

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

MARIO VERDOLINI, *Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*

Expert tax attorney shares nonprofit and tax law expertise essential to the foundation and growth of pro bono clients

Nonprofit leaders are the sources of wonderful ideas, but even experts in their fields sometimes need practical legal help to turn ideas into action. A pro bono attorney, especially one who understands nonprofit governance and incorporation and tax exemption, can help nonprofits make the leap from idea to reality. Since 1996, Mario Verdolini has performed in that capacity on many Lawyers Alliance pro bono cases, serving as supervising attorney to help nonprofit clients through the incorporation and tax exemption process and enabling them to establish internal governance policies. His expertise has impacted organizations such as **BlocPower**, which builds clean energy infrastructure in traditionally underserved American inner cities, and **The Prestige Foundation**, which provides free standardized test tutoring and academic support to low-income students in New York City. He has also assisted organizations with other corporate legal needs, for example, by drafting and negotiating a memorandum of understanding for a housing and homeless services organization. Mr. Verdolini's willingness to share his time and expertise with junior associates and pro bono clients to help them navigate their most crucial needs has established him as a dedicated pro bono leader.

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

I became involved with Lawyers Alliance through Davis Polk's pro bono practice. I believe my first work with Lawyers Alliance was in 1996 on its AIDS Project. My work with Lawyers Alliance has increased in recent years, with the general expansion of Davis Polk's corporate pro bono work under the leadership of Nancy Marchand, Counsel, Head of Corporate and Transactional Pro Bono.

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

It's easy to make time for pro bono legal work once you've tried it.

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

After a small assignment for Downtown Community Television Center earlier this year, I was delighted and surprised to receive an e-mail that I and others on our team had been given supporter status at the Center for that bit of work.

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

I believe that nonprofits like Lawyers Alliance for New York play an important role in our society by providing support and assistance to those distressed, disadvantaged, or in need and to those enriching the lives of others with educational or cultural programs. It's personally and professionally satisfying to have even a small role in helping provide that assistance.

"Mario has been a dedicated mentor to so many of us at Davis Polk who work with nonprofits. By generously committing his time and considerable tax expertise to support the public missions of countless nonprofits, Mario exemplifies the values we strive to uphold in our pro bono practice."

— Nancy Marchand

*Counsel, Head of Corporate & Transactional Pro Bono
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*



Employment:

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Partner, Tax

Graduate of:

New York University
School of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

A.J. Muste Memorial
Institute
BlocPower Community
Corporation
Bronx Community SNP
Consortium
Citizens Advice Bureau
(BronxWorks)
Downtown Community
Television Center
Esonge
Giving Friends
La Alfombra Teatro
Settlement Housing Fund
South Bronx Overall
Economic Development
Corporation (SoBro)
The Prestige Foundation