CONGRATULATIONS!

NIJC’s Pro Bono Projects Congratulate the Following Attorneys with Clients Who Were Recently Granted Immigration Relief:

Litigation

Joceyln Francoeur and Kristen Klanow of McDermott Will & Emery LLP, along with Nicole LeBeau, Briody Meyers, and Geoffrey Vance, formerly of McDermott Will & Emery, obtained a substantial settlement in a Federal Tort Claims Act suit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Northern District Court of Illinois on behalf of Mr. Makowski, a U.S. citizen who was wrongfully imprisoned for 70 days due to an erroneously issued immigration detainer. Mr. Makowski became a U.S. citizen after being adopted and received a certificate of U.S. citizenship in March 1989. However, more than 20 years later, Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) records still indicated that Mr. Makowski was not a U.S. citizen. When Mr. Makowski was arrested in July 2010, his fingerprints were automatically shared with ICE under the Under Secure Communities program. Without interviewing Mr. Makowski or performing any meaningful investigation, ICE lodged an immigration detainer against Mr. Makowski. In December 2010, Mr. Makowski agreed to plead guilty to a drug offense in exchange for recommendation to Illinois’ four month boot camp program instead of a seven year prison sentence. Unbeknownst to Mr. Makowski, ICE’s erroneous immigration detainer disqualified him from boot camp and he was instead placed in a maximum security prison to serve a seven year prison sentence. It was only after 70 days, and intervention by a family attorney, that he was properly placed in the rehabilitative boot camp program. After defeating the government’s motion to dismiss, pro bono counsel secured a substantial settlement for Mr. Makowski, which included compensation for the time wrongfully imprisoned and corrections to DHS’s records.

Asylum

Joanne Caceres, Kathryn Dore, Lee Ann Russo and Samantha Woo of Jones Day obtained asylum for a man from Eritrea.

David Bauer, Matt Costigan, Maria Kutnick and T. Justin Trapp of Winston & Strawn LLP obtained asylum for a woman from Kenya.
Citizenship and Permanent Residency

Laura Homan and Ginger Partee of Baker & McKenzie LLP obtained citizenship for a man from Mexico.

Sarah Maxwell, formerly of Baker & McKenzie LLP, obtained citizenship for a woman from Albania.

Betsy Stelle Morgan of Baker & McKenzie LLP obtained citizenship for a man from Nigeria.

David Serwer of Baker & McKenzie LLP obtained citizenship for a woman from Mexico.

William Bruce, Kelly Huggins and Eric Schmitt of Sidley Austin LLP obtained permanent residency for two Palestinian asylees.

Michael Gustafson and Kendra Stead of Sidley Austin LLP obtained derivative asylum status for the son of an asylee from Guatemala.

DACA

James Huttenhower of AT&T obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Melissa Allchin of Baker & McKenzie LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico and collaborated with Laurence Wilken of Caterpillar Inc. to obtain temporary protection for another young immigrant from Mexico.

Edward Fitzpatrick of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Colby Kingsbury of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Honduras.

Stephen Legatzke of Goldberg Kohn Ltd. obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Luke Ruse of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Bryce Budin, formerly of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Jason Fitterer of Kirkland & Ellis LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Poland.

Brian Tweedie of Kirkland & Ellis LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.
Daniel Coyne of Perkins Coie LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Richard Rothblatt of Perkins Coie LLP and Sara Feinstein, formerly of Perkins Coie LLP, in collaboration with Lauren Cohn of Walgreens Co., obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Sandra Newman of Perkins Coie LLP, in collaboration with Larry Anderson of Walgreens Co., obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Richard Rothblatt of Perkins Coie LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Riley Mendoza of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Matthew Wolfe of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Megan Devaney of Winston & Strawn LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Sharick Naqi of Winston & Strawn LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Ivan Poullaos of Winston & Strawn LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Jacob Schtevie of Winston & Strawn LLP obtained temporary protection for a young immigrant from Belize.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

Katrina Quillen and Jeremy Pangan of Valparaiso University Law School, along with former students Sara Dietrich and Cecilia Lopez, and Geoffrey Heeren, Director of Valparaiso University Law School’s Immigration Clinic, obtained special immigrant juvenile status and permanent residency for a young immigrant from Mexico.