

# PAIR gala 2017

*celebrating resilience and hope*



**TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017  
SEAPORT WORLD TRADE CENTER  
200 SEAPORT BOULEVARD, BOSTON**

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**PAIR**  
*gala*  
**2017**

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*The Program*

**Welcome \* 7:00 PM**

***Martha Koster***

Mintz Levin

**Awards Presentation \* 7:15 PM**

**Remarks on Behalf of Awardees**

***Kerime Akoglu***

Mintz Levin

**A Story of Hope \* 8:00 PM**

***Octavio Guerra Ramos, Former PAIR Client***

PAIR Board of Directors, Business Owner

**Honoring Team PAIR \* 8:15 PM**

***Kathleen Henry***

PAIR Board of Directors, Eastern Bank

**Live Auction \* 8:30 PM**

***Susan Wornick***

Formerly of WCVB-TV Boston

**Closing Remarks \* 9:00 PM**

***Susan J. Cohen***

PAIR Board of Directors, Mintz Levin

## Presenters and Speakers

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**Martha Koster**, a highly experienced litigation attorney, has represented PAIR clients with extremely complex cases seeking asylum, U visa relief, and special immigrant juvenile status. Her clients include political activists, scholars, and LGBT men and women, who come from diverse places such as El Salvador, Honduras, Russia, and Uganda. Through the course of her career, Martha has shown a commitment to pro bono service. One of Martha's clients summed up the amazing contribution she has made by saying: "My life changed from hopeless to hope."

**Kerime Akoglu** is an associate at Mintz Levin and represents clients in a wide range of matters, including complex commercial disputes, insurance litigation, white collar defense, antitrust matters, and state regulatory compliance. Kerime has served as a PAIR pro bono attorney since 2015, and has most recently been instrumental in Mintz Levin's representation of more than 10 asylum-seekers from Turkey.

**Octavio Guerra Ramos** is a member of the PAIR Board of Directors, a former PAIR client, and a local business owner. Octavio fled Honduras because he was targeted due to his sexual orientation and courageous work as an LGBT rights activist. With PAIR's help, he won asylum in 2006. He is now a U.S. citizen and continues to advocate for LGBT rights and is an active PAIR volunteer.

**Kathleen Henry** is the General Counsel and Secretary for Eastern Bank and a member of the PAIR Board of Directors since 2008. She first became a PAIR pro bono attorney in 2002 while at Choate, Hall & Stewart. Kathleen participates in numerous committees of the Boston Bar Association and received the 2008 "Woman of Justice" Award from Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. In addition to being a 10-time Boston Marathon runner, she mentors PAIR's marathon team.

**Susan Wornick** is a former TV journalist, and current TV host and spokesperson. Her awards include three regional Emmy Awards and the Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association. She was inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2014.

**Susan J. Cohen** is the founder and Chair of the Immigration Section of Mintz Levin. She was named a 2013 "Top Women of Law" honoree by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and was inducted into its "Circle of Excellence." In addition to serving as PAIR's President since 2006 and a pro bono volunteer since 1989, she is actively involved in the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Boston Bar Association.

# Award Winners

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## PRO BONO ASYLUM ATTORNEY AWARD

**Michael Delulis, *Holland & Knight LLP* and  
Nicole Peterson, *Welch's***

Michael Delulis, a litigation associate at Holland & Knight and Nicole Peterson, Corporate Counsel at Welch's, successfully represented a young transgender woman from Honduras who fled to the U.S. to save her life. Asylum is a daunting pro bono undertaking since the stakes are high and the procedures complex, especially in immigration court. Nicole and Michael provided outstanding pro bono services for the PAIR client who suffered terribly in Honduras and who believed she would be killed for her gender identity if she had to return. Despite a 4-year delay due to an immense backlog in the Boston Immigration Court, Michael and Nicole worked tirelessly to win their client's case. Their dedication and compassion in the face of this challenging case led to an asylum grant for the PAIR client, who is now living safely in MA.

## PRO BONO DETENTION AWARD

**Kathleen Kahmann Farrell**

Kathleen Kahmann Farrell is a dedicated PAIR volunteer who, since 2014, has taken four detention cases, providing assistance to unaccompanied minors and detained asylum-seekers. In 2015, Katy successfully represented two young brothers who were detained by immigration and eligible for Special Immigrant Juveniles Status. A passionate advocate for detainee rights, in 2016,

Katy took on the case of a young Cameroonian man who had been brutally tortured in his home country due to his sexual orientation. This man was detained upon entry into the U.S. and would have been deported had it not been for Katy's heroic efforts to prepare his asylum case in three months, winning relief and his release from detention. Currently, Katy is working with a young woman from Honduras, who fled her country due to severe familial abuse. Katy is helping the PAIR client prepare for her hearing before the Boston Immigration Court.

## PRO BONO MENTOR AWARD



**Shayla Harlev, *Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP* and  
Melanie Conroy, *Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP***



Shayla Harlev is a partner in Weil Gotshal & Manges' Private Equity practice and Melanie Conroy is a senior securities litigation associate at Weil Gotshal & Manges' Boston office. As PAIR volunteers since 2015, Shayla and Melanie have directly represented many unaccompanied minors and currently serve as mentors to five active PAIR asylum and SIJS cases at Weil Gotshal. Shayla and Melanie are dynamic mentors who generously share their time and talents to guide other PAIR pro bono attorneys at the firm. Their dedication and compassion have shone through in representing unaccompanied minors who are incredibly vulnerable and who face unimaginable horrors in their homelands.

Thanks to Shayla's and Melanie's mentorship and commitment to PAIR and their ceaseless efforts to uphold the legal rights of immigrants, many PAIR clients have now found safety in the U.S.

## PRO BONO INTERPRETER AWARD



**Doris Cristobal, *32BJ SEIU***

Doris Cristobal is the Field Representative for 32BJ SEIU, the nation's largest union of property service workers. A former PAIR client and committed volunteer since 2005, Doris has served as a Spanish language interpreter for dozens of PAIR clients, giving them a voice in an otherwise bureaucratic and highly complex system. More recently, after the November elections, Doris has served as an ambassador for PAIR, meeting with frightened immigrants who were uncertain about the immigration process. She is also an advocate for immigrant rights and participates in PAIR's "Know Your Rights" campaign as a Spanish interpreter to inform immigrants of their basic constitutional rights. As a volunteer interpreter, Doris is instrumental to the successes of many PAIR clients, serving as the critical link between a pro bono attorney and his or her asylum client, where every word matters.

## BUSINESS LEADER IN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD



**MassMutual** is an American mutual life insurance company serving five million clients, founded in 1851 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The company has led the way in promoting human rights in the corporate sector. In the wake of the travel ban, MassMutual employees stepped up to create a meaningful partnership with PAIR's community outreach initiative and to assist asylum-seekers. MassMutual attorneys have participated in numerous PAIR community "Know Your Rights" presentations and have directly represented a PAIR asylum client. At MassMutual, corporate responsibility is a fundamental part of the company, with the MassMutual Foundation investing more than \$20 million annually to non-profits across the country. MassMutual's commitment serves as a benchmark for others in corporate social responsibility, legal services, and community-building.

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



**Ropes & Gray LLP** is a preeminent global law firm, with more than 1,200 legal professionals serving clients in key centers of business, technology and government, while also making a commitment to pro bono efforts. Since 1996, the firm has worked with over 300 PAIR asylum clients and donated 120,000 pro bono hours to PAIR. The firm currently has over 70 active PAIR asylum cases. This year, Ropes & Gray has dedicated itself to supporting immigrant rights in light of changes in immigration law and policy. After the 2016 elections, with the surge of asylum-seekers, Ropes began hosting a monthly asylum intake clinic for PAIR, hosted numerous legal trainings, and recruited former Ropes associates who are now in-house at companies across MA to help PAIR serve more asylum clients. In addition, over 40 Ropes attorneys volunteered at Boston Logan Airport during the travel ban to assist new arrivals and support federal litigation efforts. The compassion, care, and tireless efforts of Ropes attorneys to present the highest-quality work for so many PAIR clients is an inspiration to all.

## **SARAH B. IGNATIUS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE & EXCELLENCE IN LAW**



**Chin & Curtis LLP** is a ten-attorney firm specializing exclusively in United States and global immigration law. A pro bono partner with PAIR since 1994, Chin & Curtis stands as a model law firm in providing outstanding pro bono legal services and as a champion for the rights of indigent immigrants. Chin & Curtis attorneys have offered their services both through direct representation and case mentorship on behalf of several PAIR asylum clients. The firm has hosted legal trainings; has committed its resources to assist detained immigrants through PAIR's Detention Center Initiative; and has presented the highest-quality work to help vulnerable asylum-seekers. Chin & Curtis attorneys have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice and have touched the lives of PAIR clients and their families. For over 20 years, the members of the firm have gone above and beyond to demand justice for many immigrants so that they can find a safe haven in the U.S. and rebuild their lives.

## **PRO BONO LAW FIRM AWARD**

# MINTZ LEVIN

**Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, PC** is a general practice, full service law firm founded in Boston in 1933 employing nearly 450 attorneys worldwide. Mintz Levin has distinguished itself for its outstanding legal representation of PAIR clients since 1989. From PAIR's first asylum case win in 1990, Mintz Levin has been a dedicated source of support and volunteerism for immigrants and asylum-seekers. In the wake of recent Executive Orders, Mintz Levin has been engaged in federal litigation to protect immigrants impacted by the travel ban, helping to win a Temporary Restraining Order during the first travel ban. The firm has also committed its resources to representing asylum-seekers who were targeted following the 2016 attempted coup in Turkey. The firm's response to defend the rights and safety of these Turkish nationals has been inspirational, as has their work to protect the constitutional rights of immigrants at the federal level.



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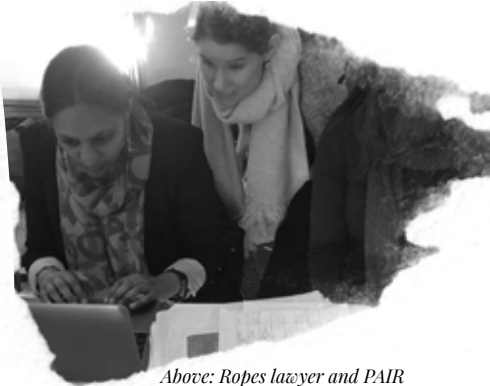
# ROPES & GRAY



*Above: Ropes volunteer lawyers, led by Jennifer Rikoski, respond to Executive Orders at Boston Logan Airport.*



*Above: Ropes pro bono lawyer Shweta Mahajan and Ropes Associate Julie Hearn hold signs at Boston Logan Airport.*



*Above: Ropes lawyer and PAIR Board Member Jennifer Rikoski works alongside PAIR Executive Director Anita P. Sharma at Boston Logan Airport.*



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## ***2017 Gala Committee***

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**Feruza Aripova  
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Amy Mercure  
Nancy Rego  
Anita P. Sharma  
Wendy Zazik**

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## ***PAIR Staff***

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Seth Purcell  
Jennifer Reyes  
Anita P. Sharma  
Courtney Snegroff  
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for helping us provide  
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