



Message from the Pro Bono Partner

Okay, so it's not the Oscars, I'm not Billy Crystal, and you're not all wearing fancy clothing that will get written about in *People* magazine (and if you are, we need to talk). Instead, this is the first, and probably not the last, Awards Edition of Robinson & Cole's *Pro Bono at a Glance*. We have much to be proud of—both our accomplishments and our people. Each major office is represented in this newsletter, further emphasizing the breadth of our pro bono program and efforts. While the organizations we work with have singled out a few of us for recognition, we couldn't be this involved with pro bono if it weren't for the support of the entire firm. Therefore, everyone at R&C involved with a pro bono matter deserves recognition and our thanks.

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



Attending "Bridge Business Award" Reception: Robinson & Cole's Brian R. Smith, Eric D. Daniels, Helen M. Kemp, Linnea McCaffrey, Diana MacPherson, and The Bridge Family Center Executive Director, Margaret A. Hann

Don Buck - Pro Bono Attorney Extraordinaire

At this year's CBA Annual Meeting in June, the Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award was presented to [Don Buck](#) for his deep and abiding interest in and dedication to the delivery of legal services to the disadvantaged in Connecticut. In addition, Don was honored on September 21 by Statewide Legal Services at its tenth anniversary celebration with receipt of the Susan W. Wolfson Distinguished Service Award. Susan W. Wolfson was the first president of Statewide Legal Services.

PAIR Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year

In early June, Robinson & Cole was honored as the Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year at the [Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project \(PAIR\)](#) Annual Gala. R&C was selected to receive the 2006 award due to the extraordinary commitment that the firm has made to PAIR. (Sixteen R&C attorneys were trained this past year to assist in the representation of those seeking asylum; six firm attorneys are currently or have been involved in representing PAIR asylum clients from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Cameroon). R&C was praised for addressing complex legal issues with high standards of professionalism and excellence, and standing as a role model of pro bono commitment in the legal community. Two of the firm's clients also attended the gala, and it was evident how much the evening and the firm's commitment meant to them.

Connecticut Bar Association Pro Bono Award

Fourteen awards were given at this year's CBA Annual Meeting in June, including ten pro bono awards. [Pam Elkow](#) received one of the CBA's Pro Bono Awards. She was nominated by [Lawyers for Children America](#) in recognition of her dedication and commitment to pro bono service.

American Lawyer 200 2005 Pro Bono Survey

R&C ranked 75th in the Am Law 200 2005 Pro Bono Survey, which lists the 200 highest-grossing firms by their pro bono "ranking," as calculated by the *American Lawyer* magazine. The firm's average pro bono hours per lawyer were 43.7, and 40.6 percent of R&C attorneys billed over 20 pro bono hours in 2005. This is actual legal services provided for those that cannot afford it; it does not include nonlegal work for charities, membership on boards, etc.

The Bridge Family Center Bridge Business Award and the Build No Fences Award

R&C recently received the Bridge Business Award from [The Bridge Family Center](#) in West Hartford. The firm was honored for its many years of assisting The Bridge and for uncompromising generosity in carrying out its mission. The award reception was attended by [Eric Daniels](#); [Helen Kemp](#): who is also vice president/president-elect of the center's board of directors; [Diana MacPherson](#); [Linnea McCaffrey](#); and [Brian Smith](#). The Bridge Family Center is a comprehensive, nonprofit agency offering a broad range of services to children, youth, and families in the Greater Hartford area. As further evidence of R&C's commitment, in September, [Diana MacPherson](#) received the Build No Fences Award at The Bridge's 20th annual "Breakfast on the Bridge." The Build No Fences Award recognizes someone who provides support for young people and families.

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