

INDIVIDUAL HONOREES



SLOANE ACKERMAN, *O'Melveny & Myers LLP*

Trusted employment lawyer repeatedly provides critical legal advice to nonprofits improving the lives of low-income New Yorkers

When it comes to employment law help for nonprofits, client demand for quality assistance exceeds the supply of talented pro bono lawyers. Sloane Ackerman stands out for being a dedicated lawyer with labor and employment law expertise who has deftly taken on multiple pro bono projects and served nonprofits over an extended period of time. Since 2013, she has assisted 11 nonprofits through Lawyers Alliance. As a result, these organizations have been better able to manage and deploy their staff and make a positive impact in the areas of youth, literacy, arts, and social services.

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

Lawyers Alliance has always presented me with the opportunity to do interesting work, hone my skills, support causes that are important to me, and work with great people. Given this winning formula, I continue to seek out opportunities to work with Lawyers Alliance and its clients.

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

I remind myself that the ever-changing employment law landscape during the pandemic poses a tremendous challenge for nonprofits, which typically don't have internal experts in this area. Without my assistance, these organizations may not be able to continue functioning temporarily or even permanently.

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

During a COVID employment law counseling session, one client kept saying, "I have one last question" and then proceeded to ask many more questions. The web of employment laws applicable during this unprecedented time seems insurmountable for clients. We were giggling because our conversation on this topic could have gone on forever!

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

I always feel like I helped the client reach a resolution and that my good work helps them do theirs. It doesn't hurt that the clients of Lawyers Alliance always express their gratitude.

"Sloane was wonderful to work with and very attuned to our needs. She distinguished between what was legally required and what was recommended so that we could tailor our employment policies to reflect our organizational values."

— Holly Sansom
Operations Director, Theatre of the Oppressed NYC

Employment:

O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Counsel, Labor and Employment

Graduate of:

B.S. Cornell University
J.D. New York University

Lawyers Alliance clients:

Ali Forney Center
Brooklyn Boatworks
I'RAISE Girls & Boys International
Literacy Assistance Center
National Young Farmers Coalition
Roads to Success
Stand Beside Them
Staten Island Mental Health Society
The Reading Team
Theatre of the Oppressed NYC
Time in Children's Arts Initiative