



145

Ways We
Made
A Difference

Dechert
LLP

INTRODUCTION

October 2020 marked 145 years since Dechert's founding in 1875. While there is much to celebrate in our history, the broader context of 2020 – with a global pandemic, economic turmoil, racial justice issues and widespread uncertainty – only highlights the critical importance of the work we do to give back.

Through our pro bono efforts and Dechert Days of Service, we have dedicated time and talent to a wide range of worthy causes. The firm's commitment to pro bono has been widely recognized, most recently with the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association's National Public Service Award and *The American Lawyer's* ranking of Dechert as the #1 firm for international pro bono work.

In these pages, you'll see 145 examples of the impact of our pro bono and volunteer activities, sorted into a broad set of categories. Even with a list of 145 examples, there is no way we could completely capture all the great work to which thousands of people have contributed over a span of decades. The items selected here are representative, but are also just a point in time. Keep watching dechert.com for more news as we continue to take on critical matters.

Finally, while most of these stories are from the recent past, we know that what we do today is rooted in the values and aspirations that have been the hallmark of this firm since its beginning. More importantly, we know that this tradition will carry us forward into the future.



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Photo credit: Courtesy of Heather Khalifa/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We challenge the system to live up to its promise – that all individuals are entitled to fair treatment under the law and equal access to justice. We provide legal services for organizations and individuals who cannot otherwise afford them. We advocate for immigrants, for the unjustly imprisoned and for prisoners’ civil and health rights.

A team from Dechert’s Philadelphia office helped free two innocent men unjustly imprisoned for decades:

- 1 With the help of Dechert and the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, a teenager’s conviction for second-degree murder, based on a coerced statement, was overturned after 24 years of incarceration. We also secured a US\$4.15 million settlement for him, the largest civil settlement that the City of Philadelphia has ever paid in a non-DNA exoneration case.
- 2 In 2019, Dechert lawyers helped secure the freedom of Willie Veasy, who was serving life in prison for a shooting in 1992 that left one man dead and another injured. The Dechert team helped corroborate claims that Veasy’s confession had been coerced by two Philadelphia detectives, whose other cases involving confessions are now being examined.

Dechert advocates for prisoners from around the world:

- 3 Led by Washington-based Dechert lawyers and an international team from across our global network, Dechert works alongside **Freedom Now** to identify prisoners of conscience. Several of Dechert’s Freedom Now clients have been liberated from prison, including individuals from Uzbekistan, Mauritania, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Myanmar.
- 4 At the federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, we won a favorable settlement for an inmate who was twice assaulted by cellmates, despite repeated warnings to prison officials.

Advocating for 11,000 prisoners in the time of COVID-19:

- 5 Dechert has been assisting the American Civil Liberties Union (“ACLU”) in a number of cases challenging unconstitutional conditions of confinement that put inmates at increased risk for contracting coronavirus. Most recently, we teamed up with the ACLU of Connecticut in a class action suit on behalf of the 11,000 people in the state’s 18 correctional facilities. Dechert secured a settlement that instituted independent monitoring, quarantining and increased cleaning and sanitation.
- 6 Dechert handled one of the first cases to apply the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to categorically bar the execution of individuals with mental impairments. Our client had been on death row for more than 20 years when the court vacated his death sentence.

Securing equal health care for incarcerated people:

- 7 We challenged the failure of prison officials to provide inmates diagnosed with Hepatitis C with Harvoni, a drug with an over 90% cure rate to halt Hepatitis C.

Dechert wins jury verdict civil rights case:

- 8 In 2002, our team won a jury verdict for a client who had been beaten by members of the Philadelphia Police Department during a SWAT raid. Officers exploded a flash grenade after breaking down a door, and the client could not identify his assailants. Dechert brought claims of excessive force and a cover-up that violated the client's right to meaningful access to the courts. At trial, Dechert showed that five police defendants had falsified police records and won a jury verdict in this civil rights case.
- 9 We won full acquittal for a client convicted of armed robbery who had been sentenced to 22 years to life. In just four hours, Dechert's team convinced an appeals court jury that the conviction was based on hearsay evidence. The client was released from Rikers Island after serving five and a half years in jail.
- 10 Since 1998, the Philadelphia office has handled more than 120 prisoner civil rights cases involving prisoners who challenge conditions of confinement or treatment by prison personnel. More than 170 lawyers have worked on these cases, of which 40 have gone to trial.

VOTERS' RIGHTS

Our commitment to free and fair elections has never been so focused, and our experience so critical to protect the rights of citizens to vote in the 2020 U.S. election. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, issues with the U.S. Postal Service and restrictive voting laws in many states, Dechert led the charge to protect the rights of all eligible citizens to vote safely and securely.

- 11 Dechert teams had several successes ensuring that states complied with the National Voter Registration Act, known as the "motor voter" law because it requires state motor vehicle departments to provide voter registration applications when individuals apply for or renew their drivers' licenses. In Ohio, we brought a suit alongside the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law ("Lawyers' Committee"), and the outcome allowed 400,000+ low-income citizens to register to vote in just the first two years after the litigation.

Ensuring Georgia's poorest citizens can vote:

- 12 A Dechert team had a profound impact on the ability of Georgia's poorest citizens to participate in the electoral process. Again alongside the Lawyers' Committee, Demos and Project Vote, we secured a ruling that the motor voter law applied to public assistance applications submitted by telephone or over the internet, as well as in person.
- 13 Dechert teams have challenged restrictive voter identification and documentary proof laws in several states, including Kansas, where, alongside the ACLU and ACLU of Kansas, we successfully challenged a documentary proof-of-citizenship law that introduced additional burdens to voter registration.
- 14 In South Dakota, we led a Voting Rights Act case (alongside the Lawyers' Committee) in which four members of the Oglala Lakota Tribe challenged Jackson County's refusal to set up a satellite office for in-person voter registration and early voting on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Access to a satellite office would reduce the average round-trip travel time for Native American voters by more than an hour, essentially equalizing the ability of all the county's voters to reach a polling booth.

Staffing the Election Protection national voter hotline:

- 15 During each election season, Dechert staffs a national voter hotline for **Election Protection**, the nation's largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition. This group helps ensure participation in the democratic process while collecting data for meaningful reform so that elections are fair and accessible.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Through our work on civil rights and civil liberties, we help those whose human rights are at risk. From 1875 to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have fought threats to justice on behalf of individuals and societies.

Protecting reproductive rights during COVID-19:

- 16 Dechert supported the **Center for Reproductive Rights** in its headline-making efforts to combat executive orders on abortion-related services. In Oklahoma, the team represented three health clinics forced to close their doors after the governor issued an executive order that was interpreted as

requiring postponed abortion services to preserve personal protective equipment. Dechert's challenge led to the district court issuing an injunction, recognizing that the state did not have a personal protective equipment shortage to justify encroaching on the constitutional rights of women. On appeal, the Tenth Circuit again ruled in our favor.

Helping define free speech on the internet:

- 17 In 2003, Dechert scored a big win in the emerging field of cyberlaw that helped shape the future of the internet. In a closely watched case, the California Supreme Court sided with our pro bono client when it ruled that email messages cannot constitute a "trespass" upon the recipient's computer unless the messages cause physical damage or disruption to the computer itself. Dechert's winning argument on appeal was that the unrestricted access liability sought by the plaintiff threatened the basic operation of the internet itself.

Defending Afghan detainees in Guantanamo Bay:

- 18 At the request of the Center for Constitutional Rights ("CCR"), Dechert represented 16 Afghan nationals detained at Guantanamo Naval Base. CCR asked Dechert to undertake the representations in part because several Dechert lawyers had been involved in other pro bono work in Afghanistan after the overthrow of the Taliban. Our clients were imprisoned without being charged with any specific criminal conduct, access to legal counsel or other aspects of due process. It took 10+ years, but Dechert ultimately secured the release of all 16 of these individuals.

Understanding the impact of LGBTQ discrimination:

- 19 A team of Dechert lawyers based in London, Paris, Singapore, Frankfurt, Brussels and New York assisted the Human Dignity Trust with its mission to abolish discriminatory laws against LGBTQ people. The team assisted in the analysis of legal reform in six jurisdictions – Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Belize, Mozambique, Nauru, Palau and the Seychelles – and the result was the 2019 release of a groundbreaking, in-depth case study series entitled "Reform of Discriminatory Sexual Offences Laws in the Commonwealth and Other Jurisdictions."
- 20 At the behest of the **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative**, Dechert provided an in-depth analysis and commentary from an international human rights perspective on a proposed bill in Uganda that stated marriage was only between a man and a woman, and any homosexual behavior or related practices would be prohibited and penalized.

Seeking asylum for those persecuted for their sexual orientation:

- 21 Dechert lawyers took on a 21-year-old Egyptian client who had fled to the U.S. from Egypt after having been arrested for attending a private New Year's Eve party in Cairo with other gay men. He was detained for two days by police and government soldiers while enduring physical and verbal abuse due to his sexual orientation. Dechert lawyers prepared his application for sexual orientation-based asylum, and it was ultimately granted.

- 22 Dechert partnered with **Immigration Equality**, a nonprofit organization that assists immigrants fleeing from sexual orientation discrimination. Dechert successfully helped a Jamaican man obtain asylum after outlining his history of physical assaults and death threats due to his sexual orientation.
- 23 Dechert also partnered with **Immigration Equality** to assist LGBTQ asylum seekers who have fled persecution in Uganda, including a bisexual woman who was forced to leave her family behind and flee her village to come to the U.S.

Supporting refugees and asylum applicants in Germany:

- 24 Dechert's Munich office dedicated one of their Days of Service to Munich's point of admission for refugees and asylum applicants. Over the past few years, these applicants have risked long, exhausting journeys to Germany seeking peace and safety. The influx has strained resources available to help victims of political, religious and racial prosecution, as well as economic distress and war. The office focused on the most needed items, such as winter coats, blankets, suitcases and hygiene products.

Analyzing an African bill of rights for women:

- 25 In partnership with Oxfam GB, Dechert led a pro bono research project in Africa called "**Raising Her Voice.**" Our lawyers coordinated with other firms and chambers in a legal analysis of the implementation of the Maputo Protocol, an African bill of rights for women. The Protocol guarantees women the right to take part in political processes, have social and political equality with men, control their reproductive health, and other rights.

Dechert fights workplace abuse:

- 26 With our help throughout her five-year legal battle, a former NYPD secretary was awarded compensatory damages after being subjected to a sexually hostile work environment. We took and defended more than 25 depositions and represented our client at trial.
- 27 In 2004, Dechert was approached by **Break the Chain Campaign**, a Washington, D.C., organization that assists victims of human trafficking, to represent a Sri Lankan woman who had been the victim of human trafficking in New Jersey. Dechert sought recovery under state and federal statutes, asserting a number of potentially precedent-setting claims, and obtained a global settlement valued at US\$225,000.
- 28 Dechert has assisted in investigations on behalf of victims of labor trafficking and brought challenges against diplomats from Bangladesh, Bolivia, Kenya, Kuwait, Malawi, Mozambique and Saudi Arabia. Individuals are typically brought to the U.S. and promised visas to do domestic work but are faced with deplorable living conditions, little or no pay, physical and emotional abuse, and worse.

Challenging diplomatic immunity in the treatment of domestic workers:

- 29 Dechert worked on a case that made a lasting mark on federal trafficking jurisprudence. In 1996, our client was brought from India to the U.S. to work as a live-in domestic in the household of a high-ranking Kuwaiti diplomat. Over the next four years, she was beaten, raped and threatened. She escaped and sued the diplomat, who argued diplomatic immunity protected diplomats even after their posting to the United States. The court disagreed, ruling that “residual immunity” – a form of protection for some U.S. laws that continue after diplomats leave their posts – did not apply.

A manual for migrant workers to fight human trafficking and exploitation:

- 30 Dechert lawyers in the Hong Kong office, along with Justice Without Borders (“JWB”) and the University of Hong Kong, drafted a manual for migrant workers to pursue human trafficking and exploitation claims in Hong Kong and other locations.

A groundbreaking victory for migrant workers:

- 31 Working with JWB in Hong Kong, Dechert also secured a groundbreaking decision representing a victory for all of Hong Kong’s migrant workers, bridging an enormous gap in their access to the city’s justice system. By allowing a former domestic worker to testify from the Philippines via video conferencing, the Labour Tribunal for the first time permitted a claimant to give testimony via video conferencing and pursue her case from abroad.
- 32 In April 2009, Dechert lawyers helped secure asylum for a married couple and their son from Uzbekistan who had suffered medical discrimination, including a forced abortion, due to their HIV status.
- 33 Dechert sought and secured political asylum in the U.S. for a nun from the Congo who had been attacked and threatened by Rwandan rebels and government forces for being very outspoken about the use of child soldiers in her country’s civil war.

Dechert provides assistance to support immigrants from many nations:

- 34 Since January 2019, Dechert’s London office and three other law firms have been supporting the charity **Bail for Immigration Detainees**, which exists to challenge immigration detention in the UK. We help file exceptional case funding applications to help immigrants obtain legal aid.
- 35 Dechert lawyers secured asylum for two brothers from the Ivory Coast who were on the run after refusing to join a rebel militia. They stowed away with a shipment of cocoa beans headed to the U.S. and were arrested upon arrival. Though Dechert had just one month to prepare a case, we were able to successfully make the case that the brothers deserved asylum.

- 36 Dechert's Austin office secured a win for a woman and her "American dream," preserving the asylum of the woman who had risked her life to journey on foot and bus from Honduras, through Guatemala and Mexico, to the Texas border. She pled for asylum after she was kept prisoner in her own home for years and subjected to unspeakable domestic violence.

Assisting in the resettlement of our allies:

- 37 As part of a coalition of law firms committed to implementing the mission of the **List Project to Resettle Iraqi Allies**, Dechert helped a Northern Iraqi man gain admission to the U.S. and helped an Iraqi woman secure entry into the U.S. for her two minor sons.

Defending rock stars who could not return home:

- 38 Dechert lawyers represented real-life rock stars from Iraq, whose lyrics denouncing violence had made them a target of Iraq's extremist insurgency. The fact that our clients were "highly recognizable" resulted in a favorable outcome, as Dechert successfully argued that this alone meant that they could not safely return to any part of Iraq.
- 39 After more than 11 years of separation, a Dechert team helped a 60-year-old asylee from Ethiopia living in Washington, D.C., reunite with her family. Though her children were eligible for asylum, her 12-year-old grandson was not. Following months of calls, numerous requests for evidence and a DNA test, the application for humanitarian parole was granted.

Aid for children in the immigration system without parents:

- 40 Kids in Need of Defense ("KIND") is a global immigration organization that helps secure status and stability for migrant children fleeing danger in their home countries. In partnership with Central England Law Centre, we help clients file citizenship applications for children born and living in the UK for the past 10 years. Typically, these children know no other home than the UK, but are held in limbo and uncertainty due to lack of status. Their unresolved citizenship status can adversely affect their ability to access, inter alia, healthcare and higher education.
- 41 In another referral for KIND, the Washington, D.C., office helped a 16-year-old boy in a deportation proceeding after he had been apprehended by U.S. border patrol agents in Texas.
- 42 Dechert has taken a leading role in a clinic established by Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme to support unaccompanied minors arriving in France. We help these children find legal representation to assist with immigration issues, among other things. Recently, Dechert advocated for an Afghan minor before the Paris Prefecture, after which his request for asylum was allowed to proceed.

In support of Pennsylvania students' right to privacy:

- 43 In 2011, working with the ACLU of Pennsylvania, Dechert lawyers worked to support students' right to privacy, obtaining preliminary injunctions against two Pennsylvania public schools that made drug testing a requirement for participation in school activities.

SUPPORTING VETERANS

In the U.S., we support our military veterans by advocating for the services and respect that they have earned. When housing, benefits and services are unfairly denied to veterans and their families, we get involved.

Crucial disability benefits obtained for U.S. Navy veteran:

- 44 Dechert was successful in obtaining crucial disability benefits for a U.S. Navy veteran who was sexually assaulted while in the military, witnessed a traumatic event and has a history of mental illness. The abuse led to drug use, which resulted in the client's dishonorable discharge. Dechert demonstrated to the Veterans Administration ("VA") that the mental health issues of the client stemmed from the sexual abuse during service, entitling him to disability benefits.

Dechert assists Korean War veteran:

- 45 Dechert successfully represented a U.S. Korean War veteran in obtaining a 100% disability rating for asbestosis resulting from his work as a boiler room attendant in the U.S. Navy. The matter, referred by the **National Veterans Legal Services Program**, was resolved after approximately five years of Dechert's representation. After a loss on matters of law in the court of appeals for Veterans Claims, we helped file a new claim with new evidence at the regional office level. After another appeal, the veteran received retroactive benefits from 2011.

A win for a homeless veteran:

- 46 Dechert secured a timely victory for a U.S. veteran client with a long history of substance abuse and homelessness who was facing termination from his housing program for relapsing into drug use. Through persistent effort, the Dechert team negotiated a settlement agreement that ensured continued permanent housing for our client while he attends a drug rehabilitation program.

IP litigators aid U.S. veterans in disability benefits cases:

- 47 Dechert's IP group took on cases relating to appeals of denials of service-connected disability claims for Vietnam veterans who were denied compensation benefits for disabilities incurred relating to their service. Our team inspected an extraordinary number of documents and records going back to the veterans' enlistment in the 1960s. We condensed that information into cohesive, compelling stories that succinctly explained the legal, military and medical histories of these cases to the Federal Circuit.

Advocating for change on behalf of veterans:

- 48 A team in Dechert's Philadelphia office successfully advocated for a change in VA policy where it would only suspend a veteran's benefits after a formal finding that he or she knew of an arrest warrant and was fleeing to avoid prosecution. Prior to this, so-called "fleeing felons" were often unaware of existing arrest warrants for them and were not given an opportunity to respond before their benefits were terminated. Homeless veterans, in particular, were often losing vital monthly benefits – usually their entire living income – due to arrest warrants for minor offenses. To push the VA to issue a new policy, Dechert brought together a coalition of support, including Congressman Bob Brady and several veterans advocacy groups across the U.S.
- 49 Dechert successfully upgraded the military discharge of a veteran who had been sexually assaulted while serving in his second enlistment in the Army in the 1980s. Our client had received an honorable discharge at the end of his first stint, but after the assault his performance deteriorated, and he was discharged early. After claims for abuse-related PTSD were denied, Dechert assisted with the appeal, ultimately resulting in a 100% disability rating and additional back pay of more than US\$100,000.
- 50 Dechert successfully represented a former Army sergeant suffering from PTSD in getting an increase in disability ratings from the VA.
- 51 In 2019, Dechert patent litigators successfully appealed two cases for veterans who had been denied benefits by the Board of Veterans Affairs. One suffered from PTSD, and the other suffered from a service-related skin disorder.

Orange County office helped prepare care packages for troops and veterans:

- 52 Dechert's Orange County office gathered supplies for **Operation Gratitude**, which sends more than 250,000 care packages each year to deployed troops, veterans, new recruits and first responders.

EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

We believe every child deserves a quality education, a safe home and a supportive community. We step up for families and kids, from the underprivileged to those with exceptional needs, with personal acts and engagement with organizations.

53 Lawyers in the Charlotte office advocate for the best interests of children in custody cases. In partnership with the Custody Advocacy Project run by **Council for Children's Rights**, we investigate all the circumstances and facts of the case. We interview clients and witnesses, conduct home visits and gather records and documents, enabling us to take a position on what is in the child's best interest.

Our offices help students with autism:

54 We helped a 14-year-old autistic student receive funding from his school district to attend a specialized school. Working with the Stanford Law School's Mills Legal Clinic **Youth and Education Law Project**, a team in the Silicon Valley office represented our client who had clear academic strengths and musical talent, but who also required constant one-on-one supervision. The local school was not equipped to meet our client's unique behavioral and academic needs. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a school district is required to provide every student a free and appropriate public education – or they may send the student to an alternative school. After many meetings with the school district, it agreed to fund the student's attendance at a new specialized school.

55 Working with the Public Interest Law Center, a team in our Philadelphia office successfully represented parents of children with autism by challenging a school district's process of transferring these students to different schools without parental input or adequate notice. A court held that the procedure violated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, noting that an unplanned transition for children with autism is likely to have a negative impact on their learning.

Los Angeles office assisted a family in adopting disadvantaged children:

56 The Los Angeles office came together to assist a family in adopting disadvantaged children. After helping the client navigate the court system for more than a year, they were united with their two new daughters on National Adoption Day. When the judges presented the family with certificates of adoption, family members cried tears of joy as our clients embraced their new daughters.

Dechert reads to Philadelphia school children:

- 57 Our volunteer coaches are paired with children, ages 5 to 9, for weekly reading sessions, as part of **Philadelphia Reads**, a literacy initiative sponsored by the Mayor's Office of the City of Philadelphia. Dechert has proudly sponsored two third-grade classes of more than 60 children, each of whom is matched with two reading coaches from Dechert.

Reuniting a family after unfounded allegations of abuse:

- 58 In 2016, a Dechert team challenged the City of New York's decision to take child custody rights away from a couple after unfounded allegations of abuse. Emergency room doctors had blamed the child's bone fractures on parental abuse, even though the child had a diagnosis of rickets, a vitamin D disorder that weakens bones. Our team won a key pretrial motion and, after a nine-day bench trial, the court found that the boy had not been abused, dismissed the petition and reunited the family after almost a year apart.

Dechert answers letters to Santa Claus with the gifts kids have requested:

- 59 Each year, our New York office participates in the **New York Cares' Secret Santa Program**, which offers children living in homeless shelters and underprivileged areas the opportunity to write letters to Santa and include requests for specific holiday gifts. The Dechert community pitches in to fulfill these requests and help brighten the holidays for some deserving kids.

No kid should grow up without a bed:

- 60 Volunteers from Dechert's Charlotte office have pitched in at **Beds for Kids**, a nonprofit whose mission is to provide beds and essential furniture to children and their families in need.

Providing shelter from the storm:

- 61 In the wake of the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, members of the Dechert community partnered with organizations across the City of Philadelphia to form the **Philadelphia Initiative for Haitian Children**. Efforts were focused on a humanitarian parole application program, advocacy efforts and establishing a response network. A humanitarian parole is a rarely granted exemption for foreign victims of natural disasters and other emergencies to come to the U.S. for care for the duration of the emergency.

Planting gardens to provide outdoor classrooms:

- 62 Partners from across the globe joined forces during one of our annual partner retreats to paint, dig, plant, assemble furniture and organize resource packages for teachers and students at the Frances S. Tucker Elementary School in Miami.



- 63 Another year, a group of partners helped transform a Miami-Dade County school by creating vegetable and herb gardens. These gardens provide the students with an **“outdoor classroom”** and fresh vegetables.
- 64 Dechert’s Brussels office helped a local primary school in Molenbeek by taking part in activities emphasizing education and the environment and by planting a vegetable garden. Now the students are able to enjoy the vegetables they grow in the garden.

Beautifying a school for students, teachers and parents:

- 65 More than 60 members of Dechert’s Washington, D.C., office sanded, painted, swept and assembled furniture at Ketcham Elementary School. Dechert provided the school with an updated parent resource room, a revamped teacher’s lounge, a beautified courtyard and educational murals in the hallways and cafeteria.
- 66 Dechert’s Boston office volunteered to rejuvenate the city’s Young Achievers **Science and Mathematics Pilot School**.
- 67 The Philadelphia office donated backpacks with new school supplies for disadvantaged kids going back to school.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

We help level the playing field for tenants and would-be tenants who come into conflict with government agencies or landlords. Whether the issue is fair housing, code violations or homelessness, we make it a fair fight by advocating for families and individuals who need support in securing, or remaining in, the housing they need.

Dechert provided legal advice to London’s homeless:

- 68 A team from the London office volunteered with **999 Club**, an organization that provides stability and encouragement to help people in southeast London who are homeless, have been homeless, or are at high risk of becoming homeless, to find solutions to their housing problems. 999 Club aims to build self-confidence and skills to enable people to find work and reconnect with family and friends.

Dechert pushes back against the ‘criminalization of homelessness’:

69 A Dechert team has done significant advocacy work on behalf of homeless people in Texas. Beginning in 2017, the team, in partnership with the ACLU of Texas, challenged a City of Houston ordinance allowing police to ticket or arrest homeless people who lived in a tent on public property. We succeeded in getting a temporary restraining order after the Houston police raided a homeless encampment. While on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the City of Houston rewrote its ordinances, and we withdrew the complaint.

Subsequently, in 2019, the team addressed the issue of criminalization of homelessness in Austin, successfully preventing the Austin City Council from passing a harsh ban on homeless Individuals from camping and resting in public spaces.

70 In 2019, we launched a project in conjunction with Legal Services NYC, representing tenants in housing court cases with hearings concerning housing repairs.

New York office volunteers at Housing Works:

71 Dechert volunteered at **Housing Works** in downtown Manhattan. Housing Works is run entirely on donations and operates a bookstore and café in Soho, as well as many donation centers in the greater New York City area. Housing Works uses its donations to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS. Our volunteers assisted in preparing the bookstore for Housing Works’ annual Open Air Street Fair and helped package and organize all the books sold that afternoon.

Eliminating substandard housing through homeownership opportunities:

72 Dechert’s Hartford office volunteered at the Hartford Area **Habitat for Humanity**. Since 1989, Hartford Habitat has taken part in a global mission to eliminate substandard housing for families and changes their lives through homeownership opportunities.

73 Members of the Princeton office served dinner to more than 400 people at **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen**.

London office supports the Whitechapel Mission:

74 Members of Dechert’s London office volunteered their time at the **Whitechapel Mission**, an organization that supports men and women battling poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds.

A patent for a role-playing game called ‘Survival’:

75 The Princeton office worked with a New Jersey nonprofit organization that provides assistance to low income and homeless families. To raise awareness of the issues faced by homeless people, the organization developed a role-playing game called “Survival.” Dechert helped prepare and file the U.S. patent application for the game.



Keeping children happy while their mothers take care of business:

- 76 Princeton also supported HomeFront's **Frozen Night**, during which volunteers organized fun activities for children while their mothers were taking part in training and other social service programs.
- 77 Through the **Santa Clara County Food Bank**, the Silicon Valley Office packed fresh produce and other food items for delivery to needy families throughout Silicon Valley.

Settlements obtained for tenants included free rent:

- 78 Dechert represented a 95-year-old Holocaust survivor in an action for personal injury and property damage against her landlord. In 2007, our client returned from vacation to find that there had been a leak in her apartment, damaging valuables from loved ones lost in the Holocaust. After unsuccessful settlement discussions and two mediations, the case was finally settled for a monetary component and free rent for our client for one year.
- 79 Dechert's Boston office achieved a significant victory for an indigent woman who was faced with eviction from her apartment. The tenant's rent had been raised significantly in retaliation for her complaints about her landlord's housing code violations. After settlement discussions, the landlord agreed to provide the tenant with nine free months of rent and bring the property up to code.
- 80 Volunteers from the Los Angeles office helped the **Midnight Mission** serve breakfast and prepare lunch.
- 81 Members of the Los Angeles office also volunteered with the **Los Angeles Mission** to help provide meals and other life-giving support to people in need.

Helping a homeless family navigate the public housing voucher program:

- 82 Through Dechert's work in connection with the **Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless**, we helped a client and her two children, aged 8 and 4, who had been unfairly terminated from D.C.'s public housing voucher program.

Reaching out to the young who are homeless:

- 83 Members of the San Francisco office volunteered with the nonprofit **At The Crossroads**, which reaches out to homeless youth and young adults.
- 84 The San Francisco office also volunteered with **Project Open Hand**, a nonprofit organization that provides nutritious meals to the sick and seniors in need.

Gifts for the Homeless' annual clothing drive:

- 85 Dechert's Washington, D.C., office has participated in the **Gifts for the Homeless** annual clothing drive, which is organized by D.C.'s legal community. The D.C. office collected new and used clothing, accessories and more.

NONPROFIT AND SMALL BUSINESS

We help nonprofits and small businesses launch and run their operations so they can focus on their mission. Our legal and business guidance helps these organizations hit the ground running to serve their communities.

London office partners with The Prince's Trust:

- 86 The London office has volunteered to take pro bono referrals from The Prince's Trust and assist Business Program participants with the legal issues they encounter in running their businesses. The mission of The Prince's Trust, founded by the Prince of Wales in 1976, is to help "young people gain confidence, learn new skills and get into work." A core program of the Trust is its Business Program, which provides low cost capital and free advice to those who are unable to access funding from traditional sources. Each participant is assigned a business mentor, who provides support and guidance during the grant period, and support in the form of technical advice – including legal advice.
- 87 Lawyers in Dechert's Brussels and Munich offices work with **Lie Detectors**, a Belgian organization that sends journalists into schools in order to improve news literacy, increase awareness of misinformation, and empower teens to base their choices on reliable information. The Dechert team advised Lie Detectors on corporate governance issues as well as advised them with respect to their expansion beyond Belgium, providing the legal support to enable them to establish a German branch.

San Francisco assists the Northern California Community Loan Fund:

- 88 In 2008, the San Francisco office received a phone call from a pro bono client seeking legal representation for the closing of a construction loan in just two weeks. Our client, the **Northern California Community Loan Fund** ("NCCLF"), was lending approximately US\$2.2 million for the

construction of the Ed Roberts Campus, a “universally designed, transit-oriented campus” that would be home to several organizations serving the disabled. NCCLF is a nonprofit organization providing loans and grants for affordable housing, community facilities and other economic development projects. This project had been in the works for many years and Dechert helped in its completion.

Dechert fights poverty through social impact investing:

- 89 A multi-office team applied their private equity and hedge fund experience through representation of The Eleos Foundation, a nonprofit that invests in and partners with social entrepreneurs to help eradicate poverty in developing nations. Dechert’s involvement with Eleos provided crucial early stage funding and supported the ongoing operations of three companies – based in India, Kenya and Liberia.
- 90 Lawyers in the Singapore office are staffing a clinic run by the Law Society’s Community Organization Clinic, which offers free basic legal advice on operational issues for charities, voluntary welfare organizations, non-profit organizations and social enterprises in Singapore that have an objective to meet community concerns or needs.
- 91 For more than a decade, the Orange County office has worked with the Public Law Center providing periodic workshops followed by one-on-one counseling sessions to low income residents of Orange County regarding legal principles of starting a micro business in California.
- 92 Dechert is advising an international development charity regarding the establishment of an impact investment fund focused on debt investment in farms in Africa.

Dechert Dublin creates a template constitution for charities:

- 93 The Dublin office prepared a template constitution for a leading support body for nonprofits in Ireland, which it can provide to charities to assist in the Companies Act changes in 2014.
- 94 Dechert advised **Leap Philanthropy**, a venture philanthropy organization working to empower low income communities in rural Southeast Asia to leap above the poverty line. We counseled the organization on microfinance and finance arrangements with local farmers and others in rural areas in Cambodia and other developing countries in Southeast Asia.

Improving governance documentation for an immigrant work center:

- 95 Dechert volunteers took on the challenge of improving governance documentation for **EI Centro**, a storefront immigrant day worker center in Staten Island that addresses the needs of newly arrived day laborers and their families.

Seeking tax exemption for an educational organization:

- 96 The Hong Kong office advised an organization focused on nurturing future leaders on its application to the Hong Kong Inland Revenue for tax exemption under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.
- 97 Dechert lawyers helped **PIBLY Residential Programs** negotiate commercial lease for additional office space in the Bronx to accommodate a growing staff and expansion of services for adults with mental illness.

Creating a fund that uses blockchain technology to make ethical investments:

- 98 Dechert assisted **Angels of Impact**, a Singaporean social enterprise group, to establish a fund that uses blockchain technology to make sustainable and ethical investments.

Scaling up to provide organic produce to 15,000 food pantry clients:

- 99 A multi-office team helped **Gifts of Love** merge with the Community Farm of Simsbury, Connecticut, which allowed it to scale up to provide organic produce for its more than 15,000 food pantry clients.
- 100 Volunteers from the Hartford office helped coordinate a successful farm-to-table dinner fundraising event at **Billings Forge Community Works** that was joined by more than 300 supporters.

A charitable business model that mandates no payment:

- 101 After playing for a number of large fundraisers for 9/11 causes in the wake of the attack, the **Johnny Esquire Band** (led by a former Dechert partner) was formed with a simple but unique business plan: play for any charity, as long as it promises not to pay you. Nearly 10 years later, the Johnny Esquire Band has helped raise more than US\$3 million, playing at more than 50 charitable events at venues throughout the D.C. area.

SOCIAL IMPACT

We measure our success by the positive social impact we achieve in large and small matters. From protecting human rights and the environment, to sharing our legal and business acumen, to making kids smile, we strive to make a difference.

We support law reform, family services, refugee assistance and legal asylum.

Joining with The Advocates for Human Rights:

102 Dechert has worked with **The Advocates for Human Rights** to reform the domestic violence laws in several countries, including Mongolia, Serbia and Bosnia. We have accompanied the Advocates on missions – where we undertook detailed reviews of the current state of the law, interviewed relevant stakeholders in-country and then made proposals for legal reform. Our lawyers have also engaged in several comparative law research projects on domestic violence issues, providing information to advocacy groups about best practices around the world.

Providing advice at the royal courts of Justice Citizens Advice Bureau:

103 Since 2001, volunteers from Dechert's London office have volunteered at the Royal Courts of Justice ("RCJ") **Citizens Advice Bureau**, serving as honorary legal advisors. The aim of the RCJ Citizens Advice Bureau is to provide free legal advice to people who cannot afford a solicitor and need assistance with preparing, or dealing with, a court case in the civil and family courts. The Bureau operates an open door service five days a week, and we participate in the clinic by staffing either morning or afternoon advice sessions. Dechert lawyers advise on a wide variety of issues, including asylum, landlord-tenant, employment law and consumer rights.

Helping break the cycle of poverty:

104 A dedicated group of volunteers spent a New York Day of Service assisting **Good+Foundation**, a national nonprofit that works to dismantle multi-generational poverty by pairing goods with innovative services for low income parents and caregivers, creating an upward trajectory for the whole family. Founded in 2001, Good+Foundation's goal is to incentivize parental participation in programs such as job training, GED attainment, anger management and healthy relationship counseling along with other programs. Dechert sorted new and gently used toys, clothing and educational materials for families in need.

Paris office rides 'The Solidarity Bus':

105 Since 2011, Dechert's Paris office has taken part in the **Paris Bar Solidarity** program, a joint operation by the Paris Bar Association, Droits D'Urgence and the City of Paris. The key component of the program is The Solidarity Bus, a mobile program providing free legal counsel to residents of Paris's most underprivileged neighborhoods. The advice given covers a wide range of legal issues, including: labor law, family law, landlord-tenant matters and general advice on legal issues, such as suggestions for finding a lawyer and explanations of court orders.

Empowering women to join the workforce:

106 The Philadelphia Chapter of the Global Women's Initiative sponsored a clothing drive benefiting **Career Wardrobe**, a nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia that empowers individuals transitioning into the work force by providing professional work attire, educational programs and networking tools.

We invest time and energy in the health needs of our communities.

Michigan children get access to federally mandated health care:

107 Thanks to our diligent pro bono work, more **children in Michigan** have access to federally mandated health care. In July 1999, Dechert lawyers filed a case in Michigan that alleged that state public officials were not complying with Title XIX of the Social Security Act, commonly known as Medicaid. After a district court dismissal, the firm's appeal drew amicus briefs from such diverse entities as the U.S. Government, the City of Detroit, a coalition of 200 major hospitals, the American Academy of Pediatricians and more, ultimately resulting in a rejection of the district court ruling and expanded access to Medicaid.

Joining the supply chain of personal protective equipment:

108 Dechert's London office supported the UK's National Health Service by donating acetate sheets (used in document storage) to Augment Bionics ("Augment"). Augment, a prosthetics specialist, is using the sheets in the manufacture of **3D-printed face shields**, which it is donating to the NHS in response to national shortages of personal protective equipment.

Care packages during the COVID-19 lockdown:

109 A team of London volunteers also stepped up during the **COVID-19 lockdown** to assemble care packages for essential workers and the elderly.



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Counseling solitary seniors about end-of-life decisions:

- 110 In partnership with **Lenox Hill Neighborhood House**, the oldest and largest provider of services to low-income New Yorkers on Manhattan's East Side, Dechert developed a program to help low-income seniors with a variety of issues, including estate planning, living wills and healthcare proxies. Many of the seniors don't have close family members to help make necessary end-of-life decisions.
- 111 In 2015, through Pro Bono Partnership, a multi-practice, multi-office team from Dechert assisted **LifeCycles** with all aspects of incorporation – drafting bylaws, licensing, regulatory compliance, federal tax-exempt status, state business registration requirements and the organization's leases. LifeCycles is a health care center founded, managed and run by nurses in Camden, New Jersey.

Helping hospitals pool resources and data to provide better healthcare:

- 112 Also in Camden, a team from Dechert helped local hospitals pool resources and data as part of the **Camden Health Information Exchange**. The Exchange gives physicians and other caregivers access to shared patient information in real time, enhancing the consistency and quality of care, and making critical follow-up care easier. Dechert helped this organization with issues of confidentiality, security and reporting of information breaches, intellectual property, and fraud and abuse.
- 113 London office members volunteered with **Cancer Research UK**, an organization that aims to increase the number of cancer patients who beat the disease.

We get out of the office to pitch in for environmental efforts.

Collecting bottle caps to raise funds and promote environmental awareness:

- 114 Our Moscow team collected thousands of plastic bottle caps to support the ecological charity project **Kind Caps**. The project has two goals: raising environmental awareness through recycling and raising money for children at local orphanages with special needs.
- 115 In 2011, our Hong Kong office helped gather and sort 1,000 bottles for recycling, after researchers suggested that Hong Kong's waste per capita was the highest in the world.

Maintaining oyster beds to fight pollution and storm surges:

- 116 A Dechert group set out for the Bronx's Soundview Park and worked with **NY/NJ Baykeeper**, an organization that focuses on in-water scientific monitoring and citizen science. Volunteers helped maintain new oyster beds, which is a sustainable approach to filter pollutants out of the water and build natural protection against storm surges.

There are so many places to clean up:

- 117 Dechert volunteers traveled to **Sandy Hook**, on New York Harbor, to help clean up the beach.
- 118 Our Washington, D.C., office helped clean up **Rock Creek Park**, collecting hundreds of bags of litter over the past six years.
- 119 Members of Dechert's Boston office completed a **Boston Harborwalk** clean-up by collecting litter around the Condor Overlook area in East Boston.
- 120 New York office volunteers also took part in Spring Clean-Up Day at **Jackie Robinson Park** in Harlem.
- 121 On a rainy Saturday in October, a team of Boston volunteers scraped park benches along the **Charles River** to prep for painting on behalf of The Esplanade Association.

Sometimes our volunteers get a good workout while supporting worthy causes.

Dechert partner creates the first charity ride for mental health:

- 122 The **Ride for Mental Health**, started by a Dechert partner and his family, has been a growing annual fundraising and volunteer event. The first charity ride of its kind focused on mental health, the ride takes place over two days (with 25, 50 and 100 mile courses available) in New Paltz, New York. Proceeds benefit McLean Hospital, a Harvard Medical School affiliate, and help fund education, research and the treatment of mental illness.

Dechert walks, runs and rides – all for charity:

- 123 London office colleagues laced up for a charity walk supporting the city's **legal advice agencies**.
- 124 They also took to a longer distance, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support in the **Royal Parks Half Marathon**.
- 125 Across the Channel, colleagues from the Paris office took part in a charity race for women called "**Le Parisienne**."
- 126 Dechert's Austin community participated in the **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure**
- 127 The San Francisco office has stepped up to join in the city's annual **AIDS Walk**. **Dechert helps the Games begin**.



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128 As part of the New York Day of Service, volunteers assisted in the opening ceremony for the **New York City Area Special Olympics**.

We protect students' rights, help disabled people, assist victims of terrorism and continue to fight for Holocaust survivors and their descendants.

Providing relief after the 9/11 attack:

129 Dechert helped with the **September 11 recovery effort** by assisting families and dependents of victims, small businesses located around the World Trade Center site and a nearby resident whose apartment was rendered uninhabitable by the attack. The team assisted as liaisons with the City Bar for client intake / training and, through work with the American Bar Association, helped obtain favorable tax treatment of charitable giving to businesses affected by the attacks.

We took part in efforts to return assets to Holocaust victims:

130 More than 60 Dechert lawyers and summer associates from nine offices participated in a project reviewing claim forms submitted in connection with the **Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation** as part of a worldwide effort to assist in the distribution process.

131 In New York, we support the New York Legal Aid Society by helping individuals with disabilities apply for Social Security Disability benefits.

Dechert hosts Community Lawyering Clinics in several Philadelphia venues:

132 Two Dechert lawyers from the Philadelphia office worked together to establish a **Community Lawyering Clinics** group in 2016. The group established relationships with numerous local organizations and now hosts clinics in places such as a low income City Health Center, the Family Court Custody Help Center and two homeless shelter clinics.

We support a large number of charities through Dechert Days of Service and other activities.

133 We joined forces with **Project Sunshine**, an organization that arranges visits to seriously and terminally ill children in New York hospitals.

134 Our volunteers sorted donations of new and gently used children's clothing at **The Sharing Shelf** in Port Chester, New York.

Animals need support, too:

135 The Orange County office provided a **local animal shelter** with pet supplies.

We serve up meals with pride:

- 136 The New York OFFICE prepared brunch at **Ronald McDonald House** for the families of children being treated nearby.
- 137 Our Silicon Valley office teamed up with **Second Harvest Food Bank**.
- 138 We worked with **Xavier Mission Welcome Table**, a soup kitchen that serves more than 1,000 hot meals to hungry New Yorkers every Sunday. Our group served food and drinks, washed trays and interacted with guests.
- 139 Philadelphia volunteers helped at **Philabundance** by providing meals to over 1,650 hungry Philadelphians.
- 140 Our Chicago office sorted dinner at **Ronald McDonald House**.

Our diverse lawyers built wheelchairs and fostered team building:

- 141 A team from the New York office built and donated wheelchairs to a local **VA Hospital**, as part of a teambuilding opportunity for diverse lawyers.

We stuffed and assembled cuddly toys for devastated children:

- 142 As part of the Summer Associate Orientation, Dechert partnered with Magnovo's Rescue Buddies Charity Workshop to stuff, assemble and label 60 cuddly toys, each destined for the arms of a traumatized child.

Making the holidays brighter for children of disadvantaged families:

- 143 For many years, Dechert's Washington, D.C., office partnered with the local Salvation Army as part of its **Angel Tree** program, which provides Christmas gifts for the children of disadvantaged families in the Capitol area.

New associates assembled bikes for kids:

- 144 For the past several years, we've assembled dozens of **children's bicycles** through a team-building activity during new associate orientation in Philadelphia.



We're all in this together:

145 And each of the firm's offices took part in a **Firmwide Professional Clothing Drive** to support nonprofit organizations that provide interview-appropriate clothing to low income men and women seeking employment.

CONCLUSION

Now more than ever, it does us good to recognize how we have helped others. When we give back we also receive. We are honored and privileged to have the opportunity to help people or to right wrongs. And we are extremely proud of our community and the good work that we've done.

Dechert's longstanding commitment to service is ingrained in our core values and culture. The firm has more than 1,500 open pro bono matters at any given time, to which we devote the same energy, enthusiasm and resources as our commercial matters. In 2019, Dechert contributed the equivalent of over US\$60 million in hours worked for pro bono clients.

Many thanks to our current and past dedicated and talented teams. Our 145 year legacy of giving back is a deeply held value that will continue to guide us into the future.





Culture at Dechert | It takes a **committed, global** team to deliver the **excellence in service** and **innovative thinking** our clients expect. Cultivating creativity to harness the very best ideas comes from **respecting** and **valuing everyone's voice**, and creating a shared enjoyment in all that we do. At Dechert, we believe that **building community** within the workplace and with our clients – whether multinational companies or pro bono causes – is the key to success. It's about building a firm where people are **trusted** and **empowered** to do their very best.

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