## 2024 CORNERSTONE AWARDS • INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



Associate, Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group, Brown Rudnick LLP

# Expert attorney shares intellectual property knowledge with a special focus on nonprofit arts groups

Marcus T. Strong uses his expertise and skills in intellectual property, commercial disputes, and digital media to assist nonprofits with branding, licensing, and protection of creative works. He assisted **Weird Enough Productions**, a multimedia production company that creates digital media to empower youth, with a gamut of intellectual property issues, protecting its creative assets: registering webcomics and associated characters for federal copyright protection, prosecuting a federal trademark application for a contested mark, and licensing its media for use by an affiliate. Additionally, Mr. Strong obtained registration of the name and logo as trademarks for **Fort Greene Council**, for the first time in its 50-year existence, and represented **Downtown Community Television Center** with preparing a license for use of its documentary archival footage archive by third-parties.

# Q. Talk about a fun or unexpected moment from pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance.

Getting connected with Weird Enough was unexpected, if completely serendipitous. The organization creates educational and empowering sci-fi and fantasy webcomics with diverse characters, and I'm a lifelong comic fan who loves to see representation in media. Being able to work on their intellectual property issues has been a joy, and I've appreciated getting to know their founder, Tony Weaver. We even met in person at a local comic book festival in Harlem where I live, which was a cool experience.

"I was extremely satisfied with his legal work, but beyond that, I was genuinely elated by Marcus' commitment to our cause. He went above and beyond to make sure we had what we needed. He champions our work outside of official matters, and he even came to see us at a local event in New York City. He genuinely cares about the impact we're making and it's something I'm deeply grateful for. The work Marcus has done has enabled us to impact over half a million students across the US."

— Tony Weaver, Jr.

Founder,

Weird Enough Productions

#### **Graduate of:**

Columbia Law School

### **Lawyers Alliance clients:**

Downtown Community Television Center (DCTV)
Fort Greene Council
I WILL GRADUATE f/k/a Entertainers 4 Education Alliance
Weird Enough Productions