



## PRO BONO At a Glance

### Message from Ed Heath, Pro Bono Committee Chair



For each of the last several years, Robinson & Cole has presented Pro Bono Awards to the partner/counsel and associate whose efforts for that year best exemplify our dedication to pro bono. The nomination and election process historically has been

conducted by the members of the Pro Bono Committee. Although we consider contributed hours, it is only one of several factors, which include, among other things, the difficulty of the matter(s), the impact of the work on the community, and the individual lawyer's ability to involve (and, where appropriate) mentor others in the course of the matter(s). This year, we would like to open the nomination process to the firm so that anyone, lawyers or staff, may nominate candidates for the award. Nominations should be sent to me via e-mail by June 1, and the email should explain the reasons why you have selected the nominee. Again, the list of considerations above is non-exhaustive, and we welcome your creativity.

### Referral of Health Law Advocates Results in Successful Appeal



Kimberly E. Troland, health law counsel in Robinson & Cole's Boston office, recently represented a disabled individual through a referral from Health Law Advocates (HLA). HLA is a public interest law firm committed to ensuring universal access to quality

health care in Massachusetts, particularly those who are most at risk due to factors such as race, gender, disability, age, or geographic location.

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### R&C Hosts Lawyers for Children America's Child Advocacy Training Session

On April 20, Robinson & Cole hosted an all day training session for lawyers interested in accepting pro bono cases from Lawyers for Children America (LFCA). LFCA is a national organization that recruits, trains, and supports pro bono attorneys and legal teams to



represent abused and neglected children in juvenile court. The training is conducted by experienced child advocate attorneys, psychologists, and other professionals, and is designed to introduce the participant to the child welfare system. The training will focus on child development, the existing social and legal system in Connecticut, as well as the ethical issues involved in representing children.

Joey Lee Miranda, a partner of Robinson & Cole's Environmental and Utilities Group, is a former chair of the Connecticut Regional Council for LFCA.

HLA has a network of over 90 attorneys in private practice who accept case referrals involving representation of low-income residents in need of assistance accessing or paying for vital health care services.

Ms. Troland's case involved a successful appeal of a denial of health care coverage by the Massachusetts Medicaid agency. R&C is currently working on another pro bono case referred from HLA in which the Massachusetts Medicaid agency denied necessary orthodontic services for a child.

For R&C attorneys interested in health care pro bono work, additional opportunities are available through HLA.

## Hartland Trust Receives Pro Bono Assistance with Acquisition



Robinson & Cole land law attorneys George W. Watson III, Michele L. Maresca, Emilee Mooney Scott, and Evan J. Seeman recently worked with the Hartland Land Trust (Land Trust) in its very first land acquisition. A celebration in honor of this momentous acquisition is scheduled for this spring.

The original landowners donated a portion of their parcel to the Land Trust to ensure the forested land would be forever preserved for passive recreation. Robinson & Cole structured the conveyance so that the property was transferred to the Land Trust subject to a conservation restriction pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 47-42a et seq.

## Boston Attorney Assists Metro West Collaborative Development, Inc.



R&C business transactions associate Brian M. Flaherty of the firm's Boston office recently served as pro bono counsel to Metro West Collaborative Development, Inc. (MWCD) in connection with the expansion of its mission statement and related corporate restructuring. MWCD is a nonprofit organization that promotes affordable housing in the Metro West region of the Greater Boston area. MWCD (formerly Watertown Community Housing, Inc.) requested assistance regarding its transformation from a town-oriented nonprofit to a regionally focused organization serving the interests of many communities, including Belmont, Lexington, Waltham, and Watertown. Mr. Flaherty revised MWCD's corporate documents and counseled the client on a number of complex corporate governance issues triggered by the transformation to a regional organization. MWCD's expanded focus enables the organization to pursue additional community development projects and to provide cost-efficient services to a larger community.

## 2012 PRO BONO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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- Kenneth C. Baldwin
- Nicole A. Bernabo
- Pamela K. Elkow
- Christopher F. Girard
- Edward J. Heath
- Gregory T. Ligelis
- Megan R. Naughton
- Christopher S. Pitt

In addition to drafting and negotiating the closing documents, Robinson & Cole worked with Hartland's zoning enforcement officer to obtain the support of the Hartland Planning and Zoning Commission for a lot line revision and subdivision of the original property. Given the configuration of the original property, the donation required revision of the original boundary lines and subdivision of the property to create a separate 22-acre parcel.

The Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that seeks to maintain the rural character of Hartland, Connecticut, for present and future generations by acquiring property it will preserve through conservation and stewardship. Robinson & Cole has worked with the Land Trust for over three years and has assisted with its preparation of a real estate form library for future acquisitions.

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