

Alumni News

Q1 2021

In This Issue:

[Kramer Levin Promotions](#)

[Welcome to Our First Years!](#)

[Kramer Levin Proudly Welcomes Barry Berke Back to the Firm Following His Service as Chief Impeachment Counsel](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Be Well@KL Initiatives](#)

[Celebrating the Lunar New Year: Year of the Ox](#)

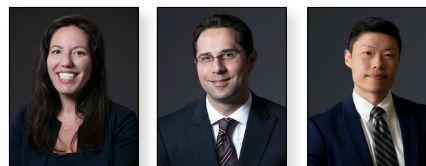
[Pro Bono Updates](#)

[Kramer Levin Closes Lease for Universal Hip Hop Museum](#)

[Recent Awards/Recognitions](#)

[CLE and Resource Training](#)

Kramer Levin Promotions



Alice Byowitz, Jonathan Goodman and Michael Lee were elected to partner positions in the firm. The promotions illustrate Kramer Levin's

focus on fostering and developing talent and its commitment to diversity. Over the past two years, 57% of the lawyers whom the firm promoted to partner were women, and 43% were racially diverse.

Marcus Colucci and Eugene Travers were promoted to special counsel, effective Jan. 1.



Welcome to Our First Years!

In January, we welcomed 22 new associates and law clerks to the firm. We wish them all the best as they begin their careers at Kramer Levin!



Top row L-R:
Martin Ascher
Andrew Baroness
David Beiss
Edwin Bogert
Katherine Brittin
Sarah Casey

Second row L-R:
Emma Cervantes
Drew Diedrich
Jake Goodman
Nicholas Hall
Sabah Khokhar
Jackson Mann

Third row L-R:
Daniela Manzi
Shannon Gillespie
McComb
Martin McSherry
Adam Nowicki
Seal Ortega-Rodriguez
Martha Petrocheilos

Bottom row L-R:
Daria Schieferstein
Kelly Schreiber
Thomas Twitchell
Dean Yu

Alumni Relations Board

Eric Tirschwell

Managing Director,
Litigation and National
Enforcement Policy,
Everytown for Gun
Safety

Joshua Little

Managing Director,
Innovatus Capital
Partners, LLC

Jennifer Rochon

General Counsel,
Girl Scouts of the USA

Lynda Daniel

Director & Managing
Counsel, Regulatory
Enforcement &
Investigations, BNY
Mellon

Melissa Prober

Senior Associate
Counsel, New York
Genome Center

Michael Sternhell

Director, Burford Capital

Pamela Swidler

Global Head of Real
Estate Transactions
and Special Counsel,
WeWork

Cindy B. Arnold
Matthew S. Dunn
Shannon H. Hedvat
Dani R. James
Thomas T. Janover
Ann Kalodis

Arielle Warshall Katz
Darren LaVerne
Jennifer Manton
Izabel McDonald
Jamie A. Porco
Rachel Z. Roth

Lauren Tapper
Julia L. Wachter
Elise Wagner
Andrew Ward
Ernest S. Wechsler

Kramer Levin Proudly Welcomes Barry Berke Back to the Firm Following His Service as Chief Impeachment Counsel

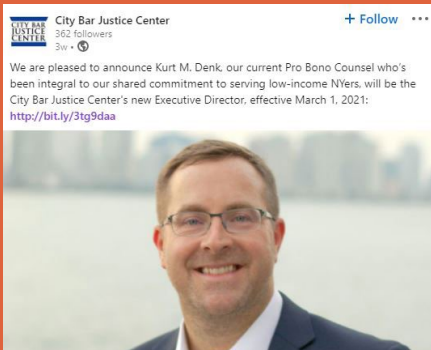
In February, we welcomed back **Barry Berke's** return to the firm following his historic assignment as chief impeachment counsel. Barry served as lead counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives in the Senate impeachment trial of the former president of the United States. This followed his service as special counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in connection with its first investigation and impeachment of the former president of the United States.

Barry talked about his experience with *The American Lawyer*.



Alumni Spotlight

Congratulations to Kramer Levin alum Kurt M. Denk, the City Bar Justice Center's new executive director (effective March 1).



Reminders

Follow Us   

Alumni LinkedIn Group

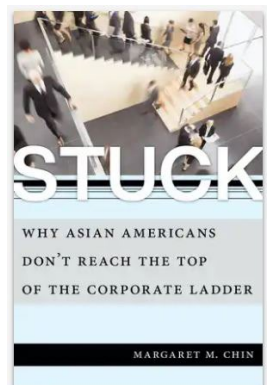
It's the official **alumni network** for former Kramer Levin lawyers and staff to stay in touch with the firm, to connect with each other and to learn about professional development opportunities.

Be Well@KL Initiatives

Be Well@KL is a program designed to support the well-being (physical, emotional and financial) of our employees and their families. As part of the firm's ongoing commitment to raising awareness of and offering tools for overall wellness and mental health, the firm hosts regular programs focused on these areas. [Read more](#) about some of our recent programs.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year: Year of the Ox

On Jan. 11, in honor of the Lunar New Year, the firm sponsored a discussion with Professor **Margaret M. Chin** to discuss her book *Stuck: Why Asian Americans Don't Reach the Top of the Corporate Ladder*.



Chin is a professor of sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY. She is also the author of *Sewing Women: Immigrants and the NYC Garment Industry*. Margaret was born and raised in New York City and is a child of Chinese immigrant parents. She received her B.A. from Harvard University and her Ph.D. from Columbia University, concentrating on immigrants and their children, organizations and work; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); race and ethnicity; and Asian Americans. Margaret was also a witness supporting holistic admissions

and affirmative action in the Harvard case represented by the NAACP LDF. She is a trustee for the Tenement Museum and is a founding board member of the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard. Her work has been featured in *The Atlantic* and *Inside Higher Ed*, and exhibited at the Tenement Museum and the Museum of the City of New York.



About the Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year, most commonly associated with the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, typically falls sometime between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20 annually. Lunar New Year 2021 is on Feb. 12, and it's the Year of the Ox. The Lunar New Year marks the first new moon of the lunisolar calendars traditional to many East Asian countries. As *The New York Times* explains, "A solar year — the time it takes Earth to orbit the sun — lasts around 365 days, while a lunar year, or 12 full cycles of the Moon, is roughly 354 days." As with the Jewish lunisolar calendar, "a month is still defined by the moon, but an extra month is added periodically to stay close to the solar year." This is why the new year falls on a different day within that monthlong window each year.

Pro Bono Updates

Kramer Levin Files Amicus Brief on Behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, Supporting California Age-Based Restrictions on the Sale of Firearms

On Jan. 26, 2021, Kramer Levin filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Jones v. Becerra* on behalf of its client Everytown for Gun Safety. Everytown is the nation's largest gun violence prevention organization, with nearly 6 million supporters in all 50 states, fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and help save lives. The plaintiffs in *Jones* claim that California Penal Code § 27510(a) violates the Second Amendment and seek injunctive relief against its application, which the district court denied. The challenged statute restricts the sale of firearms to individuals under the age of 21 by licensed firearms dealers in California.

The Kramer Levin team included Litigation partner **Darren LaVerne**, special counsel **Karen Steinberg Kennedy**, associate **Daniel Ketani**, and paralegal **Denise Reid**, and Intellectual Property partner **Lisa Kobialka** and paralegal **Gladys Tong**.

Read about the case and the brief on our [website](#).



Kramer Levin Leads the Charge in Blocking “Death to Asylum” Rule That Would Have Barred Most Claims and Particularly Harmed LGBTQ Refugees

On Jan. 8, 2021, U.S. District Judge James Donato of the Northern District of California granted a Kramer Levin team's request for a preliminary injunction blocking the outgoing Trump administration's changes to the asylum rules from going into effect in less than three days. The changes, referred to by opponents as the “Death to Asylum Rule,” would have negatively impacted almost every aspect of the asylum system, and would have made it nearly impossible for LGBTQ and HIV-positive refugees who are fleeing persecution in their home countries to receive asylum in the United States. Likewise, the changes would have almost entirely banned asylum for those making gender-based claims and for victims of non-state violence.

The team was led by Litigation partner **Jeffrey S. Trachtman**, Intellectual Property partner **Aaron Frankel** and Litigation special counsel **Jason M. Moff**, and includes Litigation partner **Alan R. Friedman**, Litigation associates **Chase Henry Mechanick**, **Ryan Gander** and **Irene Weintraub**, Intellectual Property associate **Austin Manes** and Real Estate associate **Charlotte Courtade**.

Read about our efforts on our [website](#).



Kramer Levin Obtains Unanimous Reversal of Conviction on Appeal for Pro Bono Client

On Jan. 7, 2021, the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department, unanimously reversed the conviction of client C.A. for burglary and sexual abuse in the first degree and ordered a new trial.

The Kramer Levin team consists of Litigation associates **Daniel Ketani** and **Danielle Moody**, and paralegals **Billy Jump** and **Santo Cipolla**.

Read more about the case on our [website](#).



Kramer Levin Gets Denial of Asylum Overturned for Cuban Political Dissident

Kramer Levin succeeded in getting a denial of asylum overturned for a client who had been beaten, interrogated and detained by the Cuban National Police before he escaped the country on a makeshift raft. He had spent nearly two years in immigration detention in Louisiana.

The Kramer Levin team consisted of Litigation associates **Aaron Webman** and **Astrid Ackerman**, and law clerk **Alexander Gelb**, supervised by special counsel **Marjorie Sheldon**. **Jerry Henriquez** and **Santo Cipolla** provided paralegal assistance.

Find out more on our [website](#).



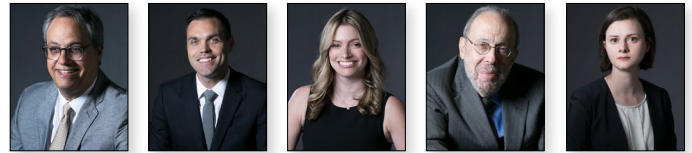
Kramer Levin Joins Forces With Volunteers of Legal Service on the Unemployed Workers Project

As part of our Racial Justice Initiative, the Diversity and Pro Bono committees have arranged for the firm to assist in advocating on behalf of claimants at unemployment hearings.



Kramer Levin Closes Lease for Universal Hip Hop Museum

On Dec. 29, 2020, Kramer Levin client Universal Hip Hop Museum announced that it had signed a long-term lease in connection with a much larger closing involving L+M Development Partners, the city of New York, the NYC Economic Development Corp., the NYC Housing Development Corp., Housing Preservation & Development, and Wells Fargo. This was the culmination of more than two years of work by the Kramer Levin team, including Real Estate partner **Andrew Charles** and associates **Daniel Stewart** and **Meigan Serle**, and counsel **Stephen Senie** and Environmental associate **Julia A. Quigley**. Read more about this transaction on our [website](#).



Recent Awards/Recognitions

Her Justice Recognizes Kramer Levin at 2021 Commitment to Justice Awards

Litigation associates **Rupita Chakraborty**, **Rachel Goot**, **Erin Klewin** and **Reyhan Watson**; Environmental associate **Julia Quigley**; and Corporate special counsel **Samantha Ettari** each received the Above and Beyond Award, presented by Her Justice as part of the 2021 Commitment to Justice Awards. The Above and Beyond Award is given to organizations and individuals whose support in the pro bono efforts of Her Justice have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Also recognized were Kramer Levin alumni **Hannah Seifert** and **Jessica Weigel**.



Kramer Levin Recognized by Docket Navigator for PTAB Institution Success Rate and Top PTAB Lawyers



Kramer Levin was recognized by *Docket Navigator's* 2020 Year in Review. The firm was noted as having the lowest IPR institution rate for patent owners, cutting off patent challenges at the outset. The report also recognized Intellectual Property partners **Jonathan Caplan** and **James Hannah** and associate **Jeffrey Price** as top practitioners.

Kramer Levin Recognized by Law360 With Practice Group of the Year Designations for Real Estate and Bankruptcy and Restructuring

Law360 has selected Kramer Levin's Bankruptcy and Restructuring and Real Estate groups as Practice Groups of the Year for 2020. Both groups have previously received this prestigious recognition, for which only a handful of firms are chosen each year.



The Bankruptcy and Restructuring group was selected for its work over the past year, from working with municipalities and state attorneys general in Purdue Pharma's bankruptcy to representing a diverse bondholder group in offshore driller Valaris' Chapter 11 case. Read the full interview [here](#).



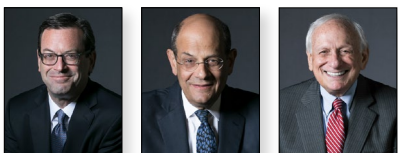
Among the cited representations, the Real Estate group was selected for its work for client Vici Properties Inc. and its representation of Mitsui Fudosan. Read the full interview [here](#).



Lawdragon 500 has named Bankruptcy and Restructuring partner **Amy Caton**, Litigation partner **Dani James**, Corporate partner **Jamie Kocis** and Litigation partner **Barry Berke** to its 2021 list of leading lawyers.



Lawdragon 500 named five Kramer Levin lawyers to its annual Leading U.S. Corporate Employment Lawyers list. Employment Law partners **Kevin Leblang** and **Eliza Kaiser**, Business Immigration partners **Mark Koestler** and **Matthew Dunn**, and Executive Compensation and Employment Law partner **Marissa Holob** were all named to the 2020 list.



Barry H. Berke, **Jeffrey L. Braun** and **Gary P. Naftalis** named to City & State's 2021 Law Power 100 List



Daniel A. Rabinowitz named one of *The National Law Journal's* 2021 Insurance Law Trailblazers

Recent Awards/Recognitions (cont.)



Irena Royzman
named one of
Crain's New York's
Notable Women in Law



Nathalia Bernardo
named one of
Connect CRE's
2020 Lawyers in Real Estate



Douglas Mannal
named one of
Turnarounds & Workouts'
2020 Outstanding Restructuring Lawyers



Jonathan Goodman
received the
M&A Advisor's
Emerging Leaders Award

CLE and Resource Training

Flexible Work Arrangements — Employment Law and Tax Implications

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. ET

- How COVID-19 vaccine availability is and will be impacting the workplace
- Legal implications of flexible work arrangements
- Policies and practices to facilitate flexible work and reduce legal concerns
- Tax implications of remote work for employers and employees

CLE Credit

This program is eligible for 1.0 NY and CA CLE credit and reciprocal NJ credit and is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced lawyers.

Kramer Levin Presenters

Kevin Leblang, Robert Holtzman, Eliza Kaiser, Pamela Capps and Sarah Hanson



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