



2006
PRO BONO AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE
REPORT



A Message from the Firm



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Mezzanotte, Jr.'.

Albert J. Mezzanotte, Jr.
Managing Partner

Our second annual *Pro Bono and Community Service Report* provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and detail our on-going commitment to pro bono legal services. In our first Annual Report, we discussed a number of new programs with which Whiteford, Taylor & Preston had become involved, including projects with Human Rights First, the Maryland Disability Law Center, and By Kids for Kids. Since that report, ten of our attorneys have represented clients in asylum cases referred by Human Rights First. Additionally, over the course of the past year, we have devoted nearly 1,000 hours of legal services to refugees. You will also see what attorneys in our Washington, D.C., office are doing to represent families referred by the Maryland Disability Law Center in special education cases, and what our Intellectual Property practice group is doing to assist children in patent and trademark cases in partnership with By Kids for Kids. There can be no doubt that the pro bono legal services our attorneys perform have a significant impact on the lives of the individuals we represent.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James F. Rosner'.

James F. Rosner
Pro Bono Partner

In the last year, we have initiated ten new projects, some with legal service providers with whom we have worked with in the past, and some with providers that are new to our firm. We are proud to have increased significantly the amount of pro bono legal services provided. In 2005, 105 Whiteford, Taylor & Preston attorneys participated in one or more pro bono matters, and the total number of pro bono legal service hours increased by 48%. Individual attorneys have received the Maryland State Bar Association Award for Pro Bono Legal Service, the Arc of Baltimore Community Service Award, the Maryland Bar Foundation Professional Excellence Award for the Advancement of the Rights of the Disadvantaged, and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service Volunteer Award, to name only a few. Whiteford, Taylor & Preston also was the first law firm to receive the Herbert Garten Award for demonstration of extraordinary commitment to increased access to justice for the poor in Maryland.

Looking ahead, we are working to expand our partnership with the Legal Aid Bureau in a wide variety of complex legal matters. We are also increasing our partnership with the Maryland Disability Law Center and training attorneys to represent clients in Medicaid Fair Hearing cases and probate proceedings through the Catholic Charities Legal Network. We are excited to share this involvement and commitment to pro bono legal services with you.

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston nearly doubles time committed to Pro Bono projects from previous year.

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston's pro bono numbers continued to climb in 2005. Pro bono participation among attorneys and paralegals increased by 12% over 2004 while pro bono hours jumped by 48% over the previous year's total. Over the last two years, WTP has more than doubled its pro bono output in terms of hours – from 2,792 hours in 2003 to 5,975 in 2005 – with the number of individuals who devoted 50 or more hours to pro bono tripling during the same period. The value of the time donated by WTP attorneys and paralegals in 2005 to pro bono matters surpassed \$1.8 million.

Not included in the above numbers is an additional 1,730 hours of firm-wide service in matters recognized by the Court of Appeals of Maryland as pro bono, as they do not fall within WTP's definition of pro bono service.

TOP 10 PRO BONO CLIENTS (FY 2005)	Hours
Human Rights First	991.7
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services	718.3
Maryland Association of Retarded Citizens	470.2
Legal Aid Bureau – Maryland	234.0
Baltimore Association of Retarded Citizens	165.3
Care of Foster Children	160.7
City of Baltimore (Project 5000)	145.8
Sandtown Habitat for Humanity	138.7
Maryland Disability Law Center	110.6
Homestretch, Inc.	62.2

PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS (FY 2005)	
Lawyers participating in pro bono	105
Legal assistants* participating in pro bono	27
New pro bono matters opened	132
Lawyers who billed greater than 50 pro bono hours	29
Lawyers who billed between 20 and 50 pro bono hours	20
Summer associate pro bono hours	249.2
Total firm pro bono hours	5,975.5

* Total includes seven (7) summer associates

Pro Bono Involvement Through Legal Services Programs

HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST

WTP attorneys worked with Human Rights First, an organization committed to providing representation to persons seeking safety, security and freedom in the United States after having fled their native country due to persecution. Asylum may be granted to an individual who can demonstrate that he or she is unwilling or unable to return to his or her home country because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group, or political opinion. If asylum is granted, the asylee is eligible for permanent residency and may become a U.S. citizen. WTP attorneys successfully handled several cases this year, some of which are summarized below.

The lawyers involved includes **Anne T. Brennan, James R. Chason, Sharvari Dalal-Dheini, Judith C. Ensor, Peter D. Guattery, Mary Ellen Keys, James F. Rosner, Richard F. Waddington, Joseph P. Ward** and paralegal **Rayna J. Conetta**.

Mr. K is a 35-year old Pakistani journalist and father of four children. Since 1992, Mr. K has worked as a journalist for local and national newspapers in Pakistan. Ultimately, Mr. K was forced to go into hiding. A “fatwa” was issued requiring that Mr. K be killed. Mr. K received assistance to come to the United States.

Mr. T, a school teacher in northern Togo, was actively involved in opposing the country’s President, particularly during the “elections” of 1996 and 2002.

Togo has been ruled by an oppressive dictator for more than thirty years. Opponents are frequently tortured, arbitrarily detained, and murdered. As a result of his political activism, Mr. T was arrested



and detained in a military camp where he was severely beaten and tortured on the basis that he was a traitor to his government and ethnic group. Upon his release from the camp, Mr. T was terminated from his employment when he refused to join the President’s ruling party. When he was subsequently arrested by the military for his continued involvement with the opposition campaign, Mr. T’s life was again threatened. He was told he needed to assassinate one of the leaders of the opposition party, which he refused to do. Mr. T went into hiding and ultimately arranged for safe passage to the United States.

Mr. S, a Rwandan national, came to the United States in 2000 as a student. Mr. S’s father owned several small businesses in Rwanda. In 2002, Mr. S’s father became involved with a pro-democratic party called Ubayanja that opposed the ruling regime. The Rwandan government declared the Ubayanja party illegal, and shut down and seized Mr. S’s father’s businesses due to his involvement. Mr. S’s father was warned that if he did not cease his participation, he and his sons would be killed. In August 2003,

Mr. S's father was arrested and taken to prison. Mr. S later learned that his father was executed. Mr. S's remaining family in Rwanda fled the country. His older brother subsequently returned, only to be arrested and jailed. Mr. S's mother and two younger brothers now reside in a refugee camp in the Congo.

Mr. E, a 25-year old Anglophone Cameroonian, was quite active in various political groups in his country. He led protests and eventually started an underground newspaper. Due to Mr. E's political beliefs and outspokenness, he was arrested numerous times and tortured. Mr. E's cousin, a member of the police, assisted him in fleeing the country and was subsequently executed for his involvement. Mr. E was able to escape Cameroon on a false passport.

All of these asylees were granted asylum.

BY KIDS FOR KIDS

WTP attorneys in the firm's Technology and Intellectual Property Group partnered with By Kids For Kids, a company dedicated to promoting invention and innovation among children. WTP attorneys **Frank S. Jones, Jr., Dana O. Lynch, and Gregory M. Stone** provided pro bono legal services, including assisting with preparing patent applications, to child inventors participating in the program.

"We are so grateful and thrilled for the support of this firm that shares the passion and commitment to bringing creative ideas and inventions of kids across America to fruition."

*Norm Goldstein
Founder and President,
By Kids For Kids*

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS CORPORATE MERGER

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston associates **Antoinette A. McRae, Joel D. McMahan, Joseph P. Ward, and Damian J. Mark** worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland to guide them through the merger of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lower Eastern Shore and the Central Maryland Chapter. Big Brothers Big Sisters seeks to pair positive adult mentors with at-risk children.

HOMESTRETCH, INC.

WTP Attorneys **Jane S. Dudley, Ann M. Garfinkle, Michael C. Gartner, Andrew J. Terrell,** and paralegal **Susan M. Bynum** in our Washington, D.C. office paired with Homestretch, Inc., an organization committed to providing skills, knowledge and support to homeless families with children. This includes counseling, job skill training, and family mentoring. Over the past year, WTP has provided pro bono legal services to individuals participating in Homestretch, Inc.'s program. Cases have involved family matters, such as disputes over child support and visitation, and requests for legal name changes.

TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE TO THE DEAF

Since 1974, attorneys from Whiteford, Taylor & Preston have been assisting low-income deaf individuals in the preparation of their federal and state income tax returns. This year, **Ascanio S. Boccuti, Jonathan E. Claiborne, Robert B. Curran, James C. Holman, Rose M. Matricciani, Thomas P. Kimmitt, Jr., and John A. Hayden III** provided valuable assistance to deaf individuals on a pro bono basis.

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE (“MVLS”)

MVLS is Maryland’s largest provider of pro bono legal assistance in civil cases. Numerous WTP attorneys and staff continued to work with MVLS representing clients on a pro bono basis in cases involving family law, consumer disputes, bankruptcy, auto torts, and tax issues.

Attorneys: **Thomas C. Barbuti, Edward M. Buxbaum, Mary Claire Chesshire, Ward B. Coe III, Pamela M. Conover, Gardner Duvall, Edwin G. Fee, Jr., Beth A. Gasiorowski, Kaitlin A. Hamilton, John A. Hayden, III, Carol L. Hoshall, Ranak K. Jasani, Nicholas E. Johansson, Harry S. Johnson, Mary Ellen Keys, Gary W. Kuc, Jennifer R. Lazenby, Dino C. LaFiandra, Christopher B. Lord, Paul W. Madden, Damian J. Mark, Kathleen G. McCrudden, Joel D. McMahan, M. Natalie McSherry, Karen H. Moore, Elise Davison Morris, Kristen Bowen Perry, Cynthia E. Rodgers-Waire, Herman B. Rosenthal, James F. Rosner, Joseph P. Ward, Paula C. Yu, and Thurman W. Zollicoffer, Jr.**
Staff: **Cynthia K. Blind, Rayna J. Conetta, M. Clothilde Dufour, Anna Enova, Ellen M. Hagigh, Darlene E. Ramsey, Dixie L. Schultz, Glen J. Spangler, Gail D. Spielberger, Ilana Subar, Dena M. Terra, Valerie L. Tetro, Jennifer L. Tittsworth, and Aristia V. Young.**

Summer Associates: **James Carroll, Karen S. Parks.**

SANDTOWN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WTP attorneys and staff have worked with Sandtown Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit housing organization dedicated to rebuilding vacant housing in Baltimore City, for several years and this

year was no exception. Sandtown Habitat rehabilitates homes in partnership with homeowners. WTP assisted with various legal matters the organization confronts.

Attorneys: **Philip B. Barnes, John P. Evans, Stephen F. Fruin, Kevin G. Hroblak, Damian J. Mark, Susan Jaffe Roberts, James F. Rosner, Shannon D. Sentman, and Joseph P. Ward.**

Staff: **M. Clothilde Dufour, Kathleen G. McCrudden, James H. Shoemaker, and Jennifer L. Tittsworth.**

Summer Associate: **Erin O’Brien**



LAWYERS’ CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

Dwight W. Stone, II, a litigation partner in the Baltimore office, was honored by the Lawyers’ Campaign Against Hunger for successfully completing a two-year term as Chair of the Campaign’s Executive Committee. WTP was a Charter Sponsor of the Campaign. Under Dwight’s leadership, the Lawyers’ Campaign enjoyed its two most successful years ever, raising funds from Maryland’s legal community to support the Maryland Food Bank in helping hungry families across Maryland. Dwight also serves on the Board of Directors of Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), a Baltimore nonprofit that provides affordable housing and supportive services to people with special needs, and chairs GEDCO’s Leadership Development Committee.

Pro Bono Involvement Through Community Service

REBUILDING TOGETHER

For the past ten years, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston has joined with Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April) to repair and rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled, and families with children. Led by WTP associate, **Kevin G. Hroblak**, on “Rebuilding Day” each April, volunteers from the firm repair and rehabilitate a home by tackling projects such as painting, rebuilding decks, installing fixtures and fencing, landscaping, and general clean-up. This past year, WTP attorneys **Emily A. Daneker**, **Stephen B. Gerald**, **Kaitlin A. Hamilton**, **Carol L. Hoshall**, **Kevin G. Hroblak**, **Cameron J. Macdonald**, **Raymond L. Marshall**, **Antoinette A. McRae**, **M. Natalie McSherry**, **Douglas F. Murray**, **Kristen B. Perry**, **William F. Ryan, Jr.**, **Erika Alsid Short**, **J. Daniel Vorsteg**, **Joseph P. Ward**, and WTP staff members **Joy A. Daniel**, **Marie M. Ferguson**, **Jennifer M. Putnam**, **Catherine L. Reed**, **Paula Rhule**, **Romaine A. Richardson**, **Adrienne F. Strickler**, **Hope H. Ward**, and **Barbara A. Wilson** participated in this great event.



WTP making a difference on “Rebuilding Day.”

BRIDESMAIDS’ BINGO

This past year, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston once again continued its commitment to My Sister’s Place, a day program for homeless women and children in Baltimore City, through an annual fundraiser known as “Bridesmaids’ Bingo.” A planning committee comprised of numerous community members, including WTP attorneys **Barbara L. Ayres**, **Judith C. Ensor**, **Jennifer R. Lazenby**, **M. Natalie McSherry**, **Erika Alsid Short**, and legal assistant **Rose Marie Alcarese**, worked together to stage the sell-out event. Nearly \$30,000 was raised to assist with providing children’s activities, life skills workshops, and support services at the day program.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT

Thomas C. Beach, III, a partner in the firm’s Construction and Surety/Fidelity Law Group, served as part of a Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) task force in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. He was activated by the military and served as the mission executive officer and then the field commander for a medical support team comprised of 100 physicians and medical personnel (“Operation Lifeline”). The Maryland Defense Force is a uniformed branch of the military made up of unpaid volunteers charged with supporting the mission of the Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

Pro Bono Recognition

Trailblazer Award – Edwin G. Fee, Jr. was awarded the Trailblazer Award at the Equal Justice Council’s 8th Annual Awards and Recognition Breakfast of the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau. The Trailblazer Award is given to an individual that shows exemplary commitment to the pro bono needs of the community.

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland – John P. Evans (“Jack”) was awarded the 2005 Individual Pro Bono Service Award at the Maryland State Bar Convention. Mr. Evans received the award for his years of work with Sandtown Habitat for Humanity. Based in the Sandtown-Winchester community in West Baltimore, Sandtown is a nonprofit community housing organization whose mission is to rebuild vacant housing and increase home ownership in the area. Through his efforts, over 25 Whiteford, Taylor & Preston attorneys have been directly involved with the community, including a recent workday for the firm’s summer associates to rehabilitate two homes.

MLSC Herbert S. Garten Public Citizen Award – Whiteford, Taylor & Preston was awarded the Herbert S. Garten Public Citizen Award from the Maryland Legal Services Corporation for its demonstrated commitment to increasing access to justice for the poor in Maryland.

The Advancement of the Rights of the Disadvantaged – During a reception honoring leaders of Maryland’s legal and judicial communities held at the Maryland State House on September 27, 2005, **Ward B. Coe, III** was honored by the Fellows of the Maryland State Bar Association for his extensive efforts in defending the rights of the disadvantaged.

Fairfax County Law Foundation’s Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award – WTP attorneys assisted dozens of Homestretch residents in the Courts throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Attorneys meet with members of the Homestretch community the second Tuesday of each month. The legal issues raised by the members of the community are varied and can include domestic cases, trusts/estate issues, tax issues, insurance questions, consumer rights actions, landlord-tenant disputes and employment claims. Our goal is to resolve most of the community’s issues at the monthly meetings. In the instances where issues are not able to be resolved, WTP attorneys continue to represent the members of the community in resolving their disputes. **Ann M. Garfinkle, Andrew J. Terrell, Michael C. Gartner, Jane Saindon Dudley, Kevin A. Kernan, Thomas C. Mugavero** and paralegal **Susan M. Bynum** work with the residents of Homestretch.

Pro Bono Recognition

Maryland Leadership in Law Award – Each year, the Daily Record honors 24 Marylanders who have significantly and consistently contributed to the legal profession. Among those honored in 2005 for their outstanding service was WTP Counsel **Joseph K. Pokempner**.

2005 WTP Pro Bono Awards – Each year, WTP shows its continuing support and recognition of pro bono service by honoring two attorneys for exemplary service to the pro bono community. In 2005, WTP honored **Sharvari (“Shev”) Dalal-Dheini** for her work with Human Rights First assisting individuals seeking asylum in the United States, and **Raymond L. Marshall** for his work involving a post-conviction relief case and other pro bono representation through the House of Ruth and Homeless Person Representation Project (HPRP).

50 Hours of Pro Bono Service Award – During WTP’s annual Pro Bono Award Ceremony, WTP recognized those attorneys



who performed at least 50 hours of pro bono legal service. Attorneys honored in 2005 were: **Erika Alsid Short, Ward B. Coe, III, Sharvari Dalal-Dheini, Judith C. Ensor, John P. Evans, Edwin G. Fee, Jr., Peter D. Guattery, Nichole M. Hatcher, Ranak K. Jasani, Paul W. Madden, Damian J. Mark, Raymond L. Marshall, Rose M. Matricciani, Joel D. McMahan, Antoinette A. McRae, Dana Petersen Moore, Karen H. Moore, James F. Rosner, Shannon D. Sentman, Ilana Subar, Richard F. Waddington, and Joseph P. Ward.**

10 Year Volunteer Award – **Edwin G. Fee, Jr.** was awarded the 10 Year Volunteer Award at the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services (MVLS) Annual Award Reception in September. Handling at least one MVLS case annually, Ed’s cases typically involve trust and estate issues including wills and power of attorney designations.

ARC of Baltimore Service Awards – **Edwin G. Fee, Jr., Nichole M. Hatcher, Thomas P. Kimmitt, Raymond L. Marshall, and Dena M. Terra** were honored with Service Awards for their volunteer work during the ARC’s 2005 Annual Meeting and Reception.

For further information about WTP’s Pro Bono Program or to find out how you can become involved, please contact James F. Rosner, pro bono partner, at 410-832-2000 or jrosner@wtplaw.com. For additional articles and up-to-date information, please visit our web site at wtplaw.com.

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to our pro bono program:

J. Bradley Aaron
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Thomas C. Beach, III
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Anne T. Brennan
Todd M. Brooks
Jennifer R. Busse
Susan M. Bynum
Edward M. Buxbaum
Stephen B. Caplis
James Carroll
Audra Trouland Cathell
James R. Chason
Mary Claire Chesshire
Adam Cizek
Jonathan E. Claiborne
Yvonne J. Clark
Ward B. Coe, III
Maureen E. Cones
Rayna J. Conetta
Pamela M. Conover
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