

## 2010 Empire State Counsel® Program

### Firms Participating for the first time in the Empire State Counsel® Program

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP	Linklaters LLP
Antonelli & Antonelli	Moog, Inc.
Baker & Hostetler LLP	Morgan Stanley
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.	SNR Denton
Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP	(formerly Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP)
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP	Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Hogan Lovells US LLP (formerly Hogan & Hartson LLP)	Thomas & Solomon LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP	Vandenberg & Feliu LLP
	Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP

### Distinguished 2010 Empire State Counsel® Award Recipients

**Thomas A. Cox**

*Honorary 2010 Empire State Counsel®  
Retired*

**Daniel M. Sussner**

*Associate, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP*

**Elyse Cowgill**

*Associate, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*

**Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP**

*2010 Empire State Counsel® Platinum Supporter*

**Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP**

*2010 Empire State Counsel® Gold Supporter*

**Proskauer LLP**

*2010 Empire State Counsel® Gold Supporter*

**Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP**

*2010 Empire State Counsel® Gold Supporter*

**Sullivan & Cromwell LLP**

*2010 Empire State Counsel® Silver Supporter*

**Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP**

*2010 Empire State Counsel® Bronze Sponsor*





## **Thomas A. Cox**

### *Honorary 2010 Empire State Counsel®*

Thomas Cox is retired from the private practice of law where a substantial portion of his practice included the representation of lenders in residential and commercial loan litigation matters. Clients included major regional and national lenders as well as the FDIC. For most of the past three years he has played a substantial role in the Maine Attorney's Saving Homes (MASH) program of the Maine Volunteer Lawyer Project as a volunteer lawyer screening mortgage foreclosure cases, handling referrals to volunteer lawyers on the MASH panel, co-counseling on select cases, and acting as a consultant to those lawyers. He has been instrumental in the start-up of Maine's new foreclosure mediation program, providing training and consultation to lawyers representing homeowners in foreclosure mediation. He has also acted as a consultant to Pine Tree Legal Assistance in managing the litigation strategies of its Foreclosure Prevention Program. In addition, he has recently participated in four appeals of key Maine foreclosure issues to the Maine Supreme Court. In December he was a presenter before the House Judiciary Committee on its hearing devoted to the topic: "Foreclosed Justice: Causes and Effects of the Foreclosure Crisis." He is a 1966 graduate of

Colby College and a 1969 graduate of the Boston University School of Law. He has been nominated to receive Maine's 2011 Howard Dana award for outstanding service to programs for the indigent.

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## **Daniel M. Sussner**

### *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

Daniel M. Sussner is a fourth-year associate in the Litigation practice at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. In 2010, he devoted the majority of his pro bono efforts to an externship at Legal Aid's Harlem Community Law Office where he contributed 1,274.3 hours of free legal services. Under the supervision of Karen Hambrick, he predominantly represented clients with urgent housing issues, including non-payment of rent and hold-over proceedings, termination of tenancy by the New York City Housing Authority, and an Article 78 proceeding to restore a family's federal Section 8 housing subsidy. Through Legal Aid's partnership with the Single Stop program, Daniel also provided legal advice to over 150 New Yorkers on a wide variety of topics ranging from immigration to identity theft to unemployment and Social Security benefits. "At a time when Legal Aid must turn away nine out of ten people seeking legal assistance, it was a privilege to work closely with the talented lawyers and staff at the Harlem Community Law Office and learn from their formidable expertise and inspiring dedication."

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## **Elyse Cowgill**

### *Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*

Elyse Jones Cowgill is a litigation associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell. In 2010 she donated more than 1,900 hours of free legal services. At Davis Polk, her pro bono experience has included asylum petitions, a U-Visa petition, criminal appeals for the Legal Aid Society, assisting the counsel to the Justice Task Force, aiding an artist through the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, and working on policy initiatives with the Center for Refugee Women and Children and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Prior to arriving at Davis Polk, Ms. Cowgill served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rosemary S. Pooler of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She graduated from Yale Law School in 2007, where she was a Coker Fellow, an Article Editor and Submissions Editor of the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism, and an editor of the Yale Law and Policy Review. During law school, she interned in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut and at the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Office of the Attorney General. She graduated with a B.A. in Economics and Philosophy, cum laude, from Columbia College, Columbia University in 2001.

## **Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP**

### *2010 Empire State Counsel® Platinum Supporter*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and affiliates strongly encourages its lawyers, summer associates and legal assistants to assist, through pro bono work, those individuals and groups unable to afford legal services. The firm is a charter signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, pledging to commit time equivalent to at least 3% of our annual billable hours to work on pro bono matters. In 2010, New York office lawyers and summer associates reached 7.6% of time billed. Firm wide, Skadden attorneys, plus summer associates, recorded nearly 203,000 total hours of pro bono legal work in 2010, the third straight year the firm total has exceeded 200,000 hours. Deeply ingrained in the firm's culture, our vital pro bono work helps a wide variety of individuals and organizations in need of legal assistance. Skadden attorneys regularly assist those seeking asylum in the United States in their attempts to escape persecution due to religious or political beliefs, or sexual orientation. Our attorneys also handle cases of wrongful imprisonment and prosecution and housing disputes, and routinely provide legal advice to nonprofit organizations and artists. The firm was recently named one of the Ten Top Pro Bono Firms of 2010 by Law360 for our longstanding "vibrant pro bono culture."

## **Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP**

### *2010 Empire State Counsel® Gold Supporter*

Milbank has an outstanding tradition of performing work pro bono publico, and a record of public service that spans centuries. In addition to rendering important pro bono services to needy individuals and to charitable organizations, many of our lawyers have held significant leadership positions in the organized bar and government. We encourage all our attorneys to engage in public service activities.

Milbank's domestic offices logged 55,529 pro bono hours in 2010- excluding some things often called pro bono – such as service on charitable boards, mentoring, etc. Of those hours, 46,273 were contributed through our New York office.

We were the first major New York law firm to appoint a partner, Joseph Genova, to serve as the Director of Public Service. All pro bono activities are approved by the Director of Public Service, and coordinated through him and through Anthony Perez Cassino, the Assistant Director of Public Service.

In 1993, the Firm accepted the American Bar Association's Law Firm Challenge and pledged to devote a number of hours to pro bono work equal to at least three percent of our billable time. We maintain relationships with organizations (such as the Legal Aid Society) that refer worthy matters, and we encourage attorneys to suggest qualifying matters they feel could be handled by the Firm. Our pro bono work takes place in all of our domestic offices and some of the international offices as well, and includes many different types of work, from the representation of individuals and groups seeking to vindicate their rights to economic development projects designed to strike at the root causes of poverty.

## **Proskauer LLP**

### *2010 Empire State Counsel® Gold Supporter*

Proskauer has a long-standing and strong commitment to pro bono activities, with a major emphasis on providing legal services to the disadvantaged and the poor. Our commitment to pro bono and public service work is manifested in the structure of the Firm's procedures for handling pro bono matters, as well as in the scope and diversity of the pro bono docket. We are proud of our pro bono practice and are dedicated to the program's continued growth and success. The program provides excellent opportunities for professional experience and development, as well as for advancing important public service goals. We strongly encourage all lawyers to participate.

## Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP

### *2010 Empire State Counsel® Gold Supporter*

Dewey & LeBoeuf has a long-standing commitment to pro bono service because we believe that we have a professional and moral obligation to serve those who cannot afford legal representation. That's why Dewey & LeBoeuf imposes no limit upon the number of creditable pro bono hours that our lawyers may contribute, provided they have an appropriate balance of fee-earning work.

The signature piece of our pro bono practice is its diversity. Our firm takes on large civil rights litigations to advocate for those who have been historically disadvantaged. We help victims of domestic violence re-establish their footing and our lawyers prevent the eviction of low-income tenants. We provide not-for-profit organizations and microenterprises with the legal services needed to open, stay afloat and thrive. Our firm represents indigent defendants in criminal cases at trial and appeal. We help prevent the deportation of asylum seekers facing persecution if they are forced to return to their native countries.

## Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

### *2010 Empire State Counsel® Silver Supporter*

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP is committed to the communities in which we practice, to those unable to afford legal representation, and to the legal profession itself. We seek to maintain this role of corporate and social leadership by supporting pro bono work and creating partnerships outside the Firm that promote legal justice and equality of conditions. The Firm regularly represents clients on a pro bono basis in significant matters and has also undertaken important community building and community service efforts. In addition, our lawyers serve on boards of more than 300 not-for-profit philanthropic, cultural, educational and civic organizations.

## Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP

### *2010 Empire State Counsel® Bronze Supporter*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges' commitment to pro bono and its belief in the notion of "justice for all" begins with each firm member taking seriously the professional obligations they share as lawyers. The firm not only encourages lawyers at every level and in every practice group to devote considerable time to pro bono legal services, but it also has developed an innovative model for its pro bono practice. The firm's creative program and energetic leadership reflect an abiding support for, and deep appreciation of, the not-for-profit and legal services communities and the needs we address.

Weil's dedication to pro bono has been recognized both locally and nationally. This year, for the sixth year in a row, Weil was one of twenty firms listed as the best in the country on the American Lawyer magazine's A-List, which combines pro bono performance with other crucial metrics of law firm performance. The Pro Bono Institute honored the firm in 2008 with the John H. Pickering Award for its outstanding commitment to pro bono legal services, and in 2009 the American Bar Association recognized the firm with its Pro Bono Publico Award, making Weil the first firm to hold both honors concurrently.

