

Minneapolis:

Amy Xu represented a client in a landlord-tenant housing case. Our client was forced to leave her apartment because the premises was condemned by the City of Minneapolis. The security deposit (in the amount of \$585) was not returned by the landlord. Amy filed a complaint in conciliation court, seeking damages in the amount of \$1439.10, which includes the security deposit, interest, punitive damages and the statutory damage. The defendant then counterclaimed and alleged that our client caused the damages to the premises. The defendant sought \$1,800 for damage repair expenses. During a contested hearing, the Conciliation Court judge assigned the case to mediation. Both sides agreed that defendant would pay the security deposit amount in a week and dismiss the counterclaim. He did not pay. We removed the case to the District Court and had a hearing. We received a favorable judgment with an award of the original amount with interest and the counterclaim was dismissed. We then went into the collection phase by searching all aspects of the defendant's finances and filing an Order of Disclosure. Recently, we were told by the Sheriff's Office that the Defendant's property was for sale. We contacted the defendant's real estate attorney who, under our pressure of filing a bench warrant, agreed to pay the full amount with interest (\$1545.13).



Perry Wilson, Amy Xu and Jim Langdon

Rebecca Lawrence and **John Liethen** worked for over a year on a project to obtain asylum for their client, a Togolese woman who had been tortured in Togo for her involvement in one of Togo's political opposition parties. Although elections are legal in Togo, political opponents are routinely tortured by the police to discourage political opposition activities. Rebecca and John are now seeking to obtain derivative asylum status for their client's husband, who has been recently released after one year in jail in Togo and has escaped to a refugee camp in Ghana. Thanks to all who assisted in this effort, including **Bryn Vaaler** and **Mattias Hallendorf**.

Our team in the case against the Washington Football club, lead by **Michael Lindsay**, was the subject of a long article in a recent issue of the National Law Journal. Our clients, seven Native Americans, petitioned for cancellation of the Washington Football club's "Redskin's" trademarks because of their disparaging nature. You can see the entire article in the September 1, 2003 issue of the National Law Journal.

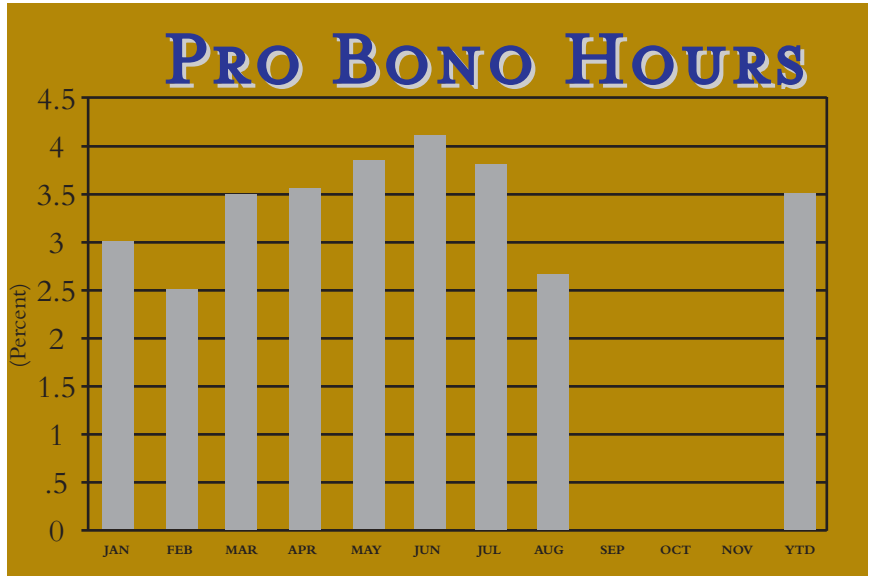
Washington DC:

During the 2002-2003 school year, **Gary McDavid**, along with several other attorneys and support staff from the D.C. office, participated in the "Everybody Wins! Lunch-Time" reading program in the D.C. schools. Once a week, our volunteers went to a local elementary school and read with a student for an hour. Only 8% of elementary school students in D.C. are reading at grade level. Approximately, 30% are below minimum. This is a large problem and we are helping to address it. We plan to continue the program again this year. It costs \$300 for each reader who participates in the program, and the Dorsey Foundation paid \$3,000 to support the effort last year. We have applied for funding from the Foundation for the upcoming year, and if we get it we will be participating again.



Thank you for contributing to our Pro Bono Program.
Keep up the good work!

As a Firm, Dorsey has made a commitment to the American Bar Association Pro Bono Challenge at the 3% level. We have met this goal since signing on as a charter signatory nine years ago. Please help us to continue to meet our pledge to the ABA by providing quality legal services to the disadvantaged in our communities.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Please contact Bricker Lavik or Jim Langdon if you have questions, contributions or suggestions for topics to be included in the Pro Bono Bulletin.

Sue Kjelvik publishes, Sharon Knutson proofreads and Michael Sawyer does the layout and design for this newsletter.

Regional Pro Bono Coordinators

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