



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

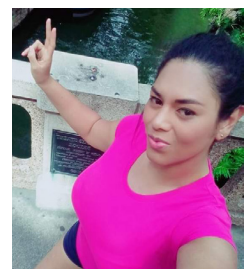
In February 2021, the pro bono team secured asylum for our client Maria, a 29-year-old transgender woman from El Salvador. At 13, Maria moved to her grandmother's home because her mother beat her for her presenting as a woman and her mother refused to help Maria attend school. With her grandmother's 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.

ADVOCATING FOR A SAFETY

Litigators in Duane Morris' Philadelphia office successfully obtained asylum pro bono for a 24-year-old transgender woman from Honduras, Erika, who was abused by her family because of her female gender identity and was kicked out of her family home at only 12 years old. Erika moved to a shelter for homeless youth where she was assaulted by an employee. At 14, she ran away and was forced into sex work. Erika was assaulted many times prior to her 18th birthday and experienced one of her friends—also a transgender woman—being murdered. Erika sought assistance from the Honduran National Police several times, but the police mocked her and refused to investigate the crimes or even to take down a report.

At 18 years old, the Honduran government unlawfully denied Erika government identification that would allow her to seek employment because she presented as a woman. As a result, Erika again was forced into sex work to earn any money for food and shelter.

Thereafter, Erika was attacked by a man with a butcher knife on the streets of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, when he learned that she had male sexual organs. The man cut Erika's back from neck to waist and then attempted to stab out her breasts. Before being scared away by a passing car, the man threatened to burn our client alive. The attack left Erika with a cut most of the way down her back and other wounds



Erika at the San Antonio Riverwalk

on her arms from protecting her chest. Erika sought treatment at a local emergency room, which hastily stitched up the wounds and immediately forced her out because they did not want a transgender woman in their files. The hospital assumed Erika had AIDS because she was transgender. After the police again refused to assist Erika, she fled to the United States, where she legally presented herself at the Laredo, Texas, port of entry and applied for asylum. With Duane Morris' help, our client was granted asylum and released the next day. She now lives in Houston and hopes to be an advocate and positive example to fellow transgender women and survivors. Duane Morris continues to represent her in her lawful permanent residency application.

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.



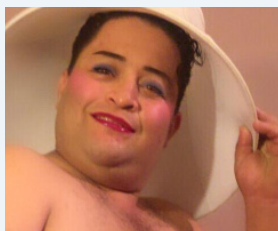
SUPPORTING CULTURAL CHANGE AND ACCEPTANCE

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 2020

40,681

Pro Bono Hours Donated

100%

Attorney Participation

2,000+

hours assisting more than 75 veterans

10,000+

hours assisting more than 400 nonprofits and microentrepreneurs

10,000+

hours assisting more than 250 immigrants and families

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ABOUT DUANE MORRIS

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