

In-house legal department provides multifaceted support to Lawyers Alliance and its clients

For the past decade, Thomson Reuters has been a consistent, thoughtful, and holistic partner to Lawyers Alliance, with close to 50 volunteers handling 44 limited scope representations and 27 cases. Attorneys from Thomson Reuters have drafted waivers and releases for participants in programs like Garden Kitchen Lab, a volunteer-based organization that takes unused city land in underserved communities and builds out thriving community gardens; reviewed website terms and conditions for arts clients in a recent virtual clinic; and conducted bylaws assessments for several clients, including Housing Conservation Coordinators, which planned to make changes to its bylaws upon Thomson Reuters volunteers' suggestions. Thomson Reuters' commitment goes far beyond its lawyers. Through its IMPACTathon, marketing and communications professionals provided feedback and suggestions on Lawyers Alliance clinic materials, and most recently, Thomson Reuters invited Lawyers Alliance to participate in its Al for Justice program, giving the organization access to AI tools and training on how they might be used to streamline and enhance our staff's work.

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

Thomson Reuters actively encourages and supports pro bono participation across all levels of our organization around the world. Through our Legal Pro Bono Connection program, we collaborate with nonprofit organizations to provide diverse

projects spanning various legal practice areas, ensuring that our employees can find opportunities that align with their skills and interests. Recognizing the unique position of our workforce, which includes many employees with legal backgrounds across different departments, we leverage this collective expertise to make a significant impact. To further support participation, Thomson Reuters also offers 20 hours of paid volunteer time off (VTO) specifically for pro bono legal services, in addition to the 16 hours of VTO we provide to all employees for community volunteering. By fostering a culture of social responsibility and providing the necessary resources and support, we empower our employees to give back to the communities in which we live and work.

Q. As you look to the future, how do you see the corporation's pro bono program evolving to meet the needs of the nonprofit sector?

Thomson Reuters is committed to tackling major legal challenges, including access to justice, human rights, global conflict, equal opportunity, and the climate crisis. We anticipate our pro bono efforts will increasingly focus on these critical areas, leveraging our unique position at the intersection of law, business, and technology. By working closely with the nonprofit sector, we aim to identify emerging needs and develop innovative solutions that harness the skills and expertise of our employees and the power of our technology solutions to provide more targeted and effective support. At Thomson Reuters, we are focused on being on the leading edge of innovation in legal technology, and we are excited to use this leadership position to drive meaningful change and support those in need through our pro bono work.

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"It was a pleasure working with them... We can freely host visitors at Pawsability without worrying about liability. This reduces a huge amount of stress for our team and allows us to regularly host autistic adults and the neuro-divergent community at Pawsability. Without this waiver, I would not feel as comfortable doing the work we do and serving the community we serve."

Jillian Forman
Co-Founder, Chair, and Executive Director,
Pawsability Dog Club

Thomson Reuters attorneys have worked with the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last three years: Abyssinian Development Corporation, Asian Cultural Council, Braata Productions, Central American Legal Assistance, Cents Ability, Inc., Garden Kitchen Lab, Green Bronx Machine, Greenwich House, Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program, Housing Conservation Coordinators, Kingsbridge BID, Maspeth Town Hall, MinKwon Center for Community Action, The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA), Not Another Child, NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault, NYC Industrial & Technology Assistance Corp, NYC Salt, Pawsability Dog Club, SuitUp, The Sylvia Center, Trauma to Triumphs, (d/b/a "bKind"), Union Settlement House, and Youth Education Through Sports.

Thomson Reuters attorneys who have worked with these clients include: Peggy Barber, Eric Berman, John Bryan, Brett Egusa, Alexa Fields, Meera Gajjar, Matt Gayle, Jeanpierre Giuliano, Jonathan Grossberg, TJ Jones, Andrew Kotila, Emma Lee, Laura Lee, Jane Kuesel, Kailee McMahon, Sarah Muhlstock, Amanda OKeefe, Lorna Peterson, Alison Peyser*, David Wiles, Helen Respass, Robert J. Rosen*, Sarit Shmulevitz*, Deborah Verdile, and Majorie Winters*.

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