

Bradley

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP



2018 Pro Bono Annual Report

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Bradley is proud of its long-standing commitment to helping those who are less fortunate. Over the years we have consistently demonstrated our commitment to this principle through our pro bono representations. As the firm has evolved, the opportunities to support our communities through pro bono work have, too. In February 2018, we welcomed Tiffany Graves, our first-ever pro bono counsel, to oversee the administration of the firm's pro bono program, and develop additional opportunities for our lawyers to give back to the communities in which we practice and live. Our dedicated attorneys have taken full advantage of these occasions to serve, making 2018 a banner year for pro bono at Bradley.

The diversity of our pro bono activities is one of the many things that makes our program so special. Among the areas where our pro bono program supports people and groups in need of legal representation are death penalty cases, adoptions, evictions, human rights, privacy rights, prisoner rights, services for people in recovery from addiction, representation of start-up charitable nonprofits, and intellectual property work for low-income inventors, artists and entertainers. Our pro bono practice is strengthened by our work with legal services organizations, some of which we serve in concert with our clients. We are grateful for those partnerships and the important work that legal services organizations do to ensure equal access to justice for all.

We are pleased to share this 2018 Pro Bono Annual Report with you to acknowledge the ways in which Bradley attorneys endeavored to make a positive impact on our communities through pro bono legal service.

Dylan Black, *Pro Bono Committee Chair*

THE PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Timothy Andreu

Marc Ayers

Dylan Black

Jeffrey Blackwood

George Cate

Rob Cox

Nathan Graham

Tiffany Graves

Angela Holt

Virginia Patterson

Peter Sales

Rob Sayles

Chuck Stewart

Erin Sullivan

Serving Pro Bono Clients Across Our Footprint

FREEING A MAN WHO SPENT OVER A DECADE ON DEATH ROW

Lindsey Boney, **Dylan Black** and **Brooks Proctor**, helped to exonerate Clemente Aguirre, formerly an inmate on Florida's death row. Mr. Aguirre was convicted and sentenced to death in 2006 for two murders he did not commit. After an unsuccessful direct appeal, he sought a new trial based on newly discovered DNA and confession evidence that pointed to an alternative suspect. After an unsuccessful appeal, a retrial that resulted in a mistrial, and reassignment of the case to a new judge, the retrial commenced again in October 2018. The second retrial lasted three weeks but ended with the state entering a nolle prosequi on all charges. Mr. Aguirre was immediately released and is now a free man. The firm contributed a total of 10,241 pro bono hours to fight to exonerate Mr. Aguirre, with 5,295 hours dedicated to the case in 2018 alone.

PARTNERING TO PROTECT WOMEN FROM ABUSE

Jennifer Commander, an associate in **Birmingham**, represented a client seeking protection from a physically abusive former domestic partner. Jennifer represented the client at two different family court appearances and accompanied her to a criminal hearing, ultimately securing a permanent protection from abuse order. Jennifer accepted the matter as part of Bradley's partnership with the YWCA of Birmingham to provide pro bono legal services to low-income individuals seeking year-long protection from abuse orders.

In the spring of 2018, Bradley began a partnership with Bank of America's legal department to provide pro bono legal services to individuals seeking to obtain year-long domestic violence protection orders. Safe Alliance and Legal Aid of North Carolina are also project partners. **Bridget Warren**, an associate in **Charlotte**, along with an attorney from the legal department of Bank of America, represented

a woman who had been a victim of domestic violence at the hands of a former boyfriend and the father of her child. After a difficult cross-examination in which the client was asked to recount the abuse she had suffered, the judge granted the plaintiff's motion and ordered the defendant not to contact her for one year.

JOINING FORCES TO SERVE CLIENTS IN NEED

Bradley's **Birmingham** office began a corporate partnership in the fall of 2018 with the legal department of Encompass Health to provide free legal services to low-income residents of the Woodlawn neighborhood. Attorneys from Bradley and Encompass Health staff a monthly Help Desk and provide legal advice, make referrals to nonprofit legal organizations and social services, and accept cases for extended representation. The Woodlawn Foundation and Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham are also project partners.

Bradley's **Jackson** office joined the legal department of Entergy Mississippi in hosting a family law legal clinic for clients of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. Bradley and attorneys from Entergy Mississippi provided legal counsel, made referrals and accepted cases for extended representation at the clinic. Entergy Mississippi and Bradley expect to partner on new pro bono initiatives in the future.

SUPPORTING VETERANS WITH LEGAL NEEDS

The Veteran's Administration (VA) recently began urging veterans suffering from a wide range of conditions to appoint someone to receive their benefits checks and legal notices in case of their incapacity. If veterans agree, the VA finds them incompetent to handle their own affairs and sends their names to the FBI's National Criminal Information Systems (NCIS) where they are listed as prohibited from possessing firearms — something that can be distressing and potentially threatening to a veteran's future job prospects and personal self-esteem. **Eliot Peace**, an associate in **Tampa**, got the Veteran's Administration (VA) to reverse an incompetence finding that helped his veteran client get his NCIS listing removed and his Second Amendment rights restored. He was also asked to prepare a manual that is now being distributed to help other pro bono lawyers taking on similar VA appeals.

In partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands and Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN),

12 attorneys in **Nashville** provided legal advice to military veterans. OSDTN is a nonprofit organization that focuses on engaging, equipping and empowering veterans and their families. Bradley attorneys met with veterans to provide legal advice and referrals to legal and social service agencies.

ADVISING NONPROFITS AND BUSINESS OWNERS ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Several attorneys in the **Huntsville** office frequently counsel clients of The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship, a nonprofit formed to assist small businesses and individuals interested in starting small businesses. Attorneys meet with clients to advise and educate them on topics such as business entity formation, intellectual property protection, and contracts needed to protect small businesses. **Frank Caprio**, managing partner of the Huntsville office, took the lead on connecting our attorneys with clients.

DEFENDING AGAINST WRONGFUL ARRESTS

Attorneys in Bradley's **Huntsville** office represented the interests of federal criminal defendants in several pro bono matters. Bradley's efforts included counseling a federal prisoner through his collateral attack on a 15-year mandatory minimum sentence in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and drafting an amicus brief on behalf of the National Association for Public Defense in support of certiorari before the United States Supreme Court on a critical Fourth Amendment issue.

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS IN RECOVERY

Helping Up Mission is a nonprofit organization focused on providing hope to people experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction by meeting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs. Attorneys in the **Washington, D.C.** office regularly provide pro bono legal services to clients of Helping Up Mission in the areas of expungement, benefit requisition and license restoration, among others.

PROVIDING PRO BONO DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES

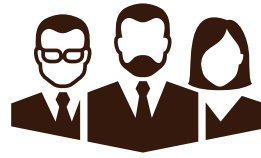
Attorneys in Bradley's **Houston** office continue to serve pro bono clients in the aftermath of 2017's Hurricane Harvey, a hurricane tied with 2005's Hurricane Katrina as the costliest tropical cyclone on record. Bradley attorneys have assisted a number of clients with hurricane-related insurance claims.





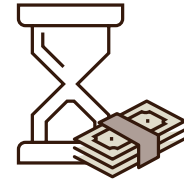
Number of Pro Bono Hours Volunteered by Attorneys and Staff

19,868



Total Number of Bradley Attorneys Who Performed Pro Bono Work

387



Total Value of Pro Bono Hours

\$7,086,470



Percentage of Attorneys Who Performed 20 or More Hours of Pro Bono Work

48.8%



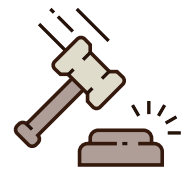
Number of Bradley Attorneys Who Worked on Behalf of Death Row Inmates in 2018

73



Number of Pro Bono Hours Completed by Alabama Attorneys and Staff

12,120



Number of Clients Exonerated in Pro Bono Cases Handled by Bradley Attorneys

1

Tiffany M. Graves

Pro Bono Counsel

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Tiffany Graves oversees the development and administration of the firm's pro bono programs. Tiffany is the former executive director of the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, where she was responsible for developing strategic goals and building coalitions to enhance the civil legal aid delivery system, supporting the evolving needs of underserved populations, and maintaining working relationships with regional and national legal nonprofits, bar associations and justice leaders. She previously served as interim director and adjunct professor for the Pro Bono Initiative at the University of Mississippi School of Law, and as executive director and general counsel for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. She is based in Bradley's Jackson office.

