

Robinson+Cole

Pro Bono

At a Glance

Attorney Advertising



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In This Issue

- [Message from Peter Knight, Pro Bono Partner](#)
- [Joey Lee Miranda Elected Treasurer of Lawyers for Children America Board](#)
- [Robinson+Cole to Provide Legal Services to Simsbury Veterans Memorial](#)
- [Edward O'Hanlan Elected to CVLC Board](#)
- [Robinson+Cole Provides Real Estate Counsel to Connecticut Bar Foundation](#)
- [Brian Moran Authors Book Calling for Radical Overhaul of Connecticut's Prison System](#)
- [GHLAF Recognizes Robinson+Cole for a Century of Support; U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal Also Recognizes Firm](#)
- [2014 Pro Bono Committee Members](#)

MESSAGE FROM PETER KNIGHT, PRO BONO PARTNER

While succeeding Ed Heath as the firm's pro bono partner is both an honor and a privilege, it's also a little daunting. During his six-year tenure, Ed has made an indelible impression on Robinson+Cole's pro bono program. Putting aside the metrics, which demonstrate a rock-solid commitment by our lawyers, staff, and firm leadership to the underprivileged and underserved members of our community, Robinson+Cole has earned a well-deserved reputation as a firm that gives back. When asked about our pro bono program by lawyers and law students interested in joining our firm, it's a very easy story to tell, and one that reflects an important part of our DNA. Ed's leadership, and the leadership of the pro bono partners who preceded him, has been pivotal to this effort and we are grateful, as we are to all the members of this firm who dedicate their time and talents, often unsung, to pro bono work.



As our pro bono program turns the page to its next chapter, we are in a position to strengthen our commitment to the organizations we currently support and to consider other opportunities to provide legal services to those who often need them most. I look forward to working with you all as we continue this proud and important legacy.

JOEY LEE MIRANDA ELECTED TREASURER OF LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA BOARD

Energy and utilities lawyer Joey Lee Miranda has been elected treasurer of the Board of Directors of

Lawyers for Children America. A Connecticut-based nonprofit, the organization provides pro bono legal representation to protect the rights of children who are victims of abuse, abandonment, and neglect. Its goals include implementing services to help these children, improving the child welfare system, and increasing public awareness of youth and violence issues.

Joey Lee has been a board member of Lawyers for Children America since 2012.

ROBINSON+COLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO SIMSBURY VETERANS MEMORIAL

Continuing the firm's pro bono focus on assisting veterans, Robinson+Cole lawyers Dawn N. Zammitti, Robert M. Barrack, Gregory R. Faulkner, and Dwight H. Merriam will represent the Simsbury Veterans Memorial group in its endeavor to erect a memorial to honor town residents who gave their lives serving our country. The memorial will be located on the Simsbury Library site.

Dawn, Robert, Greg, and Dwight will assist the group with forming its corporate entity, review local permitting, and represent it in negotiating the construction contract.

EDWARD O'HANLAN ELECTED TO CVLC BOARD

Land use partner Edward V. O'Hanlan was elected to serve as a director of the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, effective September 18, 2014. This new leadership role, combined with Ted's experience as a Navy veteran and civil trial lawyer, reflects the deep commitment of Robinson+Cole to CVLC's valuable mission to provide legal services to veterans across Connecticut. Robinson+Cole lawyers frequently handle cases referred by CVLC to help veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome the legal barriers to housing, health care, employment, and service-connected benefits.

ROBINSON+COLE PROVIDES REAL ESTATE COUNSEL TO CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION

Firm counsel Mimi M. Lines recently advised the Connecticut Bar Foundation in connection with an estoppel and subordination, nondisturbance, and attornment agreement for a financing transaction involving the foundation's landlord.

BRIAN MORAN AUTHORS BOOK CALLING FOR RADICAL OVERHAUL OF CONNECTICUT'S PRISON SYSTEM

Robinson+Cole partner Brian E. Moran, in collaboration with the Malta Justice Initiative and with the support of Robinson+Cole's pro bono program, has authored a new book, *The Justice Imperative: How Hyper-Incarceration Has Hijacked the American Dream*, published by Significance Press and available on Amazon.com.

The book looks at the current state of Connecticut's criminal justice and corrections system. That system has seen a fourfold increase in the number of inmates over the past 30 years, at a staggering cost to Connecticut's taxpayers (\$1 billion annually and \$51,000 per bed per year). Most of the increase is represented by the incarceration of nonviolent offenders for longer mandatory minimum sentences. Connecticut's mass incarceration practices have paralleled those across the United States. As a consequence of our country's 40-year war on crime and drugs, a new prison was built in the United States every two weeks during the 1990s. The United States, with only 4.6 percent of the world's population, now houses 22.4 percent of the world's inmates. This massive increase has not yielded equivalent benefits in terms of enhanced public safety, lower recidivism, and increased rehabilitation.

The book advocates a major downsizing of our prison population and reinvesting the cost savings into diversionary alternatives to prison, drug and mental health programs, and postrelease supervision and support. Such reforms have proven successful in other states, where they have produced a trifecta of benefits: lower costs, improved recidivism rates, and improved public safety. The set of 30 specific reforms proposed in the book also holds the promise of yielding a fourth benefit that up to this time has

proven elusive: rehabilitating and returning inmates to their families and communities.

The role of the Malta Justice Initiative is to serve the incarcerated community in Connecticut by visiting the incarcerated, affirming their human dignity, and ministering to their spiritual needs; facilitating the return of former offenders to their families and communities as rehabilitated, law-abiding, tax-paying citizens; promoting the hiring of qualified former offenders; raising awareness among the business, faith, and academic communities of the inefficiencies and injustice of the current criminal justice system; and advocating for a more effective and compassionate criminal justice system.

GHLAF RECOGNIZES ROBINSON+COLE FOR A CENTURY OF SUPPORT; U.S. SEN. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL ALSO RECOGNIZES FIRM

The Greater Hartford Legal Aid Foundation (GHLAF) recognized Robinson+Cole at the foundation's celebration of "A Tradition of Justice: 100 Years of Legal Aid in Hartford" on November 12, 2014, at Hartford City Hall.

Robinson+Cole partners and GHLAF board members Stephen E. Goldman and Norman H. Roos attended the event, where the firm was presented with a plaque in appreciation of its support of GHLAF, and for its century-long commitment to justice for those living in poverty. In addition, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal recognized Robinson+Cole in connection with this effort by presenting a certificate of special recognition to the firm.

Mr. Goldman offered remarks on the firm's historic involvement with legal aid and the importance of legal aid in our community at the event, which was attended by business leaders, officials, and members of the legal community in and around the City of Hartford.

Robinson+Cole initiated the GHLAF in 1914 when it lent its young associate, Thomas Hewes, to the legal aid effort. Since that time, the GHLAF has worked to build legal resources for people in need by raising funds for Greater Hartford Legal Aid.

2014 PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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