

Sterne Kessler Succeeds in Motion for Class Certification for Detained Immigrant Children

Washington D.C. (April 26, 2019) - Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox is proud to announce success in a motion for class certification in *JECM v. Hayes*, together with co-counsel Legal Aid Justice Center and the Southern Poverty Law Center. In a hearing held on April 26, 2019, in the Eastern District Court of Virginia, Judge Brinkema informed the parties that she would be granting the motion on behalf of the child plaintiff class and the sponsor class.

The lawsuit alleges that the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) policy of sharing information about sponsors and household members with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) results in the prolonged detention of unaccompanied minors in its care, which is inconsistent with ORR's statutory responsibilities to the children. The classes include children detained in ORR custody across Virginia, and their sponsors anywhere in the United States.

The Sterne Kessler *pro bono* team, including Directors, [Salvador Bezos](#), [J.C. Rozendaal](#), [Chandrika Vira](#); Counsels, [Kristina Caggiano Kelly](#) and [Yugo Nagashima](#); Associates, Brady Gleason and [Dallin Glenn](#); and Legal Secretary Ryan Kaiser worked with co-counsel to brief these issues and moot the arguments.

“Judge Brinkema’s decision today sends a strong signal that the court is deeply concerned about the government’s use of child detainees as bait for immigration enforcement,” said Director Sal Bezos, lead of Sterne Kessler’s immigration-focused *pro bono* matters. “We are incredibly proud of our team and our co-counsel for their work on behalf of these families across the Commonwealth.”

Sterne Kessler is dedicated to providing *pro bono* legal support to deserving organizations and underserved communities—both locally and internationally. A list of representative matters, as well as further information on the award-winning practice is available [here](#).

About Sterne Kessler

Based in Washington, D.C. and renowned for more than four decades for dedication to the protection, transfer, and enforcement of intellectual property rights, Sterne Kessler is one of the most highly regarded intellectual property specialty law firms in the world. Its team of attorneys, registered patent agents, students, and technical specialists include some of the country's most respected practitioners of IP law tackling innovations across a broad spectrum of industries. The firm's practitioners hold over 50 masters and over 50 doctorate degrees in science or engineering and represent Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, start-ups, inventors, venture capital firms, and universities in a client service driven environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating. Visit the firm online at sternekessler.com.

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