

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

DANIEL S. SHAMAH, *O'Melveny & Myers LLP*

Law firm leader helps nonprofits both locally and nationally

Daniel S. Shamah applies his legal talents to improve the governance and operations of community-oriented Lawyers Alliance clients with local, multistate, and national programs. The groups he has served in the past three years collectively improve the lives of more than one million individuals, families, people with disabilities, youth, and educators each year. He updated certificates of incorporation for **Cents Ability**, to help it expand its student-focused financial literacy programs from New York into Chicago, and for **Sephardic Community Center**, a Brooklyn-based nonsectarian organization that provides multi-generational programs. He has guided organizations on corporate and contract law, such as assisting **National Young Farmers Coalition** with revising its conflict of interest policy and **I WILL GRADUATE** with a planned governance presentation. Mr. Shamah also served as Co-Chair of Lawyers Alliance's 2021-2022 Law Firm Appeal.

Q. How and why did you first become involved with Lawyers Alliance?

Years ago, I focused my efforts on helping nonprofits and small businesses organize themselves and adopt best practices for corporate governance. Lawyers Alliance partners with so many nonprofits, it seems inevitable now that I would partner with them. The first time, I helped **iEarn**, which engages students and teachers in online global education projects, to review and revise consulting agreements.

Q. Share a tip for making time for pro bono.

First, making time is just a question of budgeting, and budgeting is a question of priorities. If it's important, you'll make the time. Second, be discerning about the firm you work at and the teams you work on. I fortunately have spent my entire career at a firm – O'Melveny – that treats pro bono not as a luxury, but as a requirement. With a firm chair like Brad Butwin, and pro bono counsel like David Lash and Jerri Shick, all of whom encourage pro bono and walk the walk, making the time is easy.

Q. Share a fun or unexpected moment from pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance.

One is helping the Sephardic Community Center review and amend its certificate and bylaws. I jumped at the opportunity to represent them because, growing up in Brooklyn, the Center was a second home to me. It turned out the matter hit closer to home for an even more personal reason: when I dug into the file, I learned that my father drafted the organization's original bylaws, during the two years he was a practicing lawyer. We laugh about how two generations of Shamahs have helped the Center!

Q. What's the most rewarding aspect of pro bono work?

The opportunity to take the skills I've spent years developing to help others. The organizations I had the privilege of helping through Lawyers Alliance touch so many different people. Knowing that I played a tiny role in helping those organizations fulfill their mission is incredibly rewarding.

"Daniel was responsive, attentive, and a pleasure to work with. He enhanced our Certificate of Incorporation, which is critical to our operations and now more closely aligned with the services we offer our community and the Center's mission."

— Norman Mandel

Chief Financial Officer, Sephardic Community Center



Employment:

O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Co-Chair, Bankruptcy
Litigation Group

Graduate of:

Georgetown University
Law Center

Lawyers Alliance clients:

Cents Ability
Coalition for
Institutionalized Aged
and Disabled
Dancers Unlimited
Extreme Kids and Crew
I WILL GRADUATE
iEARN-USA
National Young Farmers
Coalition
Sephardic Community
Center