SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

According to the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, there are an estimated 500,000 foreign survivors of politically motivated torture currently living in the United States as accounted-for refugees. Every day, these survivors strive to become self-sufficient and healthy members of their new communities while also struggling to reclaim the strength and vitality that were stolen from them by brutal dictators and governments.

In June, attorneys and registered lobbyists in our Sacramento office, along with members of the California Consortium of Torture Treatment Centers, met with over 20 legislative offices and received a joint legislative resolution co-signed by 13 California legislators recognizing the 10th anniversary of the United Nations “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.” In addition, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a proclamation declaring June 26, 2007 as a “Day in Support of Victims of Torture” in California.

This recognition directly followed our administrative and legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of San Diego-based Survivors of Torture International, a founding consortium member. Over the past two years, the Manatt Sacramento office has worked closely with Survivors of Torture International on projects ranging from seeking recognition of the plight of survivors among state opinion leaders, to pursuing grants from the California Mental Health Services Act and other state funds for program services that help survivors recover from their experience and build better lives in California.

From September 2005 through June 2007, Manatt professionals Tom McMorrow, Mike Martinez, McKay Tanner and Fred Main contributed over 300 pro bono hours to supporting Survivors of Torture International. In order to increase the likelihood of success in the State Capitol, our attorneys and professionals have worked closely with the consortium to elevate their presence and inform legislators and their staff that a great number of survivors live among their constituents.

This lobbying effort is so unique that it has attracted press attention. Kathi Anderson, Executive Director of Survivors of Torture International, told the press that she is encouraged by the reception the consortium members and their message is receiving in the Capitol. “We got a lot of bipartisan support,” Anderson said. “Many legislators have asked us what they can do to help.”

Tom McMorrow, the partner in charge of Manatt’s Sacramento office, told the press that policy makers and opinion leaders want to help survivors of torture transition successfully to their new American home once they come to appreciate what an escapee has been through. “The personal stories of survivors speak for themselves,”
said McMorrow. “The goal is to add a happy ending to the escapee’s life story by accessing the resources available to support the survivor as they build a new life in our culture.”

Mike Martinez, one of our registered lobbyists, explains that “[we] got involved because of our long history representing survivors of politically motivated torture and providing counsel to those seeking asylum in the United States.” Indeed, the stories profiled in this quarter’s newsletter demonstrate just a few of the dozens of currently active refugee-related cases and projects that the firm is pursuing on a pro bono basis.

Over the course of more than a year, Michael kept watch over Mr. Roshar and frequently visited him while he was hospitalized as a result of the torture he endured while he was incarcerated in China for stating his political views regarding the Chinese occupation of Tibet. The torture that Mr. Roshar endured caused permanent injury to his left leg and he walks with the help of a cane.

Confident that Mr. Roshar’s recovery would be aided if his family could be freed and reunited in the U.S., Michael began the process of seeking derivative asylum for them. After months of effort and mounds of paperwork, Mr. Roshar’s wife and four children were finally reunited with their heroic husband and father.

This spring, our New York office hosted a party to celebrate the brave family’s reunion. At the conclusion of the festivities, the family presented Michael with traditional Tibetan good luck shawls to thank him for his work and bless him in his future endeavors.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS continued

We are privileged to work with Manatt. The pro bono work done by Manatt lawyers allows us to provide outstanding legal representation for the most vulnerable in our community and truly saves lives. We are grateful for your commitment to our clients and your passion for defending the rights of immigrants. On behalf of all of our clients, thank you!

— Judy London, Directing Attorney, Immigrant Rights Project
Public Counsel

Summer Associates Build Houses and Hope

While participating in Habitat for Humanity’s “Buildable Hours” program, our Los Angeles-based summer associate class spent a hot July day clad in leather gloves, goggles and tool belts. After a quick tutorial on the basics of hammering and the difference between size 16 and size 20 nails, our summer associates set to work on framing (and removing nails), and framing (and un-hammering), and framing ... Somehow, by the end of the day, we had accumulated:

- 1 bent/removed nail for approximately every 6 well-hammered nails
- 3 blisters for every hand
- 44 completely framed walls – the equivalent of an entire second story!
- and 100% satisfaction among all participants.

“Our” second story will be installed with a brand new house that will be completed in October as part of the Jimmy Carter Work Project where 100 affordable houses will be built and finalized in Los Angeles in one week.

Reflecting on the experience, Sirena Castillo (now a 3L at USC) noted, “My dad is a construction worker, so I was thinking about him most of the day – mostly thinking about how thankful I was to not have to do such hard work all day! But we built the entire second story of a house and it was great to know that our work would change someone’s life dramatically.”

Los Angeles summer associates pose with one of their 44 recently completed walls.
ASSISTING ORPHANED AND ABUSED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

In 1990, the U.S. government created a special form of immigration relief to provide lawful permanent residency to immigrant children who are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and who are unable to be reunified with family members in their native countries due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. This form of immigration relief is known as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).

In order to obtain SIJS relief, a child must prepare declarations, complete complicated court forms and attend hearings in both juvenile court and immigration court (or an equivalent administrative branch). During the first six months of 2007 alone, it has been our pleasure to work with over a dozen children to help them navigate these complex systems. We are pleased to share three of our success stories this quarter in this issue of “Community Matters@Manatt” and we look forward to reporting additional happy endings in the future.

The Garcia* Family

* identifying names changed at clients’ request

The “Garcia” children, 13-year-old Teo*, 12-year-old Elvia* and 8-year-old Ramon* have had traumatic young lives. Their father passed away of unknown causes in 2003 and less than two years later, their mother died of a brain aneurysm, leaving the children orphaned in Guatemala.

The family was very close, and the children were devastated to find themselves alone. An uncle came to live with them to help maintain a sense of family connection, but shortly after moving in, he began to physically abuse the children. They came under the care of their grandfather, but he soon determined that his advanced age made it impossible for him to care for the children. He sent them away from Guatemala to try to establish a new life in the United States with their aunt.

When the Garcia children came to the U.S., the family was ripped apart again. Teo was detained by the Department of Homeland Security and forced to live in a detention facility while the two other children were able to live with their aunt in Los Angeles. Elvia and Ramon desperately missed their older brother, as the children had come to depend on one another after their parents had passed away. After several months, Teo was released from the detention facility and reunited with his siblings.

When Teo entered formal deportation proceedings in early 2006, he was lucky to have his case referred to Public Counsel. After reviewing the facts, Public Counsel determined that because the children had been orphaned by their parents, abused by their uncle, rejected by their grandfather and had no other legal guardianship over them, all of the children should qualify for SIJS relief and the case was referred to Manatt.

An associate at the time (and now Chief Recruiting Officer), Diana Iketani accepted the case. Working closely with paralegal assistant Oscar Velazquez as a translator, Diana enabled the children’s aunt to obtain a translator, Diana enabled the children’s aunt to obtain legal guardianship over them and in so doing, secured the necessary juvenile court order to move on to the next stage of legal assistance. For Elvia and Ramon, the process of obtaining their green cards through the administrative branch of U.S. immigration services was relatively straightforward. Their happiness is reflected in the accompanying photo.

Diana, Oscar, and now Alen Aguilar, a partner in our real estate group, continue to work with Teo as his case makes its way through the immigration court system. It is just a matter of time before he, too, will be a lawful permanent resident. Meanwhile, all three children are thriving under the loving care of their aunt, learning English, making friends and succeeding in school.

Kris Jackson from Public Counsel who guided our attorneys throughout the case, had these thoughts to offer: “Orphaned children who face deportation – and their caretakers – need not only top-notch legal assistance, but also advocates who take the time to listen to their fears and to help them understand the court processes whirling around them. The Manatt team fits this bill perfectly; Diana and Oscar put the family at ease while making sure the children received the immigration benefits Congress intended for them.”

Orphaned children who face deportation need top-notch legal assistance... The Manatt team fits this bill perfectly; Diana and Oscar put the family at ease while making sure the children received the immigration benefits Congress intended for them.

Kris Jackson
Immigration Staff Attorney, Public Counsel
Gaining Stability after Years of Chaos

“Beatriz” was born in a small village in El Salvador. She was 1½ years old when her mother abandoned her. For the next 6½ years, Beatriz lived a simple life under the loving care of her aunt “Claudia” without ever hearing from her mother. When Beatriz turned 8, her birth mother sought to reestablish contact with her. Claudia was suspicious of her sister’s intentions toward the child, but agreed that Beatriz could live with her mother for two weeks to test out the living arrangements. Before the two weeks ended, however, Beatriz’s mother’s boyfriend kidnapped Beatriz and tried to take her out of the country.

A frantic Claudia tracked Beatriz down and found her being held in an immigration detention center. A physical struggle ensued over Beatriz and the police intervened. Following this traumatic event, Claudia was able to secure custody of Beatriz in El Salvador. They lived simply and peacefully in the village until April 2006 when they moved to the United States to join Claudia’s husband who had been living in Daly City on a work visa since 1998.

Unbeknownst to Claudia, Beatriz’s mother also had moved to the United States and was living in San Francisco with her boyfriend. Once Beatriz and Claudia arrived in the U.S., Beatriz’s mother tracked them down and made several unsuccessful attempts to take Beatriz away from Claudia and her husband. Beatriz emphatically resisted living with her mother due to what occurred during the earlier kidnapping and because Beatriz was afraid of the domestic abuse she witnessed between her mother and her mother’s boyfriend during the few times she saw her mother in San Francisco.

In January 2007, Beatriz’s mother filed a restraining order against Claudia and her husband. The mother’s accusations for filing a restraining order were rejected by the probate judge, who confirmed that Claudia and her husband should retain custody of Beatriz and suggested that they apply for a permanent guardianship in San Mateo County where they lived.

In the course of attempting to navigate the guardianship process, Claudia encountered the San Mateo County Legal Aid Society. The Legal Aid attorneys recognized that Beatriz could be a candidate for SIJS protection and, because of Manatt’s reputation for handling SIJS cases, they asked if we would accept the case on a pro bono basis.

San Francisco-based partner Sharon Bauman and Palo Alto associate Kate Bartow dove right into the case, first guiding the family toward a favorable conclusion of the restraining order proceedings and then preparing all the forms and affidavits for the permanent guardianship hearings.

In May, the court appointed Claudia and her husband as Beatriz’s permanent guardians and made the necessary findings so that Beatriz could adjust her immigration status. In the meantime, Beatriz’s mother has disappeared again and our attorneys are shepherding Beatriz’s applications through the proper immigration channels.

Now 14, Beatriz looks forward to going back to school with her friends in the fall.

Finding Safety for “Fredo”

Orange County-based partner John Grosvenor describes his pro bono work on behalf of 15-year-old “Fredo” and his grandmother “Regina” as being “tremendously rewarding.” He further explained that “[Because] Fredo and his grandmother/guardian were so conscientious about their responsibilities, together we were able to obtain the favorable results in a very fast nine months. I was very proud to represent them and very pleased with the outcome.”

Fredo was born in Honduras, where he lived with his abusive parents until he was 12 years old. Fredo remembers countless beatings by his mother and bears scars on his back from where his mother used to hit him with a machete.

When Fredo was 12 years old, his mother left him and his younger siblings with their father who often berated and beat the children and left them unattended for long stretches of time. After being abandoned by his parents, Fredo lived with his grandfather for a short time, and then lived with an aunt for about one year.

Ultimately, at the age of 15, Fredo decided to set out, alone, for the United States. He was detained at the border in Texas in early November 2005 and briefly held in immigration custody before being sent to St. Michael’s Catholic Charities’ Home for Children. Just before Christmas in 2005, Fredo’s grandmother, Regina, picked her grandson up in Houston, Texas and brought him to her home in Lancaster, California.

Fredo made two appearances on his own in immigration court before his case got referred to Public Counsel. When Public Counsel asked if we would consider taking Fredo’s case on a pro bono basis, we knew we had to help this quiet young man who had persevered through so many hardships. After participating in a fantastic orientation and training provided by Public Counsel, Kate Bartow dove right into the case, first guiding the family toward a favorable conclusion of the restraining order proceedings and then preparing all the forms and affidavits for the permanent guardianship hearings.

In May, the court appointed Claudia and her husband as Beatriz’s permanent guardians and made the necessary findings so that Beatriz could adjust her immigration status. In the meantime, Beatriz’s mother has disappeared again and our attorneys are shepherding Beatriz’s applications through the proper immigration channels.

Now 14, Beatriz looks forward to going back to school with her friends in the fall.

Orange County-based partner John Grosvenor with “Regina” and “Fredo.”
Counsel’s Kris Jackson, John took to the task with the same methodical diligence he brings to his corporate transactions.

In fact, the judge in Fredo’s guardianship proceedings cited John’s diligence declaration as being “the most thoroughly exhaustive” declaration he had ever seen. All of John’s hard work paid off in October 2006, when Regina was appointed as Fredo’s legal guardian and the court made the necessary findings regarding Fredo’s interests in not being returned to Honduras. With those findings in hand, John (assisted by one of our bilingual staff members, Gisella Soto) was then able to help Fredo favorably complete his immigration proceedings.

John was a wonderful advocate who took the quirkiness of both the juvenile and immigration court systems in stride and with good humor. Manatt should be proud that its commitment to pro bono clients extends up the ranks to attorneys like John.

Kris Jackson,
Immigration Staff Attorney, Public Counsel

At one point during our representation, Fredo had received a ticket for riding his bicycle without a helmet. Right up until the day the immigration judge pronounced the favorable SIJS ruling, Fredo had remained panicked about how this violation might impact his case. Showing how in-tune he was to Fredo’s concerns, when John presented the immigration judge’s final order to Fredo in May, he also conveyed a bushel of school supplies and bike-safety gear that had been gathered by a group of teachers who work with John’s daughter. Fredo was delighted (if a bit embarrassed) and John continues to check in on Fredo and Regina to make sure that Fredo continues to thrive as a new legal resident.

Reflecting on this happy outcome, John’s case mentor from Public Counsel said, “John was a wonderful advocate who took the quirkiness of both the juvenile and immigration court systems in stride and with good humor. Manatt should be proud that its commitment to pro bono clients extends up the ranks to attorneys like John.”

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

**Sweat, Smiles & Sore Muscles Mix with Energy To Form a Celebration**

Continuing a proud tradition of service, a team of Manatt employees once again joined forces to participate in L.A. Works Day – the City of Los Angeles’ most prominent day of community service. Dozens of attorneys, staff, friends, and family members joined with volunteers from all parts of the city to create murals, paint bungalows and transform an entire school. Local media reported that “no other event in Los Angeles makes such a profound difference in the character of our city.”

Manatt received special acknowledgment at the event for being an official corporate sponsor.

**Manatt: Empowering DC Youth Update**

Continuing our partnership with The Fishing School, Manatt-DC partner Wendy Krasner (and her daughter Michelle), associate Mike White and staff employees Ernest McNeill and Beth McBroom worked to prepare the Meade Street location’s front porch for painting (which meant tirelessly scraping away years of old paint and carpet adhesive). The group also spent time washing away dust from the house’s siding, cleaning blinds, and removing an interior door at the request of the school. After a full day’s work the school was all set to welcome children to its Summer Enrichment program! The school leaders are very excited about their site’s new look.

Later in the summer, we turned our focus to another empowerment program partner – Bright Beginnings. Through the generosity of our DC-based attorneys and employees, we were able to provide get-ready-for-school packages for every one of Bright Beginnings’ graduates who will begin kindergarten this fall.
Mara Salvatrucha Can No Longer Victimize 15-Year-Old Mayan Child

In Guatemala, powerful and notorious gangs, including the well-publicized Mara Salvatrucha, Mara 18, and El Roquero, recognize that the police and government do little or nothing to protect Mayans. These gangs exploit that vulnerability through systematic and organized kidnapping, robbery, rape, murder and extortion.

Our pro bono client, “Renee” – barely 15 years old and looking more like 12 – felt constantly threatened by these gangs, and endured racial slurs and threats on a daily basis. Growing up, Renee watched in horror as people in her family and community were raped, robbed, extorted, beaten and kidnapped. When Renee refused to join a gang, the gang members told her that they would beat her up and kill her. Renee had good reason to take these threats seriously.

On an almost daily basis, gang members followed her home from school, threw rocks at her, taunted her native language and religion and threatened her with bodily harm and death. In February 2005, her older brother also refused to join a gang and was promptly kidnapped by masked members of the Mara Salvatrucha. Then, in the early summer of 2005, one of Renee’s friends was beaten by four gang members who tried to rape and kidnap her.

Renee’s family felt that she was in imminent danger, so they scraped together all the money they could to put her on a bus with the hope that she might reach the United States. After a strenuous two-plus-week journey, she was picked up by immigration officials as she struggled to cross the Arizona desert.

Because Renee has relatives in San Francisco, the immigration detention officials granted her a transfer to the Bay Area and notified the National Center for Refugee & Immigrant Children (the “National Center”) that Renee could benefit from their program that identifies pro bono counsel to assist children with asylum claims. The National Center turned to Jeff Lokey and Pam Merkadeau of Manatt’s Palo Alto office.

With the help of bilingual staff member Maria Vega, Jeff and Pam worked tirelessly to win Renee’s trust and to prepare her for the difficult process of seeking asylum while in removal proceedings. Leading up to the hearing our team dedicated over 150 hours to carefully walk Renee through her painful story, interpret documents, gather information and draft the necessary application, declarations, points and authorities and direct examination guides.

As Jeff, Pam and Maria dove into the necessary research and legal work, Renee dove into her studies – first at Newcomer High School and then at Mission High in San Francisco, where she maintained nearly a 4.0 grade point average while learning to adjust to a new country and trying to remain strong and focused as her difficult immigration case proceeded. Renee’s teachers describe her as being “positive, committed academically, an excellent student, and an inspiration to others.” Renee also was an inspiration to our team of attorneys who believed that she must be able to remain safe in America and given the opportunity to grow up and reach her prodigious personal potential.

Asylum applications are always a long shot, and Renee’s hearing in April was fairly traumatic, especially when the government attorney introduced a brand new and seemingly rather unfavorable case. Even the immigration judge was surprised by this revelation and, contrary to customary practice, she declined to rule from the bench and instead reserved the right to perform additional review. Indications from the Court and the government attorney left everyone feeling rather bleak about Renee’s future and no one knew when we might get the decision.

After months of waiting and just two days before Independence Day, we received the immigration judge’s decision brief. As we read through page after page, we remained on-edge and unsure of what the outcome might be. Finally, on page 9 of the 12-page brief we received some hope which grew through the final pages to the final order that Renee’s “application for asylum be and hereby is GRANTED.”

Protecting a Young African Woman from Unspeakable Harm

Within a week of our Palo Alto team’s success on behalf of Renee, a team of our Los Angeles and Orange County attorneys also enabled a young African woman to obtain asylum on the basis that she would have been subjected to female genital mutilation (“FGM”) and a forced marriage if she were forced to return to her home country.

Our client, “Millie,” was attending college in the U.S. when, shortly before her graduation, Millie learned from her younger sister that her college tuition had been paid for by a wealthy man in their home town and not – as Millie had always believed – from her deceased father’s estate. Millie’s sister also told her that her mother had promised Millie to this man in marriage in exchange for the tuition expenses, and that Millie would be subjected to “full” circumcision prior to the marriage as part of the tribal tradition. FGM is a brutal practice, carried out in unsanitary conditions and without anesthesia, which supposedly ensures marital fidelity by eliminating a woman’s ability to experience sexual pleasure.

Continued On Page 7
To assemble the evidence necessary to establish a right to asylum, our team, with Millie’s help, had to obtain declarations and other supporting documents from witnesses in Africa without the knowledge of Millie’s family or others in her home town, as well as bank records to support the claim that the man to whom she had been promised in marriage had actually funded her education, and supporting declarations from health professionals in the U.S.

Our team also had to provide extensive evidence of the prevalence of FGM in Millie’s home country and establish that there was nowhere Millie could safely relocate to in that country if she were forced to return. After a hearing — and a mountain of paper submitted in Millie’s support — the U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted Millie’s asylum application.

Los Angeles litigation partner Don Brown took charge of the case, working alongside Los Angeles litigation associates Yoanna Binder and Zoey Kohn and Orange County corporate associate Matt O’Loughlin. Throughout the case, which involved over 350 hours of pro bono time over the course of a year, Katka Werth and Judy London from Public Counsel provided valuable guidance and expertise.

At a celebratory dinner following the case’s happy conclusion, Millie indicated that although she planned to continue pursuing her medical studies, she also — for the first time — had given some thought to becoming a lawyer. She said that she now saw “much good in the legal system. It’s not just like what they show on TV. You [Manatt attorneys] cared so much about me even though I had no money and no hope. You made me feel important and you saved my life.”

New York-based counsel Michael Barkow accepts prayer shawls from some of the many Tibetans he has aided through his pro bono efforts.

Successful Appeal Earns Asylum for Tibetan Refugee

In January, NY-based counsel Michael Barkow accepted his 6th pro bono referral from Human Rights First to represent a native Tibetan in asylum proceedings. Although Michael had put together an unbroken string of victories on behalf of “his” Tibetan refugees, this new case would prove particularly challenging.

The plight of Tibet is well known. For more than five decades, forces of the People’s Republic of China have illegally occupied Tibet and regularly invoked barbarous measures designed to eradicate the Tibetan culture, language and religion and to impose, completely, their Communist ideology and political will on the Tibetan population. Observant Tibetans can no longer openly practice the Buddhist faith that has been the cornerstone of Tibetan life for several centuries. Dissenters, both real and imagined, regularly are imprisoned in hard labor camps, tortured as convenient object lessons, and summarily executed without trial or charge.

As a devout Buddhist, Michael’s newest client, “LN,” demonstrated his opposition to the Chinese occupation of his homeland. As a result, LN was twice imprisoned for publicly expressing his views in support of Tibetan independence and for protesting religious restrictions imposed by the Chinese. After escaping the torturers who had incarcerated him following his second unwarranted arrest in 2006, LN fled to the U.S. Upon arrival, LN was sent to the immigration detention center in Elizabeth, NJ where he passed a Credible Fear Interview, an important first step toward a grant of asylum.

Michael represented LN at his immigration court hearing in March and was stunned when the immigration judge (“IJ”) denied LN immigration relief based on the IJ’s determination that LN’s testimony was “not credible.” Despite mountains of evidence that Michael had submitted from compilations prepared by international aid organizations and the U.S. Department of State, the IJ also inexplicably found that there had been “no pattern or practice” whereby Tibetans are systematically targeted by the Chinese government(!).

Michael understood that LN’s chance for success on the appeal was not good. Indeed, in 2005 (the most recent year for which data are available), immigrants who filed appeals with the Bureau of Immigration Appeals (BIA) in the 2nd Circuit lost 91.5 percent of the time. Michael also had to prepare LN for the likelihood that he would remain detained at the Elizabeth, NJ facility indefinitely while his case churned through the administrative process that typically stretches over 2 years.

In late August, after a less-than-2-month wait, Michael and LN received the exceptionally rare and welcome news that the BIA had sustained LN’s appeal. The BIA’s decision stated that the IJ had committed “clear error” on every portion of her decision and further found that LN “demonstrated through his testimony that he has been persecuted on account of his political opinion and [is] eligible for asylum.”

When Michael visited LN at the detention center to deliver the good news, he was at first stunned and then tearful for a full five minutes. The relief was made especially bittersweet by the fact that two other Tibetans had lost their appeals on the same day.

New York-based associate Karyn Bell and partner Bill Heberer also collaborated on the case.
COMMUNITY MATTERS

PRO BONO PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

Manatt’s Pro Bono Program Reaches New Heights in National Rankings

For the second year in a row Manatt earned “Highest Riser” recognition in The American Lawyer magazine’s Pro Bono Scorecard issue. Our ranking rose from 135th place two years ago to 99th last year and up to 45th this year.

Manatt is the only law firm in the country to earn the “Highest Riser” distinction for two consecutive years. And, since the inception of our formal Public Service Initiative in 2005, we have demonstrated greater improvement in our pro bono rankings than 198 of the 199 other firms in the survey.

The American Lawyer’s positive evaluation of our efforts and accomplishments is a gratifying acknowledgment of our legal professionals’ efforts on behalf of the 300+ pro bono clients we served during 2006.

Pro Bono Program Ranked # 3 in the Nation

During the winter and spring of this year, Vault.com (one of the nation’s most relied-upon websites for legal job seekers) surveyed more than 18,800 associates at 167 major law firms across the country, asking them to rate their firms on 10 categorical issues including: overall satisfaction, associate/partner relations, hours, diversity, and attitude toward pro bono.

Vault then used the results to determine which firms are “most amenable to an enjoyable lawyerly existence.” Manatt did very well on all measures, once again earning “Best 20” honors as one of the “Best Firms to Work For.” In particular, our pro bono ranking also rose to new heights as we reached # 3 on the nationwide survey.

Manatt Opens San Francisco Office, Expands National Pro Bono Committee

To celebrate the opening of our ninth and newest office in San Francisco, our National Pro Bono Committee has expanded to include 11 members:

Los Angeles – Cristin Zeisler (Director), Stan Levy (Chair), Dave Elson, Steve Nissen
New York – Paul Gangsei
Orange County – Roger Grable
Palo Alto – Katerina Bohannon
Sacramento – Tom McMorrow
San Francisco – David Huard, Craig Miller
Washington, D.C. – Barrie VanBrackle

All of our pro bono committee members encourage you to share your pro bono and community success stories to feature in upcoming Community Matters newsletters and welcome your suggestions for new pro bono and community projects.

PRO BONO PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

About Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP provides legal and consulting services to a global client base from offices in Los Angeles, Orange County, Palo Alto, Sacramento and San Francisco, California; New York City and Albany, New York; and Washington, D.C. Manatt includes Manatt Health Solutions, a healthcare policy and strategic business advisory group, and ManattJones Global Strategies, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary that develops and implements strategies to expand client businesses and facilitate their effective competition in global markets. For more information, visit www.manatt.com, www.manatthealthsolutions.com and www.manattjones.com.

This publication summarizes recent legal developments and is not meant to express any legal opinion or advice. You should consult an attorney for legal advice.

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