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LAWYERS  
WHO LEAD  
BY EXAMPLE  
2016  
AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE

PRO BONO



## HANNAH SHOLL

**IN HER OFFICE,** Hannah Sholl keeps a framed copy of a judicial order from a case that is dear to the Holwell Shuster & Goldberg counsel. It pertains to an accusation sought by the state against a mother named Jarayha Wolf.

The Administration for Children's Services accused Wolf of causing the 2012 death of her infant son, Cameron, which the state claimed resulted from shaken baby syndrome. The state sought to have Cameron's twin sister, Chloe, removed from her mother permanently.

Sholl, 39, took on the case pro bono while at her prior firm, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, and stayed on the defense team after joining Holwell Shuster.

Her commitment paid off. Throughout proceedings that lasted more than a year, Sholl helped to gradually dismantle the agency's case and showed that Cameron died of a rare blood clot condition in his brain. The judge ordered that Chloe be returned to her mother while the trial was pending and ultimately dismissed all charges.

The order on Hannah's wall is a copy of that ruling, presented to her as a gift by Paul Weiss—a testament to her legal talents and respect among her peers.



"I felt a true sense of accomplishment as a lawyer when I did pro bono work because you really have so much agency and control over your cases. It gave me so much confidence as a lawyer especially in my case on behalf of Ms. Wolf."

Sholl also has done extensive work with the Innocence Project, taking on less-publicized matters such

as helping exonerees resolve unpaid debt. In one case, a man who spent decades in jail for a crime he did not commit was facing a new round of imprisonment for failing to pay student loans.

"I wrote a letter to the Department of Education and I explained and told his story," she said. "It was a compelling story about a person who served decades

in prison for a crime he didn't commit, and it was a tremendous opportunity because it's not unusual for exonerees to be in this position. We ended up being able to lift that burden."

Sholl's pro bono work included successfully representing a victim of domestic violence and whose ex-husband had filed a defamation suit against her. Her work on that case led Sanctuary for Families to give her its excellence in pro bono advocacy award.

In a vastly different case, she successfully represented the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in First Amendment litigation against American Atheists over the "Ground Zero cross."

Sholl's pro bono efforts extend to small claims court. For the past five years, she has been a volunteer arbitrator there, helping to resolve disputes between individuals and businesses that may be encountering the judicial system for the first time.

Sholl sees a common thread in her pro bono work.

"I am always looking for opportunities for people to rebuild their lives. It has played out by providing lots of opportunities in my career, to be of service in that way."

—Phil Albinus