



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS <

Together We Can Do More



2019

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Together
We Can
Do **More**



MVA Public Service Committee

Moore & Van Allen

TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE:

Co-chairs' Message

As co-chairs of Moore & Van Allen's Public Service Committee, one of our greatest pleasures is presenting the annual public service report. This report honors the selfless and sustained work of Moore & Van Allen's attorneys and staff, and celebrates the wide-ranging impact of our pro bono work and acts of public service throughout the Charlotte community and beyond. The report also serves as a representation of the firm's many community partners who have joined with us to bring a multitude of pro bono and service opportunities to fruition. While there is always more work to be done, we firmly believe there is strength in numbers.

Together, we can do more.

Together, we can dream more, serve more, believe more, share more, inspire more, and provide more. Moore & Van Allen's rich history of life-changing community impact would not be possible without the firm's incredible alliances with nonprofit partners, civic organizations, and clients across the region.

At Moore & Van Allen, we fully embrace our responsibility to drive positive community change and prioritize pro bono and hands-on volunteer opportunities. Our efforts range from projects that benefit the elderly, veterans, immigrants, and near-homeless to international refugees, human trafficking survivors, domestic violence victims, and vulnerable children.

This year's annual service report features profiles showcasing the attorneys, staff, and partnerships that are the lifeblood of our public service and pro bono efforts. Please take a moment to applaud every effort and individual. We hope our 2019 Public Service Report ignites hope, pride, and motivation, and serves as a reminder that together we can truly do more.

With gratitude,

Ed O'Keefe

Member, Litigation
Co-chair, Public Service Committee

Kimberly Zirkle

Member, Financial Services
Co-chair, Public Service Committee



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BRINGING NONPROFIT VISIONS TO LIFE

Wealth and Estate Planning Member **Matt Kain** has developed a niche practice within nonprofit law, which provides him with a unique opportunity to incorporate community service and pro bono work into his daily routine. For the past 11 years, Matt has assisted a variety of 501(c)(3) charities and other tax-exempt organizations with all aspects of formation, administration, and corporate governance.

Thanks to a combination of internal relationships and connections with various community groups, Matt is frequently sought out for counsel on the range of needs involved in launching and running a nonprofit. Many times, he also serves indirectly by assisting colleagues in their efforts to help nonprofit entities apply for and receive tax-exempt status. Matt can see the tangible and blossoming fruits of his labor across a range of causes, from education and affordable housing to veteran assistance and diversity. He enjoys joining in the early stages of a dream or vision, and then helping to make that dream become reality.

“Philanthropy in the Charlotte community is so important. I may not be able to financially contribute to every cause, but if I can spend a few hours a week providing a nonprofit organization with what they need to get started, it’s worthwhile. Often, these organizations are volunteer-led, and it’s amazing to observe their passion. I enjoy having the opportunity to assist them as much as possible.”

- **Matt Kain**
Member, Wealth and Estate Planning

FOSTERING NEW BEGINNINGS FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS



Paralegal **Vicki Kirby** was first inspired to join the fight against human trafficking during a Women of Faith conference session that detailed the horrific realities and prevalence of human trafficking. Coincidentally, Moore & Van Allen's **Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project** hosted an FBI training that provided interested paralegals with an opportunity to learn how to fingerprint and conduct background checks for trafficking victims. Vicki attended the training, and has now been involved in this work for more than three years. Through MVA's many relationships with local ministries and law agencies, she assists with survivor record expungement, conducts court document research, substantiates survivor stories, researches traffickers' assets, and more.

Vicki's ultimate goal is to help the firm's trafficking clients move forward, be it through secure housing, financial restitution, education, gainful employment, or seeking justice against the trafficker in court. The work can be emotional and mentally taxing, but when an MVA trafficking client lands on her feet, it makes every moment worthwhile.

"Call the human trafficking hotline at 888-373-7888 if you have suspicions. Traffickers don't discriminate. They don't care about race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. They identify and strike easy prey – usually females with poor self-image and little sense of worth, as they're more easily manipulated. I'm proud and thankful to be working for a firm that has such an exceptional human trafficking program in place."

- Vicki Kirby
Paralegal, Real Estate

WAGING WAR ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

As a father of three, the fight against human trafficking is personal for Global Services Associate **Michael Tarwater**. While his current priority is serving Moore & Van Allen's **Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project** clients, his long-term hope is that human trafficking, and the risks it poses to future generations, will be eliminated.

Michael has handled several cases to date, and he continues to be appalled by the pervasive nature and methods of local traffickers. Michael was particularly shocked by the discovery that an MVA trafficking client was being trafficked by her Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer. Stories like this give Michael renewed daily vigor in fighting for the cause. He admires MVA's groundbreaking strides, rich relationships, and leading role in the Trafficking Task Force composed of ICE, the FBI, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, prosecutors, and service providers. Michael is determined to help victims with basic legal needs, while serving as an ally and source of hope.

"I've been given many blessings. If this work is my chance to give back, then I fully take it on as my responsibility. In this realm, once your eyes have been opened to the issues we face locally, you can't turn away from it. And the more you know, the more you want to do to help. These victims have been disrespected in tragic ways, so we show them respect and try to give them hope."

- **Michael Tarwater**
Associate, Global Services



BRIDGING THE GAP

FOR INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES



Financial Services Associate **Anastasia Fanning** was inspired to help international refugees the moment the opportunity arose through Moore & Van Allen's partnership with the **International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)**. Anastasia believes that, with the numerous crises in today's world, it's vitally important to help refugees and displaced persons navigate the system. She digs into U.N. guidelines to uncover statutory protocol, and helps enforce her clients' legal and human rights.



Anastasia has handled two cases to date – one for a U.S. Armed Forces interpreter seeking an immigrant visa, and the other for an LGBT client in Turkey seeking refuge from ISIS while also facing threats of anti-gay violence from his roommates. In all matters, IRAP conducts a final review to ensure compliance, given that few volunteers are immigration or international lawyers. Anastasia praises IRAP's work and the firm's decision to rally around this cause, grateful for an opportunity to serve beyond borders and outside of her day-to-day practice.

"This work is extremely important. I sometimes feel defeated because these people have valid claims that have been overlooked for years. They're stuck, lost, and there's generally not a clear-cut answer, but when we can help individuals and their families navigate the system to reach safety, it's rewarding beyond words."

- Anastasia Fanning
Associate, Financial Services

THE UNIFIED FIGHT FOR TENANT RIGHTS

Litigation Associate **Nader Raja** has volunteered with Moore & Van Allen's **Housing Rights Pro Bono Project** since his first day at the firm. Through MVA's partnership with **Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC)** and co-champion role in the newly launched **Charlotte Triage Eviction Project**, Nader provides pro bono legal services to underprivileged tenants in Charlotte, helping them to fight and avoid eviction, homelessness, and unsafe housing.

Approximately 30,000 evictions are filed annually in Mecklenburg County, and LANC only has the capacity to handle a fraction of those cases. North Carolina has an expedited eviction process, thus individuals who receive an eviction notice can be on the street in less than two weeks if they don't have proper representation. Nader and Charlotte Triage Eviction Project private practice lawyer volunteers from across the city are helping to fulfill a huge need. Nader applauds MVA's longstanding relationships with service providers such as LANC, as they encourage diverse viewpoints, strengthen community relationships, and bring accountability that helps drive lawyers to take on their first pro bono case ... and subsequently to take on many more.



"Affordable housing is one issue, but safe and affordable housing is an entirely different issue. It's a make-or-break situation for our clients, and we try to find solutions that work for everyone involved. As lawyers, we all have a special obligation to do pro bono work. It's the right thing to do, builds community ties, and helps to restore people's faith in the justice system at a time when trust is low."

- **Nader Raja**
Associate, Litigation



AWAKENING IMAGINATIONS AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH BOOKS



When Word Processing Department Supervisor **Justina Smith** visits Devonshire Elementary School's third grade students every Wednesday, she does far more than just read to her class. Justina enjoys transporting each student right into the story they're exploring. Justina and other volunteers with Moore & Van Allen's **Devonshire Reading Program** are not only helping students to improve their vocabulary, they are also building genuine relationships with the students and helping them to broaden their imaginations in the process.

One of Justina's favorite books from this past school year was *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. Justina saw the students come alive as she had them imitate penguins and pretend to be in the cold Antarctic air. Justina is thrilled to share the gift of reading through the firm's partnership with Devonshire, as she knows words are invaluable. She is also honored to serve as a role model who can make a difference in a child's life just by showing up and demonstrating how much she cares.

"I try to have crazy fun by role playing with the characters in the book. When they use their imaginations, they can become whatever character they choose. And by the end of a school year, I can always see an improvement in the students' ability to verbally express themselves."

- Justina Smith
Supervisor, Word Processing Department



AN ALLIANCE FOR CUSTODY ADVOCACY



Thanks to Moore & Van Allen's time-honored partnership with **Council for Children's Rights (CFCR)**, Corporate Associate **Amanda McQuade** has an opportunity to act on her passion for child welfare. Through CFCR's Custody Advocacy Program (CAP), Amanda works with a team to determine the best interests of children whose parents are going through high-conflict custody cases. Her volunteer responsibilities include compiling recommendations based on statements from each parent, home visits, meetings with child-clients, review of health, school, and other records, and more.

During law school, Amanda was a dedicated advocate for children's rights, lobbying for juvenile defense and taking as many child welfare classes as possible. She and other CAP volunteers are "best interest attorneys," and Amanda notes that kids going through this often contentious process are tremendously encouraged when they realize they have a non-biased advocate in their corner. Even while Amanda is handling closure procedures on a case, she's ready for her next assignment. Amanda encourages anyone with an interest to attend one of MVA's training sessions.



"We cut through stories and identify problems at the root to ensure these children have a stable situation post-divorce. Children are so vulnerable because they don't have any say in what happens to them. I'm beyond thankful for this program and partnership – it's amazing to unite with people of different backgrounds but the same level of enthusiasm for this cause."

- Amanda McQuade
Associate, Corporate

LEADING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS TO SAFETY AND RESTORATION



Litigation Member **Cabell Clay** is a long-time volunteer with Moore & Van Allen's **Domestic Violence Project**, which connects firm volunteers with **Safe Alliance** to help domestic violence victims – both women and men – obtain protective violence orders. In this capacity, Cabell serves clients who have been harassed, betrayed, and abused. She acts as a listening ear, beacon of hope, and legal advocate for victims navigating the legal process and preparing to confront their abuser in court.

Cabell quickly learned the harsh realities of domestic violence when she took her first case in 2011. Cabell's client, who had nearly been killed by her abuser, transparently shared her story, hopes, and dreams. It was then Cabell realized that she was literally helping this client to begin a new life. Cabell gives kudos to Safe Alliance, as they provide holistic care and a straightforward process for volunteer attorneys to follow. She hopes that even non-litigators will join in this effort, as any attorney can make a huge impact.

"Sometimes it's just a matter of getting a protection order, which is literally just a piece of paper. But that paper means they're moving on with their lives. Statistics say it takes seven attempts before a domestic violence victim will leave an abusive relationship. I spend around five hours total on the average case, but it can truly save a life."

- **Cabell Clay**
Member, Litigation

PARTNERING TO PROVIDE PEACE OF MIND

Bankruptcy Member **Doug Ghidina** has participated in Moore & Van Allen's **Pro Bono Wills Project** for five years. While each client situation varies, the client's level of appreciation is always the same: genuine and deep. Through partnership with the **Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy (CCLA)**, firm attorneys have an opportunity to help Mecklenburg County residents with their wills and related estate planning needs.

Doug understands that his clients are bringing their most sensitive and pressing matters to the table. He often meets with clients where and when it is convenient for them – at their homes or in a Showmars near their doctor's office – and enjoys delivering peace of mind by helping them get their personal affairs in order. Using basic information from CCLA as a starting point, Doug consults with clients to clarify their basic estate planning needs, then drafts and finalizes all estate planning documents. He is grateful for the chance to serve well-deserving clients in a meaningful and practical way, as he guides them through such important decisions.



**charlotte center
for legal advocacy**

Justice lives here.

"This is a basic need for everyone, regardless of life situation or financial status. These clients sometimes face difficult decisions, but our work typically brings peace of mind in knowing that, when the time comes, all family members will be on the same page regarding healthcare and financial decisions. I'm heartened to facilitate that result for each client who brings me into this process."

- **Doug Ghidina**

Member, Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring



By the Numbers

THE IMPACT



6,891

Total pro bono hours donated by MVA attorneys in 2018.

5,372

Total public service hours donated by MVA attorneys and staff in 2018.



\$247,091

Team MVA works together to support organizations that are near and dear to our employees' hearts. In 2018, firm employees made individual financial contributions through firm-led giving campaigns totaling \$247,091. These funds benefited organizations such as the Arts & Science Council, the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Safe Alliance, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Metrolinas, Thompson Child & Family, and the United Way, among others.



Pro Bono Areas of Focus

- Domestic Violence
- Guardianship
- Housing Rights
- Human Trafficking
- Immigration & Refugee Assistance
- Nonprofit Corporate Support
- Prisoners' Rights
- Pro Se Support
- Veteran Advocacy
- Wills and Estates



SERVICE ALL STARS

50+ Hours of Pro Bono:

- Kelly Bowling
- Jennifer Braccia
- Bill Butler
- Sarah Byrne
- Cabell Clay
- Martha Efird
- John Fagg
- Anastasia Fanning
- Lori Gibson
- Ryan Grover
- Karen Guzman
- Matt Hawkins
- Fielding Huseth
- Matt Kain
- Katherine Lamberth
- Ben Leighton
- Gabe Mathless
- Jim McLoughlin
- Elena Mitchell
- Randy Phillips
- Kaitlin Price
- Frank Schall
- Russ Sizemore
- Chelsea Trunk
- Scott Tyler
- Kate Wellman
- Beth Yount Grimes
- Kimberly Zirkle

IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to providing volunteer services through our pro bono and public service initiatives, Moore & Van Allen is proud to provide charitable support to organizations dedicated to improving our community. Last year, Moore & Van Allen invested over one million dollars to a number of our long-standing partners who share the firm's vision of serving the greater good.

Below are a handful of organizations that received MVA support in 2018:

Access2Success

Adams Street Foundation

American Cancer Society

American Heart Association

Arts for Life

Autism Charlotte

Bruce Irons Camp Fund

Camp Luck, Inc.

Capital for Children

Care Ring, Inc.

Carolina for Kibera, Inc.

Catawba Lands Conservancy

Charlotte Heptathlon

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation

Child Care Resources, Inc.

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Communities in Schools

Community School of the Arts

Council for Children's Rights

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Dress for Success

Envision Charlotte

First Tee of Greater Charlotte

Gift of Adoption

Give Hope, Inc.

Green Beret Foundation

InReach

Jazz Arts Initiative

Joined in Education

Junior Achievement of the Central Carolinas

Justice Initiatives

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

KIPP Charlotte

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Madelyn's Fund

Make-A-Wish Foundation

Men's Shelter of Charlotte

Only Make Believe

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research

Pro Bono Institute

Safe Alliance

Sahara's Project

Save the Children

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

Sports for Special Kids

Supportive Housing Communities

Susan G. Komen

Sustain Charlotte

Teach for America

The Levine Children's Hospital

The Sandbox

Thompson Child and Family Focus

Time Out Youth Center

Trees Charlotte

United Way of Central Carolinas

Urban Ministry Center

Wellness House

Women's Impact Fund