

INSIGHTS

Sarah Byrne featured in Charlotte Magazine for role in Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project

Publications

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MVA's Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project Leader, Sarah Byrne and her fight for victims of human trafficking was highlighted by *Charlotte Magazine*. The article titled, "Charlotte Attorney Sarah Byrne on Fighting for Victims of Human Trafficking" was published on February 13.

The article

Sarah Byrne grew up the daughter of a judge in western Massachusetts. Early on, she made the connection between law and public service. Byrne graduated from Boston College, then Suffolk University Law School in Boston, and moved to Charlotte in 2005 with her new husband to follow his investment banking career. At Moore & Van Allen, in addition to her regular duties as a lawyer, she worked pro bono to help victims of domestic violence and realized the prevalence of another disturbing crime: human trafficking.

Byrne wondered where trafficking victims could find free, comprehensive legal services like those offered to domestic abuse survivors and was disappointed by what she found. In 2013, Moore & Van Allen developed the MVA Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project, which now includes more than 190 attorneys and legal professionals and has helped more than 150 victims.

A big victory came last July with the passage of N.C. House Bill 198, which Byrne helped draft. The law allows courts to clear the nonviolent criminal records of trafficking victims who committed the crimes as a result of their being trafficked.

We spoke with Byrne at Moore & Van Allen's uptown offices about what motivates her to fight for victims of an often-misunderstood crime and to address the misperception that Charlotte ranks high among U.S. cities in human trafficking. Her words were edited for clarity and space.

To view the complete article, please [click here](#).