Debevoise & Plimpton

Pro Bono Legal Service





accompany capital

Debevoise advised its longtime pro bono client Accompany Capital in its participation in New York City's Taxi Medallion Relief Program ("MRP") to refinance medallion loans of New York City taxi medallion owners. For more than 20 years, Accompany Capital has provided strategic financing services with a focus on the needs of immigrants and refugees.

Due to a rapid fall in the value of medallions and a fall in taxi ridership, many taxi medallion owners were unable to make the loan payments on their medallions and faced the threat of personal bankruptcy. MRP was adopted to allow eligible medallion owners to apply for grants and to refinance their medallion debt to reduce monthly payments.

MRP stakeholders include the city government, the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, the medallion owners and the lenders. Debevoise reviewed and negotiated the agreements governing Accompany Capital's participation in MRP. Accompany Capital was able to refinance the medallion loans of several NYC medallion owners. Over the years, Debevoise has assisted Accompany Capital and its clients on a variety of matters, including its spin-off as an independent organization in 2009.

Pro Bono Legal Service

Debevoise has had an unwavering commitment to our pro bono clients since our firm was founded in 1931. Across all practice groups, we provide pro bono legal services to help close the justice gap and create a more equitable society. Our pro bono work has three main goals: to provide legal representation to people who could not otherwise afford it, to strengthen the communities in which we live and work, and to protect civil liberties and public rights in the United States and around the world.

Says Peter Furci, Debevoise's Presiding Partner, "Our pro bono work is central to our firm culture. From partners to first-year associates, Debevoise is committed to providing pro bono legal services to fight injustice, increase the capacity and impact of organizations working with marginalized communities, and level the playing field for low-income individuals in legal proceedings. We bring the same energy and dedication to our pro bono matters as we do our billable work. Our pro bono work also gives our associates opportunities to lead matters, work directly with clients, and develop substantive legal skills."

Debevoise lawyers in the United States performed more than 86,000 hours of pro bono work, averaging more than 105 hours per lawyer in 2025. By providing direct representations and partnering with human rights, legal reform and other organizations, Debevoise helps individuals, underserved communities, nonprofit organizations and small businesses.

Ranked among the top law firms in *The American Lawyer*'s annual pro bono survey, Debevoise is consistently recognized for having a deep and long-standing commitment to pro bono. We are the only law firm to appear on *The American Lawyer*'s A-List every year since the list was created—which is based in part on commitment to pro bono legal service. Debevoise is a charter signatory to the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge™, and has agreed to commit at least 5% of our annual billed time to pro bono matters. We are also a signatory to the New York City Bar Statement of Pro Bono Principles and a member of the UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono.

We work on hundreds of pro bono matters each year that range from landmark international and national disputes to representing low-income individuals in the communities in which we live and practice.

Debevoise lawyers obtain pro bono work from a variety of sources. Frequently, pro bono matters are referred to us by legal service organizations with which the firm has long-standing relationships, including The Legal Aid Society, Sanctuary for Families, Human Rights First, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Immigration Equality and Start Small Think Big. Other pro bono projects come from our lawyers, who are inspired by a cause. Our lawyers make their matters count by making them their own, and our clients notice the difference.

Our lawyers participate in pro bono activities throughout their careers, and we fully support our lawyers' pro bono work, regardless of whether it is within or outside of their particular practice areas. Our pro bono matters are handled like all other matters, with the dedication of all available firm resources needed for the representations.

We view pro bono work as an important element of our lawyers' professional development and work with lawyers to select pro bono matters that will help them develop legal skills and substantive knowledge. We staff summer associates on ongoing pro bono projects and provide special opportunities for summer associates to take primary responsibility for certain matters.



In 2025, Debevoise lawyers in the United States performed more than 86,000 hours of pro bono work, averaging more than 105 hours per lawyer.



In 2026, 93% of Debevoise summer associates worked on pro bono matters.





In 2025, 98% of associates and 90% of all lawyers in the firm's U.S. offices contributed to the firm's pro bono work.



In 2025, Debevoise lawyers worked on more than 1000 pro bono matters.

Corporate Pro Bono

Our corporate lawyers provide a wide range of pro bono legal services. We assist not-for-profit organizations in entity formation, corporate governance, business operations and employee benefits matters. We also advise organizations on mergers and other strategic transactions, on real estate matters and, when necessary, on how to wind down their operations and file for bankruptcy. Our practice includes organizations based in the United States and nongovernmental organizations operating internationally.

Corporate lawyers advise low-income entrepreneurs on selecting the right corporate form for their businesses, assist in drafting governance documents and contracts, and review leases and negotiate with landlords. When appropriate, we provide pro bono services to impact investment vehicles, benefit corporations and social enterprises, including organizations seeking to provide banking and financial services to underserved communities.

Litigation Pro Bono

Debevoise litigators engage in a full range of pro bono activity, from representations of individuals who cannot afford legal counsel to high-impact litigation that is challenging systemic racism and changing the law and the status of low-income or marginalized communities across the country and around the globe.

We represent clients, file amici briefs, conduct research and issue reports. We work extensively in the areas of criminal justice reform, civil rights, international human rights, the death penalty, criminal defense, immigration, and employment and wage and hour violations.

Tax Pro Bono

Lawyers in the Tax Department provide advice on a range of issues to not-for-profit organizations and to low-income entrepreneurs. We also represent low-income litigants in tax court.



"As a summer associate, I had the valuable opportunity to work on pro bono matters and volunteer serving those in need at the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. This experience reinforced my appreciation for being a part of this firm, where making a meaningful impact is not only encouraged but also actively supported. Debevoise is a community committed to making a real difference."

Vedant Chauhan
Corporate Associate

Cross-Department Pro Bono

Some of our most successful pro bono efforts are not tied to a particular department and give lawyers the opportunity to work with colleagues from other practice areas. Lawyers from all departments work together on affirmative immigration matters, including asylum, legal permanent resident and naturalization applications; uncontested divorces; and name change petitions.

The firm has ongoing relationships with a wide variety of legal services organizations, including those listed below.

Broad Partnerships

Advocates for Children
Center for Reproductive Rights
Centre for Criminal Appeals
City Bar Justice Center
Clooney Foundation for Justice
Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice
Eyewitness to Atrocities
Hackney Community Law Centre
Her Justice
Human Dignity Trust
Human Rights First
Immigration Equality
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Lawyers Alliance for New York
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy
Legal Services NYC
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Pro Bono Centre
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Office of the Appellate Defender
PILnet
Sanctuary for Families
Start Small Think Big
Tahirih Justice Center
The Legal Aid Society
UnLtd
Urban Justice Center
Veteran Advocacy Project
Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Volunteers of Legal Services

The Holloway Project

For the past ten years, Debevoise lawyers have worked to reduce excessive prison sentences that were required by harsh federal sentencing guidelines that Congress has since corrected. This effort, known as The Holloway Project and led by former federal prosecutor and former U.S. District Judge John Gleeson, has already resulted in reduced sentences for 74 clients and shaved more than 3,000 years off of their sentences. Since 2016, more than 200 lawyers have spent more than 54,000 hours on Holloway representation.



Pro Bono Awards and Recognition

The firm is broadly recognized for our dedication to pro bono legal services:

- **Champions for Children Award** from Graham for its pro bono work supporting children, young adults and families.

- **2025 Lawyer Award for Pro Bono Initiative of the Year, 2025 PILnet Global Awards Popular Choice Award** and **2025 LawWorks Best International Pro Bono Award** for its work with the Center for Reproductive Rights on behalf of three rape survivors.

- **The Halsbury Award for Rule of Law** at the 2026 LexisNexis Legal Awards.

- **2026 President's Pro Bono Service Award** from the New York State Bar Association for our extraordinary pro bono service over the prior year.

- **2026 Guardian of Justice Award** from the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County for routinely taking challenging cases for survivors of domestic violence.

- **2026 Honoree** at Volunteers of Legal Services gala for our series of webinars with MetLife on legal issues facing small business.

- **2025 Above and Beyond Award** from Sanctuary for Families to a Capital Markets Group team that successfully assisted a domestic violence survivor in applying for parole.

- **2025 Honoree** at Episcopal Charities gala for our instrumental role in the founding and leadership of the organization.

- Judge John Gleeson received the **2025 Tradition of Excellence Award** from Access Justice Brooklyn.

For more information, follow us on **LinkedIn**.

Our Offices

New York
66 Hudson Boulevard
New York, NY 10001
Tel: +1 212 909 6000
Fax: +1 212 909 6836

Washington, D.C.
801 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel: +1 202 383 8000
Fax: +1 202 383 8118

San Francisco
650 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
Tel: +1 415 738 5700
Fax: +1 415 644 5628

London
The Northcliffe
28 Tudor Street
London
EC4Y 0AY
Tel: +44 20 7786 9000
Fax: +44 20 7588 4180

Paris
103 rue de Grenelle
75007 Paris
Tel: +33 1 40 73 12 12
Fax : +33 1 47 20 50 82

Frankfurt
Taunustor 1 (TaunusTurm)
60310 Frankfurt am Main
Tel: +49 69 2097 5000
Fax: +49 69 2097 5555

Luxembourg
4a, rue Albert Borschette
L-1246 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 28 5795 33 00

Hong Kong
21/F AIA Central
1 Connaught Road Central
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2160 9800
Fax: +852 2810 9828

Shanghai
13/F, Tower 1
Jing'an Kerry Centre
1515 Nanjing Road West
Shanghai 200040
Tel: +86 21 5047 1800
Fax: +86 21 5047 1600

debevoise.com