

2018 *Pro Bono Service Awards*



2018 HONOREES

NOAH BALCH

CRISTINA BAUTISTA

ZACHARY DENVER

DAVID HALBERSTADTER

GENUS HEIDARY

JOANNA HILL

TIMOTHY KNUDSEN

NICK MORRELL

CYNTHIA REED

SCOTT RESNIK

LINDSEY SMITH

ELIZABETH HERMANN SMITH

THE KATTEN MAG TEAM

PETER WILSON

Pro Bono Service Awards Presentation Ceremony

July 2018

The Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP Pro Bono Service Awards recognize outstanding pro bono services provided by our attorneys. Recipients are selected not on the basis of a single, remarkable “win,” but because they have demonstrated a consistent commitment, over time, to using their legal skills on behalf of those in need. The recipients are partners and associates, transactional lawyers and litigators, engaged in work that covers the full range of legal practice.

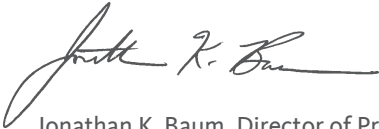
The individuals honored this year have provided a remarkable variety of pro bono legal services:

- Serving in neighborhood clinics to provide counseling to low-income individuals on basic legal issues, including family law, public benefits, housing and estate planning;
- Assisting an organization working to remove and destroy the landmines and other unexploded ordnance left by wars around the world through a comprehensive array of legal services including employment contracting, grant review and submission, corporate governance, and guidance on anti-corruption and anti-fraud issues;
- Securing adoptions for young children, resolving child custody disputes and obtaining legal protections for victims of domestic violence;
- Winning appellate reversal of wrongful criminal convictions, seeking clemency for long-imprisoned non-violent offenders and working for parole of incarcerated women who have been victims of abuse;
- Working to obtain asylum in the United States for refugees fleeing persecution in China, Guatemala, Iran, Jamaica, Russia, Syria, Uganda and Venezuela;

- Providing tax counseling, conducting internal investigations and doing corporate governance work for nonprofits promoting economic development in low-income communities, entertaining hospitalized children, supporting LGBTQ youth and victims of sex trafficking, and promoting the fine arts and environmental conservation;
- Providing editorial guidance and related legal advice to the nation's leading women's rights publication and its charitable foundation;
- Counseling the Los Angeles 2028 Bid Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including finalizing its marketing and vendor agreements, structuring deals with local hotels, and reviewing, drafting and providing opinions on a variety of agreements and issues;
- Providing legislative analysis to support the advocacy efforts of a national organization working to end homelessness.

The attorneys we honor with these awards are the exemplars of the hundreds of Katten attorneys, in all of our offices, who render less-recognized pro bono service all year round. We are so proud of the difference all of these attorneys make in the lives of those less fortunate and in the welfare of the communities in which we practice.

I commend our lawyers and staff who participate in pro bono work, volunteer services and charitable activities and strongly encourage others to become involved. On behalf of the Firmwide Pro Bono Committee and all of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, please join me in congratulating the 2018 Pro Bono Service Award recipients.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan K. Baum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan K. Baum, Director of Pro Bono Services

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Noah Balch

Partner, Litigation—Los Angeles—Century City

Noah joined Katten in 2007 and immediately became involved in providing pro bono services. As a litigator whose practice focuses on sports, health and nutrition, entertainment, and the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, it was natural for Sheen Educational Foundation to become his first, and most rewarding, client.

Noah helped the Foundation protect land and assets to create a charter high school on its property in South Los Angeles called Alliance Judy Ivie Burton Technology Academy High School. The Foundation also hosts cultural after-school programs, at which Noah has lectured, along with other community members and leaders. Katten has also helped the Foundation register and protect intellectual property for the Sheenway Student Bakery. Through this program, students bake and deliver goods throughout Los Angeles.

As an avid triathlete and life-long fitness advocate, Noah drew on this experience to counsel the Los Angeles 2028 Bid Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Initially, he was tasked with helping the bid team finalize its marketing and vendor agreements. Since then, he has spent much of his time working on a series of structured deals with local hotels to secure 40,000 rooms within 30 miles of the events. He also reviews, drafts and provides opinions on a variety of agreements and issues, including those related to medical service for the athletes and Olympic personnel; insurance and hospital/provider/plan selection; immigration; importation of goods and animals; making government cooperation arrangements; and more.

"I enjoy sharing knowledge with people," says Noah, "and creating sports and educational programs that enrich young people in our community."

Noah is donating his honorarium to Sheen Educational Foundation.

Cristina Bautista

Associate, Insolvency and Restructuring—Los Angeles—Century City

Cristina began doing pro bono work while attending law school, but became heavily involved after joining Katten in 2014, thanks to opportunities provided by Litigation partners Andrew Demko and Ryan Larsen through pro bono partners such as Bet Tzedek and Public Counsel. With her practice focusing on Insolvency and Restructuring, as well as Litigation and Commercial Finance, she has served most of her clients on bankruptcy-related litigation matters.

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She has also helped complete two adoptions and is currently working with unaccompanied minors—a young man and a set of siblings from Guatemala—to obtain legal status in the United States. “I am constantly in awe of their strength and bravery in traveling to the United States alone,” says Cristina, “in search of a better future. I sincerely hope that my work can enable them to create successful paths in the United States for themselves and their families.”

Cristina enjoys making a difference in someone’s life through her work. “What may be a simple, routine motion for me can be life-changing for someone else,” she continues. “I also believe we have a moral imperative as lawyers to use the immense privilege inherent in our skillset towards helping those who cannot afford quality legal services.”

As motivation, Cristina turns to a quote by Cesar Chavez: “We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community . . . Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.”

Cristina is donating her honorarium to the Immigrant Defenders Law Center.

Zachary Denver

Associate, Litigation—New York

Within months of joining the firm in 2013, Zachary began working on a number of pro bono matters, most of which included helping Tibetan asylum seekers navigate the immigration process. This included aiding them with asylum applications and representing them at interviews and hearings.

Zachary has also successfully represented an animal shelter owner against a malicious prosecution claim by an individual who was arrested and indicted for animal abuse. He also worked as a mediator for the Southern District of New York’s Mediation Office in discrimination and civil rights cases. In addition, Zachary coaches the mock trial and moot court team at Townsend Harris High School in Flushing, New York.

His most rewarding matter was his very first at the firm in which he helped prepare for an asylum hearing to help a Tibetan man stay in this country and not be returned to China, where he was facing potential torture and imprisonment. “I like the feeling that I am making a real difference to someone who needs legal help,” said Zachary. “I am so fortunate to be where I am in the world; it gives me a sense of obligation to help where I can.”

Zachary is donating his honorarium to the Legal Alliance of Pheonjong.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

David Halberstadter

Partner, Litigation—Los Angeles—Century City

David joined the firm in 2000 as a Litigation partner whose practice has almost exclusively related to the entertainment industry. During that time, he has been committed to providing pro bono service, particularly for Ms. magazine and its publisher, the Feminist Majority Foundation. Introduced to the client through Corporate partner Susan Grode, David felt a unique dedication to the organization as the father of two girls. “Since I have daughters,” he says, “and feel strongly that they should never hit a glass ceiling, never be subject to harassment of any kind and never be told they cannot do something because of their gender, assisting Ms. magazine felt satisfying and meaningful.”

For more than 15 years, David has read every issue of the magazine, cover-to-cover, prior to its publication, advising the client on the risk of claims associated with what they are planning to publish. As this is the kind of work he does in his billable practice, he knew he could add value to the nonprofit organization. More specifically, his work includes advising on the risks of the publication being sued for defamation and violation of the right of privacy, based on statements made in the publication about real people that potentially could be untrue and unverified. He also provides the same analysis for material that Ms. plans to publish on its website and blog.

In addition, when the magazine or its publisher launch a public policy initiative—such as an online petition, a “sting” operation or a potential television series—David advises in connection with those matters.

“When my daughters were young,” he continues, “I liked showing them the magazine’s masthead, where I was the only male name listed. I also like telling people that I know more about issues impacting women globally than my wife and two daughters combined!”

Moreover, he welcomes when a client really appreciates the help provided, “and Ms. has been very appreciative of my time and effort over the years.”

David is donating his honorarium to the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Genus Heidary

Associate, Litigation—Washington, DC

Prior to entering law, Genus’ work was rooted in public service, serving in local government, working with nonprofits and philanthropic community foundations in both the health care and child advocacy sectors. So when she joined Katten

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in 2012, one of her first pro bono matters drew upon this background, giving her the opportunity to perform legislative analysis for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, which supports programs addressing homeless children's access to housing, health care and school absenteeism. "I engage in pro bono work simply because I see it as a right and responsibility of being an attorney," says Genus.

Genus has used her pro bono work to round out her legal skills and stay connected with timely issues in the DC community. This includes helping a client address child custody-based issues; establishing an LLC for a social venture; initiating regulatory agency action on behalf of a consumer for fraudulent mortgage serving practices; performing legislative analysis related to public ordinances implicating the homeless community; and representing a family as they seek political asylum. "I love the personal touch of using my legal skills to advocate on behalf of those members in my community who do not have access to legal representation, whether on an individual or systemic level."

Genus' most rewarding pro bono relationship is her current representation of an individual from Venezuela and his wife and their young daughter in their quest to gain political asylum. Over the last few years, she has assisted them with their employment authorization and worked to brief the asylum officer through hearing. Most importantly, Genus has come to know them well, and has learned of their bravery and personal sacrifice to make it in this country. "We are hoping to hear any day about the outcome of their matter," Genus continues, "and although my angst could never match theirs, I am very hopeful that they will soon be able to use the education and training they received in Venezuela to start on their path towards their American dream."

Genus is donating her honorarium to the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia.

Joanna Hill

Associate, Litigation—Los Angeles—Century City

Joanna joined the firm in 2014 with a commitment to providing pro bono services. "Pro bono work is an opportunity to support those without access to legal resources and, at the same time, enrich your own experience as a lawyer," says Joanna. Joanna is a true leader in Katten's pro bono efforts, having introduced two new pro bono partners to the firm—Immigrant Defenders Law Center and the University of Southern California (USC) Post-Conviction Justice Project. She has also worked with Public Counsel through the firm's relationship with the organization.

Joanna has represented several clients, including a Ugandan asylum applicant escaping political persecution. She also represented three unaccompanied

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minors from Guatemala, who were seeking asylum in order to escape violence and gang persecution in their hometown through the Immigrant Defenders Law Center. Through the USC Post-Conviction Justice Project—a group that represents incarcerated women, often the victims of violence, at their parole hearings—she is assisting a mother at her upcoming parole hearing. This woman was a victim of abuse, from the age of five years old until she was incarcerated at the age of 33, at the hands of her stepfather, uncle and romantic partners. Joanna has also represented inmates serving long sentences for non-violent offenses in applying for clemency.

Joanna feels that each of the matters she has worked on has involved very deserving clients with extremely challenging life stories. Each matter has provided a unique opportunity to develop her legal analysis and writing skills, but also hone in on her ability to identify how to best serve each client.

“I love being able to provide relief and support to clients who have run out of options,” says Joanna. “This work often isn’t extremely time consuming, but it makes a world of difference to my clients.”

Joanna is donating her honorarium to the USC Post-Conviction Justice Project.

Timothy R. Knudsen

Associate, Corporate—Chicago

When Tim joined Katten in 2014 as a summer associate, he was pleased to find that the firm was a strong proponent of pro bono service and willing to support him in such service. “I was very impressed by the number of attorneys at Katten who were involved with and passionate about their pro bono work. It was one of the reasons I knew this firm was a good fit.”

Tim started his pro bono service years earlier as a law student assisting female, impoverished, victims of domestic violence in central Illinois in obtaining orders of protection through the Land of Lincoln Legal Aid Clinic.

However, it is Tim’s passion for immigration rights that has carried into his career at Katten. He first discovered this passion through working on immigration reform as an aide to US Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) on the United States Senate Judiciary Committee in 2013 (the last year a comprehensive immigration plan passed the Senate).

Upon arriving at Katten, Tim was asked to assist Government and Public Finance partner Chad Doobay with a political asylum applicant from central Africa. This experience led Tim to who he considers his most rewarding pro bono client, a 21-year-old Russian man named Alex, who is seeking political asylum in the United States after being persecuted and physically beaten for being gay in Moscow. “It has been

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a unique experience because in order to get Alex to open up to me about his life and struggles,” said Tim, “it was essential to first develop a relationship of trust.” To date, Tim has obtained authorization for Alex to work in the United States, and while he has been interviewed by the Chicago asylum office, results are still forthcoming. “It’s had a personal impact on me to see how happy Alex is to live somewhere where he can be himself without fear. In the United States, Alex is able to picture a life full of possibility, which we all deserve and shouldn’t take for granted.”

Since joining Katten, Tim has rendered over 500 hours of pro bono service. In addition to immigration work, Tim, as a corporate lawyer, has helped organize/obtain tax-exempt status for local not-for-profit corporations, such as the Greater Chatham Initiative, the French American Chamber of Commerce of Chicago Foundation and the Windfree Foundation.

Tim is donating his honorarium to the Broadway Youth Center, a Chicago organization which provides housing, health and mental health services, and more to homeless LGBT youth.

Nicholas Morrell

Associate, Environmental and Workplace Safety—Houston

Nick’s pro bono work has run parallel to his legal career since he began his practice in 2012. Upon joining Katten in 2016 as an Environmental and Workplace Safety attorney, he was approached by partner Scott Elliott regarding an interesting asylum case that the firm had assumed. It was the case of a Syrian woman, which was particularly interesting to Nick as he had studied Middle Eastern history and Arabic in college and during his time in the US Army Reserves. Prior to this, he had also worked on matters that involved a family in a contested adoption proceeding and a veteran with a child support issue, for which he drafted submissions and appeared at hearings.

While all of Nick’s pro bono matters have been extremely rewarding, his work with the Syrian client was especially so because the consequences would have been dire for this friendly and genuinely good person. “She was a refugee,” said Nick, “but she was still donating her time and energy to charities that helped those still in Syria.” His adoption case was also extremely rewarding, as his clients were kind and charitable people, who had the misfortune to get on the wrong side of a greedy adoption agency.

“Pro bono work,” Nick continued, “is one of the few times in life when you can really be on the side of the angels and see that you’re doing good in the world. It reminds you that you’re an esquire, a white knight on behalf of those in need.”

Nick is donating his honorarium to the Syrian American Medical Service, a charity that gives aid to the victims of the Syrian civil war.

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Cynthia Reed

Associate, Trusts and Estates—New York

Cynthia's pro bono efforts began while she was still attending law school. Upon joining Katten in 2014, Cynthia was first introduced to pro bono work at South Brooklyn Legal Services. Over the past four years, she has represented numerous clients on a pro bono basis, from matters relating to estate planning and administration for low-income individuals to not-for-profit cases. "This," said Cynthia, "has been rewarding on a personal level, as well as an incredible way to learn different aspects of the law."

While Cynthia finds it impossible to pick just one matter as being her most rewarding, the matters in which she has assisted clients in navigating the loss of a family member stand out. "Speaking with our pro bono clients is the best motivation to do pro bono work," she continued. "There is no better feeling than being able to use our skills as lawyers to help others."

Cynthia is donating her honorarium to South Brooklyn Legal Services.

Scott Resnik

Partner, Litigation—New York

Scott came to Katten in 2005, after spending six-and-a-half years at the US Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. He began doing pro bono work when he started practicing law nearly 23 years ago and found he could use his experience in representing clients in a wide range of criminal and regulatory investigations and prosecutions to help people and nonprofit organizations solve legal problems they may otherwise have been unable to address due to inadequate finances.

In his years at Katten, despite the demand of serving as the co-chair of the New York Litigation department and the chair of the firm's national White Collar, Investigations and Compliance practice, Scott has maintained his commitment to pro bono service. He recalls two significant pro bono engagements, the first of which included the representation of William "Liam" Scully in an appeal of his criminal trial conviction to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In this precedent-setting case, concerning a criminal defendant's right to present an advice-of-counsel defense at trial, he obtained a reversal of the client's 64-count conviction on fraud and related charges. As a result, Scott was able to get his client released from federal prison and returned to his family in time for Christmas.

In the second matter, he and a team of Katten attorneys, represented the Queens Museum in an internal investigation into the events that led to the museum's 2017 decision to initially refuse to rent its event space to the Israeli Consulate of the United Nations for a commemoration of the UN vote founding the State of Israel.

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The investigation uncovered misconduct and control weaknesses that enabled the museum's board of directors to take corrective actions and improve the organization's policies and procedures.

When asked what motivates him to continue to provide pro bono services, Scott replied, "The approximately 80 percent of felony defendants in the US who cannot afford an attorney."

Scott is donating his honorarium to the Lawyers Program at the International March of the Living.

Lindsey Smith

Associate, Litigation—Charlotte

Lindsey has made a point to incorporate pro bono work as part of her practice since becoming an attorney. So when she came to Katten in January 2017, she brought with her two of her most significant clients—the Council for Children's Rights and the Safe Alliance. "I was excited to continue this work at Katten," says Lindsey, "and was happy to see so much support for both of these organizations from the firm."

For the Council for Children's Rights, a group committed to helping children and families find the support they need when facing a wide range of challenges, Lindsey represents the children's best interests for custody disputes. She also partners with a staff attorney and volunteer advocate to conduct investigations into parents' backgrounds, homes, children's education, social network and more to make a recommendation to the court for custody determination.

Most recently, she participated in a custody trial, where she represented the children's interests and made a recommendation to the court as to the revised custody order. The mother previously had primary custody, and the father petitioned for this right. After meeting with both parents and the children on several occasions, it was apparent that the father was by far the better choice. Both she and the custody advocate had grave concerns about the state of the mother's home, as well as her abuse of prescription medications. When asked by the court, the custody advocate made a strong recommendation that primary and legal custody be awarded to the father. They are now awaiting the court's ruling.

"Pro bono work has always been important to me," continues Lindsey, "but even more so since having children and wanting to set an example for them. As lawyers, we have a real opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in need, and I'm proud to be a part of that."

Lindsey is donating her honorarium to the Council for Children's Rights.

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Elizabeth Hermann Smith

Associate, Commercial Finance—Chicago

For Elizabeth, a firm's commitment to pro bono matters was a critical factor in deciding which firms to consider. So when she discovered Katten's intense dedication to this work, it was one of several reasons she accepted Katten's offer to join the firm's summer program in 2009. Since then, she has been consistently involved in a wide range of programs, beginning as a summer associate with her participation in the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic and her work with Litigation partner Patrick Harrigan on an immigration case, which she continued to help with during her 3L year. The client —Aissatou Diallo—was granted asylum as a result of the team's efforts.

During the summer between law school and starting as a full-time associate, Elizabeth was a Katten-sponsored Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) fellow, completing her fellowship at the Center for Conflict Resolution. There, she was a mediator at local courts (primarily the Daley Center) and assisted with the then new Cook County Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Since starting as an associate at Katten in 2010, Elizabeth has been involved in a number of pro bono activities, including her yearly involvement in Lawyers in the Classroom, her representation of the Chicago Community Loan Fund in drafting and negotiating loan documents for their small secured loan to a local nonprofit, and recent workshops with EMBARC, a program that provides community-driven, experienced-based learning opportunities to low-income high school students to prepare them for college and career success.

One of Elizabeth's most rewarding pro bono matters has been using her legal skills to establish and guide her Open Heart Magic, an organization that brings laughter, hope and strength to hospitalized children and their families through the entertaining and empowering therapy of magic. "I'm happy to do what I can to support this organization," said Elizabeth, "especially after seeing firsthand the difference they are making by bringing joy and excitement to people in a place and at a time when neither seem possible—it's so moving."

Of special note is that Elizabeth has been the single most reliable member of the team at the Katten de Diego Legal Clinic, participating in more than a quarter of the monthly clinics since its inception five years ago. She has done intake interviews and has provided assistance and advice to numerous community members seeking help in a variety of areas, ranging from landlord-tenant matters to custody issues to student loan repayment.

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“For those of us who are privileged enough to have the resources, I think it’s critically important that we put them back into the community. If that means stepping outside my finance lawyer box and going to the legal clinic to help members of our community, or into a classroom to connect with students, or shadowing a magician, that’s all the better! I know that I’m benefiting and growing from these experiences as well.”

Elizabeth is donating her honorarium to Open Heart Magic.

THE KATTEN MAG PRO BONO TEAM

Steven Solow

Partner, Litigation—Washington, DC

Steve has served a range of pro bono clients throughout his many years of practice. But when he joined Katten in 2009, he brought with him a client to which he would be continually devoted: MAG America (Mines Advisory Group). MAG America is an international organization that saves lives and builds futures through the removal and destruction of landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other weapons remaining after conflict.

“I am not qualified or capable of performing the work that MAG does around the world,” Steve says, “removing landmines, UXO and destroying small arms and munitions, which help communities to recover and rebuild in post-conflict situations. Instead, the work we do here helps them do their work there.” The work done here is accomplished by Steve, along with a team of Katten attorneys, who provide all legal services to MAG America, including labor and employment; contracting; grant issues related to State Department funding; strategic and corporate governance counsel; assistance on bylaws and other internal policies; cybersecurity; coordination with MAG UK; guidance on anti-corruption and anti-fraud issues; and other legal and business issues.

Over the past three decades, MAG has cleared dangerous remnants of conflict from more than one million acres of land, has destroyed more than 4.5 million mines and UXO, and has benefited more than 17 million people. However, today’s estimates indicate that 60 million people still live at risk of death or serious injury due to landmines and other unexploded ordnance. Since 2014, the number of those killed or injured has increased by 133 percent from prior years, due primarily to new areas where anti-personnel mines are being deployed. “Thus,” says Steve, “despite decades of work, the goal of creating a landmine-free world remains a critical task.”

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Brandon Hadley

Partner, Transactional Tax Planning—Washington, DC

Brandon committed to pro bono work when he was in law school and, since then, has found he can use his experience to provide much-needed tax advice to nonprofit organizations. “Using my specialized tax skills to help those who are helping the community” is a key motivator for Brandon. Since joining Katten in 2010, some of the organizations he has represented include MAG America (Mines Advisory Group), Rock Creek Conservancy, The Amara Legal Center, The Trevor Project, Georgetown Heritage and the Maryland Youth Ballet. He also provides tax controversy advice to low-income individuals and has worked on the Clemency Project, as well as on benefits cases for veterans.

Four years ago, Brandon became the president of the board of directors of The Amara Legal Center, a nonprofit based in Washington, DC, that provides legal services for persons harmed by sex trafficking and commercial sex in the DC metropolitan area. Initially, he worked with this crucial organization as an outside tax advisor when it was formed five years ago, then he became a member of the board. In just a few years, Amara has grown from one volunteer staff member with a \$12,000 annual budget to an organization with six full-time employees, a \$600,000 annual budget and nearly 300 clients each year.

“It is an incredible feeling,” says Brandon, “when clients personally thank you for changing their lives for the better.”

Seth Messner

Partner, Structured Finance and Securitization—Washington, DC

Seth, a partner in the Structured Finance and Securitization practice, joined the firm in 2004 and immediately reached out to his office pro bono committee chair for guidance on how to become active in pro bono matters. Today, he represents organizations that include MAG America (Mines Advisory Group), the Maryland Youth Ballet, Rock Creek Conservancy and Georgetown Heritage, all of which he counts among his most rewarding matters. “I like working as a team with other Katten attorneys,” said Seth, “who have different skill sets to forward the mission of our nonprofit clients.”

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Johnjerica Hodge

Associate, Litigation—Washington, DC

When she joined Katten in 2016, Johnjerica was pleased to find that the partners in her practice groups were strong proponents of pro bono service and willing to assist her in finding opportunities. “I enjoy having the chance to help people who lack the resources to retain the help they need,” she says. One opportunity in particular has been a strong focus for Johnjerica—providing counsel and representation to MAG America (Mines Advisory Group) on a number of matters, including fraud investigations, employment-related matters, corporate governance issues and compliance with the False Claims Act.

Prior to joining the firm, Johnjerica represented a client on a family law issue and a prisoner on death row. “Assisting my death row client,” she continues, “to prove that he was deprived of his right to establish that he suffered from a mental health problem was my most rewarding pro bono matter.”

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud” is a saying that continually motivates Johnjerica to do pro bono work. “Often, our pro bono clients are in dire situations, and I consider it an honor that I can help people navigate them.”

John Sun

Associate, Structured Finance and Securitization—Washington, DC

John has worked on pro bono projects throughout his legal career, so when he joined Katten in 2016, he was glad to find a thriving pro bono culture. As an associate in the Structured Finance and Securitization practice, John works on certain corporate pro bono matters for organizations that include MAG America (Mines Advisory Group), Georgetown Heritage and the Maryland Youth Ballet. He has also had the opportunity to work with an asylum client, who was a victim of political violence in her native country. “She is a wonderful person, has a great family, and I enjoy working with her,” said John.

Overall, John enjoys helping people by finding creative solutions to their problems. “Pro bono matters often involve unique issues, and it’s up to the attorney to find a solution that works for the particular client,” he continued. “This work is a great opportunity for attorneys to get hands-on client experience, while giving back to the community.”

The Katten MAG Pro Bono Team is donating their honorarium to MAG America.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Peter Wilson

Partner, Litigation—Chicago

Peter's involvement in pro bono work began before he attended law school, when he volunteered as a pro bono coordinator for the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) in Chicago. Following law school, his first job was with the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, and since joining Katten's Chicago office, he has focused on immigration cases, which he continues to handle in collaboration with the NIJC.

Peter is a "force multiplier" in pro bono, not only handling pro bono matters himself but actively recruiting and nurturing associates for pro bono work. "I've always enjoyed the satisfaction of making tangible differences in people's lives," said Peter. "Today, though, I enjoy mentoring junior attorneys, as they not only get to make those same differences in our clients' lives, but they also learn how to take responsibility for and make strategic judgments in their cases, which are crucial skills in their private practice as well."

This proved to be true in two of Peter's most rewarding matters. The first found him teaming up with two associates to win asylum for a Christian family who had fled Iraq after their community was invaded by ISIS. "The case was not difficult," said Peter, "but the facts were so compelling and the clients so grateful, that it made it especially rewarding."

The second matter involved the same associates, who worked with Peter to represent a gay Jamaican man whose immigration case was on appeal in the Second Circuit. The merits of the case were not that strong, but during the trial, the government lawyer posed some extraordinarily offensive questions to the team's client. "The case said a lot about how pro se litigants are treated in the immigration courts." One of the associates made her first court appearance to argue the case in the Second Circuit, and the client won a remand. A Katten New York office team then represented the client in immigration court and won on the merits. The Chicago team also convinced the Second Circuit to order the government to pay more than \$50,000 in legal fees, which were donated to the NIJC.

"I think it's the responsibility of all lawyers to perform pro bono work," Peter continued. "I am motivated by the privilege of providing quality legal representation to hardworking, decent and unfailingly gracious clients, who simply cannot afford to pay a lawyer—even in cases that will determine whether they can live with their families in safety or be returned to face persecution."

Peter is donating his honorarium to the National Immigrant Justice Center.

HONORABLE MENTION

Guy Dempsey

Of Counsel, Financial Services—New York

For 28 years, Guy has been providing pro bono services to New York City residents facing legal issues without traditional lawyer representation. As a corporate attorney, Guy has found it most effective to provide these services through the Monday Night Law Clinic sponsored by the New York City Bar Association. This clinic maximizes the availability of legal counsel for individuals embroiled in contentious matters by enabling volunteer attorneys to advise multiple clients via limited-scope attorney-client relationships. These clients are persons of moderate means with landlord/tenant, credit card or employment issues, who typically cannot afford to hire a lawyer on a traditional basis. Each Monday Night Law session involves half-hour appointments with five clients, rather than focusing on one or two larger matters. Guy is also a member of the NY City Bar Association committee that administers the program. "I get satisfaction from de-mystifying legal issues and the litigation process," says Guy, "so a pro se defendant can gain confidence in presenting his or her case."

Michael Gordon


Partner, Litigation—New York

Michael has a strong commitment to providing pro bono service through his work on multiple not-for-profit boards, as well as through his service on the Mediation Panel for the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Currently, Michael serves on the boards of the Housing Works Thrift Shops, Inc. and Housing Works, Inc., where he has provided strategic counseling on avoiding commercial disputes with landlords and others, as well as facilitating the organization's access to Katten Real Estate and Intellectual Property attorneys in connection with lease negotiations and IP issues. He is also part of a core group of advisors helping the parent organization through its acquisition of another not-for-profit whose similar mission is to provide healthcare, housing and other essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. Michael is also on the board of The Dramatists Guild Foundation, the mission of which is to aid writers for the theater, including the provision of emergency grants to writers in need as well as annual grants to not-for-profit theaters across the country. In addition to robust fundraising, Michael counseled the organization in connection with employment matters and continues to serve on its Finance and Governance Committee.

H O N O R A B L E M E N T I O N

His newest affiliation is with Marjorie's Fund, Inc., whose mission it is to enable adolescents and adults with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) in resource-poor settings, such as Rwanda and Uganda, to get not only immediate help, but ultimately to develop the tools they need to thrive with T1D. Michael is the chair of the board's Governance Committee. "All of these activities and affiliations are incredibly fulfilling," says Michael, "and they allow me to make a difference and to support initiatives that have become all the more important in this challenging political climate."



*Doing pro bono work
is not only our responsibility,
but our privilege
as lawyers.*

Consider the remarks made by John Adams in a letter written in 1761:

Now to what higher object, to what greater character, can any mortal aspire than to be possessed of all this knowledge, well-digested and ready at command, to assist the feeble and friendless, to discountenance the haughty and lawless, to procure redress to wrongs, the advancement of right, to assert and maintain liberty and virtue, to discourage and abolish tyranny and vice?

David McCullough, *John Adams* (2001)



Katten

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

2017 Pro Bono Honor Roll



Please join me in congratulating the Katten attorneys listed below who earned places on our "Pro Bono Honor Roll" for 2017. As part of our firm's deep commitment to public service, we have set an annual goal of an average of 40 hours of pro bono service per attorney. Each of the attorneys listed below achieved this level of service in 2017, and many of them far exceeded it. We thank them for what they have done for those in need of a legal champion, serving those who cannot afford legal representation, and for giving back to our community.

Kristin Achterhof
Sean Akchin
Stephanie Angkadjaja
Schuyler Armstrong
Karen Artz Ash
Matthew Baker
Noah Balch
Jonathan Baum
Cristina Bautista
Kimberly Beis
Eric Brin
Bryan Brown
Jonathan Byer
Alexandra Caleca
Michael Callahan
Camille Cameron
Neil Carbone
Jane Cavanaugh
Matthew Celano
Amelia Chapple
Mark Ciani
Christopher Collins
Craig Convisar
Alexandra Copell
Kristin Coveney
Debashia Cox
Timothy Cross
Guy Dempsey
Zachary Denver
Charles DeVore
Karen Dine
Chad Doobay
Joshua Druckerman
Scott Elliott
Daniel Elrod
Evan Epstein
Richard Farley
Christopher Ferenc
Patrick Filice
Terence Finley
Kyle Finnegan

Joseph Fiorill
Rachel Fisher
Renee Friedman
Paige Gallaspy
Mitchell Garnett
Jessica Garrett
Janella Gholian
Doron Goldstein
Michael Gordon
Emily Grimm
Shannon Gross
Brandon Hadley
Jerry Hall
Mary Harmon
J Matthew Haws
Genus Heidary
Ted Helwig
Joanna Hill
Katie Bennett Hobson
Johnjerica Hodge
Janet Goelz Hoffman
Lane Holby
Michaela Holcombe
Alana Ibarra
Carolyn Jackson
Matthew Jennings
Amanda John
Sharon Kantrowitz
Alvin Katz
Jason Kelly
Christian Kemnitz
Rebecca Kinburn
Elizabeth Kleinman
Timothy Knudsen
Hannah Koesterer
John Kozak
David Kravitz
Laura Krcmaric
Louis Laski
Lawrence Levin
Kristin Lockhart

Sarah Ma
Floyd Mandell
James Manning
Iza Marciszewski
Gabriel Marinaro
Julia Mazur
Andrew McKay
Thomas McNeill
Alexandra McNicholas
Margaret McQuade
Seth Messner
Anna Mikulski
Tenley Mochizuki
Nicholas Morrell
John Muir
Brian Muldrew
Philip Nemecek
Abimbola Oladokun
Asanka Pathiraja
Joseph Platt
Sophia Popovic
Emily Prentice
Blaine Prober
Gary Redwine
Cynthia Reed
Marc Reiser
Scott Resnik
Nancy Rich
Emily Rochy
Yasmin Roland
Virginia Rolfes
Michael Rosensaft
Matthew Ryan
Alyse Sagalchik
Nicole Saleem
Marie Salter
Debra Sapp
Michael Savage
Zachary Schmitz
Whitney Schwartz
Gavin Scotti

Yelena Shagall
Joseph Shealy
Mark Simon
Ann Marie Sink
Andrew Skowronski
Elizabeth Hermann Smith
Lindsey Smith
Leah Solomon
Steven Solow
Brian Spangler
Michael Speranza
Mitch Sprengelmeyer
Joel Sternman
Ayah Sultan
John Sun
Emily Thomas
Christy Tirtatunggal
Sean Torres
Marc Tract
Shannon Traylor
Gregory Uffner
Christopher Vazquez
Michael Verde
Casey Verst
Jason Vismantas
Jeffrey Wakolbinger
Laura Waller
Herbert Wander
Philip Watkins
Silké Watson
Eric Werlinger
Benzion Westreich
Timothy White
Jessica Wilson
Jacqueline Wolpoe
Elizabeth Yaeger
Natalie Youkel
Karolen Younan
Sheldon Zenner