

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



B.K. (BOONG-KYU) LEE, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*
Expert Structuring and Contract Advice Helps Expand Financial Counseling for Thousands in Need in Cities Across the Country

B.K. (Boong-Kyu) Lee is counsel at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP with a practice in Structured Finance. He received a B.A. from Yonsei University in Seoul in 1988, an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1990, an S.M. from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1993, and a J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law in 2002.

Over the course of the past year, B.K. Lee has provided extensive assistance to **Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund** (“CFE Fund”) to formalize its relationships with key partners in its endeavors. The CFE Fund helps mayors and other municipal authorities identify, develop, fund, implement, and research pilots and programs that assist low- to moderate-income individuals and families in the development of financial capability. The CFE Fund identifies high-impact, scalable, evidence-based municipal approaches and then invests in replicating them nationally.

Initially, Mr. Lee helped the CFE Fund develop an agreement with a credit bureau and draft contracts regarding its relationships with the many different players involved in its Financial Empowerment Center Replication Project, including cities, nonprofit organizations, and financial institutions. The CFE Fund awarded grants to launch Financial Empowerment Centers in five cities across the country, providing those in need with assistance with money management, budgeting, debt reduction, the establishment of credit, and access to safe and affordable banking services. I-Hsing Sun, CFE Fund’s Chief Program Officer, says that Mr. Lee is a “delightful partner” and “incredibly respectful of us as a client.” She says that he is eager to help the CFE Fund achieve its goals: “His attitude is, ‘What do you want to do?’ and ‘Let’s figure out how to make it work.’”

Soon after the work was underway, the CFE Fund approached Mr. Lee about helping draft many additional contracts. Without hesitation, Mr. Lee agreed to take on the new matters. Ms. Sun was thrilled to have Mr. Lee in her corner again, saying, “He is always the first one to flag issues that we need to think about.”

Mr. Lee says, “Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund was looking for counsel to review its financial counseling program documentation and provide structuring advice for its relationships with nonprofits, credit bureaus, and municipal entities. I am a transactional lawyer who structures financial assets into securities in collaboration with corporations, financial institutions, and governmental regulators. Lawyers Alliance put two and two together and created a perfect match. Thank you for providing an opportunity to serve.”