



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News



Lawyers Alliance
FOR NEW YORK
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Date: June 15, 2021
Name of Attorneys: Francois Quintard-Morenas
Name of Firm: Dechert LLP
Client Served: Grand Street Settlement, Inc.
Accomplishment: Assisted Grand Street Settlement, Inc. with several lease agreements to secure space for three of its Head Start Childcare Centers.

Specific Case Highlights:

Grand Street Settlement, founded in 1916, is a multi-service agency that sponsors a wide range of education, employment, and social service programs. It provides residents across the Lower East Side and Brooklyn with culturally relevant programs and services, assisting more than 10,000 area residents of all ages each year. Grand Street offers daycare, Head Start, a summer day camp, after-school programs, and programs for seniors. Across its several facilities, Grand Street's total workforce includes approximately 450 employees.

Over the past two years, Grand Street has requested assistance with negotiating lease agreements for space to run its Early Head Start and Head Start programs for children up to age five under its federal early childhood grant.

Starting in July 2019, **Francois Quintard-Morenas of Dechert LLP** volunteered to negotiate lease agreements for Grand Street's Head Start childcare center on 55th Street in Brooklyn. After Grand Street temporarily paused its search for an additional Head Start Childcare Center space in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Quintard-Morenas assisted the organization with negotiating a second lease for an additional Brooklyn premises at 850-860 50th Street. Most recently, he successfully negotiated a lease agreement for a third, Brooklyn-based, Head Start Childcare Center on Atlantic Avenue.

With Mr. Quintard-Morenas' help, Grand Street will be able to operate additional Head Start Childcare Centers that are dedicated to strengthening the quality of available infant and toddler child care for families in Brooklyn facing steep barriers to economic stability – including high levels of poverty, unemployment and under-employment of parents, immigration issues, housing instability, in addition to a lack of basic child care, education, and healthcare. Grand Street's Deputy Executive Director Willing Chin-Ma stated that "because of Francois' talented and professional support during the legal negotiations, Grand Street will be able to provide high quality child development programs for an additional 200+ families with children in areas of high need and will be helping these kids excel in kindergarten, public school, and beyond because we have created this head start for children who wouldn't have these opportunities otherwise."

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 approximately 700 nonprofit clients on nearly 1,400 matters.

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