

ICE MILLER'S SEMI-ANNUAL PRO BONO NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 | FEB. 2021

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

LEARNING IN

While pro bono work at Ice Miller certainly predated my arrival in late 2019, our pro bono engagement in 2020 exponentially exceeded that of any prior year in our Firm's history. The total pro bono hours for 2020 for all staff across, all offices was **8,513.60 hours**. This was a 255% increase from the prior year.



To recognize the incredible pro bono efforts of those at Ice Miller, each year I will select five honorees to receive the Director's Pro Bono Award. Each honoree will select a non-profit of their choice to which the Firm will donate \$500.

The Director's Pro Bono Award 2020 honorees and their selected non-profits are as follows:

Jessa DeGroote (Associate, Indianapolis) – [Indiana Legal Services](#)

Maria Flores (Paralegal, Chicago) – [PAWS Chicago](#)

Onica Matsika (Associate, Chicago) – [Chicago Debates](#)

Vincent Mora (Associate, Columbus) – [UNIDOSUS](#)

Kishala Srivastava (Associate, Columbus) – [RAICES](#)

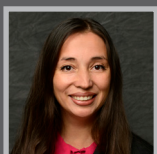
The pro bono work of these five individuals during 2020 was not only vast and diverse, but it also showcased their leadership skills and initiative. The pro bono work has provided each honoree with training opportunities to further both their personal and professional development.

Congrats! Here's to an even BIGGER year in 2021!

DIRECTORS 2020 PRO BONO HONOREES



Jessa DeGroote



Maria Flores



Onica Matsika



Vincent Mora



Kishala Srivastava

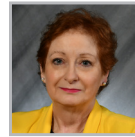
ICE MILLER ATTORNEY LEADS ELECTION DAY VOTER PROTECTION COALITION



Attorney [John Camp](#)
has led the Election
Protection field
volunteer program

in Miami-Dade County in every election since 2008 and did so again in the 2020 presidential election. The national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition worked in the run-up to the 2020 national election and on Election Day to ensure all voters had an equal opportunity to vote and have their votes count. Election Protection focuses on the voter—not on the political party or candidate—and provides guidance, information and help to any voter, regardless of their voting choices. The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges to the safe conduct of our effort in 2020, but the coalition was nevertheless able to coordinate the efforts of hundreds of grassroots volunteers across polling places throughout the county and the state during early voting and on Election Day and to assist thousands of voters to cast their ballots.

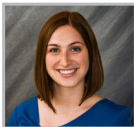
ICE MILLER TEAM DEFENDS CLIENT IN PAVEY HEARING



[David J. Carr](#), [Paul C. Sweeney](#), [Joana Ampofo](#), paralegal [Diane Clancey](#) and legal assistant [Janie Ross](#), pursuant to Local Rule 87, represented a client in a 42 U.S.C. § 1983/Federal Tort Claims action in the Southern District of Indiana against prison officials at the Terre Haute, Indiana, and Marion, Illinois, federal prison facilities and the federal government. The client's claims stemmed from prison officials' mistreatment of him, e.g. his unfair and punitive placement in the notorious "SHU" (special housing unit), where he was subjected to extreme heat, insect infestation and disruptive noise, as well as interference with his grievance efforts. At the height of the pandemic, the team conducted 12 depositions and represented the client at a full-scale *Pavey* hearing during the first week of September in Terre Haute, which involved 12 witnesses, eight live and four via videoconference link, with the client participating by remote videoconference link. The client is greatly appreciative of our efforts, and the matter remains pending in federal court.



ILLINOIS ATTORNEYS RESPOND TO CRIMINAL APPELLATE NEEDS



Due in part to an incredible backlog of criminal appeals in Illinois, the Office of the State Appellate Defender started a pro bono program to work through the backlog of cases. To participate in the program attorneys [Ryanne Bush Dent](#) and [Kyle Finnegan](#) completed extensive training. The work will include representing clients or supporting matters at the appellate level for incarcerated defendants. It is quite common that some defendants will finish their sentences before their appeal is even considered. In response to this issue, Dent and Finnegan will have the opportunity to represent clients on appeal and reduce the backlog of unheard criminal appeals.

IMPACT OF RACE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

Since 1991, Cuyahoga County, Ohio has charged nearly 700 people with the death penalty, a number that is unparalleled when compared to the death penalty charging rates in the other 87 counties in Ohio. Ice Miller has launched a study and statistical analysis in collaboration with Michigan State Law School Professors Catherine Grosso and Barbara O'Brien to assess the impact of race in the administration of the death penalty in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Ice Miller and a team of more than 60 attorneys and support staff, including [Amy Flowers](#), [Angela Della Rocco](#), [Angie McCarthy](#), [Anne Roebel](#), [Areeba Ghouri](#), [Ariana Dimock](#), [Beth Barranger](#), [Charisse](#)

[Burgess](#), [Cheryl Bartlet](#), [Cindy Proshek](#), [Craig Ganter](#), [Darlene Bargo-Hornbeck](#), [Debbie Durbin](#), [Diane Menashe](#), [Dilhara Gunaratna](#), [Eleni Begaj](#), [Ellary Small](#), [Ellen Portier](#), [Heather Gale](#), [Heather Maly](#), [Jayme Angeloni](#), [Julie Whitney](#), [Kara Cranford](#), [Karen Alley](#), [Kellie Stanley](#), [Kishala Srisvastava](#), [Kole Brineger](#), [Krisi Swafford](#), [Laurie Krause](#), [Lindsay Knowles](#), [Lynn Cory](#), [Maria Flores](#), [Marlena Woods](#), [Marlene Mitchell-Plummer](#), [Mary Glaser](#), [Mary Vana](#), [Mason Clark](#), [Matthew Grothouse](#), [Melodye Mills](#), [Nazeema Mohan](#), [Nicole Woods](#), [Pam Fieweger](#), [Paul Brunkhorst](#), [Rayna Huddleston](#), [Robin Henry](#), [Robin Kills A Hundred](#), [Roya Porter](#),

[Ryanne Bush Dent](#), [Sarah Sweet](#), [Shalina Ann Schaefer](#), [Shelby Etcheson](#), [Sid Bose](#), [Simone Park](#), [Somalia Jones](#), [Stephen Farris](#), [Taretta Shine](#), [Teo Belli](#), [Thyrza Skofield](#), [Tiffany Kim](#), [Valerie Hightower](#) and [Wendy Joris](#), collected and recorded the project's massive data collection. Once the data is compiled, the professors will perform the statistical analysis. The impact of race will be assessed at every level, including the charging prosecutor, the victims involved and the individuals charged. The results will be published and used by stakeholders in the criminal justice system as well as those advocating for legislative change.

COLUMBUS OFFICE LAUNCHES THE JUDICIAL RELEASE COALITION

On December 1, 2020, Ice Miller launched the Judicial Release Coalition ("JRC") with five other prominent Columbus, Ohio law firms. Over the course of one year, the JRC will file motions for judicial release and attend any associated hearings at no cost for any interested and eligible person of color committed to prison by a Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge. The work of the JRC is to provide access to justice to persons of color by providing legal counsel for judicial release where Ohio law provides no right to counsel. With the help of nearly 100 attorneys, including Ice Miller Attorneys [Steven Forry](#), [Joanne Goldhand](#), [John Gilligan](#), [Diane Menashe](#), [Greg Gorospe](#), [Patrick Devine](#), [Nicole Woods](#), [Abigail Barr](#), [Amy Flowers](#), [Chelsea Abramowitz](#), [Marie Ragias](#), [Vincent Mora](#), [Samuel Porter, III](#), [Joseph Guenther](#) and Columbus' Managing Partner [Michael Jordan](#), the JRC will provide access to justice to persons of color who are disproportionately incarcerated and often unable to afford counsel. This collaborative effort of the JRC is the first of its kind in Ohio.



INDY ATTORNEYS RESOLVE CASE DESPITE UNSUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

[Manolis Boulukos](#) and [Kayla Ernst](#), with assistance from [Joana Ampofo](#), were appointed to represent an indigent prisoner who filed a pro se 42 U.S.C.



§ 1983 action against several state actors, raising Eighth Amendment excessive force claims, an Eighth Amendment failure to protect claim, a Fourth Amendment unreasonable search claim and state tort claims for assault, battery and false imprisonment. The lawsuit relates to an incident when the prisoner was on work release. He alleged that county work release employees, without justification, used excessive force against him and facilitated his arrest and imprisonment for several criminal charges. When the matter did not settle at the settlement conference, Boulukos and Ernst continued to work the case and ultimately negotiated a favorable resolution on behalf of their client.

INDY PARTNERS PROVIDE VALUABLE COVID-19 REPRESENTATION TO GIRLS INC. OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS

Ice Miller Partners [Taryn Stone](#), [Tami Earnhart](#), [Christina Fugate](#) and [Drew Miroff](#)



worked together to review Girls Inc. policies and procedures and liability waivers for Girls Inc. to feel comfortable providing summer camp for a limited number of its most vulnerable girls. Tami Earnhart also reviewed policies and procedures from an employment perspective and provided general COVID-19 related employment guidance so employees also felt safe. This valuable input from Ice Miller Attorneys provided Girls Inc. the means to safely facilitate the summer programs. As a result of the work of Ice Miller Attorneys, Girls Inc. was able to serve some of the most vulnerable demographics: girls of color living at roughly 70% below the federal poverty line. Summer Camp this year was a lifeline for the girls of Girls Inc. as well as their guardians. Our assistance allowed the camp to operate 100% COVID-free giving girls a chance to interact, for the first time since the pandemic, with peers and stretch themselves through programs.

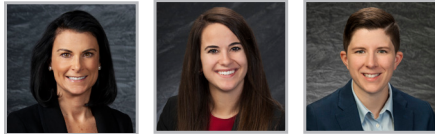
COLUMBUS ATTORNEYS GET CASE DISMISSED



In partnership with the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, [Daniel Anderson](#) and [Lydia Reback](#) stepped in to represent a client being sued on a debt collection action. The client was sued late in 2019 by a debt recovery company seeking to obtain a judgment against her for an unpaid credit card debt. The case had been ongoing for nearly a year before Ice Miller counsel stepped in. Once on the case, counsel filed an amended answer, issued discovery requests and filed a summary judgment motion on the client's behalf. As a result, the plaintiff dismissed the case against the client eliminating any future debt owed to the company. This favorable result saved our client from any further financial hardship.

ICE MILLER JOINS FORCES WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S PRISONS AND JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Georgetown University's Prisons and Justice Initiative



("PJI") has sponsored the groundbreaking class "Making an Exoneree" for three years. The class is co-taught by PJI Director and Professor Marc Howard along with Adjunct Professor and Exoneree Martin Tankleff, who served 18 years for a murder he did not commit. After an exhaustive investigation, the 2020 "Making an Exoneree" class identified five individuals they believe to be wrongfully convicted. One of the five individuals is Jermane Scott, who was convicted of a 1996 murder in Springfield, Ohio and sentenced to life without parole. For the nearly 25 years Jermane has spent in prison, he has maintained his innocence and written about his



experiences—from spending years of his life in solitary confinement to facing COVID-19 in prison. Ice Miller attorneys [Diane Menashe](#), [Leslie Rogers](#) and [Lydia Reback](#) serve as co-counsel to Marc Howard and Martin Tankleff in Jermane's case. Their work includes a full case re-investigation as well as the pursuit of any/all litigation efforts to exonerate Jermane Scott.



INDY ATTORNEYS HELP PEOPLE GET THEIR DRIVING LICENSE REINSTATED

Ice Miller attorneys [Adam Alexander](#), [Heather James](#), [Philip Whistler](#), [Roya Porter](#), [Ryan Metzger](#), [Sarah Sweet](#), [Taryn Stone](#), [Ann Stewart](#), [Christopher Sears](#), [Don Snemis](#), [Eileen Moore](#), [Kim Metzger](#), [Kole Brinegar](#), [Meredith Wood](#), [Angela Krahulik](#), [Shalina Schafer](#), [Roberto Falconi](#), [Sarah Correll](#), [Kelly Beyrer](#) and [Areeba Ghouri](#) collaborate with Eli Lilly, Cummins



Corporation, the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office to assist indigent individuals in the reinstatement of their driving licenses. The Second Chance Driving License Reinstatement Clinic ("Second Chance Workshop") was formed in 2019 by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office to provide individuals with information and direction on how to take the first steps in getting their driving privileges reinstated. Along with helping individuals resolve unpaid traffic tickets, the Second Chance Workshop helps resolve suspensions related to falling behind in child support payments. For 2021, Ice Miller has committed to participating in the Second Chance Workshop on a monthly basis to continue to serve our community. The next clinics are scheduled to take place on February 17, 2021 and March 24, 2021.

VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAS HER RECORD SEALED

Columbus Attorney [Amy Flowers](#), through a pro bono court appointment, stepped in to assist a survivor of human trafficking with her *pro se* application for sealing of her record. In Ohio, victims of human trafficking are eligible to have their criminal convictions sealed if the convictions are directly related to their victimization. Prior to Ice Miller's involvement, the state of Ohio objected to the application for sealing on the grounds the client made no connection between her convictions and her victimization as a trafficked human. After meeting with the client, the *pro se* application was amended to include a detailed affidavit, which told the client's story and explained the nexus of her convictions to that of human trafficking. After supplementing the application, the state of Ohio graciously withdrew its previous objection, and the Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge ordered the client's convictions be sealed.



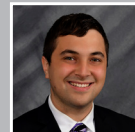
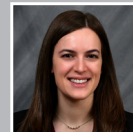
ICE MILLER TEAMS UP WITH INDIANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO HELP SURVIVOR UNTANGLE FROM FINANCIAL MESS

Indy Partner [Taryn Stone](#) alongside the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence stepped in to help a survivor of domestic violence get out from under a financial mess created by her then husband. The couple owned a home contracting business that would later, unbeknownst to the client, be the subject of tax warrants from unpaid federal taxes amounting to \$500,000. The client was in dire straits facing the possibility that any financial security or well-being was completely compromised by the business' disasters. Eventually, Stone was called upon for her profound knowledge of business. With the help of others at Ice Miller, Stone was able to sift through boxes and boxes of the business' records to demonstrate what little, if any, involvement the client had in the business. Through Stone's vigorous efforts she was able to show that the client was not involved with the business at a level of consequence and any penalties for unpaid taxes should not be associated to the client. Stone's ability to absolve the client from any financial devastations has allowed the client to move on in her life, free of abuse and financial destruction.



ICE MILLER ATTORNEYS PREPARE FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS TRIAL

Indianapolis associates [Jessa DeGroote](#) and [Adam Alexander](#), along with Columbus partner [Diane Menashe](#), represent an inmate in the Indiana state prison system. Their client suffers from a testicular cyst, and despite years of requests for proper health care, the prison staff has refused to give him appropriate treatment. After Ice Miller attorneys successfully helped their client reopen discovery, they were able to take the depositions of all three defendants, as well as a purported expert witness for the defendants. The attorneys garnered several key admissions from all three defendants, and they were able to reframe the defendants' purported expert into a witness favorable for their client. The case is set for a jury trial in March, and the client is well-positioned for a successful trial or settlement.



INDY ASSOCIATE SECURES JUDGMENT FOR LOCAL FOOD BANK

A local food bank in Indianapolis discovered that an employee who was previously terminated was using a credit card owned by the food bank. The food bank discovered the theft



and sought recourse in small claims court by filing an action to recover the stolen funds. Attorney [Cameron Ritsema](#) stepped in to handle the small claims court hearing in the Decatur Township Small Claims Court on the matter. The Court agreed that

theft and conversion under Indiana law were both implicated in this matter and granted judgment for the local food bank. Judgment was awarded to the food bank in the amount of \$4,643.62.

INDY PARTNER HELPS TO DEVELOP FOSTER SUCCESS PROGRAM IN MISSISSIPPI

Foster Success is a charitable organization with a mission to ensure foster care youth are educated, housed, financially stable, employed and connected to a support system by age 25. Foster Success administers the Indiana Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, which is a federally funded, state-administered program providing financial and academic support for young adults who've left the foster care system and are enrolled in qualified colleges, universities or vocational education programs. Foster Success created an internal process, which has been very efficient in administering the Indiana ETV program and other states have taken notice. Recently, the state of Mississippi reached out to Foster Success regarding administering its ETV Program. Indy Partner [James Banister](#) assisted Foster Success by reviewing and negotiating the proposed Agreement for administration of the Mississippi ETV program.



CHICAGO ATTORNEYS TO DISCUSS POLICE UNION CONTRACTS

In collaboration with the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, [Chelsea Abramowitz](#), [Paul Brunkhorst](#), [Dann Bruno](#), [Onica Matsika](#), [Roya Porter](#), [Michael](#)



[Tirman](#) and [Calvin Townsend](#) conducted a research project on Chicago police union contracts and the movement to defund the Chicago Police Department. Illinois permits police officers to collectively bargain over the terms of their employment and the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act explicitly states union-negotiated collective bargaining agreements trump all other state laws and regulations. The Ice Miller team drafted a paper on how proposed policies to defund the Chicago Police Department are implicated by the terms of the Chicago police union contracts and submitted summaries of these findings to Chicago alderman. The paper will be used by policy/advocacy groups in Chicago and across the nation who focus on police reform. The Ice Miller team also plans to schedule a virtual panel discussion in February 2021 with the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights on police union contracts.

ICE MILLER SUPPORTS THE CONGRESS OF BOSNIAKS OF NORTH AMERICA

Ice Miller business group Attorneys [Amir Ovcina](#) and [Ryanne Bush Dent](#) and tax group Attorney [Sterling Shown](#) collaborated to support the newly organized,



Georgia non-profit organization named Congress of Bosniaks of North America, Inc. Ice Miller counsel was involved with the research and preparation of the organization's articles of incorporation to help establish the organization. The Congress of Bosniaks of North America ("CBNA") is an independent and non-partisan national organization of North American Bosniaks. The CBNA articulates and represents Bosniak interests and promotes positive aspects of Bosniak cultural, historical, ethnic and religious heritage; Bosniak ethics and Bosniak values in the United States and Canada. CBNA is a national organization that aims to enrich active citizenship of Bosniaks in North America through community empowerment and activism, leadership, preservation of heritage and remembrance.