

FORMULAIRE DE CANDIDATURE

TROPHEES PRO BONO 2021

Les dossiers de candidatures sont adressés par mail à l'adresse barreausolidarite@avocatparis.org **avant le 30 juin 2021**. Le candidat indiquera en objet du mail « *Candidature Trophées pro bono 2021* » - suivi de son nom ou du nom de son cabinet ou de son collectif d'avocats.

Un dossier de candidature est composé :

- Du présent formulaire dûment complété ;
- D'une photo du ou des candidats ou d'une illustration du projet ou de l'association (logo, photo, etc) ;
- De toute pièce utile à la présentation de l'action ou des actions présentées.

1) **Nom de l'élève-avocat, de l'avocat, du cabinet ou du collectif d'avocats qui candidate :**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, bureau de Paris

2) **Intitulé de l'initiative ou des initiatives ou de l'association ou des associations au titre de laquelle ou desquelles vous présentez votre candidature :**

The Immigration Impact Project (IIP)

3) **Choisissez une catégorie de Trophées selon votre profil¹ :**

- Prix Henri Leclerc (ouvert uniquement aux élèves-avocats ou aux avocats de moins de 5 ans d'exercice)
- Prix Solo (avocat individuel)
- Prix en Equipe (cabinet ou collectif d'avocats)**

¹ 5 initiatives seront récompensées cette année lors de la cérémonie de remise des Trophées le lundi 11 octobre 2021, par :

1. Le Prix Junior « Henri Leclerc » dédié à un projet porté par élève-avocat ou un avocat de moins de 5 ans d'exercice désigné par un vote électronique ouvert à tous les avocats du barreau et aux élèves-avocats de l'efb
2. Le Prix « solo » récompensant une initiative portée par un avocat individuel
3. Le Prix en « Équipe » récompensant une initiative portée par un cabinet ou un collectif d'avocats
4. Le « Prix des Avocats » récompensant une candidature, toutes catégories confondues, sur la base d'un vote électronique ouvert à tous les avocats du Barreau de Paris.
5. Le prix pro Bono Paris-Québec récompensera des projets à vocation solidaire en harmonie avec les valeurs et principes de la Francophonie.

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4) **Indiquez si vous souhaitez candidater au Prix pro bono Paris-Québec :**

- Oui
- Non**

A. Description de l'action ou de l'association soutenue bénévolement par le candidat :

In 2017, Skadden launched the Immigration Impact Project (IIP), a pro bono initiative utilizing a virtual practice group model to drive efficiencies in the delivery of legal services to low-income immigrants.

A Steering Committee, which includes representatives from across the firm, was formed to develop policies and protocols, streamline knowledge and staff matters more efficiently. The Steering Committee created a robust technological platform that provides attorneys and staff access to tools and resources needed for immigration matters. An important aspect of this initiative was reducing internal redundancies and reliance on already overburdened legal service organizations (LSOs) for support. LSOs are critical partners in our immigration work; however, we wanted to develop internal knowledge and resources to avoid draining theirs. The platform was designed to be able to pull attorney experience and allows for a quick determination on who is well-positioned to handle or oversee a matter that is referred to us. We believe we are one of the few firms to organize pro bono work in this manner and offer these types of integrated resources. These resources make it easier for attorneys to take on their first immigration matter with the confidence that they are equipped to handle it, and they provide all attorneys and staff with quick access to the most up-to-date materials.

The IIP primarily takes on matters representing indigent individuals, which includes representing unaccompanied minors, refugees and asylum seekers, those in removal proceedings, bond proceedings, naturalization, residency and work permit proceedings, and specialized immigration proceedings in the U.S. such as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), U-Visa, T-Visa and petitions under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Since the launch of the IIP, the hours dedicated to our immigration efforts have increased by 83%.

The pro bono work delivered by the IIP often involves attorneys and professional staff representing trauma survivors, which inevitably exposes them to their clients' accounts of pain and suffering, as well as incredible stories of strength and survival. In November 2020, the IIP launched a wellness initiative in collaboration with the Skadden Well-Being department aimed at ensuring staff have the tools for self-care and an understanding of the resources available to support their wellbeing. As part of the initiative, a workshop was held that focused on compassion fatigue and vicarious traumatization and provided guidance on developing resilience strategies.

The IIP also recently set up a new MENA and Central Asia Asylum Advisory Team, focused on cases stemming from the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. The unique geo-political, cultural, linguistic, and legal considerations in the MENA and Central Asian regions prompted the creation of this new team, which is dedicated to building expertise in representing and providing assistance to clients from these regions. As many of these cases go through United Nations aid / resettlement processes rather than U.S.-based immigration, the Paris office has been actively involved in developing this new Advisory Team, along with attorneys and professional staff from other European Skadden offices.

The Paris office has been instrumental in developing the IIP – with attorneys from the Paris office sitting on the Steering Committee, taking a leadership role in developing the wellness initiative, and growing

the number of immigration matters handled by Paris attorneys through collaborations with local LSOs in France.

B. Description du public-cible de l'action ou de l'association et si possible des impacts mesurables de l'action en faveur de ce public :

As discussed above, the IIP primarily takes on matters representing indigent individuals including unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers and refugees. The pro bono model created by the IIP has been so successful that we are currently launching other pro bono projects following this virtual practice group template. Since the launch in November 2017, the firm has dramatically increased both the number of immigration pro bono matters and the types of matters that we are equipped to handle. The IIP currently offers streamlined support on more than 18 types of immigration matters with the help of 30 advisory teams across our global offices.

In 2020, attorneys and professional staff globally:

- dedicated nearly 45,000 hours to immigration work;
- lead over 580 individual immigration and asylum cases;
- secured release of immigrant detainees from detention centers during the pandemic;
- supported children with their UK citizenship applications to the UK Home Office;
- assisted individuals with achieving naturalization and obtaining citizenship in Europe and in the U.S.;
- assisted young people in the U.S. with renewing their DACA status;
- assisted U.S. U-Visa applicants in partnership with a firm client;
- represented LGBTQ+ immigrants who are victims of persecution in their home countries to secure legal status in the U.S.; and
- continued to staff an immigration hotline in partnership with six law firms.

C. Description de l'engagement du candidat au sein de ces actions ou de l'association :

Skadden Paris office attorneys from across our practice groups have worked on a variety of IIP matters, including in partnership with various LSOs, in France and in the U.S. Paris office attorneys represent individuals in France-based immigration and asylum proceedings and provide support to U.S.-based teams working on U.S.-based immigration and asylum proceedings. Additionally, Paris office attorneys and support staff provide French language translation, interpretation and country conditions research support for Francophone clients in immigration proceedings outside of France (for example, asylum seeker from Togo in U.S. proceedings).

Three notable partnerships/representations in France include:

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l'Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme

The Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights (AADH) is a non-profit organization that provides free legal support to governmental and international institutions, organizations, and NGOs that protect human rights (civil, political, cultural, social and environmental).

Skadden Paris attorneys have assisted the AADH on a pro-bono basis on the following representative matters: drafting a summary note on the obligation to leave French territory (*obligation de quitter le territoire français*, "OQTF") for medical personnel; assessing asylum application options for an Ivorian asylum seeker in France; researching work authorization process for underage workers; assisting Malian students on obtaining residency permit in France; drafting a memorandum on French legal procedure for obtaining residency permit in France; and drafting a memorandum on the Istanbul protocol and standards to follow for medical examinations of refugees.

France Terre d'Asile

France Terre d'Asile (FTDA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting refugees seeking asylum in France that provides free legal support to people in the asylum application process as well as access to housing, education, social benefits, etc..

Skadden Paris attorneys have assisted FTDA on a pro-bono basis on several employment-related matters with a view to ensuring that FTDA complies with French labor laws. Our assistance includes the: drafting of collective agreements on various topics such as working time, as well as day-to-day assistance with furlough, data protection, compensation issues, relations with the staff representative bodies, etc.

United World Colleges France

Skadden's Paris office has assisted United World Colleges (UWC) France since 2017 on matters related to French data protection and GDPR, tax and nonprofit law. Additionally, in 2020, Skadden Paris attorneys advised UWC France on issues related to meeting student financial needs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. United World Colleges is a global network of schools and educational programs with the shared mission of making education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. Their core program includes providing scholarships to select students to pursue their studies at UWC schools around the world. The UWC schools provide students with a challenging and transformational educational experience to inspire them to become agents of positive change and to create a more powerful and sustainable future.

In light of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families faced difficulties paying their children's fees to participate in the UWC program even with the UWC partial scholarship. Skadden Paris attorneys advised UWC on legal questions related to providing interest-free loans to the families. UWC also agreed to forgive these loans for these families to alleviate the financial burden of reimbursement. Because of this solution, many parents were able to send their children to a UWC school last year.

One such family that benefitted from the program was featured by a French regional news station. UWC France granted a full two-year scholarship to a student, a Syrian refugee who arrived in France at age 13. The student's parents were political dissidents in Syria. The student and her brother fled to France with their surviving parent, their mother. Since arriving, she learned French, excelled in school, and was selected to participate in the French and European high-speed ice skating championships.

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Last year, thanks to her scholarship, the student was able to attend the UWC of Maastricht, Netherlands, along with students from over 100 countries.

- D. Pour le prix Pro Bono Paris-Québec uniquement, soulignez le caractère innovant de votre initiative et en quoi celle-ci vous paraît-elle pouvoir être pertinente à dupliquer dans d'autres lieux :**