

## INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

### MILBANK LLP

*Clear pro bono commitment, including complex transactional work, strengthens nonprofits*

# Milbank

Milbank's strong community service ethic is reflected in its more than 25-year pro bono relationship with Lawyers Alliance. The firm expects all of its attorneys to dedicate a minimum of 25 hours to pro bono work annually. In 2021, Milbank topped 57,000 pro bono hours globally and handled 700 active cases, with more than 95 percent of its U.S. lawyers taking on pro bono matters. As part of this work, Milbank attorneys worked on 50 different legal matters for 39 Lawyers Alliance clients in the past five years, helping organizations to navigate leases, contracts, governance issues, and strategic alliances. This work has a positive impact on nonprofits serving low-income communities throughout and beyond New York City, and pro bono clients have consistently praised Milbank's attorneys for their assistance.

Among many exceptional examples, Milbank's real estate expertise, including the review and negotiation of complex leases, benefitted several City nonprofits, including **Forestdale**, a multiservice agency in Western Queens serving more than 13,500 multicultural residents who range in age from five to 95, and **BxArts Factory**, a community arts nonprofit that provides space and support to local artists working in the Bronx. Milbank corporate, tax, and structured finance attorneys drafted clearly written guidelines for community partners regarding the distribution of pandemic relief funds. Drafting a template grant agreement for the coronavirus emergency grants to community partners for **New York Immigration Coalition**, an umbrella policy and advocacy organization, had an exponential impact for more than 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees.

Lawyers Alliance and our nonprofit clients are thankful for Milbank's attention to sophisticated transactional pro bono and the breadth, depth, and impact of the firm's pro bono work.

#### ***Q. How does the firm encourage and support business and transactional lawyers at all levels to participate in pro bono?***

At Milbank our business and transactional lawyers are very excited to have an opportunity to use their unique skills to help nonprofits and small businesses. Lawyers Alliance provides the most comprehensive list of transactional opportunities available from any program. It has enabled us to expand our pro bono offerings and engage more transactional lawyers in helping others.

#### ***Q. How has the firm's pro bono program evolved during the last few years?***

One of the most significant changes in our program has been the increase in transactional matters we take on each year. In fact, in the past five years, the percentage of transactional matters has grown from 38 percent to nearly 50 percent of all of our new cases.

# LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

Milbank attorneys have represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last three years: **Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Citizens Center, Bengali Mental Health Movement, Bitty City Explorers, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, BxArts Factory, Chhaya Community Development Corporation, Community Access, Community Connections for Youth, Crossroads Community Services, Educators for Excellence, Fifth Avenue Committee, Forestdale, Friends of Gantry Plaza State Park d/b/a/ Hunters Point Parks Conservancy, GP Dementia Services New York, JustLeadershipUSA, Latinas on the Verge of Excellence Mentoring Program, Muscle Inspires New Empowerment, Music & Memory, National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions d/b/a Inclusiv, Neighborhood SHOPP, New York Immigration Coalition, New Youth Leaders, Radio Diaries, Scholarship Plus, The Black Feminist Project, Union Settlement Association, Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, and YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood.**

Firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: Matthew Ahrens, Carlos Albarracin, Javad Asgari, James Ball, Marcela Barba, Drew Batkin, Lisa Brabant, Carolyn Carpenter, Cheyne Cudby, Paul Denaro, Lauren Doyle, Erwin Dweck, Andrew Fadale, Ben Fidler, Evan Fleck, John Franchini, Matthew Freifeld, Elliot Ganchrow, John Garces, Scott Golenbock, Max Goodman, Marcella Gurgel, Julianne Guzman, Jane Hanson, Andrew Harmeyer, Alaina Heine, Richard Hillman, Robert Katsnelson, Ashley Kemper, Bob Kennedy, Sam Khalil, Jasmine Khaneja, Brian Kinney, Eileen Kuo, Jane Lee, Lindsey Mahoney, Elizabeth Martinez, Dan Michalchuk, Kevin Mu, Kieran Murphy, Francisco Nunez, Kevin O'Shea, Michael Price, Pragyan Patnaik, Frank Pensabene, Michael Rivkin, Alexa Rubenstein, Henry Scott, Alex Shapos, Yaakov Sheinfeld, Rebecca Shepherd, Kyle Smit, Sean Solis, Bobby Sommers, Alan Stone, David Templeton, Daniel Tyrrell, Laura Verlangieri, Andrew Walker, John Williams, and Zachary Young.

“The Milbank team helped Forestdale navigate two leases for commercial properties in 2020, allowing us to expand services that help families move from crisis to stability and growth in new high-need communities. Despite the uncertainty of the early pandemic months the Milbank team brought a high degree of professionalism and certainty to the process. They helped us avoid potential pitfalls, negotiated reasonable terms and ensured that we had a fair and equitable lease for both properties. They were responsive and helpful every step of the way. We truly appreciate their efforts!”

— Rachel Tzimirotas  
*General Counsel and Assistant Executive Director of Operations,  
Forestdale*