

Katten Pro Bono Award Recipient Profiles

David M. Allen

Associate, Trusts and Estates (Chicago)

David focuses his pro bono efforts on estate planning work and also advises clients with regard to charitable administration. While David's practice focuses on estate, tax and business planning for clients of significant wealth, he finds it "personally and professionally rewarding to use and hone the legal skills I've developed to help those with limited means sort out their affairs and rest a little bit easier in times of need."

Some of the pro bono matters David has worked on include:

- Preparing estate planning documents for clients who are HIV positive or in the last days of their lives and cannot afford legal representation to compose their wills.
- Assisting an individual in a dispute with his brother over the disposition of their mother's estate. The client developed a severe brain disease and became physically incapacitated, resulting in dire financial circumstances for the client and his wife. The client's brother improperly influenced their mother to change her will, eliminating the client as a beneficiary. David and others negotiated a beneficial settlement on the client's behalf.
- Estate administration for indigent decedents and disabled persons.
- Assisting various nonprofit entities in the creation of gift acceptance policies.

David is donating his honorarium to The Gateway for Cancer Research.

Monica J. Mosby

Partner, Litigation and Dispute Resolution (Chicago)

Monica values a variety of pro bono opportunities. She was awarded a Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Fellowship with the Federal Defender Program, where she assisted in the criminal defense of indigent individuals prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office. Monica was then selected to be a Fellow Representative to the PILI Board of Directors for a two-year term, 2004–2006.

Monica currently does pro bono work primarily for the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Legal Assistance Foundation, assisting their clients with a broad spectrum of legal issues including housing and employment discrimination and hate crimes. She has a passion for assisting pro bono clients. "Being afforded the opportunity to get a legal education is a blessing," Monica says. "To be able to share this blessing with others is an honor."

Monica's many rewarding cases include:

- Representing a single mother of four whose Section 8 Housing Voucher and loss of employment meant she was not required to pay any rent out of pocket. Despite signing a contract to that effect, the landlord nevertheless demanded the mother remit several hundred dollars in additional rent each month and then refused to refund a security deposit when the CHA advised the woman to move. Monica's pro bono work resulted in compensatory and punitive damages in favor of the mother, as well as attorneys' fees. Pursuant to Katten's policy, the fees recovered were donated to the Legal Assistance Foundation.
- Working as part of a team of attorneys that represented a group of young African American men who were victims of a savage, racially motivated attack by a white mob in Kankakee County that resulted in physical and emotional injuries. Monica and her colleagues secured a \$1.44 million judgment against the perpetrators of this hate crime.

Monica is donating her honorarium to Project H.O.O.D.

Jessica M. Garrett
Associate, Intellectual Property (New York)

Jessica acts as an associate mentor to summer associates involved in the Anti-Defamation League Legal Intern Project by supervising legal research and authoring memos on the legality of censoring outdoor advertising. She also served for three years as a mentor to Townsend Harris High School (Flushing, New York) students who participate in moot court/mock trial programs, preparing them for local, regional and statewide competitions.

Jessica enjoys doing pro bono work because "with certain pro bono clients, the client relationship can be a 360-degree relationship, in that the client may look to us for guidance on corporate, intellectual property, employment and litigation matters. Pro bono clients are so grateful for your help, and it feels very rewarding to share our expertise with those who really appreciate it."

Examples of Jessica's pro bono work include:

- Working with Marbles4MS—which sells artwork to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society—on its nonprofit incorporation documents and trademark applications. Marbles4MS was the idea of five-year-old Connor Grossman, to raise money for his mother who was suffering from Multiple Sclerosis by selling his paintings. Through Connor and his brother Jackson's

artwork, Marbles4MS has raised \$45,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society since March 2011.

- Representing American Ballroom Theater, Inc. (n/k/a Dancing Classrooms, Inc.) on several corporate and intellectual property matters including IP portfolio management, and negotiation of licensing agreements, potential film contracts and settlement agreements with other third-party IP holders.
- Undertaking various IP matters as referrals from the VOLS Microenterprise Project.
- Working with referrals from the Hebrew Free Loan Society on trademark matters.
- Assisting client Congregation Sons of Israel Synagogue in a successful jury trial in the Southern District of New York regarding an age discrimination claim brought by a former teacher.

Jessica is donating her honorarium to the Anti-Defamation League.

Christopher D. Jackson

Associate, White Collar Defense, Internal Investigations and Compliance (Washington, DC)

Chris became involved with pro bono work at Katten through a program with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Alexandria, Virginia, where attorneys assist the federal public defender in a variety of ways, including legal research and writing, drafting pleadings, meeting with clients and others (e.g., prosecutors, witnesses, probation officers, etc.), and participating in court proceedings and appellate work.

Chris does pro bono for several reasons. "In addition to the obligation I feel to do pro bono work, it is personally and professionally rewarding to assist clients who are often in a very trying time of their lives. Moreover, pro bono gives younger attorneys like myself a chance to develop important skills and have opportunities that otherwise might not be available."

Examples of Chris's pro bono work include:

- Work for criminal defendants, the National Taxpayers Union, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.
- He and an assistant federal public defender represented a bank manager charged with diverting client funds to her own accounts. As a member of the public defense team, Chris successfully argued for a below-guidelines sentence based on significant mitigating circumstances in relation to the woman's initial motivation in committing the offense, as well as the inequity in attaching overwhelming significance to loss amount under the federal sentencing guidelines. He has drawn substantial acclaim for his efforts from the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

Chris is donating his honorarium to the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project.

Rebecca K. Lindahl
Associate, Litigation and Dispute Resolution (Charlotte)

Becky has worked with United Family Services, Hospitality House of Charlotte, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, the North Carolina Bar Association's 4ALL Statewide Service Day and Call4ALL Program, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Becky is particularly passionate about domestic violence protective orders, because "Every person deserves a home without violence. The stories that you hear and injuries that you see in domestic violence court can be astonishing. Since the first morning that I spent in domestic violence court, I have been unable to say no when an agency calls to ask me if I have a few hours to help someone take a step towards escaping a violent home."

- Becky's pro bono efforts typically involve representing women seeking domestic violence protective orders or civil no-contact orders. She has helped several abused women—some with significant injuries—and their children obtain ex parte and one- or two-year domestic violence protective orders or civil no-contact orders to provide them protection from their spouses or partners.
- This year, Becky represented Hospitality House of Charlotte, which provides low or no-cost temporary housing for out-of-town family members and friends of patients being treated in Charlotte hospitals. Hospitality House was facing a large, retroactive property tax assessment that would have created a significant financial hardship for the nonprofit. Becky helped Hospitality House appeal the assessment. At the conclusion of the appeal, the retroactive assessment was reversed because Hospitality House is exempt as a charitable organization. Hospitality House's exempt status was also confirmed for future years.

Becky is donating her honorarium to United Family Services.

Matthew M. Maher
Associate, Litigation and Dispute Resolution (Los Angeles)

During law school, Matt worked in public interest at the nonprofit organization California Lawyers for the Arts, where he developed an interest in helping less advantaged people. Matt values the "opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life." Matt says, "The immediate reward of making a tangible difference in a client's life is why I like doing pro bono work."

- Matt has focused his pro bono efforts on one particular client, a man named Stephen. Stephen is a mentally disabled elderly man whose mother set up a special needs trust to provide for him once she passed away. After the death of Stephen's mother, the trustee took a loan from the trust. The trustee then deeded Stephen's residence—the biggest asset

in the trust—to himself and his wife as joint tenants, and encumbered the property with a mortgage. When personality conflicts arose, Stephen moved out. He was living in his car in the parking lot of a Los Angeles car wash when Public Counsel brought the case to Katten. Matt’s efforts on Stephen’s behalf have resulted in the trustee deeding the property back to the trust and vacating the home. In April of 2011 Stephen was able to move back into the home that he grew up in after living in a \$200/month shelter.

Matt is donating his honorarium to California Lawyers for the Arts.

Kristine A. Rembach
Partner, Environmental (Washington, DC)

Kristine is strongly committed to pro bono work and focuses her efforts on representation of indigent individuals in criminal cases. Kristine finds all pro bono cases on behalf of individuals to be very rewarding. “In my work at Katten, I primarily represent corporate clients, so it is refreshing to have an individual client to interact with on a regular basis.”

Kristine has been involved in the Federal Public Defender’s Pro Bono Counsel Program since she worked at her previous firm. “Working at a large law firm, we have access to significant resources and broad legal expertise,” she said. “There are so many individuals who can benefit from these resources and I think all firm lawyers have an obligation to spend some of their time helping those in need. Just several hours of our time can impact people’s lives in a very real way. My pro bono work has been an absolute highlight of my career to date.”

She has represented a variety of pro bono clients including:

- An elderly individual who was defrauded and lost several hundred thousand dollars
- Clients on immigration matters
- An individual charged with music piracy. The legal team obtained a sentence significantly below the prescribed Sentencing Guidelines range and the client was sentenced to only a weekend in prison, which allowed him to keep a full-time job he had maintained for over 20 years.
- A young woman seeking political asylum. The client was fleeing a forced marriage in Yemen. The legal team successfully obtained asylum in that case and the client went on to very quickly become fluent in English and pursue higher education here in the United States. Kristine was recently invited to her (very much voluntary) wedding.

Kristine is donating her honorarium to the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU.

Ekong Udoekwere

Associate, Corporate (Los Angeles)

Ekong focuses his pro bono efforts on corporate or transactional projects. Ekong believes “pro bono representation and its impact on the lives of the clients adds a layer of nobility to the work we do as attorneys.”

- Ekong represents the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) in connection with a merger with another nonprofit organization. In connection with its merger, Ekong performed due diligence review and assisted with the preparation of the merger agreement and related documentation and filings with applicable governmental authorities. Ekong is also helping the Torch Foundation, a charity dedicated to organizing and hosting leadership seminars for at-risk youth, regain its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Ekong is donating his honorarium to Public Counsel.

Katten

KattenMuchinRosenman LLP

525 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661
312.902.5200 tel
312.902.1061 fax