



PAIR gala 2018

celebrating resilience and hope

**TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018
SEAPORT WORLD TRADE CENTER
200 SEAPORT BOULEVARD, BOSTON**

PAIR gala 2018

The Program

Welcome * 7:00 PM

Martha Koster

Awards & Recognition * 7:20 PM

Honoring Team PAIR

Hannah Bornstein and Kerry Doyle

2018 Boston Marathon Runners

PAIR Gala Awards

Remarks on Behalf of Awardees

Mikaela Wolf-Sorkin

PAIR Volunteer

Keynote Speaker * 8:00 PM

Mary Holper

Boston College Law School

- Dessert Interlude -

A Story of Hope * 8:20 PM

Edith Fobid, Former PAIR Client

Fund the Mission

Kathleen Henry

Closing Remarks

Susan J. Cohen

Presenters and Speakers

Martha Koster, a highly experienced litigation attorney and retired partner of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo PC, 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 Iraq, Jamaica, El Salvador, Honduras, Russia, and Uganda. Through the course of her career, Martha has shown a deep 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."

Edith Fobid is a member of the PAIR Board of Directors and is a former PAIR client. She fled Cameroon because of her political activism, membership in an opposition party, and her courageous work as a human rights activist. With PAIR's help, she won asylum in 2001 and is now a naturalized U.S. citizen. Edith continues to advocate for human rights and actively volunteers for PAIR.

Kathleen Henry is the General Counsel and Executive Vice President for Eastern Bank and has served on the PAIR Board of Directors since 2008. She first became a PAIR pro bono attorney in 2002 while at Choate, Hall & Stewart, where she helped 2 brothers from the Democratic Republic of Congo win asylum. Kathy 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 J. Cohen is the founder and Chair of the Immigration Section of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo PC. 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 President of PAIR's Board of Directors 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. Last year, Susan was instrumental in the federal challenge against the travel ban.

Award Winners



PRO BONO ASYLUM ATTORNEY AWARD

Kathryn R. Harris and Samira Omervic,
Ropes & Gray LLP



Kathryn R. Harris and Samira Omervic, litigation associates with Ropes & Gray's Business and Securities Litigation Group, successfully represented a young Syrian woman who fled to the U.S. to save her life and the life of her young son who had been shot by government forces. Kathryn and Samira provided outstanding pro bono services for the PAIR client who suffered terribly

in her home country and who believed she and her family would be killed for their political beliefs. Despite a four-year delay due to an immense backlog in the Boston Asylum Office, Kathryn and Samira worked tirelessly to win asylum for their client. Their dedication and compassion in the face of this challenging case helped their client secure hope and a safe haven in the U.S. Kathryn and Samira are now working to help the client reunite with her husband and children who were left behind in Syria.



PRO BONO DETENTION AWARD

Matthew R. Loecker and Ryan J. Perry,
Morse Barnes-Brown Pendleton LLP



Matthew Loecker is an associate with Morse Barnes-Brown Pendleton's Corporate Department and Ryan J. Perry is an associate with the firm's Corporate Practice Group. Both Matt and Ryan are dedicated PAIR volunteers who successfully represented a detained asylum-seeker from Zimbabwe. The client was a human rights activist and member of an opposition party. When

he fled to the U.S., he was detained upon entry and would have been deported had it not been for the heroic efforts of Matt and Ryan. They visited the client in detention to draft affidavits, document human rights conditions, and prepare him for trial. With their help, the client won asylum before the Boston Immigration Court. Currently, Matt and Ryan are helping the client to reunite with his wife and children who were left behind in Zimbabwe.



PRO BONO MENTOR AWARD

**Anthony D. Mirenda and Daniel McFadden,
*Foley Hoag LLP***



Anthony Mirenda is a partner at Foley Hoag with 30 years of experience in complex corporate litigation and Daniel McFadden is a senior litigation associate at Foley Hoag. Tony, a PAIR volunteer since 2007, and Dan, a PAIR volunteer since 2014, have devoted countless hours to their PAIR pro bono cases. In 2010, Tony lead an amicus brief for *Saysana v. Gillen*, a successful federal challenge

to national policy that unfairly kept hundreds of immigrants in detention. Both Tony and Dan recently helped a PAIR client from Vietnam win relief before the immigration court and at the Federal District Court in a cutting-edge case that challenged the treatment of persons with mental health illness. They currently serve as mentors for PAIR's habeas corpus project and generously share their time and talents to guide other PAIR pro bono attorneys. Thanks to Tony and Dan's dynamic mentorship and their tireless efforts to uphold the legal rights of immigrants, many PAIR clients have now found safety and freedom in the U.S.

PRO BONO LAW FIRM AWARD

FRAGOMEN

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP, established in 1951, is an international immigration firm with headquarters in New York, specializing in a range of immigration law services to corporate and individual clients. Fragomen is recognized as the world's largest firm that focuses solely on global immigration law. It has distinguished itself for its outstanding legal representation of PAIR clients since 2008. Last year, Fragomen launched its *Home for the Holidays* initiative to ensure that immigrants detained by ICE would have access to counsel. The firm dedicated resources and attorney time to defending the rights and safety of detained immigrants who were bond eligible. Fragomen assisted over 7 detainees with bond hearings, making reunification with family before the holidays a possibility. The firm has fought for the rights of many indigent PAIR clients and exemplifies the pro bono spirit and a commitment to access of justice.

BUSINESS LEADER IN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD



Vertex Pharmaceuticals, founded in 1989 in Massachusetts, is an American company focused on finding treatments for viral infections, inflammatory and autoimmune disorders, and cancer. Since

that time, the company has led the way in promoting human rights in the corporate sector. In the past year, teams of volunteers from Vertex's Boston legal office have helped staff PAIR's monthly pro bono Asylum Clinic, hosted by Ropes & Gray, serving over 50 vulnerable asylum-seekers in need. Vertex's deep sense of corporate philanthropy is inspiring and demonstrated not only by its pro bono service with PAIR, but also its charitable work with American Heart Association, Breastcancer.org, the American Red Cross, and The Patriot Foundation. PAIR is fortunate to work with committed attorneys from Vertex who help us to secure justice, hope, and safety to asylum-seekers who have survived unimaginable violence. The company's philanthropic work is a benchmark for others in corporate social responsibility, legal services, and community-building.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Irene Freidel, *Access to Justice Fellow*

Irene Freidel is a preeminent lawyer with over 25 years of high-level complex commercial litigation experience.

She is a retired partner of K&L Gates, where she focused on financial services litigation and class actions, representing clients in federal and state courts throughout the country, including the First, Fourth, Seventh, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits, as well as in various state appellate courts. As a 2017 *Access to Justice Fellow* at PAIR, Irene supports the rights of immigrants, in particular the rights of unaccompanied minors and immigrants detained by ICE. A highly experienced attorney and trusted advocate, Irene has represented over 14 PAIR clients at risk of deportation, presenting extremely complex asylum cases as well as bond and other forms of humanitarian relief. In a time of chaos and ever-changing harsh immigration policies, Irene is there for PAIR clients. Her compassion, care, and tireless efforts to present the highest-quality work for clients is an inspiration to all.



PRO BONO INTERPRETER AWARD

Mikaela Wolf-Sorokin, *Carnegie Mellon University*

Mikaela Wolf-Sorokin is recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University where she majored in Global Studies and Hispanic Studies. She is an immigrant rights activist, having worked at No More Deaths and ProBar to protect the lives and rights of immigrants crossing the U.S.-Mexican border. A committed PAIR volunteer since 2016, Mikaela has served as a Spanish language interpreter for dozens of PAIR clients. She recently supported the asylum case of a Honduran family who fled extreme violence and also a woman from El Salvador who was targeted because of her sexual orientation. Mikaela's dedication to PAIR clients provides them with a voice in an otherwise bureaucratic and complex system. As a volunteer interpreter, Mikaela 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.



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

Mary Holper, *Boston College Law School*

Mary Holper, Clinical Professor at Boston College Law School, works closely with PAIR's Detention Program staff, serving some of the most vulnerable clients: asylum-seekers and immigrants being held by ICE. She is a demonstrated supporter of PAIR, having represented over 45 PAIR clients in need, winning many of these challenging cases with profound compassion and care. Since 2007, she has enthusiastically represented detained non-citizens in the difficult arena of immigration court; her clients have fled violence from Jamaica, Honduras, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. She shines in her impressive analysis of complex cases and in her thoughtful crafting of persuasive legal arguments. Mary supports all aspects of PAIR's work, from participating in legal trainings on challenging areas of criminal immigration law to providing access to counsel in cases and assisting with legal orientation to hundreds of detained immigrants. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice and has touched the lives of PAIR clients and their families. For over 10 years, Mary has 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.

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for helping us provide
PAIR clients with



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