

# 45

# 1 Firm

1. Access to Justice 2. Access to Healthcare 3. Advocating for Victims of Crime 4. Affordable Housing 5. Appellate Advocacy 6. Building New Families 7. Combating Mortgage Fraud 8. Community Development 9. Consumer Protection 10. Counseling Legal Service Providers 11. Creating & Supporting Charter Schools 12. Death Penalty 13. Defending Small Business Owners 14. Detainee Advocacy 15. Developing Strong Daycare Providers 16. Education Rights 17. Empowering the Elderly 18. Ensuring Human Rights 19. Eviction Defense 20. Financial Empowerment 21. Foster Care Advocacy 22. Gender Equity 23. HIV De-stigmatization 24. Holocaust Survivors Justice Network 25. Homeland Security 26. Hope for the Homeless 27. Identity Theft 28. Immigrant Children 29. Intellectual Property 30. Keeping Courthouses Running 31. Kids & the Arts 32. Legislative Advances 33. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Causes 34. Maintaining Safe Communities 35. Music, Movies & Museums 36. Preserving the Environment 37. Promoting Religious Freedom 38. Protecting Families from Domestic Abuse 39. Prisoner Re-Entry 40. Public Benefits 41. Securing Rights for Incapacitated Individuals 42. Specialized Tax Advice 43. Strengthening Small Nonprofits 44. Supporting Our Troops 45. Welcoming New Immigrants

# 45

**Ways we made  
a difference**

# By the Numbers

● 28,165

NUMBER OF HOURS MANATT DEDICATED TO PRO BONO MATTERS IN 2009

● 1,380

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AFFORDED ACCESS TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM THROUGH MANATT'S PRO BONO REPRESENTATION IN 2009

● 241

NUMBER OF NEW PRO BONO CAUSES TAKEN ON DURING 2009

● 85

AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS PER ATTORNEY DEDICATED TO PRO BONO WORK IN 2009 (*AM LAW 200* AVERAGE IS 49 HOURS PER ATTORNEY)

● 71

PERCENTAGE OF ATTORNEYS WHO DEDICATED MORE THAN 20 HOURS TO PRO BONO IN 2009 (*AM LAW 200* AVERAGE IS 40 PERCENT)

# Celebrating 45 Years of Service to Others

Forty-five years ago Chuck Manatt and Tom Phelps founded a new law firm—a firm based on a shared vision of the law as equal parts profession and calling. Today, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, larger and more diverse, still stands for the same principle that brought its founders together: the belief that the best lawyers bring the same level of talent, enthusiasm, and commitment to serving their communities as they do to representing their commercial clients.

Our achievements on behalf of clients who entrust their future and success to our firm are paralleled by extraordinary pro bono accomplishments—work we provide to organizations and individuals who need the talent and commitment of lawyers dedicated to making a better world.

Last year, more than 350 Manatt professionals collectively dedicated more than 28,000 hours to pro bono matters. More importantly, each of those hours translated into positive change **on a human level.**

# Continuing Our Commitment During Tough Times.

It is in difficult economic times that pro bono service matters most. In 2009, while many organizations—law firms included—scaled back their efforts, Manatt dedicated itself to leadership on all fronts. Our commitment and work did not go unnoticed—either by the clients we served or by the larger legal community. Manatt lawyers were honored with 18 prestigious awards throughout the past year for their pro bono efforts—more than one award each month—including the nation’s highest pro bono honor, the ABA’s Pro Bono Publico Award.

Manatt’s commitment to pro bono service is unwavering, even in the toughest of times. We are proud of our people’s willingness to give of themselves in order to make significant differences in the lives of others.

## Choosing to Do the Right Thing—Always.

Doing the right thing can be difficult and, in some instances, unpopular—but at Manatt, the choice is always easy.

We don’t shy away from difficult or controversial cases. Whether it’s providing legal assistance to HIV-positive and transgendered individuals, gaining asylum for Tibetan refugees, or helping a small environmental organization take on a multinational corporation, our pro bono work is a moral imperative. In the stories that follow, you’ll see that imperative put to work.

# Fighting to improve the lives of veterans.

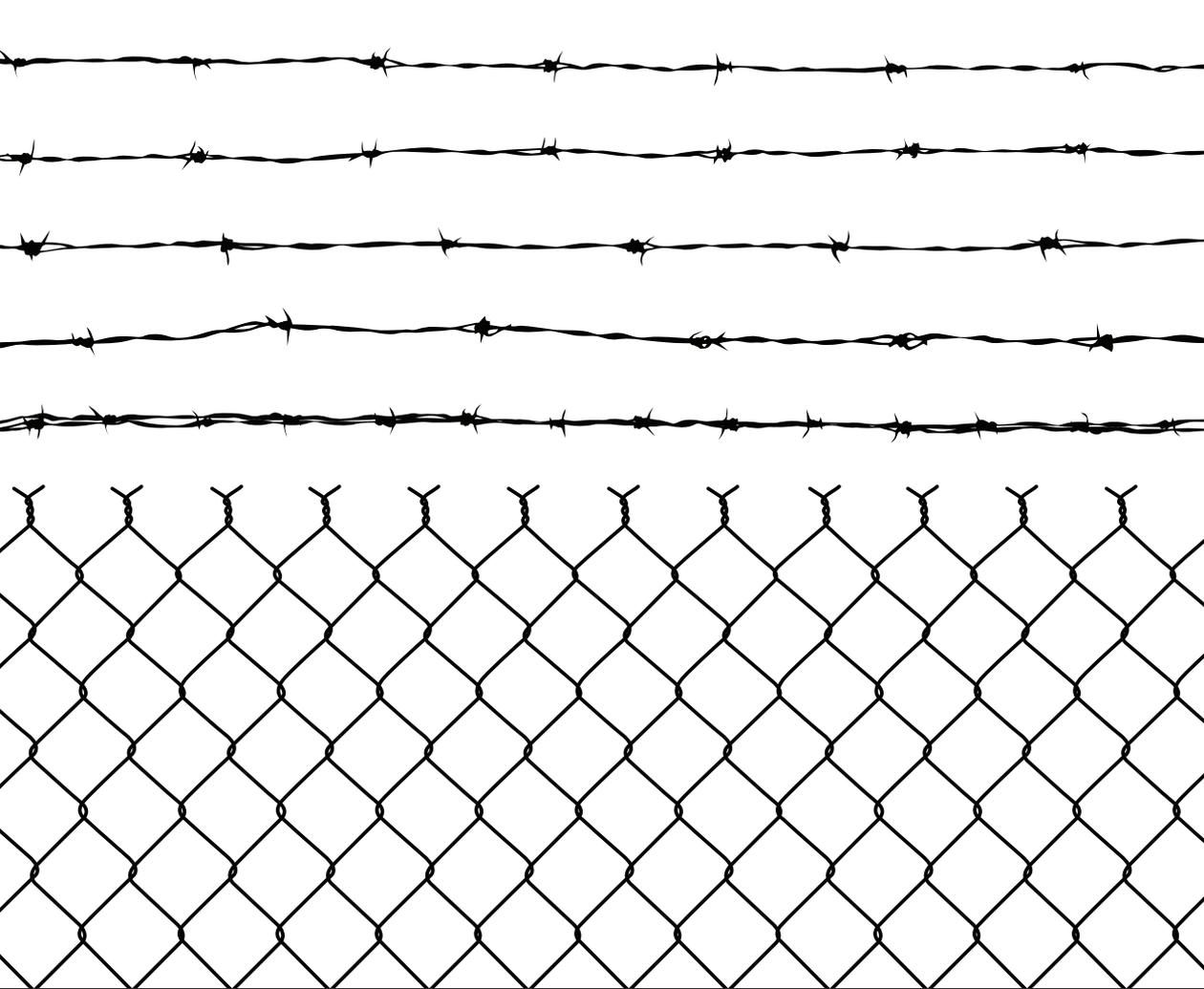


All too often veterans—especially those returning home from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq—find themselves involved in a fight of another kind. Many encounter legal battles to regain jobs, restore credit profiles, reestablish rights to family and property, and claim benefits due to them. Tragically, an increasing number of our veterans also face periods of homelessness and struggles with addiction.

In Manatt's eight offices nationwide, our lawyers volunteered over 1,200 hours in 2009 to assist veterans with their legal needs and help them to once more lead productive civilian lives. One such instance of this dedication involves a retired sailor who was the victim of identity theft.

When the identity thief, who had run up substantial credit card debt in the veteran's name and cashed his military pension checks, suddenly died, he was mistakenly identified as our client. This made it virtually impossible for the real veteran to get a job, collect a pension, or even open a bank account. With Manatt's help, he re-established his identity and was able to receive his military pension again. The effort also helped him secure a job with the VA.

Manatt has helped to launch, and continues to supervise, free legal clinics for homeless veterans and is one of two dozen law firms serving as pro bono counsel to the national Lawyers Serving Warriors project. With the number of at-risk veterans continuing to rise, we will continue to lead the charge in the fight to protect the rights and improve the lives of those who bravely served our country.



Ensuring justice for  
**Holocaust**  
**survivors.**

For decades, justice was denied to tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors forced to work in German-controlled ghettos during World War II. Then, in 2008, justice finally came due.

That year, Manatt and Bet Tzedek Legal Services launched the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network. It's a groundbreaking program that provides free legal services to survivors seeking "Ghetto Work" reparations. In almost two years, it has helped place over \$2 million into the hands of survivors.

With clinics operating in 31 North American cities at the height of the program, the Justice Network was the first nationally coordinated pro bono effort to provide direct legal services to Holocaust survivors. The Justice Network has successfully enlisted volunteers from more than 120 law firms and corporate legal departments, as well as 30-plus social service agency partners. More than 3,600 individual lawyers, paralegals and other legal professionals have participated in local legal outreach efforts to interview survivors and complete the highly detailed claim forms.

Helping guide the effort are Stan Levy, Senior Counsel at Manatt and one of the original founders of Bet Tzedek, and Cristin Zeisler, Partner and Director of Pro Bono Services, and one of the architects of the Justice Network. Their work, along with that of over 3,600 volunteers from numerous law firms, including 160 Manatt professionals, has made the program the single-largest coordinated pro bono effort in U.S. history.

In 2009, Manatt was recognized with several pro bono awards, including the American Bar Association's prestigious Pro Bono Publico Award, for the firm's instrumental role in creating and leading the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network.

Accolades are appreciated, but the real reward comes from the survivors themselves. They have felt "overwhelmed by the patience and kindness" of the Justice Network and affirm that "echoes of this generosity are reverberating from coast to coast."

In a relatively short time, much has been accomplished. And with a recently expanded German commitment to ongoing reparations, we look forward to continuing to secure justice for the survivor community.

**It was a big step forward when California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the bill that made California the first state in the nation to establish a right to counsel for low-income litigants in critical civil matters. And, Manatt was there to provide the push.**

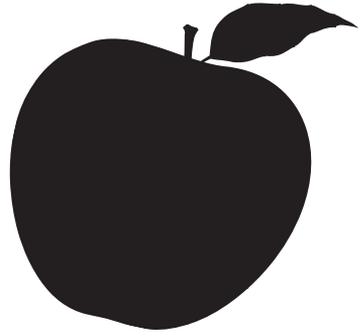
Assembly Bill 590 (AB 590), now the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act, extends free legal representation to economically challenged individuals and families facing eviction, domestic violence, child custody disputes and other critical civil actions. Manatt's role in making the bill a reality was to help mobilize the legislators to push the bill through. Thomas R. McMorrow, Fred L. Main, and Michael Martinez of the firm's Sacramento office volunteered long hours and lobbied hard behind the scenes to win the support of state senators, assembly members, and ultimately the Governor.

In the midst of a deep recession, the passage of a "Civil Gideon" bill such as AB 590 was hailed as nothing short of extraordinary. For their efforts, McMorrow and the firm were presented with a California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY ) award in the Legislative Category by *California Lawyer* magazine.

Helping to pass this landmark legislation with our client, the Legal Aid Association of California, was an opportunity to work collaboratively with our pro bono partners, the courts, the state, and the bar to ensure that everyone, regardless of economic status, has access to critical legal services.

Making  
**“Equal Justice  
Under the Law”**  
the law in California.





# Empowering charter schools to provide high-quality education in low-income communities.

A good education, like good legal representation, is something we believe should be available to all. Manatt has a long history of supporting charter schools in at-risk neighborhoods throughout the country. Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) Public Schools in Los Angeles is one that has been with us nearly from its inception.

The founders of ICEF Public Schools brought to Manatt their dreams of starting high-quality, tuition-free public charter elementary, middle and high schools in the economically challenged South Los Angeles area. Our lawyers secured the schools' not-for-profit status, necessary building permits, licensing paperwork, and other legal documentation.

Over the years, ICEF Public Schools have grown to include 13 charter schools serving over 3,000 minority youth. Their students go on to attend and compete academically at the top colleges and universities in the nation. While this success belongs to the vision of its founders, the dedication of its teachers, and the commitment of its students, ICEF credits Manatt's continued support for making this possible.

In fact, ICEF annually awards a Manatt, Phelps & Phillips Scholarship to a deserving graduate. More than 60 Manatt attorneys and staff have supported ICEF's growth, giving of their time, resources and enthusiasm to create schools of excellence in the South L.A. area.

During 2009 we proudly played a role in helping 10 additional charter and alternative schools provide first-rate educational opportunities to students who we hope will, in turn, transform their neighborhoods into stable, economically vibrant communities.

# Landing a big win for the environment.

The river that runs through McCloud, California is pristine and clear—and the citizens of the town, along with the nonprofit preservation group California Trout, intended to keep it that way. So when Nestlé announced plans to build the nation's largest water bottling plant, which would have siphoned water from springs that feed the town's river and creek, the local advocates turned to Manatt to help them put up a fight.

It all started with a backroom deal and a one-sided water contract that let Nestlé pay for \$115 a day for water with an annual retail value of over \$2 billion. Even worse, in case of drought or shortage, the bottling plant would have had rights to the water before the residents.

In a multi-office pro bono effort led out of San Francisco by partners Steve Mayne and Drew Bassak, Manatt helped turn the tide of the fight. Under pressure from our lawyers, the bottler announced that it would scale back its plans for the plant and commission a new environmental impact report.

Although this capitulation could be viewed as a significant victory in and of itself, we pressed on, seeking termination of the contract. By coordinating a public education campaign focused on the negative effects the contract would have on the environment, we brought additional pressure to bear. As a result, in September of 2009, plans to build a bottling plant in McCloud were formally abandoned and the contract was nullified.

This precedent-setting victory protected not just the residents of McCloud, but also millions of Californians who would have felt the environmental impact of the ill-advised bottling plant.

Helping  
**asylum seekers**  
find the American Dream—  
and start new lives.



## For over a decade, Manatt has helped those in flight from persecution, war, famine, and repression find asylum in the United States.

From our New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Orange County offices, during 2009 alone, we provided pro bono representation to more than two dozen men, women, and children seeking asylum from around the world, achieving an almost 100 percent success rate for them.

During 2009, we successfully: represented several Tibetans and Nepalis who are now free to practice their religion and express their political views; obtained legal status for several transgendered individuals from Latin America; and kept two women safe from the dangers of genital mutilation in Africa. We also filed or litigated asylum applications on behalf of clients from 13 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South America.

We continue on our mission even after these refugees achieve legal status in the United States. Last year, our lawyers successfully united families, obtained green cards, and secured housing benefits and other forms of assistance for refugees who have settled in our communities. We are steadfast in our commitment to helping the less fortunate of the world.

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# Awards

*American Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award (Holocaust Survivors Justice Network)*

*The National Law Journal's Pro Bono Project of the Year (Holocaust Survivors Justice Network)*

*The National Law Journal's Pro Bono Project of the Year (California Trout)*

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ACLU of Southern California's Religious Liberty Award

Bet Tzedek's Rose L. Schiff Commitment to Justice Award

*California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year Award (Public Interest Category)

California Trout's Streamkeeper Award

D.C. Judicial Council's "40 at 50" Recognition Award

Defensa de Mujeres' Commitment to Service Award

HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance's Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award

Legal Aid of Marin's Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County's Top Pro Bono Performer Award

Legal Community Against Violence's Pro Bono Champion Award

Pro Bono Institute/Corporate Pro Bono's Pro Bono Partnership Award

Volunteers of Legal Services' Pro Bono Service Award

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless' Pro Bono Service Award

Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition's Community Support Honoree

YWCA of Brooklyn's Community Builder Award

# 45 Projects to Celebrate 45 Years

In addition to the six pro bono stories profiled here, Manatt advanced access to justice and engaged in impactful community development and advocacy efforts across a wide range of issues and client constituencies in 2009. Our moral imperative continues to drive us in 2010 and beyond.

7. ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE – assisting with individual advocacy, institutional guidance, systemwide policy development
8. ADVOCATING FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME – secured 26 U-Visas and T-Visas for men, women, children and families
9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – drafting model legislation, developing financing plans, litigating construction defects
10. APPELLATE ADVOCACY – on behalf of immigrants, veterans, nonprofits, and seekers of public benefits
11. BUILDING NEW FAMILIES – connected 111 foster children with new, adoptive parents or guardians
12. COMBATING MORTGAGE FRAUD – taking down “foreclosure rescue” scam artists in three states
13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – supporting local entrepreneurs, devising open space plans, implementing investment strategies
14. CONSUMER PROTECTION – holding bankruptcy clinics, combating telemarketer scams, conducting know-your-rights seminars
15. COUNSELING LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS – serving as outside employment and transactional counsel to seven leading agencies
16. DEATH PENALTY – ongoing efforts in Arizona and Alabama
17. DEFENDING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS – helping to preserve equity and ownership rights for entrepreneurs
18. DETAINEE ADVOCACY – obtaining humanitarian parole, seeking opportunities to bond out, securing healthcare rights
19. DEVELOPING STRONG DAYCARE PROVIDERS – enforcing local zoning protections, counseling on risk-management issues
20. EDUCATION RIGHTS – preventing unjust expulsions, securing appropriate services for children with disabilities
21. EMPOWERING THE ELDERLY – protecting them from scams and assisting them with end-of-life planning
22. EVICTION DEFENSE – participating in the San Francisco Bar’s courthouse negotiation project and conducting actual trials
23. FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT – advising micro-lenders, community funders, and start-up incubators

24. FOSTER CARE ADVOCACY – working with foster parents to obtain support services, working with foster kids to tackle myriad legal issues
25. GENDER EQUITY – won summary judgment on behalf of high school girls who were denied equal participation opportunities under Title IX
26. HIV DE-STIGMATIZATION – combating discrimination, advancing equal treatment
27. HOMELAND SECURITY – working to develop security policies for the U.S.-Mexico border
28. HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS – counseling individuals and families at clinics and shelters, developing regional funding plans, promoting housing options
29. IDENTITY THEFT – restoring credit profiles for homeless veterans and foster youth
30. IMMIGRANT CHILDREN – representing 17 minors from 8 countries in a range of immigration proceedings
31. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – securing and enforcing trademarks for local nonprofits on a multi-national basis
32. KEEPING COURTHOUSES RUNNING – drafting funding legislation, serving as pro tem judges
33. KIDS & THE ARTS – serving as corporate counsel to several organizations that provide arts programs to low-income schools and students
34. LEGISLATIVE ADVANCES – promoting diversity initiatives, support for legal services, resources for survivors of torture, and environmental preservation
35. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER CAUSES – championing equal treatment, empowering gay and lesbian youth, analyzing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act
36. MAINTAINING SAFE COMMUNITIES – investigated options to curb gun violence, and promoting policies to keep streets safe
37. MUSIC, MOVIES & MUSEUMS – securing licenses for charitable albums, negotiating promotion agreements, advising documentarians, counsel local galleries and performance groups
38. PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM – successfully litigated a Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act claim for a Buddhist temple
39. PROTECTING FAMILIES FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE – representing individuals at restraining order hearings and in court-based clinics
40. PRISONER RE-ENTRY – securing expungements, developing alternate court models
41. PUBLIC BENEFITS – conducting impact litigation on behalf of recipients in 18 California counties and individual advocacy through one-day clinics and full-scale representation
42. SECURING RIGHTS FOR INCAPACITATED INDIVIDUALS – performed conservatorship work on behalf of five disabled adults
43. SPECIALIZED TAX ADVICE – provided Employee Retirement Income Security Act and 403(b) planning for nonprofits and Earned Income Tax Credit aid to individuals
44. STRENGTHENING SMALL NONPROFITS – delivering expert guidance to organizations whose annual budgets are under \$2M
45. WELCOMING NEW IMMIGRANTS – helping individuals to adjust their status to become legal permanent residents or U.S. citizens

manatt

Albany

Los Angeles

New York

Orange County

Palo Alto

Sacramento

San Francisco

Washington, D.C.

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