

Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News

Date: April 3, 2019
Name of Attorney: Nathan Greene
Name of Firm: Shearman & Sterling LLP
Client Served: Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources

Accomplishment: Helped Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources provide quality programs to families by updating its fundamental corporate governance documents, including its Bylaws, Conflict of Interest Policy, and Whistleblower Policy in compliance with the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, enabling it to better serve its community.

Specific Case Highlights: Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources (Manhattan Youth), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, was formed in 1986 to help the Lower Manhattan community meet its childcare and recreation needs. Manhattan Youth offers extensive programs for families, including after-school programs; youth, adult, and senior community programs and education programs; summer camps; and sports programs. Manhattan Youth also runs the Lower Manhattan Family Fund, which assists working families by providing care for children whose parents are ill or disabled, and college application, preparation, and tuition assistance.

Due to Manhattan Youth's growth, the founder approached Lawyers Alliance for assistance in updating its governance policies and internal documentation to comply with all of the legal requirements governing nonprofits in New York. Manhattan Youth needed its Bylaws, Conflict of Interest Policy, and Whistleblower Policy updated as well as a consultation with respect to Guidelines for Board members.

Nathan Greene, a partner at **Shearman & Sterling LLP**, ably assisted Manhattan Youth with updating and revising the governance documents and the Board Guidelines to ensure compliance with the law and with best practices. Additionally, Mr. Greene and his team continued to provide support by attending Board meetings and advising Manhattan Youth on unrelated issues, including employment and real estate matters.

Robert Townley, Manhattan Youth's Founder and Executive Director, said, "Nathan helped me revise our older bylaws and some governance issues. He did [this] in a way that [showed that] he listened to me about my organization and our needs. He did not assume that he had all the right ideas, but instead took our needs and merged them into our current bylaws." Mr. Townley further emphasized that: "Nathan also challenged some of my assumptions and helped me understand the law and best practices. I never felt the process was cumbersome or wasteful. At the end, a great product was introduced to my Board, to me, and ultimately helped support our large community of thousands of Lower Manhattan community members every day with important needs as they raise their wonderful families."

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](http://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 develop and 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 1,900 volunteer attorneys to represent approximately 650 nonprofit clients on 1,200 matters.

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