



# Making a Difference Through Pro Bono Service

2025 Highlights



Tucker  
Ellis | LLP

## Our Year in Pro Bono Service



**Justin Eddy**  
Pro Bono Partner-in-Charge

As I look back on the past year, I'm proud to share how our firm's commitment to expanding access to justice continues to guide and energize our work at Tucker Ellis.

**In 2025, attorneys across every Tucker Ellis Hallway stepped forward with skill and compassion**—partnering with charitable organizations and nonprofits, taking on complex matters for vulnerable clients, and advancing thoughtful discussions about pro bono leadership within our community.

Our efforts spanned appellate advocacy before the U.S. Supreme Court, civil rights litigation, immigration counseling, nonprofit advising, patent prosecution, and reentry-focused settlements, showcasing both the breadth of our capabilities and our resolve to serve.













Our achievements in 2025 underscore the power of collaboration and the difference we can make together. We are grateful to our attorneys for their dedication.



*Dan Kloos, Elisa Arko, Kari Burns, Joe Manno, Derek Jones, and Jen Roth volunteered at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for Tucker Ellis Day, our firm's anniversary and annual day of service, in July.*



## Pro Bono at Tucker Ellis

-  1983 Actions
-  Appellate and Amicus Advocacy
-  Housing and Landlord/Tenant Issues
-  Immigration Counseling
-  Nonprofit and Employment Counseling
-  Administrative and Reimbursement Disputes
-  Patent Prosecution for Solo Inventors
-  Veterans' Benefits
-  Brief-Service and Advice Clinics
-  Adoption and Family Status
-  Death Penalty Appeals and Support
-  Standby and Trial Preparation Support

# 2025 Case Highlights

## Exposing Out-of-Bounds History of Discrimination in Supreme Court Sports Case

In November 2025, Tucker Ellis and Advocates for Trans Equality (A4TE) filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court in Hecox and BPJ, challenging bans on transgender athletes in Idaho and West Virginia. Led by **Chad Eggspuehler**, the team worked with A4TE and 10 legal historians to trace the history of discrimination against transgender people and urge a measured, historically grounded analysis. Extensive research support came from **Ben Crawford, Danielle Easton, Ben Eldredge, Tayler Gill, and Jessica Toncler**.



*Chad Eggspuehler*

## Advocating for Inmates' Rights Under Section 1983

Appointed by the District of New Jersey, **Diana Gerstel** and **Cheska Tolentino** continue to represent Perry A. Wilcox in a 1983 action based on his claims that Hudson County Correctional Center failed to mitigate COVID-19 risks, causing him to experience repeated infections at the height of the pandemic.

In the Eastern District of Illinois, **Max Huber** served as standby counsel for Cedrick Graham in a 1983 case alleging constitutional violations by Illinois Department of Corrections employees. After summary judgment was denied, Max assisted with trial preparation and renewed negotiations following the client's release, ultimately securing a settlement that provided meaningful closure.



*Diana Gerstel*



*Cheska Tolentino*



*Max Huber*

## Protecting Tenant Rights

Building on work featured in last year's highlights, **Danielle Easton** and **Spencer Krebs** continued representation in a landlord-tenant dispute referred through the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's appeals program. After the matter returned to municipal court, the team filed several motions and a counterclaim for retaliation, which led to productive negotiations and a favorable settlement.



*Danielle Easton*



*Spencer Krebs*

## Empowering Nonprofits Through Pro Bono Counsel

In Los Angeles, **Anna-Sophie Tirre** advised Harvest Home—a nonprofit serving unhoused, expectant mothers—on immigration considerations for hiring a non-citizen social worker, helping the organization navigate employment eligibility and timing issues while maintaining continuity of care.



*Anna-Sophie Tirre*

In Cleveland, **Christine Snyder** provided ongoing pro bono employment counseling to the Cleveland Animal Protective League and the Center for Arts Inspired Learning, including policy updates, agreements, and advice on terminations, leave, and compliance.



*Christine Snyder*

## Guiding an Inventor Through Patent Examination

Through the Ohio Patent Pro Bono Program, **Francesca LaMontagne** and **Patrick Clunk** continued to assist a solo inventor with an innovative shoe design. After last year's filing, the team received a first action from the USPTO in 2025, marking the start of substantive examination. Although application contents remain confidential pre-publication, the matter is progressing toward potential allowance.



*Francesca LaMontagne*



*Patrick Clunk*



## Firmwide Engagement

### Deepening Our Pro Bono Partnerships

In October, Tucker Ellis hosted an educational program with the **CSUJLAW Terry Gilbert Wrongful Conviction Clinic** and **Voices of Injustice**, highlighting opportunities to support individuals with claims of actual innocence or manifest injustice. The discussion, held during ABA Pro Bono Month, focused on systemic barriers and practical ways to assist with case development, investigation, and advocacy.

Also in 2025, we launched a collaboration with the **CMBA Non-Profit Legal Resource Center**, expanding our nonprofit advisory work. Early matters, including an Ohio Medicaid denial, show how targeted counsel strengthens nonprofit operations and safeguards essential services. Our attorneys remained active with pro bono initiatives of the Northern District of Ohio and other court- and bar-affiliated committees, connecting firm capabilities with pressing community needs and helping shape high-impact opportunities.



◀ Tucker Ellis attorneys **Cate Mandry** and **Justin Eddy** with **Laura Greig** and **Jonathan Witmer-Rich** of CSUJLAW and **RuEl Sailor** and **Charles Jackson** of Voices of Injustice.



## Service and Leadership Across the Pro Bono Community

Our attorneys continued to lead across pro bono networks. On the IADC “IADC Speaks” podcast, **Sandy Wunderlich** discussed her CASA board service and **Scott Wilkov** highlighted his advocacy for veterans and guidance on navigating VA benefits. Within the firm, ambassadors such as **Brendan Kelley** and **Chris Caryl** continued to energize participation in initiatives with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and other pro bono organizations, reinforcing a culture of steady, hands-on service.



◀ Tucker Ellis attorneys **Ben Crawford, Joe Manno, Zach Kaplan, Justin Eddy, Riley Shaw**, and Director of Professional Development **Kari Burns** attended an Expungement Clinic of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in November.



# Tucker Ellis | LLP

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