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Pro Bono

& community outreach newsletter

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Submissions

Would you like to see more great pro bono and community work featured in the next newsletter? Please send your stories and photos to:

brian.walker@pillsburylaw.com

**"We make a living
by what we get,
but we make a life
by what we give."**

—Winston Churchill



Pillsbury pro bono client and middle schooler Toni Kay Scott shows off the socks that led to her suspension and launched a First Amendment case. See "School Dress Code" on page 2. (Photo credit: San Francisco Chronicle, Chris Stewart.)

Pro Bono Spotlight

School Dress Code Struck Down As Unconstitutional

Toni Kay Scott was excited for her first day of middle school. She picked out the perfect outfit—a denim skirt, a brown shirt, and socks with pictures of a smiling cartoon tiger—not suspecting that before the day was over she would be escorted to the principal’s office by a uniformed police officer and placed into in-school suspension for violating the school’s dress code.

The dress code at Redwood Middle School in Napa, California, required students to wear certain solid colors in specific fabrics and prohibited them from wearing any clothing with words or other expressive content (except for approved school slogans). After attempts to get the school to change the policy failed, Pillsbury and the ACLU of Northern California brought suit in Napa County Superior Court in March 2007, on behalf of six students and their parents, to enjoin enforcement of the uniform policy and ask the court to declare it invalid.

Pillsbury and the ACLU argued that the dress code violated free speech rights in both the United States and California Constitutions, as well as California statutes requiring schools to allow students to opt out from such policies and mandating that policies forbidding expressive statements on clothing be narrowly tailored to prevent gangs and gang activity or address genuine health and safety issues.

The lawsuit sparked wide interest in part because of the innocent nature of the “offensive” clothing—knee-high socks depicting the character Tigger from A.A. Milne’s Winnie-the-Pooh books, a breast cancer awareness ribbon and an anti-drug D.A.R.E. t-shirt. In the United States, the lawsuit was covered by newspaper, television and radio, including the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine and MSNBC. The case was also picked up by the Associated Press newswires and was reported in countries around the world.

Pillsbury and the ACLU filed a motion for a preliminary injunction on behalf of the plaintiffs, which was argued by San Francisco partner Tom Loran on May 23. In July, the court granted the motion and issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the school from enforcing the uniform policy, until and unless parents were allowed to exempt their children from the policy. The school district has filed a notice of appeal.



Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to deliver the latest Pro Bono and Community Outreach Newsletter. We pick up where we left off in the Winter edition, spotlighting the pro bono and community service work taking place around the firm during the spring and summer.

Looking over the newsletter, I am struck by the number of ways Pillsbury people are making a difference. We are running and walking for cures, defending due process before the Supreme Court, giving away backpacks stuffed with school supplies, helping victims of ethnic violence find asylum, sending care packages to Iraq, and even going to “jail” for a cause. As individuals and as a firm, we are changing the world around us.

But there is always more to be done. Information about joining a pro bono project or proposing a community outreach activity can be found on page 12. I encourage everyone to get involved.

Tom Loran

Chair,
Pro Bono Committee

“Although Tigger got this case its press coverage, the rights we are defending are substantial, including the rights of students to express political beliefs and to support causes such as breast cancer awareness.

—Tom Loran, Partner, San Francisco

To learn more about ACLU of Northern California, visit www.aclunc.org



Public Interest Spotlight

Pillsbury Affidavit in Guantanamo Detainee Case Prompts Rare Supreme Court Reversal

Please note: Pillsbury's work with Guantanamo Bay detainees, while fee generating for the firm, is nevertheless considered "pro bono" because the purpose of our representation is to secure or protect civil rights and civil liberties. In addition, Pillsbury has made the affidavit that is at the center of this story available to all attorneys representing Guantanamo Bay detainees, where it has a significant impact on dozens of other pro bono cases, in which the defendants, unlike Pillsbury's clients, are unable to pay fees.

While numerous litigators represent the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, few have had more impact than Washington, DC partner David Cynamon, who is counsel in one of the two leading cases. David recently persuaded Stephen E. Abraham, a reserve military intelligence officer and Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) lawyer, to file an affidavit in which Abraham describes the enemy combatant tribunal process as lacking "even the most fundamental earmarks of objectively credible evidence."

David worked with DC senior associate Matt MacLean and DC associate

Osman Handoo to draft the affidavit detailing the shortcomings of the CSRT. It was submitted to the Supreme Court in support of a petition to review the adverse decision of the DC Circuit holding that it had no jurisdiction to consider detainees' habeas claims. One week later, on the last day of its term, the Supreme Court reversed its April decision not to review the DC Circuit Court ruling. The reversal is extremely uncommon in modern Supreme Court practice. In headlines around the world, the Abraham affidavit was cited as a significant factor in the reversal.

David credits finding Abraham—the first person who had served on the CSRT to publicly challenge the fairness of the hearings—to persistence and sheer luck: "My team was asked to give an internal presentation on the Guantanamo cases. Sue Borschel in our Northern Virginia office emailed me to ask if her brother could listen in on the program, because he had been an Army reserve intelligence officer assigned to one of the CSRTs, but

had asked for reassignment because he was appalled by the process. When I heard that, my jaw dropped. We'd known for a long time that the CSRTs were kangaroo courts, but this was the first corroboration from an insider."

Of the 12 Kuwaitis originally detained at Guantanamo, eight have been repatriated to Kuwait, where all were found not guilty of terrorism charges in the Kuwaiti courts. Pillsbury continues to represent the remaining four detainees.

"Our position is very simple: each detainee should be given a fair hearing to determine whether he's properly detained as an enemy combatant. Give the detainees a fair hearing in the U.S. or in Kuwait, but give them a fair hearing."

— David Cynamon, Partner, DC



Pro Bono Spotlight

Giving Kids Needed Relief from 'Zero Tolerance'

Under “zero-tolerance” policies, many Houston-area schools have begun turning over disciplinary matters to the District Attorney for prosecution rather than handling them in the school. Children often receive punishment disproportionate to the offense committed, which can remain on their records forever.

Seven attorneys from the Houston office, headed by Brent Monteleone, are participating in a pro bono effort known as the School Infractions Project. This program, sponsored by the Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, is designed to help children unjustly referred to the court system for violating school zero-tolerance policies. The children in the program are generally ages 10 to 16.

Pillsbury’s goal is to represent these children so that they are given appropriate punishments at school instead of winding

up with criminal records for minor schoolyard offenses. The Houston office anticipates receiving individual case files soon after the start of the school year.

“Through this project, Pillsbury lawyers can make a big difference to children who deserve our help and would be facing severe and unjust results otherwise.”

—Brent Monteleone,
Senior Associate, Houston

To learn more about the Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, visit www.law.uh.edu/juveniledefender



Supporting Grass Roots Efforts to Fight Poverty and Give Hope

The Northern Virginia office has entered into a pro bono relationship to help new small businesses in the area. The Fairfax Small Business Development Center, sponsored by George Mason University, uses business professionals and MBA students to help small enterprises get started with business plans, obtaining micro loans, and similar services to promote jobs and independence. What has been missing from the equation are lawyers able to help with matters such as incorporation issues, lease reviews, employee manuals, benefits questions and supply contracts.

Pillsbury plans to have one or two lawyers visit the Center monthly during business hours to meet with prospective clients screened by the Center. Those lawyers will in turn solicit others in the office to work on the matters. This is an exciting opportunity to help people from the community who are starting out on the road to economic well-being.

For more information on the Fairfax Small Business Development Center, visit www.sbdcenter.org

Pro Bono Spotlight

Assessing the Legal Authority behind Disaster Planning



Disaster planning is a fact of 21st-century life for all American cities, but the government of the city of New York stands apart for the complexity and visibility of its efforts. New York has developed detailed procedures for every major category of emergency, focusing on scenarios as varied as a dirty bomb, a pandemic, a chemical attack and a Category 4 hurricane. The City has invested heavily in the people and resources needed to maintain order and promote the safety of its citizens in the most dire situations.

For the last six months, Ken Taber has led a team of 20 Pillsbury attorneys assessing easily overlooked but critically important aspects of all cities' disaster planning: compliance with applicable legal authorities and, where necessary,

the proper suspension by Emergency Order of contrary laws. The project includes reviewing New York's emergency plans, along with relevant federal, state and local law, in order to ensure that the City has adequate legal authority for its operational decisions. The team is also examining issues impacting the City's potential liability for its emergency measures, its regulatory compliance responsibilities, and how best to position the City legally both before and after an incident.

The firm is examining a wide range of specific issues, including evacuation, quarantine, emergency medical treatment, contamination and cleanup, property seizure, debris removal, contracting, labor protection and jurisdictional issues.

The disaster planning team includes Ken and litigators Fred Brodie, David Crichlow, Eric Fishman and Environmental partner Sheila Harvey, with extensive support from New York and Washington, DC office counsel and associates.

A Category 4 storm making landfall over New York City could flood JFK Airport under a 20-foot storm surge and cause \$50 billion in damage. Pillsbury's work on this project helps ensure that the City can maintain order during and after such a catastrophe.



Pro Bono Office Roundup

Houston

SENIOR ASSOCIATE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING PRO BONO SERVICE

Gindi Eckel Vincent has been selected for the 2007 ABA Tort and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes section members who have performed outstanding pro bono or public service work. Gindi is one of only 12 honorees in the country. Gindi was nominated last year by Melody Wilkinson, a partner at Cooley Manion & Jones in Fort Worth, for her services to Katrina and Rita hurricane transplants as well as for pro bono initiatives with the Texas Young Lawyers Association. Gindi will be recognized at the TIPS Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Los Angeles

GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

In keeping with a long-standing summer tradition, all 10 of our Los Angeles summer associates were assigned a temporary or permanent guardianship case referred to the firm by our client, the Alliance for Children's Rights. Each summer associate was shadowed by a first-year associate and met with clients, completed papers, and went to court for a hearing on the guardianships. (For those who were not able to get a hearing date prior to the end of the summer, the first-year associates will take over.) Second-year associate Semma Cuellar has been handling a guardianship case through the Alliance for Children's Rights as well. Last year a colleague of ours, Darlene Mulitauaopele, passed away unexpectedly, leaving behind several children. Semma is working with

Darlene's brother to help him obtain permanent guardianship of the children. Second-year associate Catherine Schneider and first-year associate John Maselli are also working on guardianship cases through the Alliance.

First-year associate Kate Burkart-Paulson handled a case for a temporary restraining order, child custody and child support through Peace Over Violence. Kate represented her client in multiple hearings related to those issues.

First-year litigation associate Sara Dooley is working on a guardian ad litem case for a victim of a tort injury. Sara received the case through Public Counsel and is working with a tort attorney from another firm.

First-year associate Didi Chow is working on an adoption case received through Public Counsel. She expects the adoption to be completed in the next couple of months.

CIVIC ENTITY REPRESENTATION

Partner Tony Cannon is working on several matters. For the American University of Afghanistan Foundation, Tony is responding to a series of questions concerning its organization and operation. Tony is also working with both the Board of the Magic Johnson Foundation and the Japan Association of Southern California to complete endowment agreements for each organization. He is also drafting a code of ethics for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, and working with officers of the Board of the Oakwood School to revise their bylaws and do some related strategic planning. Finally, Tony is preparing a tax exemption application for the Malibu Surfing Association.

HABEAS PETITION WORK IN HIGH GEAR

Kimberly Buffington, Rebecca Kaufman, Nathan Spatz, Avisha Patel, Angel Mojica (paralegal), and Dennis Jackson (paralegal) of the Los Angeles office are working on a habeas petition the firm is handling for James Robinson Jr., an inmate on California's death row. The deadline for the filing is this October, and activity in the case is going into high gear. The Pillsbury team is still gathering information and interviewing potential witnesses from all walks of our client's life to prepare the petition, which will be the culmination of three years' work by at least 20 Pillsbury employees.

New York

FAIR WAGE CASE

Sangita Shah and Ken Newby of the New York office are representing a group of former employees suing a restaurant in Queens and its former owners. The employees allege violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act and are seeking unpaid wages, overtime and statutory penalties as well as restitution for fraudulently induced loans they made to the restaurant that were never repaid. A summary judgment motion is pending, and trial is scheduled to begin as early as September 17, 2007.

HANDGUN CONTROL

Many Pillsbury attorneys continue to lend their time and energy to help the city of New York litigate the *City of New York v. A-1 Jewelry & Pawn, Inc., et al.* case., an action in nuisance and negligence against several gun dealers in the South and Midwest for contributing to the illegal gun market in New York City. On August 15, the court denied the remaining defendants' motion to dismiss the case for lack of personal jurisdiction, allowing the case to move forward. Several remaining defendants have since settled.

Northern Virginia

SUPPORTING HISTORY MUSEUM

With the help of Renee Powell, who is the firm's resident expert on registering to conduct charitable solicitation operations, the Northern Virginia office registered the National Museum of Military History in nearly every state and created a manual so the museum can do annual updates. In addition, Susan Borschel drafted and negotiated an executive compensation agreement for the new CEO, and filed for the museum's permanent status as a charitable organization. Pillsbury also provides counsel to the museum on a variety of corporate matters.

San Francisco

EVICION DEFENSE

Neelam Naidu and Blaine Green successfully defended our client, Cory Abraham, when his landlord tried to evict Mr. Abraham and his family from their rental unit, claiming that our client, by selling products over the Internet out of his apartment, violated a provision of his lease forbidding the conduct of business. However, the landlord had been aware of Mr. Abraham's "business" for most of his 13-year tenancy and never objected to it; in fact, the property manager had initially rented two units to Mr. Abraham, with the understanding that one unit would be used for our client's online business. Soon after we received

the case, Neelam took the depositions of the property manager and the neighbor who complained about our client's business, defended our client's deposition and noticed the deposition of the plaintiff-landlord. At that point, rather than submit to deposition, the landlord dismissed the lawsuit in its entirety.

HOMELESS MAN'S VAN RETURNED; PARKING TICKETS VOIDED

Summer associate Alexis Hoag, supervised by Blaine Green, represented Craig Gomez, a homeless man whose van is his only asset. At the request of SF Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT), the SF Police Department (SFPD) towed Mr. Gomez's van due to unpaid parking tickets. Mr. Gomez attempted to contest the tickets and tow, but neither DPT nor SFPD would provide him a hearing, each agency claiming that the other should provide the hearing.

We wrote letters to DPT and SFPD on Mr. Gomez's behalf, alleging a Constitutional deprivation of due process, and demanding the release of Mr. Gomez's van (along with a waiver of all parking, towing and storage fees, which had accrued to more than \$1000). Thanks to Ms. Hoag's diligent and persistent advocacy, we ultimately received a letter—signed by SFPD Chief Heather Fong—directing the release of the van to Mr. Gomez and waiving all associated fees.

MCCULLUM YOUTH COURT

Jake Sorensen and Neelam Naidu are volunteering with McCullum Youth Court, a youth-centered peer court for first-time juvenile offenders in Alameda County. For certain offenses, young offenders are given an opportunity to avoid the traditional juvenile justice system by acknowledging responsibility and participating in a hearing in which they are represented by youth attorneys who have been trained in legal defense and prosecution (to represent the victim(s) and community). Cases are tried and sentences issued by a jury of peers. Jake and Neelam regularly act as judges, presiding over the Youth Court trials in Alameda County Superior Court.

Silicon Valley

SAN JOSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Senior Counsel Yusuf Safdari serves as pro bono counsel for the San Jose Education Foundation. SJEF is the leading education foundation serving students, families and teachers of San Jose. It strives to create a unified voice for education through strategic partnerships with school districts, businesses, and community organizations. SJEF's mission is to redefine community by improving youths' chances at academic success and enhancing the overall well-being of students and their families. Yusuf provides counsel to SJEF on a variety of corporate nonprofit matters and is currently advising on issues relating to a merger with another nonprofit entity.



Washington, DC

SRI LANKAN DOMESTIC WORKER WINS POLITICAL ASYLUM

Fatima Ahmad, with the support and guidance of Tom Loran, represented an indigent Sri Lankan woman in a successful attempt to obtain asylum in the United States. Ms. Veloo is an ethnic Tamil refugee whose family suffered greatly as a consequence of the Sri Lankan civil war between the Sinhalese and the minority Tamils. During the 1983 race riots, Sinhalese mobs obtained lists of Tamil-owned properties and burned them down, including Ms. Veloo's childhood home. Ms. Veloo's father was repeatedly attacked by Sinhalese mobs and Ms. Veloo's brother disappeared during a race riot. Ms. Veloo fled the country after she herself was attacked in 2001. She spent three years in Singapore prior to coming to the

United States to seek a safe haven, which complicated her petition for asylum. Ms. Veloo was unable to apply for asylum until after the expiration of the one-year deadline, which presented another obstacle.

With the help of Prema Desoto, who provided valuable Tamil-English translation, Fatima gathered evidence of the persecution suffered by Ms. Veloo and her family in Sri Lanka, and documented Ms. Veloo's fractured emotional state, including her post-traumatic stress disorder. Upon reviewing the facts of her case, Amnesty International provided a letter in support of Ms. Veloo's application for asylum. The Washington Lawyers' Committee provided insight and practical guidance. In her new life in the United States, Ms. Veloo hopes to be reunited with her children and plans to enroll in adult education and says that she would like to help other women who have experienced similar persecution.

SUIT SEEKING COMPENSATION FOR JAILHOUSE RAPE VICTIMS

The DC office has partnered with the DC Prisoner's Project, a division of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, to represent two women who were raped by guards while they were incarcerated at DC's Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). The correctional facilities in the District of Columbia have a long and documented history of sexual abuse against inmates.

In December 2006, Tom Hill, Ashley McDonald, and Ellen Cohen filed a complaint in federal court in DC on behalf of the women, naming as defendants the District of Columbia; Corrections Corporation of America, the private contractor that operates CTF pursuant to a contract with the DC government; and the two individual correctional officers. The women's claims include constitutional violations compensable under 42 U.S.C. 1983 as well as tort claims of negligent supervision and hiring, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, and rape and assault and battery. The defendants have denied all of the allegations, and the case is now moving into the discovery phase.

Pro Bono / Community Media Highlights

Delmarva Daily Times:

"HOW TO HELP TROUBLED YOUTH? JUST MAKE THE EFFORT, PANEL SAYS"

Garland Stillwell of the DC office discusses his experiences as a mentor for teenagers.

San Francisco Attorney:

"THE 1% SOLUTION"

Dick Odgers is noted for his role as co-chair of the Bar Association of San Francisco's (BASF) Charitable Giving Task Force, which has called on law firms to donate 1% of net profits to charity.

Orange County Business Journal:

"KUDOS"

Craig Barbarosh is noted as receiving the Community Service Award from the American Jewish Committee.

The Sacramento Bee:

"BUSINESS CYCLE"

Sacramento partner Michelle Hallsten's participation in a triathlon to support the Sacramento Entrepreneurship Academy is noted.

NBC: "VOLUNTEERS 'BUFF AND SCRUB' DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS"

In Washington, DC, the NBC affiliate Channel 4 mentioned Pillsbury's participation in an effort to clean public schools before the first day of classes.

2007 Community Activities

There is a rich tradition throughout our firm of giving back to the community. By way of local community outreach initiatives, employees, friends and clients join together year-round to participate in a wide variety of events to help enrich and improve the quality of life for many.



Above: San Diego staffer Joyce Stevens's son-in-law Michael Moore gives a thumbs-up to the care packages sent to Iraq by the San Diego and Carmel Valley offices. See story on page 10.

Houston

GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Houston office attorneys have been active lately with pro bono matters, including Brent Monteleone's work on behalf of the Expungement Project (see page 2) and Gindi Eckel Vincent's work with Wills for Heroes, drafting wills and related documents for area police, fire and EMT personnel.

The upcoming holiday season will offer a chance for the whole office to deliver some happiness to local kids in need. The Houston office will sponsor two children from the "Santa's Wish List" program, which provides Christmas gifts for severely abused children who have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services because of life-threatening abuse or neglect. Joyce Klejbuk will be helping to coordinate volunteers and donations.

Los Angeles / Orange County

OUT IN FORCE AT L.A.'S LARGEST CANCER RUN

The L.A. office was out in force for the Revlon Run Walk. Pillsbury was represented by a team of 27 who raised \$4,200 to support women's cancer research. Over 50,000 participants convened at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum over Mother's Day weekend to show their support for the cause.

Sacramento

HANDS ON EFFORT

In late September, the Sacramento office will participate in Hands On Sacramento. The event involves thousands of area businesses and community groups doing high-impact work to clean up schools and neighborhoods. Volunteers do everything from cleaning and painting to landscaping and sorting donations. Office managing partner Ben Webster serves as Chair of the Community Services Planning Council, which sponsors the event.

New York

FOURTH ANNUAL DAFFODIL DAYS

In February, the New York office raised funds for the American Cancer Society. The "Daffodil Days" fund drive saw the office sending vases of flowers to cancer patients, and flowers and stuffed bears to a children's oncology hospital. This was the fourth consecutive year the office has participated in the event.

Silicon Valley

PARTNER GOES TO "JAIL" FOR HIS CONVICTIONS

Silicon Valley partner Steve Wurzburg felt so strongly about raising awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association that he was willing to serve time for the cause. As part of the MDA's "jailbird" event, Steve spent an hour in a (mock) jail trying to raise the \$1,300 bail for his release. In the end, Steve was released on his own recognition after raising \$1,650 for the event, which collected over \$14,000 in total. Money raised will be used for research, support groups, wheelchair grants and a week-long summer camp in the Santa Cruz mountains.



U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer poses with Pillsbury attorneys at a charity fundraiser in Piedmont, Calif. L to R: Shannon Waggoner, Pillsbury associate; Tom Loran, Pillsbury partner; Sen. Boxer; Colin Kemp, Pillsbury senior associate; and Tara Desautels, Pillsbury senior associate and President of the CALICO Board of Directors. Photo Courtesy of CALICO.

San Francisco

RAISING THE MONEY, DOING THE WORK

Each spring the San Francisco Bar Association and the legal community of San Francisco raise money for SF Food Bank, an organization that distributes food to children in need. During summer months, when many low-income children lose access to subsidized meals, Food from the Bar donations allow the food bank to feed about 10,000 children per day. This year, Pillsbury's San Francisco office raised nearly \$10,000 for the cause.

Taking their commitment one step further, a team of associates and summer associates spent an evening at the food bank helping where it was needed most. They assisted the staff in sorting fruit and canned goods. The combination of financial support and behind-the-scenes volunteer work made a difference in the lives of many local children.

Participating in the work party: Nathan Cardozo, Lisa Christensen, Tara Desautels, Lisa Earl, Michael Heuga, David Hopmann, Andrew Losh, Rosa Loya, Neelam Naidu, Sharon O'Grady, Corey Parson, Michelle Piro, Byron Rodriguez, Eliana Kaimowitz Rodriguez, Jeff Ross, Jesse Schumaker, Martin Sul, Margaret Thomson, Shannon Waggoner, and Matthew Yan.

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

Pillsbury was a lead sponsor of a July event celebrating the 10th anniversary of CALICO, the Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing & Coordinating Center. Located in San Leandro, CALICO is a public-private partnership for Alameda County that serves the interests of children who have been physically abused or sexually assaulted. More than 125 people attended the event, which raised more than \$40,000 for the center. Pillsbury senior associate Tara Desautels serves as President of the CALICO Board of Directors.

San Diego / Carmel Valley

A TASTE OF HOME FOR SOLDIERS IN IRAQ

The San Diego and Carmel Valley offices joined forces to send care packages to soldiers in Iraq. While this was the fourth time the offices had mailed care packages, it was the first time the packages went directly to Pillsbury relatives serving in the military, including Sandy Amerine's son, Patsy Munoz's son, Joyce Stevens's son-in-law and Chali Linke's brother-in-law.

The care packages contained a long list of items, everything from gel insoles for combat boots to books, magazines and DVDs. A special box of frosted animal cookies was included with Patsy's son Albert in mind — they are his staff sergeant's favorite!

Katie Dixon managed the project, with particular help from Diane Wheeler and Gayle Gebhart and widespread support from the attorneys and staff at both offices.

ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTEER TRADITION

For the second year running, the San Diego and Carmel Valley offices took over the St. Vincent de Paul Village kitchens. The effort started with the offices raising \$1,350 to pay for one day's worth of meals at the facility, which offers programs like computer training, job fairs and low-rent housing to help individuals and families overcome difficult odds.

On the appointed day, over 20 volunteers, including 12 attorneys and staff, four summer associates and friends and relatives showed up to prepare and serve meals to Village residents. Chali Linke in San Diego was the lead organizer of the dual-office effort.

Washington, DC/ Northern Virginia

SHOPPING FOR MUCH-NEEDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Jabella Thurston in McLean and Gwen Davis in DC organized a work party and fundraiser as part of the Greater DC Cares Servathon. Volunteers converged to rebuild St. Columba's Nursery School playground to make it accessible to children of all abilities. The two offices raised a total of \$1,740 for Greater DC Cares.

Volunteers for the event included Nicole Laquintano, Jennifer Sallee, Carrie Sadowski and Jabella Thurston from the Virginia office and Chris Andrews, Janiese Brooking-Parker and Sabrina Hill of the DC office as well as family and friends.

THE HARD-NOSED WORLD OF COMPETITIVE...SMOOTHIES?

Over three consecutive Fridays in July, six teams of three (including a partner, an associate and a summer associate) competed for the title of "King Smoothie" by making smoothies for the Northern Virginia office. Along the way, the teams raised \$3,824 that was then matched by the Medical Care for Children Partnership (MCCP). MCCP provides health and dental care to the children of the working poor in Fairfax County. The money raised was sufficient to provide health and dental care for more than 20 local children.



Above: McLean, VA: birthplace of competitive blending



Above: L.A. partner Kim Buffington answers questions from 12-year-old Linda Fuentes. Linda's interview is part of an assignment to interview a professional woman in a field she plans to pursue. Photo courtesy of Step Up Women's Network (www.suwn.org).

Spotlight: Los Angeles / Orange County

PREPPING YOUNG WOMEN FOR PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

In conjunction with Step Up Women's Network, the L.A. office hosted a series of events to teach underserved teenage girls about leadership, career choices and college development. For many of the girls, these workshops are their first exposure to dynamic female professionals.

The Step Up programs address the spectrum of factors that contribute to professional success.

Kim Buffington and Avisha Patel helped prepare teens for their first internships and interviews by teaching business and office skills and on-the-job etiquette. Kim, Mariah Brandt and Malinda Gordon (who is credited with managing the logistics for all the workshops) organized a clothing drive to collect office-appropriate clothing. The office donated more than 15 bags of clothing in just 10 days.

Kim and Mariah were joined by Lesley Kim, Semma Cuellar, Melissa Eurlon, Olivia Velasquez, and Mabel Ng at a workshop on careers in the legal field. The highlight was helping the girls write and present opening statements for the

case of *The People v. Goldilocks*. Mariah, Kim, Lesley and Didi Chow assisted at another workshop where the girls prepared their first resumes.

The close partnership between Step Up and the L.A. office is an excellent example of Pillsbury people taking the initiative to directly impact the local community.

"The women in Pillsbury's L.A. office have gone above and beyond the call of duty as Step Up members and volunteers.

By serving as positive, professional role models, they have empowered the underserved teen girls we work with in unimaginable ways."

**—Alexa Brandt, Senior Program Manager
Step Up Women's Network**

For more information on Step Up Women's Network, please visit www.suwn.org

In 2007, our attorneys and staff contributed time and support to a multitude of organizations.

ABA Fund For Justice and Education Aids Legal Referral Panel Alzheimer's Family Day Center American Conservatory Theater American Heart Association American Jewish Committee Berkeley Repertory Theater Boalt Hall School of Law Capital Stage Cardinal's Committee for Charity Center Club Childhope UK Children's Hospital Foundation CHOC Foundation for Children City Bar Justice Center City Lights Youth Theatre Community Services Planning Council, Inc. Congregation Kol Ami or Voice of My People Foundation Council for Court Excellence CPR (International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution) Cristo Rey High School Cystic Fibrosis Trust D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program Dismas Charities, Inc. Elderhelp of San Diego Fellowship of Christian Athletes Foundation Fighting Blindness Fund for the City of New York/ Winning Strategies HeartSong, Inc. Helen Woodward Animal Center Houston Bar

Foundation Hudson Institute Japan Society John W. Jones Legal Education Fund Joy of Sports Foundation Law Foundation of Silicon Valley Lawyers Alliance For N.Y. Lawyers' Committee Leadership Arlington Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia Legal Community Against Violence LeGal Foundation Legal Momentum Legal Momentum Legal Services for Children Los Angeles County Bar Foundation Maryland Bulls, Inc. Meritus College Fund MFY Legal Services, Inc. Midori & Friends National Center for Lesbian Rights New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc. NHLBI - Gift Fund/Women's Heart Health Research Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society NWRI for OCWD's Children's Water Education Festival NYLPI Panim Public Counsel Public Law Center Regents of the University of California Sacramento Entrepreneurship Academy San Diego Natural History Museum San Francisco Chamber of Commerce San Jose Education Foundation Santa Clara County Office of Education Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation The Children's Health Fund The Children's Law Center The Children's Society The Fund For Modern Courts The Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York The Legal Aid Society The New York Women's Foundation Torrey Pines High School Foundation Trinitas Health Foundation U.C. Hastings College of Law UCLA/School of Law Dean's Discretionary Fund UCSD Foundation United Nations Foundation United Way of the Bay Area Virtuosi of Houston Volunteers of Legal Service, Inc. Washington Lawyers' Committee Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Inc. William & Mary Law School Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts Women Against Gun Violence Women's Bar Association Foundation Yale Law School Fund Young Audiences of Houston

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Would you like to join or initiate a pro bono project?

Please contact one of the following local office members of the firmwide Pro Bono Committee.

Houston

Andrew L. Strong
Gindi Eckel Vincent

Los Angeles

Kimberly L. Buffington
Aaron S. Dyer
Rebecca N. Kaufman
Dana P. Newman
Avisha A. Patel

New York

Karen B. Dine
Lynne A. Lacoursiere

Northern Virginia

Scott E. Barat

Sacramento

John S. Poulos

San Diego

Richard L. Blaylock

San Francisco

Blaine I. Green
Thomas V. Loran III
Jacob R. Sorensen

Silicon Valley

Lior O. Nuchi
Daniel J. Richert

Washington, DC

Benjamin M. Dean
Patrick Hickey

Would you like to join or initiate a community outreach event?

Please contact your local office administrator.