

A vintage brass compass is the central focus, set against a background of interlocking blue gears. The compass face is engraved with cardinal and ordinal directions: N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, and NW. A scale around the perimeter of the compass face is marked with numbers from 0 to 10. The compass needle is positioned over the 'N' mark. The overall image conveys a sense of precision, navigation, and industry.

**CARLTON
FIELDS**

**PRO BONO
at Carlton Fields**

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Overview

Carlton Fields has had a long-standing commitment to pro bono legal services, by representing the underserved day in and day out; through the leadership of our attorneys over many years in working to ensure access to justice; and by providing financial support and accommodations to pro bono organizations.

Our freedoms depend on the rule of law. To ensure that our nation can truly stand for freedom for all, our profession must play a critical role in ensuring universal access to justice.



Gary Sasso
President and CEO



Carlton Fields' Long-Standing Pro Bono Tradition

No one has done more to inculcate Carlton Fields' commitment to pro bono legal services than its late Shareholder and former Chairman of the Board **Wm. Reece Smith Jr.** He fervently believed this was the obligation of every lawyer in return for the privilege of practicing law.

For decades, including his years as president of both The Florida Bar and the American Bar Association, Reece devoted much time and attention to the need for pro bono services by all lawyers and for funding for legal services agencies. His national awards for his work are too numerous to list, but include the ABA's Pro Bono Publico Award and the William Reece Smith Jr. Special Services to Pro Bono Award, established by the ABA and the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals.

In speech after speech, Reece quoted Judge Learned Hand's apt admonition:

It is the daily; it is the small; it is the cumulative injuries of little people that we are here to protect. ... If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice.

Reece's impact on our law firm is ongoing today as we strive to live up to his high expectations of our pro bono obligations and thereby obtain the satisfaction that providing legal services to the needy brings to all of us.



Wm. Reece Smith Jr.

Former Chairman
of the Board

Partnering With Clients

We actively promote partnerships with our clients and prospective clients to provide legal services both to those in need of them but without the financial ability to pay for a lawyer and to charitable organizations that provide legal aid to persons of limited means.

We seek these partnerships in our ongoing pro bono litigation and transactional matters. These matters include high-profile litigation engagements involving important constitutional issues to individual cases such as landlord-tenant disputes or veterans benefits appeals to transactional work for nonprofit and charitable organizations.

The benefits of partnering with us are many. Our firm has long-standing referral networks in the legal services community, and we have a steady flow of opportunities to serve those in need. We have pro bono cases at all stages of a case's life cycle, from brand new matters being opened on a weekly basis to mature cases that offer opportunities to handle discrete issues that arise.

Moreover, corporate counsel can freely assume some responsibility in meaningful pro bono cases, knowing that they will have the full support of our firm's lawyers in the matters. If their circumstances change in the future, in terms of either responsibilities or geographic assignment, they can rest easy that the case will be fully covered by our firm's attorneys.

As each matter is being handled in partnership, junior corporate counsel will have opportunities to work with more senior lawyers in our firm and learn from their experience. And prospective clients can become familiar with our law firm and its attorneys' work ethics, work product, and professionalism.



The firm's Pro Bono Committee is currently chaired by Shareholders **Natalie Napierala** and **Joseph Lang Jr.** They coordinate and provide support to lawyers and staff who provide pro bono legal services in all offices of the firm.

The satisfaction that comes from providing pro bono legal services is enhanced by the benefits of doing so in partnership with lawyers at Carlton Fields. If interested in pursuing this, please contact Natalie Napierala, in our New York office, or Joseph Lang, in our Tampa office.

The firm's first formal Pro Bono Committee chair was Tampa Shareholder **Sylvia Walbolt**, who worked closely with Reece Smith for years to further pro bono services by the firm's lawyers. She has received numerous prestigious awards for her pro bono contributions, including the John Paul Stevens Guiding Hand of Counsel Award from the ABA Death Penalty Representation Project, among others. She currently serves as an inaugural Access to Justice Fellow in a pro bono program sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers.



How We Help Actions, Not Just Words

Carlton Fields is a charter signatory to the ABA's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge and pledges to contribute an amount of time equal to three percent of its total billable hours to pro bono work.

In support of this commitment, shareholders, associates, and paralegals are provided substantial "billable hour credit" for their pro bono legal services.

The firm's attorneys and paralegals, supported by its staff, provide millions of dollars in legal services annually to those less fortunate in society and to organizations that serve the disadvantaged, including those who need access to the courts. We celebrate their pro bono achievements through annual firm-sponsored awards recognizing a shareholder and an associate (and

on some occasions groups of attorneys) who have made the most significant contributions to pro bono efforts during the prior year.

Upholding Equality in Voting

Under the guidance of New York Shareholder **Natalie Napierala**, a team of 14 shareholders, associates, and paralegals across the firm assisted in a comprehensive, nationwide project by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to document the extent of racial voting discrimination in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

This project is an integral part of the Lawyers' Committee's effort to protect the right to vote of minorities in our country.

The firm's detailed report for the state of New York, deemed one of the most complex states of the

project, will be used by the Lawyers' Committee to determine the extent of voting discrimination that would inform action by Congress in light of the Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which invalidated the formula traditionally used to determine which states had to submit voting changes for federal review under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Tampa Associate **Erin Hoyle** co-chaired the two phases of the firm's work, devoting dozens of hours to the project by leading the researching and drafting, as well as coordinating the team of attorneys

and paralegals, including **Stephanie Chau** (Los Angeles), **Stephen Choi** (Washington, D.C.), **Florence Druguet** (Los Angeles), **Christina Gallo** (New Jersey), **Samantha Lambe** (Tampa), **Brooke Patterson** (Miami), **Benjamin Stearns** (Tallahassee), **Monica Strady** (Tampa), **Terresa Tarpley** (Atlanta), **Sylvia Walbolt** (Tampa), and **Barry Weissman** (Los Angeles).

The Lawyers' Committee has played a central role in seeking to ensure that Section 5 continues to protect minority voters against discriminatory voting changes. The firm has agreed to continue to assist as the project proceeds.

Challenging the Dilution of Minority Votes

The firm co-counseled with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in a federal lawsuit, as part of a broader effort to build a body of law with which to challenge the dilution of minority votes. The case asserted that a Georgia county's district boundaries violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting power of African Americans.

After the firm filed the complaint, the parties reached a settlement under which the district map will be redrawn to create a second "majority-minority" district, affording African American residents the opportunity to elect school board candidates of their choice.

Education Equality

The firm partnered with the ACLU, Public Counsel, and Arnold & Porter in filing an application for a temporary restraining order in *Cruz v. State of California*.

In an overwhelming and powerful condemnation of the breakdown of inner-city schools, the court adopted the novel theory of the case that failure to provide substantive educational hours comparable to other California schools in more affluent areas is a denial of a constitutional right to "basic educational equality."

The case received national publicity for its creative approach to equal education being founded on "equal time."

Supporting Marriage Equality

In *Pareto v. Ruvin*, Carlton Fields represented six same-sex couples who were refused marriage licenses from the clerk of the Miami-Dade County Court. With the help of Carlton Fields, those couples and the Equality Florida Institute challenged Florida's ban on same-sex marriage under the 14th Amendment.

Pareto v. Ruvin provided the opportunity to help our clients solve a legal problem and make the world better.

— Miami Shareholder Jeffrey Michael Cohen

In July 2014, Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Sarah Zabel declared the state's ban unconstitutional, but stayed the decision pending appeal. Finally, on January 5, 2015, Judge Zabel lifted the stay and allowed couples to marry in Miami-Dade County. That same day, following a marriage ceremony performed by Judge Zabel herself, plaintiff couple Cathy Pareto and Karla Arguello became the first same-sex couple to be married in Florida.

Tackling the Travel Ban

On behalf of the ACLU, Atlanta Shareholder **Gail Podolsky** filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit demanding government documents regarding the implementation of the travel bans.

Gail filed suit on behalf of the ACLU of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia seeking records from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection related to the implementation of the president's executive orders on travel and immigration.

The ACLU's Freedom of Information Act request concerned implementation of the executive order at international airports within the purview of CBP's College Park field office, including the Hartsfield-

Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the Charleston International Airport, and the Yeager Airport. The request also concerned the number of individuals who were detained or subjected to secondary screening, extended questioning, enforcement examination, or consideration for a waiver at the aforementioned airports pursuant to the executive order.

The legal action is one of a total of 13 FOIA lawsuits by ACLU state affiliates around the nation. To date, the litigation has resulted in the production of more than 95,000 pages relating to travel bans. The case settled on favorable terms in July 2019.



Journey to Citizenship

Carlton Fields, along with five well-respected Miami-Dade County organizations serving the immigrant community, hosted a two-day naturalization training and screening in Carlton Fields' Miami office. Carlton Fields assisted in providing naturalization training to 14 attorneys in a six-hour program, and thereafter attended a legal screening at the firm's Miami office wherein each attorney agreed to handle one to two naturalization applications on a pro bono basis.

Of the 25 applicants, 14 individuals were eligible for the submission of a naturalization application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, six of whom are being assisted by Carlton Fields' attorneys and one of whom was assisted by a firm client.

Florida Justice Institute

Carlton Fields has been collaborating with the Florida Justice Institute on pro bono cases for more than 15 years. The firm has also provided free office space for the Institute in Miami since 2005.

The Florida Justice Institute conducts impact litigation to improve the living conditions of people incarcerated in the state's prisons and jails, helping to give a voice to incarcerated persons and their families.

Our lawyers have had the opportunity to represent dozens of prisoners at all stages of litigation and to conduct more than 10 jury trials of these cases to verdict.

Seeking Justice

Carlton Fields has represented William Kelley on a pro bono basis since 2007. Our attorneys have committed thousands of pro bono hours to Kelley's cause.

John Sweet, tried unsuccessfully in the late 1960s for the murder of citrus baron Charles Von Maxcy, testified with immunity in 1984 that he planned Maxcy's murder and that Kelley carried it out. After a hung jury in his first trial, Kelley was convicted in a second trial and that jury recommended the death penalty by an 8-3 margin. Kelley was sentenced to death and has been on Florida's death row for nearly 35 years. He has consistently maintained his innocence. A federal court in 2002 granted Kelley's habeas corpus petition based on prosecutorial misconduct, but the Eleventh Circuit reversed.

In 2018, Carlton Fields and Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe filed a petition for writ of certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the Florida Supreme

Court's novel and unprecedented decision to allow only partial retroactivity of the *Hurst* decisions, which struck down Florida's capital sentencing scheme.

Advocating for Inmates' Rights

Prisoner civil rights cases often present important and complex issues of constitutional law with far-reaching effects, as well as individuals facing challenging factual or procedural issues and limited resources.

Carlton Fields attorneys **Gary Pappas**, **Ashley Drumm**, and **Michael Sloan** recently represented the interests of federal criminal defendants in several pro bono prisoner civil rights matters. Their efforts include arguing a pro bono appeal before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, stepping into trial-set cases after the closure of discovery and often without the benefit of deposition testimony, combing through thousands of pages of legal and medical records, and advocating for the client in federal jury trials and on appeal.

Providing Support to Ex-Offenders




Tampa Shareholders **Cristin Conley Keane** and **Sylvia Walbolt** partnered with Senior Business Development Manager **Anne Zambrano** to deliver a program to students at the Pinellas Ex-offender Re-entry Coalition. The program assists those who are interested in starting their own businesses, and covered the basics of developing a business plan, leveraging social media, and navigating the legal issues of forming a new business. The Pinellas Ex-offender Re-entry Coalition assists ex-offenders by addressing their needs through education and employment, with a goal of helping the offender become and remain an ex-offender.

Helping Veterans and Their Families

Since 1933, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces had been frustrated by laws that barred judicial review of denials of their claims for veterans benefits. With the passage of the landmark Veterans' Judicial Review Act in 1988, veterans who were previously denied benefits by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gained the right to appeal a denial of benefits to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The presence of the court has sparked an enormous demand for legal representation by veterans seeking judicial review. More than 45,000 veterans and family members have filed appeals in the court since 1989, and most of those appeals involve claims for VA disability benefits. Unfortunately, for many veterans the promise of effective judicial review has proven elusive.

With several veteran family members, Tampa Of Counsel **Coy Stull** aligned himself with the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program to assist unrepresented veterans and their families in their appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. "These are people who served their country, were injured, and are now disabled in some way and need help navigating a complicated system," Coy said of his involvement with the Veterans Consortium. Coy has handled four veterans' appeals cases, and all four resulted in a remand of the VA's decision denying benefits. He is currently spearheading a training program for other Carlton Fields lawyers to get involved.

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a piece of corrugated cardboard. The cardboard has a rectangular window cutout. The background is dark and out of focus.

Through our long-standing collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, our firm connects attorneys across offices and practices to contribute to the organization's mission of building strength, stability, and self-reliance for families in need of decent and affordable housing.

Our lawyers regularly assist Habitat with an array of legal needs, including contracts, labor and employment, local government, real property, and litigation matters.

I enjoy working with Habitat for Humanity because I believe in the overall goal and mission — to provide affordable housing to qualified candidates. Habitat is always at the forefront of legal issues, providing us the opportunity to advise on novel questions and help resolve them.

— Tampa Shareholder Dane Blunt, Board of Directors, Habitat for Humanity of Hillsborough County Florida Inc.

Housing the Homeless

Members of our Hartford office have been providing legal services to Pacific House for a number of years. Pacific House was created in 1987 to help the homeless in the Stamford, Connecticut, area. Since then, it has acquired and renovated numerous homes for its clients to inhabit as emergency housing, transition housing, and affordable housing.

The Carlton Fields team of Shareholders **H. Scott Miller** and **Kate D'Agostino** and Paralegal **Cathi Jessen** provides Pacific House with pro bono legal assistance on its transactional work, such as purchases, sales, and financings. Cathi, in particular, leads this effort in coordinating work of the firm.

Pacific House has recurring business relationships with state agencies and certain banks — and it has come to rely on Cathi, working with our other team members, to ensure consistent, professional help to Pacific House.

Pacific House has benefitted so many individuals who had lost all hope. The testimonials from its clients are heartwarming. When Pacific House houses the homeless, the community also benefits, as it saves money on health costs, hospital care, local police, prisons, support agencies — the list goes on and on. Pacific House helps people become contributing members of society, and in the process saves the public more than \$2 million each year.

Building for Good

Members of the ABA Forum on Construction Law founded Building for Good to help connect skilled construction lawyers involved in pro bono services with charities and nonprofits in need of legal services. Imagine local food pantries or homeless shelters that need a new roof, the expansion of nonprofit schools, facilities serving low-income students, or citizens with special needs. These organizations need the unique skills of construction lawyers, but they don't always have access or funds to hire them. The lawyers involved in Building for Good provide these services on a pro bono basis to these organizations.

Launched in 2019, Building for Good will pilot in four states: Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New Jersey. Carlton Fields' Construction Group is on the ground floor of the efforts in Florida.

News and Awards

Carlton Fields Receives Pro Bono Law Firm Award



Carlton Fields received the 2019 Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a Law Firm award from the Thirteenth Judicial Pro Bono Committee and the Volunteer Lawyers Program of Bay Area Legal Services. The award recognizes one law firm's exceptional pro bono service to the Tampa community. ■

Carlton Fields was the 2018 recipient of Legal Services of Greater Miami's Equal Justice Pro Bono Large Firm Award. The legal aid group honored the firm's Miami attorneys for their pro bono contributions, which included corporate and business advice for nonprofits and minority businesses, name changes for the transgender community, and probate matters for veterans. ■

Lawyers for Children America (LFCA), a nonprofit child advocacy organization, honored Carlton Fields' Miami office with the 2018 Pro Bono Law Firm Award. LFCA's pro bono lawyers serve as attorneys for dependent children and protect their legal rights, and also mentor teen clients in foster care. ■

Instilling the Spirit of Service

Tampa Shareholder Joseph Lang received the John R. Hamilton Pro Bono Award from the Appellate Practice Section of The Florida Bar for his significant pro bono efforts in appellate matters and beyond, including defending and protecting the due process rights of multiple death row inmates, advising and mentoring lawyers on pro bono appeals, and instilling the spirit of service in others. ■

Los Angeles Team Fights for Education Equality

Los Angeles Office Managing Shareholder **Mark Neubauer** and Legal Administrative Assistant **Maria Rodriguez** received the ACLU of Southern California's Education Equity Award for their work on *Cruz v. State of California*, a class action lawsuit challenging education inequity based on equal time. ■



Giving Back to Those Who Serve

New York Shareholder **Robert DiUbaldo** and Of Counsel **Nora Valenza-Frost** were recognized with the ABA Military Pro Bono Project Outstanding Services Award for their pro bono work. The annual award, presented by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel, is reserved for individual lawyers, law firms, and corporate law departments that have provided legal assistance to service members through the ABA's Military Pro Bono Project. ■

In 2020, the firm's Pro Bono Committee launched its "20 in 20" challenge for every firm attorney and paralegal to commit to 20 hours of pro bono service in 2020.



Pro Bono Challenge

Leading by Example

A member and leader of the ACLU of Georgia since 2008, Atlanta Shareholder **Gail Podolsky** was honored by the ACLU of Georgia as the recipient of the Volunteer

Georgia courtroom, and, on behalf of the ACLU, Gail helped secure a favorable settlement in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit demanding government documents regarding the implementation of the travel bans. ■



Leadership Award. Gail represented a Muslim woman who was forced to remove her hijab in a

Atlanta lawyers **Amanda Proctor, Steven Sidman, Yelena Chan, and Roben West** were recognized by Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation Saturday Lawyer Program for their pro bono work in providing low-income Atlantans with access to volunteer attorneys. ■

Tampa Lawyers Go Above and Beyond

In recognition of his exceptional pro bono service to the community, Tampa Shareholder **Jon Gatto** was selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a Lawyer award by the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and the Volunteer Lawyers Program of Bay Area Legal Services. ■

Tampa Shareholder **Robert Freedman** received the “Dedicated Service” Award from Project H.E.L.P (Homeless Experience Legal Protection) for

his role in serving low-income individuals in the community through marshaling needed resources, managing intake processes, and contributing legal counsel at the clinics. ■

Tampa Shareholder **Sylvia Walbolt** was named to the first class of the American College of Trial Lawyers’ Access to Justice Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows Program through which a select group of individuals partner with nonprofit organizations, courts, and other public service entities to increase access to justice for all. As an ATJ Fellow, Sylvia

will continue her work in representing post-conviction death row clients and mentor young lawyers in handling post-conviction appeals. ■

Emerging Leaders

Tallahassee Associate **Benjamin Stearns** was accepted by the Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association to participate in Class 6 of Thunderdome Tallahassee. Thunderdome Tallahassee addresses the gaping need each year for equal access to family law for low-income

families in Leon County, while supporting diverse volunteer lawyers with the best in legal education and leadership development. ■

Los Angeles Senior Counsel **Justin Wales** was recognized by the *Daily Business Review* as the recipient of the On the Rise Award. This award recognizes lawyers under 40 years old for outstanding work, including pro bono and community involvement early in their careers. ■



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Carlton Fields practices law in California through Carlton Fields, LLP.

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