INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

BRUCE GOLDNER, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Experienced attorney helps nonprofits protect their intellectual property assets and fosters the firm’s pro bono spirit

Bruce Goldner has been a supporter of Lawyers Alliance for decades, volunteering on matters in many capacities, including as a supervising partner. As co-head of Skadden’s Intellectual Property and Technology Group, he has shared his enthusiasm by lending his Intellectual Property expertise and leading by example as a steadfast supporter of transactional pro bono. Mr. Goldner has also been actively involved in the selection of Skadden externs, who become an integral part of Lawyers Alliance’s legal team for the months that they spend on site. In recent years, he assisted Gritty Cherries, a nonprofit expanding access to the arts for young people in communities that lack exposure to the arts, protect their trademarks, and Quill.org, which helps low-income K-12 students who struggle with writing, negotiate an agreement regarding licensing, ensuring that these organizations’ valuable intellectual property assets remain protected.

Q. How and why did you first become involved with Lawyers Alliance?
I have been working with Lawyers Alliance since 1998 (feels like a century ago). I first became involved because my mentor at Skadden, Ken Plevan, volunteered his time to Lawyers Alliance and invited me to join him on a project. The rest, as they say, is history.

Q. Share a tip for making time for pro bono.
We treat pro bono as we do billable work, and see it as an opportunity for our associates to further develop their legal and client management skills.

Q. Share a fun or unexpected moment from pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance.
In recent years, I have played an active role in helping our Firm identify and place one of our associates as an extern at Lawyers Alliance for six to eight months – we at all times have an associate working full-time at Lawyers Alliance. I am proud to say that we have provided seven associates from our Intellectual Property & Technology group over the past years, which adds up to more than three-and-a-half years of full-time assistance to Lawyers Alliance from my group alone. Moreover, we see the unique experiences that our associates have at Lawyers Alliance and how when they return to us they not only have developed an additional skill set but also maintain and build upon their relationships and work with Lawyers Alliance.

Q. What’s the most rewarding aspect of pro bono work?
Helping people achieve their life and professional goals in circumstances where they otherwise might not be able to retain or pay for legal services.

“We are happy that Skadden Arps helped us trademark our name ‘Monumental Women.’ The attorneys have always been very supportive of our organization and goals.”
— Pam Elam
President, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund