforts to address systemic racism and unconscious bias within the firm, the legal industry and the broader community. The departments collaborated to bring a racial justice lens to the screening and selection process of pro bono cases, and created a training curriculum for attorneys and paralegals to utilize a race equity lens in their pro bono and billable legal work.

During the 2021 Pro Bono Week celebration, Stinson co-sponsored a Minnesota State Bar Association CLE titled, "Racial Trauma in Communities and Individuals: Increase Your Awareness - Increase Your Effectiveness." Resmaa Menakem, author of the national bestseller "My Grandmother's Hands," spoke to pro bono representation within the realm of transformational change and understanding racialized trauma. Director of Law & Policy at HerJustice in New York City, Hamra Ahmad provided practical tools for lawyers to address challenges faced by people living in poverty.





Resmaa Menakem

SPECIFIC ANTIRACISM WORK

Stinson donated over 6,600 hours of pro bono legal services to racial equity and antiracism work in 2021. The firm's systemic and direct representation of communities of color helps build a more just and equitable community for all.

Wanton Injustice Legal Detail

The firm was instrumental in launching the newly formed nonprofit, Wanton Injustice Legal Detail (WILD), an initiative to address anti-Black racism in the Twin Cities, specifically in the areas of education inequality, voting rights, housing, gentrification, wealth gap and policing. Stinson attorneys handled the formation of the 501(c)(3), and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer Ann Jenrette-Thomas, Deputy Managing Partner David Crosby and Partner Adam Nathe are involved in Twin Cities Diversity in Practice, the parent group of the WILD.

Systemic Immigration Efforts

The firm has played a lead role in the LFAA Immigration Working Group; Partner Harvey Reiter serves as co-chair, and Partner Alisa Nickel Ehrlich serves as an active member.

Reiter and Ehrlich lead a team of five Stinson attorneys – Partner William Greene and attorneys Asma Ali, Tim Lauxman, Joshua Poertner and Taylor Kara – in preparation of a multi-chapter report on the disproportionately negative impact of various laws, rules, regulations and practices of local, state and federal agencies and officials regarding immigrants of color. The chapters drafted by Stinson attorneys will focus on asylum applicants, applicants for Temporary Protected Status and undocumented immigrants.

Reiter, and Partners Dennis Lane, Greene, and attorney Brandon Nagy, also worked on two rule-making proceedings regarding immigrant rights and the impact of current immigration policies on immigrants of color. The first procedure dealt with potential changes to the Department of Homeland Security's public charge policy, and the second dealt with its "credible fear" test for asylum applicants.

Police Reform and Accountability

Former police officer and Partner Bryan Rose, along with attorneys Michelle Cardona Vinasco and Kyle Ferden, accepted a research assignment from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, focused on analyzing barriers to police accountability and reform in specific states. Looking at select counties in one state, the team of attorneys explored key issue areas that may impede accountability - including police unions, hiring, training and firing practices and policies, resource allocation for criminal versus non-criminal purposes, complaint processes against police officers, adjudication of misconduct claims and indemnification practices. The nature of the research spanned multiple legal fields, from administrative law to collective bargaining to local regulations.

Promise of Justice Initiative

Emmett Logan accepted two matters from the Louisiana-based Promise of Justice Initiative (PJI), whose Jim Crow Juries Project seeks to provide counsel to 1,500 Louisiana prisoners convicted of serious offenses by non-unanimous juries. The Supreme Court has held that such convictions are unconstitutional but has left it to the states to determine whether the rule should be applied retroactively on collateral review. Logan and paralegal Lisa Parks are working with two PJI clients serving life sentences on the basis of convictions by non-unanimous juries. The attorneys argued that the sentences were unconstitutional and should be retroactively overturned.



SUPPORTING LOCAL NONPROFITS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Though litigation makes up a substantial portion of Stinson's pro bono legal services, our firm has an active contingent of banking, real estate, corporate and private business attorneys who provide many hours of transactional pro bono representation each year. In 2021, the firm assisted nonprofits and small businesses in achieving their missions through legal clinics, assistance with economic development projects, and business and operational support.

KANSAS CITY NONPROFIT AND SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL CLINIC

Stinson and the Mid-America Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel held a second legal clinic for 14 local organizations, including nonprofits and small businesses impacted by COVID-19. With the help of the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law's Entrepreneurial Legal Services Clinic and Intellectual Property Clinic, the United Way of Greater Kansas City and Kansas Legal Services, this year's virtual



clinic provided a valuable opportunity for corporate and transactional attorneys to give back to the local community by sharing their knowledge of corporate governance and operational matters, employment and intellectual property with local entities. Participating Stinson attorneys included <u>Jeannie Boettler, Stephen Cosentino, Madison Connolly, James Cronin, Michael</u> Donohue, Kyle Ferden, Gerry Griffith, Scot Hill, Charles Jensen, Pat Konopka, Martha Nweke, Stephanie Scheck, James Selle, Kenda Tomes, Tessa Trelz and Sara Welch, representing a variety of practice areas and industries, including Intellectual Property and Technology, Corporate Finance, Employment and Real Estate, from our Kansas City, St. Louis and Wichita offices. Summer associates also joined the attorney teams to learn more about the firm's transactional pro bono practice. The organizations served provide:

- Services for women overcoming trauma and substance abuse
- Childhood obesity and health inequity programming
- Diapers for low-income families and toilet-training education
- Drug and violence prevention programming for teens
- School-based dental and vision care for low-income children
- Resettlement services for recent immigrants and refugees
- Strategies to recruit, develop and retain quality Black teachers in Kansas City
- Food, home improvement services and educational opportunities for the elderly
- Technology solutions for individuals with special needs

Community Economic Development Microenterprise Program

Attorneys and paralegals in the firm's St. Louis office continued work on new and existing matters referred by the Community Economic Development Microenterprise Program at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, a project that supports low-income and minority-owned businesses with a range of business operation needs. In one matter, attorney Nicole Johnson and paralegal Haley Trammell, working under the supervision of St. Louis Office Managing Partner Michael Kaplan, helped local entrepreneur, The Matted Doodle, draft and implement corporate governance and financing documents, which helped get the pet grooming business started and provided resources to grow and legitimize the business.

Pandemic Heroes Award

The Colorado Lawyers' Committee (CLC) annual awards luncheon celebrates lawyers and community leaders who donated their time and support to the mission and projects of the CLC. This year's ceremony included a new Pandemic Heroes Award, recognizing volunteers for extraordinary efforts during the pandemic in 2020. One of the five teams recognized included the Colorado COVID Legal Relief Program, a



Grand opening of the Matted Doodle

program started during the pandemic to match small businesses seeking legal advice regarding COVID-19-related issues with volunteer attorneys. The CLC recognized the program's steering committee and nine dedicated volunteers from Stinson and other firms who accepted three or more small business clients throughout 2020.



Speaking Out Collective Bylaws

Speaking Out Collective is a collective of actors, directors and teaching artists who believe that story is a vehicle for self expression, questioning and creating new narratives together. Attorney <u>Aristotle Butler</u> helped Speaking Out revise their bylaws to clean up, clarify and add statutorily appropriate language. He also helped develop the group's conflict of interest policy and annual conflict of interest statement for officers and directors. With these changes, Speaking Out can continue digging into big ideas, such as justice, fairness and ethics, race, identity, equity and community transformation through theatre, storytelling, puppets, poetry, song, dance and more.



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

Throughout the years, Stinson has been a leader in pro bono services concerning anti-human trafficking work, and 2021 was no exception. Attorneys and paralegals across the firm helped victims of sex and labor trafficking access a national hotline, monitored state laws pertaining to trafficking-related criminal record relief and represented survivors in immigration and other matters. These efforts helped ensure that current and future survivors of human trafficking receive the support they need to overcome the trauma they endured.

SURVIVOR REENTRY PROJECT

The Survivor Reentry Project (SRP) is a program of the Freedom Network USA, the nation's largest coalition working to ensure that survivors of human trafficking have access to justice, safety and opportunity. Stinson and five other law firms have volunteered to staff the SRP's national clearinghouse, which seeks to provide criminal record relief for survivors of human trafficking. Each January



and July, Stinson attorneys and paralegals help survivors of trafficking referred to SRP obtain fingerprinting to determine if they are eligible for expungement, vacatur or other criminal record relief in states across the country. Partners <u>Janet</u> Hendrickson, Ph.D., and Brittany Barrientos lead this effort, with assistance from attorneys Lillian Chin, Jennifer Kim, Amanda Rapp, Joyce Kim, Krishma Desai-Soni and paralegal Leisa Stevens.

Attorneys Thomas Witherspoon and Martha Nweke completed a 50-state survey for the SRP, tracking recent changes to state laws regarding criminal record relief for victims of human trafficking and 2021 proposed changes to such laws. The database will be revisited periodically to track the ever-changing landscape of laws in this area so that survivors can pursue the most recent pathways to criminal record relief.

REPRESENTING SURVIVORS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Pro Bono Champions

The February issue of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's KC Counselor recognized Partners Karl Phares and Samuel Butler, for their work with Legal Aid of Western Missouri (LAWMO) representing two survivors of labor trafficking who were seeking immigration relief. The clients wore wires to work at the behest of the Department of Homeland Security, even though they knew their trafficker would likely kill them if he found out. Later, they served as witnesses in a federal trial that ultimately sent their trafficker to prison. The clients were approved for T visas, based on their status as trafficking victims who cooperated with law enforcement, and they have since applied to adjust to legal permanent resident status.







Partner Samuel Butler, IV

Mistreated Laborer Approved for Visa

Bilingual attorney Ethan Sanders worked with LAWMO to represent a Spanish-speaking farm laborer who was subjected to labor trafficking, making him potentially eligible for a T nonimmigrant visa. Sanders co-counseled the case with an English-only speaking immigration attorney at LAWMO to help communicate with the clients and prepare the visa applications. The client's visa application was approved with no request for additional evidence, creating a path to legal permanent resident status and ongoing stability.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Stinson is committed to supporting and protecting the rights of individuals in the LGBTQ+ community. Through "know your rights" memoranda, active litigation and other institutional levers, Stinson attorneys have worked to help members of the LGBTQ+ community feel safe and secure in their schools and in their communities.

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

Partners <u>Scott Hecht</u> and <u>Robin Carlson</u> and attorney <u>Christopher Sevedge</u> worked with the ACLU of Kansas and THRIVE, a local advocacy group dedicated to promoting school-level policies intended to support and safeguard the rights of LGBTQ+ people in Kansas, to prepare a "<u>Know Your Rights</u>" white paper outlining actions Kansas school districts can take to create an inclusive and affirming educational environment for transgender students. The memo details federal and state law, with regard to access to restrooms and locker rooms corresponding with student gender identity, name and pronoun usage, participation in school athletics and privacy protections for students.

VETERAN DISCHARGE UPGRADE

In 2017, Stinson started accepting referrals from the University of Missouri School of Law Veterans Clinic, a program that provides legal representation on discharge upgrade applications to veterans throughout the state, and pro bono technical assistance to law firm attorneys who accept these cases. Every service member receives a characterization of service at the time they are discharged from active

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
THE RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

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ACLU Kansas' "Know Your Rights" white paper prepared with assistance from our attorneys.

duty, and this designation is critical in determining eligibility for future U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical benefits and the ability to secure future employment. Stinson is handling a number of discharge upgrade applications for veterans who were discharged and denied benefits due to sexual orientation prior to the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and predecessor policies. This year, Partner Sara Welch and attorney Mark Wilkins' client's application was approved, resulting in an upgrade to an "honorable" discharge and access to life-changing benefits.



Partners <u>Timothy Griffin</u> and <u>Andrew Davis</u> (second and third from the left) receiving their "Attorneys of the Year" award alongside members from ACLU of Minnesota and Gender Listine

MINNESOTA LAWYER ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

Partners Andrew Davis and Timothy Griffin were named "Attorneys of the Year" by the Minnesota Lawyer for their 'landmark' transgender rights victory. The case was co-litigated with the ACLU of Minnesota and GenderJustice and involved representation of a transgender high school student in an action against the largest school district in the state. The case challenged the district's decision to segregate the client from the locker room facilities that aligned with his gender identity. In October 2020, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled in favor of our client, holding that the segregation of a transgender high school student from locker room facilities that align with the student's gender identity violates the Minnesota Constitution and the Minnesota Human Rights Act.



In addition to Stinson's firm-wide pro bono projects, individual offices contributed many hours of important work. From representing low-income persons in need to partnering with the local nonprofits that service them, discover the stories of how each office made their neighborhood, their city and their state a better place.



VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

The Dallas office participated in a number of Veterans Legal Clinics in 2021, organized through the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program. Partners Paul Lackey, Michael Aigen, Deborah Deitsch-Perez, Ross Mortillaro, Kevin Robinowitz and Erin Marino, attorneys Matthew Miller, Taylor Kara, Maria Cardenas and Grant DuBois performed intake for veterans in the family law and military benefits areas. Through clinic participation and other matters, Dallas pro bono hours more than doubled in 2021.

TEXAS APPLESEED

"Opportunity Zone" Impact Analysis

In 2021, Stinson expanded its work with Appleseed to the organization's Texas affiliate. In its 2017 tax bill, Congress authorized the designation of "opportunity zones" in low-income communities and provided tax incentives, including deferring the recognition of capital gains that are reinvested in the zones. State governors were required to submit nominations for the zones, giving particular consideration to a number of factors. Texas Appleseed asked the firm to study Texas' designation of Opportunity Zones, possible tax breaks and any positive outcomes resulting from that designation. Robert Farquharson and others conducted legal research for Appleseed that will help them understand the impact of this legislation throughout the state.

Purview of the Commerce Clause

A multi-office team including Partners <u>Harvey Reiter</u> and <u>Michael Aigen</u> and attorneys <u>Timothy Lauxman</u> and <u>Thomas Witherspoon</u> filed an amicus brief in the 5th Circuit on behalf of Texas Appleseed in *Terkel v. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention* after the District Court found that Congress lacked the authority to prohibit evictions under the Commerce Clause. Appleseed argued that precedent clearly establishes that the Commerce Clause grants the federal government authority to regulate activity that has a substantial effect on interstate commerce and that the commercial activity here — the regulation of rental markets to prohibit residential evictions as a public health measure during a pandemic — is unquestionably an activity that substantially affects interstate commerce. The interstate Commerce Clause issue was rendered moot when the Supreme Court ended the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) eviction moratorium in a different case on statutory grounds, and the 5th Circuit then dismissed the case.

REVIEW OF DEATH PENALTY IN MYANMAR

Partner Elsa Manzanares and attorneys Alexander
Hinckley and Maria Cardenas, along with paralegals Susan
VanWagoner and Christine Rallo, assisted The Advocates
for Human Rights in determining the status of the death
penalty in Myanmar. Through desk research and interviews
with on-the-ground organizations involved in work to abolish
the death penalty, the team researched inflection points in
the country over the past 15 years — times when the country







Partner Elsa Manzanares

Attorney <u>Alexander Hinckley</u> At

Attorney Maria Cardenas

moved in a positive or negative direction with respect to the death penalty — and worked to identify the factors that influenced those changes, and the signs that such changes were coming. This research was part of a larger project in collaboration with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to develop a tool to assess any particular country's status as being ready to take the next steps toward abolition, or a country's risk of backsliding with respect to the death penalty. The military coup in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, and subsequent extrajudicial killings, added to the complexity of the team's research.



KOREY WISE INNOCENCE PROJECT

The Korey Wise Innocence Project (KWIP) receives requests for help from people who believe they have been wrongfully convicted, and evaluates these claims to see if there are factual and legal grounds to get back into court with the claims. When the KWIP learns of a case that appears deserving of further evaluation and investigation, the case is referred to volunteer attorneys. Partners <u>Perry Glantz, Zane Gilmer</u> and <u>Ryan Sugden,</u> attorneys Olivia Youn, <u>Amanda Rapp,</u> Lauren Druessel and paralegal Tayler Bradley contributed time to investigating the claims of a prison inmate who maintains he was wrongfully convicted.

COLORADO POVERTY LAW PROJECT

Emergency Rental Assistance for Colorado Tenant

In early 2021, the Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP) reached out to Stinson about a low-income, Spanish-speaking single mother whose landlord had evicted her for non-payment of rent after she lost her job as a bartender during COVID-19. The CDC's eviction moratorium was still in effect, and the tenant met the definition of a "covered person," but without counsel, she was unaware of her rights. Partner Lucas Schneider and attorneys Judith Araujo and Jared Ertle stepped in, and the client's landlord dismissed the case and vacated both the eviction and money judgments. Nevertheless, the landlord intended to pursue the client for months of back rent, so the attorneys helped her apply for rental assistance under Colorado's Emergency Rental Assistance Program. While the application was filed in early spring, it wasn't processed until months later. In the meantime, the client's lease



expired and the landlord refused to renew it, so she was forced to move out. Once the state processed the client's application, it was denied because she was no longer living at the property. The team then filed a successful administrative appeal with the agency administering the rental assistance program, resulting in a favorable decision for the client and nearly \$10,000 in rental assistance.

CPLP Monthly Legal Clinic

Many Colorado residents need legal assistance but cannot afford an attorney. Since 2005, CPLP volunteer attorneys have provided free counsel to vulnerable residents at a monthly legal clinic at the South Street Health Center in partnership with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. At the clinic, individuals meet one-on-one with volunteer attorneys to receive legal information on a range of legal issues, including housing law, custody and government benefits. At one monthly clinic, attorneys <u>Jared Ertle</u> and <u>Peter Grandey</u> advised a resident of a low-income housing community on her right to display political posters in her windows and general safety issues she was facing with the building.



MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY COALITION

Marlborough Community Land Trust

In January 2021, the Marlborough Community Land Trust (MCLT) was launched at a ribbon cutting for their first house. The MCLT is a nonprofit that acquires and develops real estate to provide affordable housing to low-income homeowners. Only low-income homeowners, sale after sale, can own MCLT houses that have been built or rehabilitated with scarce subsidies, donations and volunteer work. Attorney Nicholas Bertron donated more than 120 hours of pro bono services to longstanding pro bono client the Marlborough Community Coalition (MCC) to draft governance documents between the MCC and the new land trust.

The Marlborough School Project

In May 2021, the MCLT and partner equity² closed on the purchase of the decommissioned Marlborough Elementary School, a large building at the center of the community that has been vacant since the school closed in 2007. MCLT and equity² will work with the Marlborough community to redevelop the site to include MCLT housing, community-identified services, and Kansas City's first ever community investment trust (CIT). The CIT is another Stinson pro bono project and innovative tool that will create opportunities for residents living in the Marlborough area to share in the ownership and profits from the development, with a goal of creating a more equitable and resilient community through community ownership of real



 ${\it The first Marlborough Community Land Trust house, now perpetually affordable for future \ residents.}$





Renderings of the decommissioned Marlborough Community School following conversion to affordable housing and nonprofit, small business, artist, and maker space.

estate and real estate developments. The Marlborough Community Coalition, Stinson, Kansas City Public Schools and Exact Partners were involved in the closing for the purchase of the school, with Partner Richard Cook and attorney Cara McLaughlin leading the effort at Stinson.

Community Development Award

Stinson's Community Development Award is given each year to a timekeeper who has devoted substantial time and effort to legal work for one of the firm's partner neighborhoods - Marlborough in Kansas City, Near North and Willard-Hay in Minneapolis and Hyde Park in St. Louis - and/or its residents, or completed similar work in another community where the firm has an office. Real Estate and Public Finance attorney Cara McLaughlin was this year's recipient. She devoted more than 80 pro bono hours to help the MCC and MCLT with the Marlborough School closing.



Attorney Cara McLaughlin

Abandoned Housing Work

Under the leadership of Partner Jere Sellers, the firm continued its litigation work on behalf of the MCC in 13 new and continuing abandoned housing and nuisance matters. Partners Eric Mikkelson, Bradley Anderson, Judd Treeman and Colin Turner, and attorneys John Aisenbrey, Benjamin Gamble, Dylan Fotiadis, Kyle Ferden, Logan Fancher, Anna Turner and Wesley Pluviose-Philip, all made significant contributions to these matters.



MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT

In November 2021, attorneys John Aisenbrey, Bryce Langford, Ashley Crisafulli and Lauren Fleming, eDiscovery and Practice Support Consultant Cindy Cusimano, and Midwest Innocence Project's (MIP) Executive Director Tricia Bushnell conducted a four-day post-conviction relief hearing on behalf of a client serving a life sentence for a crime for which he has always maintained he did not commit. The case involved a presentation of four medical experts from the U.S. and Canada on the cause of death, as well as an expert on the standards of performance required of criminal defense counsel. After further briefing, the judge will decide whether or not to order a new trial, or he could make a finding of actual innocence.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Laura Higgins Tyler was one of 13 attorneys who received the 2021 Impact of the Year Award at the 7th Annual Justice Innovation Awards ceremony at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' (NCJFCJ) 84th Annual Conference. This group of exemplary attorneys, often referred to as the Jackson County Family Court Pro Bono Attorneys, was honored for their work to innovatively rethink, reimagine and redefine justice for children and families. Their work advanced the NCJFCJ's vision — a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal, effective and timely justice. The Impact of the Year Award recognizes an individual, state/local court, law firm, advocacy group or service provider who has been instrumental in leading or implementing significant improvements or innovations which advance the mission of the NCJFCJ through extraordinary efforts in pro bono work. The Jackson County Family Court Pro Bono Attorneys consists of attorneys who dedicate their practice within their respective firms to pro bono representation of parents and children in the Jackson County Family Court.



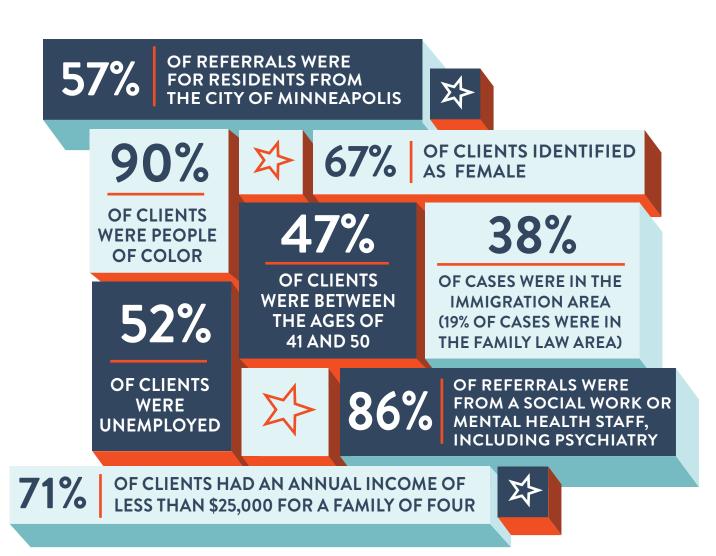
Attorney Laura Higgins Tyler



DEINARD LEGAL CLINIC

2021 Matters

In 2021, 82 billers donated a total of 3,022 hours to the Deinard Legal Clinic (DLC), the firm's 28-year-old medical legal partnership, with 22 new full representation matters placed with a Stinson attorney. Additionally, 45 were brief service or advice matters handled by a Stinson attorney or referred to another agency for screening and possible placement. Finally, 34 cases from previous years carried into 2021 were primarily in the family law and immigration areas.



The Deinard Legal Clinic Award

This award is given to a timekeeper who has devoted substantial time and effort to the clients of the DLC. This year's awardee is Partner Keith Moheban. He has been a long-time DLC family law volunteer and supervisor and is the only attorney in the Minneapolis office who has consistently donated 50 or more hours every year to pro bono services since the legacy Leonard Street and Deinard firm signed the Pro Bono Challenge in 1993. Moheban often exceeds 75 hours of pro bono billable time on DLC work each year. He is a dedicated volunteer handling his own cases, while simultaneously supervising attorneys on their DLC work. All of the clinic

matters Moheban handled or supervised last year were divorces on behalf of survivors of domestic violence that involved contested custody disputes, spousal maintenance and the client's homestead. Mercedes Moreno, the Victim Advocate at Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC), said this about Moheban: "Mr. Moheban was assigned to a case for a participant of domestic violence. After meeting with her, she said she feels good about him understanding her needs, her culture and her situation."



Partner Keith Moheban

Stinson volunteers outside of CUHCC, home to the firm's Deinard Legal Clinic in 2018.

Getting Immigration Results

Becoming Citizens

DLC immigration volunteers offered unwavering support and dedication to clients during COVID-19. As a result, over the last year more than a dozen DLC patients have become U.S. citizens despite the pandemic. Partners Tom Jensen and Renee Mueller Steinle, and attorneys Julia Wolfe and Eleanor Wood, helped five clients naturalize in 2021.

Successful Asylum

After more than seven years of waiting, Partners Laura Halferty and Jennifer Ives received notice that their DLC client from Djibouti received asylum in the U.S. Fleeing religious persecution and having suffered female genital mutilation as a preteen, this woman can now move forward and flourish in her new home.

Successful Result in Public Benefits Case

On June 16, Partner Kevin Conneely successfully represented a 51-year-old Hmong woman at her Supplemental Security Income hearing via Zoom. The client, who had been denied twice before, was seeking benefits dating back to 2017. The client married at 14, raised a large family and came to the U.S. from a refugee camp after the war in Laos. She worked for more than a decade as a factory worker, and then due to a stroke and other physical ailments, along with related depression and uncontrolled pain, she stopped working. Paralegals Michelle Brodin and Stephanie Hess compiled and organized a large and complex record.

Family Law Success Stories

Assault Survivor Gets Relief and Sole Custody

After 22 months of mediations, negotiations and motion hearings, attorney Kacie Phillips, under the supervision of Partner Keith Moheban, took a divorce matter to trial in July through the firm's DLC for a Karen-speaking woman. Partner Aalok Sharma also worked extensively on the matter, including handling the mediation over the homestead and insurance issues. The woman, who was a recent immigrant to the U.S. and spoke no English, came to the DLC through a referral from a sexual assault advocate. At trial, the court granted all the relief our client requested, including giving the woman the homestead and all equity, with no share to the husband. Our client also received sole legal and physical custody of the children, \$271 a month in child support and a tax deduction for the children.

Dissolution Order Gives Client New Lease on Life

Partner and Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair <u>Amy Conway</u> and attorney <u>Claire Williams</u> successfully represented a client in her recent dissolution of marriage. There was a long history of domestic violence in the family and various children from previous relationships living in the household. While the client had been separated from her husband for many years, she needed to move on psychologically and ensure that he could not re-enter her life. Conway and Williams secured a dissolution order that allowed the client to reclaim her former name, sever financial ties with her abuser and begin life anew.

Grandpa Gains Parental Rights to Grandson

Attorneys <u>Connor Shaull</u>, <u>Nicole Faulkner</u> and Partner <u>Richard Pins</u> represented a grandfather through the DLC who needed help getting temporary custody over his 14-year-old grandson. His grandson's biological parents were in and out of the child's life on a very sporadic basis. This pattern continued for years, forcing the grandson to endure difficulties that no 14-year-old child should have to go through. Without official legal custody or guardianship, the client had difficulty with healthcare needs, communicating with the school, and even getting his social security number from the Social Security Administration. The case took a devastating turn when the grandson attempted suicide and was admitted to the local hospital. The County stepped in and took immediate protective steps towards terminating the biological parental rights due to abandonment, a process that is still underway. Shaull played an integral role, communicating with the grandfather to keep the County involved and process moving forward. For the immediate term, the grandfather is now officially a foster parent to his grandson, and this arrangement has allowed him to easily access the information he needs to care for his grandson.

MINNESOTA FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION PRO SE PROJECT

Partners <u>Sharon Markowitz</u> and <u>Adine Momoh</u>, attorneys <u>Kelly Maxwell</u> and <u>Andrew Prunty</u>, and summer associate Billy Price, volunteered through the Federal Court's Pro Se Project, which provides pro bono attorneys to pro se litigants navigating the federal courts. This is an important service not only to the individual litigants who are often mystified by the federal rules and filing requirements, but also to the court itself.

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS NETWORK EVICTION REPRESENTATION PROJECT

Attorneys <u>Andrew Glasnovich</u> and <u>Claire Williams</u> represented a man who had an eviction action filed against him. The landlord wanted the tenant out of the premises due to flood damage originating in his apartment, but in the process, the landlord changed the locks before even filing the eviction action. Glasnovich and Williams reached a



Partner Sharon Markowitz



Attorney Kelly Maxwell



Partner <u>Adine Momoh</u>



Attorney Andrew Prunty

settlement that released the tenant from the lease and allowed him time to recover his belongings. The client received his security deposit back, avoided an eviction on his rental record, and, with the assistance of a case manager, eventually found a new place to live.

Attorney Kevin Kitchen and Partner David Axtell represented a client through the Eviction Representation Project in Minneapolis. The landlord sought to evict the client, claiming she was a squatter, despite acknowledging she was the wife of the person who signed the lease. The landlord also claimed she damaged the property and materially breached the lease because of a number of police calls to the apartment. Kitchen was able to get the matter dismissed, give the woman time to move out and avoid an eviction on her record.



IMMIGRATION EFFORTS IN PHOENIX

Grandfather Naturalized in Order to Care for Grandson

Partner Elizabeth Chatham helped a South Asian 80-year-old grandfather apply for naturalization so he could better care for his 15-year-old grandson. His grandson, who has no other immediate family in the U.S., lived with him after tragically losing both his parents. The grandfather wanted his grandson to remain in the U.S. through high school and into college so he could have a chance to pursue a life here. Through hard work, support from his local South Asian community in Phoenix and a two-hour interview with U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services that left not



a single dry eye in the room, the grandfather's application was approved. The client's daughter said, "You went all the way to support my family. Keeping you all in prayer. May God be with you always."

Fact Sheet to Aid Minnesota Advocates for Crime Victims

U visas are a form of immigration relief available to victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. Helpfulness must be verified through a U visa certification form completed by law enforcement. A new Minnesota law sets deadlines for local law enforcement to respond to U visa certification requests, and attorney <u>James Camoriano</u>, with supervision from Partner <u>James</u> Holland, Jr., worked with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota to prepare a fact sheet to aid law enforcement, survivor advocates, and survivors in understanding the requirements of the new law.

U Visa Application for Survivor of Domestic Violence

Attorney <u>Clarissa Brady</u> is working with Partner <u>Elizabeth Chatham</u> to prepare a U visa application for a survivor of domestic violence and her oldest daughter so that they can enjoy stability with her three youngest children who are already U.S. citizens. Brady worked with a local prosecutor's office to obtain the necessary evidence and appropriate certifications to prepare a compelling U visa application, a visa designed to neutralize fear of deportation for victims of violence as they work with local law enforcement authorities to investigate these crimes. While U Visas can take years to be approved, they can provide lawful status for up to four years, work authorization for the applicant, derivative benefits for qualifying family members and eligibility to adjust status to a lawful permanent resident.

EFFORTS CONTINUE ON COMPASSIONATE RELEASE CASE

The firm's representation of plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit on behalf of medically vulnerable and disabled inmates in Maricopa County jails continued in 2021, with co-counsel from the national American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU of Arizona and another law firm. The Stinson team donated nearly 150 hours to the effort, with help from attorneys <u>Javier Torres</u> and Judith Araujo.



LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MISSOURI

Hyde Park - Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative

The firm continued its litigation work on behalf of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in 10 new and continuing abandoned housing and nuisance matters. Partners <u>Vincent Keady</u>, Scott Mueller, <u>Andrew Scavotto</u>, <u>Julie Scheipeter</u> and <u>Brian Weaver</u>, attorney <u>Keegan Shea</u> and paralegal Merima Trifunovic, all made significant contributions of time and expertise to these matters.

A Fund for Property Redevelopment

Partner <u>Tessa Trelz</u> and attorneys <u>Amanda Engel</u> and <u>Robert Harry</u> are helping a local Community Development Financial Institution to establish a new fund to support small-scale rehabbers' redevelopment of blighted and abandoned properties.

Young Lawyer of the Year

At Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's annual For The Common Good Awards ceremony, St. Louis attorney Jenna Hueneger received the Hon. John R. Essner Young Lawyer of the Year Award, given in memory of the founding Director of Legal Services' Volunteer Lawyers Program. Hueneger continually represents low-income entrepreneurs and grassroots nonprofit clients through Legal Services' Community Economic Development Microenterprise Program. She was applauded for seeking smart solutions for her clients and supporting the ideals of innovative legal delivery, often taking on new matters as soon as she finishes work with another pro bono client. Hueneger was also the first volunteer with a new legal clinic to help early-stage entrepreneurs launch new businesses. Her commitment to pro bono has helped build businesses and opportunities across the St. Louis region and proves that pro bono is not just for litigators.

PRO BONO IMPACT AWARD

Stinson's Pro Bono Impact Award is given to a timekeeper who has devoted substantial time and effort to a large matter for a single client, a large matter for multiple clients, or a matter involving public policy or community improvement. Despite a busy billable practice, this year's awardee, Partner Andrew Scavotto, has donated 686 hours to 38 unique pro bono matters over the last five years. Scavotto has done extensive pro bono work with Missouri Appleseed, and he regularly accepts referrals from St. Louis



Attorney <u>Jenna Huenege</u>r receiving the Hon. John R. Essner Young Lawyer of the Year Award.



Partner Andrew Scavotto

Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts. He is engaged on Abandoned Housing Act cases with the firm's partner neighborhood, Hyde Park, and he helps lead the firm's Election Protection Call Center with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. Beyond his own pro bono, Scavotto works to engage other timekeepers in the St. Louis office in pro bono services, often accepting matters and then recruiting teams of attorneys to work with him, bringing more people into the pro bono program.

FIRE INSURANCE LITIGATION

Partner Jonathan Waldron prosecuted a successful counterclaim against an insurance company that refused to pay an indigent renter's claim after the renter lost everything in a cooking accident. Instead of paying the insurance claim, the company sued the renter. After years of protracted litigation, the parties reached an agreeable settlement to resolve the matter.



THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS' VOLUNTEER AWARD

In June 2021, The Advocates for Human Rights awarded their annual Volunteer Award to the "Stinson Rapid Response Regulation Team," for their work protecting the right to seek asylum and receive due process in immigration proceedings in response to immigration regulations proposed by the former administration. The regulations, if implemented, would have drastically limited humanitarian







Partner Harvey Reiter



Partner William Greene

relief available to asylees fleeing dangerous conditions in their home countries. Specifically, the team prepared an amicus brief on behalf of The Advocates for Human Rights and crafted helpful sample language for pro bono attorneys to respond to regulatory restrictions to the Liberian Refugee Immigrant Fairness Act. Partners Dennis Lane and Harvey Reiter led the team, with the help of Minneapolis Partner William Greene.

DC BAR ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE CLINIC

Since 1993, the DC Bar Pro Bono Center's Advocacy & Justice Clinic has helped coordinate pro bono representation to address the unmet legal needs and improve the lives of more than 8,000 DC residents who are experiencing poverty. The clinic assists eligible clients with a range of civil legal problems, including housing, family law, public benefits and consumer disputes. Stinson's DC office logged over 230 hours to DC Bar cases in 2021, including Partner Dennis Lane's 90 hours representing a father in a child custody matter.

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

Our representation continued in two matters referred by the Tahirih Justice Center, a national nonprofit organization that serves immigrant survivors fleeing gender-based violence. Attorney <u>Brandon Nagy</u> continued his representation of a mother who escaped a violent situation to apply for a U visa for herself and her children. Partner Jonathan Schneider and attorneys Denyse Zosa and Joshua Cox represented a woman seeking asylum to escape physical, sexual and mental abuse at the hands of her husband, threats of female genital mutilation and even death, should her request for asylum be denied.

TZEDEK DC

Through a growing relationship with Tzedek DC, an organization that safeguards the legal rights and financial health of low-income DC residents who are dealing with abusive debt collection practices, Partners Christopher Perkowski, Matthew Smilowitz and Steven White and attorneys Joshua Cox and Brandon Nagy represented multiple clients on a range of breach of contract and medical debt forgiveness matters. Partners Dennis Lane and Harvey Reiter and attorneys Tracey Ohm and Ruigiao Wen provided Tzedek DC with legal guidance on multiple matters, including a legal memorandum supporting the position that federal Child Tax Credit monies received by families are considered to be "public assistance" under DC law, and thus protected from garnishment or attachment.

JUSTICE IN AGING

In February 2021, Partners Harvey Reiter, Michael Tucci and Roy Goldberg teamed up with attorneys from Justice in Aging and Centers for Medicare Advocacy to file a lawsuit in federal district court in DC on behalf of Chinatown Service Center of Los Angeles and Saint Barnabas Senior Services. The suit, filed against the Department of Health and Human Services, challenged the agency's repeal of a foreign language notice and tagline regulations aimed at helping immigrants with low English proficiency understand their health care rights as a violation of the Affordable Care Act's antidiscrimination provisions. Subsequent to the filing of the lawsuit, the agency announced that it was reconsidering its prior ruling.



PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

Stinson's Pro Bono Service Award is given to a timekeeper who has devoted substantial time and effort to more than one case involving "everyday" legal services for those in need. This year's awardee is litigation attorney <u>Christina Hansen</u>. Throughout her time at the firm, Hansen has routinely donated 100+ hours to pro bono services year after year, and 2021 was no different. She is often the first to jump in on large, multi-office team matters for the ACLU, The Advocates for Human Rights, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Tahirih Justice Center and the Midwest Innocence Project, but she also dedicates time to a number of nonprofits in the Wichita community, including a local organization dedicated to housing homeless veterans. Over the last five years, Hansen donated 541 hours to 17 pro bono matters, all while building a thriving billable practice.

DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION CLINIC

In December, attorneys Christina Hansen and Reiley Pankratz participated in a pro bono Driver's License Restoration Clinic organized by the Wichita Bar Association, the City of Wichita and Kansas Legal Services. Hansen and Pankratz met with five clients, and, in total, the clinic served more than 170 individuals seeking to have their licenses reinstated. Hansen said, "it was incredibly eye-opening to see the complications most of the attendees face in getting their licenses reinstated."





Attorneys Reiley Pankratz (left) and Christine Hansen (right) with Koch Industries attorney Bryan Bye at the Driver's License Restoration Clinic.



NO BANS, NO CHOICE

In early 2021, the ACLU of Missouri asked Stinson if the firm could assist nonprofit Citizens in Charge in preparing an amicus brief in support of referendum rights reserved to the people through the Missouri Constitution. The statutes in question prohibit the collection of countable signatures on a referendum petition until after the Secretary of State has certified a referendum's official ballot title; this, in conjunction with Missouri's legislative session, leaves restrictively little time for signatures to be collected. In their opinion, the Missouri Supreme Court cited to research from the amicus brief. Partner Charles Hatfield, attorneys Alixandra Cossette and Alexander Barrett, and paralegal Marsha Presley all contributed to this effort.

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS MATTER

Partner Charles Hatfield, attorneys Alixandra Cossette, Caleb Hall and Alexander Barrett, and paralegal Marsha Presley, accepted a request from a judge to represent a father on appeal in a termination of parental rights case.



NSBA LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Omaha attorney — and Stinson Pro Bono Committee member — <u>Kalissa Kleine</u> was recently added to the Nebraska State Bar Association's Legal Services Committee. The committee is responsible for recommending, reviewing and approving the policies and guidelines regulating volunteer legal services, including private attorney participation, client eligibility for services and program record keeping in the state of Nebraska. The committee also assists in recruiting private attorneys and other professionals, establishing and maintaining a program of awards and recognition for the volunteer attorneys and maintaining the funding for legal services. In 2021, the committee undertook a review of the Nebraska Pro Bono Rules.

NEBRASKA APPLESEED: MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY AMICUS BRIEF

St. Louis Partner Nicci Warr, who is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, along with attorney Kalissa Kleine, worked with Nebraska Appleseed to file an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on a case involving the use of work requirements in determining Medicaid eligibility. The Nebraska attorney general filed an amicus brief asking the Court to opine on Nebraska's program. Represented by Stinson, Nebraska Appleseed's brief argued that the Nebraska attorney general's brief inaccurately described Nebraska's Medicaid program and asked the Court not to opine on a program that was not the subject of the case.



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Advocates for Human Rights American Civil Liberties Union

Justice in Aging

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

National Health Law Program

Survivor Reentry Project

Tahirih Justice Center

DALLAS

Texas Appleseed Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program

DENVER

Colorado Lawyers' Committee Colorado Poverty Law Project

District of Colorado Civil Pro Bono Panel

Korey Wise Innocence Project

Mile High United Way United Business Advisory Program

MINNEAPOLIS

ACLU of Minnesota

Cancer Legal Care

Children's Law Center of Minnesota

Community-University Health Care Center

Federal Bar Association's Pro Se Project

Gender Justice

Housing Justice Center

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

LegalCORPS

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

Minnesota Lawyers for the Arts

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

University of Minnesota Law School's Business Law Clinic

Upper Midwest Healthcare Legal Partnership

Upper Midwest Pension Rights Project

Volunteer Lawyers Network

MISSOURI

ACLU of Kansas

ACLU of Missouri

Asylum Clinic Kansas City

Innovation Law Lab/Deportation Defense Legal Network

Kansas Appleseed

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Military Matters

KC Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts

KU School of Law Medical-Legal Partnership

Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Midwest Innocence Project

The Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project

Missouri Appleseed

Missouri Coalition for the Right to Counsel

MU Veterans Clinic

St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Pro Bono Program

OMAHA

Nebraska Appleseed

PHOENIX

ACLU of Arizona

WASHINGTON, DC

DC Bar Advocacy and Justice Center

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

Tzedek DC

WICHITA

Kansas Legal Services

Passageways, Ltd.

Saint Francis Community Services



2021 PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Allison Woodbury, Co-Chair	Bradley Yeretsky, Co-Chair	<u>Theresa Hughes</u>
Michael Aigen	<u>Mark Iba</u>	<u>Jeremy Root</u>
Ashley Crisafulli	Jennifer Ives	<u>Andrew Scavotto</u>
Katie Cronin	<u>Kalissa Kleine</u>	Julie Scheipeter
Ashley Dillon	Eric Mikkelson	Jere Sellers
Patrick Edwards	<u>Lynda Moore</u>	<u>Keegan Shea</u>
Zane Gilmer	<u>Tracey Ohm</u>	Javier Torres
Perry Glantz	Marsha Presley	Eleanor Wood
Janet Hendrickson, Ph.D.	Harvey Reiter	

To learn more about Stinson's pro bono program, please contact:

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