

June 2013

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Katten Launches Legal Clinic at Jose de Diego Community Academy

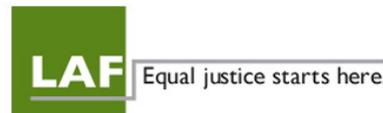
This spring, Katten teamed up with [LAF](#) (formerly the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago) and [The Law Project](#) to open a legal clinic to assist low-income families of students enrolled at Jose de Diego Community Academy, the Chicago office's partner school. Jose de Diego is a predominantly Latino, low-income Chicago public school. Believed to be the first legal clinic in a public school in Chicago, the clinic operates on site at de Diego on the third Wednesday evening of each month, and is staffed by attorneys from Katten, LAF and The Law Project who provide free legal advice and services in a variety of areas, including SSI/public benefits, expungement, housing issues, consumer law, family law, small business and wills. In its first three-month trial period the clinic has been a resounding success, and as a result has been opened up to the broader community. On any given evening, volunteers have seen 5 to 15 clients (both by appointment and as walk-ins).

Volunteer Katten attorneys have included litigators **Alyx Pattison**, **BeLinda Mathie**, **Monica Mosby**, **Alex Vesselinovitch**, **David Bohan** and **Jared Heck**; Intellectual Property attorney **Eugene Endress**; Real Estate special counsel **Tom Sweeney**; Labor attorney **Laura Waller**; Commercial Finance associate **Elizabeth Hermann Smith**; and Public Finance partner **Maribel Mata Benedict**. Litigation paralegal supervisor **Keith Forrest** serves as the administrator of the clinic, with assistance from secretary **Michelle Robinson**. More volunteers are needed to sustain this project. Please contact [Jonathan Baum](#) if you are interested.

New York Litigators Settle Prisoner Abuse Case, Win Plaudits from Court

A team from the New York office won a significant victory for a prisoner who was assaulted by two corrections officers while in the holding cells at Queens Supreme Court. Katten was asked to assist in the litigation by the Legal Aid Society, and the case was handled by Litigation partner **Michael Rosensaft** and associate **Allison Wuertz** with assistance from associate **Bonnie Chmil** and paralegal **Lura Chamberlain**. According to the complaint drafted by the team, the officers repeatedly punched and kicked the inmate for mouthing off, beating him into an unconscious state. The prisoner was sent to the hospital and suffered a broken nose, bruised ribs and other injuries. Through discovery and extended negotiation with the City of New York, the case was settled despite the city's new policy of regularly taking excessive force cases to trial.

Following the settlement, United States Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom wrote to Katten Litigation Heads **Anthony Paccione** and **Scott Resnik**:



On behalf of the judges on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, I write to express our sincere gratitude for the pro bono representation undertaken by your colleagues, Michael Rosensaft and Allison Wuertz in *Barrett v Butler et al.*, No. 12-CV-3680.

Mr. Rosensaft and Ms. Wuertz represented Mr. Barrett in the most exemplary manner in his prisoner's rights, § 1983 action. Because of their skillful representation, the parties reached a settlement.

We are grateful for your firm's demonstrated commitment to *pro bono* work in this district. Thank you for encouraging you attorneys to donate their talents and energies to those who otherwise could not benefit from their outstanding advocacy.

Paige Barr Receives Champion of Justice Award

Chicago Insolvency and Restructuring partner **Paige Barr** was honored by the [Domestic Violence Legal Clinic \(DVLC\)](#) with its 2013 Champion of Justice Award. The DVLC provides free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals in Cook County. Paige was recognized for her commitment to keeping families served by the DVLC safe by her steadfast representation, almost every month, of domestic abuse victims seeking civil orders of protection. She received her award from Judge Sebastian Patti, presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County's Domestic Violence Division, at the DVLC's spring fundraising event on April 18. Paige has also recently been named to DVLC's Board of Directors.



Paige Barr (center) with Margaret Duval, executive director of the DVLC, and Leah Schleicher, president of the DVLC Board of Directors.

Katten Provides Musical Boost for Recovery from Hurricane Sandy

Katten provided assistance to the [Queens Economic Development Corporation](#) in securing licensing rights to the Ramones song "Rockaway Beach" for an ad campaign designed to bring people back to New York area beaches that were ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. New York Litigation associate **Jessica Garrett** and Intellectual Property associates **Jennifer Carmen** and **David Sherman** handled the matter through the [Volunteers of Legal Service \(VOLS\) Microenterprise Project](#). Bill Lienhard, executive director of VOLS, complimented the team's efforts, saying, "I would like to seize this excellent opportunity to laud Katten's pro bono efforts and highlight what I hope was a fun pro bono project for an important cause. I visited the Rockaways immediately after the storm to do relief work, and it makes me glad to know we're doing something to help the businesses there." The *New York Law Journal*, the *New York Daily News* and *The Connecticut Law Tribune* all reported on the firm's work on behalf of QEDC. Click [here](#) to read more.



Legal Community Comes Together to Fight Hunger in Los Angeles

This spring, Katten's Century City, Downtown Los Angeles and Orange County offices participated in the fifth annual [Food From The Bar Campaign](#) benefiting the [Los Angeles Regional Food Bank](#). Summer is an especially difficult time for children of low-income families—many children who rely on school lunch programs go without meals while on break for the summer. The Food From The Bar (FFTB) Campaign is a four-week effort led by the legal community focused on providing nutritious meals for children in Los Angeles County during these difficult months. As part of FFTB, Katten attorneys and staff volunteered at various Los Angeles Regional Food Bank locations, sorting food and preparing care packages for distribution to those in need. Additionally, food bins were placed in Katten offices to collect donations for the Food Bank. Last year, 78 firms and organizations raised more than \$467,000, collected 17,055 pounds of food and worked 700 volunteer shifts for the Food Bank during FFTB.



Protection Secured for Refugee in Rare Reversal of Immigration Judge's Ruling

Chicago Real Estate associate **Cara Hanson** won a reversal by the US Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) of an immigration judge's denial of protection from removal under the Convention Against Torture for a refugee from Antigua and Barbuda who was persecuted based on his sexual orientation. The immigration judge had found the refugee not credible about the key incident (a brutal attack) based on certain alleged inconsistencies in the refugee's statements, and also held that the harm the refugee had suffered did not rise to the level of persecution. The BIA hardly ever reverses such a credibility ruling by an immigration judge, but based on Cara's briefing the BIA found that this immigration judge's credibility finding was "the product of clear error," and that the events recounted by the refugee "establish that he suffered past persecution at the hands of the police officers on account of his sexual orientation." In a ruling that the government cannot appeal, the BIA reversed the immigration judge's decision and remanded for a hearing at which the burden will shift to the government to prove that there has been a "fundamental change in circumstances" such that the refugee's life and freedom would not be threatened if he was returned to his home country.

Katten Aids Charlotte Charities

Katten was a platinum sponsor of the 3rd annual [Sarcoma Stomp](#), a 5K race held on April 20 in Charlotte to bring together those who have been touched by sarcoma. The Stomp raised more than \$158,000 for [The Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research](#). Charlotte Litigation associate **Jeffrey Grady**, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, participated in the race along with Trusts and Estates associate **Diane Burks**, Litigation associate **David Morgen** and partner **Chris Hicks**, Real Estate special counsel **Ginger Rolfes**, office managing partner **Daniel Huffenus**, paralegal **Sara Brown**, and IT support analyst **Spencer Noll**.

The Charlotte office held a jeans day book drive to benefit the [Friends of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library](#), collecting more than 150 books, DVDs and CDs. The Friends support the library as a vocal advocate before elected officials, community leaders and citizens at large and raise funds to help achieve a level of excellence. Katten is also a title sponsor of the Library's annual spring book drive, and sponsored last year's Rock & Read 5K, which raises funds to supplement the books and materials budget of the Library.

Katten was a gold sponsor of [CREW \(Commercial Real Estate Women\) Charlotte's 7th Annual Casino Night](#), which raised more than \$11,000—a Casino Night fundraising milestone—for the CREW Foundation to fund scholarships at UNC Charlotte for women interested in the field of commercial real estate. The April 25 event also attracted a record number of attendees. Charlotte Real Estate attorneys **Amanda Christie** and **Ginger Rolfes** served on the Casino Night committee and Litigation associate **Rebecca Lindahl** was a co-chair of the event.



Facilitating Return of Ghanaian Citizen to Home Country

Washington, DC Litigation associates **Camille Richard** and **Christopher Jackson** assisted Alexander N. Amfo, a Ghanaian citizen who illegally entered the United States and who had been in custody since October 2012 waiting for his deportation to Ghana, in securing his release. Despite never contesting his status or the right of the government to deport him, Mr. Amfo's return to Ghana was stalled for months because of petty theft charges still pending before the Stafford General District Court in Virginia. Mr. Amfo was originally arrested for taking old clothes out of a roadside donation drop box. Rather than simply allow him to be deported expeditiously, the Stafford County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office was determined to pursue charges against Mr. Amfo. Camille and Chris were able to accelerate his transfer to state detention and negotiate a favorable plea agreement with the Commonwealth that allowed Mr. Amfo to serve a minimal period of additional incarceration in the local jail before returning to federal custody. They also ensured that Mr. Amfo's deportation, which was later further delayed due to several administrative failures, was scheduled in a timely manner. Mr. Amfo finally returned to Ghana in June, after spending a combined total of eight months in federal and state custody.

Pro Bono Client Wins Community Development Grant, Thanks Katten



A pro bono client advised by Chicago Corporate associate **Harris Eisenberg** through [The Law Project](#) (TLP) has received a Monroe Foundation community development grant for her small business. Carol Craft-Terry, a resident of Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, owns and operates [Johnathan Terry LLC](#), an independent custom home furnishing company specializing in high-end custom window coverings, reupholstery work, bedding, decorative pillows and accessories. Carol first opened the business in July 1999 but was forced to close in December 2008. Interested in re-launching the company with a revamped business plan, Carol enrolled in the Small Business Development Boot Camp Project held at the Dawson Technical Institute of Kennedy-King College. TLP and Harris became involved after Carol sought assistance in revising the company's client contracts. Carol was particularly impressed with Harris's initiative, saying, "[Harris] initially went over the client contracts and assured they met legal standards to protect us against potential liabilities. Then Harris took it upon himself to review our articles and drafted an affidavit stating they were valid moving forward." She added, "The comfort of having an attorney of such magnitude representing me took the thought of being in business to an entirely new level. It really gave us a new confidence. [Harris] is just a fantastic human being, very nice and a pleasure to work with." Carol plans to use the grant to market and promote the Johnathan Terry LLC enterprise and expand its products and services with its target demographic in the Chicagoland area.

Rebecca Lindahl Receives Commitment to Justice Award



Charlotte Litigation associate **Rebecca Lindahl** received the 2013 Commitment to Justice Award from [Safe Alliance](#), a nonprofit organization that provides hope and healing for people in crisis through programs and services including legal support. Becky received the award for outstanding contributions to Safe Alliance's Legal Representation Project, which provides free legal representation in protective order hearings to victims of domestic violence.

Asylum Case Cited in Senate Judiciary Committee Debate

Chicago Litigation associate **Patrick Harrigan** served as pro bono counsel in an asylum case that was discussed by the Senate Judiciary Committee in its consideration of proposed amendments to the comprehensive immigration reform bill. The [National Immigrant Justice Center](#) (NIJC), which was co-counsel on the case, taped a video interview with Patrick and his client, a young woman from Guinea. The interview highlighted the impact of attorney representation on asylum cases and the significant resources Katten expended on the case to overcome the one-year filing deadline for asylum cases. The case lasted several years and involved several outside expert witnesses. NIJC showed the video to Senate members and Hill staffers, and US senator Dick Durbin of Illinois invoked the case to successfully defeat a proposed amendment to the bill that would have maintained the one-year bar to asylum applications. Click [here](#) to view the interview.

NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER

A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM



In a video interview with the NIJC, Patrick Harrigan and asylum client Aissatou discuss the barriers they faced in overcoming the one-year asylum filing deadline.

Building the Future of Humanitarian Mine Action with Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Katten serves as the outside pro bono legal counsel to [MAG America](#), the US arm of the UK-based international non-governmental organization Mines Advisory Group, which works around the world removing unexploded landmines and removing and destroying unexploded ordnance, small arms and light weapons in post-conflict situations. A co-laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997, MAG is currently removing unexploded cluster munitions in Southern Lebanon and landmines in Northern Iraq (that otherwise may become IEDs), and operates extensively in Asia and Africa.



Over the past few years, Washington, DC Structured Finance partner **Seth Messner** has steered MAG America through a period of significant growth and restructuring, helping the organization to develop internal policies on anti-corruption requirements, gifts, records retention, maternity leave and whistleblowing, among others. He has also assisted in developing revised bylaws, designing compensation policies for various positions within the organization, and creating a program visit approval process for the MAG America Board of Directors. Seth has devoted more than 270 hours to his work for MAG America, which Washington, DC Environmental partner **Steve Solow** has represented on a pro bono basis for the last decade.

Katten Assists Jumpstart in Chicago

Chicago Real Estate associate **Devan Papat** and Public Finance partner **Janet Goelz Hoffman** are assisting [Jumpstart](#), a national early education organization that recruits and trains college students and community volunteers to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods, in connection with the review of the organization's form agreements with its partners. In addition, desktop publishing manager **Ed Ashe** and specialist **Rick de Anda** lent their design skills to create a logo and invitation for the Jumpstart Midwest Young Professionals Board's inaugural fundraising event on August 15. The goal of the event is to raise funds to support Jumpstart's supplemental literacy program provided to more than 20 Chicago preschools. Katten is an event sponsor, and also collected donations for Jumpstart through a jeans day in the Chicago office organized by human resources administrative supervisor **Zulma Martinez**.



Katten Marks Eighth Year as Sponsor of Public Counsel Run for Justice

Katten once again served as an official sponsor of [Public Counsel](#)'s Annual Run for Justice, held on March 16 in conjunction with the 2013 ASICS LA Marathon. This is the eighth year the firm has sponsored the event, which raises money to support Public Counsel's work to fight injustice and promote fairness for children, families, veterans and many others. Boasting a team of nearly 70 firm members, friends and family, Katten was again awarded first place for Outstanding Team Participation and second place for the Karen Paull Justice Cup (in Recognition of the Most Money Raised). In addition, **Tanya Russell**, regional office administrator for the firm's California offices, won the award for Most Money Raised by an Individual. Run for Justice fundraising was at an all-time record high of more than \$102,000 this year. All recipients will be honored at Public Counsel's Annual Pro Bono Awards Reception on July 24. Katten remains active in providing 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 through the organization. Los Angeles – Century City partner **Gail Migdal Title**, head of the Entertainment and Media Litigation practice, is the immediate past chairperson of Public Counsel.



Settlement Reached in Fatal Police Shooting Case

Serving as court-appointed counsel, Chicago Litigation associates **Andrea Halverson** and **Blake Goebel**, supervised by partner **Dave Weisman**, handled a civil rights case involving the 2009 fatal shooting of Randy Collins by a Riverdale, Illinois, police officer. Katten represented Collins' five-year-old son, Cristian, in a lawsuit seeking compensation from the Village of Riverdale for the loss of Cristian's father. At the time of the shooting the officer was responding to "a man with a gun" call. Collins allegedly turned and pointed a gun at the officer, who discharged his weapon 10 times, fatally hitting Collins. Other responding officers recovered a handgun near Collins and a cellphone containing photographs of Collins holding a gun very similar in appearance. Collins had several other run-ins with the law, including an incident involving domestic abuse. Despite these difficult facts, Andrea and Blake, through targeted and aggressive discovery practice, were able to uncover several pieces of information that helped lead the case to a \$325,000 settlement following a daylong settlement conference with the presiding federal judge.

Los Angeles Offices Come Together for Bra Drive to Support Free The Girls

Last month the Los Angeles – Downtown office teamed up with the Los Angeles – Century City office to participate in a [Free The Girls](#) Bra Drive, collecting more than 300 bras along with a monetary donation for the Colorado-based nonprofit that helps women emerge from lives of sex trafficking in Mozambique. Free The Girls partners with safe houses and after-care facilities to provide an opportunity for women rescued from sex trafficking to earn a living selling second-hand bras—considered a luxury item in Mozambique—while going to school, getting healthy and caring for their families. Some women in the Free The Girls program are able to earn five times the minimum wage selling bras in used clothing markets.



Opening the Door for Immigrants Brought to the United States as Children (“DREAMers”)

Several Katten attorneys participated in a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clinic sponsored by the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#), one of the firm's longtime pro bono partners, where they helped immigrants seeking temporary relief from deportation and the opportunity to work legally in the United States complete and file their applications for the DACA program. DACA allows qualifying undocumented young people—“DREAMers”—to receive temporary two-year deportation deferrals and work permits.



Chicago Litigation associate **Patrick Harrigan** obtained deferred action for a local high school student whose parents brought her to the United States from Egypt when she was one year old. His client is now eligible to work and save money for college and obtain a driver's license.

Chicago Intellectual Property associate **Christine Bestor**'s client was also successful in his DACA application. A father of three who came from Guatemala when he was five years old, her client has lived in Chicago ever since and works at a green energy company.

De Diego Students Experience Indiana Dunes Through Buddy Bison School Program

As part of Katten's charitable sponsorship of the National Park Trust's [Buddy Bison School Program](#), a group of students from the Chicago office's partner school, Jose de Diego Community Academy, spent a day exploring the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with a park ranger. The [National Park Trust](#) (NPT) developed the Buddy Bison School Program to engage culturally diverse children in dynamic conservation and educational activities, and create opportunities for students to visit local, state or national parks. NPT works directly with educators and park rangers, who utilize the woolly mascot Buddy Bison and his toolkit as a teaching tool to enhance existing curriculum and give underserved students a true “American Park Experience.” During their park visit, the de Diego students participated in a variety



of educational activities focused on the food chain and life cycle of plants and animals, the geology of the park, park stewardship, and health and wellness. Each of the students received a backpack including binoculars, a magnifying glass, a mini-microscope, animal, bird and insect guides and a field journal from the park service as a celebration of the day. Click [here](#) to read the students' reflections on their trip to the Indiana Dunes. View photos from the day [here](#).

From a Grateful Client: Northlight Theatre

NORTHLIGHT
THEATRE

[Northlight Theatre](#), one of the largest theater companies in the Chicagoland area, promotes change of perspective and encourages compassion by exploring the depth of our humanity across a bold spectrum of theatrical experiences. Katten is pleased to regularly provide assistance to Northlight, from negotiating the lease for a new scene shop to helping recover a security deposit. In a letter addressed to Chicago Health Care partner **Michael Callahan** (who also volunteers his time as a member of Northlight's Board of Directors) the company's artistic and executive directors expressed appreciation for Katten's "invaluable donation of legal services," adding, "[W]e are so thrilled with [Katten's] very generous commitment to Northlight Theatre."