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# *pro bono publico*



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ROBINS  KAPLAN<sup>LLP</sup>

REWRITING THE ODDS

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**Everyone deserves access to justice, regardless of race, religious beliefs, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic situation. We provide pro bono legal services because it is the right thing to do, and our representation of those who cannot afford legal representation serves as a profound source of personal and professional satisfaction.**

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## FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

At Robins Kaplan, we believe everyone deserves access to our legal system. We work every day to provide legal representation to those who cannot afford it.

Our pro bono policy sets high expectations. Each attorney is expected to provide at least 50 hours of pro bono work annually and all pro bono work counts toward an associate's billable hour goal without a cap. As a result, our pro bono program is consistently recognized as among the top law firm programs in the country.

## WE TACKLE TOUGH CASES

Whether working for a paying or pro bono client, on a class action or for individual justice, our attorneys bring their reputation as tenacious champions to the courtroom. Our representations cover a broad spectrum, focusing on children with nowhere else to turn, survivors of abuse and violence, and immigrants seeking asylum. When life or liberty is on the line, we help our clients win what matters most.

We partner with more than 25 nonprofit organizations, including The Advocates for Human Rights, Public Counsel, and Kids in Need of Defense to help us identify pro bono opportunities that match attorneys' interests and skills. Additionally, we partner with corporate attorneys from a number of businesses to leverage our resources and address unmet needs. Our program offers a wide range of opportunities, from brief advice at a legal clinic, to serving as a moot judge for attorneys preparing for trial, to full representation at a trial.

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# 25,480

Total pro bono hours  
in 2017 by Robins  
Kaplan attorneys

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**Since 2008, more than 7% of the firm's total billable hours have been contributed to pro bono legal services. That's more than two times the standard set forth by the Pro Bono Institute.**

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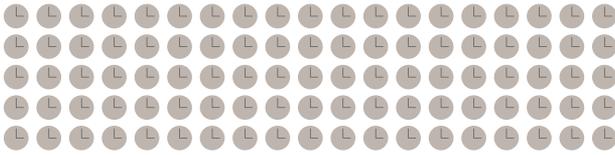
## **ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY AND OURSELVES**

Our pro bono program serves to better our clients' lives and the communities we live in. Yet our attorneys find they benefit as well. We provide plentiful mentoring and pro bono legal services training to our attorneys, beginning with our Summer Associate program. Pro bono cases provide opportunities to gain courtroom experience, direct client interaction, and substantive legal expertise.

Our Well & Good writing program and OFP trial skills program assist our new associates in developing their writing and trial skills while working with our pro bono partner organizations. Associates participate in skill-based trainings, receive feedback and mentoring from each other and senior members of the firm, and get valuable experience working with pro bono clients.

"... Whether it's a team of experts to help low-income students challenge a nefarious college's bankruptcy, or a dedicated advocate to secure permanent asylum for a Guatemalan refugee fleeing horrific violence, Robins Kaplan is always there for our clients."

**-PUBLIC COUNSEL**



**103**

**Average number of pro bono hours per attorney in 2017**

## **MAKING AN IMPACT, CASE BY CASE**

In a child protection case that drew national attention, our team secured the voluntary termination of parental rights of a Minneapolis man who pled guilty to dismembering and disposing of the remains of a young girl's mother. The man agreed to the termination in the midst of trial, during his cross-examination by Robins Kaplan attorneys. The voluntary termination of parental rights paved the way for the remarkable four year-old girl to be adopted by her maternal grandparents.

We represented a California family with eight children facing foreclosure and eviction proceedings for a purported default on their home mortgage. Our firm and Public Counsel filed a suit that resulted in halting the eviction and led to negotiations that returned title of the home to our client, along with a monetary settlement to the client and recovery of Public Counsel's attorney fees.

We secured a decisive jury verdict in an unprecedented federal lawsuit filed by a sex tourism victim. The victory is believed to be the first civil jury verdict in a sex tourism case. Our team presented evidence to the federal court that the defendant, a U.S. citizen, traveled from the U.S. to Laos and sexually assaulted a Laotian girl. The evidence showed that she became pregnant as a result and suffered significant physical and emotional pain. The jury returned a complete win for our client on all three issues being considered and the court awarded the client \$950,000 in damages.

**Total summer associate hours  
spent on pro bono work in 2017**

**547**

## RECOGNITIONS

- Ranked in the Top 20 on The American Lawyer's AmLaw 200 for Pro Bono every year since 2009
- Recently Ranked #7 on Vault's "Best Law Firms for Pro Bono" List
- Named to Law360's list of "Pro Bono Firms of 2015"
- Named to The National Law Journal's 2016 and 2017 Pro Bono Hot List
- Received the 2016 Distinguished Service Award from the Children's Law Center of Minnesota
- Named Tubman Safety Project's Law Firm of the Year in 2017

"... The caliber of representation Robins Kaplan volunteer attorneys provide their Children's Law Center clients is truly remarkable. Our clients know... their rights and wishes are protected and advanced both inside and outside of the courtroom."

**-CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA**



**Robins Kaplan LLP is among the nation's premier trial law firms, with more than 250 attorneys in eight major cities. Our attorneys litigate, mediate, and arbitrate client disputes, always at-the-ready for an ultimate courtroom battle. When huge forces are at play, major money is at stake, or rights are being trampled, we help clients cut through complexity, get to the heart of the problem, and win what matters most.**

## CONTACTS

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