

## INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

### SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

#### *Premier law firm strengthens communities and leads by example*

Sidley Austin LLP has cultivated a strong commitment to pro bono service, devoting more than 169,000 hours in 2020. For more than three decades, Sidley has partnered with Lawyers Alliance and handled a wide range of timely and complicated legal projects. During this time, Sidley attorneys have not only taken on increasingly complex matters, but have amplified their impact. As the firm's national presence has grown, so too has its commitment to Lawyers Alliance and low-income New Yorkers.

# SIDLEY

#### **Providing New Energy and Real Estate Options**

**Co-op Power** seeks a just energy future through local ownership of sustainable energy generation, enterprises, and good green jobs. It works locally as a network of local energy cooperatives to bring energy efficiency and renewable energy resources to their communities. When faced with a need for advice on a time-sensitive project providing solar energy to New York City Housing Authority properties, Co-op Power turned to Sidley attorneys. Through Sidley's work, Co-op Power is in the process of bringing solar power to 350 low-income families who live in Section 8 housing.

Sidley attorneys have also provided advice on and assistance with negotiating commercial leases and subleases for organizations that serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals requiring mental health services; train low-income women, often single mothers, to become certified child care providers; and provide services to families, children, and persons with disabilities throughout Brooklyn. Sidley attorneys' knowledge and ability to navigate complex commercial leases on behalf of Lawyers Alliance's clients allows these organizations to focus on their important work serving New Yorkers in need.

#### **Bringing Arts Online**

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, arts organizations were impacted significantly, having to turn to virtual offerings in lieu of traditional, live programming. The **Time In Children's Arts Initiative** is a groundbreaking opera and visual arts initiative that has brought thousands of New York's youngest, most at-risk public school children out of underserved classrooms and into the world of the living arts as part of their normal school day. When New York City's subsidized summer programming shut down in 2020, Time In created a holistically integrated, live virtual "Summer in the City" arts program free for all City public school children. Sidley attorneys drafted a template subcontractor agreement used by approximately 50 participating arts organizations, as well as a template teaching artist agreement used for this virtual programming. Through Sidley's work, Time In was able to pull together 19,000 hours of live free virtual arts programming for all New York City public school kids with merely eight weeks' notice. Founder and Executive Director Cyndie Bellen-Berthezene says, "Sidley's swift work helped us have the vital paperwork in place to be able to go live on our website and know that everyone was protected."

**Bronx Council on the Arts** (BCA) was formed 60 years ago as an advocate for cultural equity, aiming to develop a diverse array of artists and arts organizations and build cultural connections in the Bronx and outside the borough. Sidley began working with BCA in 2018 on artist agreements, and adapted the contracts during the pandemic to reflect online-only exhibitions. BCA's Executive Director states, "When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Sidley team patiently guided us through the process of adapting our existing contracts for online exhibitions and events. We are forever grateful for their expertise and help, and for making our shift to virtual programs absolutely effortless."

## **Protecting the Environment throughout the City**

From the **Prospect Park Alliance** in Brooklyn to the **Harding Park Environmental Center** in the Bronx to the **Alley Pond Environmental Center** in Queens, Sidley has met the legal needs of organizations protecting and preserving the environment across New York City. Sidley has worked on a variety of legal matters, including incorporation, drafting and revising bylaws, advising on reopening facilities that were closed during the pandemic, and negotiating and reviewing contracts. As a representative from **Earth Matter NY**, an organization dedicated to advancing composting in and around New York City, states, "Sidley attorneys have assisted us in many ways that we would not have otherwise been able to afford."

A Sidley representative says, "Business and transactional pro bono work is a force-multiplier in terms of community service: not only are we helping individual business owners and nonprofits with their legal needs, but we also are enhancing their ability to serve more individuals in their communities, many of whom are from disenfranchised and underrepresented populations."

Sidley attorneys have also represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last five years: **All Our Kin, BK Rot, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Community Service Society of New York, Constitutional Education Foundation, Die Jim Crow, Encore Community Services, Every Day is a Miracle, Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS), Guardians of Flushing Bay, Hazon, Heights-Hill Mental Health Service South Beach Psychiatric Center Community Advisory Board d/b/a Rainbow Heights Club, Image Impact International, IntegrateNYC, Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, La Peninsula Community Organization, LPZ Cinetech, Mental Illness Policy Org., New American Leaders, NY Peace Institute, Riverdale Mental Health Association, Schools That Can, St. George Theater Restoration, STRIVE, Support Center for Nonprofit Management, The Red Balloon Early Childhood Learning Center, WHIN Music Community Charter School, and Wonderful World: Friends of Music Therapy.**

Current firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: James D. Arden, Christian Bennardo, Kevin Blatchford, James Brigagliano, Darby Brown, Diahndra Burman, Kostian Ciko, Michael Clark, Benson Cohen, Andrea Devas, Alyssa Dolan, Peter Edgerton, Kevin Fee, Scott Freeman, Rachel Fridhandler, Jason Friedhoff, Samir A. Gandhi, Robert Garritano, Daniel A. Gerard, Stefan Giudici, Jeffrey Glick, Brendan Goldenberg, Tara Higgins, D.J. Hill, Eric Hoffman, Christopher Hutchison, Vera Iwankiw, Radhika Kannan, Cathy M. Kaplan, Rebecca Keevers, Denise Kerschhackl,

# LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

Asi Kirmayer, Parker Kolodka, Robert Kreitman, Wendy Lazerson, Geoffrey Levin, Perry Lumpkin, John Mackinnon, Michael Mann, Prabhat Mehta, David Miller, Maeghan Murphy, Patricia A. Murphy, Christian Mutone, Noreen Phelan, John Plotz, Nikita Ponomarev, Mark Poole, Alexi Poretz, Whitney Price, Ryan Puszka, Diane Renne, Peter Riley, Katherine Roberts, John Schaff, Maggie Seery, Daniel Serota, Brent Steele, Scott Stern, Kenny S. Terrero, Lilya Tessler, Sarah Tucker, James Weiss, Michael Williams, Jessica Wood, Taylor Wood, and Reuben Zaramian. Former firm lawyers include: Steve Ahn, Australia Alba, Joseph W. Armbrust, Jr., Ryan Au, Marie Baskin, Kelly Carr, Madeleine Dowling, Robb Eastman, Marshall D. Feiring, Arnie Fridhandler, Danielle Garbien, Brandon Harmer, John Hutchinson, Peter Kauffman, Albertina Kawatu, Gina Khanna, Tania Khatibifar, Angelica Kwan, Beiming Liu, Elizabeth Logie, George Madison, Isaiah Marcano, Naoya Okajima, Mimi Ophir, Pragyana Patnaik, Teri Peebles, Amira Privott-Yeiser, Juan Quintero, Rachel Raleigh, Trevor Rozier-Byrd, Kei Shirakawa, Joanne M. Sur, Alexander Traum, Lauren Treadaway, and Hannah Yi.

## 2021 CORNERSTONE AWARDS