

*"I am proud to serve on this task force alongside the ABA Military Pro Bono Project to help assist veterans and servicemembers regionally and nationwide."*



**Jannea Rogers**  
Partner

### Jannea Rogers Provides Pro Bono Support to Active Duty Military and Veterans

Adams and Reese Mobile Partner Jannea Rogers has served as Adams and Reese firm liaison for the American Bar Association's (ABA) Military Pro Bono Project Committee since

2011. The ABA Military Pro Bono Project accepts case referrals from military attorneys on behalf of junior-enlisted, active-duty military personnel and their families with civil legal problems and places these cases with pro bono attorneys where legal assistance is needed. As part of her role as firm liaison, Rogers reviews available military pro bono cases in various states and circulates them to Adams and Reese attorneys in nearby offices who may be able to assist the servicemember. Available pro bono opportunities are also posted daily on the ABA's Military Pro Bono Project website. [Read more](#)



### Scott Hetrick Helps Paraguayan U.S. Citizen Resolve E-Verify Issue

Mobile Partner Scott Hetrick recently helped a Paraguayan-born U.S. citizen resolve an E-Verify issue that was preventing her from retaining employment. The more than yearlong pro bono case proved to be a team effort, with Hetrick consulting with attorneys and a staff member in multiple Adams and Reese offices. Hetrick began working with his client through the South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program in the fall of 2015. A U.S. citizen, the client was born in Paraguay in 1987, adopted by an American couple when she was four months old, and raised in Baldwin County, Alabama. Through her adoption, she became a U.S. citizen. [Read more](#)

### Adams and Reese Welcomes Summer 2017 LSBA ATJ Developing Leadership Intern Leila Abu-Orf

In May, Adams and Reese will welcome Loyola University New Orleans College of Law student Leila Abu-Orf as its 2017 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice (ATJ) Developing Leadership intern. Abu-Orf is one of four rising 2L law students, one from each of Louisiana's four law schools, selected for the program.

"I am humbled and honored to be selected for the 2017 LSBA Access to Justice summer internship and to have this unique, one-of-a-kind opportunity with Adams and Reese," Abu-Orf said. "I look forward to the invaluable experiences ahead and the opportunity to begin cultivating my professional identity as an attorney and an Access to Justice leader."

Launched in 2016, the LSBA ATJ Developing Leadership Program is a six-week internship offering the selected 2L law students the opportunity to learn about Louisiana's civil justice community first-hand. Each week, the interns will focus on the various civil legal needs of low-income people, the ways in which organizations within the New Orleans justice community address those needs, and how ATJ services increase the quality of life of those served.



Abu-Orf, a New Jersey native, moved to New Orleans in 2009 to attend Tulane University for her undergraduate studies. She majored in Anthropology and Gender and Sexuality Studies and received the Outstanding Senior Award from the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department upon graduating in 2013.

"Social justice has been at the core of my academic studies, extracurricular activities, and personal interests since I can remember," she said. "I decided to attend law school because I knew it would be the perfect avenue for pursuing social justice work as a career." [Read more](#)

**Anne Russell**  
Special Counsel



### Anne Russell Receives Tennessee Supreme Court "Attorney for Justice"

Nashville Special Counsel Anne Russell has received the 2016 "Attorney for Justice" Award from the Tennessee Supreme Court Access To Justice Commission. The award recognizes Russell's dedication to pro bono service, the legal profession, and the citizens of Tennessee. The Tennessee Supreme Court Pro Bono Recognition Program honors attorneys throughout Tennessee who perform more than 50 hours of pro bono service annually. Honored attorneys receive a certificate of recognition bearing the "Attorney for Justice" seal and signed by the members of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Attorney recipients also have their names added to the [Tennessee Supreme Court's Pro Bono Service Honor Roll](#). [Read more](#)

### Richard Carmody Honored with Appleseed Appreciation Award

Adams and Reese National Appleseed Senior Pro Bono Fellow and Birmingham Of Counsel Richard Carmody received a National Appleseed Honors Award at Appleseed's annual board meeting held at the firm's New Orleans office Nov. 30th. The award honors Adams and Reese for its commitment to pro bono service, its ongoing support of Appleseed, and its work to help people build better lives.



Richard Carmody with National Appleseed President Bert Brandenburg.



**Billy Gaudet**  
Partner

### 2016 CA&RE Pro Bono Award

New Orleans Partner William “Billy” Gaudet was the recipient of the 2016 CA&RE (*Caring Adams and Reese Employees*) Pro Bono Award. The annual CA&RE Pro Bono Awards recognize attorneys throughout the

firm who best demonstrate the spirit of pro bono giving. He was honored by the firm in December.

### Mark Surprenant Named Vice President of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

Adams and Reese Pro Bono Paladin and New Orleans partner Mark C. Surprenant has been named Vice President of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), the state’s largest nonprofit provider of free civil legal aid. [Read more](#)



Surprenant recently authored two articles for the December 2016/January 2017 *Louisiana Bar Journal*. “[ATJ Developing Leadership Internship Program Established](#)” provides an overview of the newly created internship program and its inaugural session in 2016 and “[Modest Means Committee Addressing Struggles of ‘Working Poor,’](#)” co-authored by Surprenant, provides an overview of the recent work of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Louisiana Modest Means Committee.

### Phil Franco Elected to The Pro Bono Project Board of Directors



New Orleans Partner Philip A. “Phil” Franco has been elected to the Board of Directors of The Pro Bono Project, a New Orleans-based nonprofit that provides free, quality civil legal services to underserved citizens of metro New Orleans and the surrounding community. [Read more](#)

### Bill Shea Appointed to Louisiana Applesseed Board of Directors

Adams and Reese Partner William D. “Bill” Shea has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Louisiana Applesseed, a nonprofit social justice and advocacy organization that promotes systemic change to assist vulnerable populations in the community. Louisiana Applesseed is part of the National Applesseed network of 17 public interest law centers across North America. [Read more](#)



### Columbia Office Raises Funds for South Carolina Bar YLD Voices Against Violence Committee

Attorneys in our Columbia office proudly participated in the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyer’s Division Voices Against Violence fundraising drive in December. The Voices [Read more](#)



(L to R) Columbia Partner Kirby Shealy; SC Bar YLD Voices Against Violence Co-Chair Jasmine Smith, Ashley Jordan, Legal Secretary, and Co-Chair Johanna Valenzuela; and Associates Justine Tate, Sarah Khouri and Lyndey Zwing.

### Tampa Attorneys Recognized for Pro Bono Service with Are You Safe

Tampa attorneys Stephanie Martin, Eric Partlow and Chris Roach were recognized Sept. 29th, 2016 for their dedicated pro bono service with Are You Safe at its 8th Annual Purple Party held in Tampa. Are You Safe provides legal and social services to victims of domestic violence and promotes awareness and education within the local community, legal community and law enforcement agencies. [Read more](#)



(L to R) Tampa attorneys Eric Partlow, Stephanie Martin and Chris Roach were recognized for their pro bono service with Are You Safe at its 8th Annual Purple Party.

### Carmody, Davis Participate in Project Homeless Connect

Birmingham Of Counsel Richard Carmody and Associate Anna Davis recently participated in the Project Homeless Connect: Monthly Legal Help Desk, an initiative of the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program (BBVLP). Carmody and Davis were among six volunteer attorneys from Birmingham law firms helping homeless clients overcome legal issues so they can obtain identification, jobs and safe housing. [Read more](#)

### Attorney Pro Bono Service: Boards and Committees

**Rob Bethea**  
Epworth Children’s Home, Pro Bono Tax Counsel

**Richard Carmody**  
Adams and Reese National Applesseed Senior Pro Bono Fellow American College of Bankruptcy Foundation, Pro Bono Committee Member; National Applesseed, Assistant in Communication and Understanding of Consumer Commercial Law Issues

**Jim Dickson**  
Community Law Program Inc., Board President

**Phil Franco**  
New Orleans Pro Bono Project, Board of Directors

**Scott Hetrick**  
South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program, Board President

**Matt Jackson**  
American Bar Association, Military Pro Bono Project Committee; South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program, Board of Directors

**Stephanie Martin**  
The Florida Bar, Pro Bono Committee Member

**Margaret Myers**  
The ALS Association Tennessee Chapter, Pro Bono Advisor

**Jannae Rogers**  
American Bar Association Military Pro Bono Project Committee, Firm Liaison

**South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program**

**Anne Russell**  
Cheekwood Museum of Art and Botanical Gardens, Pro Bono Legal Counsel

**Bill Shea**  
Louisiana Applesseed, Board of Directors

**Mark Surprenant**  
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Vice President and Board of Directors; Louisiana Access to Justice Commission, Board of Directors; and New Orleans Pro Bono Project, Resource Development Committee.

**Stephanie Martin**

**Eric Partlow**

**Chris Roach**



Birmingham Associate Anna Davis and Of Counsel Richard Carmody

## Pro Bono Around the Firm

Below are mentions of the some of the pro bono work being performed by our attorneys:

### Pro Bono Out In Front Newsletter

Mark Surprenant  
Adams and Reese Partner  
and Pro Bono Paladin

Please send any comments and pro bono successes to:  
[mark.surprenant@arlaw.com](mailto:mark.surprenant@arlaw.com)  
[wanda.miller@arlaw.com](mailto:wanda.miller@arlaw.com) or  
[ashley.roe@arlaw.com](mailto:ashley.roe@arlaw.com)

### Pro Bono Committee

CHAIR - Mark Surprenant

Baton Rouge -  
Rob Rieger

Birmingham -  
Richard Carmody

Columbia -  
Cliff Moore

Houston -  
Alex Cosculluela

Jackson -  
Laura Rose

Jacksonville -  
Susan Mack

Memphis -  
Ben Fox

Mobile -  
Scott Hetrick

Nashville -  
Margaret Myers

New Orleans -  
Martin Stern

Sarasota -  
Ryan Owen

St. Petersburg -  
Jim Dickson

Tampa -  
Eric Partlow

Washington, DC -  
Jeff Brooks

### Baton Rouge

Attorneys in Baton Rouge have volunteered at several pro bono events and clinics through the Baton Rouge Bar Association Pro Bono Projects. Partner in Charge, Bill Shea has worked nearly 65 pro bono hours with the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce (BRAC).

### Birmingham

Birmingham Of Counsel Richard Carmody continues his pro bono service fellowship with National Appleeed and the non-profit's network of 17 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico.

### Columbia

Columbia attorneys have hosted two pro bono-thons this year through South Carolina Bar Public Services Division using a new interface that allows questions from the community to be asked and answered in real-time.

### Houston

Houston attorneys continue to work on several pro bono assignments through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program providing legal services in civil matters for Houston's needy citizens.

### Jackson

Jackson attorneys continue to provide pro bono assistance through various organizations in the state including the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Mississippi Center for Justice, and the Mission First Legal Aid Clinic.

### Jacksonville

Jacksonville attorneys continue to provide pro bono assistance through the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) organization. JALA is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to providing free civil legal assistance to those who could not otherwise afford it.

### Memphis

Memphis attorneys continue to work on several pro bono matters through Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. (MALS), helping provide free legal assistance, community education, and representation on civil matters to several counties throughout Tennessee.

### Mobile

Mobile attorneys continued working on pro bono matters with the South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program and its Wills for Heroes initiative.

### Nashville

Nashville attorneys continue to work with the Nashville Pro Bono Program, which helps low-income families in numerous civil cases. The program is coordinated by the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and The Cumberland.

### New Orleans

New Orleans attorneys continue working through multiple pro bono projects including the New Orleans Pro Bono Project. New Orleans partner Phil Franco was elected to the Board of Directors of the Project beginning his term January 1, 2017. Partner David Coons was elected to serve as chairman of the Board of Directors for CASA Jefferson, Inc., the Jefferson Parish affiliate board of CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) for children.

### Sarasota

Partner David Boyette recently successfully represented a pro bono client who was sued by the purchaser of a leasehold interest in a co-operative unit. The buyer claimed damages based upon the failure to disclose the inability to rent the unit more than one time per year. Boyette won the case on a summary judgment, establishing that there was no legal duty to disclose the restrictions and that the buyer had represented that she had received the documents and that she intended to occupy the unit as her residence to the seller and co-op board. Partner in Charge Jason Gaskill and Special Counsel Laura Bauman also continue to provide pro bono services to a local conservation not-for-profit organization.

### St. Petersburg

Attorneys in St. Petersburg continue to handle several cases referred from the Community Law Program. Cases include providing assistance to women in need of domestic injunctions; serving as attorneys for children that will be aging out of the foster care system; and other areas in family law.

### Tampa

Attorneys in Tampa continued working with the Are You Safe organization to provide legal representation for indigent victims of domestic violence. Tampa attorneys also work with the Wills for Heroes and local Guardian ad litem program.

### Washington, DC

Jeff Brooks, Washington, DC Partner continues to work with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right to a family.

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For additional information, please see the firm website at [www.adamsandreesee.com](http://www.adamsandreesee.com).

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