

# Pro Bono and Community Outreach

pillsbury

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## Submissions

Would you like to see more great *pro bono* and community service stories featured in the next newsletter? Send your stories and photos to [brian.walker@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:brian.walker@pillsburylaw.com).

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to deliver Pillsbury's latest Pro Bono and Community Outreach Newsletter, spotlighting the *pro bono* and community service work taking place around the firm during the first half of 2008.

Looking back at 2007, Pillsbury's lawyers and staff played an important part in causes small and large. During the year, our lawyers worked 37,941 *pro bono* hours—the equivalent of 4.3 years of round-the-clock effort and a nearly 40 percent increase from 2006. Sixty-eight individuals and organizations benefited from more than 100 hours of *pro bono* support, while six matters even topped 1,000 hours, which is certainly a noteworthy achievement.

And as you will see in the following pages, *pro bono* and community service activities continue to thrive during 2008. I encourage everyone to volunteer some time and help sustain Pillsbury's long tradition of service.

**Tom Loran**

Chair, Pro Bono Committee



## Safeguarding an Innovative Nonprofit Serving Homeless Youths

More than 500,000 homeless youths in San Diego County have received assistance from San Diego Youth and Community Services (SDYCS) since 1970. The group runs a growing transitional housing program that provides housing assistance to formerly homeless youths and former foster children.

Partner Eric Kremer led a team of associates from the San Diego and Carmel Valley offices that tackled critical legal questions related to the leasing of rental units owned by SDYCS, including determining the organization's tenant notification obligations, reviewing and revising program rules and lease terms, and establishing rules for removing tenants.

More recently, SDYCS received another grant to expand its program to include rent subsidies paid to third-party landlords who rent to SDYCS youths. The Pillsbury team's focus here was on researching and reporting SDYCS' liabilities under these new agreements, reviewing lease agreements with the third-party landlords, and preparing lease addenda modifying lease provisions.

For more information about SDYCS, visit [www.sdyics.org](http://www.sdyics.org).

# Lessons from 35 Years of Pro Bono Advocacy

Recipient of the prestigious Wiley A. Branton Award, Pillsbury partner David Cynamon comments on the value and importance of pro bono work.

Pillsbury litigation partner David J. Cynamon was honored on June 4 with the Wiley A. Branton Award from the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, the highest recognition the nonprofit civil rights advocacy organization bestows. Named for Wiley A. Branton, a civil rights lawyer practicing in Arkansas in the 1950s and former dean of the Howard Law School, the annual award is given to a member of the legal community whose lifetime efforts on behalf of civil rights advocacy exemplify Branton's deep commitment to civil rights issues.

According to the Branton Award citation, "David Cynamon has accomplished the difficult feat of combining a highly successful litigation practice with exceptional service as a gifted civil rights advocate and strong proponent of law firm *pro bono* programs...Dave was first introduced to the Washington Lawyers' Committee as a young associate when he worked on a number of Title VII employment discrimination class actions, including one of the first such cases brought against a federal government agency...In succeeding years [he was active] in some of the Committee's most prominent cases, including serving as lead counsel in a landmark challenge to a pattern or practice of racial discrimination at Circuit City Stores and a set of nationwide public accommodations cases brought against Cracker Barrel Restaurants."



**From left to right: Laura Varela from the Washington Lawyers' Committee (second from left) presents an award to Pillsbury associate Daron Carreiro, partner David Cynamon, and associate Anne Langford, honoring their work on behalf of day laborers. (photo credit: Earl Dotter)**

Cynamon was named "Litigator of the Year" in September 2007 by the *Washington Business Journal* for his representation of four Kuwaiti detainees held without charge at the U.S. military base in Guantanamo, Cuba. Cynamon helped convince the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse itself, something that had not occurred in more than 30 years, and to agree to review the D.C. Circuit Court's ruling that held that detainees had no right to challenge their detentions in American court under *habeas corpus*. In June, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the detainees, supporting their right to appeal to U.S. civilian courts and challenge their indefinite imprisonment without charges.

## "Tikkun Olam"

*An excerpt of David's comments at the Branton Award ceremony*

I want to thank the firm with which, with any luck, I will end my checkered legal career, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, where for more than 25 years I have found a culture of support and encouragement for all aspects of my practice, not the least of which is my *pro bono* practice. That is best epitomized by the Circuit City case, which [...] required a tremendous commitment of time and resources—more than a dozen lawyers and legal assistants worked on the case—and hundreds of thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket expenses. Yet during the six years of that very hard-fought litigation, I received strong and consistent support from my management and my colleagues. I am very proud to be part of a firm with that kind of culture.

There's a concept in the Talmud, the Jewish code of law and ethics, called "tikkun olam." It means "fixing the world." And the idea is that each of us has an obligation, while we're here on this earth, to do something to improve the world, to build a better society. And I can think of no more useful way to try to fix the world than to fight against discrimination in all its forms, because that is a scourge that demeans the humanity of the perpetrator as well as the victim, and deprives society of the contributions and talents of all of its members.

People like Wiley Branton, for whom this award is named, are moral heroes. They improve the world in huge steps. And I am enormously honored to be linked, however distantly, to his name and legacy. But the rest of us don't have to be moral heroes to fix the world. We just have to do something.

So, in my rare moments of introspection, when I'm shaving and look in the mirror and I ask myself, "OK, besides drafting briefs, and mowing the lawn, and watching 'The Simpsons,' have you done anything at all to try to fix the world?" Thanks to the Washington Lawyers' Committee, I can look myself in the eye and say, "Yes. Yes, I have." And for that I am, and always will be, grateful.

# Securing Insurance Payout to Widow of Baseball Star

## Pro Bono Spotlight

The impossible happened during the ninth inning of a minor league game in Little Rock, Arkansas. Only three weeks on the job as the first-base coach for the Tulsa Drillers, former major leaguer Mike Coolbaugh was standing in the coach's box when a line-drive foul ball struck him in the head, just behind his left ear. The impact crushed an artery, rendering attempts to resuscitate him ineffective—he died before the ambulance could reach the hospital. It was believed to be the first death from a batted ball in baseball's long history.

The 35-year-old Coolbaugh was survived by his wife Mandy, two sons ages 5 and 3, and a baby daughter on the way. In the

aftermath of this tragic accident, Mandy was suddenly fielding calls from reporters and sympathizers around the world. The last thing she needed on her mind was the problem of a contested insurance claim.

Vince Morgan of the Houston office led a team that represented Mandy on a *pro bono* basis in connection with a claim under a life insurance policy purchased in late 2005. Because Mike's death occurred before the "incontestability" period began, the insurer had the right to deny the claim on the basis of misrepresentation—and, in fact, immediately opened an investigation into the claim.

Vince, working with Pillsbury attorneys Tom Loran, Ernie Patrikis, Ken Taber, Kirke Hasson, Robert Wallan and John Easton, launched a campaign to inform the insurer of the facts of Mandy's claim. After two months of persistence—phone calls, letters and emails—the insurance company decided to conclude their investigation and honor Mandy's claim.

As people across Pillsbury offices learned about the Coolbaugh story, our commitment to the family grew to include Christmas gifts for the kids and a fundraiser to purchase savings bonds for their college educations.

## Yet Another Reason They're "Man's Best Friend"



Type 1 diabetes, often called "juvenile diabetes," strikes otherwise healthy children under the age of 12, requiring constant (and lifelong) monitoring of blood sugar levels and periodic insulin injections. There is no known cure, but there is a new way to keep diabetics safe: dogs. Nonprofit Dogs4Diabetics has developed a unique program for training medical alert assistance dogs for youths and adult Type 1 diabetics.

*The next innovation in monitoring blood sugar levels in Type 1 diabetics isn't technological—it's canine.*

Dogs4Diabetics assistance dogs are trained to identify and act upon the subtle scent changes that hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) creates in body chemistry—changes completely undetectable to their human companions. Dogs' acute sense

of smell gives them incredible accuracy in this capacity. D4D helpers, which are placed with families at no cost, are already credited with saving several lives.

Not surprisingly for this innovative non-profit, the *pro bono* work Mark Danielson and Marla Hoehn of the Silicon Valley office are doing for D4D is focused on patents and general IP protection. Mark has been working on patenting D4D's dog training methods, and helping it protect and control its IP against imitators (often, for-profits) who provide inferior levels of care. Marla has been concentrating on protecting D4D's interests as it forms partnerships, and accepts sponsorships from medical and pet care companies.

Dogs4Diabetics currently operates only in California, but Mark and Marla's work on its behalf will play an important role in bringing lifesaving canine companions to families in other states.

For more information about Dogs4Diabetics, visit [www.dogs4diabetics.com](http://www.dogs4diabetics.com).



## Key Amicus Brief in Landmark Same-Sex Marriage Ruling

Headline stories around the globe. Carefully nuanced responses from the presidential candidates. And for some, a life-changing event.

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*“The Court’s decision persuasively recognizes the fundamental importance of marriage and the constitutional mandate of equality. At the core is the recognition by the Court that ‘Society is served by the institution of marriage in many ways.’ The Court notes the unique role of marriage and family in serving ‘society’s interest by perpetuating the social and political culture and providing continuing support for society over generations.’ That is at the heart of the constitutional analysis.”*

—Kevin Fong, Partner, San Francisco

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A 4-3 decision written by Chief Justice Ronald George of the California Supreme Court overturned the state’s ban on same-sex marriages on May 15. The decision stated that depriving gays and lesbians of the same rights as other citizens is unconstitutional.

Kevin Fong of the San Francisco office co-authored a key *amicus* brief on a *pro*

*bono* basis on behalf of more than 60 Asian American bar associations and community groups supporting marriage equality. The *amicus* brief proposed that marriage should be deemed a “fundamental interest” under equal protection analysis, akin to how education has been recognized as a fundamental interest by the Court. The brief also placed the current laws in historical context, comparing them to laws

of the past century that had restricted the rights of Asian Americans to marry.

At a ceremony in June, civil rights advocacy group Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) honored the Pillsbury team—Kevin Fong, Alice Hayashi and Brian M. Wong—for their work on the *amicus* brief.

## Queens Restaurant Workers Win Settlement

Sometimes challenging litigation work springs from cases that would never make the papers. For the past three years, Kenneth Newby and former associate Sangita Shah of the New York office have litigated on behalf of seven Indian restaurant workers—cooks, dishwashers and servers—formerly employed at a restaurant in Queens named Malabar Palace. The restaurant closed in 2003 when two of its owners fled the country, owing our clients substantial back pay, overtime pay and unpaid principal on loans made to the restaurant. The defendants re-opened a restaurant in the same location, changing the name to Royal Arcadia and denying any affiliation with the Malabar Palace.

*This settlement was an outstanding result for a case that was largely predicated on oral testimony rather than documentary evidence.*

On the eve of trial, and after three years of litigation that included defeating a motion for summary judgment, two years of discovery and 15 depositions, Pillsbury secured an extremely favorable settlement for the plaintiffs. Although the complaint never stated a precise damage amount and despite virtually no supporting documentary evidence, the defendants agreed to pay a sum that covers all of the workers' unpaid wages and loans to the restaurant. Kenneth and Sangita also obtained half of the unpaid wages for the one plaintiff whose claims were dismissed at summary judgment on the basis that the client had valid grounds for an appeal.



## A 14-Year Odyssey in a Death Row Case

On January 9, 2008, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland commuted the death sentence of Pillsbury *pro bono* client John Spirko to life in prison. The governor stated that his decision was motivated by “residual doubt about [Mr. Spirko’s] responsibility for the murder that arises from careful scrutiny of the case record and revelations about the case over the past 20 years.” The very next morning, Mr. Spirko was moved from death row, where he had lived for the past 24 years.

Mr. Spirko’s case has been the subject of national and international press coverage, including an award-winning three-part series in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and was featured in *Newsweek* magazine as “one of five [death row] cases where there may be big questions.”

Pillsbury began representing Mr. Spirko in 1994 when he lost his final state court appeal. After taking over the case and filing Mr. Spirko’s federal *habeas* petition, Pillsbury attorneys, led by partner

Tom Hill and counsel Alvin Dunn, discovered serious investigative errors and prosecutorial misconduct. They demonstrated that the case presented at trial was false and known to be false by the lead investigator, and ultimately developed a substantial claim on behalf of Mr. Spirko that he was, in fact, innocent of the crime.

Through the advocacy of Pillsbury’s attorneys, Mr. Spirko obtained an unprecedented seven reprieves of execution, the most important of which was granted by prior Governor Bob Taft, who himself ultimately appears to have doubted the validity of Mr. Spirko’s conviction. In November 2005, Governor Taft put Mr. Spirko’s execution on hold—just days before it was scheduled to be carried out—pending DNA testing on biological evidence that had been recovered from the crime scene in 1982.

Although Governor Strickland’s commuting of Mr. Spirko’s sentence was a significant milestone in this 14-year case, Pillsbury continues to seek a full exoneration and release of our client consistent with Mr. Spirko’s substantial claims of actual innocence.

# Pillsbury Continues Asylum Case Tradition

## Pro Bono Spotlight



### Favorable Conclusion Reached in Long-Running Asylum Petition

Tom Loran, as attorney of record, supervised the work of several former associates who obtained a reversal in the Ninth Circuit of an immigration court decision denying political asylum to a *pro bono* client who is a Guatemalan refugee and ethnic Mam Mayan. The client was persecuted by government soldiers who raided her village, and murdered her aunt and a close family friend in front of her and other assembled villagers as an example of “what would happen to those who supported the guerrillas.”

Pillsbury originally came to the case through the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and has been involved since the interview phase at the administrative level. The favorable appellate ruling should support future asylum applications by other Mam Mayan victims of Guatemalan government persecution.

*“Mayans, as a group, were identified by the Guatemalan army as guerrilla allies and were ‘targeted for extinction.’ Military operations were concentrated in and around Mayan communities, including the Huehuetenango District, where [our client] lived. It is estimated that over 200,000 people were killed or disappeared during Guatemala’s civil war and 83 percent of the fully identified victims were Mayan. Thus, there is a nexus between the soldiers’ actions [in murdering the villagers] and [our client]’s ethnicity.”*

The Ninth Circuit comments on the plight of Mam Mayans in Guatemala, based on the evidence submitted at trial in support of the petition for asylum and the arguments on appeal.

### California Offices Team Up for Circuit Court Program

A team of 22 attorneys from the firm’s California offices is participating in the Ninth Circuit’s Pro Bono program. The program provides *pro bono* representation for select *pro se* appellants whose claims are deemed potentially meritorious on an initial screening by the Court and guarantees oral arguments for the volunteer attorneys in these cases. Asylum claims and related immigration cases make up a sizable portion of the Ninth Circuit’s docket.

The firm partnered with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), which has provided us mentoring on immigration cases, and held a training in February with speakers from the ILRC, the Ninth Circuit staff and the private bar. Brian Martin of the San Diego office, who previously handled an asylum appeal through the Ninth Circuit program, serves as a co-leader of the team with George Chikovani of San Francisco. Alice Hayashi of San Francisco provides support and guidance on brief writing.

The team is already hard at work, with Karen Harkins of the San Diego office handling the due process claims of a state prison inmate who was left to languish in solitary confinement for 200 additional days after the prison’s internal review board had overturned his punishment.



## Pro Bono Office Roundup

### Los Angeles/ Orange County

#### **Guardianship Tradition Continues**

The Los Angeles office continues its longstanding tradition of work on *pro bono* guardianship cases. On behalf of The Alliance for Children's Rights, Kate Burkart-Paulson, Didi Chow, Lesley Kim, Chelcey Houston, Anna Park and David Tabibian have handled one or more child custody cases. Chelcey Houston and Anna Park (along with supervising partner Dana Newman) have also worked on cases for the Public Law Center. Corrie Plant handled a guardianship case through Public Counsel.

#### **Forging Ties between Japan and America**

For more than 25 years, Pillsbury has acted as counsel to the Japan America Society of Southern California, a 99-year-old non-profit educational organization that works to build economic, cultural, governmental and personal relationships between the people of Japan and America. Our *pro bono* work has included advice on corporate governance, trademarks, employment and leasing matters. Working on behalf of the organization are Ed Perron (current chairman of the Society), Tony Cannon, Didi Chow, Chelcey Houston, Richard Zaitlen, Sheryl Stein, Bill Waller and Nick Dierman of the Los Angeles office.

### New York

#### **Update: New York City Handgun Litigation**

There have been significant advances in Pillsbury's *pro bono* litigation on behalf of New York City since the case was featured here in fall 2007. On June 2, the last of the original 15 defendants in *City of New York v. A-1 Jewelry & Pawn* defaulted. Rather than monetary damages, the City asked the Court to enter an injunction requiring the defendant to obey the law, and to appoint a federal monitor to oversee its sales practices and provide employee training. "This is an important victory for New Yorkers—as good as a win at trial—and

a validation of our innovative efforts to hold gun dealers accountable for following federal laws,” noted Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement issued by City Hall.

Pillsbury’s legal team included Ken Taber, Maria Galeno, Bryan Dunlap, Susan Greenberg, Portis Hicks, Elizabeth Husa, Angie Kim, Ryan Kriger, Kenneth Newby, John Pritchard, James Wheaton and Sandra Hirsch. The team spent literally thousands of hours working on the case with the New York City Law Department, taking and defending depositions, preparing briefs, arguing motions and preparing for trial.

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*“We are immensely grateful for Pillsbury’s extraordinary efforts on this case. Along with a fine New York City team, Pillsbury added overwhelming legal power to the case—and to the Mayor’s ability to curtail the spread of illegal guns. We thank the firm and its staff for their incredible assistance.”*

—Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo  
of the New York City Law Department

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### **Update: New York City Emergency Planning and Response**

A team of partners, associates and counsel in the New York and Washington, DC, offices continues to provide *pro bono* legal advice to the City of New York on emergency planning and response issues. The team, headed by Ken Taber, has reviewed federal, state and local laws relating to the City’s plans for responding to different kinds of emergency situations, such as radiological attacks or accidents, extreme weather events, chemical or biological incidents, and disease outbreaks. More recently, the team has met with members of the City’s Office of Emergency

Management to discuss legal memos prepared by Pillsbury outlining steps the City can take to ensure that its emergency response operations and plans are legally sound and defensible.

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## Northern Virginia

### **Update: National Museum of Americans at War**

A team of attorneys from the Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, offices—Susan Borschel, Howard Clemons and Scott Barat—continues to represent the National Museum of Americans at War. The Museum is the only national military museum that covers all military branches and all major conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries. The team’s work covers many aspects of the Museum’s operations, including organization, registration as a nonprofit organization, and contract review and negotiation. With our work on state charitable registrations completed, the Museum has been able to shift focus to its charitable solicitation campaign. In addition to assisting with the legal requirements for the fundraising campaign, Susan Borschel is also working with the museum on securing ownership of the museum site if the museum meets certain fundraising and construction targets.

### **Default Judgment Appeal**

Bryan Collins and Lee Lowder recently filed a notice of appeal to the Court of Appeals of Virginia on behalf of an indigent client who had a default judgment entered against him without receiving proper notice. Sent to an incorrect address, most of the hearing notices that were mailed to the client were returned as undeliverable. The default judgment was nonetheless entered against the client in the State of Washington and was recently registered in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County (the client now resides in Virginia) despite the client’s objections to the Circuit Court that the default judgment was void because the client never received proper notice. Pillsbury has appealed the Circuit Court’s final order to the Court of Appeals, and is asking the Court of Appeals to overturn the Circuit

Court’s order registering the default judgment against the client and enforcing it against him.

### **Resolution to Property Line Dispute**

Jamie Bobotek assisted a church in Alexandria, Virginia, in resolving a dispute with an adjoining property owner over rights to place and maintain a fence on church property. Years ago, the church permitted a prior neighbor to construct a fence on church property several feet across the property line, executing a vague easement letter that purportedly “ran with the land.” The church, however, did not keep a copy of the letter and made no mention of the letter or an easement in its board meeting minutes. The fence line recently became an issue when the neighbor claimed she was in possession of the easement letter but refused to provide the church with a copy. The church was concerned that no easement existed and that the neighbor would attempt to claim the property through adverse possession. Jamie convinced the neighbor to produce a copy of the easement, and then to agree to enter into a license agreement that terminated the easement, required the neighbor to maintain the fence and, most importantly, terminated the neighbor’s rights upon conveyance of the land.

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## San Diego/ Carmel Valley

### **Startup Support for New Korean-American Groups**

San Diego and Carmel Valley attorneys Jenny Yoo, K. Michael Garrett and Walter Scott have been supporting two new Korean-American legal and community groups. For both the Korean-American Bar Association of San Diego and the new local chapter of the Korean American Coalition, the team has focused on preparing and filing formation documents as well as preparing tax-exempt status paperwork. They expect to remain involved with both organizations on an ongoing basis, contributing to corporate record keeping, tax returns and other legal needs.

## Spotlight on Publicly Owned Performing Arts Theaters

San Diego and Carmel Valley have teamed up to support the performing arts. The nonprofit San Diego Theaters, Inc. is responsible for the management, marketing, operations and maintenance of two publicly owned performing arts theaters, the San Diego Civic Theatre and the historic Balboa Theatre in the Gaslamp Quarter. Patty DeGaetano, Carmella Nicholas, Rich Segal and Dave Snyder have each contributed *pro bono* time for the organization's general corporate work.



## San Francisco

### Helping a Nonprofit Conservation Group Avoid Litigation

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) is the nonprofit partner that supports and assists the Golden Gate National Park Service (NPS) in research, interpretation and conservation programs. Since its inception in 1981, the Parks Conservancy has provided the Golden Gate National Parks with more than \$100 million in support, and is recognized as one of the largest and most effective park partners in the country.

In February, a disability rights organization filed a class-action lawsuit against the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the NPS, contending that people with disabilities are denied equal access to the park. Gerald George and Mike Barr of the San Francisco office are longtime *pro bono* supporters of the GGNPC. In light of the suit against the NPS, they have been advising the nonprofit Conservancy on how it can continue to carry out its role without becoming embroiled in the NPS litigation.

## Silicon Valley

### Advancing Research into Hearing Loss in Children

Jennifer Jordan McCall, John Osborn and summer associate Sarah Copeland of the Silicon Valley office, as well as Jerry Jacobs of DC, are assisting the R. Palmer

Baker Institute for Children with Hearing Loss with entity formation and obtaining status as a tax-exempt organization. The Baker Institute will provide essential funding for the unmet medical and therapeutic needs of children with hearing loss, focusing initially on those who reside in Northern California and New York. The Institute will work in partnership with the Otolaryngology departments of the medical centers of Stanford University, University of California, San Francisco, and New York University.

### Obtaining 501(c)(3) Status

Dick Bebb, John Osborn and Kiran Kamboj of the Silicon Valley office are helping Invisible Threads, Inc. obtain status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Initially focused on India, Invisible Threads will work with indigenous charitable organizations and, through these organizations' programs, provide opportunities for self-sustaining change in the lives of underserved children, women, families and their communities.

## Washington, DC

### Legal Aid Tradition Continues

The DC office continues to provide extensive support to DC's Legal Aid Society, which provides legal services for those DC residents least able to afford such services on their own. Legal Aid serves clients with all sorts of legal matters, such as landlord/tenant disputes, public assistance and

child custody matters. Twelve Pillsbury associates currently serve as intake staff for Legal Aid, helping to determine whether or not the clinic will be able to provide legal services to the prospective clients. Their work allows Legal Aid to dedicate more of its limited legal staff and budget to pursuing its clients' claims through the DC courts and agencies. Separately, Julia Judish has for many years worked *pro bono* as Legal Aid's outside ethics counsel, assisting the clinic with developing its conflict check procedures, training Legal Aid attorneys on legal ethics issues, and consulting on conflicts and other issues as they arise.

### Supporting an Affordable-Housing Developer

Attorneys in the DC Real Estate group, including John Engel, Lee Carter, Soha Mody, Michael Silver and Benjamin Lee, are working on several projects with Transitional Housing Corporation (THC), a DC-area nonprofit providing housing and support services to homeless and at-risk families. Pillsbury is assisting THC in acquiring and redeveloping several apartment buildings to be used as affordable housing. We have provided support in all aspects of these deals, from the initial purchase and financing to negotiating with tenants exercising rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.

# 2008 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.

## Houston

### New Home and a Fresh Start

In an April event sponsored by the Houston Bar Association, attorneys from the Houston office pitched in on the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house. Laura Hannusch, Christina Cole, Julie Hutchings and Ben McReynolds contributed to building a new home for a local family.



From left to right: Laura Hannusch, Christina Cole, Julie Hutchings and Ben McReynolds.

## Los Angeles and Orange County

### Record-Setting Fundraising

The Los Angeles and Orange Country offices have been breaking records this year. In April, the L.A. office hosted its annual "White Elephant Bake & Book Sale" to raise money for the In-Out Foundation, which assists abused children. Through the bake and book sale and related events, the office raised a record-setting

\$5,883—a figure matched 3-to-1 by the Foundation.

In May, lawyers and staff set another fundraising record, raising \$3,665 for the Revlon Walk/Run—almost double their goal. Nearly 30 Pillsbury people, friends and family participated: Kumiko Alexander, Mario Arzapalo, Emily Boys, Kate Burkart-Paulson, Semma Cuellar, Sherette Duffus, Melissa Eurton, Janet Hamilton, Irene Hooper, Regina Jefferson, Charlotte Kanemaru, Kathi Kobayashi, Doug Lovejoy, Baltazar Moreno, Nancy Moreno, Helen Moreno, Mabel Ng, Kerri Pintches, Rachel Rogoff, Jessica Rogoff, Catherine Schneider, Marion Sutherland, Deidre Walker, Elizabeth Wood, Tommie Wright, Gregory Wright and Carla Yates.

## New York

The New York office's Community Action Team (CAT Committee) has organized several events so far this year:

### "Cell Phones for Soldiers"

Anne Cunningham led a drive to collect old cell phones for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program, which provides pre-paid calling cards for US troops stationed overseas.

### Stocking a Library

Jill Vitale took the lead in collecting books on behalf of the nonprofit Children for Children, which donated the books to an

under-resourced elementary school that is building a library for its kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

### St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Helen Mancusi organized a bake sale to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a pediatric treatment and research facility that accepts patients without regard to a family's ability to pay.



### Easter Seals NYC Walk with Me Event

Nicole Williams captained Pillsbury's team for the Easter Seals NYC Walk With Me walk-a-thon, a unique event where each participant is partnered with a child or adult with a disability who has benefited from Easter Seals' services. Pedro Azevedo, Yvonne Bough, Angela Eliane, Diane Ibarra, Jessica Ibarra, Silvia Lopez, Theresa Rizzuto, Deborah Torres, Louis Torres, Melanie Torres, Noel Torres and Laurie-Ann Willett also participated in the walk, which raised \$3,950.

*The CAT members are Helen Mancusi, Grace Nicosia, Janis Agard, Lisa Coppola, Anne Cunningham, Rose Dart, Karen Dritto, Ampara Edwards-Andrews, Angela Eliane, Diane Ibarra, Sandy Larocca, Lisa Reichenbach, Theresa Rizzuto, Jill Vitale, Patricia Volpe and Nicole Williams.*

## Sacramento

### Honoring Outstanding Community Service

The Sacramento office joined other members of the local business community as a "silver sponsor" of the 20th Annual People Helping People Awards Luncheon

on April 24. The gala event is staged each year by the Sacramento Community Services Planning Council (CSPC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people turn civic-minded ideas into action, improving the quality of life in the Sacramento region. As chairman of the CSPC Board of Directors, Sacramento partner Ben Webster delivered a welcome address to the more than 600 attendees at the luncheon, and handed out the awards to 10 local businesses and individuals selected from a field of 77 nominees, based on their contributions to community service and volunteerism.

### A Very Personal Cause

Deb Johansen-Cook has taken the lead in organizing the office's team for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The Pillsbury team will take turns walking and running laps—for a full 24 hours—to support the cause and in honor of a staff member currently battling cancer. The Relay is designed to celebrate survivorship, and raise money for research and programs at the American Cancer Society. One way the office raised money was through selling luminaria bags with the name of a person who has been touched by cancer. The bags were lit on June 21 in a ceremony honoring survivors. A breakfast and other fundraising events are in the works as well.

## San Diego and Carmel Valley

### Raising Money "Soup to Nuts"

The San Diego and Carmel Valley offices continue the tradition of the "honor snack stand." Staff members Jennifer Scanlon, Sharon Oyer and Duste McDonald purchase snacks (a selection literally from soup to nuts), stock the shelves, manage the money, maintain IOU spreadsheets and sometimes even bake items. Each year, the proceeds benefit charities chosen by the staff. Last year, for instance, the offices raised \$1,800 for the A Visit from St. Nick program.

This year, the snack stand money will be given to two charities, Community

Options, Incorporated (COI) and Shelter Pet Partners. COI is a Family Home Agency (FHA) that provides services to adults with developmental disabilities. Shelter Pet Partners is a local that rescues and places abandoned and stray animals. Pillsbury's donations are an important source of operating funds for this grass-roots, all-volunteer organization.

### ElderHelp of San Diego

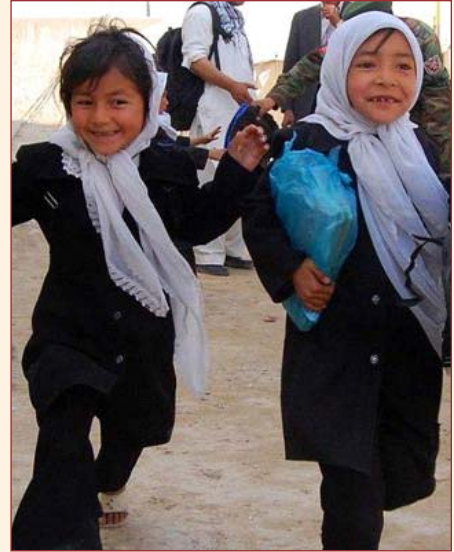
For several years, the SD and CV offices have supported ElderHelp, a regional community resource center for seniors and their families. Maureen Duffy and Doug Tribble volunteer on the organization's annual fundraising event (the firm is also a sponsor). This year, Maureen is on the Wine and Dine committee, which is planning the "Beyond the Velvet Ropes" fundraiser, an evening of award-winning vintages and haute cuisine at the Hard Rock Hotel San Diego. Last year, the event raised \$109,000 for ElderHelp.

## San Francisco

### Familiar Treat Translates Well Overseas

The San Francisco office (led by David Koeninger, Marcia Pope, Paula Weber, Miriam Ben-Natan and Elaine Suzuki) worked with former Pillsbury partner Marina Park, now CEO of the Girl Scouts of Northern California, on a two-part charity drive. First, the office purchased cookies from a Girl Scout troop based in the Tenderloin, a generally impoverished neighborhood near the SF office. Money from the sales covered the girls' annual Girl Scout dues, and supported programs like Girls Go Tech and Financial Literacy.

Attorneys and staff also bought cookies to send to Albert Ganzon, Pillsbury's Director of Network Services Engineer and a soldier stationed in Afghanistan. Twenty cases of cookies made their way to Albert, who reported back that he passed out care packages to his troops and gave the rest to Humanitarian Assistance as an outreach to children in the town near his base.



These Afghan girls smiled for Pillsbury staffer Albert Ganzon upon receiving the firm's care packages.

### Aim High

Robert Herr and Carolyn Lenert took the lead in organizing the San Francisco office's fund drive on behalf of Aim High. Aim High is a summer school program that serves disadvantaged children in the Bay Area. Students attending this award-winning program have an incredible 99 percent college attendance rate. During 2007, 950 students from grades six to nine participated. Pillsbury matches donations from lawyers and staff 2-to-1 and, for the fifth year running, surpassed its goal by raising \$31,565.

## Silicon Valley

### Reaching Out to a World-Class Children's Hospital

The Silicon Valley office participated in two events to benefit the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, a nonprofit hospital devoted to the care of babies, children, adolescents and expectant mothers. In January, Trish Hall led a drive to collect picture calendars and holiday cards to be used in arts and crafts projects. In March, Trish Hall, Lori Benton, Sylvia Mendoza and Frances Li collected more than 200 stuffed rabbits that were given as Easter gifts.

## Food Drive, Valley-Style



Vern Granneman's son Michael helps with Vern's new look.

The office used some Silicon Valley-style ingenuity to raise money and collect food for the Second Harvest Food Bank, the largest nonprofit provider of food to low-income households in the area and the seventh largest in the country. To raise awareness and motivate giving, the office held a pie-eating contest. Then, not to be outdone, Vern Granneman offered to shave his moustache if the office surpassed its goal (no small sacrifice; he'd had it for

many years). And after raising more than \$11,000, Vern is a little more clean-shaven these days.

## Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia

### Teaming Up to Help Out

Since the beginning of 2008, the Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, offices have participated in a number of community outreach events. In February and March, the offices raised \$684 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater DC, and participated in "Wear Red Day" to benefit the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

In April, the Northern Virginia Office competed in the "Legal Food Frenzy Penny War" to raise money and donate canned goods to the Capital Area Food Bank. The event raised more than \$1,700.

In May, attorneys and staff from both offices worked together for the Greater DC Cares Servathon on an indoor and outdoor

enhancement project at a local elementary school. In addition to the hands-on work, the offices raised \$1,185 for the cause.

In June, members of the DC and NoVA offices, and their family and friends, were walking and running for two charities, the Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure, which raises money for breast cancer research, and the Lawyers Have Heart 10K Run and Fun Walk, which supports the American Heart Association.



And on top of all of these activities, the offices have donated a total of \$6,500 to organizations so far this year, including Equal Justice America, the Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Lawyers Have Heart and Score Birdies to End Hunger.

## 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/Orange County

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

### New York

Karen B. Dine

### Northern Virginia

Scott E. Barat

### Sacramento

John S. Poulos

### San Diego/Carmel Valley

Richard L. Blaylock  
Jenny J. Yoo

### 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

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

Please contact your local office administrator.