



***Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News***

**Date:** August 1, 2017  
**Name of Attorney:** Evan Parness  
**Name of Firm:** DLA Piper LLP (US)  
**Client Served:** BK ROT

***Accomplishment:*** Helped BK ROT classify employees, comply with workers' compensation rules, and manage volunteer relationships as the organization moves towards a more formalized structure and grows in size and scope.

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***Specific Case Highlights:*** BK ROT is a nonprofit corporation that operates a composting service in Bushwick, Brooklyn to capture and compost organic waste and distribute compost for community use. Its projects seek to build community-based, green jobs for youth and to raise awareness of and provide educational opportunities around composting and urban ecological systems.

Founded as a grassroots organization in 2013, BK ROT incorporated and became a tax exempt organization in 2016. In light of its new status, BK ROT needed assistance in formalizing its employment practices to ensure compliance with statutes and regulations.

**Evan Parness** of **DLA Piper LLP (US)** volunteered to assist BK ROT. In addition to helping the organization properly classify its employees and obtain workers' compensation coverage, Mr. Parness advised BK ROT on employment and contractor agreements. He also offered advice on other employment issues, such as applicable employment and volunteer policies, to aid BK ROT's work with members of an often marginalized community.

Renée Peperone, BK ROT's Co-Facilitator and Co-Founding Board Member, had high praise for Mr. Parness, commenting, "This was the most effortless pro bono relationship. Evan was clear, direct, available, and straight-forward." Ms. Peperone remarked on the added benefit of working with an attorney who understands the work and mission of a nonprofit client. She said, "Evan had a sincere interest in and understanding of what BK ROT does. I didn't have to lay out too much of what we do before he saw the value of our work. He has a great demeanor and is great at what he does."

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***Inquiries:*** Please contact Marketing and Communications Manager Emily Crossan at 212-219-1800 ext. 233 or [ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org](mailto:ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org) with questions or requests for additional information.