

Everybody does

Pro Bono

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Pro bono from the perspective of a Lateral

I came over as a lateral associate and one of the first things I was involved in was in writing amicus briefs having to do with the prisoners held in Iraq which had been allegedly abused by private military contractors. And I thought that it was something I had worked on and on the law of war when I was in law school, so I immediately wrote and said I'd like to be involved. The person overseeing the case was the chairman of the firm and I had expected him to sort of be very hands on and just sort of oversee us to a limited degree but he was involved in every aspect of it. I was very impressed. It was clear that the firm was willing to put enormous time and resources into the subject and that it was very important to everyone. Our amicus briefs were not allowed by the court but the parties to the case having read the ideas in them were so excited about it that they actually came back to our firm and asked for further help and support and that was deeply gratifying to be able to have a direct impact on the ideas that get before a court. That was very exciting for me.

I've also gotten to work with Lisa Cleary here on a community outreach project for people who have struggled with alcohol and drug abuse problems and there are exceptions in New York Law for tax purposes for terms of what you have to pay. They had not quite had all of their paperwork in order and so they had been assessed taxes that were going to be quite burdensome and going to limit the extent to which they could carry on their programs, and we were able to get this administratively overturned so that they could go on offering the very valuable services they do in the community and that was really nice to see. And, currently, what I'm working on is I've been appointed special guardian for a person with developmental disabilities and we are working on getting her a placement that isn't in a restrictive facility, but will be a place where she can receive much more social care and much more attention, and our understanding is that people bloom under those circumstances in the way that they just aren't able to when they're in very restrictive settings.

