

Everybody does

## Pro Bono

Lisa Cleary

From the perspective of the firm's Pro Bono Chair

Hello:

I'm Lisa Cleary. I'm the chair of the firm's pro bono committee and I'm very happy to talk to you today about the wonderful breaths of the firm's pro bono practice: from serving individual children and families in need through our Metropolitan Children's Hospital project; to working on immigration matters for families and individuals in connection with many not-for-profit legal service providers in New York; to bringing law reform litigation on behalf of children in the foster care system in New York City with developmental disabilities and mental illness; to advocating on behalf of individuals on death row in Alabama. Our attorneys take on the most challenging cases, and represent our clients vigorously and zealously and creatively all to wonderful outcomes for our clients.

Most recently four lawyers in our litigation group represented a deaf and hearing impaired couple from Columbia in connection with an immigration matter in which they claimed brutality in their home country of Columbia on account of their disabilities. After 3½ years of motion practice and hearings in front of an immigration court in New York, our lawyers obtained political asylum on behalf of this family. Needless to say the challenges were great, even beginning to understand how to communicate with our client was a substantial challenge, but through the zealous advocacy of our committed lawyers, a wonderful outcome was obtained.

For years our firm has been a leader in the pro bono world here in New York. We are asked to take on the toughest cases because our lawyers are up to the challenge and our record of service is exemplary in this city.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of all of our attorneys and legal assistants who make a significant difference in the lives of so many individuals and organizations in this city.

