



Q.

What word is pronounced “just us”
but includes everybody?



A.
Justice.

1,200+

People

Number of individuals afforded access to the legal system through Manatt's pro bono representation in 2010



23,509

Hours

Number of hours Manatt dedicated to pro bono matters in 2010



70
Hours

Average number of hours per attorney dedicated to pro bono work in 2010

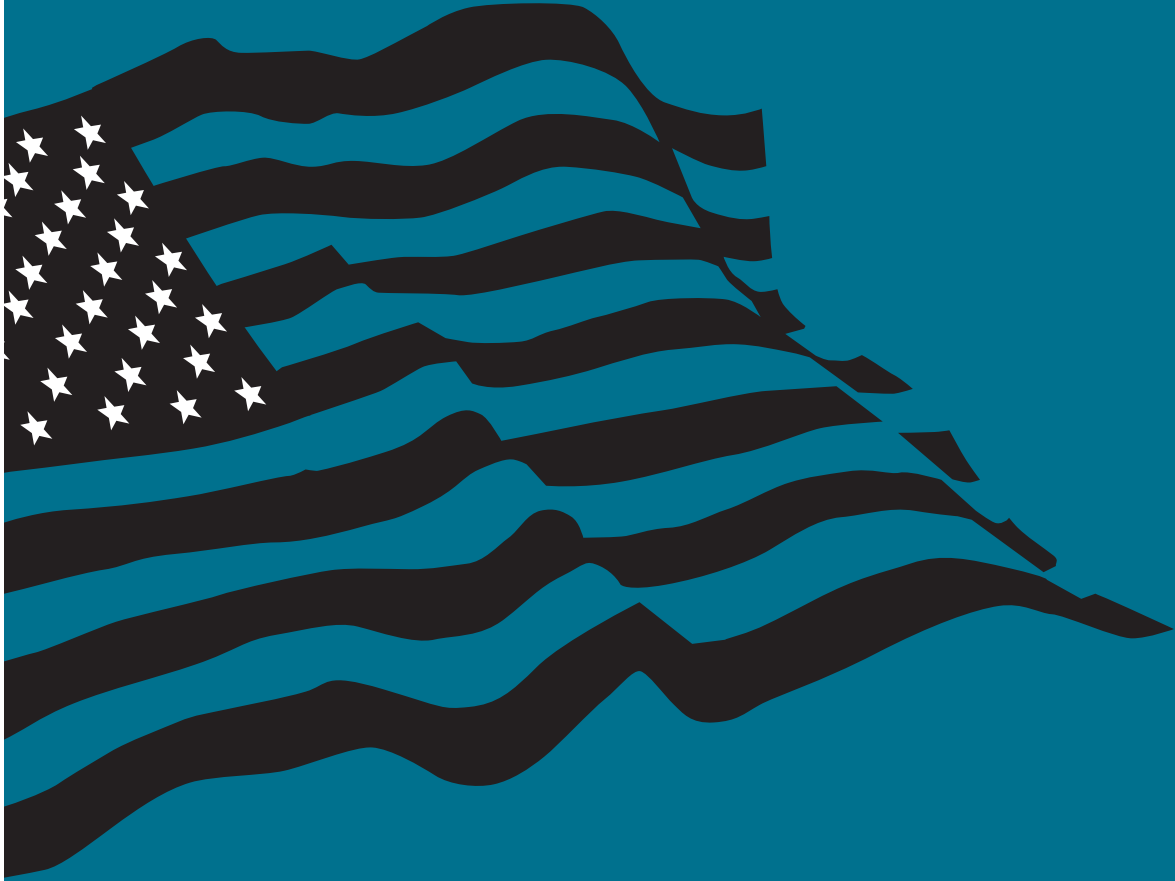
61
Percent

Percentage of attorneys who dedicated more than 20 hours to pro bono work in 2010

At Manatt, we believe that everyone should have equal access to the justice system.

We also believe pro bono clients are entitled to the same zealous representation that we provide to all of our clients. While our dedication is evident from the hours we commit every year and the recognition we receive, our pride in these achievements is tempered only by the realization of how much is yet to be done.

This year, we've highlighted one story from each of our eight offices and one nationwide project that speaks to the freedoms of all Americans. While each project presented unique challenges, the unifying thread remains the same: **The needs of our clients inspire us to realize change, right wrongdoing and ensure that justice prevails.**



The Pledge of Allegiance ends with a period, not an asterisk.

In 2010 Manatt worked on dozens of immigration cases across the country and around the globe to help immigrants in need achieve safety, freedom and opportunity.

- After a group of indentured servants escaped from an underground labor trafficking operation, the firm helped them take legal action to secure safe futures for themselves while also shutting their employers down.
- Two years after one of the largest workplace raids in recent history, we secured visas for 23 undocumented female employees who were victims of sex abuse and slave labor at an Iowa kosher meat factory.
- In several cases where immigrant brides were abused and held captive by their new husbands, Manatt qualified them for protection under the Violence Against Women Act and began their

green card applications without need for the customary spousal consent.

- Manatt helped authorities secure eyewitness testimony from undocumented victims of crime who also needed protection from retribution. At times we had to make arrangements to remove a witness's family from harm's way in their home country before our client could say a word. We stood by our clients' side throughout the administrative and trial process, and fast-tracked the exhaustive paperwork necessary to get them on the path to legal citizenship.

Manatt's lawyers also counseled state and federal courts about the negative human rights impact of Arizona's proposed immigration laws. The U.S. Department of Justice hailed Manatt's brief for providing vital information to the case.

LOS ANGELES

A single key unlocks big changes.

Our Los Angeles office has earned a reputation for education-related pro bono work: driving systematic change, establishing innovative charter schools, and advocating on behalf of individual students with special education needs or other challenges.

In 2010 one Los Angeles County student stood out from the rest for her courage and resilience. And the outcome of her case set a precedent that advances equal access to education for disabled students across the country. Our client was a 17-year-old honors student who never let a hereditary degenerative disease slow her down—until the day her school put her education and safety in jeopardy. She is not able to climb stairs, making it impossible for her to access the second-floor classrooms and library except by use of the school elevator, which requires a key. Her requests for a key were repeatedly denied based on the school's fear that "mischief" would occur. Instead, school officials required her to flag down teachers and staff in order to use the elevator, causing a loss of personal freedom and reprimands for tardiness and missed classes. During a fire drill, she was stranded on the second floor while everyone else walked to safety.

Manatt worked to resolve the case informally but eventually filed a discrimination suit in federal court. In a rare published opinion, the judge chastised the school district for "taking ridiculous positions in this case" and then ordered the district to turn over an elevator key immediately.

After graduation, our client was accepted at several universities and will attend UC Berkeley on scholarship, with appropriate accommodations for her physical needs already in place.

NEW YORK

Manatt reopens cases to give Holocaust survivors closure.

The Holocaust Survivors Justice Network, Manatt's nationwide pro bono partnership with Bet Tzedek Legal Services, experienced a dramatic increase in requests for services after the German Supreme Court issued several rulings that meant Holocaust survivors could reopen previously denied pension applications, or submit new applications, for work they performed while living in German-controlled ghettos during WWII.

Manatt and its network of more than 100 law firms and corporate counsel offices had previously helped thousands of rejected applicants reapply for a onetime payment of €2,000 (approximately \$2,800). The daunting application was written in German and involved an exhaustive documentation, verification and interview process.

With the new German Supreme Court rulings, many applicants were able to reapply for more significant monetary pensions. The lawyers in our New York office rallied to the cause, handling as many cases as firms three times our size.

To date, we have helped more than 90 percent of our clients convert their original lump-sum payments into lifetime pensions, with back payments as high as \$60,000 and ongoing payments averaging \$250 per month for the rest of our clients' lives. The pension payments, while modest in terms of dollars, carry significant meaning for their survivor-recipients.

SACRAMENTO

Sometimes solutions are found by thinking inside the box.

When client funds are held in trust during a legal proceeding, the interest on this money belongs to the public. More than 100 legal service agencies in California draw a significant amount of their funding from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) system. In 2010, lower interest rates caused by the recession quickly dried up this funding. To keep these essential legal service programs in operation, Manatt worked with the Legal Aid Association of California to advance an emergency funding solution through the Legislature that would not tap into the state's fragile budget.

Our Sacramento office leveraged its trusted relationships inside the California State Capitol and State Bar of California to get a bill written and passed in record time. The bill enables California attorneys to dedicate \$10 of their bar dues to a special "Temporary Emergency Legal Services Voluntary Assistance" fund for a three-year period. With more than 227,000 attorneys, including active and inactive members, the \$10 check box adds up to significant funding to help keep access to legal services available to low-income Californians.

SAN FRANCISCO

Rewarding work sometimes results in unexpected awards.

Imagine being homeless and taking on the Herculean challenge of overcoming your addictions, only to have your personal turnaround stopped cold because of a jaywalking ticket. Misdemeanors can prevent a person who wants to become a productive member of society from getting a second chance. A minor infraction for something as simple as riding the bus without paying can prevent these people from getting jobs.

The legal system is structured so that potential employers see only the warrant, not the offense, when conducting a background check. Manatt works to address the minor offense and have our clients' records cleaned. Our efforts in this regard were recognized by the Bar Association of San Francisco when it bestowed on us its 2010 Outstanding Law Firm in Public Service Award.



Law studies come to life and change people's lives.

When the nation's newest law school opened on the UC Irvine campus in the fall of 2009, it embraced an educational philosophy that emphasizes pro bono service, practical experience, and interaction with the larger legal community. The school's administration reached out to Manatt's Orange County office to develop a unique pro bono program that serves vulnerable populations while also giving the students practical legal experience.

The firm worked collaboratively to develop a program in which UCI students, working under the supervision of Manatt attorneys, volunteer through the Los Angeles-based Alliance for Children's Rights to represent local foster youth and their caregivers.

The Alliance works with children who have been abused, traumatized or abandoned by their parents, causing them to be placed in foster care. Often, the foster caregivers can become overwhelmed with these children's special needs. Our program enabled the UCI students to work directly with the caregivers to seek appropriate funding and services for these children on a pro bono basis.

Much of the Orange County office is involved with this effort, which in 2010 benefited 18 children in nine different families. The UCI law students were able to put their classroom education to the test by conducting oral and written advocacy, and appearing at administrative hearings. This effort has resulted in our clients receiving more than \$100,000 in retroactive benefits, as well as critical supports such as physical therapy, counseling or medical aides. The program helps to stabilize the lives of foster children and foster the next generation of legal professionals.



WASHINGTON, D.C.

When our clients can't work, Manatt finds a solution that will.

By combining the talents of Manatt's attorneys with those of Manatt Health Solutions' advisors, our D.C. office brings a special kind of service to residents at a local facility for homeless families. Since "adopting" the facility nearly four years ago, we have helped dozens of individuals access public benefits and housing that had been wrongly denied.

Among the many individuals we assisted in 2010, one story stands out—for the unbreakable spirit of our client and the dedication of our team. Manatt came to the aid of a homeless man who had desperately tried to find gainful employment despite insurmountable odds. In 1991, during an armed robbery inside his home, our client was shot 11 times, causing him to become blind in one eye, lose his sense of smell, endure chronic shrapnel-induced headaches and back pain, and suffer debilitating deformities in his right hand. In addition to depression and bipolar disorder, he experienced hallucinations and seizures that increased in frequency and severity. Despite these challenges and disabilities, he diligently attempted but was unable to sustain performance at more than a dozen different jobs, due to his deteriorating mental and physical condition. When the Social Security Administration denied his disability claims, he was forced onto the street.

Manatt lined up expert medical and psychological testimony to present a clear-cut case to the judge. The denial of claims decision was overturned, and our client was awarded full disability and benefits under Titles 2 and 16 of the Social Security Act. Today, he is off the streets and getting the treatment he needs.

PALO ALTO

Manatt's tech-savvy lawyers get inventive.

Technology is supposed to make tasks quicker and easier, but a poorly designed computer system can quickly make things more difficult. That's a challenge when it impacts your business, but when your ability to survive depends on such a system, the stakes are much higher. Some of those who were eligible for various public benefits engaged four prominent welfare and legal rights organizations that, along with Manatt, embarked on attempting to improve California's trouble-plagued welfare benefits computer system.

Our case challenges the wrongful delay and termination of critical benefits upon which California's neediest families rely, including cash assistance (called CalWORKs) and food stamps (known as CalFresh). Millions of Californians depend on these forms of public assistance for their daily needs, so the fair, timely and accurate delivery of these benefits is critical. Accurate delivery is not merely a moral prerogative; it is a requirement of California law. Benefits are routinely delayed, reduced or terminated due to defects in the Department of Social Services' computer system, known as CalWIN.

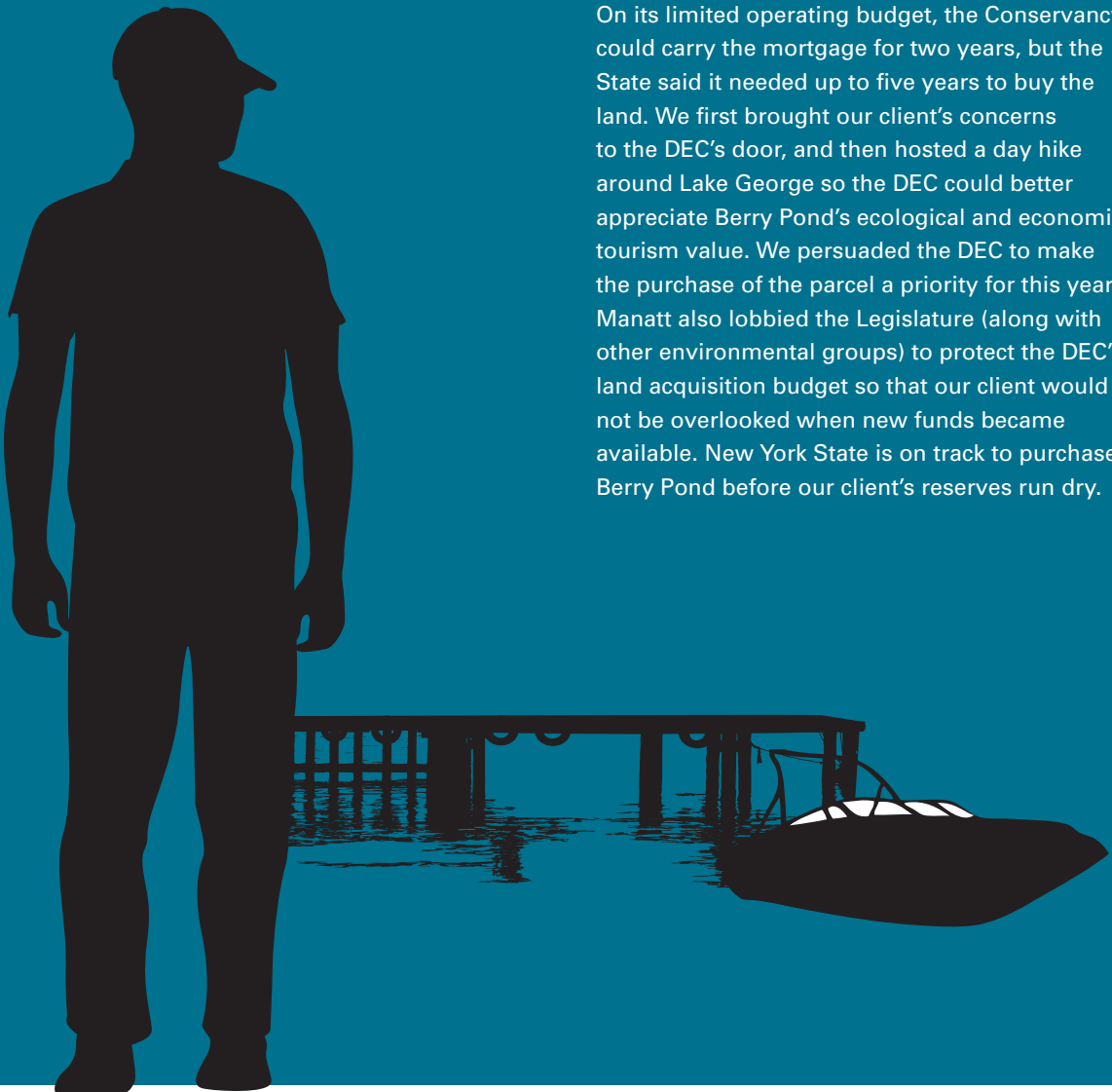
We are now before the California Court of Appeal, where we hope to establish that the state must be actively involved in monitoring its own disbursement systems to ensure that they do the job the law requires.

When a Lake George land deal starts sinking, Manatt sends a lifeboat.

Manatt's understanding of the New York political and bureaucratic process helped the Lake George Land Conservancy (the Conservancy) grab the urgent attention of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

At New York State's request, the Conservancy invested much of its operating budget to buy Berry Pond and protect the adjacent Lake George water supply—the "Queen of American Lakes"—from the damages of pervasive development in the lake's watershed. When the State's land acquisition budget hit a shortfall and was reduced, the Conservancy's ability to carry the mortgage started to sink quickly.

On its limited operating budget, the Conservancy could carry the mortgage for two years, but the State said it needed up to five years to buy the land. We first brought our client's concerns to the DEC's door, and then hosted a day hike around Lake George so the DEC could better appreciate Berry Pond's ecological and economic tourism value. We persuaded the DEC to make the purchase of the parcel a priority for this year. Manatt also lobbied the Legislature (along with other environmental groups) to protect the DEC's land acquisition budget so that our client would not be overlooked when new funds became available. New York State is on track to purchase Berry Pond before our client's reserves run dry.



Awards & Recognition

The National Law Journal's Pro Bono Project of the Year

ABA Journal: Two-page profile of Holocaust Survivors Justice Network

Seven Seals Award, U.S. Department of Defense

California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award: Environmental (pro bono)

California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award: Legislative (pro bono)

Legal Aid of Marin Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award

D.C. Circuit Judicial Conference's "40 at 50" Award

AIDS Legal Referral Panel Pro Bono Champion

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Pro Bono All-Star Award

Legal Aid Association of California Award of Merit

Western Center on Law & Poverty Brinsley Award

Volunteers of Legal Services Pro Bono Service Award

New Directions' Community Hero Award

Public Counsel's Adoptions Project Volunteer of the Year Award

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