



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News



Date: June 27, 2022

Names of Attorneys: Nariné Atamian, Clare Lascelles, Iris Pan, and Paul M. Rodel

Name of Firm: Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Client Served: Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE)

Accomplishment: Assisted SAGE in reviewing and updating its Consulting Services Agreement to better serve the organization in partnering with long-term care facilities and hospitals servicing LGBTQ+ elders.



Specific Case Highlights:

Founded in 1978 by activists in the wake of the Stonewall Riots, SAGE is the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ elders. As a national organization headquartered in New York, SAGE advocates for the rights and needs of aging LGBTQ+ individuals, fostering community care and providing access to resources. SAGE delivers cultural competency training through its program SAGECare to ensure that long-term care facilities are welcoming and inclusive of their LGBTQ+ residents. Through tireless advocacy, direct care, and policy initiatives, SAGE protects and expands the rights of LGBTQ+ community members, ensuring that they have the opportunity to age with respect and dignity both in their own homes and in medical care settings. For a community whose elder generation initiated the modern LGBTQ+ liberation movement in spite of persecution and tragedy, SAGE plays an essential role not only for elders receiving support, but for young LGBTQ+ people by providing them the opportunity to care for, pay respect to, and learn from their forebearers.

In December of 2020, SAGE requested assistance in updating its Consulting Services Agreement to allow it to solidify a relationship with a potential client employing more than 30,000 employees in need of training. Their professional employees serve clients in hospice settings, home health care, and other aspects of service to aging populations.

Nariné Atamian, Clare Lascelles, Iris Pan, and Paul M. Rodel of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP assisted SAGE by reviewing and updating its Consulting Services Agreement. With this pro bono legal help, SAGE has been able to use this updated agreement to secure advantageous agreements with its partner care facilities that serve LGBTQ+ elders across the country.

Carol Garcia, Volunteer Director of Pro Bono Legal Partnerships at SAGE, said that, "Debevoise & Plimpton's assistance was key...The entire team: Iris Pan, Clare Lascelles, Paul Rodel, and especially Nariné {Atamian}, spent many hours digging in to the details of a complicated agreement for us. The team was thorough, thoughtful, understood SAGE's work and what we needed to accomplish through this agreement. We are so very grateful for the time and effort they put into this assignment. Their work has opened a new door for us in our mission and our work to ensure that LGBTQ+ elders get the care that they deserve from trained staff. We look forward to the next opportunity to work with Debevoise & Plimpton!"

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](https://www.lawyersalliance.org) is the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations and social enterprises that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, Lawyers Alliance for New York helps organizations to provide housing, stimulate economic opportunity, improve urban health and education, promote community arts, and operate and advocate for vital programs that benefit low-income New Yorkers of all ages. During the past year, staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance worked with more than 2,100 volunteer attorneys to represent more than 700 nonprofit clients on nearly 1,400 matters.

Inquiries: Please contact Marketing and Communications Director Emily Crossan at 212-219-1800 ext. 233 or ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org.