



# For the Public Good

Pro Bono 2016

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I subscribe to the belief that each human life should be judged not by its duration but by its donation. Each of us is duty bound to make our community, our state and our nation a little bit better by our presence.

Charles L. Bacon

A German politician once famously declared that there are two things you don't want to see being made – sausage and legislation.

Had he been a pro bono lawyer, he may have added a third thing to the list: the proceedings of Jackson County Family Court. I'm confident that most of Shook's KC lawyers have spent some time on the second floor of the Family Court building, just two blocks east of our offices, counseling, advising, and advocating for their client.

At first blush, it can be an overwhelming scene. On a typical day, there could be a hundred people gathered – moms, dads, juveniles, toddlers, infants, grandparents, court appointed attorneys, guardians ad litem, CASA workers, social workers, police and others who are part of the support network. Some days you can spot a man carrying a portable cooler looking for his "customers." He's a drug tester, and he's going to get his sample.

While many of those present are waiting for their cases to be called, almost no one is sitting idly. You see moms huddle with sons in conference with their attorneys. You notice guardians ad litem reviewing thick files in last-minute preparation for the hearing. Social workers are handing



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**Matt Keenan**

*Chair, Pro Bono  
Committee*

out last-minute reports that will be offered into evidence. And every 20 minutes or so you hear it – the attorney for the state opens a door to one of the courtrooms and yells out the next case.

Against the east wall is a sign, placed about 8 feet from the ground. It blinks a message that no one sees or, if they did, follows: QUIET PLEASE. Yes, it's chaotic but in its own way, beautiful, because pretty much everyone shares one common goal: to find a way to get families out of the system and succeed in the most important job they will ever have – to be a parent.

And most days you will find one or more lawyers from 2555 Grand. I was there last month. It was a Wednesday at 2. My wingman was Kylene Campbell and we rode together for a status conference for one of our clients, a mother of four who was in jeopardy of losing her children.

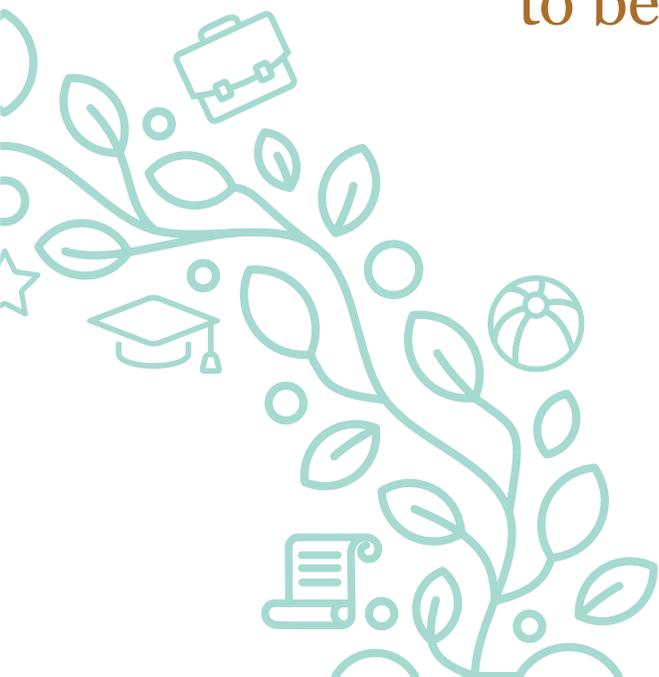
## In just eight months this year, Jackson County appointed Shook lawyers in 210 new cases.

On that day I ran into [Megan Roth](#) and Rhonda Hoffman as they were counseling their client on one of the plastic chairs in the waiting room. [Dave Suroff](#) and Berna Cosner were in another courtroom advocating for a hardworking dad. In just eight months this year, Jackson County appointed Shook lawyers in 210 new cases. Of those, 19 were cases where the state is seeking termination of parental rights (TPR) – the most serious penalty any parent can be assessed.

This work is not glamorous, glorious or sexy. It's the intersection of life, law and love. We are there every day in the fight, making a difference in the lives of our clients, and our community. The list of Shook attorneys who have spent hours at this court is long. Just this year, [Dawn Blanche](#), [Mike Cappo](#), [Jennifer Cascio](#), [Zac Crowell](#), [Matt DePaz](#), [Pat Fanning](#), [Ruth Anne French-Hodson](#), [Jason Howard](#), [Paul Mose](#), [Alexandra Nieves](#), [Devin Ross](#), [Jara Settles](#), [Justin Smith](#), [Alex Sorenson](#), [Joy Springfield](#), [Erin Vaughn](#), [Chris Wray](#) and many others have dedicated their time and talent to help our clients.

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Yes, it's chaotic but in its own way, beautiful, because pretty much everyone shares one common goal: to find a way to get families out of the system and succeed in the most important job they will ever have – to be a parent.



Through the end  
of last year, we have  
placed 1,197 children  
in permanent,  
safe and loving homes.

Many others across the firm are stepping up as well. Our pro bono statistics show an average of 32 pro bono hours per lawyer and almost six of 10 attorneys handled pro bono cases over the last year. The Forever Home adoption and guardianship program has continued its success after a milestone year in 2015. Through the end of last year, we have placed 1,197 children in permanent, safe and loving homes. We currently have 97 adoption cases in 2016. Just a few of our Forever Home heroes include [Gene Balloun](#), [Dana Strueby](#), [Valerie Blevins](#), [Mark Ellison](#), [Madison Hatten](#) and [Chris Kaufman](#). Still other lawyers have carved out their niche in the immigration arena like [Kerry Manning](#), [Iain Kennedy](#), [Matt Wolfe](#), [Dan Schwaller](#) and [Andy Meerkins](#) – just to name a few.

As our expertise grows, the opportunities and challenges continue to grow. I believe the legacy of this firm is being shaped by how we treat the children most at risk in our society. This year, as throughout our firm's history, we continue to be a leader on behalf of those children. ●

# By the Numbers

75%

Shook associates  
who participated  
in pro bono | 2015



22,897

total pro bono  
hours billed | 2015

32

average number  
of pro bono hours  
per lawyer | 2015



130

total number of lawyers  
with 20 or more hours  
of pro bono | 2015





# Pro Bono All Stars 2015

Hal Arteaga  
Gene Balloun  
John Barkett  
Dawn Blanche  
Andrew Chang  
Charles Cooper  
Tony Diab  
Tristan Duncan  
Brent Dwerlkotte  
Ruth Anne  
French-Hodson  
Edd Gaus  
Beth Heine  
Jolie Justus  
Scott Kaiser

Matt Keenan  
Iain Kennedy  
Tiffany Lim  
Elena McFarland  
Amir Nassihi  
Alexandra Nieves  
Clay Norkey  
Patrick Oot  
Melissa Plunkett  
Megan Roth  
Stephanie Sankar  
Russell Shankland  
Joy Springfield  
David Suroff

100+  
HOURS



# Pro Bono All Stars 2015

Rob Adams  
Chris Appel  
Jennifer Artman  
Keith Bae  
Mike Barnett  
Jane Bartley  
Marty Bax  
Sean Becker  
Jordan Bergsten  
Brad Bodamer  
Kristi Burmeister  
Joan Camagong  
Mike Cappo  
John Constance  
Amy Crouch  
Zac Crowell

Matt DePaz  
James Devaney  
Alicia Donahue  
Gabe Egli  
Megan Egli  
Mark Ellison  
Bart Eppenauer  
Alison Erickson  
James Feeney  
Kelly Feimster  
Jennifer Ferguson  
Jeff Fields  
Cory Fisher  
Alex Garnick  
John Garretson  
Patrick Gregory  
Brandon Gutshall  
Katie Gates Calderon  
Jon R. Gray  
Tom Grever  
Bill Harmon  
Ashley Harrison  
Sandy Hawley  
Jason Howard  
Brian Jackson  
Jeanne Janchar  
Chris Johnson  
Cathy Kamm  
Matt Keane  
Mat Larsen  
Daniel Lim  
Liz Lucas  
Kerry Manning  
Melissa Marrero  
Anthony Martinez  
Bill Martucci  
Kirk Marty

John Mattox  
Jessica McKinney  
Paul Mose  
Devin Moss  
Clint Newton  
Terri Parker  
Mary Jane Peal  
Anitra Raiford  
Tiffany Raush  
Paul Reid  
Clark Richardson  
Amanda Robinson  
Erick Roeder  
Dan Rogers  
Devin Ross  
Lori Schultz  
Jara Settles  
Jenna Sheldon-Sherman  
Dan Shinn  
Jay Simpson  
Justin Smith  
Mareta Smith  
Gabe Spooner  
Chris Strobel  
Matt Stucky  
David Swaney  
Amanda Tamayo  
Camila Tobón  
Kevin Underhill  
John Vaglio  
Matt Vanis  
Joanna Vassallo  
Erin Vaughn  
Mihai Vrasmasu  
Scott Wadding  
Mike Walden  
Jesse Weisshaar  
Jeremy Wikler  
Paul Williams  
Anthony Wingrove  
Chris Wray  
Greg Wu

20+  
HOURS

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Lawyers have a license  
to practice law, a monopoly  
on certain services. But for the  
privilege and status, lawyers  
have an obligation to provide  
legal services to those without  
the wherewithal to pay,  
to respond to needs outside  
themselves, to help repair tears  
in their communities.

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg | March 2014



# Pro Bono Rising Stars

Every year about 60 percent of Shook's lawyers participate in some type of pro bono work, dedicating thousands of hours to clients and great causes in each of our communities. This year several of our associates stood out as true pro bono warriors, taking on exceptionally difficult cases, securing big victories for clients and providing the time, dedication and talent that make them stand out as Pro Bono Rising Stars.



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## Edd Gaus

SAN FRANCISCO

According to San Francisco Partner Amir Nassihi, Edd Gaus “knocked it out of the park” this year with his pro bono contributions. Edd has donated hundreds of pro bono hours to a variety of cases, including 1983 civil rights actions, GAL work and a landmark whistleblower case against the state of California. Edd is a key participant in the Eastern District of California Federal Court Pro Bono Program. He has been a dedicated team member and trial counsel for several of the cases appointed to Shook through this program, including the *Arceo v. Gonzales* case, where he teamed up with Nassihi and Andrew Chang to represent a state prisoner alleging improper use of force in violation of the client’s civil rights. He was an honoree of the Sacramento Federal Bar Association and his work contributed to positive comments and recognition for the firm from at least one federal judge in the Eastern District of California.



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## Alex Sorenson

KANSAS CITY

If the firm gave an award for pro bono rookie of the year, [Alex Sorenson](#) would win this year – hands down. Alex volunteered for her first pro bono case as soon as she finished taking her oath to The Missouri Bar, and she has been a pro bono rock star ever since.

In addition to volunteering for the Juvenile Detention Docket and handling two of her own juvenile cases, Alex continually steps up to cover pro bono cases on a regular basis for Shook lawyers who need last minute coverage for hearings. She is a regular fixture at Jackson County Family Court and talent and dedication far surpass her age.

Always looking for new opportunities, Alex jumped at the chance to join [Brian Jackson](#) and [Dale Johnson](#) this year when the federal court

appointed Shook to represent a prisoner in a 1983 civil rights action. Shook was appointed to the case near the end of discovery and although she had an extremely busy schedule already, Alex agreed to join the team and quickly became an expert on the file. She worked tirelessly to get an extension on discovery and she took her first five depositions in the case. Her briefing has been crucial to the team and she is the key contact with a very high maintenance client. She is dedicated, compassionate and professional with the client and makes him feel connected to the team and makes sure he stays informed about the progress of his case. The client has even sent several cards and letters thanking Alex for her work on his case. Her sustained commitment in such a short amount of time is a true compliment to the firm and the profession.





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## Matt Wolfe

CHICAGO

Shook has always known that Matt Wolfe is a rising star, but this year the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) recognized him as such for his exemplary pro bono work. NIJC is a nonprofit organization geared toward providing human rights protections for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Wolfe was recognized by NIJC this summer at the organization's 17th Annual Human Rights Awards.

Each year, the organization honors individuals who have made "outstanding achievements to promote, protect and advance human rights throughout the world." The Rising Star award "recognizes associate or junior-level attorneys who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to ensuring access to justice for immigrants through their pro bono work with NIJC.

Wolfe has worked with the NIJC for the past four years. In 2012, he helped organize a clinic where Shook attorneys and paralegals assisted 15 youths applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status. Following the clinic, Wolfe and other Shook attorneys continue to represent a number of those youths in renewing their applications every two years. Wolfe also represents, in complex proceedings in both immigration court and before the U.S. Asylum Office, two unaccompanied minors from El Salvador who fled forcible gang recruitment there and are seeking asylum in the United States.

Aside from his pro bono work with the NIJC, Wolfe has also served as pro bono counsel to Chicago nonprofit Housing Choice Partners. ●



# Johnson County First Amendment Foundation Continues Its Mission to Promote Better Understanding of Constitution for Kansas Students

Reprinted with permission from *Law Wise*, April/May 2016, Issue 6





The presentation of a \$5,000 check to the winning team of the Kansas “We the People” state championship in February seemed a natural thing to do for J. Eugene “Gene” Balloun, a partner in the Kansas City firm of Shook, Hardy, & Bacon (SHB) and co-chair of the Johnson County First Amendment Foundation.

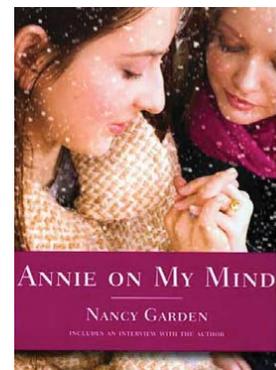
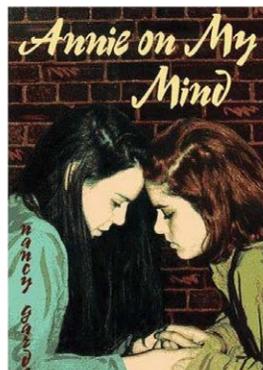
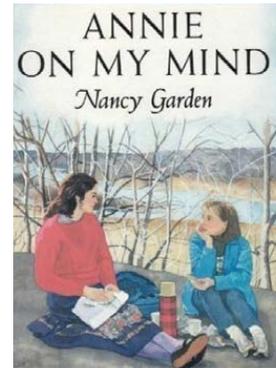
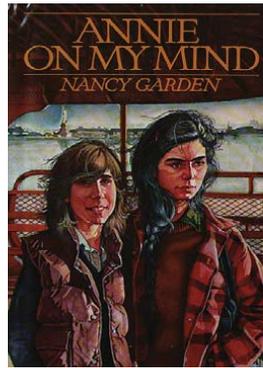


—  
Gene Balloun



—  
The Honorable  
David Waxse

*Annie On My Mind* book covers | from left to right: 1982, 1989, 1992 and 2007



The winning high school team from Johnson County was, after all, being rewarded for their hard work in learning and presenting their understanding of the U.S. Constitution: the very reason why the Foundation was started. Team members from Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park used the stipend to help defray expenses when the school represents Kansas at the national “We the People” finals April 22-25 in Washington, D.C.

Balloun, a longtime attorney with [SHB](#), and Hon. David Waxse, now a federal magistrate judge, teamed up in 1999 to organize the First Amendment Foundation, with the mission “to promote a better understanding among Kansas students, particularly in Johnson County, of First Amendment and other Constitutional rights that ensure a free society’s freedom to write, freedom to publish and freedom to read.”

## THE BANNED BOOK AND LAWSUIT THAT INSPIRED THE FOUNDATION

The Johnson County First Amendment Foundation’s website describes the origin of the Foundation as growing out of a successful lawsuit challenging an attempt to remove an award-winning book from the shelves of a Johnson County high school. The book, *Annie On My Mind*, by Nancy Garden, tells the fictional story of a romantic relationship between two high school girls. Between 1988 and 1993, at least a half-dozen attempts were made to ban the book from public and school libraries from Oregon and California in the West, to Maine in the East, and from Michigan in the North to Texas in the South. Beginning in 1993, the book received a tumultuous welcome in Kansas. As one observer has written:

“Several Kansas school districts . . . experienced challenges [to Annie] in 1993 after the schools received a donation of library copies of the novel from a national group that sought to give young adults ‘fair, accurate, and inclusive images of lesbians and gay men.’ The book was first removed, then returned to general circulation in the library in the Shawnee Mission School District. Copies of the book were doused with gasoline and burned by a minister and his followers in the Kansas City School District, but a copy of the novel was retained in the high school library, and the school district donated the novel to the city’s public library.”

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Dawn B. Sova, *Banned Books: Literature Suppressed on Social Grounds* 25-26 (Rev. ed., Facts on File, Inc. 2006).

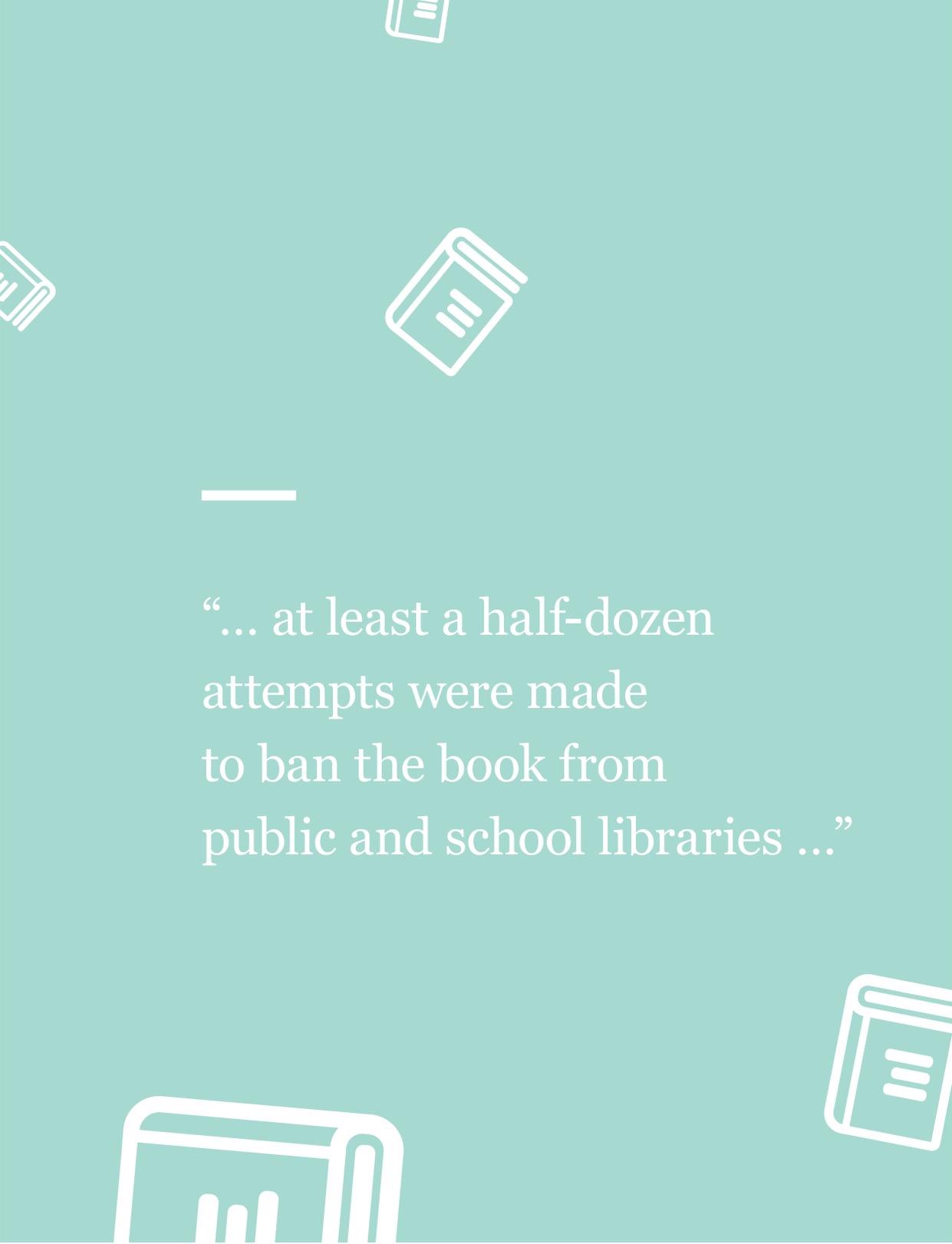
The next year *Annie* was banned from five high and three senior high school libraries in Olathe, according to the Foundation website. At the Olathe school district's request, the school librarians had reviewed *Annie On My Mind*, and determined it was appropriate for high school students. Notwithstanding the librarians' favorable review, the superintendent of schools (with the approval of the school board) ordered the book's removal from school libraries. When the district refused to reinstate the book to library shelves, six students and their families sued.

In 1995, SHB represented these students in a lawsuit against the Olathe School District challenging the school district's removal of *Annie* from the school library shelves. After a trial, Judge G. Thomas Van Bebber, then the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, concluded that the school district defendants:

“Removed *Annie on My Mind* because they disagreed with ideas expressed in the book and that this factor was the substantial motivation in their removal decision. Through their removal of the book, defendants intended to deny students in the Olathe School District access to those ideas. Defendants unconstitutionally sought to ‘prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.’”

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*Case v. Unified School District No. 233*, 908 F. Supp. 864, 875-76 (D. Kan. 1995).



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“... at least a half-dozen attempts were made to ban the book from public and school libraries ...”



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“The court ruled that the school district violated the students’ First Amendment rights as well as their rights under the Kansas Constitution’s Bill of Rights when it removed *Annie On My Mind* from the school library.”



The court ruled that the school district violated the students' First Amendment rights as well as their rights under the Kansas Constitution's Bill of Rights when it removed *Annie On My Mind* from the school library. *Id.* at 876. [To read the court's decision, go to <http://bit.ly/26y3Y5b>]

The District Court ordered *Annie On My Mind* returned to school libraries and made available under the usual terms and conditions for library materials in the school district. *Id.* at 877.

The court also ordered the school district to pay the students' attorneys' fees. *Case v. Unified School District No. 233*, Civ. A.No. 94-2100-GTV, 1996 WL 568841 (D. Kan. Sept. 6, 1996), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part*, 157 F.3d 1243 (10th Cir. 1998).

On Dec. 22, 1999, Shook, Hardy & Bacon made a charitable contribution of \$200,000 to establish the Johnson County First Amendment Foundation. This amount includes the fees which were paid by the Olathe School District as a result of the firm's successful representation of the group of students in this First Amendment case. The two principal attorneys for plaintiffs in the *Annie* case, J. Eugene Balloun and David J. Waxse, were instrumental in establishing and organizing the Foundation.

## FOUNDATION STRUCTURE

The Foundation is supervised by an advisory committee composed of a teacher, a librarian, an attorney selected by the Johnson County Bar Association, and a member selected by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri. The advisory committee makes recommendations for the use of income to further the Foundation's mission of promoting Kansas high school students' understanding and appreciation of the Constitution and constitutional values and principles.

Additional information about the foundation and a list of Advisory Committee members can be found at [www.jcfaf.org](http://www.jcfaf.org). •

# Johnson County First Amendment Center Engaged in Numerous Civic Education Outreach Programs

Assisting student civics teams with travel to national competitions is but the tip of the iceberg for the Johnson County First Amendment Center's civic education endeavors over its 17-year history. Created with a \$200,000 contribution by the Kansas City-based Shook, Hardy, & Bacon law firm, the Foundation has continuously furthered its mission of fostering education about the First Amendment and the U.S. Constitution.

Former Supreme Court Justice  
Sandra Day O'Connor



The crowning achievement for the Foundation was in 2013 when former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor arranged her busy schedule to travel to Johnson County Community College (JCCC) to speak with more than 1,000 students assembled in Yardley Hall on campus. Her visit followed several years of planning by the Foundation and its representatives, which included cofounders Gene Balloun and Hon. Dave Waxse, and members of the Foundation's advisory committee as well as other team members.

Nancy Garden



O'Connor has made promoting civic education the hallmark of her retirement; She initiated a website called iCivics, which features interactive games that both students and teachers can use to engage in civic education, while having a bit of fun, too.



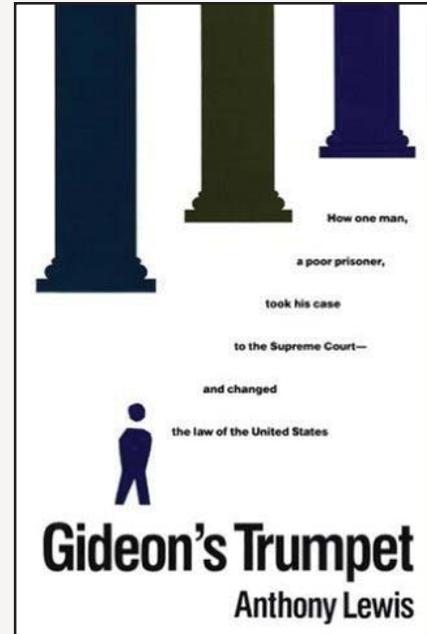
*Backstage before the 2014 constitutional forum. Pictured from left: Tristan L. Duncan, partner and Constitutional Law Practice Co-Chair, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.; Professor Laurence H. Tribe, professor of constitutional law, Harvard Law School; Teresa Wynne Roseborough, general counsel of The Home Depot; David J. Waxse, co-founder of the Johnson County First Amendment Foundation and Magistrate Judge (ret.), U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas; Cheryl Brown Henderson, founding president of the Brown Foundation and daughter of Oliver Brown, the Kansas-named plaintiff in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka school desegregation litigation; and J. Eugene Balloun, co-founder of the Johnson County First Amendment Foundation and partner, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.*

*First Amendment Foundation co-founder presents a stipend to the winning team at the 2016 Kansas "We the People" state championships. The Blue Valley North High School teal placed first in the Mountain Plains Division.*





*Students line up to pose their questions during a Q-and-A with the author of Tribe's book, Uncertain Justice: The Roberts Court and the Constitution.*



*"Gideon's Trumpet" Book Cover*

*Harvard Law School Professor Laurence H. Tribe engages in a lively discussion about the current U.S. Supreme Court and its interpretation of the Constitution with Teresa Wynn Roseborough, general counsel for The Home Depot.*



Among those in the audience during Justice O'Connor's appearance were Nancy Garden, author of *Annie on My Mind*: the book that spurred creation of the Foundation.

As successful as Justice O'Connor's appearance at JCCC was, it was just one of many civic education projects that have been presented by the Foundation over the years. Among them was a speaking engagement by the late-Anthony Lewis, author of *Gideon's Trumpet*—an acclaimed account of Clarence Gideon, whose conviction of breaking into a pool hall was reversed after he was tried and convicted without a lawyer. (The case is now famously cited in law as *Gideon v. Wainwright*.)

The Foundation, however, was far from done after presentations by Justice O'Connor and Anthony Lewis.

In October 2014, the Foundation hosted some 800 students, teachers, judges, and other interested guests from 10 counties in Kansas and Missouri

to study the cases on the Supreme Court term with America's foremost constitutional scholar, Harvard Law School Professor Laurence H. Tribe. Tribe engaged the students in a lively discussion about the current Supreme Court and its interpretation of the Constitution with Teresa Wynn Roseborough, general counsel for The Home Depot.

The discussion centered on Tribe's latest book, *Uncertain Justice: The Roberts Court and the Constitution*, which, in the words of one reviewer, is "filled with original insights and compelling human stories" that illuminate "the most colorful story of all – how the Supreme Court and the Constitution frame the way we live." As a bonus, attendees were treated to a free copy of the hard-cover book.

Study guides for students have been prepared for the Foundation's speaker series, and are available at the Foundation website, [www.jcfaf.org](http://www.jcfaf.org). ●

# Highlights



## D.C. Associates Secure Asylum Victory

Late last year, [John Constance](#) and former Shook Associate Chris Casalaro successfully assisted a 28-year-old Somali refugee in obtaining asylum in the United States after he suffered religious persecution and death threats by al-Shabaab in his home country. Chris and John represented the refugee, Abdullahi Moalin, before the Executive Office of Immigration Review, Immigration Court in Arlington, Va. The case was referred from CAIR Coalition, a non-profit immigrants' rights organization.

In 2008, members of the al-Shabaab terrorist group asked Mr. Moalin to hand over his 15-year-old sister for marriage to their leader. Mr. Moalin refused and the following day al-Shabaab



*Left to right: John Constance, Abdullahi Malin, and Chris Casalaro.*

members came to execute him. Abdullahi escaped out a bedroom window and eventually fled to Angola, where he spent the next five years in hiding. In April 2015, Mr. Moalin flew to America and was detained pending the outcome of his asylum application. Before the December hearing, John and Chris presented a 500-page record with expert opinions, country reports and a thorough brief in support of Mr. Moalin's request for asylum. At the close of the government's case, it conceded that Mr. Moalin had met his burden for asylum relief and recommended the court grant his application, which it did. Mr. Moalin was released that same afternoon and traveled to D.C. to visit with his attorneys before a train ride to Minnesota to be united with his aunt.





# Miami Lawyers Team Up with Law School to Launch Startup Practicum

This year, Shook, Hardy & Bacon helped the University of Miami School of Law kick off the inaugural term of a Startup Practicum. Amy Foust worked with Startup Practicum Director Dan Ravicher and a third-year law school student to prepare a provisional patent application for a local entrepreneur. The practicum connects law students with new ventures in need of legal assistance. The needs of the ventures are varied, covering everything from organizing and financing to intellectual property and regulatory concerns. Specific projects include selecting and forming a business entity; evaluating, negotiating and documenting financing transactions; drafting independent contractor, employee, joint venture and other agreements; protecting intellectual property; and drafting terms of service and privacy policies for websites and apps.

Amy Foust and Eric Boos visited with practicum students to discuss common issues that arise within their practice areas, as well as client counseling and other practical lawyering skills. Shook's involvement year-to-year will vary

depending on the needs of the practicum's clients, who range from individuals with a good idea to established entities that need help to keep moving forward. There should be no shortage of opportunities. In just the first term, the practicum served more than 50 clients, and the wait list now exceeds 150 potential clients. The practicum also provides support for The Launch Pad, an on-campus resource for entrepreneurs in the UM community.

The practicum is primarily intended to provide hands-on experience for upper-level law school students. It also promotes a diverse and often underserved startup community in South Florida. The practicum's client list includes social entrepreneurs, fledgling international organizations and high-tech startups. Demand is likely to increase as the practicum seeks Law School Clinic Certification from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Director Dan Ravicher looks forward to the challenge, and hopes to expand the Practicum to serve more students and more clients in the future.





## Houston Associate Named Mentor of the Year

Ben Walther was named the Houston Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) mentor2.0, Mentor of the Year for his work with a local 10th grade student.

mentor2.0 is a technology-enriched, one-to-one youth mentoring program aimed at providing high school students with the support and guidance they need to graduate from high school and succeed in college and the workforce.

During a special recognition ceremony late last fall, BBBS thanked Ben for always going above and beyond for his mentee George. With Ben's assistance, George has learned to work through tough personal issues and has improved his participation in school. When asked what Ben's mentorship means to him, George responded that . . . "[h]e keeps people grounded. He's like an anchor to me. He helped me overcome several obstacles, and he asks questions about how I'm doing and tries to be involved. Since he is a lawyer, he inspires me to study law more than I already wanted to."



*George with Ben Walther, his Big Brother Big Sister mentor and Shook associate.*

## Kansas City Team Gets Big Win in Missouri Court of Appeals

Mike Cappo and Ruth Anne French-Hodson got an important victory in the Missouri Court of Appeals when they successfully argued that their client's right to counsel was violated in an abuse and neglect proceeding.

The case involved tough facts and difficult issues, but due to their excellent research, brief writing and oral arguments, the appellate court agreed with all of the Shook team's arguments and ordered a new trial for the client.

With assistance from Megan Roth and Kylene Campbell, Mike and Ruth Anne's victory was important for all parents facing proceedings in Family Court, making clear the factors that must be present before a client can waive his or her right to counsel.



## Tampa Lawyers Helps Kids at Crossroads

Shook's Tampa lawyers continue to serve the kids of Hillsborough County through a pro bono partnership with Crossroads for Florida Kids. Raz Axente, Scott Anderson and Terri Parker currently represent a 17-year-old male in dependency and delinquency matters. This young man has been in the foster system nearly his entire life and endured more than 50 different placements. Perhaps due to the lack of stability and support in his life, he often gets in trouble, which has resulted in several delinquency charges. The team has worked with him for the past year to find a more appropriate educational environment where he can stay out of trouble and strive to complete his high school education. Through cooperation with the Public Defender's Office, the team is also working to ensure that he receives proper medical care and transition services as he enters extended foster care or ages out of the system later this year.

Cecilia Bidwell and Cathy Kamm represent a 17-year-old male with a history of mental health disorders who has been charged as an adult with several felonies. The team works with his family

and his public defenders in two separate counties to persuade the courts to impose juvenile sanctions and treatment, rather than subject him to a likely prison sentence in an adult prison.

Cathy Kamm and Anitra Raiford represent a 17-year-old sex trafficking victim whose parents have no interest in regaining custody and whose living situation is always in flux. She is currently incarcerated in a detention program where she is obtaining her GED. Cathy and Anitra are her main support system and have helped her navigate multiple legal and medical challenges over the past year, including obtaining much needed counseling. They've also been there for her emotionally, including when they celebrated her 17th birthday with a pizza party and cake.

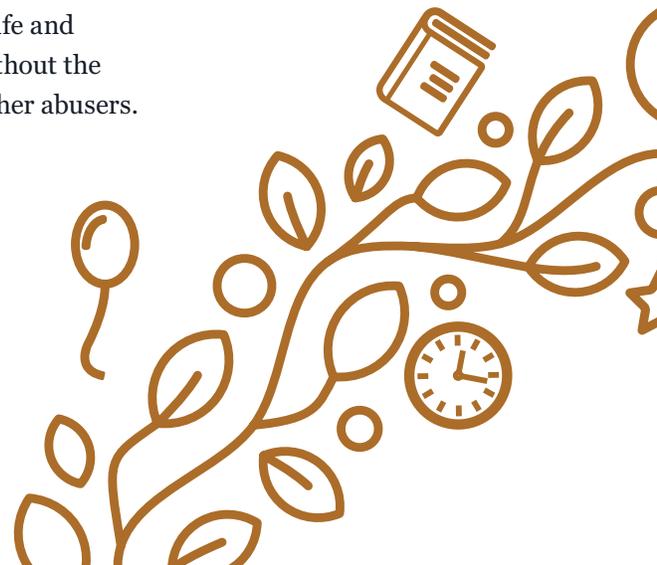
Terri Parker and Jen Voss have represented a now 19-year-old sexual abuse victim for over five years as she navigated the foster care system. This year, the team helped this impressive young woman opt out of extended foster care and transition to her first apartment. The client is now working full time and just completed her first year of community college with an impressive GPA.

# Chicago Team Beats Odds to Save Woman Fleeing from Persecution

When the National Immigrant Justice Center referred “Mary K” to [Andy Meerkins](#), it did not think her case had much of a chance. Mary K was originally from Mongolia and she fled to the United States after suffering brutal beatings, abuse and persecution because of her sexual orientation.

After arriving in the United States, Mary K did not file her asylum claim for seven years – well past the one-year deadline. Many lawyers turned down the case because it appeared impossible and even the referral agency thought the obstacles could be insurmountable. But Andy chose the case because of its challenges, and he tackled it head on.

Working with [Matt Bills](#), Andy was eventually able to convince the asylum officer that exceptional circumstances existed and Mary K was granted asylum. Upon learning of the victory, Mary K was overcome with emotion and declared it the best day of her life. She is now safe and legally present in the United States without the fear of being returned to the hands of her abusers.



# Pro Bono Initiatives 2016

## CHICAGO

Chicago Lawyers'  
Committee for  
Civil Rights

National Immigrant  
Justice Center

Settlement Assistance  
Program

## DENVER

Pro Bono Legal  
Research & Support

## HOUSTON

KIND: Kids in Need of  
Defense

Houston Volunteer  
Lawyers Program

## KANSAS CITY

Forever Home:  
Adoptions &  
Guardianships

Juvenile Justice &  
Family Advocacy

Partners in Education:  
Special Education  
Advocacy

## MIAMI

AI Justice

Catholic Charities

University of Miami  
School of Law  
Startup Practicum

## ORANGE COUNTY

The Alliance for  
Children's Rights

KIND:  
Kids in Need of Defense

## PHILADELPHIA

Face to Face  
Wills Project

Pennsylvania  
Innocence Project

## SAN FRANCISCO

Eastern District of  
California Federal Court  
Pro Bono Program

PAWS: Pets Are  
Wonderful Support

SF Bar Association  
Volunteer  
Legal Service Program

## SEATTLE

KIND:  
Kids in Need of Defense

## TAMPA

AI Justice

Bay Area Legal Services  
Crossroads

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Capital Area  
Immigrants' Rights  
Coalition

Center Global

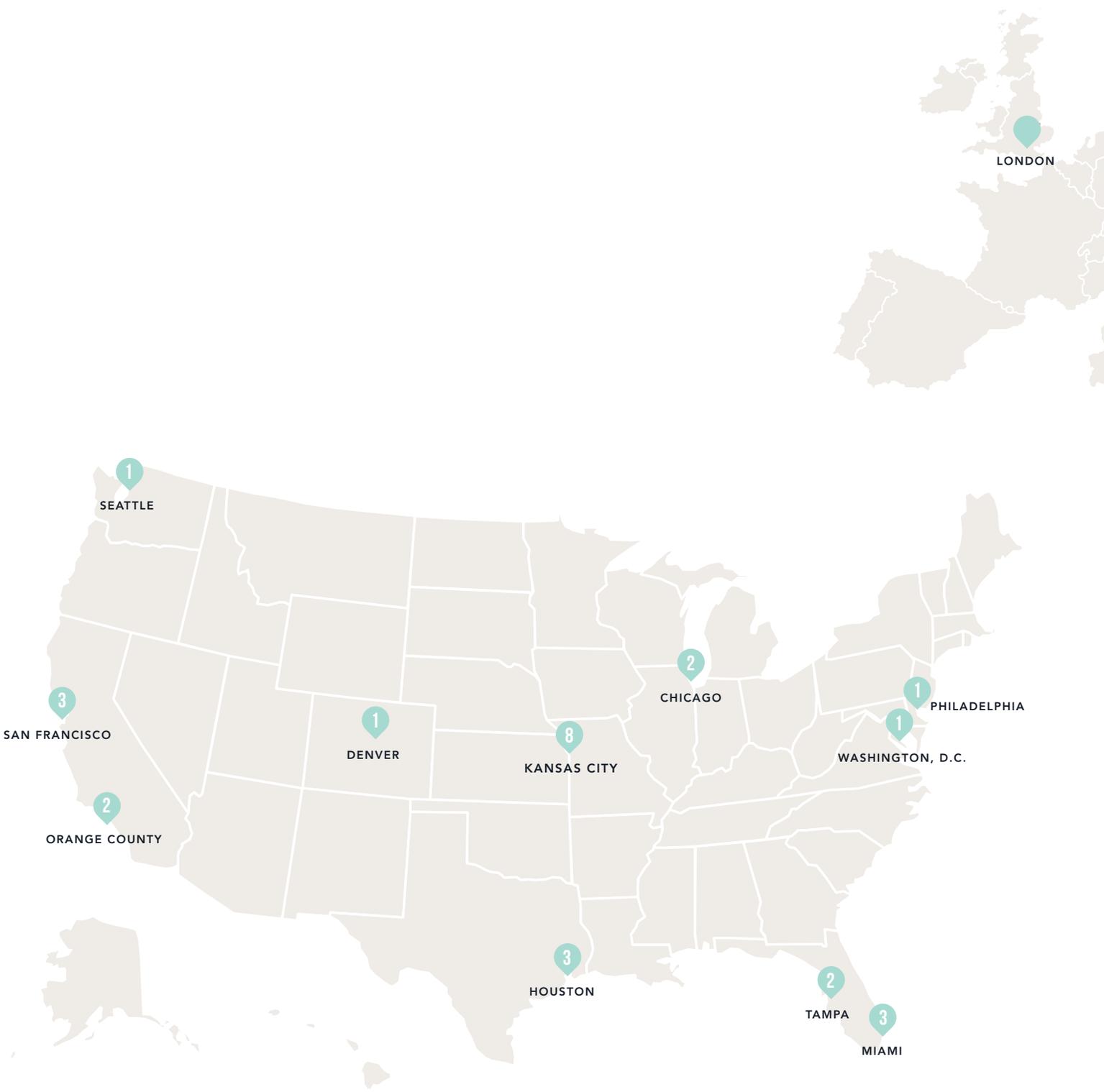
KIND:  
Kids in Need of Defense



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You make a living  
by what you get.  
You make a life  
by what you give.

Winston Churchill





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We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.

Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice  
Sonia Sotomayor | November 2002

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