

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

MARK SCHONBERGER, *Goodwin Procter LLP*

Trusted Volunteer Relationship from Formation through Present Day Advances Quality of Life in Business Improvement District

Mark Schonberger is a partner in Goodwin Procter LLP's Business Law Department and a member of its Real Estate, REITs & Real Estate Capital Markets Group. Mr. Schonberger participates in the firm's M&A/Corporate Governance, Capital Markets and Private Investment Funds Practices. He received a B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1975 and his J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1979.

Since 2009, Mr. Schonberger has counseled **Bedford Stuyvesant Gateway District Management Association, Inc.**, a nonprofit organization established to manage the Bedford Stuyvesant Gateway Business Improvement District (BID) in Brooklyn. The organization's mission is to enhance sanitation and safety, and to promote the BID as a destination to live, shop, work, and enjoy entertainment. Mr. Schonberger initially helped to incorporate and structure the organization and secure its tax exempt status. Since then he has remained involved, providing expertise and insight to help the BID negotiate and sign a management agreement with the New York City Department of Small Business Services, review other contracts, and keep its bylaws and other governance documents up-to-date and in compliance. Michael Lambert, the Executive Director of the BID, says, "Mark has been a tremendous asset. He has always been responsive to our needs, including calling in from vacation at times. He provides us with the same responsive and professional services his paying clients receive."

Mr. Schonberger also worked with **Philanthropy New York**, a nonprofit membership organization that serves as the principal professional community of philanthropic foundations based in the New York City region. Mr. Schonberger successfully helped the organization change its name in 2009.

Says Mr. Schonberger, "In May 2009, I answered a Lawyers Alliance listing to assist in the creation of the BID's initial organizational structure. The assignment grew into so much more as I was able to help the BID surmount the difficulties a new enterprise faces. Growing up in the 60's, I remember watching Robert F. Kennedy on TV visiting vacant lots in Bed-Stuy that represented the failure of urban renewal and announcing the creation of a new federal program to develop Community Development Corporations. Bed-Stuy became the first community with a CDC. Almost 40 years later, Bed-Stuy still had a ways to go towards achieving RFK's dream and I welcomed the opportunity to do my part. After more than seven years of working with the BID, I admire the dedication, ambition, and commitment of the Bed-Stuy community and I am sure that I have gotten more out of working with them than they may have gotten from me."

