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Katten Assisting “Rooftop Pastor” in Efforts to Transform Chicago Community Plagued by Violence

Pastor Corey Brooks made headlines earlier this year after he spent 94 days in the dead of winter atop the roof of an abandoned motel adjacent to his church in the Woodlawn neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago, in an effort to raise \$450,000 to purchase and demolish the building, which had become a haven for crime and drugs. His campaign, called [Project H.O.O.D. \(Helping Others Obtain Destiny\)](#), was a success—thanks in part to a \$100,000 donation from Tyler Perry on day 90—and the building came down on March 27. But that was just the beginning for Pastor Brooks. The “Rooftop Pastor” recently embarked on a nearly 3,000-mile walk across America to call attention to the violence plaguing Chicago and to raise \$15 million to build a state-of-the-art community center on the site of the old motel. The community center will provide area children and families with the same resources and activities available in more affluent neighborhoods, attacking four societal ills, as identified by Pastor Brooks—social, economic, educational and spiritual. Katten has committed to helping Pastor Brooks realize his vision.

Project
H.O.O.D.
Helping Others Obtain Destiny



Pastor Corey Brooks,
founder of Project
H.O.O.D.

After friends of Pastor Brooks asked **Mel Katten** to meet with him, the firm enthusiastically agreed to represent Project H.O.O.D. on a *pro bono* basis in its efforts to build the new community center. Mel, who is overseeing the firm’s work on the project and acting as a business consultant to Pastor Brooks, says he was impressed with Pastor Brooks’ approach and attitude, and that the community center could be “a game changer” for the resource-poor Woodlawn and Englewood neighborhoods. “We are greatly committed to helping Project H.O.O.D. raise the capital to start construction on the community center, something that is clearly lacking in that area,” says Mel. “There is nowhere in that three-mile range where kids can have a safe place to gather, where unemployed people or the elderly might go to receive counseling.” Chicago attorneys **Bob Wild** and **Seth Madorsky** are also involved in the project. Bob has worked on establishing tax-exempt status for Project H.O.O.D. and in developing the entity’s corporate governance policies and guidelines. Seth is handling real estate and real estate development matters.

On May 31 the firm helped Pastor Brooks kick off the [Project H.O.O.D. Walk Across America to End Violence](#) by co-sponsoring a pre-walk fundraising celebration along with leading architecture firm Perkins+Will, which will be designing the new community center *pro bono*. Accompanied by his two sons, Cobe, 11, and Desmond Marshall, 22, Pastor Brooks began his cross-country trek in New York’s Times Square on June 5 and expects to reach the Staples Center in Los Angeles on September 28, stopping in several major cities along the way.

Los Angeles Attorneys Achieve Hard-Won Victory for Brothers Facing Deportation

After more than five years, Katten clients Wilsor and Eduin Romero-Inestroza, brothers from Honduras, have been granted asylum pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA). Los Angeles litigation partner **Kristin Holland** and associates **Gloria Franke**, **Sara Karubian** and **Meegan Maczek** have represented the Inestrozas throughout the asylum process.

Wilsor and Eduin were born in Honduras and eventually abandoned by their parents. In 2005, when Wilsor was 12 and Eduin was 9, their mother left Honduras with their younger sister. Their father then left them with their uncle and cousins, who were physically abusive toward the boys. After enduring many months of abuse, the boys' cousin drove them to the Honduras/Guatemala border. Wilsor and Eduin then traveled for one month alone through Mexico and in May 2006 were detained while attempting to cross the border into the United States near Brownsville, Texas. The boys were sent to live with their uncle in Lancaster, California, where they continue to reside.

Katten began representing Wilsor and Eduin in March 2007. In July 2007, the boys missed a hearing because their guardian could not provide transportation. As a result, the Immigration Court issued a deportation order. Wilsor and Eduin filed a motion to reopen the removal proceedings, which was denied. They then appealed that decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

While their appeal was pending, the TVPRA was signed into law. Although the TVPRA was primarily aimed at preventing and prosecuting human trafficking, it did change the filing procedures for unaccompanied alien children (UACs) filing for asylum. Prior to the enactment of the TVPRA, UACs would typically defensively file their Form I-589 Applications for Asylum with the Immigration Court in removal proceedings. Section 235(d)(7)(B) of the TVPRA changed this procedure. UACs now file their Form I-589 Applications for Asylum with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which has initial jurisdiction over asylum applications of UACs.

The enactment of the TVPRA proved advantageous for Wilsor and Eduin. In April 2009, the BIA issued an order remanding their case back to the Immigration Court to determine whether Wilsor and Eduin were subject to the initial jurisdiction provision of the TVPRA, which would allow them to file asylum applications before the USCIS. The Immigration Court determined that Wilsor and Eduin were subject to the initial jurisdiction provision of the TVPRA and stayed their removal proceedings. They submitted Form I-589 Applications for Asylum with the USCIS in June 2011 and were interviewed by an asylum officer in August 2011.

Wilsor and Eduin were granted asylum in April 2012 and their removal proceedings were terminated in June 2012. They both reside with their aunt and uncle in California. Eduin, now 15 years old, will begin high school in the fall. Wilsor, now 18, just graduated from high school and will attend community college in the fall.

Katten Receives Outstanding Pro Bono Contribution Award from Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Katten was honored with an Outstanding *Pro Bono* Contribution Award for its work in support of gun violence prevention at the [Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence's](#) (LCPGV) 19th Anniversary Dinner on June 14. The award recognizes the efforts of Chicago litigators **Jonathan Baum**, **Jonathan Feld**, **Bonita Stone**, **Sharyn Castle** and **Jessica Price**, who represented LCPGV as *amicus curiae* in *Wilson v. Cook County*, a case before the Illinois Supreme Court involving a Second Amendment challenge to Cook County's ban on assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines. The team filed a brief on behalf of LCPGV that was joined by the City of Chicago, the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Based in San Francisco, LCPGV is the only national law center focused on providing comprehensive legal expertise in support of gun violence prevention and the promotion of smart gun laws that save lives.



Partner Shannon Broome accepts the firm's award from LCPGV legal director Juliet Leftwich.

Charlotte Attorneys Join Call 4ALL Pro Bono Legal Services Program

The North Carolina Bar Association Foundation has partnered with Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) to create [Call 4ALL](#), a new *pro bono* program that gives attorneys the chance to assist low-income individuals who qualify for legal aid, but cannot be served because of severe budget restrictions on North Carolina's legal aid entities. Call 4ALL volunteer attorneys provide advice or discrete services to pre-screened LANC clients in areas of law including private landlord/tenant, public and subsidized housing, Medicaid, disability and non-disability issues in Social Security matters, consumer collections, employee rights, custody, guardianship and simple estates. Volunteers are asked to commit to accept just one or two one-hour calls per month from LANC clients. The program offers a structured way for attorneys to meet their *pro bono* service goals within a limited scope of engagement, while providing essential assistance to LANC clients. LANC will even provide substantive law training as needed and may offer group training sessions that would allow volunteers to receive free CLE hours. Charlotte litigation partner [Richard Farley](#) has been recruiting his fellow Katten attorneys for the program and can provide additional information.



Join the Conversation on Providing Legal Services to Micro-Entrepreneurs at VOLS Event

The [Volunteers of Legal Service's Microenterprise Project](#) Advisory Council will host "Pro Bono Legal Services for Micro-Entrepreneurs" from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on July 11 at the [Brooklyn Creative League](#). Katten attorneys are invited to come meet other attorneys, agency staff, entrepreneurs and others who have been involved in the Microenterprise Project, and to share their experiences, advice and ideas. The council will facilitate an organized conversation on increasing the quantity and improving the quality of *pro bono* legal services for micro-entrepreneurs, followed by a networking reception. To register for the event, click [here](#). For more information, contact [David Sherman](#).

Katten Attorneys Run for Charity on Both Coasts

Katten will be honored at Public Counsel's Annual *Pro Bono* Awards Reception on July 24 for its participation in the 2012 Run for Justice in Los Angeles. The firm took first place for Outstanding Team Participation and second place for the Karen Paull Justice Cup, awarded in recognition of the most money raised. Held in conjunction with the Los Angeles Marathon, the annual Run for Justice helps raise funds in support of Public Counsel, the largest *pro bono* law office in the country. Despite torrential rain, this year approximately 80 Katten team members came out to support Public Counsel and cheer on their teammates completing the 5K run around Dodger Stadium.



More than 20 attorneys and staff from the Washington, D.C., office, and their friends and family, joined legal professionals from across the city on June 9 for the [Lawyers Have Heart 10K](#)—Washington's largest 10K race. More than 5,500 runners and walkers turned out to support the American Heart Association at this annual event, which has raised more than \$8 million since its inception. Corporate associate **Sean Gordon** took top honors for the team, finishing in a blazing 38:34 (and 52nd place overall); litigation secretary **Jillian Friend** took the top spot among the women with a time of 51:22.



Feminist Majority Foundation and Ms. Magazine Rely on Katten to Ensure Publishing Excellence

Los Angeles litigation partner **David Halberstadter** is regularly asked by longtime *pro bono* client the [Feminist Majority Foundation](#) (FMF), “If we publish this, will we get sued?” Founded in 1987, FMF is a cutting-edge organization dedicated to women’s equality, reproductive health and non-violence. Since 2001, FMF has published [Ms. magazine](#), now celebrating its 40th anniversary. David reviews each draft issue from cover to cover prior to publication, and makes sure that the magazine can support every factual assertion that it plans to print about every person mentioned in the issue; if not, he makes recommendations about creative ways in which the story can be revised to reduce the risk that a claim will be asserted. He provides similar advice in connection with *Ms.* magazine’s blog sites. As a result, David says he knows more about the issues of importance to women than he could ever have imagined—which never fails to surprise his wife and two daughters. He also gets a kick out of being one of the only men listed in the magazine’s masthead.



David isn’t the only Katten partner with a masthead credit. Los Angeles entertainment and media partner **Susan Grode** assists *Ms.* magazine with its negotiations and agreements for articles, artwork and the enlarging scope of their uses worldwide. She has worked with *Ms.* for many years on managing and protecting its enormous archive of both historic and current stories, reportage and other intellectual property, while providing guidance for future use in the electronic and online universes. In addition, Los Angeles litigation partner **Stacey McKee Knight** provides labor and employment advice to both FMF and the magazine.

Maryann Waryjas Featured Speaker at Girl Scouts Celebration

Chicago corporate partner **Maryann Waryjas** represented Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana as the featured presenter at a joint celebration of more than 100 years of service with the Junior League of Chicago and the Woman’s Athletic Club of Chicago. The Centennial Celebration, held June 6 at the Woman’s Athletic Club, honored the individual accomplishments of the organizations’ members and their collective impact on the community. Maryann gave a presentation reviewing the history of the Girl Scouts and highlighting its 100th anniversary initiative, [ToGetHer There](#), which encourages girls to be informed, engaged members of society and future role models and leaders.

From a Grateful Client



Chicago real estate associate **Ari Krigel** was praised by *pro bono* client [Northlight Theatre](#), one of the largest and most respected theaters in the Chicago area, for his assistance in negotiating the lease for Northlight’s new scene shop. Northlight’s executive director wrote:

Dear Ari,

Now that we have signed our lease for the new Northlight scene shop, I wanted to take a moment to thank you and Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP for all your help. As a small non-profit theatre, your willingness to provide assistance on a *pro bono* basis made a deep and meaningful contribution to our company.

This was a much more complicated lease than we have ever previously had, and your guidance was invaluable to us. You provided us with outstanding work on the project. We thank you for being so meticulous, collaborative, and responsive, working well with our staff and with the landlord’s lawyer. Your professionalism and expertise in the field provided Northlight with top-quality representation as well as a fair and favorable final lease. We appreciate your service deeply and hope to work with you in the future.

— Timothy Evans

Mid-Year Charitable Contributions Update

Through Katten Cares and with funding from the Katten Muchin Rosenman Foundation, Inc., the firm invests in our communities by contributing to more than 300 charitable and nonprofit organizations each year. From major cultural events to medical research to disaster relief, Katten sponsors a variety of programs that support education, arts and culture, health and welfare and human rights.

In the first half of 2012 alone, the Katten Muchin Rosenman Foundation and Katten Cares have contributed more than \$1 million to charitable endeavors. In 2011, donations exceeded \$2.1 million. In particular, Katten is committed to organizations that support children and education, health care and other wellness-related groups, and legal assistance and *pro bono* charities. Our contributions have included:

Children and Education

Boy Scouts of America
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Career Education Scholarship Fund
Chicago Children's Advocacy Center
Chicago Lights
Chicago Summer Business Institute
Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School
City Year Greater Philadelphia
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
GOAL (Giving Open Access to Learning)
Good Shepherd Services
Harlem RBI
Illinois Council on Economic Education
Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth
Rainbows
Rainbows for All Children
Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)
Summer on the Hill
The Family Center
Urban Alliance
The Whipple Foundation
YouthBuild Lake County

Health Care and Wellness

Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
Carolina HealthCare Foundation
Center for Enriched Living
Charlotte Bridge Home
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation
City of Hope
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Disabled Sports USA

Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles
Families of SMA
Foundation for Living Beauty
Friends of Prentice
Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation (GIRF)
Helping Hand Center
Hospital House of Charlotte
Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition
Integrated Medical Foundation, Inc.
Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA)
Jack Martin Fund Inc.
Lance Armstrong Foundation
LUNgevity Foundation
Make a Wish Foundation
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council
Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter
National Kidney Foundation
Northwest Community Hospital Foundation
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
R&W Foundation
Race for Hope – DC
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Resurrection Development Foundation
Riverside HealthCare Foundation
Rush University Medical Center
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Tender Loving Care Community Association
The Fund for HHC
United Hospital Fund

Legal Assistance/Pro Bono

Anti-Defamation League
Bet Tzedek
Business & Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI)
Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic

CARPLS
Center for Civic Mediation
Center for Disability & Elderly Law
Chicago Bar Foundation
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation
Children's Law Center
Community Economic Development Law Project
Community Impact
Constitutional Rights Foundation
DC Bar *Pro Bono* Program
District Alliance for Safe Housing
Domestic Violence Legal Clinic
Federal Bar Foundation
Fordham Law School
Lawyers for the Creative Arts
Legal Aid Society
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Legal Counsel for the Elderly
Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont/Legal Aid of N.C.
MALDEF
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National LGBT Bar Foundation
National Veterans Legal Services Program
National Women's Law Center
Pro Bono Partnership
Public Allies Chicago
Public Counsel
Public Interest Law Initiative
Sanctuary for Families
Survivors & Advocates for Empowerment, Inc.
Volunteers of Legal Services
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights