

MOPROBONO

Women's History Month Edition

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WOMEN'S ADVOCACY IN ACTION

In celebration of Women's History month, we proudly shine a light on the many lawyers at MoFo who dedicate their time to the advancement of women and women's rights. Whether fiercely advocating for women's reproductive rights or quietly helping survivors of domestic abuse safely and confidentially pave a way forward, our lawyers are compassionate and dedicated to helping make the world a better place for women and girls which makes us especially proud.

In this issue we showcase some of the matters to which our lawyers have dedicated their time over the last year to advance women's rights across the globe.

OVER THE LAST
YEAR, OUR LAWYERS
HAVE BEEN BUSY
ADVOCATING FOR
WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

100
CLIENTS ASSISTED
12,500
HOURS TOWARDS
WOMEN'S-RELATED
PRO BONO WORK

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND CARE

- **Representing organizations that work on behalf of female employees and students across the country**, including unions that represent educators and healthcare workers, and women's bar associations. We filed amicus briefs in federal district courts and courts of appeal objecting to proposed federal rules which would allow employers and colleges to assert religious or moral objections to providing no-cost contraceptive coverage to employees and students.
- Litigating the next generation of abortion rights cases, such

as applying the Supreme Court's 2016 ruling in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt (WWH)* in which the firm co-counseled. In recent months, we have won the invalidation of two Texas laws intended to curtail the availability of abortion. Our ongoing cases in Texas and Louisiana ask courts to use *WWH* to evaluate the constitutionality of other statutes that burden abortion access without providing any health benefit to women. On the West Coast, our lengthy battle continues against anti-abortion activists who tried to use fraudulently obtained,

covertly taken videos to threaten abortion providers.

- **Guiding Days for Girls International** through establishing an English charity to assist the U.S.-based nonprofit organization. Days for Girls supports girls and women in countries around the world who lack access to menstrual care products. The organization hopes to increase education and distribute menstrual care kits in countries including India, where 113 million adolescent girls are reported to miss school due to lack of menstrual care solutions.



GUIDING DAYS FOR GIRLS SUPPORTS GIRLS AND WOMEN IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD WHO LACK ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL CARE PRODUCTS.

BUILDING SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE



- Advising two Hollywood actresses, Caitlin Dulany and Jessica Barth, on the formation and structure of an organization to support victims of sexual abuse and harassment in the entertainment industry. **Voices in Action** will serve as a safe place to report misconduct and abuse, empower victims, and promote accountability.
- Creating data privacy and security policies for **Callisto**, a website service that provides college students who are survivors of sexual assault a confidential and secure way to report an incident, without pressure or

judgment. The Callisto site allows college students to create a time-stamped record of an assault, learn about reporting options, or report an incident electronically to campus authorities while also accessing post-assault support services.

- Assisting individual survivors of domestic violence with obtaining orders of protection and working with organizations focused on systemic change. On the East Coast, our lawyers have helped individual survivors and their children to shed their connection with abusers by changing their legal names. Additionally, we are

conducting assessments for the **Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP)** to ensure litigants have a better chance of appealing unfair decisions. On the West Coast, we are assisting staff attorneys of the **Family Violence Appellate Project** with preparing for oral arguments and otherwise supporting its work.



ADVANCING WOMEN'S LABOR AND EDUCATION RIGHTS

- Working with **Stemettes**, an organization in London that is inspiring the next generation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. MoFo lawyers are assisting with various matters, including intellectual property and template sponsorship agreements for companies interested in sponsoring the organization's programs and events. They are also advising on an incubator program that the organization is launching with a group of 15 young women.
- Supporting Kenya-based nonprofit **Shining Hope for Communities** in setting up a UK fundraising affiliate, as well as reviewing corporate governance documents, providing training guidance, and recommending updates to legal policies. Shining Hope for Communities is a nonprofit organization dedicated to combatting urban poverty and gender inequality by advocating education and leadership development for girls. The organization runs two leadership academies for girls, located in Nairobi, that offer free education, healthcare, meals, uniforms, and school supplies to over 450 students.
- Advising organizations that are helping victims of labor exploitation and human trafficking in Asia. In Tokyo, MoFo lawyers assisted Lighthouse Japan

WE ADVISE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE HELPING VICTIMS OF LABOR EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

in obtaining nonprofit status and are providing ongoing employment and labor law advice. **Lighthouse Japan** helps vulnerable women in abusive situations due to human trafficking. We are also advising **SEELS, Inc.** on intellectual property matters. SEELS assists Filipina immigrants, many of whom take low-paying, exploitative jobs to support their families, by training them as English instructors. In Hong Kong, we are working with **Justice Without Borders** on an individual employment dispute involving a Filipina domestic helper who asserts that her employer forged her signature on a voluntary resignation letter. In Singapore, we

are also mentoring the organization's legal fellows.

- Advising high-impact social venture **Global Press Institute (GPI)** on intellectual property issues and general corporate matters, including syndication agreements and risk management issues related to its news service. GPI educates, empowers, and employs women in the developing world through the power of journalism. GPI's training-to-employment program helps women build the skills they need to produce high-quality local news coverage, elevate awareness, ignite change, and seek long-term employment. Every woman who completes the program receives a job

offer with a fair wage at the *Global Press Journal*, GPI's online publication.

- Supporting women entrepreneurs as they create a recipe for success. Our client, **Bini**, was involved with the "La Cocina" and "Start Small, Think Big" programs, whose missions involve helping low-income entrepreneurs in forming and growing their businesses. We assisted Bini, who had been operating a Nepalese food vendor kiosk and several stands at Bay Area farmers' markets, with the formation of her LLC, various corporate formalities, and drafting the loan documents needed to open her first brick-and-mortar location, Bini's Kitchen.



MOFO+ SPOTLIGHT:

REUNITING A MOTHER AND HER DAUGHTERS AT THE BORDER

When they learned from the Immigration Justice Campaign of the urgent need to reunite a mother and her daughters who had been separated at the border, MoFo lawyers were eager to help. The mother, Yeimi, had been living in the United States with her daughters before she was deported to Honduras, where the family faced extreme levels of violence.

When Yeimi decided to return to the United States with her daughters in mid-October 2018, she was apprehended by border patrol agents near El Paso, Texas. Her daughters were just three and four years old at the time, but were taken from her and placed in foster care because, having been born here, they were U.S. citizens. Yeimi had to wait an entire month before speaking to her daughters, and then was only allowed to see them for an hour a week. After nearly four months apart, and failing to convince ICE to release Yeimi on humanitarian

grounds, the MoFo team brought a writ of habeas corpus in the Western District of Texas, leading to her release and reuniting her with her girls. They are now living together in New Orleans while Yeimi awaits the adjudication of her immigration application.

Ever since MoFo chair Larren Nashelsky signed a pledge to join 34 other law firms in reunifying migrant families and ensuring representation for asylum seekers, the firm has devoted impressive resources to this mission. In addition to helping families suffering separations at the border, MoFo lawyers are fighting to combat horrific conditions at detention centers, counseling detainees in preparation for their credible fear interviews, representing children seeking release from detention, and representing individuals seeking asylum.

[READ MORE GREAT PRO BONO STORIES ON OUR MOFO+ BLOG.](#)





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