

INDIVIDUAL HONOREES



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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."