



InMotion has been privileged to welcome five outstanding associates from White & Case to our legal team. Pictured from left to right: Paul Godinez, Melonie Jurgens, Lou Silvestri, Meghan Murphy and Meghan McCurdy. We recently welcomed our newest extern, Averie Hason, to our office in May.

Over the past eighteen months, our White & Case externs have represented 35 women—women with cases both complex and urgent. In the past, our staff attorneys provided advice to women with emergency cases, coaching them on how to proceed on their own. But without time to line up volunteer attorneys to take their cases, we had no choice but to refer them to other agencies, with no real expectation that they would find help in time. As a result of this invaluable program, inMotion now offers the services of the White & Case lawyer to women who are facing desperate, often life-threatening, situations.

Each White & Case associate works full-time for three-months at inMotion's Manhattan office. While they are with us, they acquire first-hand knowledge of the City's courts, gain essential in-depth litigation experience, test their negotiating skills and learn crucial lessons in developing trusting relationships with clients. These are just three of the successful outcomes made possible by the White & Case team.

- Louisa\* called inMotion when her husband filed false allegations of domestic violence against her after she tried to protect herself against one of his violent attacks. Her husband had received a temporary order of protection from Family Court that excluded Louisa from their marital home and prohibited her from having any contact with their two children. The first step for Louisa was to obtain an order of protection against her abusive husband as well as an order permitting her supervised visitation with the children. Next, our extern filed a petition requesting that Louisa be granted full custody of the children. After numerous hearings, including a review of the findings of the law guardian and social worker assigned to the case, the judge awarded full custody to Louisa. She is reunited with her children. They live with her in her new home.
- Tatyana suffered through years of physical and emotional abuse during her marriage to a successful dentist. Working with our extern, Tatyana filed for divorce, citing cruel and inhuman treatment. The husband, fearing that his reputation would be ruined if his years of abuse were to become public, refused to proceed unless the grounds for the divorce were changed. Although he offered numerous lucrative financial settlements in exchange, Tatyana refused to withdraw the specific allegations of physical abuse and remained steadfast in her belief that it was not right to give in to her husband after what he had done to her. After weeks of negotiation, the husband finally agreed to accept the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment in order to avoid a trial. Tatyana obtained her divorce judgement on her own terms.
- Marta's hearing to oppose her husband's visitation petition was less than a week away when she came to inMotion. Although she had obtained a criminal court order of protection based on the physical assaults she survived and the father's verbal abuse of their 10-year-old daughter, Marta feared that she would not be able to prevent her child from exposure to further abuse. Marta believed that the father, in addition to being an active alcoholic, was beating his live-in girlfriend. The court-ordered investigation report reinforced all of Marta's claims about the father's violent behavior and drinking problem, and the judge granted only supervised visitation. Further, the father was ordered to enroll in an alcohol treatment program, participate in random drug-testing and take anger management classes. Later this month, Marta will return to Family Court for a special hearing to evaluate the father's participation in the rehabilitation programs.

InMotion receives hundreds of calls each year from women like Louisa, Tatyana and Marta who are in dire need of legal representation. Through the extern program, we can now provide immediate help when women in emergency situations call us. We thank White & Case for their continued support of this critical program—the firm is a true partner in our mission to afford equal justice to all women.

*\*Client's names have been changed to protect their identities.*