
2025 Pro Bono Snapshot

"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."

– Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Pro bono work is deeply rooted in our firm's history and culture. Equal access to justice is fundamental to a fair and equitable society, and the responsibility to create access to justice has sustained our dedication to pro bono work for generations. Often those most in need of legal representation are the least able to afford it, which is why we have dedicated legal resources and tens of thousands of hours to a multitude of causes since our founding in 1890. Our focus on pro bono and our leadership in community organizations in San Francisco and the Bay Area allows our attorneys to have a direct impact on the lives of people in the areas in which they live and work. As Justice Sotomayor notes, the work to balance the scales of justice is our duty, but more importantly, at Coblentz, it is our privilege.

2025 By The Numbers

- 4,270** hours dedicated to pro bono firm-wide
- 30** new pro bono matters
- 72** active pro bono matters
- 61%** of our attorneys committed time to pro bono matters

Partner Organizations

Coblentz is proud to be affiliated with a number of local and national organizations to offer important pro bono assistance, including:

- 5 Buckets Foundation
- 10,000 Degrees
- ABA Tax Settlement Program
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Bay Area Legal Aid
- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
- City Arts & Lectures
- Community Boards
- Community Health Initiative

- Community Land Trust Association of West Marin
- Compass Family Services
- Equal Rights Advocates
- Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
- Hands Across the Valley
- HomeRise
- ICA Cristo Rey Academy
- Justice & Diversity Center
- Latino Community Foundation
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
- Legal Aid at Work
- McSweeney's Literary Arts Fund
- Napa Valley Community Foundation
- Okizu
- Public Advocates Inc.
- Ruth Asawa School of the Arts High School Mock Trial Team
- San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association
- San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
- Say Hey Foundation
- SF New Deal
- Swords to Plowshares
- The Oxbow School
- Women's Sports Foundation

Pro Bono Highlights

2025 Coblentz Pro Bono Award

Duff Beach, Evan Campbell, Mark Hejinian, Darien Lo, Jesseca Orozco, Marcia Valadez Valente, and Charmaine Yu partnered with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights – San Francisco Bay Area, ACLU-NorCal, and CARECEN SF to file a significant impact litigation challenging both the inhumane conditions at ICE's 630 Sansome holding facility and the agency's practice of courthouse arrests of immigrants attending hearings. The team received the 2025 Coblentz Pro Bono Award for their impactful work on this matter.

Featured Pro Bono Work

Class Action Lawsuit Against ICE

In the wake of the current administration's policy of courthouse arrests in Northern California and the prolonged detention of immigrants in unsafe and unlawful conditions at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) San Francisco Field Office, Coblentz joined a coalition of civil rights groups to file a federal class action lawsuit against ICE.

In November 2025, Coblentz attorneys, in conjunction with our pro bono partners, obtained a preliminary injunction that required ICE to immediately remedy its inhumane conditions at its temporary holding facility at 630 Sansome in San Francisco. The Court's injunction requires ICE to provide beds with mattresses and clean bedding, hygiene products, comfortable lighting and temperature conditions, and access to medical care and medication.

In December 2025, the Court barred on a preliminary basis ICE and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) from conducting sweeping civil immigration arrests at or near immigration courthouses across Northern California, finding the policy likely unlawful and noting that it coerces noncitizens into a "Hobson's choice" between risking arrest or missing critical court hearings and facing removal in absentia.

Supporting a Charitable Foundation

Coblentz attorneys are performing pro bono legal work for the Say Hey Foundation, the charitable foundation of baseball legend Willie Mays Jr., dedicated to Mr. Mays's dream of offering underprivileged youth positive opportunities through athletics, coaching, nutrition, education, and safe communities. Our attorneys have assisted Say Hey's work to expand its charitable mission by developing the foundation's IP licensing and enforcement efforts, including through a retail license with the San Francisco Giants and publicity rights licenses with other organizations.

Name Change Assistance

Coblentz attorneys staffed a virtual Name Change Clinic organized by Bay Area Legal Aid, helping participants complete paperwork and prepare for the court process necessary to update their legal documents to reflect their gender identity.

Class Action Defense

Coblentz attorneys are defending the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank (SFMFB) on a pro bono basis in the class action lawsuit *Timothee et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, filed in the Northern District of California. The lawsuit alleges various privacy claims against Meta and four California food banks based on the food banks' use of the Meta Pixel, an advertising analytics tool, on their websites. Coblentz prepared a motion to dismiss the complaint against SFMFB and appeared before the Court for a hearing on the motion. On April 27, 2026, the Court dismissed the complaint against all the defendants, with leave to amend.

Assisted in Termination Proceedings

Coblentz attorneys assisted a National Park Service employee in proposed termination proceedings following their participation in an off-duty display of a transgender pride flag in Yosemite National Park.

Downtown Beautification Dispute

Coblentz attorneys are representing the Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce in a pre-litigation dispute about payments and ongoing maintenance for a downtown Groveland beautification program.

Affordable Housing Agreement and Ground Lease

Coblentz attorneys represented Ladera Community Church, a congregation of approximately 60 members located in Portola Valley, in connection with the negotiation of a joint development agreement and ground lease with Habitat for Humanity for the creation of new for-sale affordable townhomes on a small piece of vacant land adjacent to Ladera's church. The agreements took more than a year to negotiate and included negotiating an agreement with an adjacent homeowner's association, which initially opposed the project. The congregation has approved a resolution allowing both agreements to move forward, and construction of the deed-restricted new homes is anticipated to begin by the end of 2026.