

A World of Good

In this issue

- p1 Dechert Joins Effort to Save Iraqi Citizens
- p2 Beyond the Ordinary Course of Business
- p3 Protecting the Right to Counsel in Non-Criminal Cases
- p4 Annual Pro Bono Recognition and Awards Reception
- p6 Pro Bono Honor Roll
- p8 Awards & Recognition
- p9 Good Results and Interesting Matters

Dechert Joins Effort to Save Iraqi Citizens



by **Steven G. Bradbury**

The war in Iraq is rapidly becoming another forgotten war. Since President Obama ordered U.S. combat troops to stand down and pull out of Iraq, the American press

has largely stopped reporting on the conflict. But for thousands of Iraqis who stepped forward to help the United States effort in Iraq since 2003—as translators, drivers, guides, engineers, cultural advisors and administrative assistants and in other capacities—the mortal dangers of the conflict are still a daily reality.

History shows what horrendous reprisals befall “collaborators” and their families when the United States withdraws from a theatre of combat. Think of the desperate mass migration of hundreds of thousands of Boat People after the United States abandoned Vietnam in 1975.

We know the horrors that face U.S.-affiliated Iraqis. A detailed manual for al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, published in Fallujah in 2010 by the umbrella insurgent group the Islamic State of Iraq, makes it clear that al Qaeda’s number one priority after the United States leaves is to target those Iraqis who willingly affiliated with the United States: “Nine bullets for the traitors and one for the crusaders. Cleansing. Targeting.” Hundreds of people who helped us have already been abducted, tortured and killed.

The breathtaking speed and scale of the United States withdrawal from Iraq make this one of the largest and most efficient logistical movements ever undertaken. But with the closure of each base or installation, the Iraqis employed by the U.S. government or contractors lose another safe haven. They and their families are being left on their own.

After Kirk Johnson’s stint in Iraq with the U.S. Agency for International Development ended and he returned to the United States, he started getting pleas for help from Iraqi friends who served alongside him in Baghdad and Fallujah. Several had received death threats and feared for their lives. Kirk took action by organizing an effort to help win refugee status and admission into the United States for these Iraqis who had willingly risked their lives and fortunes to assist the policies of the United States. He started keeping a list of those who needed help, and his list has grown longer and longer.

Kirk’s effort became the List Project to Resettle Iraqi Allies, and his work has been featured on *60 Minutes* and other national news shows.

Inspired by Kirk’s efforts, Congress passed legislation creating a special immigration procedure for Iraqis who worked for the U.S. government or U.S. entities in Iraq and who now face a threat of harm because of that work. Although the State Department has given this law a narrow interpretation and has been slow to process applications, the List Project has helped hundreds of Iraqis win these special immigrant visas. They have also helped many pursue the alternative course of admission as refugees who face a well-founded fear of persecution because of their affiliation with the United States.

This past fall, Dechert joined a coalition of law firms committed to implementing the mission of the List Project. So far, I’ve had the privilege of representing two List Project clients. **Rachel Bee** and I are helping gain admission to the United States for an Iraqi man living in northern Iraq providing translating services for U.S. military forces. I’m also working with **William Allensworth** to help an Iraqi woman previously granted refugee status secure entry into the United States for her two minor sons. It’s hard to imagine a more worthy cause.

Other Dechert attorneys working on List Project matters include **Muna Abu-Shaar, David L. Ansell, Katherine A. Burroughs, Eric R. Cochran, Alexander D. Gonzalez, Susan M. Hendrickson, Christine C. Levin, Thomas P. Lihan, Jordan E. McKay, Gary J. Mennitt, Kathleen O'Connor, John V. O'Hanlon, Kate O'Keefe, Paul M. Orzea, Jonathan D. Perry, Charles I. Poret, Evan S. Posner, Zeena A. Rahman, Max Rodrigues, David E. Schulman, Nilufer R. Shaikh, Michael L. Sherman, Suzanne E. Turner and Cynthia J. Williams.**

Steven G. Bradbury

Washington

+1 202 261 3483

steven.bradbury@dechert.com

Beyond the Ordinary Course of Business



by **Lorraine Artur de La Villarmois**

Dechert's pro bono practice provides legal assistance and services out of the ordinary course of business. C&S partner **François Hellot**, assisted by Litigation associate **Mayalen Lacabarats** and C&S

associates **Guillaume Briant, Xavier Leroux** and myself, from the Paris office, were indeed driven far from anything ordinary when we dealt with witchcraft and sorcery in Africa.

HelpAge, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the assistance towards, and the promotion of, the interests of elderly people, initially contacted us to analyze a Burkinabe draft bill aimed at the repression of offenses related to witchcraft. HelpAge was particularly concerned about violence and abuses against older women arising from witchcraft accusations. The project eventually grew to encompass the assessment of regulations prohibiting witchcraft practices and preventing witchcraft-related violence in Burkina Faso as well as Ivory Coast and Senegal.

Victims of witchcraft accusations are frequently older women, living alone, in rural or remote areas. Such accusations can lead to social and economic exclusion—with so-called witches being banished from their villages—and, in the worst cases, to violence or murder.

Understanding this phenomenon from a legal standpoint is a challenging assignment, in particular for Western

minds. Regardless of one's beliefs on witchcraft, the related violence is a real issue described by many anthropological studies, international reports and press articles.

To assist HelpAge, we analyzed witchcraft related regulations in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal. We studied articles from African legal authors. We reviewed reports from several international organizations, NGOs and UN entities. However, written sources are not sufficient to understand the complexity of the issue, so we contacted lawyers and judges from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal to enhance our views using their experiences. Thanks to their advice, we gained a better understanding of the legal and social challenges related to witchcraft practices and violence.

For villagers in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal, there is an apparent contradiction between preventing harmful traditional practices and providing due process of law to people accused of witchcraft. It is, however, necessary to channel witchcraft-related accusations into the judicial system to ensure they are addressed by independent judges. In certain cases, dissatisfaction with court decisions (in particular, rulings stating that an alleged witch or wizard is innocent) can lead to social upheaval. Political support to ensure the enforcement of courts' decisions is therefore required. Closed centers where victims of exclusion due to witchcraft accusations can find a refuge are an adequate, but not sufficient, solution to protect these victims. Eventually, the enforcement of already existing statutes, notably relating to the protection of vulnerable persons, together with granting non-profit organizations the right to stand as plaintiff with, or on behalf of, the victims of witchcraft-related violence appear to be adequate means to prevent harmful traditional practices and witchcraft-related violence.

The complexity of the phenomenon and its roots in certain social challenges such as poverty, illiteracy and gender discrimination prevented us from assessing what the perfect law would be, and allowing us to draw the above recommendations only. However, our analysis of existing witchcraft-related regulations, highlighting legal loopholes and issues, allowed HelpAge to ground some of its recommendations regarding the protection of the victims of witchcraft violence.

Lorraine Artur de La Villarmois

Paris

+33 1 57 57 80 34

lorraine.arturdelavillarmois@dechert.com

Protecting the Right to Counsel in Non-Criminal Cases



by **David S. Caroline**

“You have the right to remain silent. If you give up the right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you desire an attorney and cannot afford one, an attorney will be obtained for you before police questioning.”

Ever since the 1966 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, these words are repeated by officers around the country before commencing custodial interrogations. Yet the warning itself merely advises potential interviewees of certain individual rights—rights vested by the Constitution and developed through centuries of jurisprudence. The right to appointed counsel is rooted in the Sixth Amendment (“In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall . . . have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence”). Since the Supreme Court’s 1963 decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, and cases following, indigent defendants facing criminal charges are offered counsel at the state’s expense.

Is there a right to counsel when a person faces months in prison for non-criminal cases, such as civil contempt of court? That was the question before the nine justices of the Supreme Court on March 24, 2011 at oral arguments in *Turner v. Rogers*. A team of Dechert attorneys, led by **Stephen J. McConnell**, briefed on behalf of amici curiae National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) et. al. in support of the Petitioner that the Court should announce a clear rule that the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of due process requires appointment of counsel when an indigent defendant faces possible incarceration in a civil contempt hearing.

When Steve initially took the case, he and **Meghan Rohling Kelley** were tasked with drafting an amicus brief before the South Carolina Supreme Court. On March 29, 2010, that court ruled, in contrast to most other states and federal circuits that have addressed the issue, that the U.S. Constitution does not require assistance of counsel in non-criminal cases, even when the defendant faces significant jail time as a result of the proceeding. I fortunately made the good decision to agree to work with Steve and Meghan on an amicus brief in support of a petition for a writ of certiorari from the Supreme Court.

Steve, Meghan, **Joseph McFarlane** (a 2010 summer associate) and I researched and drafted the brief.

Although the chances of any case actually being granted cert are small, Steve described this one as having, “as good a chance as any case could.” The record was clean, and the South Carolina Supreme Court made no bones about the fact that it was going against the weight of authority. Sure enough, on November 1, 2010, the Supreme Court granted the petition for certiorari.

Together, working closely with our client, Malia Brink from the NACDL, and other parties signing on, we began work on a merits brief, crafting an argument that indigent people facing civil contempt face unique challenges necessitating the assistance of counsel. Counsel for the Petitioner focused on the Supreme Court precedent and the Constitutional arguments in support of recognizing a right to counsel under the Due Process Clause when loss of personal liberty is at stake. We focused our argument on the more personal aspects of the case: the status of potential contemnors, particularly in child-support cases, as frequently indigent, often lacking adequate education and facing the surprisingly difficult task of demonstrating that their non-payment was based on true inability to pay rather than willfulness. We also established that the interests of the states would be better served by keeping those truly unable to make support payments out of jail, saving the state the costs of incarceration and giving the indigent parent the opportunity to find work and get back on his (usually his, as Justice Breyer pointed out in oral argument, though occasionally her) feet. Our client interviewed defenders in North Carolina, and we used the experience of that neighboring state to demonstrate how a public-assistance model for civil contempt hearings could work successfully and would not unduly burden states.

The opportunity to work with such a skilled team and an actively engaged client was a terrific opportunity for an almost brand-new associate at the firm. The highlight of

A World of Good

This Dechert pro bono update is a publication of the firm’s Pro Bono Committee. If you have items you would like included in the next edition, please forward them to Suzanne Turner at suzanne.turner@dechert.com.

this matter was travelling to Washington, D.C. with Steve and Joe to observe the oral arguments. Former Solicitor General Seth Waxman presented the arguments for our side. Deputy Solicitor General Leondra Kruger argued for the United States, as amicus curiae. Penn Law professor Stephanos Bibas (my criminal procedure instructor and a former clerk to Justice Kennedy) argued on behalf of the respondent. The justices asked tough questions of both sides, and for those of us not in the hot seat, provided a fascinating and entertaining morning (e.g., a classic comment from Justice Scalia: “for those of us who think the Due Process Clause doesn’t contain whatever we think it ought to contain . . .”). Watching the justices and skilled oral advocates in action was truly an unforgettable experience. We look forward to a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court, one that will clearly articulate that indigent persons facing incarceration, even in a proceeding defined as civil, have a constitutional right to representation by counsel.

David S. Caroline

Philadelphia
+1 215 994 2180
david.caroline@dechert.com

Annual Pro Bono Recognition and Awards Reception

Dechert recently hosted the 2011 Pro Bono Recognition and Awards Reception, the firm’s annual event recognizing outstanding pro bono work performed during the past year. On March 2, 2011, more than 350 people attended simultaneous receptions linked by video-conference in Dechert offices worldwide.



Bruce Kuhlik, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Merck, gives the keynote speech.



Joseph B. Heil (right) of the San Francisco office attends the Pro Bono Reception.

Dechert Chairman **Barton J. Winokur** hosted the event, the highlights of which included a keynote speech from **Bruce Kuhlik**, executive vice president and general counsel of Merck. Bruce is a Board Member of The Pro Bono Partnership, The Rand Institute for Civil Justice, the University of Pennsylvania Institute for Law and Economics and McCarter Theatre. He spoke about the value of having representation in legal proceedings and the benefits attorneys, especially young attorneys, can gain from taking on pro bono matters.

During the event, four individual attorneys and two teams were presented with the Samuel E. Klein Pro Bono Award, given annually to those at Dechert who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to providing pro bono legal services. Each award recipient received a plaque, and the firm made a charitable contribution of \$500 to a legal services organization of his or her choice.

This year the following people were honored:

Guillaume D. Briant – Guillaume, a Corporate & Securities associate in Paris, worked as part of the team analyzing witchcraft regulations in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal, with the goal of protecting elderly women from accusations of witchcraft and related violence. He also assisted the American Library in Paris with corporate issues and the manager of a charity with tax investigations against one of the charity’s contributors. In addition, Guillaume contributed to the creation of a new pro bono project, under which the firm will assist the Medicines Patent Pool.

Jennings F. Durand – Jennings, an associate in the Antitrust Group in Philadelphia, created the Philadelphia Initiative for Haitian Children, a collection of attorneys, community leaders and others offering legal services and advocacy for Haitians who were affected by the 2010

earthquake. He also represented a group of federal prisoners who brought a First Amendment challenge against their prison over the regulation of their musical rock band and he participates in the University of Pennsylvania Third Circuit externship program, in which third-year law students work with Dechert associates and partners on pro bono cases in the Third Circuit.

Jamie L. Halavais – Jamie is an associate in the White Collar and Securities Litigation Practice in New York. In 2006, she organized a team of Dechert attorneys to participate in the Family Court Pro Bono Project providing legal advice to pro se litigants in the Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan Family Courts. Jamie also worked on a race discrimination case and, recently on a Criminal Justice Act Panel referred case, she successfully represented a defendant in a plea agreement and sentencing proceedings. In addition, Jamie has taken on asylum cases, a Social Security Disability Insurance claim and a case concerning a prisoner’s access to constitutionally adequate health care.



Pro Bono Committee member Julia Braun thanks Berthold Hummel of the Munich office for his participation in the firm’s pro bono program.

François Quintard-Morenas – François, a Finance and Real Estate associate in the New York office, has worked on several U-Visa matters for clients who experienced sexual battery and abuse after coming to the United States. He has also taken on matters for non-profits including assisting the organization Voces Latinas with a lease agreement and representing the Family Services of Westchester in a merger with another family service organization and the subsequent transfer of title. He has also researched human rights issues for the homeless.

Hague Convention Team – This team, led by Philadelphia’s **Cheryl Krause** and **Brielle Rey**, convinced



Lawyers with 50 or more pro bono hours in 2010 received this perpetual calendar.

a federal district court in August 2010 to permit a mother with dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship to take her 9-year-old son back to Israel after he had been kidnapped by his father for more than two years. The team took on the case after the client discovered she had rights under the Hague Convention to have custody matters adjudicated in the country of the child’s “habitual residence.” After surmounting numerous legal obstacles, the team was able, through diligent investigation and creative advocacy, to show that the child lacked significant social connections to the community, enabling the client to take her son back to Israel.

Swarna Team – A multi-office Dechert team has represented a woman trafficked to the United States by a Kuwaiti diplomat since 2006. The client had been brought to the United States in 1996 to work as a live-in domestic in the household of a Kuwaiti diplomat. She was promised good wages and living conditions, but instead was beaten and raped, endured threats to her life and the lives of her family members still in India and was rarely allowed to leave the house. After four years of experiencing this abuse, she escaped. The team became involved after her initial lawsuit was dismissed on grounds of diplomatic immunity. The case made it to the Second Circuit, which held that the diplomats, who no longer had their post in the United States, were not covered by a residual diplomatic immunity defense. This was the first case of this kind that has gone to a federal court of appeals and is bound to have considerable impact for other cases.

Additionally, 270 attorneys and paralegals were named to the firm’s Pro Bono Honor Roll (starting on page 6) for performing 50 or more hours of pro bono work in 2010.

Pro Bono Honor Roll

Austin

Amy L. Rudd
Gretchen S. Sween
Eliot J. Walker

Christopher G. Karras
Sheelyn M. Michael
Thomas Mieszkowski
Richard O'Brien
Jodie Valler-Feltham

Nicolle L. Jacoby
Robert J. Jossen
Eric Kirsch
Alvin C. Knight
Lauren Kurtz

Claude M. Tusk
Kenneth C. Wang
Charles I. Weissman
George P. Wukoson

Boston

Kevin S. Blume
Lewis A. Burleigh
Joybell Chitbangonsyn
Owen C. Foster
Jessica A. Howell
Brenda L. Meyette
Bene I. Ness
Kate M. O'Keeffe
Michelle E. Peters

Moscow

Yuri A. Makhonin

Munich

Julia Braun
Berthold A. Hummel

New York

Rose L. Amandola
Jason O. Billy
Kira N. Brereton
Brian H. Brick
Patrick G. Broderick
Melissa E. Brody
Ryan P. Buechner
James S. Buino
Daniel L. Clausen
Sara Corris
Claudia L. De Alba
Elise M. Dolan
Erika Gellert
Michael J. Gilbert
Michael Z. Goldman
Jillian E. Gutman Mann
Jamie L. Halavais
Nicole B. Herther-Spiro
Michael Hirschfeld
David S. Hoffner
Jenny A. Hughes

Rachel D. Mansdorf
Katarina V. McClellan
Ryan D. McNaughton
Laura E. Meehan
Sarah E. Mendola
Joshua Y. Milgrim
Jeffrey T. Mispagel
Kristina A. Moon
James O. Moore
James H. Nix
Debra D. O'Gorman
Michael H. Park
Anna D. Petti
Michael E. Planell
Andrew P. Pontano
Charles I. Poret
Sean H. Porter
Francois Quintard-Morenas
Katherine K. Rankin
Benjamin E. Rosenberg
Sahba Salimi
Kevin P. Scanlan
Joseph M. Schuster
Joshua I. Sherman
Steven B. Smith
David P. Staubitz
James G. Stefanick
Neil A. Steiner
Gordon Sung
Robert W. Topp

Orange County

Kevin K. Babikian
Joseph P. Kelly II
Robert A. Robertson
Joshua A. Strathman

Paris

Lorraine Artur de La Villarmo
Guillaume Briant
Berengere Durand-Pasek
Mayalen Lacabarats
Diana Paraguacuto-Maheo
Jonathan A. Schur

Philadelphia

Robert W. Ashbrook Jr.
Irene Ayzenberg-Lyman
Artimes E. Balakhani
Benjamin R. Barnett
Shevon D. Bengston Rockett
Richard L. Berkman
Alexander R. Bilus
Christopher R. Boisvert
Jeffrey R. Boles
Janet M. Bollinger
Allison M. Brown
Stephen D. Brown
Carolyn E. Budzinski
Jennifer L. Burdick
April M. Byrd

Hartford

G. Eric Brunstad
Matthew J. Delude

London

Claudine Ang
Peter R. Crockford
Sarah Fidler
Elizabeth Freeth
Daniel Gal
Kate Holbrook
Lydia Hutchinson

David S. Caroline
Erin M. Carter
Kristina C. Cole
Tara L. Cooney
Quiana M. Covin
Karen C. Daly
Justin C. Danilewitz
Evan W. Davis
Francis J. Dermody
Danielle N. Devens
Carolyn R. Dilgard
James I. Downes
Jennings F. Durand
Kali A. Enyeart
Teri-Lynn A. Evans
Alicia M. Farley
James Figorski
Camille L. Fisher
Erin C. Fisher
Michael A. Fisher
Ethan D. Fogel
Michael I. Frankel
Hope S. Freiwald
Anthony J. Frick
Catherine C. Gaertner
Sharon K. Gagliardi
Vincent A. Gallo
Reena Ganju
Frederick J. Gerhart
Alexander D. Gonzalez
Kenneth D. Hackman
Joseph R. Heffern
Joseph K. Hetrick
Kenneth J. Holloway
Andrew N. Jensen
Thomas K. Johnson II
James J. Johnston
David F. Jones

David T. Jones
Dina A. Kasper
Michael L. Kichline
Susan K. Kilgore
Jonathan F. Korman
Cheryl A. Krause
Anna Krishtul
Jason G. Kurth
Anthony M. Lagreca
William G. Lawlor
Thomas H. Lee II
Kim M. K. Lee
Stephen M. Leitzell
Jeremy I. Levy
Molly K. Light
Wm. Scott Magargee III
Fred T. Magaziner
Robert L. Masterson
Stephen J. Mc Connell
Nathan M. McClellan
Sean P. McConnell
Maria K. McGinty
Hamid G. Moghadam
Jessica A. Morton
Marie D. O'Neill
Justin N. Pentz
Wayne I. Pollock
Galia H. Porat
Jennifer L. Porter
Victoria C. Poulton
Shane T. Prince
Eric M. Reed
Sabrina L. Reliford
Brielle M. Rey
Joshua W. Richards
Meghan Rohling Kelly
Allison M. Rovner
Shannon L. Rushing

Friedrich-Wilhe Sachse
Michael J. Salimbene
Brian P. Savage
Gregory A. Scherneck
David C. Schwartzman
David G. Shapiro
Sheku R. Sheikholeslami
Eric S. Siegel
Nils B. Snell
David J. Stanoch
Michael R. Stein
Jonathan R. Stott
Albert Suh
Danielle A. Torrice
Christopher M. Varano
William I. Wallace
Christine Warner
Sarah L. Westbrook
Linda White
Elisa T. Wiygul
Darla D. Woodring
Philip N. Yannella
Kenneth Young
Geanne K. Zelkowitz

Princeton

Heather S. Brown
Antonella Capobianco-Ranallo
Bruce W. Clark
Regan H. Crotty
Raffaella DeTrizio
David A. Kotler
Jennie B. Krasner
Robert D. Rhoad
Ezra D. Rosenberg
Michelle H. Yeary

San Francisco

Douglas C. Carleton
Steven G. Kalnoki
Muriel M. Korol
Lily A. North
Amy E. Thayer

Silicon Valley

Daniel M. Becker
Justin F. Boyce
Daniel B. Epstein
Manroop Purewal
Tina P. Soriano

Washington D.C.

Zeena A. Abdul-Rahman
Alexander N. Breckinridge
Tony Y. Chan
Eric R. Cochran
Jennifer E. Coon
Ruth S. Epstein
Rani A. Habash
Megan C. Johnson
Dennis J. Lawson
Vanessa M. Meeks
Adam T. Moore
Reza Pishva
Eric D. Simanek
Catherine E. Stahl
Scott M. Taggart
Suzanne E. Turner
Michael G. Viguie
Jeanette A. Wingler

Awards & Recognition

- Legal Services of New York acknowledged **Kira Brereton, Daniel L. Clausen, Claudia de Alba, Elise M. Dolan, Malcolm S. Dorris, Adam M. Fox, Nicole B. Herther-Spiro, Steven P. Kirberger, Jeffrey Mispagel, James O. Moore, Debra D. O’Gorman, Darina O’Connor, Thomas A. Rayski, Glenn E. Siegel, Steven B. Smith** and **Derek M. Winokur** for their work on pro bono matters during 2010 at its annual Pro Bono Recognition Awards Breakfast on December 7.
- **Ethan D. Fogel** (Philadelphia) was recognized by the SeniorLAW Center as its Volunteer of the Year for his work on projects to protect the rights and prevent homelessness of low-income elders, particularly in the area of landlord/tenant court; for advocating for a civil right to counsel; and for creating new resources for the unrepresented. He has also used his both his legal and linguistic skills to serve Latino elders in their own languages and neighborhoods as part of SeniorLAW Center’s many bilingual legal clinics. The award was presented at the organization’s Senior Prom on April 1.
- **Francis J. Rizzo** (Philadelphia) was honored with the Supervisor of the Year Award from Penn Housing Rights Project for his work advocating for the indigent tenants of Philadelphia. The award will be presented at the organization’s Public Interest Recognition Event on April 14.
- **Joseph A. Tate** (Philadelphia) was awarded the 2011 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) Excellence Award in recognition of his outstanding work on behalf of PLAN’s client community. The award was presented at the PLAN Awards Dinner on March 22.
- The New York office will receive the Safe Haven Award by Immigration Equality for their willingness to accept particularly difficult immigration cases. Since 2005, they have represented nine clients including successfully representing a gay, HIV-positive man who had been discharged from the U.S. military for being gay and was now facing removal proceedings. Dechert defended the man’s right to remain safely in the United States under the very high standard of the Convention Against Torture. The award will be presented at the Safe Haven Awards on May 31.
- Dechert was one of four firms named to the “Standout” level for pro bono in the December 1 issue of “Innovative Lawyers” in *The Financial Times*. The article cited the firm’s landlord-tenant program in Philadelphia.
- Dechert was one of 10 firms chosen as a Pro Bono Firm of 2010 by *Law360*. The publication profiled several Dechert pro bono projects, including a human trafficking case and a civil rights case for a paraplegic man in Philadelphia, as well as the firm’s long-standing prison civil rights program.
- **Corey F. Rose** (Charlotte) will receive Legal Aid of North Carolina’s 2011 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award given by the Mecklenburg County Bar and its Volunteer Lawyer Program. The award, to be presented at Mecklenburg County Bar’s Annual Meeting on May 19, recognizes pro bono attorneys who have contributed a significant amount of time and energy towards pro bono work over the past year.

Pro Bono Section of Dechert’s Intranet Site

Remember, the firm’s intranet site has a separate section on pro bono including sample forms, a directory of pro bono referral organizations and a calendar of training opportunities.

<http://intranet.dechert.com/dechertapps/probono>

Good Results and Interesting Matters

The Philadelphia-based team of **Stephen J. McConnell**, **Alexander R. “Sandy” Bilus**, **Craig Reiser** (a University of Pennsylvania extern) and summer associate **Ashley Prime** won a judgment in a Section 1983 matter. The client sued the Plains Township Police Department for helping her ex-boyfriend enter her apartment when she was not home and remove property. At trial, the district court gave the jury an incorrect instruction on an element of the claim. The Third Circuit appointed Dechert as amicus on behalf of the client and asked Dechert to address whether the district court’s instruction was plainly erroneous. We filed a brief and a reply brief and Sandy argued the case before the Third Circuit. The Third Circuit agreed with Dechert’s position, vacated the judgment of the district court and remanded the case for a new trial.

Congratulations and thank you to London office legal secretaries **Elizabeth Freeth** and **Hanna Brightman** who raised £2,167 for the London Legal Support Trust’s “Walk the Thames” event.

Brent Ferguson and **Scott C. Kessenick** of the New York office were successful in an asylum matter for a Jamaican male who was constantly physically abused because of his homosexuality. He was evicted from his parents’ home and could not find employment because members of the community knew of his sexual orientation. After friends pooled money together to buy him a plane ticket to stay with extended family in Brooklyn, he was granted asylum and will now seek employment and a college degree.

A multi-office team including **Krystyna Blakeslee**, **Jessica Seger Bula**, **Katherine A. Burroughs**, **Sara Corris**, **Kristina A. Moon** and **Eric M. Reed** worked with The National Center on Homelessness and Poverty to provide a briefing for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women focusing on violence against women in military families.

New York office associate **Jillian Gutman Mann** received compliments from the judge and from the City Bar Justice Center’s Consumer Bankruptcy Project for her work on a bankruptcy matter.

Laura Meehan, an associate in the New York office, successfully represented her client in an appeal of denial of social security disability benefits after the client was unable to continue working because of a disabling back condition.

Just a reminder . . .

all U.S.-based attorneys, including partners, counsel, associates and staff attorneys, are required to perform at least 25 hours of pro bono work a year. This policy is on an FTE basis, so part-time attorneys are only required to do a proportionate amount. We urge you to contact your Pro Bono Committee member now so you can find the type of project that best meets your skills and interests. If you have any questions about the policy or getting involved in the pro bono program, please contact Suzie Turner or any other member of the Pro Bono Committee.

Dechert's Pro Bono Committee

If you are interested in getting involved in pro bono work, please contact any member of the firm-wide Pro Bono Committee or a member of your local office Pro Bono Committee.

Kevin K. Babikian
Orange County
+1 949 442 6040
kevin.babikian@dechert.com

Krystyna Blakeslee
Hartford
+1 860 524 3913
krystyna.blakeslee@dechert.com

Justin F. Boyce
Silicon Valley
+1 650 813 4853
justin.boyce@dechert.com

Julia Braun
Munich
+49 89 21 21 63 20
julia.braun@dechert.com

Katherine A. Burroughs
Hartford
+1 860 524 3953
katherine.burroughs@dechert.com

Joybell Chitbangonsyn
Boston
+1 617 728 7171
joybell.chitbangonsyn@dechert.com

Bruce W. Clark
Princeton
+1 609 955 3212
bruce.clark@dechert.com

Shane R. DeBeer
Moscow
+7 499 922 1133
shane.debeer@dechert.com

Ethan D. Fogel
Philadelphia
+1 215 994 2965
ethan.fogel@dechert.com

Jean-Louis Frognet
Luxembourg
+352 45 62 62 29
jean-louis.frogner@dechert.com

François Hellot
Paris
+33 1 57 57 80 85
francois.hellot@dechert.com

France Jaffe
San Francisco
+1 415 262 4539
france.jaffe@dechert.com

Christopher G. Karras
London
+44 20 7184 7412
christopher.karras@dechert.com

Angelyn Lim
Hong Kong
+852 3518 4718
angelyn.lim@dechert.com

Stewart McQueen
Charlotte
+1 704 339 3155
stewart.mcqueen@dechert.com

Kathleen M. Mylod
Hartford
+1 860 524 3967
kathleen.mylod@dechert.com

Michelle E. Peters
Boston
+1 617 654 8617
michelle.peters@dechert.com

Sean H. Porter
New York
+1 212 698 3579
sean.porter@dechert.com

Charles I. Poret
New York
+1.212.698.3532
charles.poret@dechert.com

Jonathan A. Schur
Paris
+33 1 57 57 80 53
jonathan.schur@dechert.com

Richard J. Temko
Brussels
+32 2 535 5430
richard.temko@dechert.com

Suzanne E. Turner (Chair)
Washington, D.C.
+1 202 261 3361
suzanne.turner@dechert.com

Adam J. Wasserman
New York
+1 212 698 3580
adam.wasserman@dechert.com

About Dechert LLP

With offices throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, Dechert LLP is an international law firm focused on complex litigation and international arbitration, corporate and securities, financial services and asset management, business restructuring and reorganization, intellectual property, labor and employment, real estate finance, and tax law.

Dechert
LLP

www.dechert.com

© 2011 Dechert LLP. All rights reserved. This publication, provided by Dechert LLP as a general informational service, may be considered attorney advertising in some jurisdictions.

U.S. Austin • Boston • Charlotte • Hartford • Los Angeles • New York • Orange County • Philadelphia
Princeton • San Francisco • Silicon Valley • Washington, D.C. • **EUROPE** Brussels • Dublin
London • Luxembourg • Moscow • Munich • Paris • **ASIA** Beijing • Hong Kong