

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



CHIRAG K. DEDANIA, *Latham & Watkins LLP*

Dedicated and responsive pro bono attorney assists multiple nonprofits with transactions

Chirag K. Dedania is an associate in the Finance Department of Latham & Watkins LLP. He received a B.S. from Georgetown University in 2006 and his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2009.

Mr. Dedania began volunteering with Lawyers Alliance in 2015, when he started his first of three legal matters for **Natural Areas Conservancy** (NAC), which protects, manages, and restores 20,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and grasslands in New York City. His work included assisting the Natural Areas Conservancy on a joint project for reforestation and trails in Marine Park, Brooklyn. Mr. Dedania drafted a collaboration agreement and prepared a request for proposal for a contractor to develop the trails, resulting in NAC's establishment of a network of trails in Brooklyn's largest city-owned park. In turn, Mr. Dedania and his colleagues also negotiated an agreement for NAC with the New York Natural Heritage Program to provide vegetation classification services to NAC, and another agreement with the Research Foundation of the State University of New York for technical services in connection with the vegetation classification services. Sarah Charlop-Powers, NAC's Executive Director, says, "Chirag really got to know us and understand how we worked. He was very patient, really pleasant, and passionate about the work we do. He helped us develop contracts that allowed us to do work in a variety of parks, and we couldn't have done it without his help."

Most recently, Mr. Dedania assisted **NYCEDU.ORG**, a newly forming organization that brings together education-oriented stakeholders to co-create solutions and coordinate efforts across the city to scale their membership's impact. The organization's goal is to guarantee that all the New York City's young people are equipped with the learning skills, resources, and community support they need to flourish. Mr. Dedania worked with NYCEDU.ORG on developing a model agreement for future organizational partnerships. Says Deborah Chang, Founder of NYCEDU.ORG, "Chirag was a joy to work with. He communicated clearly and was responsive to what my organization needed." Mr. Dedania also helped **Carl's Butterflies**, an organization that supports children and youth with critically ill family members, with a marketing agreement.

Mr. Dedania says, "As a transactional attorney, it is difficult to find meaningful opportunities to contribute to the community via pro bono. Lawyers Alliance has made the process incredibly easy and has connected me with a variety of opportunities, including assisting an environmental nonprofit with commercial and funding contracts, a health-based nonprofit with a marketing contract, and an education-based nonprofit with funding and partnership agreements."