

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



KAROL S. ROBINSON, *Anderson Kill*

Real estate lawyer shares her transactional and counseling skills with nonprofits on governance, fiscal sponsorship, and lease review projects

Karol S. Robinson first volunteered with Lawyers Alliance as an associate in 2003, when she and a colleague sought out opportunities to share their skills as transactional lawyers in support of community organizations. Lawyers Alliance clients have reaped the benefits of Karol's expertise ever since. She has counseled nonprofits on lease reviews, corporate bylaws, and other governance matters. As a shareholder in the New York office of Anderson Kill, she brings her skills in real estate, housing, and not-for-profit law to a wide range of clients, including resource-constrained nonprofits in need of pro bono legal help. Most recently, during the pandemic, she provided fiscal sponsorship guidance to an organization helping unemployed and struggling workers.

Employment:

Anderson Kill
Shareholder, Real Estate

Graduate of:

B.A. Vassar College
J.D. Rutgers School of Law,
Newark

Lawyers Alliance clients:

Alley Pond Environmental
Center
Mythic Bridge
Neighborhood Housing
Services of New York
City
Restaurant Workers'
Community Foundation
Urban Homesteading
Assistance Board

Q. What motivates you to participate in, or support, pro bono?

Pro bono service reminds me of family and the importance of community. I was born in Washington, DC and raised by my mother and great-grandmother, primarily in Columbia, Maryland. To this day, my mother shares stories of her childhood as a fourth generation Washingtonian, with cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends in and out of her home, where they could find whatever comfort was needed. She also speaks of her own volunteer work as a teen at a hospital and a home for children in DC. Now my daughter and I volunteer together. The opportunity to continue those traditions and to give back as others have given to us, although in different ways, is important.

Q. Share a tip for making time for pro bono during the COVID pandemic.

Following the Lawyers Alliance Pro Bono Opportunities Newsletter makes it easy. Once assigned a project, it takes a bit of discipline, but I found it helpful to make an appointment with myself or carve out a designated time slot during the day or each week specifically for a pro bono project.

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

My very first project with Lawyers Alliance was with the Alley Pond Center, a nonprofit environmental education organization in Queens, New York. We updated [Alley Pond's] governing documents and its structure as a membership organization. During the course of the project, we visited to discuss the project and were treated to an unexpected tour of the Center and the surrounding park. It is a beautiful oasis in Queens, New York that does such important work. It was fun and exciting to get a snapshot of the organization we were assisting and move from paper to the park, which is an amazing resource for all New Yorkers.

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

Certainly, the opportunity to assist nonprofits – even in a small way – as they all provide valuable, essential services to some many New Yorkers from all walks of life.

“Having solid legal frameworks allowed us to respond rapidly to the COVID-19 crisis in the restaurant industry and raise more than \$7 million to date to support restaurant workers.”

— John deBary
Founder and Board President
Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation