

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



JAY B. STRAUS, *Bloomberg L.P.*

Dedicated in-house attorney steps up to the plate for more than a dozen nonprofits

Jay B. Straus has been a devoted volunteer for Lawyers Alliance, consistently and regularly working to enhance the nonprofit sector by providing expertise in various areas, including general corporate governance, contract review, and crafting website privacy policies and terms of use. Mr. Straus actively participated in three legal clinics offered to Bloomberg just this past year and eleven in the past five years, showcasing his unwavering commitment to both Lawyers Alliance and its nonprofit clients and setting an example and encouraging colleagues to engage in pro bono work. He worked with **SPEAKHIRE**, a nonprofit that helps youth from immigrant families to develop their social and cultural capital for future workforce leadership, by streamlining its consent process, reducing documentation and liability. Additionally, he aided them in creating a terms of use when the organization transitioned to online media releases via its website.

Employment:

Bloomberg L.P.
Senior Counsel

Graduate of:

New York University
School of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

Advocacy Institute
Bloomingdale School
of Music
Bronx Charter School for
the Arts
Bronx Fashion NYC
Castle Hill District
Management Association
Children's Art Guild
Hamilton-Madison House
Jewish Community Council
of Washington Heights-
Inwood
Mercy Center
Presbyterian Senior
Services
Refoundry
SPEAKHIRE
Westchester Square District
Management

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

I am grateful that Bloomberg has an amazingly active pro bono program, and the program connected me with Lawyers Alliance for New York. I wanted to volunteer with Lawyers Alliance because they offer so many meaningful opportunities to help clients, and the work is so rewarding!

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

Keep an eye on your regular work commitments to see if there are any noticeable patterns or trends in your workload. Sometimes you can anticipate when a pro bono project would fit well into your schedule.

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

We helped an organization which matches mentors with young people draft the terms of use for their platform. They wanted to make sure they would be able to use photos of the mentors and mentees, so we were careful to include consents in the document. Later they came to us and said, what if the mentor is an undercover agent, where there are no pictures allowed? Moral of the story: If you are a secret agent, be sure to read the terms of use!

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

Helping clients in need is what it's really all about! It feels like you are really contributing when you know the client would otherwise have a tough time affording counsel to help them out. It's great to have such a direct impact from your work. Seeing the results first-hand is very rewarding!

"SPEAKHIRE works with a lot of individuals and this pro bono legal help streamlined our consent process, allowing for less documentation and less liability on our end. Jay was very helpful. We even had a follow up question that went a bit beyond the scope of the clinic some time later and he answered our question."

— Hetal Jani,
Executive Director, SPEAKHIRE