

PARTNER PRO BONO AWARD 2007

MC DERMOTT WILL & EMERY

USA / October 12, 2007

MEMORANDUM

Last weekend at the Partner Retreat, the Firm announced its "Partner Pro Bono Honor Roll," recognizing nearly 200 partners who have devoted significant effort to our *pro bono* and community service initiatives (see attached). My congratulations and thanks to all of the partners on the Partner Pro Bono Honor Roll for making *pro bono* and community service an integral part of their professional lives.

In addition, the Firm awarded the 2007 McDermott Will & Emery Award for Outstanding Achievement and Commitment to Pro Bono and Service to the Community to the following five partners: Chris Amantea, Davina Garrod, Lisa Linsky, Robert Nicholas and Christian von Sydow. A \$2,000 gift will be made in each of their names to the charities of their choice. I want to share with you the outstanding contributions each of these five partners has made to improving the lives of others in their communities. As you will see, each has made a substantial difference.



Christian von Sydow (COR-MUN)

Christian has made *pro bono* and community service a central part of his professional life. He leads by example. Christian has developed a relationship with Project "ghettokids e.V.", an award winning social service organization and youth center founded in 2000. "Ghettokids" serves poor children in a Munich housing project largely inhabited by non-German speaking immigrant families.

Christian regularly tutors children in the German language and assists when a youngster or his family may have a legal issue. Christian also assists Project "ghettokids" with fundraising, and our Munich marketing staff has assisted with brochures and printing.

He intervened with a social service authority to have a couple's nine-year old son, who had been taken into custody without notice to the parents, returned to them. The child was immediately reunited with his family, and the agency agreed to reform its procedures to prevent another family from suffering the same plight. Christian is making a difference for an organization devoted to helping poor immigrant children and their families integrate themselves into German society. His leadership and commitment stands as an example for us all.