

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE

MARCH 2024

ABOUT DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE

At Davis Wright Tremaine, pro bono work transcends ethical obligation. It is work that moves us, challenges us, and makes us better people and lawyers. DWT's pro bono philosophy centers on collaboration and diversity, and our committed group of HAP volunteers spans across four offices, six practice areas, and includes administrative staff, paralegals, and attorneys ranging from summer associates to seasoned partners.

PARTNERING WITH HAP

DWT first partnered with HAP in the fall of 2022, and in the year-and-a-half since, we have obtained birth certificates for nearly 50 unhoused individuals. Homelessness is often accompanied by myriad challenges, including bureaucratic obstacles that can seem insurmountable, and our team is dedicated to breaking down these barriers. "This work is critically important," says DWT's Sharon O'Shaughnessy (pictured right), who oversees the engagement. "Each birth certificate we obtain is more than just a piece of paper – it symbolizes hope, opportunity, and a fresh start." While obtaining a birth certificate may seem like a simple task, its significance cannot be overstated. It is a gateway to accessing essential services, securing employment, asserting one's identity, and restoring dignity and agency to the HAP clients we serve.



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DWT legal assistant Sadia Collins (pictured left) says, "I enjoy knowing that the work I am doing has an impact on people who are in need. Recently, we requested additional information from HAP for an applicant, and we learned that the individual is wheelchair-bound and faced transportation challenges in reaching the HAP office. Knowing that the work we are doing will eventually lead to this person securing benefits to improve her quality of life means the world to me. It also helps me to appreciate what I do have in my life, instead of focusing on what's missing."

HAP Pro Bono Coordinator Maggie Oberkircher says, "HAP is incredibly grateful to partner with a firm that is so devoted to pro bono service for the most vulnerable individuals in our community. DWT is a true leader in pro bono. Each of the DWT volunteers we've worked with has shown dedication to completing each matter, even when it extends for many months or complications arise, as well as great compassion for our clients and their circumstances. In a short time, the impact of this partnership with DWT for our clients has been huge."

These meaningful contributions would not be possible without the dedication and diligence of our DWT team. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers: Areeb Asif, Ailease Bullard, Leena Charlton, Sadia Collins, Stevin George, Sean Gibson, Matthew Gurr, Soo Min Kang, Margie Laketa, Leo Liu, Jojo Mills, Amy Ocean, Sharon O'Shaughnessy, Jessica Roberts, Brett Sears, Nicholas Traver, and Sandra Walton.

Thank you, DWT volunteers, for all that you do to serve HAP clients!