

# Pro Bono News

SPECIAL EDITION | MARVIN FRANKEL AWARDS 2024

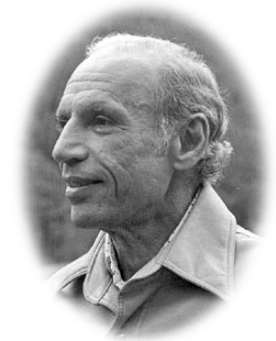
The 10th Annual Marvin Frankel Pro Bono Awards Ceremony took place on July 16. The event recognized attorneys and staff for their hard work and dedication to pro bono at Kramer Levin. We are proud to announce the winners of the 2024 Marvin Frankel Awards for Outstanding Pro Bono Contributions.

## MARVIN E. FRANKEL (1920 – 2002)

Judge Marvin Frankel led by example, devoting a considerable amount of his time to pro bono legal causes he found important — most prominently as a founder and longtime chairman of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now [Human Rights First](#)).

Judge Frankel promoted this kind of public service here at Kramer Levin.

To honor his memory and encourage the continuation of his important legacy, the annual Marvin Frankel Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Contributions was created.



## Congratulations to Our Marvin Frankel Award Winners

### Racial Justice Initiative Award

The East 117 Realty LLC team (Robert Schmidt, Joseph Shifer, Rose Bagley and Wendy Kane) was honored for securing a settlement for nine low-income tenants with their bankrupt landlord, ending yearslong litigation. The settlement contained provisions in favor of the tenants forgiving tens of thousands of dollars of outstanding rent, secured go-forward lease agreements with rent amounts in accordance with applicable law, provided the tenants with thousands of dollars in future cash or rent credits, and ensured the landlord completed all outstanding repairs.



The East 117 Realty Team with Chris Auguste, Adan Soltran and Sebastian Perez from the Housing Justice Unit at the Legal Aid Society

## Racial Justice Initiative Award (cont.)



Rose Bagley speaks on behalf of the East 117 Realty LLC team



Chris Auguste presents awards to the East 117 Realty LLC team

## Team Awards

The **S.I. team** (Jonathan Wagner, Boaz Cohen, Phil King and former associate Daria Schieferstein) was honored for securing an appellate victory for their client who had been seeking a religious divorce from her husband for nearly five years. Despite a binding arbitration award issued by a rabbi, the husband refused to provide his wife with a *get* (a formal divorce document), preventing her from divorcing him under traditional Jewish law. This is a landmark decision addressing the enforceability of an arbitration award ordering a party to grant a religious divorce.



Jonathan Wagner discusses the S.I. team's work



Boaz Cohen, Jonathan Wagner and Aaron Frankel

## Congratulations to Our Marvin Frankel Award Winners (Cont.)

The **Everytown for Gun Safety** team (led by **Michael Dell**, the full team is listed on the last page) was honored for their critical work in advancing gun safety over the past several years. The most recent work included filing an amicus brief supporting the federal prohibition of bump stocks, supporting claims of Sandy Hook victims against makers and sellers of AR-15 military assault rifles, and filing a lawsuit against several gun shop owners in Philadelphia that engage in illegal gun trafficking and straw transactions.



Alumnus Eric Tirschwell from Everytown for Gun Safety presents the award to Michael Dell and the Everytown team; Michael Dell speaks on behalf of the team



Members of the Everytown for Gun Safety team

## Larry Williams Staff Awards

**Lily Suris** in the Managing Attorney's Office was honored for her valuable support in a broad range of pro bono matters, especially with regard to pro bono uncontested divorces. She has been working on these cases for more than a decade and knows the ins and outs of the paperwork, the filing procedures and the personalities of the clerks where the cases are filed. She is a critical member of teams handling **Her Justice** matters, offering sound judgment and compassion for clients.



Mat Rosswood presents a Larry Williams Staff Award to Lily Suris



Michael Feuer, Lily Suris and Paul Colbourne

**Team Award:** The Spanish-language interpreter team (Marisol Casilla, Ines Dominguez, Veronica Ortiz, Celia Reyes, Gisselle Sabala and Rachel Torres) was honored for always jumping in when pro bono teams are in need of a translator. We could not do the breadth of pro bono work at the firm without their critical support and ability to connect with clients.



Marisol Casilla speaks on behalf of the Spanish-language interpreter team



Members of the Spanish-language interpreter team

## Donations

The firm made a donation to the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund on behalf of the gun safety team, a donation to the First Step Job Training Program on behalf of the Spanish-language interpreter team, a donation to the Alzheimer’s Association on behalf of Lily Suris, a donation to the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot on behalf of the S.I. team and a donation to the Legal Aid Society Housing Justice Unit on behalf of the East 117 Realty LLC team.



Gary Naftalis pays tribute to Marvin Frankel



Howard Spilko opens the awards ceremony



Paul Schoeman discusses the firm’s pro bono accomplishments

# A Good Time Was Had by All!



Lauren Tapper, summer associate Priya Podugu, Susan John, Samantha Lia, Erica Huttunen and Rachel Roth



Gary Naftalis, Robert Schmidt and Paul Colbourne



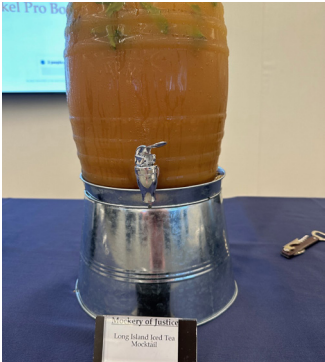
Chris Auguste and Lily Suris



Pamela Badolato and Jamie Porco



Samantha Lia and Erica Huttunen with Aaron Frankel



The event's signature mocktail, "Mockery of Justice"



Santo Cipolla and Riley Zook



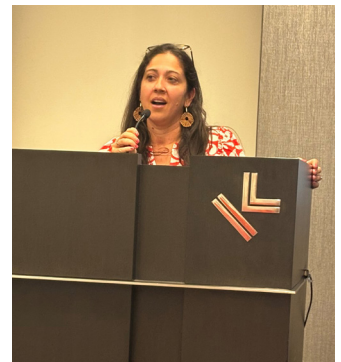
Pooja Parekh and Zach Fields enjoy the buffet



Logan Zavala, Tao Li and Rohit Biswas



Marlie Golden, Nathan Abramowitz and Wendy Kane



Jamie Porco makes closing remarks

# Pro Bono Challenge

We would like to thank those who rose to meet the firm’s Pro Bono Challenge milestones for pro bono and community service, including board service. Our Pro Bono Champions completed more than 100 hours, our Pro Bono Advocates completed more than 50 hours and our Pro Bono Counsel completed more than 20 hours of pro bono and community service work. We would also like to recognize our staff and alumni who showed dedication to pro bono work in 2023.

We encourage everyone to take the Pro Bono Challenge this year. Please spread the word, and feel free to contact partners **Christopher Auguste** and **Aaron Frankel** and Director of Professional Development and Pro Bono **Jamie Porco** or any of the members of the Pro Bono Committee if you need help finding a suitable pro bono matter to work on.

We will publicly recognize the Pro Bono Challenge winners by once again adding a notation to the nameplates of attorneys and staff who completed more than 20 hours of pro bono work in 2023.

Thank you to the 2024 Selection Committee: **Christopher Auguste, Aaron Frankel, Nada Llewellyn, Jamie Porco, Robert Schmidt, Lauren Tapper** and **Jeffrey Trachtman**.



## Pro Bono Challenge Winners

### Pro Bono Champions (100+ Hours/Significant Contribution of Time)

Yasmeen Al-Bader	Angela Chan	Alexander Gelb	Kate Miller	Hannah Sosland
David Alexander	Kenneth Chin	Miles Harris	Jason Moff	Patrick Sullivan
Nathaniel Allard	Mary Christie	Brian Hilburn	Danielle Moody	Lily Suris
Samantha Alman	Jessica Christy	Inge Hindriks	Gary Naftalis	Nicole Sweeney
Lauren Cassady	Tatiana Cios	Lucille Hollenstein	Veronica Ortiz	Hailey Tahk
Andrews	Santo Cipolla	Erica Huttunen	Andrew Otis	Lauren Tapper
Bridget Ansel	Boaz Cohen	Tobias Jacoby	Jamie Porco	Kathleen Telfer
Brandon Arnold	Paul Colbourne	Susan John	Sheila Pozon	Alexander Thornton
Christopher Auguste	Jeffrey Coleman	Sydney Kane	Brian Primm	Jane Tomic
Elisabeth Avallone	Rachel Czwartacky	Karen Kennedy	Denise Reid	Nick Tonckens
Pamela Badolato	Michael Dell	Borna Khoshand	Celia Reyes	Rachel Torres
Rose Bagley	Tre Dennis-Brown	Mariya Khvatskaya	David Richards	Jeffrey Trachtman
Andrew Baum	Daniel DePasquale	Phillip King	Scott Rosenblum	Mendel Trapedo
Chloe Bootstaylor	Ines Dominguez	Ilya Kontorovich	Rachel Roth	Eugene Travers
Jennifer Brevaire	Rita Celebrezze	Randy Kreider	Harry Rubin	Andrew Vazquez
Paul Brzyski	D’Souza	Joanna Lee	Mark Russell	Jonathan Wagner
Colin Bumbly	Rachael Fassler	Samantha Lia	Gisselle Sabala	Irene Weintraub
Genevieve	Michael Feuer	Carlyn Maksymuk	Seth Schinfeld	Jennifer Weisser
Burger-Weiser	Steven Ficurilli	Austin Manes	Meigan Serle	Jennifer Windom
Christine	Aaron Frankel	Daniela Manzi	Terrence Shen	Nathan Wolfe
Chase-Carpino	Yashvi Ganeriwala	J. Michael Mayerfeld	Joseph Shifer	Drew Zagami
Marisol Casilla	Shikha Garg	Ralph Mayrell	Gabrielle Simon	
Sean Cassidy	Lillian Ge	Izabel McDonald	Jonaki Singh	

Pro Bono Advocates (50+ Hours)

Rohit Biswas	Gabriel Eisenberger	Daniel Ketani	Andrew Pollack	Jennifer Sharret
Missy Brenner	Catherine Engelmann	Tao Li	Kelly Porcelli	Marjorie Sheldon
Valerie Campbell	Roy Englert Jr.	Gilbert Liu	Daniel Rabinowitz	Brett Shields
Edward Chen	Zachary Fields	Jay Neveloff	Natali Rey	Eva Tanna
Linda Chen	Luke Galland	Juliana Oliveira Maggio	Christian Roccotagliata	Ashish Virmani
Dayna Chikamoto	Hillel Goldstein	Jonathan Pepin	Jacqueline Ryu	Elise Wagner
Melissa Drennan	Natan Hamerman	Laura Perdomo Diaz	Kelly Schreiber	Celeste Williams

Pro Bono Counsel (20+ Hours)

Peter Abruzzese	Hamilton Drucker	Tatiana Kashuta	Jeff Mulligan	Jeffrey Taub
Shazia Ahmad	Jordan Estes	Katy Keane	Amelia Munger	Carlos Tirado
John Bessonette	Toni Finger	Maxwell Kraus	Gary Orseck	Andrew Ward
Michael Blackmon	Christina Finn	Ariel Lavinbuk	Kevin Scanlan	Daniel Weiss
Douglas Buckley	Alan Friedman	Kevin Leblang	Robert Schmidt	Xander Woolverton
Avram Cahn	Caroline Gange	Matthew Madden	Stephen Senie	David Yanvarashvili
John Clayton	Daniel Goldman	Harry Morgenthau	Norman Simon	Dean Yu
Elizabeth Collins	Allison Gray	Max Morris	Shaked Sivan	

Thank you to all of our alumni for their contributions to our pro bono program in 2023!

**Everytown for Gun Safety Team**

David Alexander	Daniel Ketani
Pam Badolato	Darren LaVerne
Abigail Badway	Zachary Levine
Chloe Bootstaylor	Daniela Manzi
Paul Brzyski	Kate Miller
Angela Chan	Gary Orseck
Jessica Christy	Denise Reid
Michael Dell	Marjorie Sheldon
Catherine Engelmann	Hannah Sosland
Jordan Estes	Jeffrey Trachtman
Zachary Ferguson	Ashish Virmani
Karen Kennedy	Drew Zagami



The awards ceremony program