



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News



Lawyers Alliance
FOR NEW YORK
Connecting Lawyers, Nonprofits, and Communities

Date: February 8, 2024
Names of Attorneys: James Hu and Alexander Liebers
Name of Firm: White & Case LLP
Client Served: Brooklyn Book Bodega
Accomplishment: Reviewed and revised a Memorandum of Understanding between Brooklyn Book Bodega and Little Free Library to increase the number of free book exchanges available to children in low-income communities in New York City.

“James and Alex’s excellent counsel enabled us to navigate multiple conversations with Little Free Library’s leadership and has led to a more equitable partnership.”

Brooklyn Book Bodega works to increase the number of homes with children that contain 100 books or more. Parts of Brooklyn are classified as book deserts, severely lacking in reading material. The organization provides access to and ownership of books, builds community, and creates a passion for learning through free events and literacy-based community programming. Since its founding in 2019, it has distributed more than 390,000 books to 125,000 New Yorkers.

In 2023 Brooklyn Book Bodega had the opportunity to work with Little Free Library (LFL), a national nonprofit that expands access to books through book exchange boxes run by volunteers, and was interested in growing its network in New York City.

James Hu and Alexander Liebers of White & Case LLP reviewed and revised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Brooklyn Book Bodega and Little Free Library. LFL will pay for and assemble new book exchanges and Brooklyn Book Bodega will identify installation locations where at least 40 percent of the population is living below the poverty level. As a result, three new free book exchanges will open, with an opportunity to grow the partnership during subsequent years.

Seema Aghera, Co-Founder and COO of Brooklyn Book Bodega said, “We are really appreciative of the support and guidance in thinking through our MOU with Little Free Library. James and Alex’s excellent counsel enabled us to navigate multiple conversations with Little Free Library’s leadership and has led to a more equitable partnership. In fact, our first partner, in collaboration with them, just received their Little Free Library!”

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 2,200 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.