

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MICHELLE BIGONY

AUGUST 2023



"I volunteer for HAP because I know that my representation makes such a huge difference in my clients' lives. They deserve the most zealous advocacy and their circumstances should not be a barrier to legal representation."

ABOUT MICHELLE

Michelle is an associate at Dechert LLP in the Corporate and Securities practice group. She represents private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies, as well as strategic buyers and sellers, in merger and acquisition transactions across a wide range of industry sectors. She also advises issuers and investment banks in connection with public and private offerings of equity and debt securities.

PARTNERING WITH HAP

Michelle has been volunteering with HAP for almost two years now. She enjoys building relationships with clients, and as she learns about their lives and their legal issues, looks forward to being able to help them with not just the original legal issue they came to HAP for help with, but also other legal issues they may be experiencing.

HAP's Senior Staff Attorney Pat Malley says: Michelle took on her first HAP SOAR case in 2022 and through dedicated advocacy (including a great support function letter), obtained an award of SSI benefits for a man with severe mental illness. Soon after, she took two additional SOAR

clients, one of whom had an appeal pending and a very difficult case. Michelle graciously agreed to represent this client at a hearing and convinced the Judge to keep the record open and accept additional evidence. She will attend a second hearing on behalf of that client this fall. Michelle's other current SOAR claim is for a woman whose husband, the family's sole breadwinner, passed away suddenly, causing the client and her young children to be at imminent risk of homelessness. Michelle is vigorously advocating for the client, who is unable to sustain employment due to extreme anxiety and paranoia.

Michelle's work on behalf of HAP clients has been extraordinary and we are grateful for her dedication and compassion.

Thank you for all that you do for HAP clients, Michelle!

