



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.

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."

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](http://LawyersAllianceforNewYork.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 develop affordable housing, stimulate economic development, promote community arts, strengthen urban health, and operate and advocate for vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, and other low-income New Yorkers. During the past year, staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance worked with more than 1,800 volunteer attorneys to represent approximately 700 nonprofit clients on 1,200 matters.

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