



Insights: Perspectives

Kilpatrick Townsend's New York Office is Pro Bono

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KILPATRICK TOWNSEND'S NEW YORK OFFICE IS... **PRO BONO**

Kilpatrick Townsend's [New York office](#) truly understands the societal importance of performing pro bono work, and how that work can make a substantial and positive difference in giving entities and individuals opportunities that they may not have otherwise. Through [its award-winning pro bono program](#), Kilpatrick Townsend's New York attorneys and staff actively devote significant time and resources to numerous pro bono projects, having made extraordinary contributions to their community. The following represents a mere sample of their pro bono commitment.

Hague Convention

To date, the firm has devoted more than 6,000 hours to cases under the Hague Convention, while originating a litigant practice manual in 2009. One such case involved representing a Dominican Republic mother in an international child abduction matter at the request of the U.S. State Department. Here, New York Partner [Frederick Whitmer](#) led a team of New York office attorneys to repatriate the infant child after the father took the child to the U.S. for "medical reasons," and then wrongfully detained the child in the Southern District of New York. After petitioning the district court under the Convention's Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction treaty and a year of contentious litigation, the court ordered the child's immediate return to his/her mother in the Dominican Republic.

Special Immigrant Visas

Special immigrant visas (SIV) are available through the United States Customs & Immigration Services to persons who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter in Iraq or Afghanistan. Obtaining a SIV is a long, arduous process. To date, the firm has spent over 600 hours helping 10 clients and their families navigate the SIV process for a chance to live free from fear in the United States. For more than two years, New York Senior Counsel [Jonathan Polonsky](#) worked through the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and CUNY Law School to secure SIVs for two pro bono clients who had served as Iraqi interpreters assisting the U.S. military in dangerous war zones—and their families. Since late 2006, New York Partner [Steve Feingold](#) and Associates [Katelyn Seigel](#) and [Savannah Ashby](#) have been assisting an Afghani man - along with his wife and two young children - who served the U.S. government as an interpreter for many years.

Start Small Think Big

Since early 2015, Kilpatrick Townsend's New York Office has been hosting regular pro bono trademark and copyright clinics for Start Small Think Big (SSTB) clients. Now in its fifth year, the firm has conducted nearly 40 clinics offering eligible low-income small business owners an opportunity to consult with an intellectual property expert about such important issues as their business names, signs, publications, logos, and websites. In addition to hosting the clinic, Kilpatrick Townsend's attorneys have accepted 20 of the small business owners referred to the clinic by SSTB as pro bono clients of the firm. We value our collaboration with SSTB, and are pleased to be able to offer a valuable pro bono service to so many small businesses throughout New York. Past matters include conducting a trademark search and detailing ways to register design work through trademark and copyright for Hat_Line (Partner [Marc Lieberstein](#) and Associate [Sindy Ding-Voorhees](#)) and assisting Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Shabazz with trademark registration for The Harlem Pie Man ([New York Office Managing Partner Barry Benjamin](#)).

Unchained At Last

Some pro bono service is an emotional calling for what's right and just. After hearing the story of the abusive arranged marriage suffered by Unchained At Last's founder/executive director, Marc Lieberstein and Barry Benjamin knew they had to get involved. Unchained At Last is the only U.S. nonprofit that provides legal and social services that helps women leave or avoid arranged/forced marriages and rebuild their lives, and started, and now leads, a growing national movement to eliminate child marriage in every U.S. state and at the federal level. New York attorneys and staff have clocked more than 740 pro bono hours. To further support Unchained At Last, Marc joined its board of directors.



**STRONG
COMMITMENT**
to pro bono service



45+
CASES FIRMWIDE
filed under the Hague
Convention



**MAKING
HISTORY**
for SIV
immigrants

**STIMULATING
LOCAL COMMUNITIES**



through nonprofit
trademark-copyright clinic



475+
hours volunteered to help
women in forced marriage

board of directors.

Big Apple Performing Arts

Kilpatrick Townsend's New York Office provides pro bono representation to Big Apple Performing Arts – New York City Gay Men's Chorus & Youth Pride Chorus. To date, the firm has dedicated more than 430 pro bono hours, which includes contributions by 28 attorneys and staff, primarily in the area of trademark and copyright law. Recognized for leadership in diversity, the firm has been named a Best Law Firm for Equality and earned 100% Corporate Equality Index Rating from the Human Rights Campaign for the last three consecutive years. Representing organizations that promote and recognize the contributions of LGBT individuals is an integral part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion in our workplace and in our community.

Positive Force

For the last eight years, Partner [Steve Feingold](#) has represented Encounter Programs ("Encounter") which invites Jewish leaders to expand their view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to be a positive force for communal change. Encounter seeks to grow the Jewish community's capacity to contribute to a durable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in which all parties live with respect, recognition, and rights by arranging trips to meet with Palestinians living in the West Bank and to hear their stories and perspectives. Encounter's community includes leading rabbis of every denomination, professionals and lay leaders of every major Jewish institution, and public intellectuals shaping the contours of American Jewish life. All care deeply about the future and security of Israel and share a commitment to a more informed, inclusive and constructive Jewish communal engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Steve has worked on matters including employment issues, corporate governance, IP-related questions, and negotiating third-party vendor agreements including the vendor agreement with the security firm used by Encounter to protect their groups while visiting the West Bank.



To learn more about Kilpatrick Townsend's New York Office pro bono program, please contact New York Office Managing Partner Barry Benjamin, bbarbenjamin@kilpatricktownsend.com.

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