

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



DANIEL J. VENDITTI, *Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP*

Thoughtful legal adviser helps community organizations establish and manage productive workplaces

Daniel J. Venditti is counsel in the Corporate Department at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, with a focus on labor and employment aspects of transactions. He received a B.A. from Binghamton University, State University of New York in 1998 and a J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law in 2004.

Mr. Venditti has volunteered with Lawyers Alliance since 2009. Currently he is working with **East Winds**, a community arts group that stages Japanese concerts, workshops, and instructional events, including for children in low-income neighborhoods in New York. Mr. Venditti is drafting agreements with the organization's performers and teaching artists and advising it on its general employment practices. Marco Lienhard, East Winds' Board President, says, "We are very grateful that Dan made time for us. He has been very responsive and his e-mails are always precise and full of information."

He also provided assistance to **Broadway Bound Kids** to properly classify its workers as employees or independent contractors. Broadway Bound Kids provides performing arts education and opportunities to children throughout New York City, regardless of financial resources, and works with teaching artists to provide classroom instruction and guidance. Erin Glass, the founder of the organization, says, "Dan has been wonderful. He is always prompt and available and has been a great help to us."

Last year Mr. Venditti helped the **South Bronx Community Charter High School** prepare for its September 2016 opening by drafting its employee handbook, a form employment contract, and a form offer letter. The School promotes student excellence through an emphasis on academic, personal, and professional skills in a supportive and responsive learning environment. Thanks to Mr. Venditti's assistance, the school had its employment documentation in order when it opened to serve 110 students.

He also worked with the **Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center** on a review of the role of its exempt and non-exempt employees. Worker classification questions are common among nonprofit employers, and Mr. Venditti's insights make a complex area more understandable.

Mr. Venditti says, "I am grateful to have the opportunity to partner with Lawyers Alliance to provide pro bono legal advice to nonprofits in New York. These experiences have been rewarding and enjoyable, and I look forward to continuing to support Lawyers Alliance with its mission."