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ERIC ALLENDORF and **MATTHEW DeATLEY**, *Paul Hastings LLP*

Dedicated real estate counsel works with disaster relief organization to ensure displaced New Yorkers have stable temporary housing

Eric (Rick) Allendorf is a partner in the Real Estate practice group at Paul Hastings LLP. He received a B.A. from Northwestern University in 1995 and a J.D. from Boston College Law School in 2002.

Matthew DeAtley is an associate in the firm's Real Estate practice group. He received a B.S. from Old Dominion University in 2009 and a J.D. from the College of William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 2013.

Although it has been five years since Hurricane Sandy tore through the New York area, the effects are still being felt in some neighborhoods in coastal Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island with homeowners displaced and in need of temporary housing while their homes are repaired or retrofitted to withstand future weather disasters.

A year ago, Mr. Allendorf and Mr. DeAtley volunteered to help **New York Disaster Interfaith Services** (NYDIS), a federation of faith-based disaster human services providers and charitable organizations that work to provide disaster readiness, response, and recovery services in New York City, with a handful of master leases for residents and landlords for this temporary housing. Initially NYDIS expected to create 12 master leases but the project became far more complicated than envisioned. NYDIS could not identify many landlords who had multiple apartments available and each tenant/landlord combination had specific concerns and needed a slightly different lease. Ultimately Mr. Allendorf and Mr. DeAtley's work resulted in nearly 100 rented units, a generalized rider to attach to each lease, and an occupancy agreement to be signed between NYDIS and each tenant. As a result of the pro bono work, hundreds of displaced individuals and families were provided with stable housing.

Peter Cavadini, Chief of Staff at NYDIS, says, "Rick and Matt have done tremendous work. They are always available, responsive, and able to help. The project was far more complex to administer than we imagined, and we were fortunate to have such committed attorneys."

Says Mr. Allendorf, "Working with Lawyers Alliance has given me and members of my team the tremendous opportunity to put our real estate expertise to work in a pro bono context by assisting New York Disaster Interfaith Services in their efforts to get every New York City citizen's life back to normalcy after Superstorm Sandy."

Mr. DeAtley says, "Throughout the year, we have assisted NYDIS to negotiate residential leases for individuals displaced from their homes by Hurricane Sandy. Working with NYDIS has been a rewarding and humbling experience."

