

# LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

## INDIVIDUAL HONOREES

**STEVEN M. LUTT** and **JULIANNE PRISCO**, *White & Case LLP*

*Expert real estate attorneys help nonprofits expand their footprints in the community*

Finding experienced real estate services can be a challenge for nonprofits looking to maintain a presence in rapidly changing neighborhoods. Steven M. Lutt has assisted six clients over the past seven years, representing a variety of nonprofits from large social service organizations like **Goddard Riverside** to smaller community-based organizations like **Bronx River Alliance**. He works on and supervises a range of real estate needs including leasing agreements, use termination agreements, and acquisitions and financings. Since 2017, Julianne Prisco has worked with four Lawyers Alliance clients. Mr. Lutt and Ms. Prisco are currently assisting with an acquisition and financing of a commercial building in Coney Island, Brooklyn that will be a social service community center for senior citizens, for **Council of Peoples Organization (COPO)**, which assists low-income immigrant families, particularly South Asians and Muslims.

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

S.L. I was introduced to Lawyers Alliance in 2013 through a partner who encouraged me to teach a class on basic corporate law through the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBro), a Lawyers Alliance client. After that, as matters were circulated through the White & Case pro bono program, I worked on several matters over the years that came from Lawyers Alliance, often as a supervising partner.

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

S.L. As busy as many attorneys are, it is important to take some time out of our busy days and give a little back to the community. My tip would be for starters if you think you are just too busy, just take on a small matter or two. Even if it is to just volunteer for a few hours. I promise it will be a rewarding experience you will enjoy.

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

S.L. For me, the fun part of working through Lawyers Alliance is being able to engage our younger attorneys on the projects and to teach them what goes into a transaction or lease agreement while they run the matter for the client. The associates jump right into these deals with great enthusiasm, which is always rewarding and makes working on the deals fun.

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

S.L. The most rewarding aspect of pro bono work is helping people or organizations to achieve their goals and then to see them succeed after the legal work is completed. We disappear into the background, but that small business or not-for-profit continues to operate, making jobs and supporting their community.

“Steven and Julianne were a godsend, as they were just the lawyers needed for a project such as this. They were meticulous and their solutions ultimately ensured success. This project gives COPO a permanent home in the neighborhood, and a building that will be dedicated to senior services. Low-income seniors are most vulnerable and isolated and this social senior community space will provide them with needed services.”

— Tenzing Chadotsang  
*Capital Projects Consultant, Council of Peoples Organization*



**Employment:**

White & Case LLP

SL: *Partner, Real Estate*

JP: *Associate, Real Estate*

**Graduate of:**

SL: Brooklyn Law School

JP: Hofstra University  
School of Law

**Lawyers Alliance clients:**

Bronx River Alliance

Council of Peoples  
Organization

Repurpose Wardrobe

Spence-Chapin Services to  
Families and Children

Lutt, in addition to above:

Goddard Riverside

Heroes United