



Stanley Pollack ('78)

Assistant attorney general, Water Rights Unit, Navajo Nation
Department of Justice (retired) / Window Rock, Arizona

"Securing the Navajo Nation San Juan River in New Mexico Water Rights Settlement, ratified by Congress in Public Law 111-11, which authorized the construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. When completed, this project will have the capacity to provide water to a quarter of a million, mostly Navajo, residents in northwestern New Mexico and northeastern Arizona. Almost 40 percent of the Navajo people lack indoor plumbing with running water and live in severe poverty. The development of potable water infrastructure will have significant public health benefits and is an important step toward the economic development of these impoverished communities."



Aaron Hall ('08)

Partner, Joseph Law Firm, P.C / Aurora, Colorado

"Any time we are able to keep a family together, help a client become a citizen of the U.S., or get a client immigration status is a proud moment. One of my favorite cases was where the government had charged that our client was ineligible for a green card due to an allegation of a decades-old deportation order. Due to that supposed order, our client, his wife, and two children were all ordered to be deported again. We were able to challenge the existence of the alleged decades-old deportation order in federal district court and eventually convince an immigration judge to approve every member of the family for green cards. Being part of a case where we take a family from the brink of a devastating deportation to permanent stability in the United States is extremely gratifying."



Ashley Harrington ('10)

Managing attorney, Children's Program, Rocky Mountain
Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN)
Denver, Colorado

"Unlike in the criminal law system, there is no government-appointed counsel in immigration proceedings, even for children. This means that each day, individuals, including children, are forced to defend themselves against deportation without an attorney. Throughout law school it was my dream to work at RMIAN, where we provide legal information and representation to vulnerable immigrants who are unable to afford private counsel to ensure they have access to justice and protection under our laws. What I am most proud of in my professional career is now having the opportunity to lead a team of dedicated attorneys and staff at RMIAN who work tirelessly to help immigrant children and families each and every day."



Adam Severson ('11)

Robert J. Golten Fellow of International Human Rights,
University of Wyoming College of Law / Laramie, Wyoming

"In Egypt and Thailand, I helped secure refugee status for more than 100 political dissidents, land and labor rights activists, survivors of gender-based violence and torture, and religious and ethnic minorities. I also successfully defended asylum seekers and refugees accused of war crimes and serious nonpolitical crimes.

At the University of Wyoming College of Law, I have supported ongoing litigation in Uganda's Constitutional Court over access to basic maternal health care. An estimated 17 Ugandan women per day die in childbirth because they cannot access lifesaving medicines, adequately skilled health workers, or emergency obstetric care. Talented lawyers and health experts in Uganda and the U.S. have contributed to the litigation, which I am optimistic will ultimately lead to better health care for expectant mothers."



Ryan Haygood ('01)

President and CEO, New Jersey
Institute for Social Justice
Newark, New Jersey

"Joining President Obama and civil rights legends in the 50th anniversary reenactment of the iconic Bloody Sunday march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. After reaching the top of the bridge, Congressman John Lewis led us in a moment of reflection and prayer. I reflected on the way in which the march over this bridge, named after a grand wizard of the Alabama KKK, gave birth to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), which is widely recognized as the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement.

I twice defended the VRA in the U.S. Supreme Court with a team of NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) lawyers. I represented black voters in one of those cases, Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder, in which the Supreme Court struck down the VRA's coverage provision as unconstitutional, leaving millions of voters of color vulnerable to voter discrimination.

Within days of the decision, Texas implemented the strictest photo ID law in the nation. I led LDF's successful legal challenge to the photo ID law, arguing during a two-week federal trial that the law was racially discriminatory and imposed substantial and unjustified burdens on voters of color in Texas. In the first ruling of its kind, the district court found that Texas' photo ID law, which prevented more than 600,000 mostly black and Latino registered voters from voting, was intentionally racially discriminatory, violated the VRA, and was an unconstitutional poll tax."