

Excellence IN PRO BONO

Kate Moran Carter

JOB: ASSOCIATE, DAIN, TORPY, LE RAY, WIEST & GARNER, BOSTON



WITH SOCIAL WORKER PARENTS as role models, Kate Moran Carter has always been interested in working with disenfranchised and marginalized populations that don't have equal access to systems, judicial or otherwise.

That's why early in her legal career, Carter began taking on pro bono cases with the Boston-based Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project, which pairs up private attorneys with applicants who are seeking asylum in the U.S. Before arriving at Dain Torpy, Carter encouraged her former firm Robinson & Cole to get involved with PAIR, which eventually led to 16 attorneys being trained to take on cases.

Over the years, Carter has represented individuals primarily from western Africa who fled their homes because of persecution and sought a safe haven in the U.S. She is described by colleagues as "selfless, compassionate and hardworking."

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old commercial real estate litigator. "They are literally risking everything for their safety and the safety of their families. They want a fresh start and believe in the American dream to come here."

Out of the hundreds of volunteer lawyers with PAIR, Carter was viewed by Anita P. Sharma, the organization's pro bono panel manager, as one of the most outstanding. As a result, Carter received PAIR's Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award in 2014 for her long-term commitment to the organization's work in which she consistently takes on the most difficult and time-sensitive cases.

Carter's responsibilities include helping PAIR clients prepare and apply for political asylum and accompanying them to hearings. For cases in which the application is denied, Carter helps prepare the client for a hearing in front of an immigration judge at which testimony could come from mental health experts as to the state of mind of the one seeking asylum.

"These experts could provide context as to what kind of trauma an individual may have experienced in his or her home country and how that manifested mentally and physically," she says.

One case in particular that Carter took on was that of a man from Uganda who was a member of an opposition party and was tortured by Ugandan government forces. In a five-year battle, she was eventually able to help him win asylum in the U.S.

Even though most attorneys are busy with their regular practice and other pressures, Carter would encourage them to make the time to put their legal expertise to other good uses. She is a strong believer in an ethical commitment that lawyers should provide services to those in need of legal help, but without the financial means.

"Pro bono work gives you an opportunity to potentially try a different area of the law and to work with people who don't have the ability to pay for our services, but need it just as much," she says. "That is a great gift to all of us." **MLW**

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