

# Pro Bono & Community Service Report

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## Katten Receives Outstanding Firm Service Award From Council for Children's Rights



During a joint awards ceremony held by Charlotte's three largest legal aid agencies on September 16, the [Council for Children's Rights](#), a Charlotte nonprofit dedicated to serving the needs of children, awarded Katten its Outstanding Firm Service Award for 2014. Katten received the award for its long-standing commitment and partnership with the Council, including the creation of the Truancy Advocacy Pro Bono Project (TAPP), through which Katten represents children named in truancy proceedings brought by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Katten attorneys help these children—many of whom face significant difficulties beyond school attendance and would otherwise be unrepresented—navigate the judicial process and obtain appropriate services to assist them with reintegrating into school and continuing their education. The TAPP team includes Charlotte Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Chris Hicks**, Real Estate partner **Karen Nelson**, Real Estate associates **George Carter** and **Seth Ivey**, Litigation and Dispute Resolution associates **Meghan Engle** and **Jeff Grady**, Real Estate staff attorney **Gary Redwine** and paralegal **Sara Brown**.

## Chicago Litigation Associate Defends Domestic Violence Legal Clinic



Katten was contacted by the [Domestic Violence Legal Clinic](#) (DVLC) to represent it and one of its attorneys in connection with a motion for sanctions. The DVLC had recently concluded its representation of a domestic violence victim who had sought an order of protection against her former boyfriend. After several months of litigation, including discovery and summary judgment, the client decided to drop the order of protection proceeding. One month later, respondent, represented by experienced trial counsel, filed a motion for sanctions against the DVLC and the client, contending they had misrepresented the facts in court filings and had violated Rule 11. Respondent essentially claimed that the DVLC was not entitled to rely on its client's testimony.

Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **Anwar Shatat**, under the supervision of general counsel **Ted Helwig**, appeared on behalf of the DVLC and quickly dug into the facts and law. Through aggressive advocacy, Katten was able to persuade the respondent to drop the sanctions motion against the DVLC.

This was a very important victory for the DVLC. If a domestic abuse victim were told that her attorney would have to check out her allegations of abuse with the alleged abuser before an emergency order of protection could be entered, victims simply wouldn't take the risk, and the DVLC's mission would be utterly frustrated.

Executive Director of DVLC Margaret Duval wrote the following to Insolvency and Restructuring partner **Paige Barr**, who serves on the DVLC board of directors:

*I just wanted to thank you again for connecting us with Anwar. I can't tell you how impressed we've been. He is so prepared and professional – exactly the kind of lawyer you want to work with in this type of stressful situation. ... I know that his involvement was a significant factor in the opposing party's decision to settle the case and his negotiation skills led to a great outcome.*

*As you know, our staff of attorneys works very hard to advocate for our clients and to bring them a sense of comfort during a difficult time in their lives. In this case our role was reversed and we had the benefit of a really great advocate. We are truly appreciative of his time and expertise.*

*Thanks so much,*

*Margaret*

## David Sherman Recognized by *New York Law Journal* for Pro Bono Work



The *New York Law Journal* has named New York Intellectual Property associate David Sherman a 2014 recipient of the “Lawyers Who Lead by Example” award in the pro bono category. Honorees were chosen based on an outstanding record of providing crucial legal services to poor or nearly poor New Yorkers. One of David’s most significant pro bono projects is his work with [Volunteers of Legal Service](#) (VOLS) in New York, which works to connect New Yorkers with high-quality legal assistance they could not otherwise afford. He oversees Katten’s participation in the [VOLS Microenterprise Project](#)—which helps low-income entrepreneurs in New York start businesses that will sustain themselves and their families and develop their communities—and has been a leader in building and expanding the Project’s Advisory Council.

## Katten Legal Clinic Profiled by *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*

Katten’s establishment of the Legal Clinic at Jose de Diego Community Academy, a first-of-its-kind legal aid clinic in a public school, was the focus of a [special feature](#), “A Helping Hand in an Unlikely Place,” in the July 17, 2014, *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*. The article highlighted the clinic’s efforts to address legal issues from landlord-tenant disputes and housing matters to wills, expungements, and consumer and family law.

## 15th Annual Pro Bono Service Awards

Katten honored 12 attorneys this year for their outstanding pro bono service through the firm’s 15th Annual Pro Bono Service Awards. The ceremonies recognized partners and associates, transactional lawyers and litigators for their consistent commitment, over time, to using their legal skills on behalf of those in need. Each recipient also received a \$1,000 honorarium to donate to the charity of his or her choice.

### California

The Honorable A. Howard Matz, former Senior District Judge of the US District Court for the Central District of California, presented awards to Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Gail Migdal Title** and associates **Meegan Maczek**, **Danielle Raymond** and **Brian Tanada**. Gail was recognized for her work with Public Counsel in addition to numerous other pro bono activities. Meegan was honored for a variety of pro bono representations, including an asylum case and



volunteering at the Pro Se Clinic. Danielle was honored for her work with the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing and her efforts in Children's Court. Brian was recognized for his role as co-chair of the Public Counsel Dependency Adoption Project, in addition to his work with the Los Angeles County Bar Association Domestic Violence Project. Gail and Meegan donated their honorariums to Public Counsel, Danielle donated her honorarium to Dress For Success – Los Angeles Office and Brian donated his honorarium to the Marta Lemoncito-Jardinico Memorial School.

### *Charlotte*

The Honorable Regan A. Miller, Chief District Court Judge for Mecklenburg County, presented awards to Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **David Morgen** and Real Estate staff attorney **Gary Redwine**. David was honored for his work with Legal Aid of North Carolina's Lawyer on the Line referral service, in addition to numerous other pro bono representations; Gary was recognized for serving as the lead attorney for Katten's truancy work for the Council for Children's Rights in Charlotte during the 2013–2014 school year, and his work with the SelfServe Center at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse. David and Gary both donated their honorariums to the Council for Children's Rights.



### *Chicago*

The Honorable Sara L. Ellis, Judge of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, presented awards to Real Estate associate **Cara Hanson** and Intellectual Property partner **Floyd Mandell**. Cara was honored for her work with the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Chicago Community Loan Fund; Floyd was recognized for numerous pro bono activities, including representation of I Am That Girl Foundation. Cara donated her honorarium to Jumpstart and Floyd donated his honorarium to The Anti-Cruelty Society.



### *New York*

Rebecca Price, Esq., Mediation Supervisor for the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, presented awards to Intellectual Property partner **Doron Goldstein** and Real Estate counsel **Andrew Wu**. Doron was honored for his work with the Seven Bar Foundation and SHT Mobile Kitchen Classroom; Andrew was recognized for his efforts with Volunteers of Legal Service and Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. Doron donated his honorarium to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Impact Network and Andrew donated his honorarium to PS 59, Beekman Hill International School. Real Estate associate **Christine Murphy** received an honorable mention for her representation of Housing Works.



### *Washington, DC*

Stacie E. Reimer, Founder and Executive Director of Amara Legal Center, presented an award to Structured Finance and Securitization associate **Brandon Hadley**. Susan Hackett, Director of Street Law, presented an award to Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **Robert Smith**. Brandon was honored for his efforts with the Janet R. Spragens Low Income Tax Clinic at the American University Washington College of Law, the National Veterans Legal Services Program and Amara Legal Center; Rob was recognized for multiple representations in conjunction with the Office of the Federal Public Defender. Brandon donated his honorarium to Amara Legal Center. Rob donated his honorarium to Street Law, Inc.





## London Team Provides Corporate Governance Advice to Multiple Pro Bono Clients

[The Roundhouse](#) in North London is an internationally renowned performing arts venue and creative centre for young people. It is run by Katten client The Roundhouse Trust, an English-registered charity that runs a comprehensive artistic program ranging from live music (including The Doors, Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Elton John, Coldplay, Lady Gaga and Jay-Z), theatre, circus and cabaret, to installations, spoken word and even live broadcasts. The Roundhouse Trust also assists young people who have been marginalized or disadvantaged by society, helping them find pathways to education and work or simply expanding their cultural horizons. The London team advising The Roundhouse Trust on matters ranging from corporate governance, contractual arrangements for venue hire and performing artist agreements to finance arrangements and real estate development includes Corporate associate Emma Bosworth, Banking counsel **Peter Englund**, Real Estate special counsel **Stephen John**, Corporate senior associate **Victoria Rodley**, Real Estate senior associate **Gavin Vollans** and Corporate partner **Philip Watkins**.



Founded 25 years ago by Sir Terence Conran, [Design Museum](#) is a London museum and English-registered charity that covers product, industrial, graphic, fashion and architectural design. The London team advising the Design Museum on corporate governance and contractual matters, exhibition agreements, litigation and real estate development includes **Emma**, **Stephen**, **Victoria**, **Philip**, Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Joe Payne** and Real Estate associate **Rhodri Preece**.



[The Children's Museum London](#) is an English-registered charity that is establishing the first children's museum in London. **Stephen**, **Rhodri** and **Philip** are advising the museum on several matters, including corporate governance and commercial issues and real estate development.

[The Quest School](#) is an independent specialist school and English-registered charity that provides a specialist learning environment designed around the specific needs of pupils with autism. **Philip** and **Gavin** are advising the school on several matters, including corporate governance and commercial issues and real estate development.



## Partner Brian Winterfeldt Named to Board of Pro Bono Client The Trevor Project

Washington, DC Intellectual Property partner **Brian Winterfeldt**, head of Katten's Internet practice, has been elected to join The Trevor Project Board of Directors. [The Trevor Project](#) is the leading organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13–24. Katten's Internet practice provides legal advice to The Trevor Project in connection with promotional agreements and trademark filings. Katten has represented The Trevor Project for four years on a pro bono basis, and is currently revamping the nonprofit's trademark portfolio and social media policies. Katten is also a regular sponsor of Trevor Live, one of The Trevor Project's most important annual fundraising events.



## New York Associate Helps The World Through Food Obtain Trademark Protection

New York Intellectual Property associate **Jessica Garrett**, through the [Volunteers of Legal Service Microenterprise Project](#), helped Jaxira Rodriguez secure trademark protection for the name of her New York City-based business The World Through Food. [The World Through Food](#) provides food tours of various New York City neighborhoods, enabling participants to sample a variety of ethnic foods from the most authentic sources, including people's homes.



## Washington, DC Associate Represents Grandmother in Guardianship Hearing



Working with the [Children's Law Center](#), Washington, DC Real Estate associate **Julia Schmidt**, under the supervision of Aviation partner **Jane Cavanaugh**, represented a grandmother seeking permanent guardianship over her granddaughter through the Washington, DC Family Court. While the “child” was more than 18 years old and therefore could live on her own, in Washington, DC young people stay in the system until they turn 21; additionally, the girl had endured a truly awful long-term experience in the system (including a variety of foster care placements, group homes and treatment centers spanning more than 15 years). Julia represented the grandmother at the fitness hearing and filed the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and the proposed order; in September, the social worker submitted the final report and the court issued the order, finalizing the permanent guardianship. The girl is benefitting tremendously from the stability and love of being able to live with her grandmother, having started community college classes and a part-time job in the past few months.

At the conclusion of the representation, Julia expressed her appreciation for the pro bono opportunity:

*Thank you very much for supporting associates doing this type of work. I had never taken a Family Court case before and really enjoyed learning about the process and helping this family. Jane, in particular, was wonderfully supportive of my undertaking this work. The real estate group with which I work only joined Katten in February, and from the very beginning Jane was happy to walk me through the process of getting this pro bono matter opened and encouraging me to work on these types of pro bono matters.*

## Chicago Team Obtains Favorable Settlement for Inmate

Chicago Intellectual Property associates **Rachel Schweers** and **John Whitaker**, with partner and Intellectual Property practice co-head **Robert Breisblatt**, represented an individual incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections in a civil action pursuant to a federal court appointment. The inmate asserted federal civil rights claims based on alleged deprivation of Eighth Amendment rights due to defendants' deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. The inmate, who suffered a broken jaw resulting from an altercation, was placed in segregation from the day his jaw was broken until five days later when it was x-rayed and he was sent for treatment; he sought damages for the pain he suffered during those five days in segregation. Bob and John responded to a motion to dismiss and worked with the client to ensure his interests were fully represented against the State. While the motions were still pending—and prior to the close of fact discovery—the parties reached a settlement agreement that was favorable to the client.

## Washington, DC Associates Win Fee Award for Tenant Advocacy

A Washington, DC court awarded Litigation and Dispute Resolution associates **Joe Fiorill** and **Dan Spurlock** fees of more than \$4,000 for their pro bono work on a landlord-tenant case. Dan and Joe, supervised by Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **David Rohrbach**, represented a tenant whose landlord refused to repair serious housing code violations. When the tenant complained to the city, the landlord relentlessly harassed the tenant, including by filing 11 baseless lawsuits in a single year. Although the parties ultimately agreed to a settlement favorable to Katten's client that ended nearly a year of litigation, the landlord then failed to repay the tenant's security deposit as the settlement agreement required. Dan and Joe were able to obtain both payment of the security deposit and the attorney fee award for their efforts relating to the security deposit. After oral argument, the court specifically found that the landlord had breached the settlement agreement in bad faith and awarded the full amount sought by Katten.

## Chicago Attorneys Represent Community Education Group in Trademark Application



Chicago Intellectual Property partner **Floyd Mandell** and associate **Jeffrey Wakolbinger** are representing [Community Education Group](#) (CEG) before the Trademark Trial and

Appeal Board in an intent-to-use application for the mark AIDS WATCH. CEG seeks to stop the spread of HIV and eliminate health disparities in neighborhoods by training community health workers, educating and testing the hard to reach, and sharing its expertise with other organizations through national networks and local capacity-building efforts.

## Washington, DC Associate Helps Asylee Obtain Green Card



Washington, DC Intellectual Property associate **Scott Harlan** represented an asylee from Ethiopia in his efforts to obtain a green card. With the guidance of Aviation partner **Jane Cavanaugh** and [Human Rights First](#), an independent advocacy and action organization that challenges America to live up to its ideals, Scott successfully argued for a fee waiver in connection with the application, and the client was awarded the green card.

## Charlotte Office Transitions to New Pro Bono Leadership

Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Christopher Hicks**—whose outstanding record of commitment to pro bono resulted in a Pro Bono Service Award in 2009—serves as the new Pro Bono Chair for Katten's Charlotte office. Chris succeeds Brad Pearce, who has left the firm.

## Chicago Office Donates Furniture



On June 28, the Chicago office donated furniture to the [Chicago Lawyers'](#)

[Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#), which protects and promotes civil rights by bringing the strength and prestige of the private bar to bear on the problems of poverty and discrimination. The gift of desks, bookcases and conference room furniture allowed the nonprofit to furnish 13 offices, a conference room and a kitchen. Jay Readey, executive director of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee, said of the gift, "Without this donation I don't know how long it would've taken for us to afford to acquire such a large amount of furniture on a non-profit budget. We are grateful." Director of operations **Rich Kozlowski** and facilities manager **Jeff Facer** were key players in facilitating this donation.

## Katten Honored by LA Regional Food Bank



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

Katten was recognized as a Silver Partner by the [Los Angeles Regional Food Bank](#) for the firm's contributions and participation in the 2014 [Food From the Bar](#) campaign. This year's campaign helped raise more than \$483,000, the equivalent of almost two million meals for children and families in need. Many thanks go to Intellectual Property associate **Soyoung Jung** and Human Resources assistant **Shelley Wissot** for their combined efforts in motivating team members to donate food and time at the food drive on May 17, helping to provide nutritious meals for children in Los Angeles County.

## Katten Sponsors Freedom School Partners' Jubilee

Katten sponsored the [Freedom School Partners'](#) 2014 Jubilee, the signature fundraising event for Freedom School Partners' summer literacy program that engages, educates and empowers children to succeed in school and in life through quality summer educational enrichment programs. As part of the sponsorship, Charlotte Real Estate partner **Dan Huffenus**, Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Becky Lindahl** and Charlotte summer associates visited the Christ Lutheran Freedom School site for the morning Harambee, an energetic pep rally that celebrates and affirms every participant and includes time for visiting community guests to read to the children.



FREEDOM  
SCHOOL  
PARTNERS

## California Team Climbs Stairs for YMCA

On September 19, a team of nine Katten employees climbed 75 stories—approximately 1,500 steps!—in the US Bank Tower as part of the [Ketchum-Downtown YMCA's 21st Annual Stair Climb for Los Angeles](#). The team raised more than \$2,000 to benefit impactful programs for children, teens, families and seniors living in Los Angeles' most under-resourced neighborhoods.



## Charlotte Team Supports Hospitality House

On August 11, Charlotte summer associates and attorneys cooked dinner and made goodie bags for [Hospitality House of Charlotte](#), which provides low-cost housing for out-of-town families and friends of patients in Charlotte-area hospitals. The team included Real Estate associate **Amanda Christie**, Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **Meghan Engle**, Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Becky Lindahl**, Structured Finance and Securitization associate **Mitch Sprengelmeyer**, Charlotte office manager **Janice Burton** and paralegal **Tory Johnson**, along with summer associates **Kenny Cushing**, **Kelsey Meuret** and **Jennifer Nusbaum**. Katten is a corporate partner of Hospitality House of Charlotte where Becky and Real Estate partner **Dan Huffenus** serve on the board of directors.

