

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## CASSANDRA (CASSIE) SUMMERS

JULY 2023



### ABOUT CASSIE

Cassie Summers is a paralegal in the Life Sciences Health Industry Group at Reed Smith and reports to attorneys handling the preparation of cases from discovery to trial phase.

Cassie has experience overseeing 2,836 matters in product liability cases – state, federal, and MDL. She is very experienced with all aspects of trial preparation and trial as well as large document production and indexing.

### PARTNERING WITH HAP

Cassie has been volunteering with HAP for about fourteen years. In addition to serving on HAP's board, she leads a great group of Reed Smith volunteers handling pro bono SOAR and birth certificate cases. Volunteering with HAP gives Cassie a sense of knowing that she helped someone who may not be as fortunate. She was raised in a home of "pay it forward" as you never know when you may be on the receiving end of getting help.

Cassie is a persistent and fantastic pro bono advocate. She recalls this memory from a SOAR case she handled: A facility was dodging me about getting records for my client. After

around five attempts, I showed up at the facility with authorization in hand to obtain the records. They were very surprised to see me! The receptionist never had anyone show up in person to get records before. I replied that people would not have to show up if they answered the phone, email, and faxes being sent. We both laughed, and she commended me for coming in person and reminding them to respond to communications.

HAP Senior Staff Attorney Pat Malley says: I have worked with Cassie on SOAR cases for over 8 years and observed her tireless advocacy on behalf of numerous disabled HAP clients. Her advocacy has resulted in many favorable SOAR decisions and has changed many lives. It has been and continues to be my great pleasure to work with Cassie on these cases and I so appreciate all that she does for HAP and our clients.

