



DONAHUE GALLAGHER WOODS LLP: AN EXCELLENT, SOPHISTICATED LAW FIRM WITH A GOOD HEART

ESTABLISHED IN OAKLAND IN 1918, DONAHUE GALLAGHER WOODS LLP (DGW) IS ONE OF THE OLDEST LAW FIRMS IN ALAMEDA COUNTY. The firm has a diversified civil practice, which encompasses representing a broad range of individuals and public and private companies, including large retail chains, manufacturers, insurers, self-service storage companies, computer hardware and software companies, and professional firms.

While the firm boasts a long history and a bustling practice with 34 highly-skilled attorneys and numerous high-profile clients, it would be misguided to measure the firm’s “success” without also considering its overall values, which include a nurturing environment for its newer attorneys. “Nearly all of our partners started their careers with our firm, including many who were hired as part of our summer associate program when they were still in law school,” said DGW partner Jonathan Osder. “Our firm is over 90 years old, and that type of longevity and loyalty is not typical in today’s practice. We historically hire only students who have done very well at top law schools and then invest in training them to be excellent lawyers.”

Indeed, the firm has invested in its staff by requiring and paying for ACBA membership for every one of its attorneys who practices in Alameda County, and has been doing so since at least 1972. It can be said, then, that DGW was an ACBA Leadership Firm long before Leadership Firms even existed!

This attitude toward its human resources has translated into an impressive record of pro bono within the firm. “As a result of the strong value we place on quality of life, our billable hours expectations are much lower than most firms, however, our expectations regarding the actual practice of law are exceptionally high,” said Osder. “Our attorneys are not only successful practitioners, they are intelligent, thoughtful, and ethical people. We encourage our attorneys to participate in pro bono activities and actually give them full billable credit on pro bono hours without any cap. That said, the truth is these are people who need no encouragement to do the right thing.”

DGW has been a constant supporter of the ACBA’s Volunteer Legal Services Corporation for nearly three decades. It signed up as a firm to receive cases from VLSC in 1982, the first year of VLSC’s existence, and was the first firm in the county to do so. DGW accepts VLSC cases primarily in the areas of debt collection defense, immigration, and assistance to nonprofit corporations. DGW is the only law firm in Alameda County that accepts immigration law cases from VLSC. Firm attorneys also coordinate and participate in VLSC’s monthly advice and referral clinics held in Oakland’s Chinatown and at the Self-Help Center within Oakland’s Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse.

DGW attorneys coordinate and volunteer at the Debt Collection Defense Clinic and an Immigration Clinic each month, educating clients about the legal system and their rights and responsibilities. DGW attorneys also assist VLSC staff with scheduling and other logistics related to the monthly clinics. The firm also regularly makes lawyers available as mentors and trainers for lawyers and legal assistants wishing to participate in VLSC clinics or to accept pro bono cases. Training materials prepared and regularly updated by DGW’s lawyers are made available and distributed free of charge to volunteer attorneys working with VLSC clients.

“Supporting the ACBA and VLSC—namely, the good causes to which each is devoted—dovetails neatly with our own core values and efforts to provide legal services to those in our community who are most in need,” said Osder.

When asked what the firm wanted its legacy to be, Osder said, “An excellent, sophisticated law firm with a good heart. One that demonstrates a healthy balance between a very interesting practice and enjoyable lives for its attorneys and staff, while also fulfilling its obligation to the community by providing top quality legal services to those otherwise unable to afford such legal protection.”

DGW QUICK FACTS

Firm Timeline

- 1918: Donahue Hynes founded by Judge William H. Donahue and William H.L. Hynes.
- 1920: Firm becomes Donahue, Hynes & Hamlin
- 1935: Firm becomes Donahue, Richards & Hamlin
- 1947: Firm becomes Donahue, Richards, Rowell & Gallagher
- 1968: Firm becomes Donahue, Gallagher, Woods & Wood
- 2003: Firm becomes Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP

Offices

Oakland (main office), Walnut Creek, and Mill Valley

Practice groups

- Business and Corporate
- Employment and Labor
- Immigration and Nationality
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Real Estate
- Trusts and Estate Planning

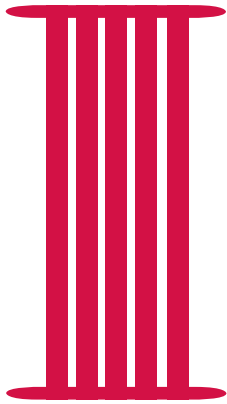
Representative Clients

- Albertson’s, Inc.
- Autodesk, Inc.
- Electronic Arts, Inc.
- Peralta Community College District
- Phish
- Safeway, Inc.
- Summit Medical Center
- Symantec

Selected Awards

- Pro Bono Firm of the Year for Alameda County, 1992
- ACBA President’s Distinguished Service Award, 1999
- State Bar President’s Pro Bono Award for a Medium-Sized Law Firm, 2007
- City of Oakland proclaims March 18 “Donahue Gallagher Woods Day,” 2008

To learn more about DGW, please visit www.donahue.com.



DGW: HOME OF PRO BONO HEROES

While VLSC's stellar volunteers come from many different firms and organizations (in fact, many of VLSC's volunteers are solo and small firm practitioners), DGW attorneys consistently support pro bono, year after year, as evidenced by the number of firm members honored at *Justice for All: Celebrating Pro Bono*:

Jonathan McNeil Wong was Volunteer of the Year in 2000, Mentor of the Year in 2005, and he has been a regular recipient of the Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services. He has served on the VLSC Board of Directors for many years, including serving as president. He was also president of the ACBA in 2000. Always willing to assist the ACBA and VLSC on

a variety of matters, often on short notice and always with a smile, makes Jonathan a valuable (and beloved) resource for the bar.

Bruce S. Eads was Volunteer of the Year in 2001 and Mentor of the Year in 2009. He also received the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, in 2009, and several years previous. He also served on the ACBA Board of Directors. "Provision of pro bono legal services underscores one's personal belief in the essential interconnectedness of all beings," said Bruce.

This year alone also saw the Wiley W. Manuel Award bestowed upon four other DGW attorneys: **Joceyln M. Belloni**, who has provided pro bono services to nonprofit organizations, sincerely appreciates the opportunity to use her legal skills to help organizations that benefit the community. **Joshua M. Caplan** helped a homeless man in Oakland recover money owed to him from the sale of his home more than four years ago. "We made sure that his voice was heard," said Joshua. **Jayne M. DeYoung** used her talents as a real estate specialist to assist colleague Joshua Caplan in recovering funds for the elderly homeless man. **Carrie N. Schneider**, who was also named Volunteer of the Year in 2007, says that pro bono "is about good people, good work, and good energy."



Jonathan M. Wong



Bruce S. Eads



Joceyln M. Belloni



Joshua M. Caplan



Jayne M. DeYoung



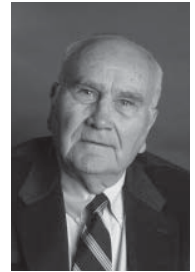
Carrie N. Schneider

This article was compiled by Shannon Goecke and Elizabeth Hom, with assistance from many attorneys at Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP.

Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP is one of the Founding Members of the ACBA Leadership Firms, those firms that have achieved 100% membership in the ACBA. We will profile our Leadership Firms in The Bulletin. Next issue: Burnham Brown!

DGW PROFILE: JOSEPH A. WOODS, JR. OF COUNSEL

When it comes to supporting the ACBA and its Volunteer Legal Services Corporation, generously giving year after year, both as an individual and through his influence at his law firm, no ACBA member comes close to Joseph A. Woods, Jr.



Mr. Woods was admitted to the State Bar of California, joined the ACBA, and was hired on at DGW, all in 1950. He advanced to partner in 1953 and has been responsible for a variety of litigation, real, estate, business, and corporate matters for various clients. He was the attorney principally responsible for the legal affairs of Lucky Stores, Inc. from 1956 until 1988.

Mr. Woods was president of the ACBA in 1975 and helped to develop the Alameda County Bar Foundation, of which he was president in 1991. The Foundation also funded the creation of VLSC, in 1982, to mobilize volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono services to low-income people in the community. DGW was the first firm in the county to sign up to take cases from VLSC, and, in VLSC's first year, twenty of VLSC's 90 volunteers were from DGW.

"Joe has been a personal guide and mentor throughout my career at the firm," said Jonathan Wong. "His abiding belief in the importance of pro bono service and the key role that the organized bar plays in the provision of pro bono service has become part of our firm culture. That so many of our lawyers, particularly our young lawyers, have committed themselves to the pro bono ethic is a testament to Joe's vision."