

Securing Justice

Julia Mazur Helps Win Freedom for Prisoner Serving Life Sentence

Chicago Intellectual Property associate **Julia Mazur** helps win a truly remarkable victory. After serving 24 years of a life sentence, her pro bono client, Adam Gray, was finally released from prison on May 2. Adam was arrested when he was just 14 years old for allegedly starting a fire in a two-flat that killed two residents. He “confessed” after seven hours of interrogation by the police, during which Adam had no access to an attorney or any other adult. In addition to Adam’s statement, the state’s case relied heavily on Chicago police and fire department experts, who testified that burn patterns and chemicals present in the wood debris indicated that an accelerant was used to start the fire. This testimony was based on what is now known to be junk science. Several preeminent experts all agreed that not only was there no evidence that an accelerant was used, but there was no evidence that an arson had even occurred. This expert testimony also helped to show that key aspects of Adam’s statement could not have been true.

After its investigation in response to Adam’s post-conviction petition, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office agreed that Adam was entitled to a new trial. The judge, however, denied the parties’ joint motion for a retrial late last year. Ultimately, the State’s Attorney agreed that Adam’s convictions should be dismissed entirely. The parties jointly moved the Illinois Appellate Court to enter an order dismissing the underlying indictment and releasing Adam. The court granted the motion and entered the order the next morning. Adam is back in Chicago with his family. Julia began working on Adam’s case as a third-year law student at the University of Chicago in 2011, and brought it with her when she joined Katten. The team representing Adam included Julia, attorneys from The University of Chicago’s Exoneration Project, and attorneys from Jenner & Block.

New York Attorneys Represent Producers of “Stand for Rights: A Benefit for the ACLU”

New York Intellectual Property special counsel **David Sherman** led a team of Katten attorneys in representing the producers of “[Stand for Rights: A Benefit for the ACLU](#),” a modern-day telethon on Facebook Live that raised more than \$500,000 (and counting) for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The event featured appearances from Hollywood A-listers such as Tom Hanks, Tina Fey, Alec Baldwin, Amy Poehler, Paul Rudd, Steve



PLI Seeks Pro Bono Attorneys To Tell Their Stories for Podcasts

The [Practising Law Institute](#) (PLI) is developing a three-part podcast series that aims to excite private attorneys to do pro bono work and lessen any misgivings they may have about undertaking such work. Each program in the series will run approximately 30 minutes. Alicia Aiken, a veteran legal aid attorney who has conducted many successful trainings for Katten, will be the host of the series. She will be joined by pro bono attorneys and clients who have had successful pro bono legal experiences. PLI has specifically asked for Katten attorneys to participate in this project. If you are interested in participating, please contact Director of Pro Bono Services [Jonathan Baum](#). This is open to Katten attorneys in all US offices.

Buscemi, Jane Krakowski, Tracy Morgan, Padma Lakshmi, Uzo Aduba, Jon Hamm, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Zosia Mamet, Andrew Rannells, Fred Armisen, Cecily Strong, Colin Jost and Ike Barinholtz, and musical performances by Usher, The Roots, Ryan Adams, and Norah Jones, among others. David, together with New York Intellectual Property partner **Doron Goldstein** and Trusts and Estates associates **Lauren Dell** and **Cynthia Reed**, assisted the event's producers in forming a nonprofit entity, securing rights to use a wide range of audio-visual and graphic content, preparing form releases for participants, and negotiating multiple sponsorship agreements, including one with *The Huffington Post*. The event was broadcast live from New York City on March 31 via the Facebook pages of Stand for Rights 2017, Funny or Die and *The Huffington Post*.



Claudia Callaway Helps Save the Home of a Bread for the City “Walk In” Client

In January, Washington, DC Consumer Finance Litigation partner **Claudia Callaway** volunteered at a [Bread for the City](#) “Walk In” clinic, where she met a client who wanted to get out of a contract for the sale of his house. He was raised and had lived in the house, located in a gentrifying neighborhood in northwest Washington, DC, his entire life. He and his sister had inherited the house upon their parents’ deaths.

In October 2016, they sold the house to a buyer to whom they were introduced by a neighbor. They were told they did not need a realtor—that a realtor would just take money from them. While they originally agreed to a sale price of \$340,000, upon inspection, the buyer came back and argued that because of the repairs necessary for the front porch, the sale price should be \$310,000. Soon after signing the sales contract, they were notified that it had been assigned to a development company that had paid more than the price they received. They learned that the estimated value of the house exceeded \$450,000. In November 2016, the developer sued them to force a sale of the home.

After sending a letter to the developer, the original buyer and the “helpful” neighbor outlining potential fraudulent inducement and DC civil rights claims, Claudia was able to unwind the entire transaction. The lawsuit against the clients to force the sale was dismissed by the developer, and they now have clear title to the home, which they plan on selling at market value, using a realtor.

Iraq War Veteran Secures Deed to Childhood Home

Chicago Litigation associate **Gina Payne**—assisted by Trusts & Estates partner **Phil Tortorich** and Litigation partner **Ted Helwig**—successfully quieted title to the home of a pro bono client named Clarence, a veteran of the Iraq war. Clarence had been living in the home since his childhood. When his father passed away, Clarence mistakenly believed that the home had been formally deeded to him, and as such, had been paying all the property taxes and making significant improvements to the home.

Two years ago, some of Clarence’s distant cousins filed a lawsuit against him, alleging that they were entitled to partition of the home because their grandmother, the owner, had died without a will, and the home had never been deeded to Clarence’s father, to Clarence or to anyone else. The Katten team defended Clarence in the lawsuit; located all of his grandmother’s remaining heirs; and secured a settlement, deeding the remaining heirs’ interest to Clarence or defaulting them in the litigation, quieting title to the home through adverse possession and working with a title company to issue a title policy in Clarence’s name.

Katten Team Helps Geneva Foundation With Deed in Lieu

Chicago Real Estate associates **Sophia Popovic** and **Emily Thomas** represented [The Geneva Foundation](#)—an organization helping transition young people emerging from foster care to adulthood—in the transfer of its mix-use commercial property located on the west side of Chicago. The Foundation was in the process of winding up its services at the end

of 2016, and the commercial property up for sale was its last major asset. The property had some environmental issues that needed to be addressed, and the buyers involved ultimately decided to walk away from the deal. The Foundation then decided that instead of placing the building back on the market, it wanted to transfer the property over to its lender, The Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF), via a deed in lieu. The team drafted the necessary documents and closed on the deal in May. After that transfer, CCLF reached out to Katten for representation in the sale of the same property to a new set of buyers. CCLF is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to provide organizations with flexible and affordable financing and technical assistance, with a goal of stabilizing and benefitting low- to moderate-income neighborhoods and communities in Chicago. Sophia and Emily represented CCLF in the second deal for the same property and closed on the transaction on June 15. Environmental and Workplace Safety partner **Nancy Rich** provided guidance regarding the property’s environmental issues, and Real Estate partner **Mark Simon** supervised the team on the real estate issues.

Lawyers in the Classroom Mock Trial a Huge Success

Chicago Real Estate associate **Patrick Filice**, together with the team of Katten attorneys and staff listed below, brought law to the classroom at [Jose De Diego Community Academy](#) through a wonderful mock trial event that garnered an outstanding response from the students.

The trial, held annually in Katten’s mock courtroom, is a culmination of a program in which students learn about rights, responsibilities and the rule of law. Organized by the [Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago](#) (CRFC), the students who took part benefited greatly from the knowledge and enthusiasm that the Katten team gave to the lessons and preparation for this day. Kathy Miller, CRFC interim executive director, wrote: “At times we could watch the critical thinking skills that certain students had mastered being exhibited on the spot. There was true excitement in your courtroom. A number of students polled are now considering careers in the practice of law.” John Navarro, an eighth grade teacher at the school added, “During the mock trial, the people at Katten were helpful and understanding. What your staff does for our kids is beyond generous, it’s memorable . . . we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”



Participants:

Timothy Cross (Associate, Real Estate)

Stacy Cundy (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Daniel Elrod (Associate, Real Estate)

Evan Epstein (Associate, Real Estate)

Reannon Fanai Danesh (Compliance Counsel, Conflicts)

Jordon Feffer (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Mitchel Garnett (Associate, Corporate)

Joshua Goldstein (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Jason Gorczyński (Partner, Real Estate)

Lyndsey Greenfield (Associate, Corporate)

Elizabeth Hermann Smith (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Cassie Hightman (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Amanda Hoffman (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Matthew Holub (Associate, Intellectual Property Litigation)

Renee Kenyon (Legal Executive Assistant, Real Estate)

Andrew Lovitt (Associate, Commercial Finance)

Vincent Lucchese (Associate, Corporate)

Thomas Maas (Special Counsel, Intellectual Property)

Bari Nathan (Staff Attorney, Intellectual Property)

Sophia Popovic (Associate, Real Estate)

Marie Salter (Associate, Real Estate)

Michael Savage (Associate, Real Estate)

Brian Spangler (Associate, Real Estate)

George Stowe (Associate, Corporate)

Emily Thomas (Associate, Real Estate)

Jason Vismantas (Associate Real Estate)

DC Office Helps Georgetown Heritage in Revitalization Project

Structured Finance and Securitization partner **Seth Messner**, Litigation associate **Jay Kozak** and Real Estate associate **Schuyler Armstrong** from the Washington, DC office assisted the [Georgetown Heritage Society](#) in negotiating an agreement with landscape architecture and urban design practice James Corner Field Operations in connection with Georgetown Heritage's comprehensive plan to revitalize a one-mile section of the C&O Canal Historical Park, located in Georgetown. Community planning meetings have commenced, and the community is enthusiastic about the future of the revitalized canal area. The Georgetown Heritage Society was created to restore, revitalize and reimagine the national park assets in Georgetown.

Serving the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center for 16 Years

When it comes to helping Chicago's children, Government and Public Finance associate **Michael Melzer** is the latest in a long line of Katten attorneys to do so. He has been involved with the [Chicago Children's Advocacy Center](#) since 2009, and has served as the organization's pro bono general counsel for the last two years—a role that has been held by a Katten attorney since the Center opened in 2001. In addition, Employment Law and Litigation partner **Julie Gottshall** has helped with reviewing a discrimination charge from the Illinois Department of Human Rights and also with helping determine what impact the Fair Labor Standards Act's change for exempt employee status would have on the Center's operations.

DC Office Attorneys Continue Service at Bar Pro Bono Center Advice & Referral Clinic

Washington, DC attorneys, including Structured Finance and Securitization partner **Seth Messner**, Tax Planning associate **Sarah Ma**, and Litigation associate **John Kozak**, volunteered their time on Saturday, May 13 to assist walk-in clients at the DC Bar's Pro Bono Center Advice & Referral Clinic. The clinic is designed to provide brief services. The Katten attorneys, along with other volunteers, helped 80 clients at the Northwest location of the clinic address a wide array of legal matters.

Without great volunteers like the people above, the clinic would not be able to provide much-needed legal services to the local community. Please contact Real Estate partner [Julia Schmidt](#) to join us for our next session on **Saturday, September 9**. Thank you, again, to our volunteers!

Chicago Attorneys Represent Victim of Police's Excessive Force

Through the Settlement Assistance Program of the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago Intellectual Property Litigation partner **Floyd Mandell** and intern **Jillian Schurr** are representing plaintiff Leslie McGee in a federal civil rights case. Ms. McGee alleged that she approached three suburban Lynwood police officers to find out what they were doing with her son, only to be roughed up, handcuffed and thrown against the hood of their squad car. She was then arrested for resisting arrest and obstructing an officer in the course of his duties. She was later found innocent of any criminal charges. Ms. McGee seeks compensation for the excessive force used against her and the humiliation she suffered.

Honors

Katten Named a DVLC 2017 Champion of Justice

On May 11, the [Domestic Violence Legal Clinic](#) (DVLC) held its annual benefit in Chicago, at which it honored Katten as a 2017 Champion of Justice. Led by Director of Pro Bono Services **Jonathan Baum**, Katten attorneys have worked with the DVLC pro bono project for many years, during which they have dedicated thousands of hours to representing

dozens of clients—including DVLC itself, when its work has been challenged by disgruntled adversaries. In accepting the award on behalf of the firm, Jonathan said, “I think that a lot of what drives me—and our firm—to pro bono work generally, and to domestic violence work in particular, is that I have always hated bullies.” Led by Insolvency and Restructuring partner **Paige Barr**, who serves on DVLC’s board of directors, Katten has also provided space to hold several DVLC events, including Breakfast with Julie DiCaro, where attendees learned about the relationship between domestic violence and sports media; an extremely successful trivia night for the DVLC Young Professionals Board and their guests; and regular meetings of the board of directors, where gummy bears and snack mix helped fuel many crucial decisions. By hosting these events, Katten helped spread awareness, educate attendees, and made it possible for DVLC to operate successfully.

New York Attorneys Awarded Empire State Counsel Pro Bono Award

Katten is proud to announce that all of the following attorneys have received the [New York State Bar Association](#) Empire State Counsel Pro Bono awards and certificates for their extraordinary pro bono contributions in 2016:

Alireza Abedin (*Associate, Real Estate*)

Karen Artz Ash (*National Co-head, Intellectual Property*)

Alexandra Caleca (*Staff Attorney, Intellectual Property*)

Jonathan Byer (*Associate, Trusts and Estates*)

Neil Carbone (*Partner, Trusts and Estates*)

Matthew Celano (*Associate, Litigation*)

Mark Ciani (*Associate, Litigation*)

Debasha Cox (*Associate, Corporate*)

Lauren Dell (*Associate, Trusts and Estates*)

Guy Dempsey (*Of Counsel, Futures and Derivatives*)

Jonathan Faust (*Partner, Litigation*)

Jessica Garrett (*Associate, Intellectual Property*)

Michael Gordon (*Partner, Litigation*)

Kenneth McBrady (*Associate, Litigation*)

Tenley Mochizuki (*Associate, Litigation*)

Cynthia Reed (*Associate, Trusts and Estates*)

Camille Richard (*Associate, White Collar, Investigations and Compliance*)

Michael Rosensaft (*Partner, Litigation*)

Jonathan Rotenberg (*Associate, Litigation*)

David Sherman (*Special Counsel, Intellectual Property*)

Shannon Traylor (*Associate, Corporate*)

Katten Is Honored for Work for BEDS Plus

Chicago Real Estate Litigation partner **Tim Patenode** was an honored guest at a recent groundbreaking and lunch hosted by [BEDS Plus](#). BEDS’ mission is to aid the homeless and other vulnerable individuals in Chicago’s western suburbs by providing daytime support, emergency overnight shelter, case management and other basic needs. To advance its mission, BEDS sought to develop a permanent supportive housing structure on Ogden Avenue in LaGrange, Illinois. The structure will be a three-story brick building, housing 20 individuals in single apartments on the top floors, while providing counseling, job training and referrals on the first floor.



After BEDS obtained the necessary zoning, it faced a lawsuit brought to scare off project financing and block the project by exploiting an alleged defect in the land title. The Chicago Litigation team, including partner **Brian Poronsky** and associate **Matthew Haws**, stepped in to get the complaint dismissed, which set the stage for a highly favorable settlement that cleared the cloud on title and allowed the project to immediately proceed. On April 21, Katten attended the project’s groundbreaking and received public thanks from BEDS and its many sponsors for our pro bono litigation services. Katten, in turn, thanked BEDS for the opportunity to contribute to its vital work helping the homeless.

Wakschlag Family Honored with JCFS Award

Each year, the [Jewish Child & Family Services](#) (JCFS) of Chicago presents the What's Possible Award to individuals or groups who have made it their life's work to redefine the scope of what's possible for people with disabilities in the Chicago Jewish community and beyond. This year, this prestigious award is being given to Chicago Government and Public Finance partner **Milt Wakschlag** and his family. As the founding members and driving forces behind [Keshet](#)—an organization that provides community-based services to people with disabilities and has served as a model to Jewish communities across the country—Milt and his wife, Laurie, have championed the rights of the marginalized to live in the community among their peers with and without disabilities. They also are contributing architects of the parent-professional collaborative vision that is the basis of their children, Tmima and Efrain's JCFS-sponsored Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA), which has become a hub for the JCFS CILA cluster. Milt's daughter, Shira, serves as legal director for [The Arc](#), a national disability rights organization. With their vision and activism, the Wakschlags will continue to push the boundaries of what's possible for years to come.



Karen Artz Ash Elected President of VOLS

New York Intellectual Property partner **Karen Artz Ash** was elected to the position of president of [Volunteers of Legal Service](#) (VOLS), and will succeed to the position of chairman in June 2018. Founded by leaders of the New York City Bar, VOLS has recruited and trained lawyers from leading firms to volunteer to assist low-income New Yorkers for more than 30 years.

New Pro Bono Co-Chair for Texas Offices

Houston Litigation associate **Emily Rochy** has agreed to serve as co-chair for the firm's Texas pro bono efforts, joining Environmental and Workplace Safety associate Katie Hobson in Austin.

Snapshots of Service

Meet Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and the De Diego Legal Clinic

(Reprinted from the May 2017 *LAF eNewsletter*)

It's 4:00 p.m., and the students at [Jose De Diego Community Academy](#) have gone home for the day. [LAF](#) [Legal Assistance Foundation] staff and pro bono volunteers gather in a small cluster of rooms in the school's basement, in what used to be the nurses office. On the third Wednesday of each month, this tight space serves as headquarters for the Katten De Diego Legal Clinic, a partnership between Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and LAF that provides free legal services to low-income residents of surrounding west Wicker Park (or east Humboldt Park, depending on whom you ask). (Read "[Meet Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and the De Diego Legal Clinic](#)")

Not That Kind of Lawyer: Jonathan Baum Featured in Housing Discrimination Series

Director of Pro Bono Services **Jonathan Baum** was interviewed for the [Chicago Lawyers' Committee](#)'s series on source of income (SOI) discrimination in Chicago. Jonathan noted that SOI cases are often rooted in stereotypes, stating, "People think, 'I don't want a person who gets a [Section 8] voucher to live here because this is what voucher holders are like.'" He noted that housing discrimination is an important issue for him. "There are a few basic necessities to live, like food and shelter. Housing is a basic thing you need. And there's a lot of discrimination that flows from housing discrimination. For example, schools. If you can't live in certain places, you also miss out on all of the services,

especially education, that you'd get in that neighborhood. It has a ripple effect." Jonathan's advice to attorneys interested in getting involved in pro bono cases is, "View it as a real case. Don't think it won't require research, effort and analysis. The law is the law, and many pieces of civil rights litigation are just as intellectually challenging as commercial litigation. You have to be prepared—good intentions are not enough. You have to apply your best legal skills and attention, as you would for a paying client." (Read [Not That Kind of Lawyer](#))

Fundraising For the Public Good

Mushball Round Up: Miller Lifts Katten to Semifinals

Katten had a great showing at the Legal Mushball Classic to benefit the [Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy](#) for the third year in a row. As the day went on, getting increasingly hotter and hotter (with less and less shade), the Katten team only grew stronger. Participating in five separate games, we walked away with four wins, taking out teams like Latham & Watkins LLP, Edgeworth Economics, L.L.C. (twice), and Walsh Colucci Lubeley & Walsh PC. The Walsh Colucci game was perhaps the most exciting, with the lead shifting several times, and Washington, DC Real Estate partner **Glenn Miller** hitting a walk-off three-run homer to qualify us for the semifinals! All in all the event raised over \$160,000 for the National Youth Training Program—it is the program's biggest fundraiser of the year—which benefited children in the DC community. Special thanks go to Real Estate partner **Julia Schmidt** and associate **Schuyler Armstrong**, Corporate associate **Brett Seifarth**, and Litigation associate **John Kozak** for all their hard work behind the scenes.



Katten Runs for Justice

On Saturday, March 18, the Century City and Downtown Los Angeles offices participated in the 14th Annual Run for Justice to raise funds for [Public Counsel](#)—the largest pro bono, public interest law firm in the country. The 5K/3.3 mile fun run/walk, held annually at Dodger Stadium, takes place in conjunction with the Los Angeles Marathon.

Spearheaded by partner and Public Counsel board member **Joel Weiner**, California director of office administration **Tanya Russell** and administrative services manager **Shelley Wissot**, Katten once again led the local legal community with more than 56 team members participating in the event. In addition to being an official sponsor of the event, Katten raised a little more than \$3,300 through in-office fundraising and contributions made by the attorneys, staff and friends of Katten.



Washington, DC Office Raises \$20,740 for Food From the Bar Campaign To Fight Hunger

Attorneys and staff from the Washington, DC office provided food and monetary donations and/or volunteered to support [Food From the Bar](#), the Washington, DC legal community's annual fundraising campaign in partnership with the [Capital Area Food Bank](#). The month-long campaign was capped by Katten's third annual regatta fundraiser, which involved 10 teams of attorneys and staff racing down the Potomac River in kayaks. Team Strawberry Fields,



consisting of Real Estate partner **John Muir** and Aviation partner **Tom Healey**, and sponsored by Real Estate partner **Wendy Fields**, rowed away with this year's win! In total, the office raised \$10,370 (which is matched by the firm) and 418 pounds of food to be given to children, seniors and families in need.

Real Estate associates **Elizabeth Dominguez** and **Michael Goodwin**; Litigation associate **John Kozak**; Corporate associate **Lauren Haahr**; Real Estate paralegal **Lisa Hoffman**; Litigation legal executive assistants **Dawn Goodloe** and **Rosemary Hood**; human resources coordinator **Karen Kelly**, facilities coordinator **Terry Hanson**, administrative services legal executive assistant **Theresa Lee**; and contract food services employee **Toufik Sbihi**, all worked diligently to make this year's campaign a success.



Los Angeles Offices Donate 750 Meals Through Food From the Bar

The 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**, Human Resources Manager for the California offices (pictured with son, Liam, on the far right, bottom row), the 2017 campaign kicked off on May 4 and ended June 2. 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 \$3,000. Every dollar equals four meals, so we are proud to say we were responsible for approximately 750 meals for those in need in the Los Angeles community.



Katten NY: Mark Your Calendars for the 2017 LSNYC Pro Bono Fun Run

NY office attorneys and staff . . . come join Intellectual Property associate and Associate Advisory Board member **Jessica Garrett** for the 2017 Pro Bono Fun Run in Brooklyn's Prospect Park on Saturday, July 22, to benefit [Legal Services NYC](#) (LSNYC). For nearly 50 years, LSNYC has fought poverty and sought racial, social and economic justice for low-income New Yorkers. So get your running shoes on and be a voice for justice and a force for change!

Some Words From Our Clients

In June 2016, Los Angeles—Century City Litigation associate **Joanna Hill**, under the guidance of Litigation partner **Steve Cochran**, settled a Section 1983 pro bono case for former inmate Gregory Kuebler on the eve of his trial. Following the settlement, Gregory dashed off an email to Joanna, in which he expressed his gratefulness for Katten's representation. It stated, "I am not certain how much [you] or, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP know the utter and complete gratitude I have for your efforts, so I want to make it absolutely clear: There are simply no words for how thankful I am! So, from the top, middle, and bottom of my heart, thank you!" He signed it, "Forever in your debt, Gregory J. Kuebler." In March of this year, Joanna received another note . . . this time a handwritten one from Gregory's mother, Deborah Kuebler, to inform her of his passing on February 20. While the cause of his death was still uncertain at that time, Deborah wanted to let Joanna—and the firm—know what had transpired in the time since the settlement. "Gregg was doing just great," she said. "He used his settlement money to purchase a laptop and books for his college classes. He was a full-time student, loved his classes and was making good grades. He would have graduated with an AA degree this year, and he had plans to go to get a four-year degree." She continued, "Thank you for all you and your staff did for him. He loved working with all of you and had high hopes for the future."

From Benna Crawford, supervisory attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation’s Children and Families Practice Group regarding Chicago Commercial Finance associate **Alana Ibarra**:

“This morning, Alana confidently strode into court, stepped up to the bench and got a De Diego client divorced!”

“Client’s now ex-husband is currently serving a 12-year sentence for predatory criminal sexual assault. Alana drafted all of the court pleadings, got the husband served, counseled the client through the process, and then today finally entered the divorce judgment. The client was extremely grateful. Alana did a fantastic job and should be commended! She stepped outside her comfort zone for a very deserving client and handled herself like a real pro in court.”

From Lycrecia Parks, vice president of Portfolio Management at Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF) to Chicago Real Estate associate **Sophia Popovic**:

“On behalf of CCLF, thank you for the hard work you put into seeing this transaction to the finish line. We could never have done this without you. Your relentlessness was unwavering.”

“You helped turn a bad situation into a better one. Although we as an organization are sad Geneva was forced to close their doors, we are happy you assisted in making the close-out experience bearable. Sophia you are absolutely PHENOMENAL.”

From Dana Harbaugh, VISTA attorney at the [Legal Assistance Foundation](#) (LAF) to Chicago practice manager **Megan McKeon** about a client Megan saw at the Katten Legal Clinic at Jose De Diego Community Academy:

“I just got off the phone with Elizabeth Kozlowski (she came into an inheritance and wanted to know how it would affect her public benefits). She was absolutely effusive about the help you gave her at the clinic. She said you were so nice, patient, and went above and beyond to help her understand everything. I thought you’d like to know that you made a positive impact at the clinic and our clients are so grateful!”

From Jim Burket, Glen Ellyn resident spearheading the [Race Around the Lake](#) bike competition for the Tour of Lake Ellyn Foundation, about Chicago Corporate associate **Ilana Schwartz**:

“I’d like to thank you for all of Katten’s assistance in setting up the NFP for the Tour of Lake Ellyn Foundation. Ms. Schwartz did an epic job. Very fast, very thorough. Tax ID in hand, I have opened a bank account, and I am now capable of gunning for sponsors.”

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.

