

Pro Bono & Civic Engagement

Pro Bono

Forman Watkins & Krutz is committed to our local communities and gives back in ways that are tangible and effective right here in our local footprint. The Firm believes that pro bono service is an important and essential element of every attorney's professional responsibility. Attorneys possess unique skills and abilities to serve the disadvantaged while promoting public interests in ways no other profession is able. FormanWatkins, therefore, encourages and facilitates ways for its attorneys to render pro bono legal services to the poor and participate, to the extent possible, in other pro bono service activities that directly relate to the legal needs of the poor, disenfranchised, and disadvantaged.

That's why, in the last two years alone, dozens of attorneys and staff have spent thousands of hours engaging in the issues that matter to them and their communities, from arguing immigration matters at the Fifth Circuit to representing children at hearings in juvenile court. On behalf of pro bono clients, our team has conducted trials, drafted appeals, filed petitions, influenced policies, and launched legal clinics. We have deepened our partnerships with the organizations doing important pro bono work.

FormanWatkins attorneys know the importance of using their talents to assist our fellow community members that may not be able to afford quality legal assistance. The opportunity, encouragement, and resources for this level of service are woven into our firm culture, providing all our attorneys the opportunity and the means to use their talents for the benefit of those who most need them. Each year, FormanWatkins provides hours of pro bono legal service to our local communities. We maintain active memberships and leadership roles in various organizations such as the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, Mississippi Center for Legal Services, and Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, while continuously searching for and identifying new opportunities to serve our communities.

Civic Engagement

FormanWatkins is deeply committed to giving back to our local communities in a meaningful way. Our attorneys and support staff are not only encouraged to participate in community endeavors; they are provided firm support through both financial resources and manpower. Recognizing the importance of consistency and reliability, we strive to nurture and maintain our commitment to the organizations we serve.

We believe that compassion is vital to our community work, and we seek projects that allow us to actively engage with those in need. Every quarter, FormanWatkins assists in serving lunch at our local Stewpot Kitchen. Additionally, Forman Watkins is an avid supporter of Habitat for Humanity, and our team works on multiple projects throughout the year. Our "Forman Watkins Day of Pink" celebrates members of our firm who are currently battling breast cancer, as well as our breast cancer survivors. We collect magazines, books, blankets, hats, and other items to donate to a local cancer treatment facility. Likewise, each year we partner with the Adopt-An-Angel program and provide Christmas presents for families in need. While we remain committed to our ongoing projects, we realize that there are times when we must employ our creativity and react quickly to aid in disaster relief. For example, after tornadoes devastated multiple areas of Mississippi and left thousands without homes, the staff and attorneys in our Jackson, MS office joined together in friendly competition to donate over 15,000 bottles of water to the American Red Cross of Mississippi.

FormanWatkins believes in sharing our talents and resources to support those in need within the communities where we work and live.

During National Pro Bono Week, FormanWatkins attorneys shared why Pro Bono work is important to the firm.

<http://www.formanwatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/FormanWatkins-Recognizes-Pro-Bono-Week-2022.mp4>

A look back at some of FormanWatkins' most significant Pro Bono cases.

<http://www.formanwatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/FormanWatkins-Significant-Pro-Bono-Cases.mp4>

The power and purpose of Pro Bono.

<http://www.formanwatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/The-Pro-Bono-Purpose.mp4>

View our recent Pro Bono & Civic Engagement Annual Reports:

FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP

A LAW FIRM COMMITTED TO PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE:

A 5-YEAR RECAP OF THE FIRM'S PRO BONO AND CIVIC WORK



TOTAL
PRO BONO
HOURS:

8,864

MORE THAN
\$2 MILLION

VALUE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

YEAR ONE
TOTAL HOURS: 1,852

YEAR FIVE
TOTAL HOURS: 8,864



35+

PARTICIPATING ATTORNEYS,
SUMMER ASSOCIATES AND STAFF



10,692
TOTAL
CIVIC HOURS

PRO BONO WORK ACROSS THE PUBLIC INTEREST SPECTRUM:

VETERANS
ASSISTANCE

FAMILY
LAW

APPELLATE

IMMIGRATION

EDUCATION

AFTER
INNOCENCE

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2021 PRO BONO AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

1,852.5

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS

\$548,247.3

IN AVERAGE BILLABLE T

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2020 PRO BONO AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

1,650

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS

\$536,250

IN AVERAGE BILLABLE TIME

LAW CLERK INTRO INTO PRO BONO MISSION

7 CLERKS DEDICATED 41+ HOURS FROM 4 LAW SCHOOLS
ACROSS 3 STATES



1,309 CIVIC HOURS

Jennifer Parks was awarded the Civic Star for dedicating over 131 civic hours in 2020 to legal organizations and non-profits across her community. Jennifer works in our Jackson, MS office and has been with the Firm since 2004.



FWK IN EDUCATION

Our team successfully filed a Due Process complaint against a local school district on behalf of an autistic student. The DESERVING STUDENT HAS NOW RECEIVED INTENSIVE INTERVENTIONS in reading, math, language instruction, and social skills, to provide the resources he needs to succeed. In addition to changing the life prospects of this student and his family, this case was part of training future lawyers to serve as education advocates for many more students, through Forman Watkins' MC Law Education Clinic.

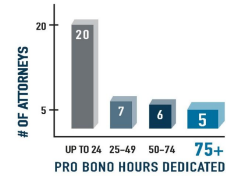


COMMITMENT TO JUVENILES WITH LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

11 ATTORNEYS • 2 CLERKS • 294 HOURS



18 ATTORNEYS WERE AWARDED OUR INAUGURAL
PRO BONO STAR BADGE
FOR WORKING 25+ HOURS ON PRO BONO CASES IN 2020



Learn more about us by visiting formanwatkins.com

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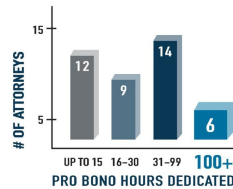
2019 PRO BONO AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

1,802

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS

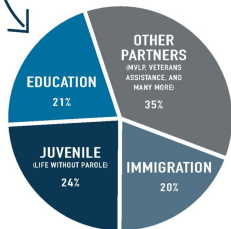
\$585,774

IN AVERAGE BILLABLE TIME



FWK IN EDUCATION

Forman Watkins is the proud sponsor of the Education Law & Policy Clinic at Mississippi College School of Law. Our attorneys work with MC Law students to represent public school students in school disciplinary, youth court, and special education matters throughout the state of Mississippi. In 2019 alone, our attorneys dedicated more than 373 hours to these students!



WHERE WE SPENT OUR TIME



Learn more about us by visiting formanwatkins.com



OUR TEAM SPENT OVER
45 WEEKS OF TIME
TOWARDS OUR PRO BONO MISSION



2,047 CIVIC HOURS

Community is important to FormanWatkins, and dedicating our time and energy to local organizations is one way we give back. Our civic and community involvement spans 5 states and over 30 non-profit and charitable organizations. Eleven of our team members dedicated over 50 hours to civic engagement in 2019.

FormanWatkins believes that pro bono service is an important and essential element of every attorney's professional responsibility, and we are inspired by the level of commitment our attorneys and staff dedicate to this work, as well as to a variety of local civic organizations.

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PRO BONO AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

Follow us on social media to see regular updates regarding our partnerships and pro bono efforts.



Learn more about us by visiting formanwatkins.com

2018 PRO BONO HIGHLIGHTS

34 ATTORNEYS + 7 LAW CLERKS + 7 STAFF ASSISTED IN 60 PRO BONO MATTERS TOTALING OVER 900 HOURS

MISSISSIPPI
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

2 ATTORNEYS = 1 MAJOR IMPACT
A special needs student is now able to attend a school that meets her needs, WITHOUT FINANCIAL BURDEN.

SECOND CHANCE FOR INDIGENT PRISONER
FWK won an appeal before the 5th Circuit on behalf of AN INDIGENT PRISONER seeking medical treatment. His case will now be reheard before the district court.

Fifth
Circuit
PRO BONO
Panel

A WOMAN'S HOPE
One Jackson Associate WON ASYLUM for a Guatemalan woman based on persecution she suffered from an imputed political opinion. Her case is under appeal, and the Firm will represent her during that process, as well.

Catholic
Charities

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- 15 ATTORNEYS + 1 COO + 2 DIRECTORS HOLD 26 BOARD SEATS = **341 HOURS**
- **OVER 547 HOURS** DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT FIVE STATES
- **381 HOURS** TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND MISSIONS
- 1 JACKSON PARTNER + 1 NEW ORLEANS ASSOCIATE DEVOTE **OVER 332 HOURS** TO CO-CHAIR MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND RAISED **OVER \$240,000** FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE CHARITIES
- **253 HOURS** SERVED IN LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS



NJ VETERANS CLINIC
Over 18 attorneys, including two FWK New Jersey Partners, provided FREE CONSULTATIONS TO VETERANS on a variety of legal topics. Numerous local social service groups also participated, offering services to veterans with non-legal needs. FWK played an integral role in the creation and execution of this clinic; a second clinic is planned for 2019.

2 ATTORNEYS = 1 FAMILY CHANGED
Two New Orleans Partners WON ASYLUM for a woman who fled Guatemala with her two younger sisters to escape violence from the cartel and political persecution. FWK previously obtained asylum for the middle sister, and the Firm continues to represent the youngest sister.

Catholic
Charities

»» **2,096 CIVIC HOURS** ««