Through our pro bono work, we make meaningful contributions to the lives of others – preserving and advancing the welfare of communities and their disadvantaged members. At the same time, our lawyers gain practical and professional experience, and pursue areas of passion and interest.

Our formal pro bono policy encourages our lawyers to engage in pro bono work and to incorporate it into their professional development – and we recognize the work as billable work. Overseen by our National Pro Bono Committee, our pro bono activities are identified, coordinated and monitored by Regional Pro Bono Committees, ensuring the highest level of quality control and professional excellence.

Leaders in Pro Bono Work

In 2026, BLG was named a 5-Star Pro Bono Firm by Canadian Lawyer for the fourth year in a row for the value, calibre and institutional support of our pro bono efforts, including our work with national and provincial pro bono organizations.

In 2024, BLG was the Diamond and Impact Sponsor for the 9th National Pro Bono Conference. BLG's François Longpré moderated the opening plenary *What is the Global Impact of Offering Everyday Justice?* Our Impact sponsorship provided law students the opportunity to attend the conference.

In 2022, BLG and our project partner, Landings LLP, were awarded Pro Bono Initiative of the Year at the Canadian Law Awards for our work to rapidly prepare applications for vulnerable Afghans, seeking evacuation under the government's special immigration measures.

Karine Chênevert was awarded the 2022 Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Stronger Together Award for Québec for her leadership and dedication to pro bono work and service to community organizations, including her involvement with Fierté Montréal, ESPACE GO and Share the Warmth.

In 2022, BLG was the Diamond and EDI sponsor for the National Pro Bono conference. The conference celebrated important wins in the pro bono sector and our initiative to support evacuations from Afghanistan was featured in the fireside chat. Our EDI sponsorship provided conference registration bursaries for individuals from underrepresented communities.

In 2021, Michelle Henry was awarded the Ontario Bar Association's David Scott, QC Award for Pro Bono Law and the 2021 Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Stronger Together Award for Ontario for her outstanding contributions to the legal profession and broader community.

In 2019, BLG honoured the late David Scott, one of Canada's most distinguished trial and appellate lawyers, with the presentation of a $50,000 donation to Pro Bono Canada in his memory. Pro Bono Canada supports pro bono programs across the country that deliver free legal services to more than 36,000 low-income Canadians annually, including Pro Bono Ontario which David co-founded and chaired for several years.

In 2018, Guy Pratte was awarded the Medal of The Bar of Montréal for his remarkable contribution to the cause of justice, notably by founding various pro bono committees and programs such as Justice Pro Bono (formerly Pro Bono Québec) and BLG's national pro bono program.

BLG Pro Bono in Action

- Initiative to support evacuations from Afghanistan

As news of the Taliban's advance across Afghanistan filled the international news, many Canadians were alarmed by the stories of fear and desperation. Firm members asked how they could help. Read more.

- Veteran's Review Appeal Board Representation

For the past 5 years, we have provided pro bono legal services to veterans who have been denied benefits under the *Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-Establishment and Compensation Act*.

In 2017, BLG represented a veteran in the Federal Court on a successful judicial review application in a case which allowed a veteran ill with cancer to have their benefits reinstated (Northrup v. Canada (Attorney General), 2017 FC 521). This case contributed to systemic change in how the Veterans Review and Appeals Board of Canada treat claims related to Agent Orange exposure.

In May 2019, we argued a successful Judicial Review at the Federal Court. We obtained benefits and costs for a 75-year-old Canadian Armed Forces veteran with hearing loss and tinnitus who had been wrongfully denied disability benefits.

- The Canadian Civil Liberties Association

BLG represented the CCLA as intervener at the Supreme Court of Canada in the appeal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness v. Chinna, (File No. 37770) which was heard in November 2018; decision released May 2019. The appeal involved access to review of immigration detention by way of habeas corpus.

We represented the CCLA in the appeal of Denis v. Cote, (File No. 38114), heard in May 2019. The appeal involves the first case in Canada applying the new Journalistic Sources Protection to an application for compelled disclosure of journalistic source information from a journalist.

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