



Perkins Coie and Microsoft Receive Pro Bono Award

Perkins Coie and Microsoft recognized for their partnership with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project to provide immigration legal aid clinics for juveniles

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 30, 2016] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented **Perkins Coie LLP** and **Microsoft** with its 2016 Pro Bono Award. The joint award is in recognition of the work of both companies in providing volunteer legal assistance to immigrant youth in the community. WSBA President **Bill Hyslop** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 29, 2016, at the Sheraton Seattle.

In 2012, President Obama announced a new immigration policy called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which provides temporary protection from deportation to children and youth who came to the United States at a young age. Within a few months, in the fall of 2012, Perkins Coie and the legal department of Microsoft began a partnership with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) to administer legal clinics to help address the needs of DACA-eligible youth.

Perkins Coie and Microsoft offer the legal staff and office space to run the clinics, while NWIRP provides the referrals and technical assistance for pro bono attorneys. Thousands of community members have participated in the legal clinics and received protection from deportation. A recent study of those granted DACA status showed that after one year in the program, applicants saw their average earnings rise by 45%.

Both companies have previously demonstrated their commitment to pro bono in other ways. In the area of immigration, Perkins Coie regularly takes on representation of individual cases involving asylum, special immigration juvenile status, visas for victims of crime, and immigration appeals. Attorneys from Perkins Coie also partnered with NWIRP and ACLU of Washington in *Sanchez v. U.S. Border Patrol*, an impact litigation case that challenged unlawful stops by Border Patrol agents in the Olympic Peninsula. Microsoft also has a long history of supporting individuals in need of legal assistance in immigration matters. Microsoft was responsible for the launch of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), co-founded with Angelina Jolie, a nonprofit organization which helps pro bono attorney partners at law firms, corporations, and law schools nationwide represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their deportation proceedings. Both Perkins Coie and Microsoft are also active in a variety of other pro bono matters outside of the area of immigration.

“We are very proud of this partnership, and of the work our attorneys, staff and partners have done over the past several years to help immigrant youth in our community,” said **Leah Medway**, Perkins Coie’s firmwide pro bono counsel and a clinic participant. “We recently served our 1,000th client through the clinics and are excited to continue these efforts to give local youth a brighter future.”

“Pro bono work is so important to help close the immense gap between the demand for legal services and the available supply, particularly for the communities that most need it,” said **David Heiner**, vice president and executive sponsor of the Pro Bono Steering Committee at Microsoft. “Through our work, we’ve become a better legal department while helping hundreds of immigrants, children, veterans, women and others in need access justice. We thank the Washington State Bar Association for this recognition.”

###

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by the Washington Supreme Court to license the state's 37,789 lawyers and over 1,000 other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. The WSBA's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

Contact: Debra Carnes, WSBA Chief Communications Officer
206-733-5930, 206-669-6559(c); debrac@wsba.org