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CHAMPIONS

These lawyers have upheld the profession's core values of public duty and client service, building pro bono practices, taking on community causes, holding public service positions and fighting to expand liberties and protect civil rights.



ANA REYES

WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY

Perhaps because she's an immigrant, too, Ana Reyes says she feels a special kinship with those seeking asylum in the United States. A native of Uruguay and a partner at Washington's Williams & Connolly, Reyes directs the firm's pro bono efforts for asylum applicants. Last year her work helped inspire a Justice Department order that will help women who have suffered genital mutilation gain refuge status. The September order, issued by then-Attorney General Michael Mukasey, relied heavily upon a June decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2d Circuit. The latter ruling pointed to and adopted many arguments from an amicus brief filed by Reyes. "When I graduated from law school, my mother said she would be very disappointed in me if I didn't use my education to help people," said Reyes.

—JEFF JEFFREY

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