

Friends Profile: 15 Year Circle and Ira G. Rosenstein

As part of Lawyers Alliance's 45th anniversary year celebration, the 2014 Cornerstone Awards featured the announcement of the 15 Year Circle. This special group consists of more than 60 volunteers whose pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance spans at least the last 15 years. In many instances, the attorneys' pro bono work began much earlier. Lawyers Alliance presented members of the 15 Year Circle with certificates honoring their continued commitment to New York City.

The cohort includes several attorneys who have continued or taken on pro bono projects at multiple law firms or corporate legal departments or in multiple positions as their careers have developed. Several have represented the same nonprofit client on a variety of legal matters; others have represented multiple nonprofits. Overall, 15 Year Circle volunteers have applied their legal skills and expertise to more than 475 legal matters for 400 clients.

One of the exceptional members of the 15 Year Circle is **Ira G. Rosenstein**, whose law firm, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, received the 2014 Institutional Cornerstone Award. Mr. Rosenstein is a partner in Morgan Lewis's Labor and Employment Practice and co-chair of the Individual Employment Litigation and Arbitration subpractice.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Rosenstein has provided pro bono legal services to BronxWorks and Lawyers Alliance on general employment law matters. BronxWorks helps individuals and families in the South Bronx to improve their economic and social well-being. Mr. Rosenstein's legal guidance, including counseling on personnel policies, hiring, and workforce management issues, has enabled both organizations to operate smoothly. Says **Eileen Torres**, Executive Director of BronxWorks, "It is difficult to accurately quantify the value of the legal advice Ira has provided to BronxWorks, but his pro bono services have resulted in savings to the organization, allowing us to provide a warm and safe place to sleep for countless homeless individuals and families; ensure healthy, hearty meals for hundreds of seniors; and help teens and young adults graduate from high school or get their GED and fulfill a dream of going to college."

We asked Mr. Rosenstein to share some thoughts about his longstanding pro bono relationships, and his responses are below:

What motivated you to become and remain involved with Lawyers Alliance?

"Pro bono work is one of the things that distinguishes the *profession* of lawyers from traditional jobs. The opportunity to use your unique skills to give back something of value to constituencies that exist to support cultural and societal advancement not only recognizes that we have benefited personally from the larger culture in which we live, but also that we appreciate our role in contributing to that advancement. I became involved with Lawyers Alliance as a younger lawyer because I believed in making that level of contribution and I wanted to affect community organizations. I have enjoyed the varied and interesting work throughout."

How has your pro bono experience on behalf of BronxWorks affected your professional choices and growth?

"My work for BronxWorks has been among the most emotionally satisfying things I've done in my career. The organization is supported by so many hard working employees, driven to improve the lives of those in our community. We have faced issues that have resulted in my immersion in the local community and it's a privilege to be able to use some of the skills I've developed over the years to make even a small contribution."



Photo: Lily Kesselman

Eileen Torres and Ira G. Rosenstein

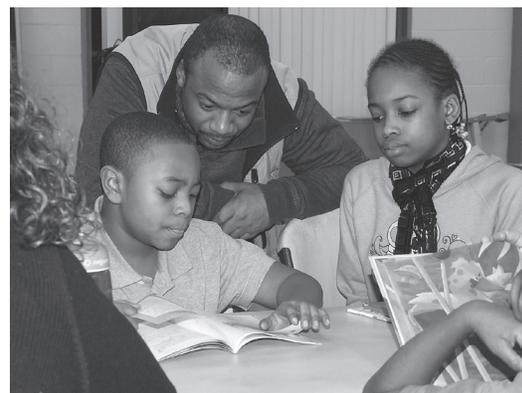


Photo: BronxWorks

BronxWorks helps individuals and families in the South Bronx improve their lives.

This article is one of a series of profiles of the people who have helped to build Lawyers Alliance for New York since 1969.



Connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities