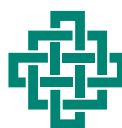


CORNERSTONE
AWARDS
2021

IN RECOGNITION OF
SUPERIOR PRO BONO SERVICE
TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

DECEMBER 2, 2021



Lawyers Alliance

FOR NEW YORK

Connecting Lawyers, Nonprofits, and Communities

THE 2021 CORNERSTONE AWARDS

More than 9,500 individuals from more than 250 institutions have volunteered through Lawyers Alliance since the Cornerstone Awards began in 1997. Their talent is deep and broad. With their assistance, thousands of nonprofits have received the expert legal counsel they need to accomplish their missions. Lawyers Alliance is thankful for all of its legal volunteers, including the more than 2,100 individuals from a network of 135+ law firms and corporations who volunteered this past year. These volunteers have continued to be flexible and supportive, providing vital legal assistance to nonprofits as external conditions change and evolve. We list the full volunteer network in the Lawyers section of our website at www.lawyersalliance.org/our-volunteers.

At the same time, we recognize a new cohort of Cornerstone honorees. These stellar lawyers, like prior honorees, have gone above and beyond the expected bounds of even the most successful pro bono relationships. Including this year's impressive group, 50 institutions and 256 individuals have received Cornerstone Awards since 1997.

The 2021 recipients of Cornerstone Awards:

- Demonstrate how business and transactional law pro bono projects have had a positive and far-reaching impact on New York City's low-income communities;
- Devoted substantial time, passion, and expertise to nonprofit and community development organizations in need of legal help to sustain and operate dynamic programs;
- Built ongoing, evolving, and in-depth relationships with the organizations with which they have been involved; and
- Inspired colleagues and clients by serving as pro bono leaders and role models.

These award-winning institutions and individual attorneys embody the finest qualities of the legal profession.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

5:00 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.

This is a virtual event.

For updates on the annual Cornerstone Awards and to read some exciting Volunteer Accomplishments throughout the year, visit the Volunteer Recognition page of Lawyers Alliance's website at:
www.lawyersalliance.org/volunteer-recognition

See the complete list of Lawyers Alliance's Cornerstone winners from 1997 to 2021 at: www.lawyersalliance.org/cornerstone-winners

CORNERSTONE PROGRAM

SLIDESHOW

WELCOME REMARKS

SARAH HARP

*Senior Vice President, Senior Counsel, ViacomCBS Inc.
Board Secretary, Lawyers Alliance for New York*

VIDEO

PRESENTATION OF CORNERSTONE AWARDS

ELIZABETH M. GUGGENHEIMER

Executive Director, Lawyers Alliance for New York

AWARDS TO INSTITUTIONAL HONOREES

DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL LLP

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

PRO BONO DISCUSSION WITH HONOREES *facilitated by:*

SAVALLE SIMS

*Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Discovery, Inc.
Board Member, Lawyers Alliance for New York*

AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL HONOREES

PREM AMARNANI, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

ALNISA BELL, *Seyfarth Shaw LLP*

L. MINNIE BELLOMO, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*

PETER S. BOROCK, *Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP*

ALEXANDER J. CALLEN, *Goodwin Procter LLP*

PREETHA CHAKRABARTI, *Crowell & Moring LLP*

GREGORY M. DAVIS, *Morgan Stanley*

CHRISTINA DE VUONO and **KAITLIN DESCOVICH**,
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

ANNA M. POMYKALA, *Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP*

RICH REILLY, *DLA Piper LLP (US)*

ASHLEY B. ROWE, *MetLife*

KYLE ZHU, *Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP*

CLOSING REMARKS

INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

Leading global law firm with strong community commitment

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, a firm with a longstanding commitment to pro bono legal services, has partnered closely with Lawyers Alliance for more than 30 years, serving nonprofit clients with the determination and legal excellence that define the firm's broader culture. Davis Polk received one of the first Cornerstone Awards in 1997, and is the rare recipient of a second Institutional Cornerstone because of the continued breadth of its corporate law and transactional pro bono work, especially as nonprofits have needed timely legal help during the pandemic.

Davis Polk

Responding with Speed and Agility to a Global Pandemic

The firm's legal assistance during the pandemic has been particularly notable, beginning with spring and summer 2020 virtual consultations on legal issues related to financial management and CARES Act loans and continuing with new and ongoing corporate governance and intellectual property legal matters.

Through a virtual clinic focused on financial reporting requirements, Davis Polk attorneys served nonprofits providing services that proved to be vital during the pandemic: creating open spaces, providing child welfare and mental health services, and supporting community economic development. Davis Polk's clients included the **North Brooklyn Parks Alliance**, which works to create an equitable, accessible, and vibrant parks and open space system in North Brooklyn; **JCCA** (formerly known as Jewish Child Care Association of New York), providing child welfare and mental health services to New York's neediest and most vulnerable children and families through foster and residential care, and educational assistance and remediation; and the **Flatbush Development Corporation**, meeting the needs of a diverse and vibrant Brooklyn by building partnerships and developing a combination of housing, economic development, and youth-centered initiatives that promote enhanced quality of life, safety, equity, and preservation of the local community.

In addition, Davis Polk attorneys guided Lawyers Alliance clients through the complexities of applications for SBA loans created in response to the pandemic. One such client was **Refoundry**, which trains the formerly incarcerated to transform discarded furnishings and other materials into beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces, combining ongoing career development and life skills and social service support as a way to combat high rate of recidivism and job attrition.

Simplifying Complex Relationships

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) provides readiness, response, and recovery services during disasters and public health emergencies impacting New York City's most vulnerable communities, borne from the efforts of New York City faith-based agencies to establish programs to assist following the events of September 11, 2001. NYDIS sought assistance navigating a strategic alliance with a related organization, both determining what form the alliance should take and implementing it once established. NYDIS notes, "We couldn't be happier with the assistance our attorney provided our organizations. We could not have navigated the complexities of this relationship without the guidance and remain grateful for her counsel, expertise, and work ethic."

Corporate Governance Review for Nonprofits Elevating Students

Regular review of corporate governance materials is essential to the organizational health of nonprofits, and Davis Polk attorneys have reviewed the crucial governance documents that ensure organizations are able to continue providing vital services. Davis Polk attorneys have been working with **Braven** to review the organization's bylaws and conflict of interest policies, to draft a whistleblower policy, and to advise on a series of board resolutions. Braven empowers promising, underrepresented young people—first-generation college students, students from low-income backgrounds, and students of color—with the skills, confidence, experiences, and networks necessary to transition from college to strong first jobs, which lead to meaningful careers and lives of impact. Braven reports, “Our attorneys were great. It was a relief to get our corporate documents reviewed and updated and brought to a much better place.”

American Dream Charter School (ADS) serves middle school and high school students in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx, preparing students to excel in college and become leaders in their communities while following a dual language program. Davis Polk attorneys reviewed and revised the school's bylaws, conflict of interest policy, related annual disclosure questionnaire, and whistleblower policy for compliance with the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. A representative from ADS expresses appreciation for the legal work, “Our lawyer was on the ball, helped revise our bylaws, was very responsive and totally wonderful and cordial. He got the job done!”

A Davis Polk representative says, “At Davis Polk, pro bono work is a core responsibility of *all* of our lawyers, whether they be corporate lawyers or litigators. Our corporate lawyers have expressed a strong desire to participate in pro bono activities that correspond to their skill sets, which we enthusiastically support. We offer and support pro bono opportunities where teams of corporate lawyers can contribute their expertise to the public good.”

Davis Polk attorneys have also represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last five years: **BlocPower Community Corporation, Center For Frontline Retail, Downtown Flushing Transit Hub District Management Association, En Foco, Esonge, Futures and Options, Giving Friends, Groundswell Community Mural Project, In Our Backyards, La Alfombra Teatro, Marquis Studios, Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Council, Natural Areas Conservancy, New York City Police Foundation, Re-Entry Rocks, Settlement Housing Fund, St. Nicks Alliance, The Hip Hop Re:Education Project (HHREP), and Wingspan Arts.**

Current and former firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: Ron M. Aizen, John Amorosi, John Atchley, Frank J. Azzopardi, Miles Babin, Michele Babkine, Matthew Bacal, John Baner, Marisa Elena Bannon, David R. Bauer, Daniel Brass, Jessica Brodman, Anthony Cerceo, Bonnie Chen, Chiu-Lai Cheung, Hilary Coleman, Michael Comstock, Brendan Costello, Jeffrey P. Crandall, William A. Curran, Luigi De Ghenghi, Marie-Christine Eldridge, Melissa Esposito, Charlotte Fabiani, Christie Falco, Samuel Feldman, Rachel Feldstein, Michael Flynn, John Fouhey, Andres V. Gil, Drew Glover, Victoria Ha, Jesse Hallock, Benjamin Helfgott, Brian Hirsch, Lee Hochbaum, Hayden Hutto, Jennifer Kalmanides, Petros Kareklas, Justin Kasprisin, Sharon Katz,

Lia-Michelle Keane, Elina Khodorkovsky, Sarah Kirk, Nicholas Adams Kronfeld, Alain Kuyumjian, Morgan Lee, Samantha Lefland, Ryan Lewis, Suiwen Liang, Brian Lichter, Soo Lim, James Chih-Kai Lin, Jessica Lutrin, Nancy Jackson Marchand, Lindsey Meyers-Perez, Travis Mitchell, Dmitriy Molchanov, S. Dream Montgomery, Edward Peck, Shaoting Qin, Thomas J. Reid, Chelsea Renter, Tyler Scheiner, Tyler Senackerib, Hilary Smith, Courtney Sohn, Nathaniel Sokol, Amelia Starr, Dylan Steiner, Dov Sussman, Kyoko Takahashi Lin, Andrew Terjesen, Kerri Thompson, Benjamin A. Tisdell, Natasha Tsiouris, Erin van Wesenbeeck, Lex Varga, Mario J. Verdolini, Jr., Alexis Wallace, Tricia Walsh, Scott Wilcox, Marc O. Williams, Lucas Wozny, Jolie Yang, Yan Zhang, and Brooke Zheng.

INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

Premier law firm strengthens communities and leads by example

SIDLEY

Sidley Austin LLP has cultivated a strong commitment to pro bono service, devoting more than 169,000 hours in 2020. For more than three decades, Sidley has partnered with Lawyers Alliance and handled a wide range of timely and complicated legal projects. During this time, Sidley attorneys have not only taken on increasingly complex matters, but have amplified their impact. As the firm's national presence has grown, so too has its commitment to Lawyers Alliance and low-income New Yorkers.

Providing New Energy and Real Estate Options

Co-op Power seeks a just energy future through local ownership of sustainable energy generation, enterprises, and good green jobs. It works locally as a network of local energy cooperatives to bring energy efficiency and renewable energy resources to their communities. When faced with a need for advice on a time-sensitive project providing solar energy to New York City Housing Authority properties, Co-op Power turned to Sidley attorneys. Through Sidley's work, Co-op Power is in the process of bringing solar power to 350 low-income families who live in Section 8 housing.

Sidley attorneys have also provided advice on and assistance with negotiating commercial leases and subleases for organizations that serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals requiring mental health services; train low-income women, often single mothers, to become certified child care providers; and provide services to families, children, and persons with disabilities throughout Brooklyn. Sidley attorneys' knowledge and ability to navigate complex commercial leases on behalf of Lawyers Alliance's clients allows these organizations to focus on their important work serving New Yorkers in need.

Bringing Arts Online

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, arts organizations were impacted significantly, having to turn to virtual offerings in lieu of traditional, live programming. The **Time In Children's Arts Initiative** is a groundbreaking opera and visual arts initiative that has brought thousands of New York's youngest, most at-risk public school children out of underserved classrooms and into the world of the living arts as part of their normal school day. When New York City's subsidized summer programming shut down in 2020, Time In created a holistically integrated, live virtual "Summer in the City" arts program free for all City public school children. Sidley attorneys drafted a template subcontractor agreement used by approximately 50 participating arts organizations, as well as a template teaching artist agreement used for this virtual programming. Through Sidley's work, Time In was able to pull together 19,000 hours of live free virtual arts programming for all New York City public school kids with merely eight weeks' notice. Founder and Executive Director Cyndie Bellen-Berthezene says, "Sidley's swift work helped us have the vital paperwork in place to be able to go live on our website and know that everyone was protected."

Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) was formed 60 years ago as an advocate for cultural equity, aiming to develop a diverse array of artists and arts organizations and build cultural connections in the Bronx and outside the borough. Sidley began working with BCA in 2018 on artist agreements, and adapted the contracts during the pandemic to reflect online-only exhibitions. BCA's Executive Director states, "When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Sidley team patiently guided us through the process of adapting our existing contracts for online exhibitions and events. We are forever grateful for their expertise and help, and for making our shift to virtual programs absolutely effortless."

Protecting the Environment throughout the City

From the **Prospect Park Alliance** in Brooklyn to the **Harding Park Environmental Center** in the Bronx to the **Alley Pond Environmental Center** in Queens, Sidley has met the legal needs of organizations protecting and preserving the environment across New York City. Sidley has worked on a variety of legal matters, including incorporation, drafting and revising bylaws, advising on reopening facilities that were closed during the pandemic, and negotiating and reviewing contracts. As a representative from **Earth Matter NY**, an organization dedicated to advancing composting in and around New York City, states, "Sidley attorneys have assisted us in many ways that we would not have otherwise been able to afford."

A Sidley representative says, "Business and transactional pro bono work is a force-multiplier in terms of community service: not only are we helping individual business owners and nonprofits with their legal needs, but we also are enhancing their ability to serve more individuals in their communities, many of whom are from disenfranchised and underrepresented populations."

Sidley attorneys have also represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last five years: **All Our Kin, BK Rot, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Community Service Society of New York, Constitutional Education Foundation, Die Jim Crow, Encore Community Services, Every Day is a Miracle, Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS), Guardians of Flushing Bay, Hazon, Heights-Hill Mental Health Service South Beach Psychiatric Center Community Advisory Board d/b/a Rainbow Heights Club, Image Impact International, IntegrateNYC, Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, La Peninsula Community Organization, LPZ Cinetech, Mental Illness Policy Org., New American Leaders, NY Peace Institute, Riverdale Mental Health Association, Schools That Can, St. George Theater Restoration, STRIVE, Support Center for Nonprofit Management, The Red Balloon Early Childhood Learning Center, WHIN Music Community Charter School, and Wonderful World: Friends of Music Therapy.**

Current firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: James D. Arden, Christian Bennardo, Kevin Blatchford, James Brigagliano, Darby Brown, Diahndra Burman, Kostian Ciko, Michael Clark, Benson Cohen, Andrea Devas, Alyssa Dolan, Peter Edgerton, Kevin Fee, Scott Freeman, Rachel Fridhandler, Jason Friedhoff, Samir A. Gandhi, Robert Garritano, Daniel A. Gerard, Stefan Giudici, Jeffrey Glick, Brendan Goldenberg, Tara Higgins, D.J. Hill, Eric Hoffman, Christopher Hutchison, Vera Iwankiw, Radhika Kannan, Cathy M. Kaplan, Rebecca Keevers, Denise Kerschhackl,

Asi Kirmayer, Parker Kolodka, Robert Kreitman, Wendy Lazerson, Geoffrey Levin, Perry Lumpkin, John Mackinnon, Michael Mann, Prabhat Mehta, David Miller, Maeghan Murphy, Patricia A. Murphy, Christian Mutone, Noreen Phelan, John Plotz, Nikita Ponomarev, Mark Poole, Alexi Poretz, Whitney Price, Ryan Puszka, Diane Renne, Peter Riley, Katherine Roberts, John Schaff, Maggie Seery, Daniel Serota, Brent Steele, Scott Stern, Kenny S. Terrero, Lilya Tessler, Sarah Tucker, James Weiss, Michael Williams, Jessica Wood, Taylor Wood, and Reuben Zaramian. Former firm lawyers include: Steve Ahn, Australia Alba, Joseph W. Armbrust, Jr., Ryan Au, Marie Baskin, Kelly Carr, Madeleine Dowling, Robb Eastman, Marshall D. Feiring, Arnie Fridhandler, Danielle Garbien, Brandon Harmer, John Hutchinson, Peter Kauffman, Albertina Kawatu, Gina Khanna, Tania Khatibifar, Angelica Kwan, Beiming Liu, Elizabeth Logie, George Madison, Isaiah Marcano, Naoya Okajima, Mimi Ophir, Pragyan Patnaik, Teri Peebles, Amira Privott-Yeiser, Juan Quintero, Rachel Raleigh, Trevor Rozier-Byrd, Kei Shirakawa, Joanne M. Sur, Alexander Traum, Lauren Treadaway, and Hannah Yi.

INDIVIDUAL HONOREES



PREM AMARNANI, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

Committed legal work ensures statutory compliance for nonprofits

Prem Amarnani is a member of the Investment Management Group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He received a B.S. from Stevens Institute of Technology in 2003, an M.Eng. from that same institution in 2004, and his J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 2007.

He has volunteered on 10 Lawyers Alliance cases, including nine in the last five years, working on a wide range of entity formation, tax exemption, and contract matters.

Mr. Amarnani assisted **Cool Culture** on a review of governance documents, including bylaws. Cool Culture works to amplify the voices of families and strengthen the power of marginalized communities through engagement with art and culture, both within cultural institutions and beyond. The review helped the organization comply with statutory updates under the New York Not-For-Profit Revitalization Act. Says Kanika Srinivasan, Senior Director of Operations and Strategy at Cool Culture, “Prem and the Skadden team were responsive, helpful, and very thorough. We had a really good experience working with them. As a small nonprofit we just don’t have the capacity to have a full-time general counsel and this assistance has been invaluable to us in a lot of different ways.”

In 2019, Mr. Amarnani and a colleague helped draft a consultant agreement for the **Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation**. The organization sought to bring on a consultant to help establish a new Business Improvement District in downtown Staten Island. Says Linda Baran, President and CEO at the Chamber Foundation, “Prem was very thorough, very efficient, and had a quick turnaround on things. He answered any questions right away and brought up things that I wouldn’t have even thought to ask about. We brought the consultant on immediately and still use the consultant agreement today.”

He has also worked on a team to help **Friends of Verdi Square** incorporate and obtain 501(c)(3) tax exemption. He later helped the all-volunteer organization draft policies that set forth guidelines for volunteer gardeners. Among the other matters Mr. Amarnani has worked on are the formation of a for-profit venture for **Exponents** and the incorporation of **REMA4US**.

Mr. Amarnani is currently working with **STEM Kids NYC** on a memorandum of understanding and with **Streetlives** to obtain their 501(c)(3) tax exemption.

Says Mr. Amarnani, “I view pro bono as a fundamental part of my responsibilities as a lawyer. I am fortunate to have had opportunities and guidance in my life and it is important that I pay it forward. Pro bono work is a way for me to potentially make a meaningful and positive impact on individuals and communities that may not have been so fortunate.”

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



ALNISA BELL, *Seyfarth Shaw LLP*

Dedicated partner guides nonprofits through delicate employment issues

Alnisa Bell is a partner in the Labor & Employment department at Seyfarth Shaw LLP. She received an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College in 2006 and her J.D. from Rutgers Law School – Newark in 2009.

Ms. Bell has volunteered with Lawyers Alliance on five employment matters since 2016. She has become a trusted advisor to her nonprofit clients, helping them navigate complex, sensitive employment issues.

Alnisa Bell delivered excellent legal advice and counseling to an organization that provides health and social services to children. The organization faced difficulties with an employee's performance. A representative says, "Alnisa evaluated the legal risks of disciplinary action, including termination. As part of this process, she reviewed all relevant employee performance documents. When the decision was ultimately made to separate the employee, Alnisa developed a separation and release agreement and provided termination talking points for our meeting with the employee. She also provided legal advice regarding providing references for this employee. Alnisa was very thorough and prompt in responding to our many questions."

Another organization, **Hester Street Collaborative**, benefitted from Ms. Bell's expert guidance during a New York State Department of Labor audit. She helped the client articulate why its teaching artists were engaged as independent contractors, resulting in the audit coming to a satisfactory resolution.

Ms. Bell assisted community arts organization **ESS Community Projects** by drafting template agreements for both its full-time employees and part-time teaching artists. Properly drafted agreements lay the foundation for good employee relations and legally compliant practices.

Ms. Bell has also handled other sensitive employment projects, including determining whether the incoming translator for an immigrant assistance organization should be engaged as an independent contractor or hired as an employee; and the investigation of a board member of another organization who was accused of unwelcome fraternization with staff.

Says Ms. Bell, "I view pro bono work as a critical part of the legal profession. The profession has developed me into the lawyer I am today and it is important for me to use my talents to help others. Nonprofits play a vital role in community building and oftentimes provide services to marginalized communities. By providing legal services to nonprofits, I am furthering their mission to build better communities."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



L. MINNIE BELLOMO, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*

Expert real estate attorney guides organization through complex transactions, assisting low-income seniors

L. Minnie Bellomo is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP and a member of the firm's Real Estate practice group. Ms. Bellomo received a B.A. from University of California at Berkeley in 2003 and her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2006.

For the past four years, Ms. Bellomo has assisted **Goddard Riverside** with a complex real estate transaction involving the restructuring of the ownership of Phelps House, a project that provides housing and social services to low-income seniors that was developed through the low-income housing tax credit program. Goddard serves more than 26,000 people each year through programs on the Upper West Side and throughout Manhattan and works for a fair and just society.

Ms. Bellomo provided advice and representation to Goddard in connection with negotiating a restructuring of the Phelps House ownership with the investor. The transaction presented special challenges due to the complexity of the agreement with the investor and the need for advice around understanding the investor's goals. It also entailed advice using scenario planning so that Goddard could achieve the best outcome for the organization while assuming full ownership of Phelps House. The transaction involved advice on real estate issues that were tangential to the negotiation with the investor, including a potential tax lot separation.

Roderick Jones, Goddard's Executive Director, praises Ms. Bellomo for her work and says that the completion of this transaction increased Goddard's endowment, thereby positioning the organization for a secure future. He says, "Not-for profit organizations struggle perpetually to survive, and this transaction is world-changing. We are eternally grateful to Minnie for her support over an extended engagement. She worked on this engagement as if we were a longstanding customer that paid premium levels. She has been adopted into the Goddard Riverside Family! She was always friendly and kind – our kind of person."

Says Ms. Bellomo, "Early on in my involvement with Goddard Riverside, we had a meeting at the facility where I met with the executive director, a few board members, and my co-counsel at Lawyers Alliance. It was wonderful to see the residence in person and some of its residents to get a feel for the real beneficiaries of the work at hand. The most striking thing about the experience, however, was how much all involved cared about the facility, its residents, and their goal of achieving the best possible outcome for the facility. Even though the matter continued on for a few years, the determination and effort I witnessed at that first meeting never waned until the project was completed."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



PETER S. BOROCK, *Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP*

Determined lawyer helps nonprofits provide housing to New Yorkers in need

Peter S. Borock is an associate in the Real Estate Department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. He received his B.A. from the University of Michigan in 2008, an M.A. from Lehman College in 2010, and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2014.

Mr. Borock volunteered for two affordable housing Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) matters with **Settlement Housing Fund, Inc.**, one of New York City's leading not-for-profit developers of low-income housing. Since 1969, Settlement Housing Fund, Inc. has developed 64 projects with over 8,700 apartments that are home to more than 25,000 low- and moderate-income residents, including formerly homeless people, and has provided community programming. Through its affiliates, Settlement Housing Fund, Inc. currently owns 35 buildings with 1,978 apartments in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan and also handles Affordable Rental Marketing and Nominee HDFC Projects.

With Mr. Borock's assistance, the organization transferred ownership of two apartment buildings fully to two housing development fund corporations controlled by Settlement Housing Fund, Inc. Both buildings were owned by limited partnerships (and one also by the housing development fund corporation) and the investors had previously exited the limited partnerships when the low-income tax credit period expired. The buildings were encumbered by mortgages and Regulatory Agreements from different agencies. Mr. Borock dealt with multiple governmental agencies, and reviewed, negotiated, and prepared corporate and transactional documents. During the final stages of the work, things were complicated by delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lee Warshavsky, Settlement Housing Fund, Inc.'s General Counsel, has high praise for Mr. Borock, saying, "The bottom line is that Peter never gave up – he kept Settlement Housing Fund, Inc. constantly updated and kept pushing the governmental agencies to provide their approvals – and every time they asked for a document, he immediately provided it." Mr. Warshavsky says that in addition to his dedication, "Peter was a pleasure to work with, so smart and so pleasant." As a result, Settlement Housing Fund, Inc. has been able to streamline operations and reduce audit costs.

Five years ago, Mr. Borock also worked on an air rights project with **Community Access**, a nonprofit organization that provides safe, affordable housing and support services.

In Spring 2020, Mr. Borock, along with colleague Salvatore Gogliormella, gave a presentation organized by Lawyers Alliance to about 300 participants related to commercial leasing issues arising out of the pandemic.

Says Mr. Borock, "I find that when assisting nonprofits we are able to leverage our clients' organizational reach and help on a scale that is not feasible when advising individuals. Working with Lawyers Alliance on pro bono affordable housing matters has enabled me to indirectly help each of the many residents of the subject buildings – a truly wonderful experience."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



ALEXANDER J. CALLEN, *Goodwin Procter LLP*

Financial regulatory lawyer addresses legal needs of nonprofits improving financial well-being in low-income communities

Alexander J. Callen is a senior associate in Goodwin Procter LLP's Financial Industry group, based in Washington, DC. He received a B.A. from Cornell University in 2009 and his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 2014.

Mr. Callen worked with six Lawyers Alliance clients on eight matters since 2017.

He and a colleague worked on a name change for The National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions to **Inclusiv**. Established in 1974 by a coalition of credit union leaders dedicated to revitalizing low-income communities, the Federation has been doing business as Inclusiv and has officially changed its name. Mr. Callen is providing guidance on the ensuing governance, contract review, regulatory approvals for subsidiaries, and related legal issues.

He has also worked on governance issues for **New York Edge**, a nonprofit bridging the opportunity gap among students in underinvested communities by providing programs to improve academic performance and health and wellness, and for **Lewis H. Latimer Fund**, which operates the Lewis Latimer House Museum and offers educational programs for adults and youth. For **Haitian Centers Council**, a community services organization, Mr. Callen provided governance advice and, with a colleague, helped prepare agreements for a proposal to operate a mental health clinic treatment program jointly with a counterparty.

Mr. Callen assisted **Jamaica Center Improvement Association**, a nonprofit that since 1979 has been working to make the Jamaica Center business district in Queens a thriving business hub and an enjoyable destination for visitors and residents, with a review of its governance documents. He helped Jamaica Center review and address gaps in its bylaws and drafted a conflict of interest policy and whistleblower policy. In creating these key documents, Mr. Callen ensured that the multi-stakeholder group involved in the governance review understood and were able to come to agreement on these critical documents. Jennifer Furioli, Jamaica Center's Executive Director, says, "Alex is kind, thoughtful, whip-smart, and gracious. He always returned my calls immediately, and was incredibly organized and responsive. Alex got us caught up on addressing issues with our governance documents, putting our organization on a more solid footing."

Mr. Callen and a colleague assisted **Credit, Inc.**, which brings innovative financial products and services to South Bronx small businesses utilizing state of the art technology, on its governance and loan policies and procedures and created model loan agreements to use in its regular operations.

Says Mr. Callen, "The nonprofits that I have assisted through Lawyers Alliance serve and promote children, historical and educational resources, cultural groups, and small businesses. Their investments in our communities touch the lives of so many individuals, and through their important work my small contributions to their organizations can help them make an even bigger impact. We're all in this together."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



PREETHA CHAKRABARTI, *Crowell & Moring LLP*

Dedicated lawyer protects nonprofits' valuable intellectual property assets

Preetha Chakrabarti is a counsel at Crowell & Moring LLP and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property and Advertising & Media groups. She received a B.A. from Brown University in 2003, an M.A. from Columbia University in 2008, and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 2012.

Intellectual property lawyers have unique expertise that is key to helping nonprofits protect their products, programming, and software. Ms. Chakrabarti has volunteered on seven different cases over a four year period.

She provided counsel to **Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund d/b/a Monumental Women** when another organization started using its trademark Monumental Women to solicit charitable funds. The Statue Fund became concerned when people who had tried to donate to Monumental Women mistakenly sent their donations to the other, unrelated organization. Pam Elam, President of Monumental Women, says Ms. Chakrabarti and her colleagues "managed to get the group using our trademarked name to cease and desist and it was all done with expertise and speed." As a result, Ms. Elam says, "We no longer had to worry about potential donors sending contributions to the wrong organization. We no longer had to worry about another organization attempting to take credit for our work. We are an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group with no staff and no office. We do not have the resources to hire legal assistance. Without the help of Lawyers Alliance and Ms. Chakrabarti, we would have had to fight the battle alone."

Ms. Chakrabarti also helped **Virtual Education Life Skills Mentoring Services (V-ELMS)**, a mentoring group in New York City, trademark its name and logo. According to Brett J. Truitt, V-ELMS' Founding Director, "Preetha was very professional and patient. She wanted my input and wanted to make certain that I understood the steps being taken."

She worked on various trademark consultations, agreements, and declarations of use for **Chalkbeat, Wingspan Arts, Green City Force, and Classroom Inc.**

Ms. Chakrabarti and her colleagues are currently working with **SuitUp Incorporated**, an organization that increases college and career awareness for underserved youth, on copyright protections for its program materials and template partnership and business agreements with school and corporate participants.

Says Ms. Chakrabarti, "I love the varied work and types of people and organizations I get to know through pro bono work. Helping Monumental Women achieve a great resolution in the protection and enforcement of their intellectual property was a satisfying outcome for a timely and important initiative!"

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



GREGORY M. DAVIS, *Morgan Stanley*

Experienced employment lawyer deftly fields pandemic-related issues for nonprofits

Gregory M. Davis is the lead employment counsel for Company and Infrastructure at Morgan Stanley. He received a B.A. from the University of Michigan, an M.A. from Michigan State University, and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mr. Davis played a crucial role in staffing the Lawyers Alliance COVID-19 employment law helpline launched to respond to emergency requests for assistance from nonprofits in March 2020. He has consulted with a range of nonprofits, consistently going above and beyond the expectation of a one-hour phone consultation by providing written comments, ongoing advice, research, and updates on the law.

He provided assistance to **All Our Kin**, a national nonprofit that trains, supports, and sustains family child care providers, regarding hazard pay and other employment questions. Mr. Davis also provided early pandemic advice to **Serious Fun After School** as they sought to create testing, PPE, and reopening plans. He consulted with **The Rally Cat**, a multidisciplinary performing arts organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering artists and communities through opera, theatre, and musical theatre, in connection with its reopening plans.

Mr. Davis also has consulted numerous times with **Hunger Free America**, a nonprofit with national reach working to build a bold, grassroots, non-partisan movement to enact the policies and programs necessary to end domestic hunger. Mr. Davis provided advice to Hunger Free America regarding safe reopening of its office early in the pandemic, and later in the pandemic, mandating vaccines among the staff.

Mr. Davis has volunteered long-term with **Grand Street Settlement**, a multi-service agency that sponsors education, employment, and social service programs on the Lower East Side. Mr. Davis provided counsel regarding labor negotiations, safe reopening, and vaccine policies. Robert Cordero, Grand Street Settlement's Executive Director comments, "Greg Davis skillfully and thoughtfully counseled us through crucial legal compliance issues in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. His positive impact on our mission-driven work with low-income New Yorkers is priceless. Greg took the time to understand our needs and helped to ensure that our nonprofit complied with government regulations to protect our employees and clients, while mitigating potential risks."

Says Mr. Davis, "There are complex legal issues and compliance challenges faced by nonprofits trying to keep up with all of the legislative and regulatory safety and leave requirements related to the pandemic. It is a challenging time for our nonprofit clients, which places even more emphasis on the importance of our role as pro bono advisors to help ensure the continuity of our pro bono clients' operations."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREES



CHRISTINA DE VUONO and **KAITLIN DESCOVICH**,
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Teamwork guides nonprofits in adopting corporate governance best practices

Christina De Vuono is counsel in Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's Mergers & Acquisitions practice. She received a B.Com. from McGill University in 2006 and her J.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2012. Kaitlin Descovich is counsel in Weil's Public Company Advisory Group. She received a B.A. from Dartmouth College in 2005 and her J.D. from New York Law School in 2013.

For more than two years, Ms. De Vuono and Ms. Descovich worked with **Women Creating Change** (WCC) to make major bylaws revisions, create a d/b/a, amend its certificate of incorporation, and conduct governance training. They also brought in other legal expertise as needed for intellectual property questions. WCC, which was founded in 1915 and operated under the name Women's City Club of New York, moved away from a traditional clubhouse structure and changed its mission, vision, and programs/policy to envision a more just and equitable New York City where all women are civically engaged. According to WCC's Senior Manager of External Relations Anya Berdan, "As WCC was rethinking how to be an impactful organization, having bylaws that supported our work was critical to organization's success. As the result of the changes, WCC successfully pivoted our programmatic direction, and acquired support from the Board of Directors and external stakeholders." WCC President and CEO Carole Wacey adds, "Whether we were working on the bylaws or governance training, Christina and Kaitlin are thorough and thoughtful and are always working to support WCC's mission. I can unequivocally say that WCC is much stronger because of having Christina and Kaitlin on our team!"

In 2014 through 2017, Ms. De Vuono worked with Weil colleagues on incorporation, tax-exemption, and governance documents for **School in the Square**, a charter school serving students in Washington Heights and Inwood. Around the same time, Ms. Descovich and colleagues were working on governance issues with **Artists Alliance**, which offers professional support to emerging and under-represented artists on the Lower East Side by providing free studio spaces and access to art professionals and the public.

Ms. De Vuono comments, "Working with pro bono clients has helped me to become more connected to great New York-based organizations, including museums, charter schools, and women's organizations, that do important work in enriching the community. It has been an honor to work with the WCC team and help facilitate their vision and mission of increasing civic engagement of under-served women."

Says Ms. Descovich, "Giving nonprofits that support and access to resources allows them to focus on their missions and achieving their goals with less worry about important, but sometimes burdensome, legal and compliance matters. Helping them to establish a framework for success can pay dividends for nonprofits over time."



INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



ANNA M. POMYKALA, *Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP*

Client-focused attorney shares vital employee benefit-related business expertise with nonprofits

Anna M. Pomykala is an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP with a practice focusing on employment tax and fringe benefits. She received a B.A. from Yale University, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, her J.D. from New York University School of Law, and a LL.M., Taxation from the same institution.

There is always a strong demand for legal assistance related to employees and Ms. Pomykala has utilized her skills and expertise on six employee compensation and benefits matters for Lawyers Alliance since 2018, working with organizations assisting a range of New York communities.

Ms. Pomykala provided crucial assistance to **Educators for Excellence**, which was advised by its auditors to ensure that its 401(k) plan was in compliance with the SECURE Act, which involved making any necessary to the plan documents, operation, or administration. Matt Gould, Vice President of Finance & Operations, was pleased with Ms. Pomykala's work, saying, "Three things stand out in my recollection of working with Anna: 1) She was very adept at breaking down a complex topic and making it easily digestible so that we could make a smart, informed decision. 2) She had a very client-friendly-orientation which we found very reassuring because it meant that we were comfortable asking as many questions as needed, no matter how simple or silly. 3) Anna was completely knowledgeable about the topic, even sharing links to articles on the subject, which gave us complete confidence that the advice we were being given was the most current and represented the best support we could possibly receive." Ms. Pomykala had previously also consulted with Educators for Excellence on certain plan design features of its 401(k) plan.

Harlem Advocates for Seniors received the benefit of Ms. Pomykala's expertise when she drafted a compensation committee charter and an offer letter for the part-time executive director. She also provided invaluable support to a community support center concerning eligibility and vesting practices under its 403(b) plan, thereby avoiding financial exposure. Ms. Pomykala also drafted a separation agreement for **Change Elemental**.

Says Ms. Pomykala, "It's a privilege to have the knowledge and resources I have access to at Morgan Lewis. The firm's commitment to pro bono means that there are countless opportunities to support organizations that provide vital programs in their communities. It's a joy and an honor to help an organization become stronger, and in the process, learn about needs in my city while developing and honing my skills."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



RICH REILLY, DLA Piper LLP (US)

Partner lends deep transactional expertise to nonprofits navigating community partnership and funding issues

Rich Reilly is a partner and subgroup leader, Structured Finance at DLA Piper LLP (US). He received a B.S. from Georgetown University in 1985 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992.

Mr. Reilly and his colleagues have worked on a number of Lawyers Alliance matters, including incorporation and tax exemption for **Cooper Stocks Way**, an organization created in memory of a nine-year-old boy who was killed by a reckless driver. He also assisted with the development and structure of a capital fund for **Community Access**, which helps people with psychiatric disabilities make the transition from shelters and hospitals to independent living. During the pandemic, he provided Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) application assistance to **B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Association of Greater New York**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to support the teaching of Iyengar yoga throughout the region.

Most recently, Mr. Reilly helped **Youth Action YouthBuild** (YAYB), an East Harlem-based youth leadership development, affordable housing preservation, and workforce development organization, draft and negotiate a partnership and collaboration agreement with another organization to develop a community kitchen. Collaboration agreements are common among nonprofits, but legal review is crucial to ensuring that a nonprofit's interests are being represented. Mr. Reilly helped YAYB craft an agreement that kept its interests central. He also helped the Board and staff understand the terms and ramifications of the proposed agreement. Mr. Reilly's work was so valued that following the project, he was invited to join YAYB's Board of Directors.

Robert Taylor, Executive Director of Youth Action, says, "Richard was very giving of his time and attention. Richard is a very generous and considerate professional and we are very happy to have started the relationship with him."

Mr. Reilly says, "There are many memorable moments in my pro bono work, but one that stands out is my first meeting with Robert Taylor of Youth Action YouthBuild. Because it took place at the height of the pandemic, the meeting was virtual. But after talking to Robert and learning the extent of YAYB's activities, I realized how my years of experience as a lawyer could benefit the organization and how YAYB could enhance my life by connecting me with people who dedicate most of their professional time improving the lives of others in the community. I'm really looking forward to in-person meetings with the Board and staff at YAYB."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



ASHLEY B. ROWE, *MetLife*

In-house corporate and insurance attorney provides guidance to multiple nonprofits through uncertain times

Ashley B. Rowe is a vice president and associate general counsel, US Insurance Law at MetLife. She received a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College in 1992 and her J.D. from Washington & Lee University in 1995.

Ms. Rowe has provided invaluable employment advice to a variety of nonprofits since the start of the pandemic. Her guidance has enabled countless educators, front-line workers, artists, and activists to continue their important work despite the risks and uncertainty of the pandemic. Through Lawyers Alliance's COVID-19 employment law helpline, Ms. Rowe has provided advice on legal concerns regarding safe reopening plans, vaccination policies, and other pandemic-specific concerns.

She assisted **Peace is Loud**, an organization that utilizes storytelling, particularly the stories of those whose identities intersect with systems-oppressed communities, to advance transformative social justice and **New Economy Project**, a nonprofit whose mission is to build an economy that works for all, based on cooperation, equity, social and racial justice, and ecological sustainability.

Ms. Rowe also worked with **Lavelle Fund for the Blind**, a grant-making foundation dedicated primarily to supporting programs that help New York City, New York State, and international residents who are blind or visually impaired live independent and productive lives, on its return to office and vaccine questions. Oliver Fuhrmann, Office and Administrative Associate at Lavelle Fund for the Blind, shares, "Ashley Rowe was incredibly knowledgeable and generous with her time. She was diligent in researching our questions and following up with us. Ashley's invaluable guidance helped us navigate some of the complex issues posed by the pandemic."

Recently, Ms. Rowe began advising **Drag Queen Story Hour NYC**, a nonprofit that teaches children about gender diversity and all forms of difference to build empathy and give kids the confidence to express themselves however they feel comfortable, on labor and employment questions.

Says Ms. Rowe, "I am fortunate to have a career that I love. I have always thought it was important to give back and pro bono legal work allows me to give back while doing what I love. Advising nonprofits allows me to impart knowledge I have gained advising large companies to entities that don't have the resources that my company has. A lot of what I do translates well."

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



KYLE ZHU, *Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP*

Diligent attorney provides a stable presence to a chamber of commerce foundation through evolving legal needs

Kyle Zhu is a managing associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP with a practice focusing on Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity. He received a B.S. from Georgetown University in 2014 and his J.D. from The George Washington University School of Law in 2017.

Mr. Zhu has worked extensively with the **Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation**, starting in February 2020, providing a steady hand for the duration of the pandemic. During this time, Mr. Zhu has worked on seven distinct matters for the Chamber Foundation, which works to promote, grow, and support the businesses on Staten Island, nimbly responding to its needs as they arose. The Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1895 and the Foundation in 1999.

Mr. Zhu has helped the Chamber Foundation with document retention drafting and fundamental governance issues. He has also provided advice on contracts for app development and data management services, allowing the Chamber Foundation to better support local businesses. Mr. Zhu is currently negotiating a partnership agreement for the Chamber Foundation so that it can distribute grants to local businesses affected by the pandemic.

The Chamber Foundation particularly appreciated Mr. Zhu's help on an issue related to review of its charitable mission. Says Linda Baran, President and CEO of the Chamber Foundation, "Kyle was extremely thorough. He worked specifically with a Board committee that had a complicated IRS question about the nature of our activities. He had to do a lot of research and provided a lot of material for us to review. He was able to guide the question and gave the Board a lot of solid recommendations. An attorney on our Board felt the research was extremely useful."

Janet Dugo, Project Manager at the Chamber Foundation, worked with Mr. Zhu on a technology contract that was critical to the organization's operations. Says Ms. Dugo, "Kyle is very easy to work with. He is quick to turn things around and understands what we are trying to accomplish. He even nudges us nicely to get the job done! We also appreciate his humility. On one point where he felt he wasn't the expert on a technology question, he brought in another specialist at his firm and they conferred to finalize the contract."

Says Mr. Zhu, "The highlight of my experience was attending the board meeting of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation. It was such a joy meeting all the wonderful people dedicating their time to improving the Staten Island business community and to see the impact of the work I had been doing. It will go down as one of the most rewarding moments of my legal career."

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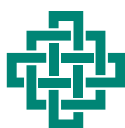
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Connecting Lawyers, Nonprofits, and Communities

171 Madison Avenue
9th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel: 212 219-1800
www.lawyersalliance.org