

ABOUT THE PRO BONO LEADERSHIP AWARD:

This award was created to recognize the initiative and commitment of an outstanding pro bono leader within the corporate and legal community. The award is intended to acknowledge an attorney who has taken on a significant leadership role to recruit other attorneys and colleagues to give back and engage in pro bono work through Access Justice Brooklyn.

AWARD RECIPIENT:



Jennifer L. Colyer was a special counsel at Fried Frank, and was pro bono counsel in Fried Frank's New York office. She joined the firm in 1993 and became special counsel in 2000.

As pro bono counsel, Jennifer was responsible for directing the overall pro bono program and supervising individual pro bono projects handled by other attorneys at the firm. Jennifer specialized in immigration and criminal defense and LGBT rights cases, including several family law cases. On the immigration front, Jennifer has extensive experience in asylum, VAWA, U-Visa and cancellation of removal cases and won asylum based on political opinion, sexual orientation, HIV status and other social group claims.

She also handled family-based immigration petitions. For the past fifteen years, Jennifer defended individuals facing a broad array of criminal charges in federal court.

Jennifer has been a frequent speaker on pro bono topics at the NLADA/ABA Equal Justice Conference and the Association of Pro Bono Academy, and has been a guest lecturer for the Pro Bono Management Seminar at Columbia Law School.

Jennifer was instrumental to the successful pro bono partnership of Access Justice Brooklyn and Fried Frank. Since 2019, Jennifer recruited Fried Frank attorneys to volunteer at over a dozen citizenship clinics co-sponsored by Access Justice Brooklyn in conjunction with CUNY Citizenship Now! and NALEO Educational Fund. As a result of Jennifer's efforts, over 40 Fried Frank attorneys assisted over 200 citizenship applicants to obtain pro bono assistance.