

Litigation for Good

By Ellis Liu
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The most rewarding case I ever handled was for a pro bono client. The client faced a frivolous lawsuit against someone with way more money. The opposing side was represented and intent on steamrolling my client. Emotions ran hotter than any case I'd worked. We had frequent late-night phone calls and weekend meetings. The threat of an unjust result drove me through hours of litigation to prevent it.

But because of the stakes and the value for the client, I loved working on this case. The client prioritized this case over everything else in life and made sure I knew how important my role was. I felt like I was making a big difference to one person and that was refreshing.

Volunteering as an attorney – specifically, a litigator – can seriously impact the lives of people facing injustice. With just some time and our brains, litigators can use a rare (and expensive!) skillset to protect people from harm.

Atlanta is full of good people who need legal protection, such as tenants who need protection from negligent landlords, spouses who need protection from domestic abuse; and, employees who need protection from harassment and wage theft. Litigators can help these people avoid injustice. We can level the playing field by doing it pro bono.

If we can't do it personally, we can do it by supporting our colleagues who work at pro bono legal services organizations. For example, we can donate to the Atlanta Bar's Council of Younger Lawyers' Associate's Campaign. The Associate's Campaign is a grassroots fundraising campaign to promote pro bono awareness and participation. Atlanta's associate attorneys raise money for the following organizations:

- [Atlanta Legal Aid Society](#)
- [Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation](#)
- [Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center \(Georgia Resource Center\)](#)
- [Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice](#)
- [Georgia Heirs Property Law Center](#)
- [Georgia Innocence Project](#)
- [Georgia Justice Project](#)
- [Georgia Law Center for the Homeless](#)
- [Georgia Legal Services Program](#)
- [Georgia State University College of Law Investor Advocacy Clinic](#)
- [Georgia State University Law School's Center for Access to Justice](#)
- [ProBono Partnership of Atlanta](#)
- [Southern Center for Human Rights](#)
- [Truancy Intervention Project](#)

These organizations provide pro or low bono legal services primarily to Georgians.

Since its inception in 2000, the Associate's Campaign has raised over \$500,000 for Atlanta's pro bono legal services organizations. Donations come from associate attorneys, as well as their respective law firms if the firm chooses to match their associates' donations.

Our neighbors face injustice. As litigators, we again can help others by using our skills or making donations. Please also consider donating to the Associate's Campaign: <https://www.atlantabar.org/page/associatescampaign>.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ellis Liu is former chair of the Associate's Campaign, acting vice president of the ACYL, and a business litigator at Cohan Law Group. His practice includes representing clients in shareholder disputes, breach of fiduciary duty matters, and breach of contract issues. Mr. Liu graduated from Emory University School of Law. He was the vice president of the Business Law Society. Mr. Liu also was the recipient of the Pro Bono Award.

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