

# Pro Bono at a Glance

"For the good of the people..."

SPRING 2006

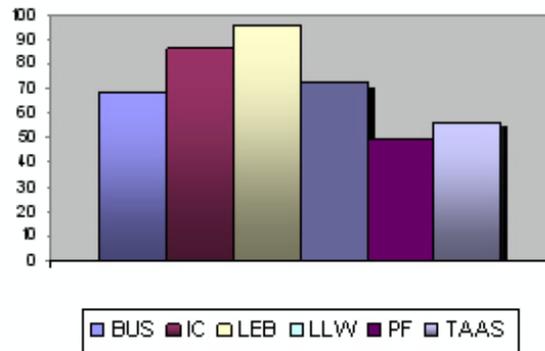
## Message from the Pro Bono Partner

I never cease to be amazed by the enthusiasm and commitment of those who take on a pro bono matter, often without truly appreciating what they are getting into! If you ask anyone who has represented someone on a pro bono basis why they do it, I think the answer, more often than not, is that they can make a real difference. Just ask Dave Burke, who helped create the Dental Center of Stamford, or Jeff White, who succeeded in keeping information concerning domestic violence victims confidential. Or ask Robin Keller, who chairs, and has persuaded a host of R&C folks to work with, A Better Chance, helping eight underprivileged women obtain a first-rate high school education. Dave, Jeff, Robin, and everyone else who has worked on a pro bono matter will tell you this: these are the most amazing clients and the most amazing cases, and you really and truly can make a difference.

**Pamela K. Elkow, Pro Bono Partner**

### Pro Bono Committee

Pamela K. Elkow (Pro Bono Partner), Gurdon H. Buck, Edward J. Heath, Melissa M. Mack, Edward V. O'Hanlan, Christopher S. Pitt, Steven B. Rotman, Elizabeth C. Sackett, Melissa F. Savage, Theodore J. Tucci



## Pro Bono 2005 Year-End Statistics

This graph represents the percentage of attorneys in each section who were engaged in some form of pro bono representation in 2005.

## Pro Bono Highlights

Robinson & Cole has represented [The Center for Women & Families](#), a battered women's shelter, on several pro bono matters over the past few years. Most recently, the firm assisted The Center in opposing subpoenas issued by the Department of Children and Families seeking confidential client information. Initially, our attempts to invalidate these subpoenas had been unsuccessful, with juvenile courts repeatedly ordering the release of documents. As a result of the terrific work of [Jeff White](#), the firm recently obtained an opinion from a Juvenile Court judge that such records should remain confidential and not subject to a Department of Children and Families subpoena. Copies of the decision were sent to the Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters, the Department of Children and Families Commissioner, the Child Advocate, and the Reporter of Judicial Decisions. This case is critical in supporting the good work of domestic violence centers across the state of Connecticut.

[\(Opinion\)](#)

[Craig Raabe](#) and [Jeff White](#) are currently representing two death row inmates in the case *In Re: Racial Disparity v. Commissioner of Correction*. The two inmates have joined four other death row inmates in bringing writs for habeas corpus, claiming Connecticut's capital punishment procedures are impermissibly infected by racial bias, in violation of Article First, Sections 8 and 20 of the Connecticut Constitution, and the Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. The Connecticut Supreme Court has directed that all racial bias challenges be tried together in the above matter. The case is scheduled to go to trial in the fall of 2007.

## Five Years of Dental Care for Stamford's Underprivileged

Five years ago, prominent Stamford community activist Adele Gordon approached R&C through the Pro Bono Partnership to form the [Dental Center of Stamford](#). The mission of the Center was to provide dental care to underprivileged Stamford residents who had limited or no access to local

dentists. R&C attorney [David Burke](#) and R&C alumna Patricia Squires worked with Adele to create the Center, which continues to operate in Stamford, not far from R&C's office. The facility is staffed by dentists employed directly by the Center and others who donate their time. On February 12, the Dental Center celebrated its fifth anniversary at a ceremony attended by Mayor Malloy and several other dignitaries. David and Patricia both received awards for their pro bono service. David has done additional pro bono labor work for the Center, and Patricia serves as a member of its board.

## R&C Helping to Provide A Better Chance

It may be more R&C employees involved with [A Better Chance \(ABC\) in Ridgefield](#) on an ongoing basis than any other pro bono client of the firm. ABC in Ridgefield, a local chapter of a national program, is a community-based residential educational program serving eight academically motivated minority students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. R&C involvement includes [Robin Keller](#), president of the board of directors; [David Burke](#), director and legal counsel; [John Anderson](#), House Maintenance Committee; Christina Paul, R&C alumna, director and chair of the Selection Committee; [John Kane](#) and [Ted O'Hanlan](#), supporters; Laurel Carey (wife of [Joe Carey](#)), academic advisor; [Janet LaForgia](#) and [Mike Briney](#), administrative support; and [Greg Ligelis](#), who will be joining the board in June to serve on the fund-raising and college placement committees.

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