

Pro Bono

Elizabeth C. Quirk

My name is Elizabeth Quirk and I am a fourth-year litigation associate here at Patterson Belknap.

At the time of this recording, I have been with the Firm for seven months.

One of the main reasons I applied to and ultimately decided to join Patterson was because of its demonstrated commitment to providing pro bono legal services.

In my experience, Patterson has very much lived up to its reputation.

In the relatively short time I have been here, I have worked on four different pro bono matters in both state and federal court.

I am going to take a little time to tell you about one of those cases in which we recently had a resolution that was very much in our client's favor.

The case was referred to us by our partners at the Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.

Our client and her four children had recently moved into an apartment which was, in both our view and hers, uninhabitable.

There were issues with the heat, with vermin, with running water, with all of the essential things one needs in her home.

As a result, she had not paid her rent in full because she had not technically moved into the apartment with her family.

She was sued by her landlord and retained us to assist her in her counterclaims.

She brought counterclaims for violation of the warranty of habitability as well as constructive eviction.

After several court appearances, as well as multiple negotiation sessions with opposing counsel, we were able to settle the case such that not only were all of the repairs made to our client's satisfaction but she was given a significant rent abatement, which was a huge savings to her and to her family.

This is just one example of the type of work Patterson does and I think it highlights how effective legal counsel can make an important difference to a pro bono client's case in a very limited amount of time.

It was a great honor to work with our client toward a good result and I felt completely supported by the associate and partner who helped me in achieving this great result for our client.

Patterson genuinely cares about pro bono work.

It makes it a priority, and it ensures that more junior associates get the hands-on experience that they need to grow professionally.

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<https://www.pbwt.com/pro-bono/>

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