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2025

ANNUAL  
PRO BONO  
REPORT





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# DEAR COLLEAGUES, CLIENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS,

03

We are proud to share Miller Nash LLP's first Annual Pro Bono Report, a reflection of our firm's deep and sustained commitment to advancing access to justice and serving our communities through pro bono service. That commitment is embodied in the legacy of our former partner Clifford N. Carlsen, Jr., whose leadership and dedication to civil rights and public service continue to inspire our work today. Rooted in 150 years of firm history, this report celebrates the service of our attorneys and professional staff, showcasing not only the hours contributed toward pro bono service but also the meaningful outcomes achieved for individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations across Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, and Alaska. From direct representation in domestic violence hearings and civil rights matters to supporting nonprofit missions and legal aid clinics, our pro bono efforts continue to uphold a core pillar of our firm's vision—our community.

Miller Nash attorneys and paralegals across our offices collectively contributed **4,184 pro bono hours** in 2025, an increase from 2,763 hours in 2024 and 2,460 hours in 2023, representing the equivalent of **\$2.2 million in legal services**. In 2025, **more than 95 timekeepers participated in pro bono matters**, underscoring the breadth of engagement across practices, offices, and experience levels.

The accomplishments and matters highlighted in this year's annual report provide a snapshot of the diversity and depth of our pro bono program. Miller Nash lawyers and staff secured the safe return of an abducted child under the Hague Convention, represented survivors of domestic violence and children in high-conflict custody matters, provided governance and transactional support to mission-driven nonprofit organizations, expanded immigration advocacy for vulnerable individuals and families, and accepted court appointments in complex federal civil rights cases—including a single matter in which a trial team devoted more than 600 hours to ensure a pro se litigant had meaningful access to justice and an opportunity to share his story with a jury. These efforts reflect not only the skill and dedication of our attorneys, but also a firmwide commitment to using our legal experience to make a tangible difference in the communities we serve. We are proud of what our lawyers and staff accomplished together this year, and we look forward to continuing and expanding this work in the years ahead.

*John Clarke and Don Scaramastra, Co-Chairs, Pro Bono Committee  
Kieran Curley, Managing Partner*

# ABOUT US

Miller Nash is a nationally recognized, industry-focused law firm with offices in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. We are structured around dedicated industry teams to ensure our attorneys develop deep insight into the business challenges and opportunities our clients face. These teams span key sectors, including construction, education, energy, financial services, real estate development, and technology. In addition to our industry-specific services, we advise a broad range of clients on business transactions, employment matters, tax issues, and complex litigation. At every step, we are guided by one principle: delivering exceptional service and practical solutions that help our clients succeed.



# ATTORNEY PARTICIPATION IN 2025

**95+**

ATTORNEYS

# PRO BONO MATTERS OPENED IN 2025

**65**

MATTERS

## PRO BONO GROWTH



2024

**2,763**

HOURS

2025

**4,184**

HOURS



2024

**\$1.4M+**

VALUE

2025

**\$2.2M+**

VALUE



# DEFENDING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS THROUGH U.S. DISTRICT COURT-APPOINTED PRO BONO PROGRAMS

Miller Nash actively participates in the representation of pro se litigants in civil rights cases through the U.S. District Court of Oregon's and Western District of Washington's pro bono programs. The programs offer legal representation for individuals who do not have the means to obtain counsel on their own and offer Miller Nash lawyers the opportunity to gain meaningful experience advocating in federal court, including at oral argument and trial.

*“Attorney participation in the District of Oregon’s pro bono program is vital to ensure meaningful access to justice for pro se litigants in civil rights cases. By providing skilled advocacy, volunteer counsel helps protect constitutional rights, improve the quality and efficiency of court proceedings, and promote fair and just outcomes. This service strengthens public confidence in the legal system while upholding the profession’s highest commitment to equity and the rule of law.”*

**– Hon. Michael J. McShane**  
Chief United States District Judge

# DEFENDING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS THROUGH U.S. DISTRICT COURT-APPOINTED PRO BONO PROGRAMS

Miller Nash accepted appointments in the following cases:

## ***Al-Khafagi v. Crites et al.***

Judge Adrienne Nelson appointed Heather Van Meter and Sophia von Bergen to represent a pro se litigant alleging Eighth Amendment claims relating to his medical treatment while in custody with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

## ***Fennell v. Jackson County.***

Judge Marco Hernández appointed John Clarke and Katie Bennett to represent a pro se litigant seeking to remedy harm allegedly suffered in Jackson County Jail.

## ***Rodriguez v. Amsberry et al.***

Judge Karin Immergut appointed Mark Tyler to represent a pro se litigant pursuing a claim for excessive force in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Tyler represented this litigant through a jury trial.

## ***Yassin v. Gonzalez.***

Judge Russo appointed John Clarke and Adrian Anderson to represent a pro se litigant for the limited purpose of assisting with effecting service of process on the defendant.

## ***Bynum v. Morrisey O'Donnell et al.***

Judge Jeffrey Armistead appointed Edward Decker and Abigail Yeo to represent a pro se litigant seeking to protect his ability to exercise his religious freedom while incarcerated at Multnomah County Detention Center.

## ***King v. King.***

Judge Ann Aiken appointed Ian Christy and Sophia von Bergen to represent a pro se litigant alleging a failure to protect violation under the Eighth Amendment. Christy and von Bergen resolved this matter for the client through a mediation.

## ***Rodriguez v. Anderson et al.***

Judge Karin Immergut appointed Michael Porter, April Fredrickson, and Jessica Bernardini to represent a pro se litigant pursuing a claim for excessive force in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Porter, Fredrickson, and Bernardini represented plaintiff through a jury trial.

## ***Yassin v. Smith et al.***

Judge Russo appointed John Clarke, Sophia von Bergen, and Adrian Anderson to represent a pro se litigant alleging violations of the Eighth Amendment arising from deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.

# PROTECTING FAMILIES IN INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL ABDUCTION CASES

At Miller Nash, our international practice is built on a foundation of technical excellence, cultural fluency, and real-world experience, which the firm has been able to leverage to serve individual pro bono clients on cross-border legal matters.

In 2025, Miller Nash accepted a pro bono matter through the Hague Convention Attorney Network, representing a father whose two-year-old child was wrongfully abducted from the United Kingdom and brought to the United States by the child's mother. The case arose under the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, requiring the firm to establish the child's habitual residence, the father's custody rights under U.K. law, and the wrongful nature of the child's removal.

The Miller Nash team moved quickly, filing a Hague Petition and assembling critical evidence, including consular records, travel documents, communications, and personal testimony. The firm strategically pursued mediation in advance of trial and, through persistence and advocacy, secured the voluntary return of the child under all proposed conditions. Led by **Jakini Ingram** and **Dino Vasquez**, with support from **Semee Yim** and summer associates **Vivian Hernández** and **Eunhye Fay**, the Miller Nash team ensured the child's safe return to the United Kingdom on August 14, 2025.

Read more about their work [here](#).

## ADVISING SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Miller Nash is deeply committed to providing pro bono services to charitable, civic, community, or educational organizations in matters that advance their organizational purposes, where the payment of legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources. By leveraging the firm's experience serving nonprofit organizations, Miller Nash helps ensure that essential organizations with limited funding have the tools and structure they need to achieve their goals.



Photograph by Jonathan Ley

## ADVISING SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

This year, Miller Nash attorneys **Eric Robertson, Andrea Moore, and Incainti Sofia McDonald** provided critical legal assistance to Portland Japanese Garden, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting peace, cultural understanding, and community healing. Founded in the aftermath of World War II to foster reconciliation with Japan and the Japanese American community, Portland Japanese Garden relies on philanthropic support to fund a portion of its operations. The Miller Nash team assisted the organization by updating its corporate governance documents, including its bylaws, helping ensure that the Garden's legal framework continues to support its mission and long-term sustainability.

The Miller Nash team collaborated closely with Garden leadership, responded promptly to client inquiries, and completed the work on an expedited timeline. Following completion of the project, Kathy Parmenter, Director of Board Relations for Portland Japanese Garden, personally thanked the team, noting that their efforts were critically important to the organization and expressing deep appreciation for their professionalism and responsiveness. The engagement exemplifies how Miller Nash's legal skills can meaningfully strengthen community institutions and advance the firm's commitment to pro bono service.



# SUPPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN'S REPRESENTATION PROJECTS

Through Legal Aid Services of Oregon's (LASO) Domestic Violence Project, Miller Nash lawyers, led by **Radhika Shah**, have matched with survivors of domestic violence for representation in contested restraining order hearings—a highly impactful pro bono opportunity providing legal advocacy for clients navigating emotional and critical safety proceedings. The project focuses on contested hearings in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties and offers an accessible opportunity for Miller Nash attorneys to contribute pro bono counsel to survivors who might otherwise proceed without the benefit of counsel.

After a hearing this year, Radhika's client wrote: "Hi Radhika, I just wanted to thank you again for representing me at the hearing pro bono. I'd been told that this was the type of hearing you can do without a lawyer, but there's no way I could have gotten through it without your help and guidance."

In 2025, Radhika was also invited by a Multnomah County judge to join the Children's Representation Project, a court-appointed initiative in which attorneys represent children in contentious family law matters. Recognizing the profound need in this area, Radhika accepted and has since represented children in two challenging family law matters where the parents could not agree on custody or parenting time. Over eight months, she devoted nearly 90 hours to these cases, developing a keen understanding of her clients' needs and desires and ensuring that their voices were meaningfully heard in court.

Through these efforts, Miller Nash and Radhika have demonstrated a sustained commitment to increasing access to justice for survivors of abuse and for children in high-conflict legal situations, embodying the firm's pro bono values and deep engagement with community legal needs.

# ANNUAL MILLER NASH PRO BONO AWARD WINNERS



**Michael Porter**  
Partner



**April Fredrickson**  
Partner



**Jessica Bernardini**  
Associate



**Faustina Ash**  
Paralegal

Miller Nash provides attorneys with up to 150 hours of billable credit for pro bono work, and annually recognizes the pro bono efforts of our attorneys and professional staff with our **Clifford N. Carlsen, Jr.** Award. This competitive, but friendly, award honors our former partner who championed pro bono and community services, and whose personal efforts included heading the Jackson, Mississippi office of the President's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law during the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The award includes a cash donation by the firm to the pro bono legal services organization of the recipient's choice.

Michael, April, Jessica, and Faustina were the 2025 award recipients for their representation of a pro se litigant in *Rodriguez v. Anderson et al.*, an Eighth Amendment excessive force case tried before a jury.

Read more about their work [here](#).

# 2025 OREGON STATE BAR PRO BONO CHALLENGE WINNER



Miller Nash attorney **Sophia von Bergen** has been selected as the 2025 Oregon State Bar Pro Bono Challenge winner for the “Individual-at-a-Firm” and “Oregon New Lawyers Division Member” categories.

“

*We congratulate Sophie on this well-deserved honor. Sophie’s dedication to pro bono efforts within our firm and the statewide community continues to be an inspiration to those who have the pleasure to work with her.*

”

*– Kieran Curley, Managing Partner*

**Learn more [here](#).**

# INTERVIEW WITH ACLU OF OREGON



**Sandy Chung** serves as the Executive Director of ACLU of Oregon, leading the organization's efforts to defend and advance civil rights and liberties across Oregon communities. The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan membership organization. The organization works in the courts, in the legislature, and in communities to defend and advance the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country. Miller Nash lawyers have supported the ACLU of Oregon's mission for decades, partnering with the organization on impact litigation and investigations and serving on its lawyers' committee and board of directors. Chung is the fifth executive director, and first attorney, to lead the 65-year-old organization.

# INTERVIEW WITH ACLU OF OREGON

What inspires you to serve as ACLU of Oregon's executive director?

*I am inspired by the ACLU of Oregon's vision of fulfilling our country's promise to be a democracy that is truly of, by, and for all the people—where all people and communities have fundamental freedoms and rights, access and power to engage fully in our democratic processes, and inherent value, dignity, and autonomy.*

What has been the most meaningful aspect of being the executive director for ACLU of Oregon?

*It has been particularly meaningful to me to share my family's immigration and democracy story, especially during the current times.*

*My family and I emigrated from South Korea to the US in the early 1980s when I was five years old. At that time, South Korea was ruled by a military dictator, and in 1980, the government suppressed pro-democracy protests in a city called Kwangju by killing several hundred to several thousand protestors, including many university students. Kwangju is my dad's hometown, and my parents decided to emigrate because they were profoundly disillusioned with their country. However, even in the face of such repression and violence, the people in South Korea were able to build a strong democracy over time and were also able to defend their country against recent authoritarian attacks.*

*I share my family's story because I think it is important for us to remember that people across the world and through history have struggled for freedom and liberation, and there are always ways for each of us to defend and advance our democratic values.*

How have ACLU of Oregon's needs for pro bono counsel evolved in recent years?

*During most of the organization's history, we did not have a legal staff team and most of our legal work historically was done by pro bono counsel.*

*Currently, we have a wonderful legal team led by our Legal Director Kelly Simon and supported by Eri Andriola, Litigation Manager, and Lisa Kwon, Legal Associate. We are also currently recruiting for a second Litigation Manager and welcome applications from attorneys with at least five years of civil litigation experience.*

*Although our legal team leads and coordinates our legal work, we continue to collaborate significantly with the pro bono legal community across our state to protect and advance the civil liberties and civil rights of Oregonians.*

What do you see as the ACLU of Oregon's key pro bono needs in 2026?

*During 2025, the ACLU engaged in more than 200 legal actions, including filing over 110 lawsuits. In more than 70 percent of our cases, we successfully defeated, diluted, or delayed unconstitutional actions by the government. Many of these cases involved complex civil and constitutional litigation, at times representing class plaintiffs. We anticipate that we will continue to need pro bono legal support with similar types of cases during 2026, oftentimes involving issues of basic constitutional rights.*

What is your message to attorneys who want to support the ACLU of Oregon's mission in 2026?

*The continuing health, resilience, and strength of our democratic institutions depends on each of us doing our part, and as the guardians of the rule of law and the Constitution, attorneys are particularly essential to our democracy.*

*Please consider joining the 50,000 Oregonians who are members and donor supporters of the ACLU of Oregon. You can sign up for membership or to receive organizational email updates at [www.aclu-or.org](http://www.aclu-or.org). If you are interested in pro bono work with us, please email us at [info@aclu-or.org](mailto:info@aclu-or.org) and we will connect you with our legal team.*

# PRO BONO COMMITTEE



Co-Chair

**John Clarke**  
Portland



Co-Chair

**Don Scaramastra**  
Seattle



**Lane Conrad**  
Seattle



**Fabio Dworschak**  
Seattle



**Alex Hutchinson**  
Portland



**Beatrice Bremer  
Lucas**  
Vancouver



**Trajan Perez**  
Long Beach



**Ali Roth**  
Portland



**Elena Thompson**  
Seattle

## Ex Officio Members

**Kieran Curley**  
Portland

**Cara Lowrance**  
(Coordinator)

**Cynthia Voth**  
Seattle

# OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORT

Abigail Yeo  
Adrian Anderson  
Aimee Baxter  
Alex Hutchinson  
Ali Roth  
Alisha Till  
Amy Robinson  
Andrea Moore  
Andrew Liese  
Anela Summers  
Ann Sigler  
Anna Sier  
Anthony Hunt  
April Fredrickson  
Beatrice Lucas  
Bernie Kornberg  
Blakely Vogel  
Bob Cumbow  
Bob Rousseau  
Brenna Dickey  
Brett Palmer  
Brian Esler  
Brianna Morrison  
Bruce Campbell  
Carrie Mount  
Christine Taylor  
Cozette Tran-  
Caffee  
Cristela Delgado-  
Daniel  
Dan Oates  
Danielle Riege  
Delfina Homen  
Diana Ramos  
Don Scaramastra  
Ed Choi  
Eden Vasquez  
Edward Decker  
Elena Thompson  
Eric Robertson  
Erica Clausen  
Erica Tatoian  
Erich Merrill  
Erin Burris  
Estera Gordon  
Eva Novick  
Fabio Dworschak  
Faustina Ash  
Garrett Ledgerwood  
Gena Gibson  
Gib Masters  
Heather Harmon  
Heather Van Meter  
Hollie Tice  
Ian Christy  
Incainti Sofia McDonald  
Iván Resendiz Gutierrez  
Jacob Zahniser  
Jakini Ingram  
James Walker  
James Yand  
Javier Torres  
Jeff Miller  
Jennifer Divine  
Jennifer West  
Jess Osborne  
Jessica Bernardini  
Jessica Cohen  
Jesús Palomares  
John Clarke  
John Knapp  
Jollee Patterson  
Jon Goodling  
Joseph Spring  
Josh Sasaki  
Julie Reed  
Justin Hebenstreit  
Justin Hobson  
Justin Sawyer  
KC Hovda  
Khalid Aziz  
Kim Kindred  
Lane Conrad  
Liani Reeves  
Lisa Dembiczak  
Lisa Lee  
Lisa Motherwell  
Mark Tyler  
Mary Ann Frantz  
Max Retzlaff  
Melissa Rawlinson  
Michael Zangl  
Mike Porter  
Mitchell Diesko  
Naomi Haslitt  
Nat Levy  
Nicole McLaughlin  
Radhika Shah  
Ryan Hall  
Ryan Nisle  
Sarah Brenden  
Sarah Chicoine  
Sarah Hardwick  
Scott Hunter  
Sean O'Brien  
Skyler Helsley  
Sophia von Bergen  
Souvanny Miller  
Stacie Damazo  
Tom Sand  
Trajan Perez  
Universo Norman  
Vanessa Triplett Kuchulis  
Vivian Hernández

# 2025 TOP PRO BONO PERFORMERS BY OFFICE



**SARAH BRENDEN**  
SEATTLE



**BRETT PALMER**  
LONG BEACH



**APRIL FREDRICKSON**  
PORTLAND



**KC HOVDA**  
BOISE



**KIM KINDRED**  
VANCOUVER

We extend a sincere thank you to the organizations, community groups, and nonprofit partners who collaborated with us on pro bono matters throughout 2025. Together, we strengthened access to justice and supported our communities. We look forward to continuing this important work in 2026 and beyond.

For more information or to get involved, please contact a member of Miller Nash's pro bono team.

**WEBSITE**

[www.millernash.com](http://www.millernash.com)

**PHONE**

877.220.5858

