

Debevoise
& Plimpton

Pro Bono Legal Service





Bay Ridge Center

Since 2017, Debevoise lawyers have routinely assisted the Bay Ridge Center (“BRC”) for older adults in connection with its real estate, construction, leasing and ongoing operational matters. For over 40

years, BRC has provided services for adults 60 years and older in southwest Brooklyn that promote their well-being, support their independence and encourage their involvement in community life. Debevoise also played an instrumental role in the negotiation of the long term, build-to-suit lease for their new premises, which will triple programs for the Southwest Brooklyn senior community, and will feature a state-of-the-art gym, technology learning lab and spacious dining room area, along with classrooms for arts, education and music programs.



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."

Our lawyers in the United States provided over 78,000 hours of free legal services in 2022. 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 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— and ranked in the top-ten in 2022. 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.

78,000+

Hours of
Pro Bono Work

In 2022, Debevoise attorneys in the United States performed over 78,000 hours of pro bono work, averaging 103 hours per attorney.

78%

Summer
Associates

In 2022, 78% of Debevoise summer associates worked on pro bono matters.

73%

Associates

In 2022, 73% of associates and 64% of all attorneys in the firm's U.S. offices performed at least 20 hours of pro bono work.

64%

All Attorneys

900+

Pro Bono Matters

In 2022, Debevoise attorneys worked on more than 900 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 opportunity to work on several pro bono matters. I helped research and draft an appellate brief challenging the Department of Homeland Security’s plan to build a border wall through a butterfly sanctuary and did research on how to use the Alien Tort Statute to hold human rights violators abroad accountable in U.S. court. I also drafted a motion for compassionate release as part of the Holloway Project and helped immigrants with their asylum and temporary protected status applications. Pro bono work gave me a chance to do incredibly substantive work as a summer while advancing issues that are important to me.”

Alexa Busser Lopez
Litigation 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 DACA, asylum, legal permanent resident and naturalization applications; uncontested divorces; and name change petitions.

Broad Partnerships

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

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

The Holloway Project

For the past seven years, Debevoise lawyers have worked to reduce excessive prison sentences that were required by harsh federal sentencing guidelines which Congress has since corrected. This effort, known as The Holloway Project and led by former federal prosecutor and former US District Judge John Gleeson, has already resulted in reduced sentences for 42 federal prisoners and shaved more than 1500 years off of their sentences. Since 2016, nearly 200 lawyers have spent more than 30,000 hours on Holloway representations.



Pro Bono Awards and Recognition

Debevoise Awarded the 2022 John H. Pickering Award

The Pro Bono Institute awarded the firm one of our industry's most prestigious honors, the 2022 John H. Pickering Award for our outstanding commitment to pro bono legal services.

Debevoise Recognized with 2022 IBA Group Member Pro Bono Award

Debevoise received the International Bar Association (IBA) Group Member Award for our pro bono contributions to the IBA's work, including efforts related to combating human trafficking, sustainability, modern slavery and political prisoners in North Korea.

Debevoise Named 2022 Pro Bono Innovator by *Bloomberg Law*

In 2022, Debevoise was named a Pro Bono Innovator by *Bloomberg Law* for our impactful and innovative pro bono efforts over the past year.

The firm was recognized for the breadth of its pro bono work with a focus on three representations:

- Holding the FBI accountable for violating the freedom of religion of American Muslims who had been placed or kept on the No Fly List because they refused to become informants on their Muslim communities.
- Securing a preliminary injunction against the University of Florida to prevent the university from suppressing faculty speech after political science professors were barred by the university from offering expert testimony against policies enacted by the state of Florida.
- Advocating for decades for comprehensive discharge plans when individuals receiving mental health treatment are released from jail in New York City.

Debevoise Named a 2022 Social Impact Leader by *Law360*

Debevoise was named a Social Impact Leader by *Law360*. According to *Law360*, firms were ranked using four key indicators of socially responsible business practices including racial and ethnic diversity, gender equality, employee engagement and pro bono service.

Debevoise Receives LawWorks Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership Award

Debevoise is one of 14 law firms leading a project that was awarded the Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership award at the LawWorks Pro Bono Awards 2022. The Afghan Pro Bono Initiative ("APBI"), launched in March 2022, offers pro bono legal representation to Afghan refugees needing legal advice and support following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021. Led by Refugee Legal Support and Safe Passage International, the APBI brings together lawyers from 14 international law firms to provide providing pro bono legal advice and representation for people applying to be reunited with their family in the UK and accessing the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme, as well as providing information on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. The APBI also dedicates significant resources on engaging with the affected UK communities, including disseminating legal and practical information to those affected in their preferred language.

To learn more about our firm and what we're passionate about, follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Our Offices

New York

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

Frankfurt

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

Washington, D.C.

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

Luxembourg

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

San Francisco

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

Hong Kong

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

London

65 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7NQ
Tel: +44 20 7786 9000
Fax: +44 20 7588 4180

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

Paris

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