

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



JEROME L. LEVINE, *Loeb & Loeb LLP*

Expert trusts and estates attorney helps nonprofits access important charitable bequests

Nonprofits are often the beneficiaries of gifts from generous donors' estates and need legal help navigating the process. Since 2017, Jerome L. Levine has leveraged his trusts and estates expertise to support Lawyers Alliance clients, serving as both primary counsel and supervising attorney. His counsel has left a significant impact on organizations such as **SAGE (Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders)**, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older adults, and **Children's Defense Fund—New York**, which champions policies and programs to improve the overall lives of America's children. Through his counsel, Mr. Levine has illuminated the nuances of estates and trusts matters for clients, and helped them understand and assert their rights as beneficiaries of donors' bequests. His commitment to dedicate his time and expertise to mentor junior associates and support pro bono clients in addressing difficult trusts and estates law needs has firmly established him as a passionate and exemplary pro bono leader.

Employment:

Loeb & Loeb LLP
Partner, Trusts & Estates

Graduate of:

New York University
School of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

BronxWorks
Children's Defense Fund –
New York
SAGE (Advocacy &
Services for LGBTQ+
Elders)

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

Lawyers Alliance represents many small charities which need pro bono assistance in a broad range of different practice areas. It is unusual to find opportunities to represent pro bono clients on trust and estate matters which are similar to those I handle for regular clients. I responded to a posting for a charity which needed representation as the beneficiary of an estate which was languishing because the named executors refused to qualify.

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

Do not think of pro bono as something you do in your spare time. Integrate pro bono work into your regular practice. Each pro bono client is just as important as your paying clients.

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

It was both unexpected and fun to find out the complexity of the estate situations which Lawyers Alliance referred to me. When I volunteered to work with SAGE, I expected to find situations I had considered before. It turned out in both cases that the representations presented unusual facts which required novel solutions. They gave us valuable learning experiences and the opportunity to fashion creative approaches for the client.

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

The gratitude of the pro bono clients and the recognition that those clients would have been denied favorable outcomes without my representation.

"Jerry is a consummate professional, a steady hand, and a first-rate lawyer. Throughout it all Jerry remained focused, determined, and steadfast in representing SAGE and ensuring that the decedents' wishes regarding their gifts to SAGE were fulfilled. These were tremendously important gifts for SAGE and helped us to continue providing much-needed services to LGBTQ+ elders in New York City and beyond."

— Carol Garcia

Volunteer Director of Pro Bono Legal Partnerships, SAGE