

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 acknowledges 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 the VLP.

2020 AWARD RECIPIENT:

Lauren Connell is Pro Bono Counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP where she works with the firm's Pro Bono Partner to manage the firm's pro bono practice and develop pro bono opportunities for its lawyers. Lauren maintains an active immigration practice, with a particular focus on defensive asylum and representation of detained migrants. She also advises nonprofit organizations on corporate governance matters. Before becoming Pro Bono Counsel, she practiced corporate law at Akin Gump, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions and securities transactions.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Lauren spearheaded a new partnership with the VLP to create the VLP COVID-19 Frontline Workers Initiative and recruited Akin Gump attorneys to participate in the project. The timely initiative focuses on recognizing the sacrifice and dedication of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East members by offering the free preparation of life planning documents, such as wills, health care proxies, powers of attorney and parental designation forms.

Lauren received her BA from The George Washington University and her JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.