

Victories on Behalf of Clients

Mark Ciani Completes a Katten Victory for Jamaican Man Facing Deportation

In 2016, a gay Jamaican man faced deportation to his native country, known for its hostility to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals. He was in need of experienced legal counsel, so he sought out the assistance of the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#) (NIJC), where he was put in touch with **Allison Freedman**, a Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution associate.

Allison learned that an immigration judge, sustained by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), had denied the man's claim that he faced torture if he was forced to return to Jamaica. That is when Allison and her team of Katten attorneys went to work. Nine days after Allison argued the case in the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit—her very first appellate argument—a three-judge panel unanimously held that the immigration judge committed an error of law by finding that the man had not been harmed while living in Jamaica, while ignoring other critical testimony. This included the fact that the client hid his homosexual relationship during that time, met with other members of the Jamaican LGBTQ community about how to act in public to avoid discovery; and did not intend to conceal his sexual orientation if he returned to Jamaica.

Finding that the immigration judge also engaged in other conduct at the client's hearing that suggested bias, the Second Circuit not only reversed the decisions of the BIA and the immigration judge and ordered a new hearing, but suggested that it be conducted by a different judge entirely.

It was a decisive victory for both the client and the Katten team, which included Chicago Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Peter Wilson** and associate **Hannah Koesterer**, and New York Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner **Michael Rosensaft**.

That is where New York Litigation associate **Mark Ciani** stepped in. On remand to a new judge in the Hartford, Connecticut immigration court, Mark took over the representation, presenting written and live testimony from three witnesses. After a four-hour hearing, the immigration judge indicated from the bench that he would grant the relief requested by Katten. Within weeks, the client was freed from the detainee facility and now walks as a free man.

Chicago Team Achieves Favorable Settlements in Two Federal Civil Rights Cases

Through the Settlement Assistance Program of the [Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights](#), Chicago Intellectual Property partner **Floyd Mandell**, staff attorney **Bari Nathan** and intern **Jillian Schurr** represented two pro bono clients in their federal civil rights cases. The first case was against the Lynwood (IL) Police Department and some of its officers in which the client alleged that she approached three suburban Lynwood Police Department officers to find out what they were doing with her son, only to be roughed up, handcuffed and thrown to the ground. She was arrested for resisting arrest and obstructing a police officer, and she was later found innocent of all criminal charges. The plaintiff sought compensation for the excessive force used against her resulting in physical injury and for the humiliation she suffered at the hands of the Lynwood police officers. Floyd,



Bari and Jillian participated in a settlement conference with the magistrate judge and achieved a favorable settlement for their client.

In the second case, the same team represented the pro bono plaintiff in a case against the Will County (IL) Adult Detention Facility (WCADF). The client, a person recovering from hepatitis C with a weak immune system, alleged that the WCADF used excessive force in throwing him into his prison cell that was covered in his cellmate's feces and vomit due to his cellmate going through narcotic withdrawals. The client also claimed he was denied proper medical treatment after the excessive force incident, subjected to unlivable conditions of confinement, and improperly denied a Buddhist diet after repeated requests. Prior to the scheduled settlement conference with the magistrate judge, Floyd and Bari secured, through negotiation with the defendants' counsel, a settlement on very favorable terms.

You can read more about both of these cases in the [Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights' newsletter](#).

New York Attorneys Team Up for the Teamwork Foundation

Litigation partner **Jonathan Faust** led a team of Katten attorneys in successfully assisting the **Teamwork Foundation** in resolving over \$400,000 in tax liabilities, and avoiding a foreclosure sale of its property. The Teamwork Foundation is a charitable organization that provides at-risk teenagers with after school activities through programs and sports teams run out of a gymnasium that they own in the Bronx, New York. While an essential community resource, Teamwork operates on a shoestring budget, and the gym is its sole asset. During the 1990s, Teamwork was assessed, but failed to pay, various New York City taxes, water and sewer charges, and other assessments (collectively, the "taxes"). By 2002, New York City rolled all of the unpaid taxes into a tax lien, which was sold off to a third-party trust.

In 2003, the trust commenced a foreclosure action against Teamwork, demanding the sale of the gym to satisfy the unpaid tax lien. Teamwork defaulted in the foreclosure action and, by 2005, the trust initiated the process for a foreclosure sale. Bronx-based Teamwork, which had all of its mail sent to the 92 Street YMCA in Manhattan, asserts that it never received any notice of the taxes, tax lien or subsequent foreclosure suit. Nevertheless, for some unknown reason, the foreclosure sale then stalled for over a decade. Katten got involved in late-November 2017, when Teamwork contacted us after receiving notice of the appointment of a referee to provide a final computation of the tax lien debt in anticipation of the foreclosure sale. Rather than try to move to vacate the more than a decade-old default (which would require establishing a reasonable explanation for the default and a meritorious defense to the tax obligations), Katten contacted the trust's counsel and the referee to request that the debt computation and corresponding foreclosure sale be held in abeyance until updated tax debt data could be provided by New York City. Katten then began working with various New York City agencies to "defect" (i.e., cancel) the obligations comprising the tax lien.

To date, Katten has succeeded in cancelling virtually all of the outstanding charges. Indeed, all that remains due from Teamwork is an outstanding fire department charge of approximately \$1,500, plus interest, which we also are working to have waived. Even if the fire department charges remain in effect, Teamwork is thrilled that its ultimate tax lien obligation will be reduced to a pittance, which can be paid without the foreclosure sale of the gym.

Thomas Peabody Brings Somali Refugee's Perilous Journey to a Happy Conclusion

Chicago Litigation associate **Thomas Peabody** had no way of knowing that when he began his work with the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#) (NIJC), he would help change one 19-year-old Somali woman's life forever. A victim of severe abuse since the age of 10, her father was gunned down by terrorists when she was just 14, and she was "sold" in 2015 by her uncle to a high-ranking terrorist officer. She then suffered beatings and threats of greater physical harm for her refusal to marry him.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of her mother, a way was found for her to leave the country. Over the next two months, the young woman traveled from Ethiopia to Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. But in each country, she was first detained and then forced to leave. Upon attempting to enter the United States, she was arrested and locked in a Kenosha, Wisconsin, jail for four months.

That is when Tom became involved in the case. As he learned of her story, he became determined to put his full power behind his preparation for the trial. He filed extensive affidavits, medical reports and briefs, and on the day of her hearing he was prepared to conduct a direct examination of his client and defend her on cross-examination. But after listening to a very brief oral presentation by Tom, the immigration judge halted the proceedings and immediately granted Tom's client asylum—on the paper submissions alone. The judge commented that it was one of the best prepared asylum cases he had ever seen. And in a surprising turn of events, when the judge asked the government's legal representative if she would waive appeal of the decision, she said yes. Today, the young woman is living with a Somali family here in the United States. More importantly, in less than a year, she can apply to make this country her permanent home.

Michael Callahan Partners With LAF To Secure Social Security Disability Benefits

On one of his numerous volunteer evenings at the Katten Legal Clinic at [Jose de Diego Community Academy](#), Chicago Corporate partner **Michael Callahan** met a 19-year-old man who has received Social Security benefits since he was young, based on various impairments that included stuttering, as well as ADHD and learning disabilities. Under Social Security law, his ability to continue to receive these benefits was dependent upon an evaluation that was done when he turned 18. Despite his mental impairments, as well as some physical problems, the man was determined to be relatively able bodied enough to perform menial work tasks, and thus his request for continued benefits was denied. His appeal came before a hearing officer, who concluded that the evidence supported the denial of benefits.

The victim of a volatile home situation with his stepfather, the young man and his mother turned to the clinic for help. Michael stepped in to facilitate the filing of an appeal before a Social Security administrative law judge (ALJ). In partnership with Amy Marinacci—an [LAF](#) attorney who provided invaluable assistance to Michael regarding document and witness preparations—a motion seeking an updated IQ test was submitted to and granted by the ALJ. The cumulative test results established that the young man was disabled, but they did not determine whether he was entitled to benefits. Current standards require that other factors had to be evaluated to determine whether he had overcome his various impairments as shown by work history, performance in school, interactions with others, ability to carry out simple instructions and daily activities. Michael, therefore, had to demonstrate that the client's low test performance—especially in the areas of working memory and processing speed, along with an established record—qualified him as sufficiently impaired to support the request for continued benefits.

During the hearing, Michael showed that the client was fired from the only job he had ever had because he was unable to remember task assignments and could not effectively communicate with store customers; he was unable to count change or handle money; his stuttering subjected him to abuse and made it extremely difficult for people to understand him, as became apparent during his direct testimony and response to questions from the ALJ; that he was not able to secure gainful employment despite repeated efforts to apply for jobs; and had difficulty performing even menial tasks at home. Given the extent of these demonstrated problems, coupled with the test results, Michael made the case that there were no jobs available that would not require constant intervention and supervision by an employer, which is a key standard in determining whether an individual is entitled to disability benefits.

Recently, Michael learned that the client's mother had received a letter from Social Security informing her that our appeal was successful.

Houston Attorneys Win Asylum for Syrian Refugee

Environmental and Workplace Safety associate **Nicholas Morrell**, supervised by partners **Scott Elliott** and **Ben Patton**, has successfully obtained affirmative asylum relief for a female Syrian refugee. The woman had several relatives killed by the Assad regime, and had provided aid and medical supplies to civilians suffering in the Syrian civil war. For criticizing the regime and providing this assistance, she feared reprisal from the oppressive and brutal regime, including possible torture or death at the hands of the government's agents. The woman escaped Syria in 2014 and has been working on becoming an accredited pharmacist in the US, as well as volunteering at a children's hospital and with several Syrian aid organizations.

After beginning our representation last year, the Katten team met with the client several times and helped her prepare asylum application materials. Three years after filing for asylum, she learned in August that she had received an interview date at the New Orleans asylum office. Nick prepared her for the interview and represented her before the asylum officer on September 18, 2017. During the interview, the asylum officer praised the materials prepared by Katten as “very helpful” and informative. A few weeks ago, the woman received notice that she was officially granted asylum on October 31, 2017. She has expressed tremendous gratitude for the Katten attorneys’ help through the difficult process.

Chris Ferenc Softens the Blow in Conspiracy Trial

Intellectual Property associate **Christopher Ferenc** served as second chair to the federal public defender for a pro bono case in the Eastern District of Virginia. The client was indicted last June, along with his wife, on several conspiracy counts in connection with his alleged submission of fraudulent resumes and certificates in an effort to obtain employment with a federal contractor. Specifically, he was facing at least two counts of aggravated identity theft in connection with the forged certificates, which command a minimum sentence of two-years imprisonment.

In August, the government produced nearly four million pages of discovery on Christopher’s client. With the help of Environmental and Workplace Safety partner **Anne Carpenter**, associate **Katie Barajas** and the Litigation support staff, Christopher was able to review significant portions of this production. In connection with those review efforts, he was then able to present their assessment of the government’s case to the client, the public defender’s office, the client’s wife, and her attorneys. The client’s wife was very dug in and prevented her husband from taking a plea deal that he would have accepted months earlier if the government had not conditioned his plea on his wife coming in as well. As a result of our meeting discussing the case, the wife’s attorneys were able to convince her that accepting a plea was the best course of action.

For the husband’s plea, the sentencing guidelines gave him a range of 12-18 months imprisonment and mandatory restitution in the amount of \$215,000 (the salary he earned at the job he fraudulently obtained). The Katten team made a spirited request for a below-guidelines sentence; however, this was summarily rejected by the judge. Considering that he could have received from two to four years for the two aggravated identity charges had he gone to trial, the silver lining is that our client received a sentence at the very bottom of the guidelines range of 12 months and one day.

Chad Doobay Wins Asylum for Client From Cameroon

Chicago Government and Public Finance partner **Chad Doobay** won asylum for his client, a man from Cameroon who was persecuted because of his vocal opposition to the Cameroonian political regime. He survived false arrests, beatings, abuse, intimidation and torture. While falsely imprisoned, he experienced daily torture by belts and machetes, all while his captors sought to obtain false confessions. After escaping, Chad’s client fled to the United States, where he hopes to live a safe and productive life and has begun the process to become a certified public accountant.

Katten Team Makes the Medical Case for Gun Safety Law

Through a November 2016 referendum, the voters of the State of California enacted a law banning the possession of large capacity ammunition magazines. That law has been challenged in the courts as an infringement of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Three medical organizations that advocated for the law in the referendum, the [California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics, California](#), and the [California Academy of Family Physicians](#), retained Katten as pro bono counsel to present their arguments as *amici curiae* in defense of the law to the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Director of Pro Bono

Services **Jonathan Baum**, New York Litigation associate **Mark Ciani** and Chicago Litigation associate **Hannah Koesterer** filed a brief for the three medical organizations in the case. In the brief, the organizations, especially the emergency physicians, draw on their sadly abundant experience treating victims of multiple gunshot wounds to make the case that the particular instrumentalities banned are uniquely life-threatening and pose a major risk to public health. The Katten lawyers explain in the brief that this is why—in cases in which Katten has participated pro bono—six federal appeals courts have unanimously rejected Second Amendment challenges to bans on large capacity ammunition magazines. A decision in this case is expected sometime in 2018.

Support for the Community

Chicago Attorneys Team with NIJC and Wright College for DACA Renewal Workshop

On September 5, an executive order was released that ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The executive order left a narrow window of opportunity for certain DACA recipients—those with a permit set to expire before March 5, 2018—to file an application to renew their status by October 5. With nearly 96,000 DACA recipients living in Chicago, community organizations and law firms organized legal screenings throughout the city to help undocumented immigrants assess their options.

Two weeks after the executive order was announced, the [National Immigration Justice Center](#) (NIJC), [Wilbur Wright College](#) and Katten teamed together to host a DACA renewal workshop. Through the workshop, Katten attorneys—under the leadership of Litigation associate **Nicole Saleem**—were able to file renewal applications for eligible DACA recipients. Thus far, Katten has secured temporary protection for two DACA recipients, thanks to the following attorneys who attended the workshop: Director of Pro Bono Services **Jonathan Baum**, Commercial Finance associates **Stacy Cundy** and **Jaime Willis**, Government and Public Finance partner **Chad Doobay**, Litigation associates **Abimbola Oladokun** and **Alexandra McNicholas**, Corporate associate **Alyse Sagalchik**, and Financial Services partner **Christopher Shannon**.

Washington, DC, Attorneys Assist DC Bar Pro Bono Program

The following Katten team members volunteered their time on Saturday, December 9 to assist walk-in clients at the [DC Bar Pro Bono Program Advice and Referral clinic](#). The Katten team, along with other volunteers, helped 72 clients at the Northwest location of the clinic (plus another 25 clients at the Southeast site) address a wide array of legal matters.

- **Schuyler Armstrong**, Associate, Real Estate
- **Katie Barajas**, Associate, Environmental and Workplace Safety
- **Jay Kozak**, Associate, Structured Finance and Securitization
- **Sarah Ma**, Associate, Tax Planning
- **Seth Messner**, Partner, Structured Finance and Securitization
- **Caitlin Munley**, Associate, Litigation
- **Elizabeth Yaeger**, Associate, Real Estate

Without great volunteers like the people above, the clinic would not be able to provide much-needed legal services in the local community. Katten's next volunteering session will be on Saturday, February 10, 2018.

Katten's Legal Clinic at Jose de Diego Community Academy Gets a Much-Needed Facelift

Considering the significant number of clients who seek out the services of the Katten Legal Clinic at [Jose de Diego Community Academy](#), the space itself was small. The clinic consisted of four attorney consultation offices and one group office, which served as a meeting room for Katten attorneys, paralegals, support staff and [LAF](#) representatives. Very close quarters, to say the least. Beginning in September, that all changed, as the firm was able to add three attorney consultation offices, bringing our total to seven. Katten donated a second photocopier for the space, and

the number of support staff working in the reception area was increased, as well as the number of foreign language translators volunteering at the clinic.

With the three new offices, it was necessary to obtain more furniture for the space, which was donated by our Facilities Department. Facilities also assisted in having our heating and air conditioning systems repaired (the Chicago Public School system was unable to take care of this during their summer construction projects as the space is considered a non-student utilized area of the school). Painting of the space and carpet cleaning were donated through Facilities Department vendors, making the space livable and appealing to Katten volunteers and potential clients, and creating a positive and more functional environment. The additional office space provides us with the ability to see more people at a given time. In fact, the clinic (which opened in April 2013) is nearing a benchmark of seeing 400 potential clients; as of November, **we had served 380 people!!!**

New York Team Takes High School to Moot Court Competition Semifinals

New York Litigation associate **Zachary Denver**, Financial Services associate **Gregory Uffner** and Structured Finance associate **Matthew Jennings** coached the Townsend Harris High School moot court team to the semifinal round of the [New York City MENTOR Moot Court Competition](#), a program organized by Fordham University School of Law and the Justice Resource Center. The coaches looked on proudly as the team argued at the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit against other New York City area high schools in front of the competition’s judges, who peppered the students with tough questions. Prior to reaching the semifinals, the Townsend Harris team was one of only two teams in the competition to advance directly to the quarterfinal without an intermediate round. Throughout the fall, the students visited the firm at least twice a week to review the case material and practice with their coaches and other volunteers, including Litigation associates **Brian Muldrew**, **Tenley Mochizuki**, **Elizabeth Langdale**, **James Manning** and **Matthew Celano**, Government and Public Finance associate **Natalie Youkel**, and Corporate associate **Michael Barkoff**.

Honors

Katten Honored With Immigrant Defenders Law Center Pro Bono Award

Los Angeles—Century City Litigation associate **Joanna Hill** and Insolvency and Restructuring associate **Cristina Bautista** worked closely with a new pro bono partner this year: the [Immigrant Defenders Law Center](#) (ImmDef). In recognition of this, ImmDef honored Katten with its Pro Bono Award at its Second Anniversary Event. Susan Alva, associate director of ImmDef, said “Whether taking on the defense of a minor fighting deportation or supporting our trainings of more pro bono attorneys, Katten has been there for us at a moment’s notice, and with no fanfare. We are blessed to be able to partner with you in the fight for immigrant justice.”



Katten Honors Attorneys at 18th Annual Pro Bono Service Awards

This year, Katten honored several of our attorneys for their outstanding pro bono service at the firm’s 18th annual Pro Bono Service Awards.

The ceremonies, held at Katten offices across our footprint, recognized partners and associates, transactional lawyers and litigators for their extraordinary commitment to using their legal skills on behalf of those in need. Each recipient, highlighted below, also received an honorarium to donate to the charity of his or her choice. The Chicago awards were unusual this year in that an entire class of associates, those of 2014, was honored because they had all rendered significant amounts of pro bono service during their first three years at Katten.



- **Kimberly Beis**, Associate, Litigation
- **Amelia Chapple**, Associate, Litigation
- **Mark Ciani**, Associate, Litigation
- **Kristin Coveney**, Associate, Litigation
- **Allison Freedman**, Associate, Litigation
- **Christopher Hitchins**, Partner, Employment Law and Litigation
- **Hannah Koesterer**, Associate, Litigation
- **Sarah Ma**, Associate, Tax Planning
- **Thomas Peabody**, Associate, Litigation
- **Yasmin Roland**, Associate, Corporate
- **Mitch Sprengelmeyer**, Associate, Structured Finance and Securitization
- **Carrie Stickel**, Association, Litigation
- **Emily Thomas**, Associate, Real Estate
- **Elizabeth Yaeger**, Associate, Real Estate



Alyse Sagalchik Interviewed by *Chicago Lawyer* Regarding Katten Legal Clinic at Jose de Diego Community Academy

Corporate associate **Alyse Sagalchik** was recently featured in an interview by *Chicago Lawyer* regarding her work with the firm’s pro bono legal clinic at the [Jose de Diego Community Academy](#). Each month during the school year, Alyse volunteers at the clinic—located in Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood—where she provides legal services and advice for those in the community who need it. The [LAF](#), which operates the clinic with Katten, awarded her a 2017 Volunteer of the Year award for her work in helping to aid low-income individuals through Jose de Diego.

While the demand for attorneys at the clinic is great, Alyse says the roster of Katten attorneys volunteering has grown significantly over the years. “I joined the firm in December of 2015, and I think my first time at the clinic was probably in February of 2016,” said Alyse. “I went in actually being a little bit terrified because a lot of the clients come in with fairly novel issues, but also they deal with areas of law that I don’t typically work with on a daily basis.” Today, she enjoys “the process of meeting anywhere from two to . . . five possible clients each time” and the “instant ability to feel you’ve made a difference.”

Read “[The Right Path: A Katten Associate Gives Back](#)” in its entirety.

Pro Bono Client Reclaim13 Honored for Its Work in Rescuing Victims of Sex Trafficking

Chicago office pro bono client [Reclaim13](#) and its executive director Cassandra Ma were recently honored by the Office of the US Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for their important work in rescuing girls and young women from sex trafficking. Reclaim13 works closely with the US Attorneys’ office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state and local law enforcement, and operates Cherish House, one of the only safe houses in the country dedicated to serving the trauma needs of trafficking victims. Litigation partner **Patrick Harrigan** has served as Reclaim13’s outside general counsel for the past five years, and he and more than a dozen Katten attorneys and staff have provided pro bono legal services to the organization in a variety of areas. Most recently, Health Care partner **Kenneth Davis**, Privacy, Data and Cybersecurity partner **Megan Hardiman** and Litigation associate **Silké Watson** have assisted in internal investigations and privacy and compliance issues.

New York Attorneys Congratulated as “Stand for Rights: A Benefit for the ACLU” Receives Emmy Nomination

Earlier this year, Intellectual Property special counsel **David Sherman** led a team of Katten attorneys in representing the producers of the Facebook Live telethon “[Stand for Rights: A Benefit for the ACLU](#)” with Tom Hanks. This event has been nominated for an Emmy Award in the category of “Outstanding Creative Achievement in Interactive Media Within an Unscripted Program.” Thanks go to David, as well as Privacy, Data and Cybersecurity partner **Doron Goldstein** and Trusts and Estates associates **Cynthia Reed** and **Lauren Dell** for their extraordinary work.

Appointments

Chicago Litigation partner **Michael Lohnes** was recently appointed to the board of directors of the [Public Interest Law Initiative](#).

Chicago Trusts and Estates partner **Philip Tortorich** was recently appointed to the board of directors of the [Legal Council for Health Justice](#).

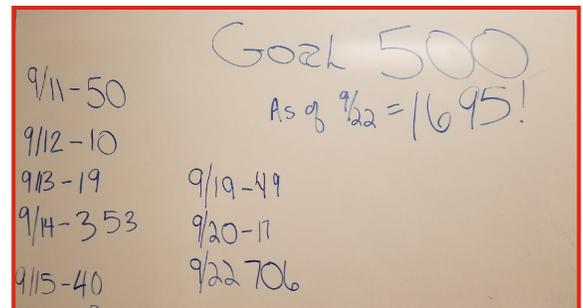
Fundraising for the Public Good

Aiding the Victims of Devastating Hurricanes

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Katten’s offices in Texas and nationwide banded together to offer relief to the Houston community. Attorneys firmwide worked with several organizations to help the area pull together to recover and rebuild.

Specifically, we provided financial assistance to our pro bono partner [Airlink](#)—a global rapid-response disaster and humanitarian relief organization that matches aircraft capacity with 35 pre-qualified, nonprofit aid organizations and 70 commercial and charter airlines—to help ensure the delivery of supplies, emergency personnel and volunteers. Katten’s Texas team is also working with the [State Bar of Texas](#), the [Houston Volunteer Lawyers program](#) and other organizations to offer pro bono legal services to affected communities.

In addition to a firm contribution, Katten also matched donations to recovery efforts from our lawyers and staff, and conducted several internal donation drives to benefit the [Red Cross](#) and their recovery efforts around Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. As the school year was just beginning, we also partnered with [Books Between Kids](#), an organization working with local communities to replace books that were lost during Hurricane Harvey. As the result of a week-long book drive, Katten far exceeded its goals, donating more than 1,500 books to local children.



Goal 500
As of 9/22 = 1695!

9/11-50	
9/12-10	
9/13-19	
9/14-353	
9/15-40	
	9/19-49
	9/20-17
	9/22-706



“Nothing holds us back from being there when we’re needed and doing what’s right where we can.”

Roger Furey, Chairman, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Katten Pulls for the Special Olympics Southern California Team, Sponsors Pier del Sol Event

The Los Angeles and Orange County offices stepped up in force to support the [Special Olympics Southern California](#) (SOSC) at their annual PlanePull Program. The PlanePull is a competition where teams of 25 or more people, plus a Special Olympic athlete, attempt to pull a 62-ton airplane, provided by FedEx, 12 feet the fastest. The Katten team was a formidable competitor comprised of attorneys, staff and Melissa Wilson of Union Bank, a client of Commercial Finance partner **Jan Cate**. Katten's Special Olympics Team captain was **Rachel Osterbach**, a celebrity in her own right. She is a Special Olympics Ambassador and stars on A&E's *Born This Way*, the Emmy-award winning series. In the end, our Katten team bested LA's finest—the Los Angeles Police Department Metro A unit—by ONE whole second, pulling the plane in 7.47 seconds. Thanks go to Entertainment and Media partner **David Halberstadter** for leading the Katten team.

Also on Sunday, October 8, Katten sponsored the SOSC's Pier del Sol event at the Santa Monica Pier, the only culinary festival fused with a private amusement park experience. The festival offered an exclusive VIP brunch featuring mouthwatering tastings from over 35 of LA's top chefs and restaurants, entertainment, music, arts and crafts, games, and unlimited rides at Pacific Park. More than 1,500 people attended, including more than 400 Special Olympics athletes. We are so proud to support the SOSC and the important work they do for their athletes.

Katten Chicago Helps Raise \$3.75 Million for Pediatric Medical Research

Katten served as a Gold Sponsor of the 2017 Lurie Children's Ball on Saturday, December 2, benefiting the Children's Research Fund and the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute at [Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago](#). "Katten's decision to become a Gold Sponsor this year fits with our long-standing commitment to helping positively impact people in the communities where we live and do business," said chairman **Roger Furey**.

Laura Keidan Martin, national head of the firm's Health Care practice, served as co-chair of the event. "The theme for this year's ball, 'Stories... Rewrite the Possibilities,' celebrated the stories of kids whose possibilities have been rewritten by the research breakthroughs and amazing care at Lurie Children's," said Keidan Martin, "while underscoring the need for continued pediatric research support to rewrite the stories of kids for generations to come." The event raised \$3.75 million in support of pediatric medical research.

Los Angeles Office and FVAP Band Together To Help End Domestic Violence

Katten's name appeared in lights at the [Family Violence Appellate Project's](#) (FVAP) Banding Together To End Domestic Violence charity fundraiser event in Los Angeles. Katten was a Gold Record sponsor of the event, along with other major law firms and companies in Los Angeles. FVAP is a legal aid nonprofit dedicated to providing appellate pro bono legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. The battle of the bands event raised approximately \$58,000; together with the proceeds from its sister event in San Francisco, the two-city total was an amazing \$194,000. The LA event had nearly 400 attendees from law firms and businesses in the area.

Thanks go to Litigation associates **Charlotte Wasserstein**, who sits on FVAP's Board of Directors and helped to organize the battle of the bands event, and **Emily Grimm** for attending the event along with the Los Angeles summer associates; and senior business development manager **Melissa Borkgren** for coordinating Katten's sponsorship.

Washington, DC, Associates Help Raise Record Numbers for Generous Associates Campaign

Thanks go to all of the members of Katten's Washington, DC, family that supported both our in-firm events and general fundraising efforts for the "Generous Associates Campaign" for the [DC Legal Aid Society](#). The office set a goal of raising \$19,000 this year. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, including the Katten Muchin Rosenman Foundation, we exceeded our goal and raised \$21,733! Also, for the first time, Katten is ranked in the top five for firms of our size. Together with many firms from across the area, the total raised was an incredible \$1.79 million. This successful effort for Katten was led by Litigation associate **Genus Heidary** and Tax Planning associate **Sarah Ma**.

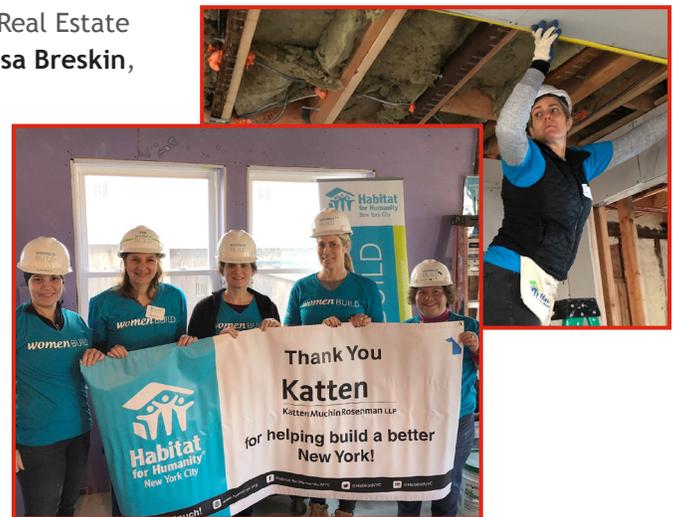
Los Angeles Climbs to New Heights for Ketchum-Downtown YMCA

Team Katten, led by Commercial Finance partner **Jan Cate**, reached for the sky and climbed nearly 1,700 stairs to the top of the tallest building on the West Coast. Raising money to benefit the impactful work of the [Ketchum-Downtown YMCA](#), which supports critical programs for children, teens, seniors and families in the community, Katten attorneys and staff demonstrated a tremendous effort, with many climbers placing at the top of their respective divisions. Special kudos to Environmental and Workplace Safety associate **Stephanie Angkadjaja**, Commercial Finance associate **Gabriela Chiriboga**, and Litigation associates **Paul Grammatico**, **Emily Grimm** and **Charlotte Wasserstein** for their excellent showing and great enthusiasm for the event.



NY Attorneys Unite to Help Habitat for Humanity's Women Build

New York Insolvency and Restructuring partner **Karen Dine** and Real Estate partner **Christine Murphy**, as well as Real Estate counsel **Theresa Breskin**, Trusts and Estates associate **Lauren Dell** and Real Estate associate **Debra Sapp** came together with women from all professions, ages, races and neighborhoods to support the cause of affordable homeownership in New York City through volunteer work for [Habitat for Humanity's New York City's Women Build](#). Women Build is a movement of women empowering one another. By raising funds and raising walls, volunteer women builders give female Habitat NYC homeowners—80 percent of whom are single, heads of household—a hand up helping them, and in turn helping their children, achieve financial and housing stability. Since 2015, Women Build has raised more than \$500,000 for affordable homeownership in New York City.



DC Office Volunteers Prepare Hyde-Addison Elementary School @ Meyer for the School Year

In the fall, a dedicated team of Katten volunteers spent the day at a Washington, DC, public school—[Hyde-Addison Elementary School @ Meyer](#)—to help prepare the school for the incoming elementary students. Busy hands were at work in many areas of the school, including the library and IT room, individual classroom set-ups, and sprucing up the playground and surrounding green spaces to make the area colorful and prime for learning. In addition to our volunteer efforts, Katten turned Hyde-Addison students into superheroes by providing each with a colorful cape, promoting the school's core values: perseverance, curiosity, integrity, diversity and kindness. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child, and Katten is so very proud to be a part of the Hyde-Addison Village.

Chicago Office's Jose de Diego Community Academy School Supply Drive a Great Success

This year the Chicago office attorneys and staff helped make the [Jose de Diego Community Academy School Supply Drive](#) a great success! With generous contributions of both money and school supplies, including substantial support from the Katten Muchin Rosenman Foundation, the office was able to donate dozens of backpacks, spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, folders, crayons and other necessary supplies to the students. This contribution plays a critical part in the students' educational success, and they and the school principal, Ms. Menoni, truly appreciate the firm's generosity.

Katten Firmwide “Virtual” Team Takes to the California Streets for “We Run The City”

Each year, when the University of Southern California meets the University of California Los Angeles on the gridiron, alumni, faculty, fans, staff and students take to the streets for the We Run the City 5K rivalry run/walk. The runners compete for bragging rights for their team, and the funds they raise support the [Special Olympics Southern California](#). This year, Katten sponsored more than 30 people *firmwide* in this event . . . with “virtual” runners from every office in the firm.

Chicago Team Supports Chicago Volunteer Legal Services in Race Judicata

Attorneys and staff from the Chicago office came out to show their support of [Chicago Volunteer Legal Services](#) (CVLS) by participating in Race Judicata 5K run/walk. Every year, Katten is proud to sponsor the race and CVLS. It is a great way for Katten employees to have fun outside of the office, while helping an excellent nonprofit serve families in the Chicago area.

Among Katten’s runners were Litigation partner **Timothy Patenode**, Litigation associate **Abimbola Oladokun**, Trusts and Estates associates **Elizabeth Creasy** and **Louis Laski**, as well as several Real Estate associates, including **Timothy Cross**, **Sophie Popovic**, **Marie Salter** and **Michael Savage**. **Laura Waller**, Litigation special counsel, also participated, bringing Katten’s biggest fan, her son. Katten’s staff also participated strongly, with 28 more runners and walkers who completed the race.



Century City Office Jogs for Justice

On Sunday morning, September 24, the Century City office participated in the [Greater Los Angeles Association of Legal Administrators’](#) (GLAALA) 10th Annual Justice Jog to benefit [CASA of Los Angeles](#). The Katten team, once again captained by our California director of office administration **Tanya Russell**, ran, jogged and walked in Century City to raise much needed funds for CASA Los Angeles - a nonprofit organization that activates community volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the foster care system. A 10K was added to the event this year and Litigation associate **Charlotte Wasserstein** placed 4th in her age group. Once again, Katten fielded a large, enthusiastic team and raised funds to support this valuable organization.



Grateful Words From Our Clients

From Mary Meg McCarthy, executive director of the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#), to Katten chairman **Roger Furey**:

“We are grateful for our partnership with Katten and the generous \$5,000 contribution to the National Immigrant Justice Center. Your support means so much to the NIJC team and, most importantly, to our clients and the millions of noncitizens and asylum seekers who face obstacles to due process and human right protections. Katten’s 18th Annual Pro Bono Services Awards ceremony captured well the firm’s extraordinary commitment to pro bono. You have cultivated a culture of service to the most vulnerable, and the class of [2014] serves as an inspiration to all of us.”

“You and your colleagues serve as a model of lawyers responding to this extraordinary time in which we live. Thank you for your leadership and support. Know that it changes lives.”

Please note: The contribution to which Ms. McCarthy refers was a group contribution from the Chicago recipients of this year’s Pro Bono Service Awards.

From the Tour of Lake Ellyn Foundation in Glen Ellen, Illinois, that spearheaded the [Race Around the Lake](#) bike competition:

“Ben, Barry, Tom and I, along with everyone who worked these past few months to stage Intelligentsia Cup’s Tour of Lake Ellyn, would like to thank you for your efforts in partnering with us to save this great community event for 2017 that benefitted our local food pantry. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day, and we are happy to report that the Tour seems to have gone off flawlessly. Again, thank you very much for all of your collective hard work. Judging by the responses from every Glen Ellynite in attendance (as well as the over 250 participants in the Greentarget Family Fun Ride!), it was definitely well worth the effort!”

From Cristina Sandoval, compliance and implementation specialist, at Chicago’s [National Immigrant Justice Center](#) to the Katten Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal team:

“Thank you for your coordination and participation in Saturday’s Know Your Rights and Legal Screenings event at Brighton Park Neighborhood Council!

We especially want to thank our wonderful Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP attorneys and paralegals, who provided 12 pro bono legal screenings to Brighton Park community members! Increased enforcement has raised the demand and urgency for legal screenings, and these individuals would likely not have been able to obtain a screening in their own community, if not for this pro bono event. Seven of the individuals screened yesterday are already scheduled to have a follow-up appointment with NIJC regarding potential immigration relief. Additionally, 20 individuals attended our Know Your Rights presentation prior to the legal screenings.”

Please send comments, suggestions and news about interesting pro bono cases and matters you’ve been involved with, as well as any non-legal community service work you’re doing, to jonathan.baum@kattenlaw.com.

