

# Alumni News

Q2-2021

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## Kramer Levin Welcomes Abraham Reshtick



Kramer Levin is pleased to announce that **Abraham (Avi) Reshtick** has joined the firm as a partner in the Tax department and a co-chair of the firm's Israel practice. Avi advises strategic businesses, private equity and venture capital funds, and their portfolio companies in strategizing, structuring and negotiating domestic and cross-border transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, tax-free spin-offs, leveraged buyouts, joint ventures and other strategic combinations, as well as debt financing, capital markets transactions and financial restructurings.

## Welcome to Our Summer Associates!

In May, we launched our virtual 2021 Summer Associate Program! We are so pleased to welcome another excellent class of 19 law students. Be sure to check out our social media campaign, covering all the events and profiles on our summers!

## Alumni Relations Board

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

**Joshua Little**  
General Counsel and  
Managing Director,  
Innovatus Capital  
Partners LLC

**Jennifer Rochon**  
General Counsel,  
Girl Scouts of the USA

**Lynda Daniel**  
Senior Risk Advisor,  
McKinsey & Company

**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



### Top row L-R:

David Alexander  
Hamilton Drucker  
Jaedyn Ellis  
Catherine Engelmann  
Steven Ficurilli

### Second row L-R:

Jasmine Hakimian  
Aaron Jacobs  
Jennifer Jernstedt  
CJ Keller  
Alex Kronman

### Third row L-R:

Jessica Shub  
Nicole Sweeney  
Hailey Tahk  
Nicholas Tonckens  
Andrew Vazquez

### Bottom row L-R:

Nicco Vocaturo  
Nathan Wolfe  
Drew Zagami  
Gabe Zimmerman

## Celebrating Pride

At Kramer Levin, Pride is not just one month of the year. Since our earliest days, Pride has been about action: ongoing, front-line work to drive real, systemic change. This Pride Month, we reflected on some of the groundbreaking work and cases we're proud to have been and continue to be a part of in the fight for equality, from our role in helping launch Gay Men's Health Crisis in 1981 to our role in the fight for marriage equality on the state and national levels.

As part of our celebration of Pride Month and in connection with the firm's Racial Justice Initiative, we hosted a panel discussion regarding *Immigration Equality v. DHS*.

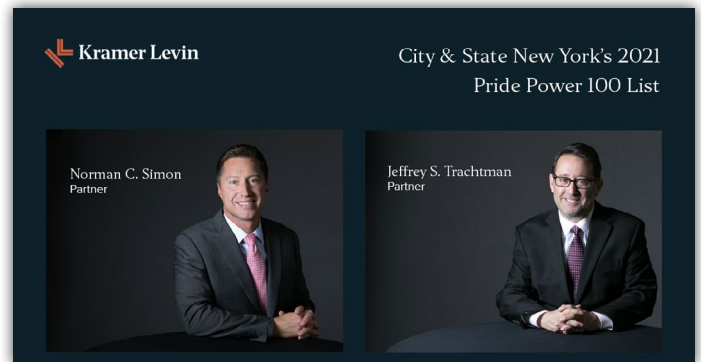
Co-counseling with Lambda Legal and Immigration Equality and representing the TransLatin@ Coalition and the Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (among other fantastic organizations), Kramer Levin obtained a preliminary injunction blocking the outgoing Trump administration's changes to the asylum rules, just three days before they were scheduled to go into effect.

Read more about the "Death to Asylum Rule" and our all-star lineup of panelists who shared behind-the-scenes insights into the development of the winning legal strategy.

We also joined Johnson & Johnson and Immigration Equality for a virtual pro bono clinic to assist LGBTQ and HIV-positive individuals in filing for asylum.

Worldwide, individuals face violence, prison time or the death penalty due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. During the clinic, teams assisted pro se applicants in preparing applications for asylum.

Thank you to the Johnson & Johnson, Immigration Equality and Kramer Levin attorneys who gave their time for this important clinic!



## 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.

## Commemorating Juneteenth

This June, as we marked the first anniversary of the launch of our Racial Justice Initiative, the firm also observed Juneteenth.

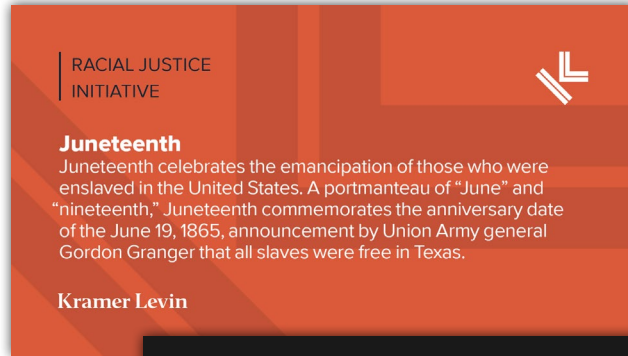
Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of those who were enslaved in the United States. A portmanteau word combining “June” and “nineteenth,” Juneteenth commemorates the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement by Union Army General Gordon Granger that all slaves were free in Texas.

Juneteenth is now a federal holiday and was observed this year on Friday, June 18.

In honor of our observance of Juneteenth, our Racial Justice Initiative sponsored a presentation titled “Democracy and the Fight to Protect Black Voting Rights,” featuring Abdul Dosunmu of pro bono client Young Black Lawyers’ Organizing Coalition (YBLOC).

Abdul spoke on the origins and importance of Juneteenth, as well as contemporary voting rights and political participation challenges YBLOC is addressing.

Recently, as part of our Racial Justice Initiative, we collaborated with YBLOC on voting rights research and public education to protect access to the ballot box. Abdul and YBLOC are on the front lines of the effort to protect and ensure the right to vote.



## Community Matters: Coalition for the Homeless

At Kramer Levin, pro bono work and community service are integral parts of our culture. We are proud to present Community Matters, a series highlighting several nonprofit and community development initiatives for which we have provided assistance.

Our first spotlight was on Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition). Through litigation, public education and direct services, the Coalition helps homeless men, women and children access affordable housing, sufficient food and the chance to work for a living wage.

[Read about](#) how we got involved and how we’ve been able to support the organization.



“They play a significant role in monitoring how homeless folks are treated and making sure they have the services they need and that they are legally entitled to.”

— Barry Berke



Cindy Arnold serves as chairperson of the board for the Coalition’s [First Step Program](#).



“Our commitment to the Coalition goes back to almost its inception. When [Kramer Levin founding partner] Lou Lowenstein was chairman of the Coalition, he wanted them to have a home, and he made that happen.”

— Michael Korotkin

## Kramer Levin Joins Alliance for Asian American Justice

Kramer Levin has joined the Alliance for Asian American Justice (the Alliance), a national pro bono initiative of 40+ law firms and in-house counsel committed to standing up for victims and preventing future acts of anti-Asian hate. The Alliance aims to aid victims in accessing legal representation and overcoming barriers that often hinder people from obtaining assistance when they are the target of hate crimes.



**ALLIANCE**  
— FOR —  
**ASIAN AMERICAN**  
**JUSTICE**

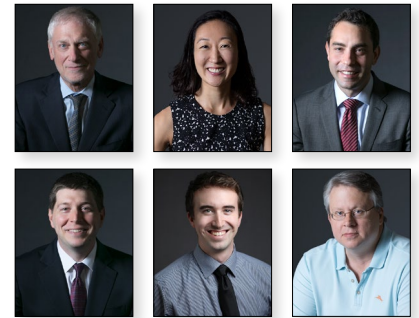
## Pro Bono Updates

### California Supreme Court Orders Trial Courts to Omit Misleading Instruction on Eyewitness Identifications; Kramer Levin Filed Amicus Brief on Behalf of the Innocence Project and Affiliated Organizations

Kramer Levin, representing the Innocence Project Inc., the California Innocence Project, the Project for the Innocent at Loyola Law School, and the Northern California Innocence Project, as amici curiae in the California Supreme Court, filed a brief in *People v. Lemcke* arguing that California's criminal jury instruction on eyewitness certainty was misleading and increased the risk of wrongful convictions. The brief discussed the scientific consensus that while eyewitness certainty is generally not probative of accuracy, laypeople are unaware of that fact and tend to give undue credence to a witness's self-reported confidence. The brief argued that the instruction, by directing jurors to consider accuracy, endorsed the false notion that confidence and accuracy are closely correlated.

The Kramer Levin team consisted of Litigation counsel **David Frankel**, Intellectual Property partner **Hannah Lee**, Litigation associate **Aaron Webman**, former Litigation associate **John McNulty**, and paralegals **Phil King** and **Steve Dennison**.

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



### Kramer Levin Successfully Represents Pro Bono Client in Child Support Case

In January 2020, Kramer Levin filed a petition for violation of a child support order on behalf of a single mother who was owed thousands of dollars in child support needed to care for her young son. After a willfulness hearing, on May 27, 2021, Kramer Levin successfully obtained an order from the Manhattan Family Court finding that the respondent willfully violated the child support order by failing to pay over \$11,300 in arrears.

The Kramer Levin team included Litigation associates **Erin Klewin** and **Rachel Goot**, Corporate associate **Kaelin Brittin**, and paralegal **Pamela Badolato**. Litigation partner **Alan Friedman** supervised this matter.

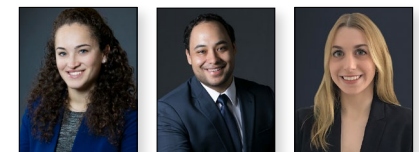
Read more about the case on our [website](#).



### Kramer Levin Successfully Petitions Removal of Client From the NY State Central Register

Litigation associates **Anna Boltyanskiy** and **Reyhan Watson**, and law clerk **Daniela Manzi** successfully represented our client in appealing her placement on New York's Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). An administrative proceeding to place someone on the SCR automatically begins whenever the NYC Administration for Children's Services starts a family court proceeding against a parent.

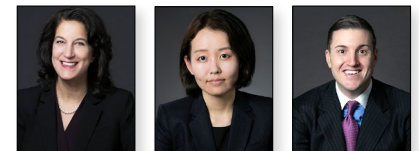
Read more about the case on our [website](#).



### Kramer Levin Successfully Secures Unemployment Benefits for a New York City Substitute Teacher

Litigation special counsel **Karen Steinberg Kennedy**, former Intellectual Property associate **Anna Xue Li** and Corporate law clerk **Andrew Barondess**, working with Volunteers of Legal Service, successfully secured unemployment benefits for a New York City substitute teacher.

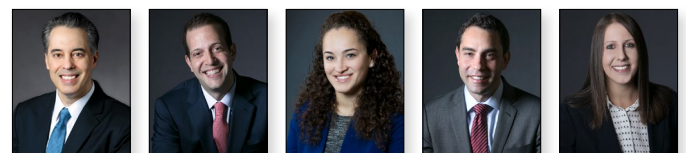
Read more about the case on our [website](#).



### Kramer Levin Successfully Settles Civil Rights Case Against the City of New York

Litigation partner **Michael Martinez** and associates **Seth Schinfeld** and **Anna Boltyanskiy** successfully settled their client's Section 1983 civil rights case against the city of New York in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. The client's claims against the city and various police officers centered on two allegedly false arrests, malicious prosecutions, and due process violations relating to certain property the city seized and never returned to him. Litigation associate **Aaron Webman** and former Litigation associate **Elise Funke** were also instrumental in positioning the case to reach this significant outcome.

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



## Recent Awards/Recognitions



Kramer Levin achieved high marks in the **2021 Chambers Associates Survey**, including a ranking in the **top 10 for Pro Bono**. The firm also ranked highly for Quality of Life and was recognized as a Leading Firm for Associate Satisfaction and Career Development

**Chambers USA 2021** has recognized **Kramer Levin** and its lawyers for excellence in a number of practice areas.



**Legal 500 US 2021** has recognized **Kramer Levin** and its attorneys for excellence in a number of practice areas. Attorneys were recognized across 18 practice areas.



**Kramer Levin** has received an **Impact Case of the Year** award at the **Managing IP Awards 2021** for its successful representation of Centripetal Networks Inc. in its patent litigation case against Cisco Systems Inc. in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.



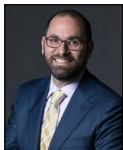
**Kramer Levin** was named one of the **National Legal Aid & Defender Association's (NLADA) 2021 Beacon of Justice Award** recipients, recognizing pro bono work done to address systemic racial disparities in 2020.



Tax associate **Rita Celebrezze D'Souza** was among those recognized as a 2021 Dean's List: VOLS Pro Bono Star, presented by Volunteers of Legal Services at their 2021 New York, Together Awards.



**Norm Simon** and **Jeff Trachtman** Named to *City & State New York's* 2021 Pride Power 100.



Litigation special counsel **Jason M. Moff** was one of the honorees at the 2021 President's Pro Bono Service Awards, presented by the New York State Bar Association.



*Law360* has named Intellectual Property partner **Hannah Lee** and Real Estate partner **Josh S. Winefsky** to its list of 2021 Rising Stars.



The *Daily Journal* named Intellectual Property partner **Paul Andre** to its list of Top Intellectual Property Lawyers for 2021.

## CLE and Resource Training

### Dana Bazelon Presentation on Misdemeanor Prosecution and Parole/Probation

Monday, July 26, 2021

1:00 pm ET/10:00 am PT

As part of Kramer Levin's Racial Justice Initiative, please join us for a CLE discussion with Dana Bazelon, senior policy counsel to Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner. Dana will share insights on Larry Krasner's criminal justice reform initiatives, including in the areas of misdemeanor prosecution and diversion, probation, and parole. Along with Larry Krasner and the rest of his team, Dana was featured in the outstanding **PBS documentary Philly D.A.** View the [trailer](#).

Join the **webinar**.

Passcode: 908470

Webinar ID: 967 9638 4175

Or One tap mobile:

US: +16468769923,,96796384175#,,,,\*908470# or  
+13126266799,,96796384175#,,,,\*908470#

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Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 312 626 6799 or  
+1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or  
+1 253 215 8782

International numbers **available**.

### CLE Credit

1.5 NY transitional Diversity/Inclusion/Elimination of Bias credit  
1.5 CA participatory Bias credit, and  
1.5 NJ reciprocal Diversity, Inclusion & Elimination of Bias credit

(Note: Newly admitted New York attorneys may not earn Diversity/Inclusion/Elimination of Bias CLE credit, but are nonetheless encouraged to attend and otherwise participate in diversity programs.)