



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News



Lawyers Alliance

FOR NEW YORK

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Date:	February 9, 2023
Names of Attorneys:	Michael Hickey, Celina Kassam, and Michael Stein
Name of Firm:	Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Client Served:	National Black Leadership Commission on Health (Black Health)
Accomplishment:	Guided Black Health through an update of its governance documents, changed its corporate name, and filed for authority to do business in New York State under its previous name.

Specific Case Highlights:

National Black Leadership Commission on Health (Black Health), formerly The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA), was founded in 1987 to educate, mobilize, and empower Black leaders to meet the challenge of fighting HIV and AIDS. Black Health has grown and evolved since the AIDS crisis and is now a comprehensive advocacy, policy, and action organization that addresses multiple serious health disparities affecting Blacks/African Americans.

After an intensive year-long review and research efforts by NBLCA's Board of Directors, staff, partners, funders, external advisors, and community focus groups into the health needs of Blacks/African Americans, the organization's leadership decided to expand its focus. They requested pro bono assistance with reviewing and revising NBLCA's bylaws, conflict of interest policy, and annual questionnaire, as well as changing its name and filing for authority to do business in New York State under its previous name to embrace its legacy.

Michael Hickey, Celina Kassam, and Michael Stein of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP assisted NBLCA by updating and streamlining its governing documents, changing its name to National Black Leadership Commission on Health (Black Health), and filing for authority to do business in New York State under its previous name.

With this pro bono help, Black Health can now delve into the significant health needs of Blacks/African Americans and include expanded focus areas and levels of service addressing overall health and well-being, including not only HIV/AIDS, but also Hepatitis C, cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, prostate cancer, sickle cell, diabetes, and mental health. Championing Black health through advocacy, policy, and action has been the main goal of the newly expanded organization. C. Virginia Fields, President and CEO of the organization, said, "National Black Leadership Commission on Health is most appreciative for the governance and name change services received from Michael Hickey, Celina Kassam, and Michael Stein of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. The support was superb and made it possible for the organization to move forward on these important matters! They consistently delivered on agreed upon timelines, were very professional, patient, and efficient in guiding the process as changes were made."

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](https://www.lawyersalliance.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 provide housing, stimulate economic opportunity, improve urban health and education, promote community arts, and operate and advocate for vital programs that benefit low-income New Yorkers of all ages. During the past year, staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance worked with more than 2,000 volunteer attorneys to represent 700 nonprofit clients.

Inquiries: Please contact Marketing and Communications Director Emily Crossan at 212-219-1800 ext. 233 or ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org.