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In This Issue:

- New York Team Secures Asylum for Transnistrian Whistleblower Fleeing Political Persecution
- London Team Aids Organization Rescuing Child Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Daniella Landers Helps Protect Voters' Rights in Texas
- Saul Rudo and Natalie Wayne Help College Rape Victim Through Title IX Investigation
- Los Angeles – Century City Team Defends Family Wrongfully Evicted From Their Home
- Chicago Team Wins Settlement for Inmate in Suit Against Prison Officials
- Lauren Talboom Obtains Protective Order for Domestic Violence Victim
- Chicago Team Settles Custody Dispute for Client From José de Diego
- Washington, DC Attorneys and Staff Continue To Dedicate Time to the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program's Advice and Referral Clinic
- Katten's Chicago Office Creates Job Program With Easter Seals and Acclaimed Restaurant Group
- Washington, DC Office Recognized With LMA Capital Chapter 2015 Your Honor Award
- LAF Honors David Bohan and Hannah Koesterer as Volunteers of the Year
- Art Howson Provides Legal Support During 4ALL Statewide Service Day
- Charles DeVore and David Luger Join Justice Council of the Center on Wrongful Convictions
- Noah Balch, Tanya Russell and the Los Angeles Offices Win First Place at 13th Annual Public Counsel Run for Justice
- Private Equity and Corporate Practices Sponsor Hoops for Hope Fundraiser Basketball Tournament



American ideals. Universal values.

New York Team Secures Asylum for Transnistrian Whistleblower Fleeing Political Persecution

New York Litigation and Dispute Resolution associates **Dean Razavi** and **Christopher Patalano** won asylum in the United States for a Transnistrian citizen fleeing political persecution. The client, a member of a political party that fought for Transnistria's independence from Moldova and reunification of the region with Russia, began actively undermining the party when she discovered corruption and money laundering in its ranks. In retaliation, her father was killed, and the client was kidnapped, tortured and then made the subject of several attempts on her life before she escaped to the United States. Katten successfully argued that the return to the Transnistrian region of Moldova was unsafe for the client and that she had a well-founded fear of persecution based on her political whistleblowing activities. The government sought the client's deportation to Russia because Transnistrian citizens are given Russian passports. Katten successfully demonstrated that the client's kidnappers were funded by, and identified themselves as members of, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), and so deportation to Russia would be similarly inhumane.

The team was supervised by New York Litigation partner **Michael Rosensaft**. This is one of several recent victories where Katten has secured asylum for applicants in cooperation with [Human Rights First](#), a New York City non-profit focused on protecting the rights of refugees.



London Team Aids Organization Rescuing Child Victims of Sexual Abuse

London Corporate partner **Philip Watkins** and Real Estate trainee **Christopher Collins** are working to establish the [Child Rescue Coalition](#) (CRC) as a nonprofit entity in the United Kingdom, with the aim of expanding the CRC into Europe and beyond. The CRC's goal is to rescue children from sexual abuse and does so by training law enforcement officers to use technology called the Child Protection System, which has US-based servers that allow law enforcement to identify Internet users with an interest in child abuse material. The effect is that child exploitation investigators, police officers, digital forensic experts, prosecutors and child welfare agencies are given leads to develop, making it easier to apprehend predators and rescue abused children. The CRC already is an established nonprofit organization in the United States and supplies free software, server time and technical support to suitably trained

law enforcement officers in the United Kingdom, many European nations and, most recently, Southeast Asia. Katten's client in the United Kingdom has so far secured the arrest of several hundred suspects and rescued scores of children. There is significant interest in training further officers in existing partner countries and in expanding the software into new territories. Philip and Christopher were introduced to CRC via long-standing pro bono client [Cancer Centers of America](#).

Daniella Landers Helps Protect Voters' Rights in Texas



Through her work on the leadership team for the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#), Houston Environmental partner **Daniella Landers** serves as a team leader for the [Texas Election Protection](#) coalition in the greater Houston-Galveston area. Through this program, she helps develop non-partisan strategies to protect voters' rights, train volunteers on Texas-specific legal issues for voters, respond to legal issues during the primary and on election day, and coordinate with local election officials regarding voting policies and procedures. Election Protection, which is led by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, is the nation's largest non-partisan voter protection coalition and works to ensure eligible voters are able to participate in democracy while collecting data for meaningful reform so that all elections are free, fair and accessible.

Saul Rudo and Natalie Wayne Help College Rape Victim Through Title IX Investigation

Saul Rudo, national head of the Tax Planning practice, and Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **Natalie Wayne** are currently representing a college student in a Title IX investigation into her claims that she was emotionally abused and raped by her former boyfriend. The client is a student at a private liberal arts college who suffers from mental illness and retained Saul and Natalie to help her through the Title IX hearing process on campus, in which her abuser was found "responsible" for sexual misconduct and suspended from the college for a year, but was found "not responsible" for emotional abuse. Saul and Natalie subsequently helped her appeal the Title IX adjudicator's finding that her abuser was not responsible for emotional misconduct, as well as the sanctions imposed against her abuser—as the sanctions were not imposed immediately and her abuser was able to finish the remainder of the current school year, despite the recommendation to the contrary of one of the Title IX coordinators. When the college denied the appeal, Saul and Natalie helped her file a Title IX complaint with the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, asserting that the college discriminated against her on the basis of her gender and her mental illness. The appeal also asserted that the college retaliated against her for exercising her rights under Title IX, when the school consistently tried to steer her away from continuing with the formal Title IX process and pushed her to withdraw or otherwise settle her grievances privately with her perpetrator, and also when the school allowed her abuser to remain on campus after the Title IX hearing.

The complaint against the college is still pending. The client is working with news outlets such as *Huffington Post* and *Vice* to publish an article related to the college's treatment of her throughout the Title IX process.

Los Angeles – Century City Team Defends Family Wrongfully Evicted From Their Home



Los Angeles – Century City Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Yoni Rosenzweig** and associate **Courtnee Draper** represented a low-income mother of two living in West Los Angeles, who faced eviction for purported late payment of her rent. Yoni and Courtnee received the case through a private referral and worked with the client and [Bet Tzedek](#) to understand the situation. It turned out that the late notice and complaint demanded rental amounts in excess of her contract. The owner was preparing the building for demolition and wanted to avoid paying the required relocation costs for tenants. Yoni and Courtnee served voluminous discovery regarding all aspects of the case and, upon receipt, the landlord immediately dismissed the case.

Chicago Team Wins Settlement for Inmate in Suit Against Prison Officials

A team of Chicago litigators, including partner **Sheldon Zenner** and associates **Allison Freedman**, **Peter Wilson** and **Hannah Koesterer**, represented an Illinois Department of Corrections inmate who claimed Eighth Amendment violations. The team was appointed by Judge Gary Feinerman of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to represent the inmate who was housed at Stateville Correctional Center and sued various prison officials and representatives of Wexford Health Solutions, a private company that provides medical services to Illinois inmates. The client alleged that the defendants had demonstrated deliberate indifference to his dental health for a period of several years. He successfully defeated the defendants' motion for summary judgment before the Katten team was appointed, and Judge Feinerman asked Katten to prepare to take the case to trial. The Katten team completed some additional discovery with leave of the court and were able to negotiate a favorable settlement on the eve of trial.

Lauren Talboom Obtains Protective Order for Domestic Violence Victim



Charlotte Real Estate associate **Lauren Talboom** obtained a permanent protective order for a victim of domestic violence. This was Lauren's first pro bono victory and, despite it being her first time in the courtroom, she successfully pursued a bench trial in a Mecklenburg County civil court that included taking direct testimony from the victim. Lauren was introduced to her client through [Safe Alliance](#), a 24-hour crisis center for victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse.

Chicago Team Settles Custody Dispute for Client From José de Diego

A team of Chicago attorneys, including Captive Insurance partner **Philip Tortorich** and Litigation and Dispute Resolution associates **Allison Freedman**, **Hannah Koesterer** and **Kyle Finnegan**, settled a contentious child custody case on behalf of a single, working mother they met through the Katten Legal [Clinic at José de Diego Community Academy](#). The case was in court for more than five years, which only added to the negative parenting relationship. The team managed to settle the case on the eve of trial, securing the majority of parenting time and decision-making responsibilities for the mother as well as child support.

Washington, DC Attorneys and Staff Continue To Dedicate Time to the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program's Advice and Referral Clinic

On February 13, six Washington, DC attorneys assisted 54 walk-in clients at the [D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program's Advice and Referral Clinic](#) at [Bread for the City](#)'s Northwest Center, a local non-profit community service organization. The attorneys provided much-needed legal assistance to the local community, addressing issues ranging from housing concerns to bankruptcy to drafting motions for ongoing litigation. The attorneys who participated include Environmental partner **David Hoffmann**, Structured Finance and Securitization partner **Seth Messner**, Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **John Kozak**, Real Estate associates **Schuyler Armstrong** and **Julia Schmidt**, Financial Services associate **Lauren Haahr**, and accounting manager **Marcia Williamson**.



Katten's Chicago Office Creates Job Program With Easter Seals and Acclaimed Restaurant Group

Katten has joined forces with [Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago](#) and [Boka Restaurant Group](#) to create a job program that helps young adults in Chicagoland find employment. Easter Seals is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children and adults with disabilities attain greater independence. Boka is a nationally acclaimed restaurant group comprised of 12 chef-driven eateries that have earned awards from several revered sources, including the James Beard Foundation and *Michelin Guide*. The program exclusively targets wards of the state and matches these job seekers with employers in the hospitality industry. So far, more than two dozen young people have found work in some of Chicago's finest restaurants.



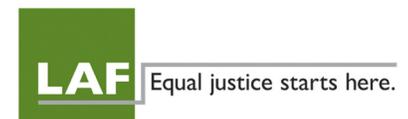
Washington, DC Office Recognized With LMA Capital Chapter 2015 Your Honor Award

The Washington, DC office received the Capital Engagement award from the [Legal Marketing Association Capital Chapter 2015 Your Honor Awards](#) for the creative way in which Katten involved employees in the *Food From the Bar* fundraising campaign to end hunger. During the annual month-long campaign, law firms and other legal professionals compete to donate the most food and funds to the [Capital Area Food Bank](#). The Washington, DC office leveraged its location along the Potomac River to host Katten's inaugural regatta, which involved 14 two-person kayak teams and sponsorship opportunities as well as staff fundraising competitions. Katten employees raised more than \$10,000 and donated more than 200 pounds of food, providing 25,000 meals for the Capital Area Food Bank.



LAF Honors David Bohan and Hannah Koesterer as Volunteers of the Year

National Financial Services Litigation co-head **David Bohan** and Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate **Hannah Koesterer** were honored by [LAF](#) as Volunteers of the Year for their dedication to the Katten Legal Clinic at [José de Diego Community Academy](#).



Art Howson Provides Legal Support During 4ALL Statewide Service Day

Charlotte Real Estate associate **Art Howson** participated in the [4ALL Statewide Service Day](#), an annual public service event sponsored by the [North Carolina Bar Association](#). During the event, attorneys across the state join forces to field calls from the public at call centers throughout North Carolina. Lawyer volunteers provide legal information and referral resources to callers seeking information regarding North Carolina-related legal matters.



Charles DeVore and David Luger Join Justice Council of the Center on Wrongful Convictions

Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution associates **Charles DeVore** and **David Luger** were recently nominated to join the [Justice Council of the Center on Wrongful Convictions](#) (CWC), which is a center within the [Bluhm Legal Clinic](#). The CWC Justice Council aims to involve young professionals and emerging leaders in work to raise money for the CWC, expand its constituency, and educate the general public about wrongful convictions and the need for criminal justice reform. Working with CWC, Charlie and David secured the release of a wrongfully convicted man last year (see [Katten Cares, June 2015](#)).

Noah Balch, Tanya Russell and the Los Angeles Offices Win First Place at 13th Annual Public Counsel Run for Justice



For the 11th consecutive year, Katten served as an official sponsor of [Public Counsel's Annual Run for Justice Marathon](#) on February 13 at Dodger Stadium. As part of the ASICS LA Marathon weekend, the 5K run helped raise money to support Public Counsel's efforts to fight injustice and promote fairness for children, families, veterans and many others who may not have access to legal representation. Spearheaded by the California offices regional administrator, **Tanya Russell**, the Katten team consisted of 38 participants and helped Run for Justice raise more than \$100,000 in total.



For the third time, Tanya was awarded first place in the Individual Fundraiser category and Katten won first place for Outstanding Team Participation. Los Angeles – Century City Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Noah Balch** took first place in the run's male category, finishing the 5K in 18 minutes and 51 seconds.

Katten actively provides Public Counsel's low-income clients with pro bono assistance on immigration issues, unlawful detainer matters and adoption, in addition to handling civil rights and prisoners' rights cases.

Private Equity and Corporate Practices Sponsor Hoops for Hope Fundraiser Basketball Tournament



The Chicago Private Equity and Corporate practices are sponsoring a team, which will be captained by Corporate associate **Greg Durkin**, for the [Chicago Hope Academy's Sixth Annual Hoops for Hope Fundraiser Basketball Tournament](#) on April 14. The 32 participating teams will donate \$500 each to play 3X3 double-elimination basketball games in order to raise funds for the college and life preparatory high school. Chicago Hope Academy is dedicated to nurturing and challenging the body, mind and spirit of inner-city students.