



SECURING SAFETY AND FREEDOM FROM PERSECUTION

In 2020, Duane Morris donated over 10,000 hours to more than 200 immigrants, assisting clients from their very first steps in the U.S. to obtaining work authorization, permanent residency, and naturalization.

Since 2019 - in collaboration with Immigration Justice Campaign, Immigration Equality, HIAS Pennsylvania and more - Duane Morris has significantly expanded its LGBTQIA-related asylum practice, taking on 17 cases and donating over 1,500 pro bono hours. Here are a couple clients' stories:

HELPING TO HEAL

In February 2021, the pro bono team secured asylum for our client Maria, a 29-year-old transgender woman from El Salvador. At 13, Maria moved to her grandmother's home because her mother beat her for her presenting as a woman and her mother refused to help Maria attend school. With her grandmother's help, Maria became a cosmetologist. After opening her own salon, Maria began hormone therapy and fully transitioned to live as a woman. A few months later, Maria's cousin—a regional leader in Mara 18 gang—began extorting Maria, knowing the police would refuse to protect Maria as a transgender woman. When Maria could not pay "rent," the gang sexually trafficked Maria for seven years. She also was threatened with death, kidnapped, beaten and experienced friends' murders simply because they were transgender. Maria's cousin brutally tortured/murdered a third cousin who was gay, and he threatened to do the same to Maria if she did not leave because he viewed her as an abomination. Maria fled to the U.S. where she sought asylum and was detained in an all-male facility during the coronavirus pandemic. Duane Morris attorneys took on Maria's case, arguing she was entitled to asylum as a member of the particular social group "transgender women in El Salvador." They built her case, working with witnesses in El Salvador who agreed to testify—even during the pandemic—and argued her case virtually. Maria was granted asylum; she continues working on healing and learning English. She hopes to reopen her salon.

THE 'I' IS FOR INVISIBLE: TATENDA NGWARU, GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR INTERSEX RIGHTS

When Tatenda Ngwaru was born in Gutu, Zimbabwe, in 1988, the doctor had never seen an intersex person before. He misconstrued her unusual physical appearance to be male and told her parents the best they could do was raise her as a boy, which they did for 10 years. Yet, growing up, Ngwaru knew she identified as a woman, which was particularly difficult in her extremely homophobic community and culture.

At 14 or 15 years old, Ngwaru began having pelvic pains, which led to exploratory surgery and the discovery that she had ovaries, was intersex and was experiencing menstrual cramps.

Ngwaru's community did not understand her identity or diagnosis, and did not accept her changing appearance. The government and society in Zimbabwe have long ostracized and discriminated against the LGBTQI community. In this society, Ngwaru's neighbors did not understand nor want to understand that she was an intersex woman, and she was bullied, beaten and tormented throughout her school and collegiate years.

After college, Ngwaru founded True Identity, an organization providing a safe space for herself and other LGBTQI Zimbabweans. When her community members learned about True Identity, the threats and violence against Ngwaru increased. In July 2016 while Ngwaru was celebrating her birthday at her parents' home, an angry anti-LGBTQI mob gathered outside the home, threw stones at the house and called for Ngwaru to come outside so they could attack and kill her. Terrified, Ngwaru fled the country fearing for her life and safety as well as her parents.

In the United States, Ngwaru has become even more outspoken in her political opinion and activism on behalf of LGBTQI people. She is an outspoken activist in the Black intersex and transgender communities, encouraging support and inclusion of Black intersex individuals in the LGBTQI movement, and has written articles in several publications and even appeared in a documentary, *She's Not a Boy* by Real Stories, featured in *The Atlantic*.

Duane Morris attorneys, in collaboration with Immigration Equality, represent Ngwaru pro bono in seeking asylum in the United States, as an LGBTQI Zimbabwean and political activist. Ngwaru seeks to earn her master's degree in social work and to continue advocating for intersex youth and rights in Zimbabwe and the United States. During the past year, Duane Morris helped 17 LGBTQI asylum seekers fleeing persecution due to their gender or sexual orientation in countries ranging from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, to Russia, Ghana, Jamaica and more.

PROVIDING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI), the nation's oldest and largest LGBTQ youth services agency, fosters healthy youth development through a comprehensive package of direct services and referrals concerning education, healthcare, mental health, homelessness, economic empowerment and more. Duane Morris is proud to support HMI and its mission, and our attorneys have assisted HMI pro bono on numerous legal and regulatory issues, such as updating its employee handbook, negotiating and drafting a cause marketing agreement with a worldwide cosmetic company, and drafting legal documents for licensing its intellectual property, know-how and services to its first federated partner, HMI: New Jersey.



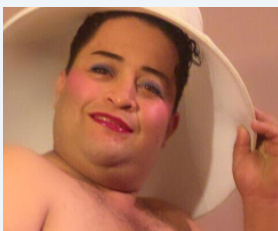
SUPPORTING CULTURAL CHANGE AND ACCEPTANCE

For 30+ years, GLAAD has been rewriting the script for LGBTQ acceptance. As a dynamic media force, GLAAD tackles tough issues to shape the narrative and provoke dialogue that leads to cultural change. Duane Morris attorneys support GLAAD's critical work by advising on a variety of corporate matters pro bono, including partnership agreements, investment policies, and event contracts.



QUEER BY DESIGN: BOTH& APPAREL

All clothing is currently built off a binary fit and sizing system. The result? If you're a transmasculine or gender nonconforming-identified person, nothing fits. The response? Both& apparel, the first clothing company to create a fit and sizing system not based off the binary. Both& works directly in conversation with the community to research, design, and create a new system, tailored to the shapes and proportions of trans and gender nonconforming individuals. A cross-practice, cross-office team of attorneys in Duane Morris' Fashion, Retail and Consumer Branded Products industry group supports Both& pro bono concerning corporate structure, partnership and funding agreements, model contracts, immigration advice and trademark prosecutions.



-Daniela Lizbeth, who was granted asylum from Honduras, where she survived kidnapping, torture and death threats

"Now my life has totally changed in my mind. I don't have fear anymore that someone is looking for me to kill me or persecute me. I thank you very much, very much for your help. I hope that you can continue to help more girls like us that we are mistreated."

U.S. RESULTS IN 2021



34,000+ hours donated in 2021, an average of 40 hours / attorney.



1,100+ pro bono clients during the past year.



6,100+ hours representing over 250 nonprofits in corporate governance, tax and transactional matters.



1,680 hours representing 49 veterans applying for service related disability benefits or military discharge upgrades.



5,400+ hours representing 225 immigrants seeking lawful status in the United States.



1,430 hours representing 50+ individuals with criminal convictions seeking to prove their innocence, petition for pardon, or expungement of low-level criminal records.

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ABOUT DUANE MORRIS

Duane Morris LLP, a law firm with more than 800 attorneys in offices across the United States and internationally, is asked by a broad array of clients to provide innovative solutions to today's legal and business challenges.

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