

PRO BONO MATTERS HANDLED BY SHUTTS & BOWEN

- In the last 5 years, attorneys including Ed O'Sheehan, [Kathleen Krak](#), and [Dan Nordby](#) have each taken the lead in a case representing a foreign parent in trying to recover his or her abducted children under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction. These cases are referred to us by the U.S. State Department, which has presented Shutts with certificates of recognition for our work. There is a Hague team in six of our seven offices, where attorneys provide assistance in these cases.
- [Rene Gonzalez-Llorens](#) serves as legal counsel to the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which is the oldest and largest private agency in Florida that serves people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. Rene has also provided advice on labor and employment matters to Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, Vinceremos, and Habitat for Humanity.
- [Robin Fawsett](#) advises and assists the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida and its churches and schools in labor and employment matters. He also, with help and participation from other firm personnel, started and directs the Orlando branch of Project H. E. L. P., a nationwide organization of volunteer lawyers who advise and help homeless persons in legal matters. Shutts attorneys have worked with hundreds of such persons. Robin also handles guardianships for the local public guardian and Orange County Bar Legal Aid, and guardian advocacy cases for disabled children and their parents.
- [Matthew Sackel](#) serves on the Board of Legal Aid of Palm Beach County and actively volunteers his time to assist those that are unable to afford legal representation. He has been recognized by The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, The Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association for his volunteer pro bono efforts.
- West Palm Beach partner [Barbara Richardson](#) has a passion for horses and considers herself blessed to be involved with the [Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center](#) in Palm Beach County. Vinceremos means "to conquer" and "to overcome". The center helps riders of all ages work through the limitations of various physical and psychological challenges. The center provide services to 140 riders per week through four programs: Therapeutic Riding, Hippo-therapy, Therapeutic Driving and Equine Facilitated Learning. Barbara began working at Vinceremos as an assistant, either leading horses during instruction and therapy or walking along side the horses to support and spot the riders. Barbara now has the honor of serving on the Board of Directors and as general counsel.
- Through a referral from Broward Legal Aid's "Broward Lawyers Care," Shutts Ft. Lauderdale partner [Ed O'Sheehan](#) represented the victim of a "Don Juan" robber to try to recover cash/assets taken from the victim. The victim was a single mother living in New York state who came to Florida for vacation and met the perpetrator – Paul Francois. Mr. Francois swept the victim off of her

feet during the short Florida vacation and promised to marry her if she moved to Florida. But he first wanted her to sell her home in New York and transfer the funds to a joint account he was to set up. However, Mr. Francois was pulling the same scam against other women at the same time and he ultimately took all of their money and never married any of them. Mr. Francois was criminally charged and is currently serving a 10-year sentence with the Florida Department of Corrections.

- [Daniel Stabile](#) serves as the Attorney Supervisor of LegalARTLink, a program of the non-profit arts organization locustprojects, which provides pro bono legal assistance for artists and arts organizations in Florida. Previously, he has represented art institutions, such as the Perez Art Museum Miami.
- [Lauren Stricker](#) has volunteered at the *pro se* (self-representation) clinic of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, helping to alleviate the enormous hardship experienced by many low-income debtors who cannot afford an attorney and must file their own bankruptcy petitions. Additionally, Lauren has provided pro bono assistance to low-income criminal defendants. She has represented a pro bono defendant in a traffic case involving a fatality. The defendant was acquitted at trial.
- Since 2011, [Jordan Lee](#) of the Tampa office has been volunteering his time and efforts at a program he helped establish. Jordan, in conjunction with the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the national Wills for Heroes Program, helped established a Wills for Heroes program for Hillsborough County, Florida. The Wills for Heroes programs provide essential legal documents free of charge to Hillsborough County's first responders and their spouses or domestic partners, including wills, health care advance directives, and durable powers of attorney. Qualified first responders include firefighters, police officers, paramedics, corrections and probation officers from federal, state, county, city and town departments and agencies. By helping first responders plan now, they ensure their family's legal affairs are in order before a tragedy hits. The program, led by Jordan and colleagues from other firms, has won the Hillsborough County Bar Association's 2012 General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section's pro bono award, and has been providing invaluable services to first responders on a consistent basis since its inception.
- [Ella Shenhay](#) has provided more than 1,500 hours of pro bono services, from representing children in the dependency system to representing victims of domestic violence in obtaining restraining orders and many other types of cases. She also co-chairs Shutts' pro bono committee and the 13th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Firm Subcommittee. Ella has also been recognized for her work as Executive Director of Project H.E.L.P. Tampa, a pro bono clinic for the homeless, and she is a board member of Bay Area Legal Services and of Are You Safe, an organization providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence.
- [Joseph Goldstein](#) is the former Chair and Vice Chair for the Board of Directors for the [Broward Public Library Foundation](#).

- [Kevin Cowan](#) has worked on several pro bono cases while at Shutts. He assisted an elderly woman in her estate planning efforts with regard to her numerous grown children, providing that one of the children pay all her living expenses and allow her free possession of her home in exchange for being placed on the deed as a joint tenant with right of survivorship. He was involved in the effort to assist an elderly blind woman stave off foreclosure. Kevin was also successful in helping a family with an arbitration against various contractors who had placed a lien on the family's home but never finished the job.
- [Alexander Tachmes](#) has provided many hours of pro bono service during his career. Alex serves on the Board of Directors of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and represented the Arsht Center in a complex public-private transaction to build a multi-million dollar parking garage next to the Center. Alex has also served on the Board of Directors of Jewish Community Services, which provides social services, including food for the poor, domestic abuse shelter and mental health counseling to more than 25,000 people per year.

Additional examples of pro bono matters handled by Shutts & Bowen attorneys are our ongoing representation of the Broward Office of the Public Guardian, Miami City Ballet and various matters referred by legal assistance programs including:

- Legal Aid and Legal Services;
- Eleventh Judicial Circuit's "Put Something Back" program;
- Volunteer Lawyer's Project of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida;
- Project H.E.L.P. (Homeless Experience Legal Protection);
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts; and
- Lawyers for Children America.