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## Helping Protect the Affordable Housing Engine for the Los Angeles Region

Katten has teamed with Public Counsel, the Public Interest Law Project, the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing and other nonprofit housing groups to preserve an important source of funding for affordable housing in the Los Angeles region—the City of Industry Funds.

The City of Industry Funds consist of tax increment funds collected by the city’s redevelopment agency and transferred to the housing authority to administer for the development of low- and moderate-income housing. Since the program began in the mid-1990s, Industry, which has no zoning for new housing, had been giving its redevelopment agency’s low-income housing money away to other communities. More than \$200 million from the City of Industry Funds had been allocated for the development of more than 10,000 units of affordable housing.

California’s redevelopment agencies were eliminated as part of a cost-saving measure by the state last year. However, the law which dissolved the redevelopment agencies requires “successor agencies” to fulfill the legal obligations of the former agencies.

Los Angeles real estate partner **Allan Abshez** and special counsel **Elizabeth Camacho** drafted and submitted a petition urging the oversight board of the now-dissolved redevelopment agency to place these obligations on the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS), which is the list of all obligations the former redevelopment agency is required to pay as it unwinds. On August 7, after hearing testimony from Public Counsel and Katten lawyers, the oversight board voted unanimously to recognize the payment and include it on the ROPS.

While the California Department of Finance must still approve the payments, Katten and Public Counsel will continue their efforts on behalf of the nonprofit developers who rely on the City of Industry Funds to ensure that the state complies with the law and protects these desperately needed funds.

## Enforcing “I Am That Girl”’s Trademark Rights

Chicago intellectual property partner **Floyd Mandell** successfully resolved a trademark dispute on behalf of the [I Am That Girl](#) Foundation, a charitable organization that assists young women throughout the world living in impoverished conditions and/or escaping abusive relationships. The Foundation provides educational and other resources to help them establish self esteem and build community through the Foundation’s online network of positive media. Floyd assisted the Foundation, which owns the trademark rights to “I Am That Girl,” including for t-shirts, in getting Nike, Inc. to cease using the phrase “I’m That Girl” on t-shirts produced by the company.



## Katten Honored by Constitutional Rights Foundation

Katten has been named Firm of the Year by the [Constitutional Rights Foundation](#) (CRF), a Los Angeles-based nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. Katten has been involved with CRF for 20 years, and Los Angeles litigation partner **Gail Title** has served on the CRF Board of Directors for more than 10 years. The firm has participated in CRF's Mock Trial Program and Expanding Horizons Internship Program, in addition to being a contributing sponsor of many other CRF programs. Katten will be recognized at CRF's annual Justice James A. Cobey Honors Reception on October 3 in Los Angeles.



## Alyx Pattison Named July 2012 Volunteer of the Month by Illinois Legal Aid Online



Chicago litigation partner **Alyx Pattison** was named Volunteer of the Month by [Illinois Legal Aid Online](#) for the month of July. Alyx was honored for her dedication to pro bono work and for donating her time to help others in need, including a Jordanian woman who risked persecution because of her sexual orientation and transgender inmates in Wisconsin who were being denied care for medical conditions. Click [here](#) to view a video profile of Alyx.

## 13th Annual Pro Bono Service Awards

Katten honored eight attorneys this year for their exemplary commitment to pro bono service as part of the firm's 13th Annual Pro Bono Service Awards. Awards were handed out at ceremonies held across the firm's offices in July. Recipients also received a \$1,000 honorarium to donate to the charity of their choice.

### *Charlotte*

The Honorable Ronald L. Chapman, District Court Judge for Mecklenburg County, presented the award to litigation associate **Rebecca Lindahl**. Becky was honored for many pro bono contributions, but especially for her representation of women seeking court orders to protect them from domestic violence. She donated her honorarium to United Family Services.



### *Chicago*

The Honorable Gary Feinerman of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois presented awards to trusts and estates associate **David Allen** and litigation partner **Monica Mosby**. David was honored for providing estate planning assistance to disadvantaged and disabled individuals, and Monica was honored for a wide range of pro bono service, including her work on behalf of low-income tenants and victims of hate crimes. David donated his honorarium to The Gateway for Cancer Research and Monica donated her honorarium to Project H.O.O.D.



### *Los Angeles*

The Honorable Judge Julia Brand of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California presented corporate associate **Ekong Udoekwere** with his award. Ekong was honored for his work on the incorporation and merger of charitable organizations, and donated his honorarium to Public Counsel. Litigation associate **Matthew Maher** was also honored, for helping an elderly, mentally disabled man regain from an unscrupulous trustee assets in a trust established for the client's care. He donated his honorarium to California Lawyers for the Arts.

*New York*

Bill Lienhard, executive director of Volunteers of Legal Service, presented the award to intellectual property associate **Jessica Garrett**. Jessica was honored for pro bono work ranging from incorporation and intellectual property work for nonprofits to trial of an employment discrimination case. She donated her honorarium to the Anti-Defamation League. An honorable mention was also presented to trusts and estates associate **Alexandra Copell**.

*Washington, D.C.*

Assistant Federal Public Defender Kenneth Troccoli of the Eastern District of Virginia presented the awards to environmental partner **Kristine Rembach** and white collar associate **Christopher Jackson**. Both Kristine and Chris were honored for their participation in the Public Defender's Pro Bono Counsel Program, representing indigent criminal defendants (see more below). Chris donated his honorarium to the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, and Kristine donated her honorarium to the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU.

>>[read more](#)

## Inspiring Words

In accepting her Pro Bono Service Award, **Monica Mosby** reminded us that, “Being afforded the opportunity to get a legal education is a blessing. To be able to share this blessing with others is an honor.” Monica continued:

I grew up in an area only a few miles west of this office...the “West Side.” Nearly all of my friends lived in public housing projects. We didn't have a lot of money—I was raised by my mother and grandmother; I attended the neighborhood public school where, at that time, 99% of the students tested below the state average on the standardized test...There are so many other paths that I could have taken—paths that perhaps could have led me to be in a position of needing pro bono assistance, as opposed to being able to provide it.

It is because of this that pro bono work is important to me—I know that it could be me on the other side of the table. And that is something that all of us in this room share and should remember, especially given this latest recession that has found many of our friends out of work. For this reason, as well as many others, pro bono work should be a part of each and every one of our practices, our lives, whether it is providing legal services or handing out food baskets at your neighborhood pantry.

Read Monica's entire speech [here](#).



*Monica Mosby with her family at the 2012 Pro Bono Service Awards ceremony in Chicago.*

## Washington Office Teams Up with Federal Public Defenders

Since 2009, attorneys in the Washington office have participated in the Pro Bono Counsel Program of the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia (FPD-EDVA). Attorneys participating in the program team with one or more attorneys from the FPD-EDVA to serve as co-counsel for indigent defendants facing criminal charges in the federal district court in Alexandria, Virginia. Katten attorneys participating in the program have represented criminal defendants facing a variety of charges ranging from mortgage and wire fraud to firearms possession and terrorism, none of whom have the resources to hire an attorney. As part of the program, firm attorneys have assisted the FPD-EDVA in conducting investigations and witness interviews, drafting and filing motions, and arguing sentencing and other issues before the court.

In the past year, partner **Kristine Rembach** and associates **Christopher Jackson**, **Jennifer Loeb** and **Robert Smith** have participated in the program, providing much-needed legal services to indigent defendants and support to the Federal Public Defender's Office, while at the same time gaining practical knowledge and in-court experience.

## Chicago Office Participates in 19th Annual Race Judicata

A team from Katten's Chicago office joined thousands of other runners on September 13 for Race Judicata® 2012, a 5K Run/Walk along a scenic lakefront course benefiting [Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation](#), which works to provide legal services to the poor and working poor of Chicago. All proceeds from the Race Judicata go toward the general operating costs of CVLS.



## Los Angeles Office Supports YMCA, CASA, Special Olympics

Katten is sponsoring the [19th Annual Stair Climb for Los Angeles](#) benefiting the Ketchum-Downtown YMCA on September 28. In addition, a team from the Los Angeles office will be climbing the nearly 1,700 stairs to the top of the US Bank Tower, the West Coast's tallest building, as part of the effort to raise vital funds to support critical programs for children, teens, families and seniors in the community.



On September 30, Katten will send a team to participate in the [Greater Los Angeles Association of Legal Administrators' Justice Jog](#), a 5K race benefiting [CASA of Los Angeles](#), a nonprofit organization that provides trained, court-appointed advocates for foster children in need of additional support and guidance.



The firm is also sponsoring [Pier del Sol](#), Special Olympics Southern California's largest fundraiser, at the Santa Monica Pier on October 14. All proceeds benefit the more than 11,500 athletes of SOSOC.



**Special Olympics**  
Southern California

## Katten Affirms Commitment to Chicago Schools

This school year Katten is again supporting Chicago Public Schools Jose de Diego Community Academy and Orr Academy High School, in addition to welcoming the students of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School as interns in the Chicago office.

More than 85% of students in the Chicago Public Schools come from low-income homes, and many lack the proper supplies to start the school year. To help ensure that students will be prepared for the classroom, the firm will be donating a significant amount of school supplies—including flash drives—to the students of de Diego and Orr through our Katten Cares program. The Chicago office also held a back-to-school supply drive, where employees responded to the need for school supplies with individual contributions of essential items such as pens and pencils, crayons, paper, notebooks and folders.

## Pioneering Scholarship in Animal Rights

Chicago litigation associate **Blake Mills** has been assisting the [Nonhuman Rights Project](#) with research in connection with the organization's efforts to change the way our law currently categorizes animals. As part of that research, he was asked to draft an article about the use of the writ *de homine replegiando*, which is similar to the writ of *habeas corpus*, to challenge an illegal detention. The article examines how this writ has been previously used by petitioners that the law considered "things" to seek a court determination that they should instead be considered legal "persons" entitled to the right to bodily liberty, and whether the writ remains viable today. Click [here](#) to read more.



## Enhancing the Camp Experience at Camp Ramah in New England

Washington real estate partner **Rori Malech**, with assistance from fellow real estate partner **Greg Pierce**, reviewed and negotiated an AIA construction contract and general conditions on behalf of [Camp Ramah in New England](#) for a camp-wide renovation project. The first phase of the project, which was completed this summer in time for the 2012 camp season, included construction of a new *Bet Am Gadol* (“big house of the people”) to be used as a multipurpose gymnasium, fitness center and indoor/outdoor theater, a new *K’far Nivonim* (village and housing for the oldest campers) and a new welcome center, as well as grading, clearing and preparation for future phases of the project. Camp Ramah in New England is part of the Ramah Camping Movement of Conservative Judaism.



*The new multipurpose facility at Camp Ramah in New England.*

## Katten Team Featured in *Chicago Lawyer*

The Chicago team of **Jonathan Baum**, **Jonathan Feld**, **Bonita Stone**, **Sharyn Castle** and **Jessica Price** were featured in the “Non-billable Hours” section of the July 1, 2012, issue of *Chicago Lawyer* for their efforts on behalf of the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (LCPGV). The attorneys represented LCPGV, joined by the City of Chicago and organizations of police chiefs and prosecutors, as amici curiae in *Wilson v. Cook County*, a case before the Illinois Supreme Court involving a Second Amendment challenge to Cook County’s ban on assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines. Click [here](#) to read the article.



*Pictured, from left: Sharyn Castle, Jonathan Feld, Bonita Stone, Jessica Price and Jonathan Baum.*

## Second Annual JUST Fashion Promises More Big Stars, Top Designers

More than 400 people attended Public Counsel’s inaugural JUST Fashion event during L.A. Fashion Weekend last year, raising funds for Public Counsel’s work in the community. Katten’s Women’s Leadership Forum is proud to sponsor the second annual JUST Fashion on October 21 at Sunset Gower Studios. Los Angeles litigation partner **Gail Title**, chairperson of the Public Counsel Board, is co-chairing the event again this year. For more information, click [here](#).



## Appointments

Washington litigation partner **Claudia Callaway** has been named to the Board of Directors of the [Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs](#).

## Jonathan Baum Answers the Question “Why Do Pro Bono?” for The PBEye

**Jonathan Baum**, Director of Pro Bono Services, talks about the rewards of pro bono in a video featured on the Pro Bono Institute’s blog [The PBEye](#). Mr. Baum says there are at least four reasons lawyers should do pro bono: ethical obligation, the opportunity for training and experience, personal fulfillment, and because pro bono work “gives you something that’s actually interesting to talk about at a social gathering with non-lawyers.” Click [here](#) to view the video.



## From a Grateful Client

From the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia:

[Kristine Rembach] is a fabulous, dedicated lawyer who deserves all the praise I or others can bestow.

Kristine has been working [on her] *fourth* pro bono assignment with our office, which is proof enough of how much we value her work. Kristine is very smart, has excellent judgment and is a superb (and fast) writer. . . . Best of all, she cares about our clients and it shows in everything she does. I have had the pleasure of working with many excellent firm attorneys since our pro bono program began in 2008, and I can easily state that she is the best I have worked with.

[T]hank you for sharing Kristine with us yet again. As always, we greatly appreciate Katten's participation in our pro bono counsel program. We look forward to many more rewarding relationships.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Troccoli, Assistant Federal Public Defender