



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News

Date: April 11, 2017
Names of Attorneys: Blaise Latella and Kathleen Chastaine
Name of Firm: Winston & Strawn LLP
Client Served: The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation

Accomplishment: Helped the Alumni Foundation rebrand and prepare to align with another nonprofit organization working to support the school by changing the name of the organization and updating its fundamental governance documents, including revising its bylaws and drafting Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies, allowing it to better serve alumni of the prestigious Bronx High School of Science, a specialized New York City public high school.

Specific Case Highlights: The Bronx High School of Science Endowment Fund was established in 1992 to support The Bronx High School of Science as a model for public education in both idea and in practice. Over 50 percent of the School's students are academically gifted students from low-income homes. The Bronx Science Endowment Fund raises major gifts, primarily among alumni, for capital and program expenditures and for scholarship and endowment funds.

Due to the existence of two alumni groups associated with Bronx Science, The Bronx High School of Science Endowment Fund and The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Association, the Endowment Fund approached Lawyers Alliance in 2015 for assistance in taking the requisite steps to update its governance policies and internal documentation to eventually allow it to align with the Alumni Association in order to communicate more clearly with donors and potential donors and eliminate duplication of efforts. The Endowment Fund also wanted to change its name.

Blaise Latella and **Kathleen Chastaine** of **Winston & Strawn LLP** volunteered to assist the Endowment Fund with this process. Mr. Latella and Ms. Chastaine advised on the potential strategic alliance between the two organizations and worked with representatives of the Endowment Fund to change the organization's name to The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation in anticipation of this potential alliance. They also updated the bylaws of the newly-named Alumni Foundation and drafted Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies that were implemented in early 2016.

Eleanor Coufos, Vice President, Strategy and External Affairs for the Bronx Science Alumni Foundation, said, "Blaise and Katie are incredible professionals who treated our work with importance and sincerity. They updated our bylaws and policies and now we have a professional set of documents that enable us to move forward and grow with confidence. They made us a better organization."

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](http://LawyersAllianceforNewYork.org) is the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations and social enterprises that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, Lawyers Alliance for New York helps organizations to develop affordable housing, stimulate economic development, promote community arts, strengthen urban health, and operate and advocate for vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, and other low-income New Yorkers. During the past year, staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance worked with 1,600 volunteer attorneys to represent approximately 700 nonprofit clients on 1,200 matters.

Inquiries: Please contact Marketing and Communications Manager Emily Crossan at 212-219-1800 ext. 233 or ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org with questions or requests for additional information.