Lowenstein Sandler

Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest

2017

Pro Bono Report

Our Mission

From its founding, Lowenstein Sandler has been committed to advancing the public interest and serving communities in need. The Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest embodies this commitment, directing the firm's strong pro bono program and other forms of civic and philanthropic engagement. Through these efforts, the Center addresses significant social problems and offers meaningful assistance to low-income and other vulnerable persons along with the organizations that advocate for and support them. This work engages the full range of the firm's talents and capacities and reflects the core values that imbue all of the firm's efforts: to perform work of the highest quality in a manner that maximizes results for our clients and causes.

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THE RULE OF LAW

Pro bono work not only saves lives, it upholds and reinforces the rule of law. When John Adams defined a republic as a "government of laws, not of men," he was talking about the rule of law – the idea that all of us, including our leaders, are subject to the law, especially to the fundamental principles expressed in the federal and state constitutions. 2017 was a proud year for the rule of law, with lawyers at Lowenstein Sandler and around the country rushing to defend the rights of the most vulnerable and to protect freedom, equality, and fairness for all of us.

When refugees were stranded and detained during the chaos of the first travel ban, lawyers showed up at the airports in overwhelming numbers to assist. Within days, the courts had enjoined enforcement of the ban. Lowenstein was part of the volunteer effort, and the desire to help did not dissipate when the news cycle ended. The firm stepped up its ongoing representation of immigrant children and asylum seekers and devoted significant resources to educating immigrants, and the nonprofits that serve them, about their rights during encounters with immigration enforcement.

The firm turned its attention to other civil rights issues as well. We participated in two of the many critical appeals in the United States Supreme Court in the 2017 term. On behalf of a wide range of organizations that engage in state legislative advocacy, we urged the Court to invalidate Wisconsin's extreme partisan gerrymander, which effectively entrenches the majority party in power and shuts out the minority party and its supporters. In another case, we argued on behalf of a small group of eminent constitutional scholars that the Court must uphold the basic premise of the public accommodation laws – that a business that sells goods and services to the general public may not refuse to serve customers on the basis of a protected characteristic, in this case sexual orientation. The briefs we wrote in both cases advocate for equal treatment, for voters on the one hand and same-sex couples on the other.

Perhaps nowhere is the struggle to protect human rights more fraught than in the criminal justice system. There, too, the firm redoubled its commitment to fight abusive practices such as prolonged solitary confinement and assaults on inmates by guards.

In all our efforts to enforce the rule of law, to ensure that the principles we espouse have meaning in the lives of real people, we depend on our legal services and public interest partners to screen cases, strategize with us, and train and mentor our volunteers. In everything, we depend on the firm's generous clients, who make the pro bono practice possible. Thank you.

Warmly,

Catherine Weiss
Chair, Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest
Lowenstein Sandler

Pro Bono by the Numbers

19,318 hours

dedicated to pro bono work by Lowenstein in 2017

418 pro bono clients

served by Lowenstein lawyers in 2017

64 hours on average

dedicated to pro bono work by each firm lawyer in 2017

398,871 hours

dedicated to pro bono work by the firm over the past 21 years

Immigration

Immigrants in the United States live in increasing fear. They are afraid not only of immigration enforcement, including detention and deportation, but also of the hostility directed at them as the stories we tell about immigrants shift toward portraying them as criminals. Immigrant children who cross our borders without a parent or guardian are cast as members of the deadly gangs they are often in fact fleeing. The adults who step forward to assume care and custody of these children are tarred with unsustainable charges of smuggling them into the country. In this season of fear, Lowenstein is standing with immigrants. The firm has increased its representation of individual immigrants and equipped advocates, social service agencies, and immigrants themselves to face enhanced enforcement.

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In fiscal year 2017, ICE arrests totaled more than 143,000; of those, 110,568 occurred after Jan. 20, a 42% increase over the same time period in 2016.

Department of Homeland Security, *ICE Impact in FY 2017*

The number of deportation orders issued between Feb. 1 and Nov. 30, 2017, was 30% higher than in the same period in 2016.

Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Dec. 6, 2017

As of December 2017, there were more than **667,000** cases pending in the nation's immigration courts, including tens of thousands in the areas where the firm has offices:

NYC	SF	Arlington (where D.C. cases are heard)	NJ
87,790	49,998	38,994	36,194

TRAC, Immigration Backlog Tool

Photo courtesy of Natalie Kraner

Firm volunteers and others during shifts at airports to assist those affected by the travel ban

January 2017

Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Working with **Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)**, we've won asylum for several children and teenagers, including:

- Two teenage boys from El Salvador who fled persecution by local gangs who perceived them as gay and therefore attacked one with stones, broke his arm, and threw him down a concrete staircase, and beat the other with a baseball bat and attempted to sodomize him.
- Two young brothers (below) who fled El Salvador to escape their uncle and aunt who had starved them, tied their hands behind their backs and made them kneel on stones while being beaten, and subjected them to verbal humiliation and emotional abuse.
- A 13-year-old girl who had been held captive by a gang leader in Honduras for a year while her older sister (also an ongoing client) served as his sexual and domestic slave.

Photo courtesy of Edoardo Murillo

The White House has called for the rollback of protections for immigrant children, including:

- Proposing legislation to supersede a court settlement that currently prevents prolonged detention of immigrant children;
- Denying immigration relief to children who were victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment by one parent (as opposed to both parents), even when that would mean deporting the child to the care of the unfit or absent parent;
- Overruling a provision that allows children's asylum cases to be heard initially in the nonadversarial Asylum Office and sending them instead directly to court.

President Donald J. Trump, Immigration Principles and Policies, Oct. 8, 2017

Despite stepped-up enforcement, unaccompanied children continue to cross the southern border. From Oct. 1, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2017, 41,435 children were arrested after crossing the southern border without a parent or guardian.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Apprehensions by Sector FY 2017*

Immigrant Parents

In the current environment, immigrant families need assistance with preparing for emergencies, in particular planning for child care in the event that parents are picked up, detained, or deported. The firm's Trusts & Estates Group worked with the **Child Advocacy Clinic at Rutgers Law School** to create a Power of Attorney through which immigrant parents in New Jersey can designate alternative caregivers for their children. Firm lawyers then worked with the parents and guardians of minor clients to complete the Power of Attorney. In addition, the template document and explanatory FAQs were circulated widely among immigration advocates, who held workshops for immigrant parents throughout the region.

The firm helped create a Power of Attorney through which immigrant parents can designate alternative caregivers for their children.

The firm also provided all immigrant clients and their families general advice on responding to immigration enforcement. We handed out palm cards for our clients to carry at all times with our contact information on one side and, on the other, basic instructions on asserting their rights to privacy and to remain silent.

Adult Immigrants

In collaboration with **Human Rights First**, the **American Friends Service Committee**, and **The Bronx Defenders**, the firm has also won critical relief for adults, including:

- A man who fled Nigeria after converting to Christianity and declining to succeed his uncle as chief of his village. Because his community believed that he had cast a curse on the village by refusing to become chief, the men of the village beat him and threatened to kill him with machetes. Past transgressions of this sort had been punished by burying the offender alive and using his blood to purify the land. The firm won an appeal for this man, resulting in a grant of asylum and his release from more than a year in detention.
- A man who was raised in an orphanage in Vietnam, having been born to a Vietnamese woman who conceived him with an American soldier. He came to the U.S. as young man. The government first tried to deport him several years later, but Vietnam would not agree to take him back. Unable to effectuate the deportation, the government eventually released him. In the following years, he found a job, married, and had children. When he learned that the nun who had raised him was dying, he returned to Vietnam with his wife and children to see her. On reentering the United States, he was detained by immigration officials, who again made futile attempts to deport him, but Vietnam continued to refuse to accept him. He languished in immigration detention for 17 months before the government released him based on a petition for habeas corpus the firm filed on his behalf. He has been reunited with his wife and children, although the family was evicted during his detention and is now struggling to find a home.

Between Jan. 20 and Sept. 30, 2017, ICE detentions based on arrests in the interior of the country increased 42% over the same period in 2016.

Fiscal Year 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report, p. 10

"Amahl," near his home

A Case Study

When he was 14, our client "Amahl" was brought to the United States from a refugee camp in Sierra Leone to speak at an international conference about his experience as a child soldier. Although he had no family or friends in the United States, he decided to stay rather than return to the country where he had witnessed the murder of his parents and siblings and then endured torture and deprivation while living under the control of the insurgents who abducted him at age five. Somehow, he made a connection with Human Rights First, which contacted Lowenstein to represent him. The firm secured a green card for Amahl in 2010, when he was 17.

Amahl stayed in touch with his legal team during the following years. He settled in with his adoptive family, finished high school, and attended college, graduating with a degree in international relations. All the while, he continued his work with various international organizations to promote peace and education in the developing world.

Amahl waited the required five years before filing a naturalization petition in 2015. After experiencing delays in the adjudication of his petition and enduring two hostile interviews, he approached the firm to represent him again. In July 2017, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) denied the petition and concluded that Amahl's green card had been improperly issued back in 2010 because he had engaged in "terrorist activity" as a child soldier between the ages of five and nine. "USCIS recognizes," the decision reads, "that you engaged in terrorist activity with the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] under duress, and that you believed you would have been killed if you did not follow orders." Nevertheless, the government refused to waive the "terrorism bar" to Amahl's naturalization.

Together with the legal department at **Merck**, the firm is appealing this decision.

Naturalization

Working with **OneJustice** and the **Santa Cruz County Immigration Project**, firm lawyers traveled to an underserved community in California's Salinas Valley to assist immigrants with naturalization petitions. The demand for this service has shot up in recent months as immigrants seek to protect themselves by becoming citizens. In response, the firm is launching naturalization clinics in the New York office in conjunction with **Legal Services NYC**.

Firm volunteers assisting immigrants with naturalization petitions

Social Service Agencies, Congregations, and Other Nonprofits Assisting Immigrants

In addition to assisting immigrants and their families directly, the firm received a flood of questions from its nonprofit pro bono clients about how best to advise and protect the immigrants they serve. In response, the firm created an Advisory to Nonprofit Organizations and Social Service Providers Regarding Immigration Enforcement. This advisory offers guidance on many issues, including how to distinguish a judicial search warrant, which authorizes agents to enter otherwise private spaces such as back offices or residences, from the kind of administrative warrant ICE officers generally carry, which does not authorize entry into private areas. The advisory also outlines special protections for certain kinds of facilities, including places of worship, schools, hospitals, and domestic violence shelters, among others. The advisory appends a protocol for organizations to implement to ensure staff are prepared for encounters with immigration and a reporting form to memorialize such encounters.

The firm shared the advisory with its own nonprofit clients and with our partner organizations, such as the **Pro Bono Partnership**, that exist to support nonprofits. In response to the advisory, a local congregation contacted the firm seeking ongoing legal advice as it becomes a sanctuary congregation that provides housing and support to an immigrant family. That representation is ongoing.

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Civil & Human Rights

Fair Elections

The firm is participating in two of the most consequential cases of the 2017 Supreme Court term. The first, *Gill v. Whitford*, involves a constitutional challenge to extreme partisan gerrymandering. The undisputed facts show that, after Republicans in Wisconsin won the governor's race and a majority of seats in both state legislative houses in 2010, the legislature hired experts to craft a redistricting plan that would entrench the party in power. The state's own expert testified that "under any likely electoral scenario, the Republicans would maintain a legislative majority." And this has proved to be the case: In 2012, the statewide Republican vote share was 49%, but Republicans won 61% of all Assembly seats; in 2014, the Republican vote share was 52%, and Republicans took 64% of the seats.

The trial court invalidated Wisconsin's redistricting plan on the ground that it was intended to dilute the votes of citizens based on their political affiliation, that it accomplished this end, and that it was not justified by other, legitimate legislative goals. The Wisconsin Elections Commission appealed to the Supreme Court.

The firm filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court on behalf of a wide range of organizations that seek to achieve public policy goals through legislative action and are therefore invested in fair elections. The brief argued that severe partisan gerrymandering contravenes the fundamental American democratic value that politicians should represent their constituents and remain accountable to them. Quoting Ronald Reagan's objections to Democratic gerrymandering in California in the 1980s, the brief remarked that "state legislatures have so rigged the electoral process that the will of the people cannot be heard." In essence, the

This is a critical moment for the Court to act. As the brief emphasizes, the political process cannot fix extreme gerrymanders, because gerrymandering rigs politics.

brief argues that voters should choose their representatives, and not the other way around.

This is a critical moment for the Court to act. As the brief emphasizes, the political process cannot fix extreme gerrymanders, because gerrymandering rigs politics. Only the Court can step in to decide whether the party holding a majority in any given state is allowed to draw maps to keep itself in power over as many election cycles as possible. If the Court allows this to continue, the gerrymandering that will follow the 2020 Census will be the most sophisticated yet, and democracy will be the victim.

The Supreme Court heard arguments on October 3, 2017, and a decision is expected by June 2018.

Election Protection

As in past years, the firm ran the "command center" for Election Protection during the 2017 governor's race in New Jersey. Volunteers worked with election officials to address problems raised by voters or field observers. For example, the firm prompted officials to:

- replace nonworking voting machines,
- disperse people intimidating voters,
- put a stop to electioneering around polling places,
- post signs directing voters using wheelchairs to accessible entrances, and
- provide Spanish-language ballot materials.

Our longstanding relationships with state and county officials helped streamline this process.

Equal Treatment for Same-Sex Couples

The firm also filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. In that case, the owner of a storefront bakery objected to making wedding cakes for same-sex couples. Claiming a First Amendment exemption from a state law that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation, the baker argued that his custom wedding cakes are a form of art, which the state cannot compel him to create, and asserted his belief that same-sex marriages are sacrilegious.

While conflict between sincerely held beliefs and the requirements of the law is always troubling, in this case the issue is whether the public accommodation laws will continue to protect against denials of dignity and equal treatment in the public marketplace. On behalf of the nation's leading scholars on the public accommodation laws, the firm's amicus brief argues that the Court has

Outside the U.S. Supreme Court during oral argument in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*

consistently rejected, and should continue to reject, arguments that businesses open to the general public have a constitutional right to provide less than the full and equal services required by such laws. Thus, a bakery that invites the public to come in and order a wedding cake should not be allowed to deny this service to a couple because they are gay.

The Court heard arguments on December 5, 2017. Several Justices focused on the problem of how to set boundaries. If the baker is entitled to an exemption, why not the hairdresser, makeup artist, jeweler, florist, chef, and dressmaker? Are they not also expressing themselves through the goods and services they sell? If the Constitution requires an exemption for those who object to same-sex marriage, what about for those who sincerely object to interfaith, interracial, or remarriage, or to other kinds of events or ceremonies? These questions reflect deep concerns about punching holes in the antidiscrimination laws. On the other hand, several Justices expressed dismay over what they viewed as hostility to religion and the absence in the Colorado Antidiscrimination Act of accommodations for those with sincere religious objections.

What the arguments underemphasized is the context in which this case arises. The owner of the bakery did not come before the Court as an individual seeking to express himself through his art or his worship. He appeared instead as the proprietor of a business selling to the general public. As our public accommodations brief emphasized, it is in this role that he should be subject to the antidiscrimination laws, as it is well within a state's power to rid the public marketplace of discrimination against traditionally targeted groups, even when the refusal to serve is motivated by religious belief.

Equal Treatment for LGBTQ Community Center

QSpot operates a community center that fosters the health, well-being, and pride of the local LGBTQ community. The center provides vital services including education, advocacy, and support for LGBTQ youth and seniors, 12-step recovery programs, a job resource center, and individual and group mental health counseling. It also offers extensive arts and education programming and organizes QFest, New Jersey's only LGBTQ film festival.

In mid-2016, QSpot's landlord decided not to renew the center's lease, even though QSpot had always paid its monthly rent and had taken good care of, and in fact improved, the premises it was leasing. The decision to evict QSpot appeared to be motivated by bias toward the LGBTQ community.

QSpot retained the firm to file a lawsuit against the landlord for violating New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination, which protects tenants against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition to filing the lawsuit, the firm made an emergent application to the court to prevent QSpot's imminent eviction. We succeeded in convincing the court to allow QSpot to remain in its current location for the duration of its discrimination lawsuit. The landlord also tried to prevent QSpot from hosting QFest 2017, but we obtained a court order permitting the film festival to proceed as planned.

In the wake of these orders, QSpot intends to maintain the center and continue serving the LGBTQ community in a warm and inclusive environment.

Police Accountability

Like other prominent organizations, the **National Urban League** is looking at how best to prevent police misconduct and violence in communities of color. To support this effort, the firm undertook research on how and when police forces and the cities where they work may be liable under state and local law for unjustified shootings and other misconduct by officers. Victims of police misconduct generally pursue civil rights cases under federal law. As federal remedies erode and federal courts show increasing hostility toward civil rights litigation, however, it becomes important to understand alternative bases for liability.

For more information on the Urban League's work on police accountability, click the image

Contraceptive Coverage

The **National Women's Law Center** filed a lawsuit in October 2017 challenging new regulations that would allow any business (whether publicly traded or privately held), nonprofit, university, or other nongovernmental employer to opt out of covering contraception for employees or students based on the employer's or university's religious or moral objection. For several months before the suit was filed, Lowenstein researched and analyzed how the anticipated regulations would violate federal statutes, including the Administrative Procedure Act and the Affordable Care Act. The firm focused on these complex statutory arguments because the courts will look first at whether the regulations conflict with federal law before considering any constitutional claims. The firm thus helped prepare the National Women's Law Center to challenge regulations that give employers control over whether their female employees have health insurance for contraception or must pay for it themselves, reintroducing significant disparities in health costs between men and women.

The firm helped prepare the National Women's Law Center to challenge regulations that give employers control over whether their female employees have health insurance for contraception.

Criminal Justice

Release from Solitary Confinement

More than 13 years – or 4,762 days, which is how "Tobias" measured the time. That is how long Tobias spent in extreme isolation before Lowenstein, which was appointed by a federal court to represent him in a civil rights lawsuit, succeeded in getting him released to the general population.

Tobias entered the state prison system at 18 years old and, within hours, he was placed in permanent Involuntary Protective Custody (IPC) – more commonly known as solitary confinement. Being in IPC meant that Tobias was completely isolated from the general population and other inmates. He spent almost every second of every day alone in his cell. He ate every meal alone, and he could not see or interact with other inmates from his cell. Tobias recalled, "The cell was so small that when I turned over in my bed, my face was right next to the toilet. I could touch both walls if I stood in the middle and stretched out my arms."

At first, Tobias was only allowed to leave his cell once or twice a month for "recreation" time. Because he was not allowed to be with other inmates in the yard, the guards took him to a small outdoor space with brick walls that surrounded a bench and a broken punching bag. Eventually, weather permitting, Tobias was allowed 90 minutes of outdoor recreation three times per week. But, even then, he was alone in an 8-by-12-foot cage. This was the only time he saw other inmates, as they were placed in neighboring cages in a kennel-like manner. Although Tobias was desperate to leave his cell and go outside, each trip involved the humiliating experience of being handcuffed and strip-searched.

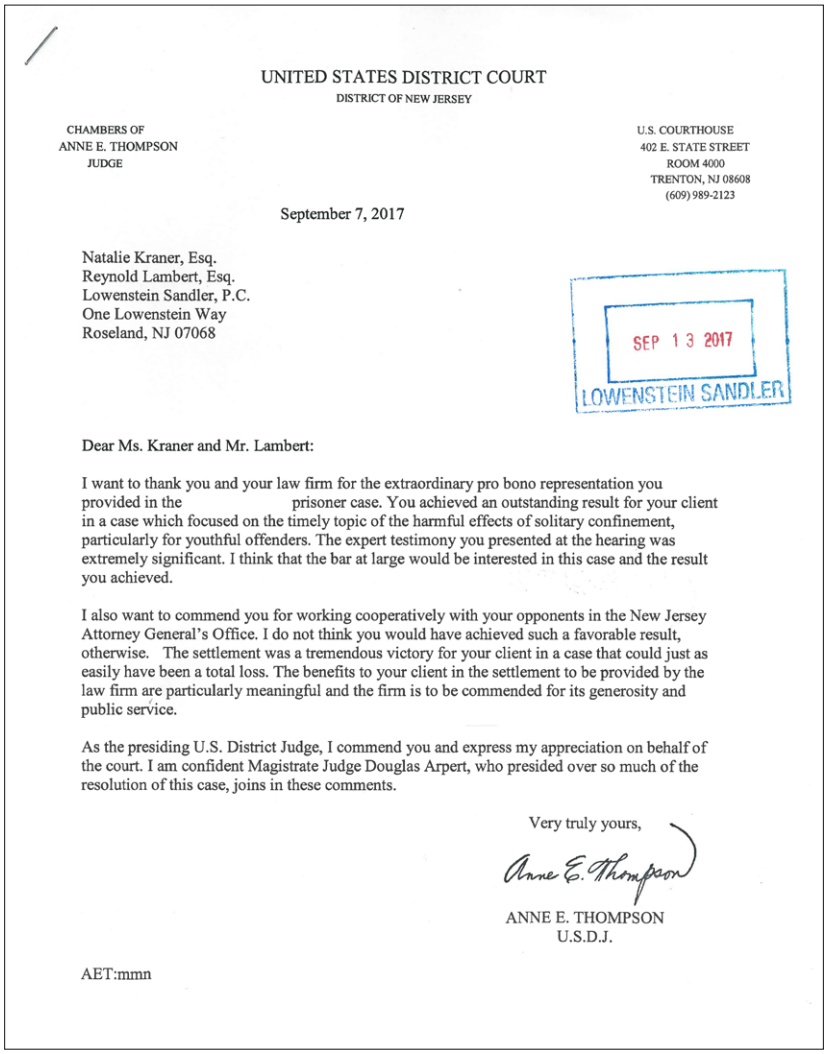
Because of his IPC status, Tobias was deprived of critical services that would prepare him for reentry to society upon the completion of his sentence. He could not participate in rehabilitative programming, such as anger management or substance abuse counseling, which occurred in group settings. When mental health counselors came to his unit, they interacted with him through a tiny window in the door to his cell and within earshot of the guards. He was uncomfortable talking about his depression and anxiety in this setting. Tobias wanted to get his GED, but the educational services consisted of packets deposited in his cell for him to teach himself. Tobias suffers from a learning disability and cannot learn this way. Tobias was also ineligible to participate in job-training programming available to inmates in the general population, such as barbering, graphic arts, or electronics.

When he was first placed in IPC in 2004, Tobias did not know what IPC meant or understand what was happening to him.

The Department of Corrections ("DOC") violated its own regulations when it failed to provide Tobias with notice and a hearing before placing him in IPC. He was in protective custody for more than four months before a prison official told him he was there because the DOC had received information that a well-known gang had placed a "hit" on him following an altercation he had had with one of the gang's leaders. Tobias tried to explain that they were wrong. He begged prison officials to investigate because he knew that the facts that led them to believe he was a target were not accurate. Despite reason for doubt and without ever independently verifying the claim that Tobias's life was in danger, prison officials decided that he would remain in solitary confinement for the entirety of his prison term. For four consecutive years following this dubious decision, the DOC failed to give Tobias the annual protective custody hearing to which he was entitled.

The Due Process Clause and prison regulations require the existence of a current threat to justify an inmate's continued placement in IPC. Despite conducting what the DOC claimed to be highly sophisticated annual investigations, none of the investigators encountered any information to corroborate that a hit was placed on Tobias in 2004 or that his life remained in danger many years later. When at last the annual hearings began, they were hollow formalities in which the DOC rubber-stamped its own 2004 decision to keep Tobias in solitary confinement. Tobias explained, "I feel like I have spent the last 13 years trying to be heard, but no one will listen or take me seriously. No one in the DOC will actually look into the facts of my case. Every time I question the source of their information during a hearing or classification review, the administration shuts me down or tells me that my time is up. And no one will answer my questions."

Tobias kept appealing his IPC status within the prison system, to no avail.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF
ANNE E. THOMPSON
JUDGE

U.S. COURTHOUSE
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September 7, 2017

Natalie Kraner, Esq.
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SEP 13 2017
LOWENSTEIN SANDLER

Dear Ms. Kraner and Mr. Lambert:

I want to thank you and your law firm for the extraordinary pro bono representation you provided in the prisoner case. You achieved an outstanding result for your client in a case which focused on the timely topic of the harmful effects of solitary confinement, particularly for youthful offenders. The expert testimony you presented at the hearing was extremely significant. I think that the bar at large would be interested in this case and the result you achieved.

I also want to commend you for working cooperatively with your opponents in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. I do not think you would have achieved such a favorable result, otherwise. The settlement was a tremendous victory for your client in a case that could just as easily have been a total loss. The benefits to your client in the settlement to be provided by the law firm are particularly meaningful and the firm is to be commended for its generosity and public service.

As the presiding U.S. District Judge, I commend you and express my appreciation on behalf of the court. I am confident Magistrate Judge Douglas Arpert, who presided over so much of the resolution of this case, joins in these comments.

Very truly yours,

Anne E. Thompson

ANNE E. THOMPSON
U.S.D.J.

AET:mmn

Letter of thanks from the federal district court to the team that represented "Tobias"

In 2013, after spending nine years in solitary confinement, he filed a *pro se* complaint in federal court bringing civil rights claims against the prison, but he had difficulty pursuing his claims without access to a lawyer or a law library. In the fall of 2016, the court appointed the firm to represent him.

Through discovery, the firm learned that Tobias's story was not unique. He was one of 186 inmates in protective custody at the time who collectively had spent more than 283,000 days in extreme isolation. Prison administrators knew that many of these inmates remained in protective custody based on stale and incomplete information. But Tobias had suffered more than most, as only a handful of inmates were in IPC for as long as Tobias.

Upon meeting Tobias, the litigation team quickly realized that he was suffering serious and irreparable harm. Tobias explained:

"I am angry and sad, but I have no one to help me work through my problems or talk to, or any outlet to distract me. Sometimes I feel so down that I cannot get out of bed in the morning, and at other times I am so anxious that I cannot sleep at night. There is nothing for me to

look forward to during my days, except the possibility of getting out of my cell to shower for 10 minutes. With no school and no programming, I feel like I am just here rotting away."

The firm proceeded with expedited discovery and filed a motion for a preliminary injunction that sought his immediate release to the general population. We argued that the DOC had no grounds to keep Tobias in IPC because its concerns about a threat to his life were based on unsubstantiated and stale information from 2004. We argued further that Tobias's permanent placement in IPC violated the Constitution's Due Process Clause because he had no meaningful opportunity to challenge his placement, and that such prolonged isolation, regardless of the reason, violated the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

The court agreed. At an evidentiary hearing, Tobias bravely testified in person while shaking as he coped for the first time in more than a decade with being out in the world beyond his cell. Moved by his testimony and persuaded by the evidence, the court ordered the prison to release him to the general population. At the time, Tobias had eight months left in his prison sentence.

The case ultimately settled. In addition to Tobias's release to the general population, the firm ensured that he had access to all services available to inmates in the general population, including individual counseling sessions with a mental health provider and reentry programming. Tobias also received a substantial monetary award.

"Tobias" with his family on the day of his release from prison

Nationwide Reduction in Juvenile Solitary Confinement

Lowenstein's commitment to reducing the use of solitary confinement has supported reform efforts throughout the country. The firm prepared a nationwide survey on the laws and policies governing solitary confinement in juvenile correctional facilities. The survey was created to distill best practices in support of reform efforts in New Jersey, which were ultimately successful. We quickly realized that this was a critical resource for advocates nationwide and have periodically updated and expanded the scope of the survey to address emerging practices.

In 2017, the **National Center for Juvenile Justice**, which is the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, collaborated with the firm to create an interactive map from the survey's findings. The data were incorporated into its Juvenile Justice GPS, "an online repository providing visitors with a sweeping view of the juvenile justice landscape across states and a place to make comparisons and chart change."

In 2017, the survey also became the subject of extensive expert testimony in *J.J. v. Litscher*, a class action civil rights lawsuit challenging the use of solitary confinement in two juvenile facilities in Wisconsin. It featured prominently in the federal court's decision ordering Wisconsin to reduce significantly its use of solitary confinement, pepper spray, shackling, and other unconstitutional practices that harmed the youth in its custody. The court relied on Lowenstein's report to conclude that "Wisconsin is an extreme outlier in terms of its policy

because it allows sentences to solitary confinement for up to 60 days . . . and regularly sentences youths to terms in excess of the limits of every state." As "confirmed by the Lowenstein study… that's well beyond the national norms even for states that permit the use of punitive solitary confinement." Following the court's order, Wisconsin announced that it would close the two youth prisons at issue.

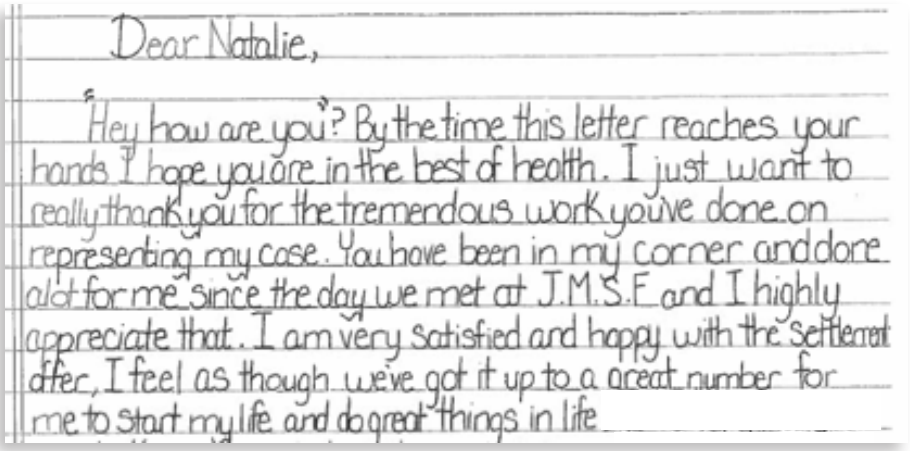
The survey's findings and our recommendation to "prohibit punitive solitary confinement" were also highlighted in a report to the House of Delegates prepared by the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section Commission on Youth at Risk, which urged legislative bodies and governmental agencies to "adopt laws and policies prohibiting the use of solitary confinement of juveniles."

Protection from Abuse

In 2017, Lowenstein successfully resolved civil rights claims brought on behalf of two inmates who experienced brutality at the hands of the prison guards who were supposed to keep them safe.

"Excessive use of force in prisons we believe has reached crisis proportions in New York State."

Former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara



Dear Natalie,

Hey how are you? By the time this letter reaches your hands I hope you are in the best of health. I just want to really thank you for the tremendous work you've done on representing my case. You have been in my corner and done alot for me since the day we met at J.M.S.F and I highly appreciate that. I am very satisfied and happy with the settlement offer, I feel as though we've got it up to a great number for me to start my life and do great things in life

Excerpt from a thank-you note "Michael" wrote to one of his lawyers

- During a routine facilitywide search, prison guards frisked "Shawn," and a handheld scanner indicated a problem. Instead of taking Shawn to a body-scanning chair, three corrections officers handcuffed him, isolated him in an interview room where there were no cameras, and assaulted him. Shawn suffered contusions to his face, head, back, shoulders, and chest. Lowenstein was appointed as pro bono counsel in a civil rights action Shawn had filed in the Northern District of New York. The firm won a monetary settlement, allowing Shawn to move on from the traumatic experience.
- The firm has for a number of years represented "Michael," a teenager incarcerated in a juvenile prison who suffered serious injuries when he was assaulted by multiple corrections officers because he supposedly refused to obey their orders. Michael had been observing an escalating exchange between another inmate and a corrections officer and had not heard any orders directed to him. Other officers arrived on the scene, and Michael tried to tell them that he was not resisting, but they punched and kicked him and then knocked him to the floor, where they placed him in handcuffs and leg irons. They then lifted Michael to his feet and slammed him face-first onto the concrete floor. The officers continued to hit Michael while he was being transported to an on-site medical facility for treatment.

  Among other things, Michael suffered a fractured eye socket and a damaged retina that caused him significant daily pain and required two surgeries to repair. The firm ensured that Michael received proper medical attention and also helped remove barriers to his placement in a residential community home, which, in turn, facilitated his early release on parole. The firm recently settled the case and obtained a substantial monetary settlement for Michael that will allow him to pursue his dreams of becoming a chef.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Litigation Support

On behalf of the **ACLU-NJ**, the firm submitted an amicus brief challenging certain aspects of the juvenile sentencing scheme. The brief argues that young people should not be placed in halfway houses (which are used for adults on parole) after serving their full prison term. They should instead be released to the community, as required by law, so that they can reenter society with the support of their families. We also challenged the mandatory post-incarceration supervision period currently imposed regardless of a youth's individual needs or the offense that was committed. We argued that prolonged mandatory supervision deprives youths of individualized sentencing determinations and exposes them to unnecessary and onerous restrictions even after they have completed their prison sentences.

Closure of Youth Prisons

The firm continues to support a decarceration campaign, led by the **New Jersey Institute for Social Justice** on behalf of the **Youth Justice New Jersey** (YJNJ) coalition. The decarceration campaign calls for the closure of youth prisons and their replacement with small, rehabilitative, community-based facilities that incorporate trauma-informed care. The campaign officially launched in 2017. A mere six months later, the state announced a plan to close two youth prisons. The firm will continue to work with YJNJ and state officials to achieve a safe, effective, rehabilitative juvenile justice system.

"With the closure of a Civil War-era youth prison, the construction of state-of-the-art rehabilitation centers, and cost savings that can be repurposed for education and reentry of juvenile offenders, there is no question we will have better outcomes."

Former New Jersey Attorney General and current Chair of the Litigation Department at Lowenstein, Chris Porrino

Criminal Record Clearance

A criminal record has serious collateral consequences that can hold individuals back long after they have served their sentence, paid a fine, or completed probation. For example, having a criminal history makes it difficult to find a job, gain admittance to school, or access governmental benefits such as public housing. A criminal conviction also creates barriers to acquiring or keeping lawful immigration status. Having a criminal record therefore routinely leads to low wages, unemployment, homelessness, and family separation, among other things.

To address these issues, California enacted laws that allow the court to vacate and set aside certain convictions and infractions in order to reduce the impact a criminal conviction has on a person's life.

Since May 2017, Lowenstein has partnered with **Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto** (CLSEPA) in its Criminal Record Clearance Program. We participate in CLSEPA's monthly clinics to assist eligible clients in preparing petitions to clear their records and dismiss minor convictions.

Hosting CLSEPA's December 2017 clinic at the firm

Criminal Appeals

Lowenstein has a longstanding relationship with the **New Jersey Office of the Public Defender**, through which the firm represents indigent defendants in appealing their criminal convictions. We are currently representing an individual who was convicted and sentenced to 24 years in prison based on a single eyewitness's questionable identification. In the appeal, we have argued that the evidence is insufficient to support the conviction and that procedural irregularities invalidate one of the verdicts. We await a decision.

Arraignments

Through **The Bronx Defenders** Arraignment Program, Lowenstein attorneys represent individuals in Bronx Criminal Court who have received a desk appearance ticket (DAT). DATs are given to individuals charged with low-level misdemeanors and violations, such as jumping a subway turnstile or possession of small amounts of marijuana. During a DAT shift, our attorneys interview the clients, try to reach a resolution with the prosecutor, and arraign cases in court. One Lowenstein volunteer described her experience:

"My shift in the Bronx Criminal Court was fast-paced and exciting. I enjoyed spending this time in court, which provided me a valuable, informed understanding of how this aspect of our criminal justice system operates, as well as a new appreciation for the difficulties that the accused and their advocates regularly confront in navigating this system."

Housing

Community Revitalization

HANDS (Housing and Neighborhood Development Services Inc.) is a charitable organization dedicated to community revitalization through strategic real estate investment and community development. It works to foster arts, culture, business, recreation, innovation, creativity, and learning in target neighborhoods, while minimizing displacement of low- and moderate-income families and small businesses.

In early 2017, the firm represented HANDS in a complex transaction that involved the refinancing of seven properties. The deal included many moving pieces. The firm negotiated loan documents with each lending entity, navigated complex subordination and intercreditor issues, and guided the client through detailed diligence on all seven properties. With new financing in place, HANDS will be able to continue its important work fostering equitable and inclusive neighborhoods.

One of the properties that the firm helped HANDS refinance

Photo courtesy of HANDS

Affordable Housing

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing by constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes; advocating for fair and just housing policies; and making training and resources available to help low-income individuals and families. Through these initiatives, Habitat for Humanity has helped millions of people nationwide improve their living conditions since its founding in 1976.

In 2017, **Habitat for Humanity in Monmouth County** (HFHMC) turned to the firm for help with a complex loan transaction. HFHMC provides zero-interest mortgages to first-time homebuyers of Habitat's affordable homes. The firm represented HFHMC in connection with the sale of a substantial portion of its mortgage portfolio to a third-party lender. The transaction required the firm to form an HFHMC wholly-owned subsidiary, which purchased and pooled the mortgages, converted them into a single promissory note, and sold the note to the third-party lender. This transaction will provide HFHMC with additional capital to further its mission to create affordable housing.

"We at HFHMC cannot thank you enough for your representation . . . . To say that you made what to us was a complicated undertaking manageable is an understatement. We truly appreciate your efforts on our behalf."

Diane Kinnane, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity in Monmouth County

Eviction Defense

The firm maintains an active tenancy practice, assisting 73 tenants in 2017 to fend off eviction and assert their rights to safe and decent living conditions. More than 90% of tenants are unrepresented when they go to housing court, and thousands are unjustly evicted as a result. Our results show the difference it makes when a tenant has legal representation: 54 of the 73 tenants we represented had their eviction actions dismissed altogether, or settled on terms that allowed them to remain in their homes or gave them more time to leave and more money to make a move. In addition, 12 raised claims that prompted urgent repairs as well as the restoration of heat and hot water. Five cases are still pending.

In one case referred by the **Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia**, the firm represented "Miles" in an eviction proceeding in D.C. Superior Court. Miles's landlord illegally raised his rent by more than 50% and refused to make necessary repairs to Miles's unit and the apartment building. The landlord had previously been cited for housing code violations, including the following: the front door to Miles's unit was nearly falling off its hinges; there were multiple broken windows; paint was cracked and peeling throughout the unit; and there was a mountain of trash piled in the yard.

When the landlord failed to address the housing code violations, Miles exercised his legal right to withhold rent due to the uninhabitable conditions of the apartment.

The landlord then sought to evict Miles for nonpayment of rent. Lowenstein was able to compel the landlord to make necessary repairs to the building during the course of the eviction action. Given Miles's difficult history with his landlord, however, Miles wanted to move to a different apartment. Lowenstein negotiated a favorable cash-for-keys settlement that provided Miles and his family with the funds they needed to move.

One of our partner organizations, **Volunteer Lawyers for Justice**, produced a short video on another of our wins for tenants: Partnering for Justice.

Scan to see the video

Nonprofits and Low-Income Entrepreneurs

Working with the **Pro Bono Partnership**, the **Lawyers Alliance for New York, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest**, and the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area**, Lowenstein's corporate lawyers use their skills on behalf of the nonprofit organizations that sustain and enrich our communities and advocate for social, economic, and environmental justice. In addition, the firm supports local economic development by helping low-income entrepreneurs launch businesses and create jobs in the neighborhoods where they live.

Civil Disobedience

Protest movements are proliferating and intensifying their tactics. In response, the **Natural Resources Defense Council** (NRDC), one of the nation's leading environmental organizations, came to the firm seeking advice on its potential liability for involvement in lawful advocacy that may include civil disobedience by another group. As an organization, NRDC does not itself participate in acts of civil disobedience, and it already prohibited its staff from taking part in civil disobedience (whether or not connected with their substantive work) on company time. But NRDC needed a more complete understanding of numerous related questions. For instance, would it be at risk if it paid for an employee's legal defense or otherwise indemnified staff charged with violations connected with acts of civil disobedience undertaken on personal time? If it sponsored an event where other sponsors engaged in civil disobedience, what liability might it face? Would its liability depend on whether it had known in advance that civil disobedience was contemplated? The firm drafted a comprehensive memo to answer these and other questions, including whether a nonprofit endangers its tax-exempt status by implicitly or inadvertently facilitating civil disobedience. After reviewing the memo, NRDC agreed that the firm could create a generic version to educate other nonprofits with similar questions, and the firm has followed up by holding a continuing legal education seminar for lawyers at NRDC and its partner organizations.

One of the nation's leading environmental organizations came to the firm seeking advice on its potential liability for involvement in lawful advocacy that may include civil disobedience by another group.

State Charity Registration Requirements

Every state has its own laws governing registration and reporting requirements for nonprofits and professional fundraisers engaged in charitable solicitation (i.e., fundraising) within the state. In many respects, however, these laws do not account for online activity, which has expanded the ability of all nonprofits to reach and solicit donations from residents of all 50 states. As nonprofits increasingly rely upon online fundraising, questions have arisen as to whether certain activities – such as simply having a "Donate Now" button on a website – trigger compliance obligations in a particular state. Nonprofits (especially small ones, without in-house counsel) need legal advice to ensure that they are complying with the patchwork of state laws governing this rapidly changing area.

At the request of its nonprofit clients, Lowenstein prepared a legal primer that provided a nationwide overview of charitable solicitation rules. The **Pro Bono Partnership** learned of this research and recognized that it would be an important resource for all nonprofits. At the request of the Partnership, the firm expanded its initial work into a broader 50-state survey that outlines the types of activity that trigger registration requirements and available exemptions in each state (including references to local statutes and regulations). The survey also includes links to current registration and renewal forms for each state, along with information about the registration process and its associated fees. This resource serves as an easily navigable starting point for nonprofits required to register in multiple states. The survey is posted on the Pro Bono Partnership's website to promote circulation among nonprofits.

Use of Information from Whistleblowers

Public employees sometimes leak information to outsiders to expose what they consider to be illegal or otherwise harmful governmental policies or practices. Such leaks may (or may not) violate laws or regulations that classify the information or otherwise designate it as confidential. But what laws or regulations bind the recipient of such information? A nonprofit client of the firm sought advice on whether and how it could use information that might be leaked to its staff by government employees.

The firm researched the many laws and regulations that purport to restrict the release of government information and concluded that no pat or general answer is possible, as much will depend on the nature of the leaked information, how the recipient uses the information, and what purpose the recipient intends to serve by using the information. Nevertheless, the firm offered guidance on identifying classified or other protected information, as well as background on the government's rare and generally unsuccessful attempts to prevent or punish the publication of such information by third parties.

A nonprofit client of the firm sought advice on whether and how it could use information that might be leaked to its staff by government employees.

Nationwide Expansion

Wellness in the Schools (WITS) is a national nonprofit that teaches kids healthy habits to learn and live better. It partners with public schools to educate students on nutrition and fitness, healthy cooking, and staying active during recess. WITS started in one classroom in New York City and quickly grew to providing services to 122 public schools throughout the country.

WITS turned to the firm to help expand its national footprint and to ensure compliance with the laws of each state where WITS began doing business. Among other things, we've assisted WITS with becoming qualified and registered to do business in California and New Jersey; prepared employee handbooks for staff in New York, Florida, New Jersey, and California; helped on-board employees in various states; and provided trademark advice in connection with its curriculum and models of implementation.

Photo courtesy of WITS

Worker Classification and Corporate Governance

For nearly 45 years, **Young Audiences of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania** has served the community through arts programming. Young Audiences' mission is to inspire young people and expand their learning through the arts. Working primarily with schools, Young Audiences delivers performances, workshops, art festivals, and other art programs to students and teachers throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Through a referral from the Pro Bono Partnership, Young Audiences turned to Lowenstein for employment advice on worker classification with respect to teaching and performing artists. The organization also sought assistance with several corporate issues, including a revision of its annual artist agreement and an update to its "doing business as" name.

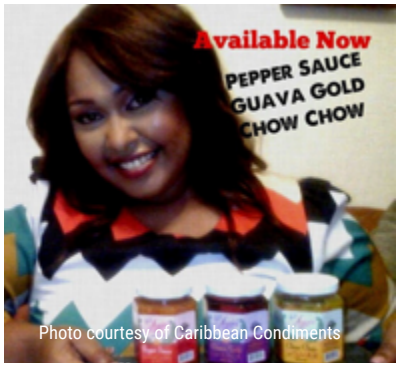
We are currently assisting Young Audiences with a review of the state filings and corporate documents of related entities and assessing the advisability of consolidating the various entities to strengthen their collective impact.

Low-Income Entrepreneurs

Lowenstein, the **Law and Social Entrepreneurship Association at NYU School of Law**, and **Rising Tide Capital**, a community development organization, have been working together since 2012 to provide legal assistance to startups based in low-income neighborhoods. Lowenstein attorneys and NYU law students facilitate workshops to introduce small business owners to basic legal concepts and represent entrepreneurs whose businesses would benefit from corporate legal assistance.

In 2017, Lowenstein attorneys teamed up with NYU law students to represent several entrepreneurs, including Jeanette Mitchell and her company, Caribbean Condiments. Through her company, Jeanette hopes, as she puts it, to "bring Caribbean flavor to the world."

The team conducted a thorough review of which corporate structure would best suit Jeanette's needs and prepared a memorandum outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each. The final recommendation was to form a limited liability company, for which the team drafted a certificate of formation and an operating agreement, ultimately creating a single-member LLC for the client. In addition, the team drafted a nondisclosure agreement to protect the company's confidential and proprietary recipes.



Jeanette Mitchell showing off her Caribbean condiments

Access to Justice

Each year, in conjunction with legal services organizations in all our locations, Lowenstein serves a wide range of individuals in need. Our lawyers represent immigrants, survivors of domestic violence, veterans, tenants, low-income inventors and entrepreneurs, individuals seeking bankruptcy protection, transgender people seeking to change their names, and many others. This work can change the lives of both the clients and their lawyers.

2013–2017

37,950 Pro Bono Hours Dedicated to Representing:

174 tenants
in eviction proceedings or housing matters seeking to remedy unlivable conditions

54 veterans
applying for benefits or attempting to regain their driver's licenses

141 low-income entrepreneurs
and inventors establishing micro-businesses or filing for patents

38 domestic violence survivors
seeking final restraining orders and/or child custody and support orders

111 immigrants
seeking lawful status or release from detention

14 guardians and conservators
seeking legal custody of children and/or young adults with disabilities in their care

64 low-income debtors
filing for personal bankruptcy to get a fresh financial start

13 transgender individuals
seeking legal name changes

Orders of Protection for Survivors of Domestic Violence

For years, "Sonia" had been the victim of domestic violence at the hands of "Gerard," her husband. Gerard struck and pushed Sonia while she was pregnant, resulting in multiple hospital visits. Gerard frequently threatened to kill Sonia and called her degrading names. One night, Gerard violently pushed Sonia to the ground, pulled her hair, and choked her. Sonia's oldest daughter was awakened by the noise and called the police. The police arrived and arrested Gerard. After obtaining a temporary restraining order, Sonia sought assistance from **Partners for Women and Justice**, which referred the case to Lowenstein.

Lowenstein tried the case and won a final restraining order and a favorable award of temporary child support pending Sonia's divorce from Gerard. In granting the final restraining order, the judge noted the importance of each witness, including Sonia herself, the arresting officer whose testimony the firm subpoenaed, and Sonia's daughter. The final restraining order entitles Sonia to immediate police protection whenever Gerard contacts her in any unauthorized manner or appears in any location designated as off-limits in the order.

Disability Benefits for Veterans

"Mark" is a U.S. Navy veteran who served as a jet engineer from 1984 through 1988, when he was honorably discharged. As a result of his work as a jet engineer, Mark developed recurrent tinnitus, characterized by a constant ringing in the ears. Mark sought Lowenstein's assistance after the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) denied his first disability compensation claim on grounds that his hearing condition was not service-connected.

Through extensive investigation of Mark's military and post-discharge medical records, and by sending him for a new medical examination, the firm assembled the evidence to demonstrate that Mark's tinnitus was the result of working on jet planes for the majority of his time in the Navy. The firm won on appeal, and Mark received the maximum possible disability rating for recurrent tinnitus that is available under the law.

While the VA properly granted Mark disability benefits, it improperly treated Mark's appeal as a "reopened claim" and therefore awarded him benefits as of the date Lowenstein filed the appeal in 2013, rather than relating it back to Mark's initial claim for benefits in 2011. Accordingly, Lowenstein filed a subsequent appeal challenging the "effective date" of Mark's award of benefits. In October 2017, following an in-person hearing before a decision review officer, the VA acknowledged its error and awarded Mark thousands of dollars in retroactive benefits.

Name Changes for Transgender Individuals

On referral from the **Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund**, the firm represents low-income transgender people in proceedings to change their legal names. Transgender individuals whose appearance does not match the name or gender on their identity documents often experience unwelcome scrutiny that deters them from applying for jobs, school, and public benefits.

Since launching the Name Change Project in New Jersey, the firm has helped more than a dozen individuals obtain legal names that match their lived identities.

Photo by Bernard DeLierre

The firm recently represented "Sheila" in her name change proceedings. Because her identity documents did not match her gender or her appearance, Sheila has had difficulty obtaining employment for the past 18 years.

"This is a dream come true for me," she said. "Embodying my favorite Maya Angelou poem, from this moment forward, 'I'll rise!'"

Lowenstein in the Community

350+

volunteer hours

- Sorted donations of fresh produce at the **Second Harvest Food Bank** in San Jose, for distribution to smaller, local food banks.
- Participated in the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's **Cycle for Survival**, cycling relay-style for four hours to raise money for cancer research. The firm's teams raised over $15,000.
- Planted spring crops for the Hawthorne Avenue community farm of the **Greater Newark Conservancy** through **Jersey Cares**.
- Assembled 400 "first night" kits containing basic toiletries for homeless LGBTQ youth in honor of Pride Month. The kits were donated to **LGBTQ Youth Space** at **Caminar**, **Newark LGBTQ Center**, **Ali Forney Center**, **Casa Ruby**, and **Youth Futures**.
- In partnership with the **Newark Day Center's Fresh Air Fund**, participated in the annual Battle of the Barristers softball tournament to raise money to send inner-city kids to summer camp.
- Painted and created materials to support **Free Arts NYC**, a nonprofit that empowers underserved low-income youth through art and mentoring programs to develop their creativity, confidence, and skills to succeed.
- Collected more than 150 coats, jackets, boots, hats, and gloves to donate to the **Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges**.
- Collected more than 1,000 holiday gifts for **YMCA of Greater Newark** to give to children in need; acted as Santa's helpers to two inner-city classrooms in NYC, delivering toys for the holidays to 60 children; provided gifts to the 30 children of the Nia Project at **Unity Care**; and sponsored six foster children for the holidays through **D.C. Child and Family Services Agency**.
- Collected more than 600 books for **Project Cicero Northern New Jersey** to donate to under-resourced schools.

1,200+ toys donated

600+ books donated

400 "first night" kits assembled and donated

150+ outerwear items donated

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lowenstein works with and contributes to a wide array of nonprofits, including:

ACLU
ACLU-NJ
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish Committee
Anti-Defamation League
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Brennan Center for Justice
California Lawyers for the Arts
Children's Law Center
City Bar Justice Center
Community FoodBank of New Jersey
Community Hope
Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto
County of Santa Clara
Cycle for Survival
D.C. Child and Family Services Agency
Democracy 21
Demos
Education Law Center
Essex County CASA
Essex-Newark Legal Services
Free Arts NYC
Free the Slaves
Fresh Air Fund
Friends of the Earth
Government Accountability Project
Greater Newark Conservancy
Habitat for Humanity
Her Justice
Housing and Community Development Network
Human Rights First
Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges
Jersey Battered Women's Services
Jersey Cares
Kids Corp
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Lawyers Alliance
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Legal Aid Society of D.C.
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Outreach Inc.
Legal Services Corporation
Legal Services NYC
Legal Services of New Jersey
Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
National Center for Juvenile Justice
National Council of Jewish Women
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Jersey Community Capital
New Jersey Community Development Corporation
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey Office of the Public Defender
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Newark Charter School Fund
NYCLU
NYU School of Law
OneJustice
OneVirginia2021
Partners for Women and Justice
Pro Bono Institute
Pro Bono Partnership
Project Cicero Northern New Jersey
Public Citizen Inc.
Rachel Coalition
Rising Tide Capital
Rutgers University School of Law
Second Harvest Food Bank
Seton Hall Law School
The Bronx Defenders
Together We Rise
Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund
Uncommon Schools North Star Academy
Unity Care
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice
Wellness in the Schools
YMCA of Greater Newark
Young Audiences
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Youth First!
YWCA of Union County

The firm also partners with corporate legal departments and vendors in its pro bono program, including:

Corporate Partners:
Merck
Prudential
Wyndham

Vendors:
Images by Bernard DeLierre
Morningside Translations
Thomson Reuters WestLaw
Veritext

Lowenstein accepts requests for individual pro bono assistance through referrals from approved legal services organizations. Individuals in need of pro bono legal help should contact their local legal services organization or bar association or visit www.lawhelp.org.

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