

SUZANNE TURNER

Partner and Chair of
Pro Bono Practice,
Dechert LLP

Visionary Pro Bono Leader Expanding Access to Justice

Throughout her career, Suzanne Turner has been a true leader in pro bono service, advancing access to justice and strengthening communities through legal advocacy. As a Partner, Ms. Turner is recognized for her leadership in human rights and civil rights litigation, and as a Chair of Dechert's firm-wide pro bono practice, she helps create meaningful opportunities for lawyers to use their skills in service of others. Ms. Turner has dedicated her career to ensuring that individuals and organizations who otherwise could not afford legal representation have access to high-quality legal counsel. Her leadership extends beyond her firm through service with numerous organizations focused on civil rights, homelessness, and access to justice. Her longstanding commitment to pro bono innovation and impact has won her numerous awards. She has helped redefine how law firms integrate service into their culture and mission.

In partnership with Lawyers Alliance for New York, Ms. Turner has been an unwavering champion for nonprofit clients, helping place dozens of pro bono matters at Dechert, including many of the most challenging and difficult-to-place engagements. Her commitment to recruiting and engaging fellow attorneys has expanded legal resources available to nonprofits and strengthened the sector's ability to serve vulnerable communities. Ms. Turner's remarkable career exemplifies the transformative power of pro bono leadership and the enduring impact that dedicated advocates can have on both the legal profession and society.

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

Forty years into my career, I still feel privileged to draw on the resources of a large law firm to make a difference. Creating opportunities for lawyers to give back to their communities is something I genuinely love to do – and I really like seeing a successful match come together, knowing that we have used our skills to strengthen the communities in which we live and work.

"Suzie is a leader in the pro bono community, and was one of the first in a full-time pro bono role, sharing her advice and expertise with others. For Lawyers Alliance clients, we can count on Suzie to work nimbly and quickly to staff matters needing specific expertise and to engage the leadership of the firm on our matters."

—Laren E. Spirer, Program & Strategy Director,
Lawyers Alliance

Graduate of:
University of Virginia School of Law