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2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

PRO BONO HOT LIST

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

■ **Describe your firm's philosophy on pro bono service.**

Willkie's pro bono program is rooted in a long-standing commitment to serving the underprivileged and promoting social justice, while addressing today's most critical issues. —Stacey Kushlefsky, Pro Bono Counsel

■ **What are the two biggest cases your firm worked on in 2020? Tell us more about those cases and how you reached the outcome.**

We secured a judgment of over \$8 million and early release for our client, Mr. Dean, an Illinois prisoner with Stage 4 kidney cancer. We also brought a significant reproductive rights suit in Tennessee on behalf of a provider of women's reproductive healthcare services, on the grounds that a local zoning ordinance created an insurmountable obstacle for those seeking pre-viability abortions.

■ **What was the most satisfying aspect of that work?**

As lawyers, we have a responsibility to right injustice. We were privileged to have the opportunity use our trial skills to shine a light on the injustice done to Mr. Dean. — Craig C. Martin, Chairman, Midwest

■ **What other pro bono matters is the firm working on?**



Wesley Powell



Craig C. Martin



Heather Schneider



Stacey Kushlefsky

We are helping Afghan evacuees, low-income tenants in danger of eviction, transgender individuals denied coverage for transition-related healthcare, as well as continuing our work to protect reproductive rights. — Stacey Kushlefsky

■ **Why does pro bono work matter to you as a lawyer?**

Marian Wright Edelman called service "the rent we pay for being, and the very purpose of life." I feel privileged to be able to pay that rent by using my legal skills and our firm's resources to serve our clients. — Wesley Powell, Co-Chair, Pro Bono Practice Group