



AWARDS

Duane Morris is honored to be recognized for our pro bono work with the following awards:

- ▶ CORA Corporate Champions Award
- ▶ Beacon Award, Boston Bar Association, COVID-19 Relief
- ▶ ABA Business Law Section Pro Bono National Public Service Award
- ▶ The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program Law Firm Pro Bono Mission Partner
- ▶ ABA Young Lawyers Division Child Advocacy Award
- ▶ Dade Legal Aid Wills on Wheels Pro Bono Award
- ▶ Allegheny County Bar Foundation Presidential Merit Award
- ▶ HIAS PA Golden Door Award for Legal Services
- ▶ SeniorLAW Center Champion of Justice
- ▶ New Jersey State Bar Pro Bono Award for a New Attorney
- ▶ Lawyers Alliance for New York Cornerstone Award
- ▶ Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award
- ▶ Philadelphia Bar Association Large Firm Management Committee Annual Public Service Award

SECURING SAFETY FOR LGBTQIA IMMIGRANTS

In 2020, Duane Morris donated over 10,000 pro bono hours to more than 200 immigrants, assisting clients from their very first steps in the U.S.—securing status for asylum seekers, refugees, survivors of domestic violence and trafficking—to obtaining work authorization, permanent residency and naturalization. In one particular case, the firm secured asylum for Maria, a 29-year-old transgender woman from El Salvador, who was detained in an all-male detention center at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. At 13, Maria moved to her grandmother’s home because her mother beat her for her presenting as a woman and her mother refused to help Maria attend school. With her grandmother’s help, Maria became a cosmetologist. After opening her own salon, Maria began hormone therapy and fully transitioned to live as a woman. A few months later, Maria’s cousin—a regional leader in the Mara 18 gang—began extorting Maria, knowing the police would refuse to protect Maria as a transgender woman. When Maria could not pay “rent,” the gang sexually trafficked Maria for seven years. She also was threatened with death, kidnapped, beaten and experienced friends’ murders simply because they were transgender. Maria fled to the U.S. where she sought asylum and was detained. Duane Morris attorneys took on Maria’s case, arguing she was entitled to asylum as a member of the particular social group “transgender women in El Salvador. The pro bono team continues representing her in her work authorization and lawful permanent residency status.

2020 U.S. RESULTS

Am Law Top 50 Pro Bono Ranking	56% U.S. attorneys 20+ hours	55 Average Hours per Attorney
41,000+ Pro Bono Hours Donated	10,000+ Hours Assisting 250+ Immigrants	
100% Attorney Participation	10,000+ hours assisting 400+ nonprofits and microentrepreneurs	

ANOTHER STEP FOR A SECOND CHANCE

One in three American adults has some type of criminal record. Over 200,000 criminal cases are initiated in Pennsylvania every year. Yet before 2020, the Board of Pardons decided around 200 pardons annually. Any person arrested or charged with a crime in Pennsylvania—even if they never went to court

or were found guilty—has a criminal record that is permanently, publicly available on the internet, for free, at any time, unless a judge orders it expunged/sealed or the governor grants a pardon. In 2019, Duane Morris teamed up with Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) to perform constitutional analyses of Pennsylvania’s pardon requirements/procedure. PLSE used the research to advocate for streamlining the process, and in spring 2020, the Board adopted a consent approach to pardons where no one objected to the relief. By December 2020, the Board heard 653 applications, by far the most annually in its 170-year history. Duane Morris attorneys have represented hundreds of Pennsylvanians in pardon and expungement actions. The firm has hosted PLSE community trainings for lawyers and advocates as well as legal clinics. Undeterred by the COVID-19 pandemic, the firm even created virtual legal clinics and represented clients at virtual Pardon Board hearings. Behind the scenes, PLSE and Duane Morris fundamentally reformed the pardon process in Pennsylvania, bettering the lives and futures of thousands of Pennsylvanians, in addition to creating a nationwide model.

\$300,000 AWARDED IN RETROACTIVE VETERANS BENEFITS

Duane Morris trial attorneys obtained retroactive VA benefits totaling more than \$300,000 for a disabled veteran battling an acquired psychiatric disorder from active duty. After securing a removal on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the attorneys successfully argued to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals that the benefits should be applied retroactively to 2009 when the client first sought benefits, a sum totaling more than \$300,000. The firm continues to represent the veteran in seeking service-connected benefits for traumatic brain injury and a seizure disorder.

“Duane Morris is always at the ready to assist . . . You are true partners in every sense of the word. TVC knows we can always count on you and your desire to help veterans. Your commitment to justice for veterans and to our Veterans Pro Bono Legal Clinic makes it possible for us to provide a critical service to this underserved population in our community.”

—JEFF JANICKE, *The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program*



To learn more about Pro Bono successes, please contact **Valentine Brown** or **Katharyn Christian McGee** for a copy of the **PRO BONO ANNUAL REPORT.**

SUPPORTING OTHERS DURING A PANDEMIC

In 2020, attorneys across the United States and around the globe responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, helping more than 400 nonprofits, small businesses and microentrepreneurs on matters, from the CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program to leasing and real estate, employment, corporate, IP, bankruptcy and more as operations. Clients ranged from homeless shelters and food pantries to sign companies making intubation boxes, legal aids and therapeutic teddy bears. The Pro Bono Program, in collaboration with the firm’s COVID-19 Strategy Team, led firmwide fundraising efforts to provide meals to more than 20,000 medical professionals at facilities across the U.S. in addition to PPE.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



VALENTINE BROWN

Pro Bono Partner

vbrown@duanemorris.com

215.979.1840



KATHARYN I. CHRISTIAN MCGEE

Pro Bono Counsel

kchristianmcgee@duanemorris.com

215.979.1879

@DMProBono

DuaneMorrisProBono

ABOUT DUANE MORRIS

Duane Morris LLP, a law firm with more than 800 attorneys in offices across the United States and internationally, is asked by a broad array of clients to provide innovative solutions to today’s legal and business challenges.

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