



DAVID BRODERDORF

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Dedicated team helps legal justice organization negotiate its first collective bargaining agreement

In early 2022, the staff of **Prisoners' Legal Services of New York** (PLS) voted to unionize. PLS, which provides high quality, effective legal representation and assistance to indigent prisoners and advocates for a more humane criminal justice system, has 57 employees across six offices in New York State. David Broderdorf and Gregory Nelson volunteered to negotiate the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). For 20 months, Mr. Nelson met every other week with the PLS team: Karen Murtagh, PLS' Executive Director; Jonathan Feldman, PLS' General Counsel; and Krin Flaherty, PLS' Deputy Director; and union representatives, to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement

and address ancillary issues, with the parties ultimately reaching a mutually approved agreement. Mr. Broderdorf provided guidance and, after the CBA was signed, conducted a training for PLS' managers to facilitate its smooth implementation.

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

We both firmly believe that all organizations and individuals are entitled to high quality legal services. Being able to help PLS navigate the ever-changing landscape of labor law and labor relations was rewarding. No matter the issue that a lawyer takes on in a pro bono case, the work we all do makes a difference, not only to the individual or organization, but to the communities in which we live. We were fortunate enough to engage in pro bono work that not only was in our area of expertise but ensured that PLS can continue to provide legal services to those who would otherwise be unable to afford or utilize the legal system to enforce their rights.

"I cannot say enough good things about the firm and our attorneys. They displayed a level of professionalism and generosity that is off the charts. Greg and David had a deep understanding of our two goals: providing top quality legal services to people incarcerated in New York and retaining valued, expert staff. Their involvement enabled PLS to achieve both goals through the collective bargaining agreement."

*— Karen Murtagh
Executive Director,
Prisoners' Legal Services of New York*

Graduate of:

DB: Georgetown University Law Center

GN: Cornell Law School

Lawyers Alliance client:

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York