



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News

Date: April 16, 2018
Names of Attorneys: David Lichtstein and Mercedes Samavi
Name of Firm: Morrison & Foerster LLP
Client Served: New York City Industrial and Technology Assistance Corporation (ITAC)

Accomplishment: Helped ITAC subcontract with eight service providers on a program to understand New York-based manufacturers' awareness and use of advanced manufacturing technologies, and to provide them with workshops as well as actual project implementation tailored to their specific needs around digital manufacturing, advanced materials, and robotics.

Specific Case Highlights: ITAC works with small and mid-size manufacturing companies throughout New York City's five boroughs, including in high-need communities, and connects them to ideas, resources, and experts to achieve their strategic goals. ITAC serves more than 300 manufacturing firms a year, helping them expand into new markets, create innovative products, develop their customer base, find new partners, improve their processes, source and train employees, and develop sustainable practices.

ITAC secured a contract with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) under its Futureworks NYC program, an initiative designed to increase local production and support advanced manufacturing. This contract required ITAC to subcontract with eight institutions of higher learning and service providers to increase New York City's manufacturing and industrial businesses' awareness of relevant advanced technologies; and increase their ability to take advantage of them. The goal is to reach 150 mature industrial businesses.

David Lichtstein, Mercedes Samavi, and colleagues at **Morrison & Foerster LLP** volunteered to assist ITAC in these negotiations. The sophisticated and integrated nature of the subcontracts and individual needs of each organization made the process very complex. Once the subcontracts were finalized, ITAC and its partners were able to start surveying manufacturers. The results are informing 18 workshops and six in-depth trainings to help improve manufacturing throughout the City as well as to engage clients in technology implementation projects.

Kinda Younes, ITAC's Executive Director, said, "Knowing that we had an aggressive deadline to meet, one of our lawyers, Mercedes, who was traveling to Europe suggested taking advantage of the different time zones to get more work accomplished within a day. She and her colleagues worked two 'shifts' and were flawlessly coordinated. Simply put, without the help of our Morrison & Foerster team and Lawyers Alliance, we would have been unable to accept an important grant that will help dozens of local manufacturers - the legal costs would have been too high for us. Not only have the legal services benefited us as a nonprofit organization, but they have also benefited many hard-working manufacturers throughout the five boroughs."

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 more than 1,800 volunteer attorneys to represent approximately 700 nonprofit clients on 1,200 matters.

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