

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



MARC KUSHNER, *Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP*

Career commitment to pro bono ensures more nonprofits improve their governance practices

Marc Kushner is a partner in the Corporate department of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP. He received an A.B. from Harvard University in 1983 and a J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1988.

Mr. Kushner has partnered with Lawyers Alliance on pro bono work since 1995, often arranging for other Osler attorneys to participate as well. Most recently, Mr. Kushner and his team drafted revised bylaws for the **Center for Popular Democracy** and its sister 501(c)(4) organization, **CPD Action**. The two organizations work to create equity, opportunity, and a dynamic democracy in partnership with high-impact base-building organizations, organizing alliances, and progressive unions. They work on campaigns that promote a pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial and economic justice agenda and win victories to improve people's lives. Mr. Kushner helped both organizations amend their bylaws to give their partner organizations a more formal role in governance, and to ensure compliance with the most recent amendments to the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. General Counsel Hetal Dalal says that Mr. Kushner and his colleagues were "knowledgeable, patient, and essential" to the organizations' work.

Mr. Kushner also revised the governance documents of **Women for Afghan Women** (WAW). WAW is an organization of Afghan and non-Afghan women in the New York area who are committed to ensuring the human rights of Afghan women. WAW offers ESL classes and other programming in New York, as well as human rights advocacy and humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. Starting in 2012, just over a decade after the organization's founding, Mr. Kushner helped amend the Certificate of Incorporation to expand its purposes to cover new programming in Afghanistan, and amend the bylaws to increase the size of the Board of Directors. Executive Director Manizha Naderi calls his help "foundational" and "very important for the organization in the long run."

He is also handling governance work for **Kings Bay YM-YWHA**. Past work has involved a model joint retainer agreement for **Western New York Law Center**, a contract review for **Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York**, formation of **The Hali Foundation**, and formation work for **Baller City Basketball**.

Says Mr. Kushner, "I love working with Lawyers Alliance and its committed clients! Helping to advance the goals of these diverse organizations has been a highlight of my work as a lawyer; it has enriched my practice and been an endlessly gratifying way to give back to our New York community."