

Victories on Behalf of Clients

Ian Todd Reunites Mother and Three Children Through Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project

Ian Todd, a Chicago Commercial Finance associate, participates in the [Domestic Violence Legal Clinic's \(DVLC\) Pro Bono Project](#), in which Katten and other major firms represent victims of domestic violence in obtaining emergency orders of protection against their abusers. Recently, Ian represented a woman in domestic violence court whose three children were being kept by their father in a homeless shelter. The father had not allowed her to see the children in more than two months, and had recently informed her that he was taking them to live three hours away in Indiana. She was convinced that he would not let her see her daughters again without outside intervention and was scared because she was unable to ascertain their living conditions. She feared they were at risk of abuse. Unfortunately, the judge did not initially find that her claim fell under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA), and her Petition for Order of Protection was denied.

In the following days, the mother discovered that the father had supplied her with a false address in Indiana. His cell phone was shut off and emails she sent him bounced back undeliverable. Armed with new information, Ian filed an emergency motion for reconsideration, as "concealment of minor children" is a recognized form of abuse under the IDVA. Based on the newly available facts, the judge granted the motion and issued the order of protection. The same day, Ian located the sheriff of the Indiana county in question and sent him the order, asking him to serve it. The sheriff was unable to locate the respondent at the address Ian had. When told this, Ian asked him if there were any homeless shelters in the county. While the sheriff expressed doubt that there were, it turned out there is. The sheriff went to that homeless shelter and found the respondent and the three children. The sheriff served the respondent with the order and took custody of the children. Ian's client went down to Indiana to pick them up, and they are now reunited and safe.

Cheryl DeMichele Price, director of Volunteer Services at DVLC said, ". . . Ian Todd has gone above and beyond in his OP pro bono case . . . he's truly been fantastic and has made a huge difference for this client."

Katten DC Team Wins Asylum for Teens Fleeing Gang Violence in El Salvador

A bright young teenager in Northern Virginia, who suffered frequent abuse at the hands of the most violent gang in El Salvador, has been granted asylum thanks to a team of volunteers in the Washington, DC office. Corporate partner **Jane Cavanaugh** represents this now-18-year-old young man and his now-16-year-old sister before the Arlington Asylum Office. The siblings were the victims of brutal gang violence, death threats made to their relatives and repeated gang extortion of their extended families. The brother and sister, who arrived in the US two years ago, speaking very little English, are now in high school in Virginia and receiving academic awards. The brother, who loves math and has maintained a 4.0 GPA, will start a summer job in construction in June. We are now waiting for news that the sister's asylum application has been granted as well.

In a true show of Katten teamwork, Jane worked extensively on the asylum briefs and formal interviews to plead the applicants' cases; billing specialist **Mayra Fuentes** translated in both preparatory meetings with the applicants and their parents and in the formal asylum interviews; Intellectual Property associate **Kristin Lockhart** jumped in and saved the day with her translation and analytical skills; and legal executive assistant **Dolly LaFuente** has assisted with translation, organizing records and maintaining her optimism about the cases, even as asylum is increasingly difficult to win. The family is thrilled with the grant of asylum for the brother, and is anxiously awaiting good news on the sister's application.

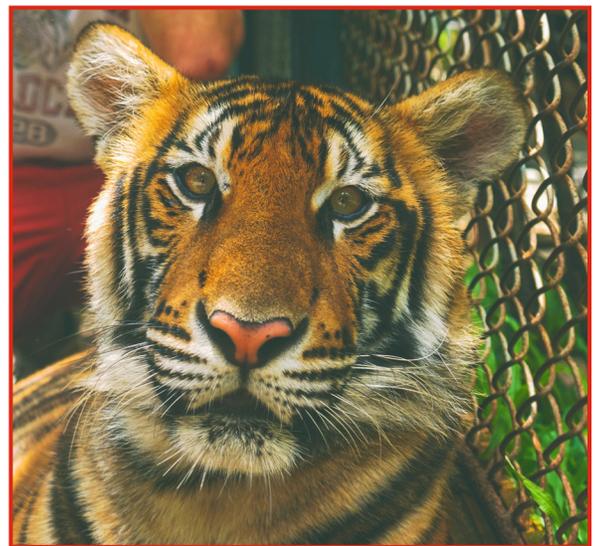
Zachary Schmitz Helps De Diego Client Acquire Much-Needed US Passport

In December 2016, a Puerto Rican woman came to the [Katten Jose de Diego Legal Clinic](#) in need of help with acquiring a birth certificate from Puerto Rico in order to get a US passport. That is when she met Litigation associate **Zachary Schmitz**, who worked with her for the better part of last year to complete the birth certificate application forms for the Puerto Rican health department. However, due to the unique nature of his client's case, the government rejected her application. They proceeded to apply for the US passport and recently received word that the woman has been approved for and has received it.

Jerry Jakubovic Taming Trademark Issues for Tigers in America and Others

New York Intellectual Property staff attorney **Jerry Jakubovic** is lending his legal skills to [The Animal Defense Partnership](#) and their work with [Tigers in America](#). Tigers in America is committed to helping rescue and build homes for the more than 7,000 tigers in this country—more than live in the rest of the world combined—who, for the most part, are bred for amusement and end up abused and abandoned. Jerry is assisting in securing protection for the Tigers in America name by filing a trademark application and advising on how to best protect the “Amanda Tiger” logo and the sanctuary organizations that use the logo, stating that they are “a member” of the organization. He is also aiding in deciding whether trademark protection is appropriate for the “Amanda in Flag” mark and advising on how to best protect the “Circus Wagon Leap/Leap to Freedom” image for event posters and fundraising events.

In addition, Jerry has been working with the [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#), helping them expand their brand to items such as board games and credit cards, and drafting an argument in response to a refusal issued for its use on hammocks. He also helps protect and manage organization and brand for [Mekimi](#), which enriches the lives of children and young adults suffering the debilitating effects of serious and long-term medical conditions. Jerry provides brand protection and expansion services to Jim Fantone, the founder of [Fantone Fitness](#) who, following years of substance abuse, has provided personal training and lifestyle coaching for the last 14 years. Recently, he also advocated for and negotiated on behalf of an African-American female small business owner, who teaches urban youth etiquette and mannerisms in order for them to be more successful professionally, in response to threatened litigation arising from her accidental use of an allegedly copyrighted photo in a presentation.



Support for the Community

Chicago Tribune Spotlights Timothy Knudsen's Work With Gay Russian's Political Asylum Case

A June 20 [Chicago Tribune article](#) tells the story of 24-year-old Alexander, a gay Russian immigrant, who discovered early on that being gay in his home country would come with a price. That became even more apparent following the 2013 enactment of a Russian law declaring “homosexual propaganda” illegal. Since then, human rights groups have noted a marked increase in anti-gay sentiment and even violence.

When Alexander fled to the United States in 2014, he landed in Chicago, where in 2015, Corporate associate **Timothy Knudsen** became his pro bono attorney. Tim assisted with his interview with the Office of United States Citizenship and

Immigration Services, which is now finalized. As they wait for the results, Tim says, “Alexander has a strong and well-founded fear of persecution should he return [to Russia]. [I am] hopeful for his case.” Tim also is closely tracking the actions of the current administration, as it attempts to reduce immigration and restrict those who can apply for asylum.

In response to the article, Tim continues, “Alexander is an exceptional guy who is fully deserving of US citizenship. Representing him for the past few years through the tumultuous asylum process, with the amazing support of the firm and the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#), has been a personal and career highlight for me. I look forward to the day he gets citizenship.” In the meantime, Alexander is working, hoping to become a special-education teacher and taking part in Chicago’s Pride celebrations.

Katten DC Attorneys Spotlighted in AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly’s *Pro Bono Publico*

Real Estate partner **Jonathan Boswell**, Litigation partner **Daniel Spurlock** and Corporate associate **Shannon Traylor** researched and drafted a memo for [AARP’s Legal Counsel for the Elderly’s](#) (LCE) *Pro Bono Publico*, regarding whether an agent acting under a Power of Attorney may appear in court and represent its principal or hire an attorney on behalf of its principal. The team also researched what legal safeguards are in place to prevent and mitigate misconduct by agents, and provided recommendations for LCE to present to the DC City Council to add protective measures to the Uniform Power of Attorney Amendment Act of 2017.

Real Estate associate **Elizabeth Dominguez Yaeger** also provided pro bono services to the LCE, reviewing statutory and regulatory requirements for the creation, promotion and support of resident and family councils in a sampling of states across the US. Her memorandum evaluated relevant statutes and regulations for best practices in five states in connection with the creation, promotion and support of resident and family councils in assisted living facilities. Elizabeth also prepared a flyer identifying for tenants the conditions DC landlords must satisfy before they can impose fees for late payments of rent, the limits on such late fees under DC law and penalties for a landlord’s violations of the late fee limits.

Katten De Diego Clinic Celebrates Five-Year Anniversary

The Katten Jose de Diego Legal Clinic, a partnership between Katten’s Chicago office, the [Jose de Diego Community Academy](#) and [LAF](#) celebrated its fifth year serving Chicago’s Humboldt Park and Wicker Park neighborhoods in April (read “[Katten de Diego Clinic Celebrates Five Years](#)”). The longstanding relationship provides forms of tutoring, school supply drives, a Lawyers in the Classroom program and other efforts. In 2013, the firm began providing its legal assistance to the school’s families and the larger community as well. Since then the clinic has served nearly 500 low-income individuals with the help of more than 70 Katten attorney volunteers. In addition, the firm offered invaluable support to de Diego Academy last year by renovating and increasing the space used by the clinic, thereby allowing the clinic to host more attorneys and meet with more clients. “[The clinic] provides an incomparably rewarding opportunity for our attorneys to use their skills to make a tangible difference,” said **Jonathan Baum**, Katten’s director of Pro Bono Services. “I have never had an attorney who came to the clinic once and didn’t come back again.”

Alan Brudner Active on the Public Service Front

Litigation partner **Alan Brudner** kept busy this spring on several public service fronts. He chaired the [Federal Bar Council](#)’s Summer Stipend Committee, which awarded stipends to financially needy law students working as summer interns in the United States Attorneys’ Offices in the Second Circuit. Also, as a member of the [Bioethical Issues Committee of the New York Bar Association](#), Alan aided in drafting commentary in connection with a proposed New York state law on medical aid in dying. This is related to the criteria and restrictions under which medical assistance, in the form of a prescription of lethal drugs, would be permitted and made available to carry out the wishes of a patient with an advanced terminal illness to end his/her life. As a result of his work on this committee, he has been selected by the New York Bar Association to serve as the committee’s chair beginning in September.

New York and DC Offices Host Pipeline Angels Boot Camp

Washington, DC Litigation associate **Genus Heidary**, with the support of New York office managing partner **Chris DiAngelo** and Washington, DC Litigation partner **Claudia Callaway**, hosted [Pipeline Angels](#) in our New York and Washington, DC offices for their angel investor boot camp and DC-based angel pitch summit in March and April. Pipeline Angels brings together women of all ages and professions to learn the nuts and bolts of angel investing—where an affluent individual provides capital for a business start-up in exchange for convertible debt or ownership equity—through its signature boot camp, and also facilitates angel investment through its pitch summits in women-led, for-profit social ventures. As part of the boot camp, Claudia served as a panelist, along with venture capital heavy-weights, discussing the post-investment relationship. Structured Finance and Securitization associate **Prachi Gokhale** served as a panelist, addressing the due diligence round of investing, and Genus and Corporate partner **Jonathan Weiner** instructed a boot camp class on term sheets for angel round investors. Genus hosted the DC cohort of Pipeline Angels for their pitch summit, as the angel investors interviewed the women-led social ventures for funding.

Washington, DC Team Volunteers at the DC Bar Pro Bono Program Advice and Referral Clinic

A team of attorneys from the Washington, DC office volunteered their time over Mother's Day weekend to assist walk-in clients at the [DC Bar Pro Bono Program Advice and Referral Clinic](#). The group, which included Real Estate associates **Schuyler Armstrong** and **Elizabeth Dominguez Yaeger**, Litigation associates **Caitlin Munley** and **Rajesh Srinivasan**, Litigation staff attorney **Samantha Swietlikowski**, and Structured Finance and Securitization associate **John Kozak**, along with volunteers from other firms, helped 77 clients at the Northwest location of the clinic, plus another 40 clients at the Southeast site, address a wide array of legal matters. Katten's next volunteering session will be on Saturday, September 8.

Honors

Katten Recipient of Y.O.U.'s Todd and Lora Wheeler Award

In May, the firm was selected by [Youth and Opportunity United](#) (Y.O.U.), an Evanston, Illinois-based organization serving at-risk youth, as this year's recipient of the Todd and Lora Wheeler Award. This honor is presented to an individual or organization that "provides transformative support to Y.O.U." CEO Maggie Blinn DiNovi said, "We are so appreciative of the tremendous support of Katten's Pro Bono Services division over many decades. Countless hours of legal advice have been contributed annually. Most recently, [Chicago Real Estate partner] **Mark Simon** at Katten was key in negotiating contracts and managing the legal work involving the construction of our youth center and headquarters." Forty Katten attorneys have donated almost 1,600 hours of legal services over the last 24 years to Y.O.U.

Janet Goelz Hoffman Called "One-Woman Force for Good" By Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

"Time. Or rather, lack of it. That's the answer most attorneys give when asked what stops them from doing more pro bono work," begins the [Pro Bono Spotlight article](#) published by the [Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights](#). "Then, there is **Janet Goelz Hoffman**: A one-woman force for good . . . " For her hundreds of hours of time and experience offered to help direct legal services to nonprofits, her encouragement and supervision of young attorneys, paralegals and interns on pro bono matters, and her recent legal work with the team she recruited on updating bylaws for 24 affiliates of the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI)-Illinois, Janet was spotlighted as this quarter's outstanding pro bono volunteer by the Committee. Mary Holleran, executive director of NAMI-Illinois, says, "Janet's expertise, patience and kindness has helped make a potentially overwhelming process manageable, and most importantly, it allows NAMI affiliates to provide quality and efficient services, and achieve the mission of supporting, educating and advocating for all those affected by mental health conditions."

Appointments and Memberships

Karen Artz Ash Elected Chair of Volunteers of Legal Service Board of Directors

National co-chair of Katten's Intellectual Property department and co-head of the Trademarks and Trademark Litigation practice **Karen Artz Ash** has been elected to the position of chair of the pro bono services organization [Volunteers of Legal Service](#) (VOLS) for a three-year term. She will also be serving as co-chair of the Transition Committee. "It is an exciting time for VOLS," said Karen, "as we are nearing the conclusion of our search for a new Executive Director. VOLS is proud to partner with Katten on so many initiatives and is grateful to Katten for the ongoing support."

Christopher Vazquez Joins LAF Young Professionals Board

Chicago Litigation associate **Christopher Vazquez**, who joined the firm in October 2017, has become part of the Young Professionals Board of [LAF](#). This board supports the mission and programs of LAF, helping to raise the resources needed to make equal justice a reality for the most vulnerable people in our community. Participation also provides members with the opportunity to expand their professional networks, develop leadership experience, meet professional ethical obligations and develop a personal philanthropic relationship with LAF.

Fundraising for the Public Good

Katten Recognized as Gold Level Donor in 2017 Raising the Bar in DC Leadership Circle

The Washington, DC office, in its first year participating in the [DC Access to Justice Commission](#)'s Raising the Bar in DC campaign, has been honored as a Gold Level Donor. Overall, DC-area firms donated over \$5.5 million to organizations that serve indigent District residents with urgent legal issues. This is the highest level of giving in its history. Peter Edelman, chair of the Commission and a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, said, "These funds are vital to seeing that more vulnerable District residents have access to legal representation in areas of such critical human needs as housing, domestic violence and family law."

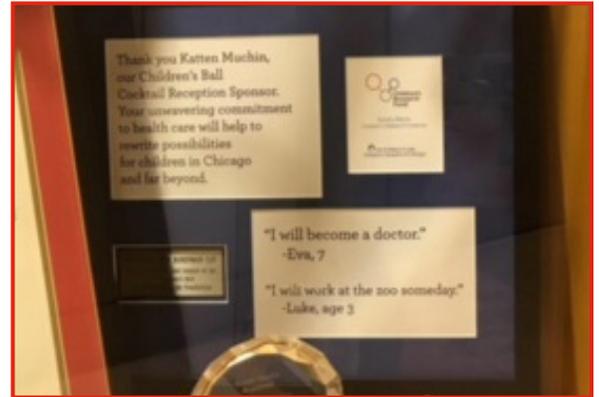


Katten Kicks Off Special Olympics Southern California Sponsorship

In 2018, Katten announced its sponsorship of [Special Olympics Southern California](#) (SOSC), an organization that enriches the lives of more than 34,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities through sports, education and athletic health. Earlier in June, the Los Angeles–Century City office cheered on our athletes at the Summer Games. Last year, Katten personnel volunteered at both the summer and fall games, entered a team of 25 Katten colleagues for a fundraiser to pull a Boeing 727 and hosted clients at the exclusive Pier del Sol on Santa Monica Pier. Chairman **Roger Furey** says: "Every sponsorship is important. We will continue to identify opportunities like SOSC in all of our office locations to help give back to our communities."

Katten Chicago Office Helps Raise More Than \$3.75 Million for The Children’s Research Fund

In December 2017, the [Children’s Research Fund](#) hosted its annual signature black tie gala, the Children’s Ball, themed “Stories: Rewriting the Possibilities,” at the Hilton Chicago. As a sponsor of the event, co-chaired by Corporate partner **Laura Keidan Martin**, Katten was instrumental in making the event a major success, helping to raise a record-breaking \$3.75 million to benefit pediatric medical research conducted through the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital. The institute has contributed more the \$115 million to support discoveries in cancer, heart disease, genetics and many other areas.



Katten Los Angeles—Century City Receives Team Participation Award in Public Counsel’s Run for Justice

Once, again, our Los Angeles—Century City office took to the streets of the city for [Public Counsel](#)’s annual Run for Justice, the signature run for SoCal’s top law firms and major corporations that helps raise money to support the organization’s life-changing legal work. In 2017, over 400 runners, walkers and joggers from 43 teams converged on Dodgers Stadium to run. This year, Katten was proud to sponsor the largest team in the event—with more than 45 attorneys and staff members, plus family and friends! Public Counsel was also pleased to report that the event set a new all-time fundraising record by raising more than \$159,000. Big thanks to the California director of office administration **Tanya Russell** and administrative services manager **Shelley Wissot** for their commitment to making this event happen for the entire Katten team.



Washington, DC Office Recognized as Top Contributor in Legal Aid 2017 Generous Associates Campaign

Generous associates throughout the DC legal community raised a record-shattering \$1.79 million from their colleagues and firms in 2017, with Katten’s DC office being recognized as one of the top five contributors in their size category. Litigation associate **Genus Heidary** and Transactional Tax Planning associate **Sarah Ma** spearheaded the Katten 2017 campaign that was responsible for the great results. The Generous Associates Campaign is a fundraising drive run by Washington, DC associates that kicked-off June 1, 2017. The critical funds raised allow the [Legal Aid Society](#) to continue to provide free legal services to the neediest members of the DC community in the areas of domestic violence/family, housing, public benefits and consumer law.

Chris Olsen Completes 545-Mile Cycling Journey To Support AIDS/LifeCycle

Chris Olsen, Litigation services counsel in the Century City office, completed a weeklong 545-mile trek with more than 2,300 other cyclists for the annual [AIDS/LifeCycle](#) ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The ride, which started at Cow Palace in Daly City and ended in downtown Los Angeles, raised more than \$16.6 million for the [Los Angeles LGBT Center](#) and the [San Francisco AIDS Foundation](#). “The advances in HIV medications have increased in the last several years,” says Chris, “and people with good insurance can lead very healthy and productive lives. But for people who don’t have the access and that kind of coverage, the Center and AIDS/LifeCycle are lifesavers. It’s me doing my part, rather than just writing a check, to raise awareness and, hopefully, have a bigger impact.



Katten Los Angeles—Century City Office Raises More Than \$3,400 for LA Regional Food Bank

The [LA Regional Food Bank](#)’s Food From the Bar (FFTB) Campaign is an annual five-week effort led by the legal community in Los Angeles, focusing on providing nutritious meals for children in Los Angeles county. Katten has been an active participant since 2012. Captained by **Nicole Callanan**, HR manager for the California offices, the 2018 campaign kicked off on May 1 and ended on May 31. A fundraising activity was held each week during the month of May, and through a bake sale, Thanks-A-Latte coffees, jeans days and a pizza lunch/raffle, the firm raised more than \$3,400. Every dollar equals four meals, so they were proud to say they were responsible for approximately 850 meals for those in need in the Los Angeles community!



From Grateful Clients

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

“I want to congratulate you, your firm and the dedicated Katten Muchin Rosenman attorneys who provided extraordinary pro bono services to the National Immigrant Justice Center’s (NIJC) clients in recent months.

- **Hannah Koesterer** and **Peter Wilson** successfully represented a gay man from Jamaica on an appeal to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The case involved issues of judicial bias and the question whether the Agency could properly expect a person to hide his sexual orientation to avoid torture. In addition to this positive outcome at the Court of Appeals, Katten attorney **Mark Ciani** obtained protection under the Convention Against Torture for the client before the Agency, while the appeals team (with additional help from Katten attorneys **Timothy White** and **Zachary Schmitz**) secured a significant fee award under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The client was released to his family after approximately three years in detention;
- **Alexandra McNicholas** obtained temporary protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for a young immigrant from Ecuador;

-
- **Nicole Saleem** obtained temporary protection under DACA for a young immigrant from Mexico.

Through your support, NIJC has been able to protect the safety and security of hundreds of immigrants and their families. Thank you for your leadership and dedication.”



From Timna Axel, Communications Manager at the [Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights](#), to graphic designer **Ed Ashe**:

“It has been a pleasure working with you on this [project], and there’s no way we would have been able to put together and print such a professional program for our participants on our own. The booklet will help more than 100 people tomorrow find their way to fair housing resources, organizations and activities at no charge.”



From David Ebert, co-founder of the [Animal Defense Partnership, Inc.](#), to Intellectual Property partner **Karen Artz Ash**:

“I wanted to thank you for getting Jerry (Jakubovic) involved in the [Tigers in America](#) trademark work. Had a call with him and our client yesterday, and he was terrific. Explained things well, was good with the client, and gave what I thought was solid advice on issues that the client and I raised. Thanks to him and thanks to you.”

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.

