



Harter Secret & Emery LLP

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Phil Pantano

Pantano & Associates

716.601.4128 or phil@pantanoPR.com

HARTER SECRET & EMERY ATTORNEYS HONORED FOR THEIR PRO BONO WORK

Buffalo, New York, January 5, 2022 – Harter Secret & Emery LLP, a full-service business law firm with offices throughout New York, is pleased to announce that [Amy L. Hemenway](#) and [Chloe J. Macdonald](#) were recently named as recipients of the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) 2021 Champions for Justice Immigration Award.

VLP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation which provides free civil legal services to low-income individuals and small not-for-profit groups in Western New York. VLP provides these important services by utilizing both its staff and volunteers to represent clients. Over the past 30 years, more than 2,500 local attorneys have represented 100,000+ clients on a pro bono basis. VLP staff and volunteers have represented over 55,000 clients and provided information and referral to nearly 73,000 more people. Since 1993, VLP has honored their most dedicated volunteers and community partners through their annual Champions for Justice Awards.

VLP recognized Hemenway and Macdonald, attorneys in the [Labor and Employment](#) practice, for their work representing a detained asylum seeker in her petition for review before the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. This Togolese client had been denied Asylum when Hemenway and Macdonald stepped in to handle the appeal on short notice. Together, they provided 180 hours of free legal services for this client.

“Amy and Chloe did not hesitate to help when VLP called and went above and beyond to assist a client in need. Their hard work and generosity resulted in a remand for the client who now has another chance to request asylum. They are truly Champions for Justice!” said Gretchen Gonzalez, VLP Executive Director.

Hemenway, a partner in the firm, counsels clients on all aspects of labor and employment compliance. She has extensive experience in federal and state court litigation, as well as in administrative

proceedings, involving labor and employment matters. Hemenway has worked with national and regional employers on a wide range of issues, including contracts, wage and hour issues, individual and class action discrimination claims, collective bargaining, grievance/arbitration proceedings, and NLRB and PERB proceedings.

Macdonald, an associate in the firm, counsels clients in a variety of areas related to the workplace, including the development of employee policies, wage and hour issues, discipline and termination decisions, discrimination and harassment claims, and employment contract disputes.

Harter Secrest & Emery Labor and Employment attorneys counsel employers on state and federal labor law compliance and the soundness and comprehensiveness of employment practices and policies. They represent all types of employers in nearly every industry sector ranging from private employers with employees in a traditional manufacturing environment, to municipalities and school districts with employees spread out in numerous locations, to public employers with thousands of traditional and “virtual” employees located across the United States.

About Harter Secrest & Emery LLP

Harter Secrest & Emery LLP is a full-service business law firm providing legal services to clients ranging from individuals and family-owned businesses to Fortune 100 companies and major regional institutions. With offices in Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, Corning, and New York City, New York, the firm is a recognized leader in litigation, corporate, employee benefits, environmental and land use, health care, higher education, immigration, intellectual property, labor and employment, real estate, and trusts and estates law. Harter Secrest & Emery has 38 *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*[®] 2022 “Best Law Firms” top tier metropolitan practice group rankings—more Western New York rankings than any other law firm. The firm has been honored by *Chambers USA* for Corporate/M&A, Environment, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Immigration, and Real Estate law and 47 attorneys are recognized as *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] for 2022. For more information visit www.hsela.com.

###