


M&V

in the

Community



2019 EDITION

McConnell
Valdés  M&V

MESSAGE from our Managing Director

The old adage “*there is strength in numbers*” continues to ring true today. When strength stems from the collective and coordinated efforts of individuals seeking to transform communities in the face of adversity, the power of collaborative work is unstoppable. The story that we proudly share with you in this edition of **McV in the Community** is rooted in the committed collaboration of individuals, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and professional firms from around the world that answered the call to help Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane María.

For Puerto Ricans, 2017 was a year unlike any other in recent history. Hurricane María left an indelible mark on our island, our people, and our hearts. Faced by the horrendous catastrophe left after the storm’s passage, the people of Puerto Rico, through their indomitable will and resilience, emerged from this encounter stronger and more determined than ever to transform the communities in which they live and work into beacons of hope and renewal.

At McConnell Valdés, the spirit of community was evident immediately after the storm had passed: colleagues looking out for each other and extending a hand to those in need. Indeed, the spirit of kindness and compassion of the people of McConnell Valdés went beyond our place of work—it reached communities nearby and in the isolated mountain areas of the island. Inspired by the extraordinary voluntary relief work that a group of the firm’s young attorneys and other employees had informally organized, the firm established the McV Disaster Relief Fund to assist those communities in desperate need of basic services.

Ultimately, the fund helped support nonprofit organizations’ initiatives and programs designed to bolster the transformational change that needs to occur in Puerto Rico. We are extremely grateful to those who joined in our effort to help those whose lives have been forever impacted by this disaster. The stories we’ve captured in this publication provide just a few highlights of this long journey to recovery.

In the past two years, in addition to the contributions made to the McConnell Valdés Relief Fund, **McConnell Valdés has contributed more than \$100,000 to support charitable fundraising events** benefitting numerous nonprofit organizations, such as Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, Centro Fundación San Jorge, the Fundación Centro Pediátrico de Diabetes, Fundación Dorada, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Fondita de Jesús, the Ricky Martin Foundation, and the Puerto Rico Down Syndrome Foundation. **We also awarded \$10,000 in scholarships** to graduate students pursuing a law degree at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law through the McConnell Valdés/Antonio Escudero Viera Scholarship Program.

At McConnell Valdés, we are optimistic about the future of Puerto Rico and its people. We will continue to collaborate with and to assist nonprofit organizations through our Pro Bono Program, and to reach out and support the strong and resilient communities throughout our beautiful island.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our commitment to good corporate citizenship.

—**Arturo J. García-Solá**
Managing Director



THE MCV DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Together, we made a difference

On September 7, 2017, Hurricane Irma skirted Puerto Rico, leaving more than a million people without power. Less than two weeks later, on September 20, Hurricane María slammed the island, putting 100 percent of the population in the dark, destroying at least 70,000 homes and leaving an estimated \$90 billion in damages in her wake.

McConnell Valdés was ready to start building a sense of normalcy within a chaotic new normal. Beginning with our own attorneys and staff members, we provided access to everything from psychological counseling to daycare services. Our next – and ongoing priority – was to assist others in our community.

To be able to help our communities, we created the **McV Disaster Relief Fund**. With contributions from our attorneys, staff and the firm, as well as from Lex Mundi member firms and our clients, we were able to raise **\$90,000** for this newly created fund.

The funds we raised helped families in hard-hit communities such as Barrio Cucharillas in Cataño, Barrio Veguita in Jayuya and Sectors Viví Arriba and Consejo in Utuado. **Over 600 families received water, food and other necessities.**

During our Cantera Community Thanksgiving Lunch, we served more than 500 families, and our Holiday Toy Drive brought smiles to the faces of more than 70 children. We also donated washing machines to the Toa Baja Municipality and helped Casa la Providencia repair its damaged roof.

The McV Disaster Relief Fund also had a long-term objective: help with ongoing recovery efforts that directly impacted community development and renewal initiatives.

We committed to building a brighter future by establishing **\$60,000** in grants. 18 organizations affiliated to the Red de Fundaciones and the Puerto Rico Community Foundation were invited to submit proposals. These organizations work in the environment, education, economic development and health fields. Seven grants were awarded in June 2018.



McV Disaster Relief Fund Grant Recipients



McV Disaster Relief Committee Members and Grant Recipients

IDIIFCO – Instituto Especial para el Desarrollo Integral del Individuo, la Familia y la Comunidad

Funded repair and replacement of equipment and vocational training facilities for low-income residents of Guánica and Maricao areas

Instituto Nueva Escuela

Replaced equipment and educational materials for Montessori public school teachers across the island

P.E.C.E.S. – Programa de Educación Comunal de Entrega y Servicio

Helped reconstruct and repair damaged housing and replaced damaged furniture for elderly residents of Punta Santiago coastal community in Humacao

Centro Esperanza

Supported Montessori del Mar School in Loíza

Incubadora Microempresa Bieke

Funded reconstruction of food truck areas in Vieques' Sunbay and Esperanza areas

COSSMA – Corporación de Servicios de Salud y Medicina Avanzada

Supported rehabilitation of units at Esperanza Village, a residential community for the disabled in Puerto Rico's Juncos/East Central area

Centros Sor Isolina Ferré

Supported the "Manos que Cultivan" program that helps disabled youth in the Ponce area develop independent living skills

Thank You to Lex Mundi partner firms and our corporate partners for helping us help Puerto Rico:

Akerman LLP, USA, Florida • **Bernstein Shur**, USA, Maine • **Blair Sterling Johnson & Martinez P.C.**, USA, Guam • **Crowe & Dunlevy**, USA, Oklahoma • **Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP**, USA, Colorado • **Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC**, USA, Vermont • **GANADO Advocates**, Malta • **Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick**, Belgium • **McGuire Woods LLP**, USA, Virginia • **Nestor Nestor Diculescu Kingston Petersen**, Romania • **Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.**, USA, Delaware • **Tilleke & Gibbins**, Thailand • **Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie**, Nigeria

McConnell Valdés Consulting, Inc. • **Herrmann Advertising | Branding | Technology** • **Carlos Beltrán Baseball Academy** • **Toys“R”Us** • **Kmart** • **de la Cruz & Associates**

PRO BONO Program

For the past 13 years, the McConnell Valdés Pro Bono Program has been providing free legal assistance to nonprofit organizations in Puerto Rico. As the new chair of the Pro Bono Committee, which oversees our Pro Bono Program, it is my pleasure to provide you with an overview of our achievements, highlighting the valuable work that our attorneys have done for the past two years for community organizations helping those most in need.

In our fiscal year 2017-18, 57% of our attorneys volunteered to participate in our Pro Bono Program. In the aftermath of Hurricane María, the need for pro bono legal assistance greatly increased among the organizations comprising the nonprofit sector in Puerto Rico. Committed to help, our attorneys answered the call. During our past two fiscal years (FY 16-17 and FY 17-18), our attorneys devoted over 2,300 hours to the Pro Bono Program to assist more than 25 charitable organizations.

Through our pro bono work, our attorneys bring meaningful change to the clients we serve and their communities. To that end, we seek to grow the Pro Bono Program to increase our impact throughout the Island by strengthening our long-standing collaborations with key stakeholders in the nonprofit sector in Puerto Rico and beyond.

Finally, we must express our gratitude for the extraordinary leadership of Antonio Escudero Viera, who chaired the Pro Bono Committee since it was established in 2006 until June 2018. During Antonio's 12-year tenure, the Pro Bono Program became an important part of our community efforts, and more than 12,000 hours – valued in excess of \$2.5 million – were invested in the Program to render free legal assistance to nonprofit organizations. Antonio remains serving as the Pro Bono Committee's chair emeritus, providing his invaluable counsel as we cultivate a tradition of pro bono service within our firm and across Puerto Rico.

—**Samuel T. Céspedes Jr.**

Chair, Pro Bono Committee



Our attorneys serve on a number of not-for-profit boards

Academia de Legislación y Jurisprudencia de Puerto Rico • Academia María Reina • Advisory Board Casa Grande Interactive • Coalición Legal para Puerto Rico • Dorado Academy • Fideicomiso Olímpico de Puerto Rico • Fideicomiso para la Escuela de Derecho UPR • Fondita de Jesús • Fundación Comunitaria de PR • Fundación Jesus Saad Nazer • Fundación Luis G. Fortuño • Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín • Fundación Mochileando 100x35 • Fundación Pediátrica de Diabetes • Fundación Ricky Martin • Fundación Sila Calderón • Guayacán Endowment Fund • Kinesis, Inc. • Museo de Arte Contemporáneo • Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico • Opera de Puerto Rico • Patronato de Santa Catalina • Patronato Parroquia Stella Maris • U.S. Citizens for Equal Protection, Inc. • Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

The Pro Bono Program recently recognized the participation and commitment of Adrián Goyco, Dalina Sumner, Diego Puello, Ramón Parrilla, and Mariela González, who each worked 25 hours or more on pro bono matters. In appreciation of their work, McConnell Valdés made a donation to the following not-for-profit organizations:



- Adrián Goyco-Vera • GO-GOGO! FOUNDATION
- Dalina Sumner-Burgos • PROFAMILIAS
- Diego Puello-Alvarez • AMERICAN CELLO INSTITUTE
- Ramón Parrilla-Carbia • FUNDACION GOLITOS
- Mariela González • CASA LA PROVIDENCIA



2,346
pro bono
hours invested
in the last two years



57%
of McConnell
Valdés attorneys
participated last year

\$500,000 worth of pro bono services
in the last two years

Supported Organizations

Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico • Centro Para Puerto Rico • Centro Renacer • Colaboración con Fundación Angel Ramos • Colegio San Gabriel para Sordos • Corporación para la Conservación del Estuario de la Bahía de San Juan • EcoExploratorio • Centro Comprensivo de Cáncer • Fideicomiso del Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico • Fondita de Jesús • Fundación Acceso a la Justicia • Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico • Fundación Golitos • Fundación Hospital Pediátrico • Fundación Legado Azul • Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín • Fundación por la Arquitectura • Fundación Ricky Martin • Grameen America • Hogar Abrazo de Amor • INDESIVI • Museo de Arte Contemporáneo • Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico • Parroquia Stella Maris • Patronato de Santa Catalina • Red de Fundaciones • Welcoming LLC

EMPLOYEE Events

Even after dealing with the complicated aftereffects left by Hurricane María and actively helping our communities get back on their feet, our staff and attorneys still found it in their hearts to give back.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Cool & Casual Day



Magic at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico

Children from the Hogar de Niños Forjadores de Esperanza, the Fundación Hogar Niñito Jesús and the Hogar de Niños Manuel Fernández Juncos were our special guests at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico. Close to 50 kids between the ages of 6 and 12 were able to enjoy shows like *Disney on Ice*, *Monster Jam* and *Atención, Atención*.



United Way/Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico

Our attorneys and staff contributed

\$20,000

to United Way/Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico in 2018

