

Pro Bono

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What's great about doing pro bono at Patterson is that it is really viewed as a team effort.

It's something that not only is everybody required to do, but yearns to do, and we support each other on a daily basis in finding important pro bono matters to work on and supporting each other through what are often difficult processes, whether court proceedings or transactions.

My own practice is in the Exempt Organizations group and I represent various types of non-profits and some of our clients are the most engaging and influential non-profits in the world.

One of the things I try to do in my pro bono practice is to help those organizations that haven't quite made it to the top yet: start-up organizations that are just trying to figure out what it is to be a non-profit, to engage in the world of philanthropy and to serve charitable purposes in New York or around the world, and it's always very fulfilling to work with a young organization that's just trying to figure out its purpose and guide them, and so I've had the opportunity to work particularly with educational organizations that are trying to come up with new modes of education, new ways to reach more and more diverse groups of students, and give them opportunities, whether related to their careers, getting into college or any number of other issues.

One of the things that we often deal with is guiding these organizations through pretty tough questions.

They don't have large staffs, they have to make a commitment to be able to serve a charitable end, and we help them shape their vision just as much as we're helping them with various legal issues that they confront.