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## NLCHP Honors Firm with Pro Bono Counsel Award

On September 24, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) awarded WilmerHale with its 2009 Pro Bono Counsel Award at the McKinney-Vento Awards Dinner in Washington DC. The dinner honored those who work tirelessly to advance solutions to end homelessness and poverty in America.

WilmerHale received the award for its many contributions over the years, but especially for the firm's most recent work in researching and writing *Without Just Cause*, a 50-state report on the rights of renters living in properties undergoing foreclosure. The report—the culmination of a team effort by 36 lawyers from across the firm's US offices and the Intellectual Property, Litigation/Controversy, Securities and Transactional Departments—was used by the center to establish a factual predicate for legislation to enhance the rights of renters nationally.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the National Law Center, and even more exciting to know that our work will have a positive impact on the greater community,” says Litigation and Regulatory Partner Jamie Gorelick, who led the team and accepted the award on behalf of the firm.

WilmerHale has also provided pro bono support to the NLCHP's domestic violence program by assisting with legal research into new federal

protections to prevent survivors of domestic violence from losing their housing. The firm also helped research a national report on violence and hate crimes against homeless people, which drew national media attention and helped pave the way for the passage in 2009 of the first state law protecting homeless people from hate crimes.

The mission of the NLCHP is to serve as the legal arm of the nationwide movement to prevent and end homelessness. To learn more about this organization, [click here](#).