



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News

Date: December 14, 2018
Names of Attorneys: Richard B. Aftanas
Name of Firm: Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Client Served: Crime Victims Treatment Center

Accomplishment: Guided the Crime Victims Treatment Center through a multi-step process to separate from its former hospital base, and created a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation, complete with federal and state tax exemptions, as well as new space and protections for its intellectual property.

Specific Case Highlights: Crime Victims Treatment Center (CVTC) has been helping survivors of interpersonal violence heal since 1977. CVTC respects that healing comes in many forms and recognizes the importance of a holistic approach. By working with hospitals, CVTC is available to assist survivors in the moments immediately following an assault with a wide range of therapeutic services completely free of charge. CVTC also advocates on behalf of survivors, collaborating with partners across a multitude of disciplines, and offers training for those who work with survivors.

Given a desire to expand the programs of CVTC beyond the existing hospital system, and a variety of other factors, in 2016 the governing body of CVTC thought it prudent to cease being a program of the hospital and instead create a new not-for-profit organization to carry on and expand the reach of the CVTC.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP attorneys **Richard Aftanas, Michael Falk, Scott Gordon, H. Boyd Greene, Edward Holzwanger, Russell Light, Thomas O'Connor, Bryan O'Keefe, Edward Sadtler, Jennifer Sheehan, Timothy Stephenson, and Laura Umbrecht** volunteered to assist CVTC with this undertaking. The Kirkland team, ably led by Richard Aftanas, assisted with drafting and negotiating a separating agreement and incorporating as a nonprofit organization (including drafting bylaws and a conflict of interest policy, and filing for tax exempt status at the federal, state, and local level). The process also involved complex issues relating to the existing union, the custody of medical records, and asset transfers. In 2018, CVTC leased new space in downtown Manhattan and is expanding its staff and services to now include a sexual assault prevention program. It also received a grant to start a legal services program. CVTC is proud to report that its substantial growth is actively expanding into some of the most underserved communities in New York City.

Christopher E. Bromson, Executive Director of the CVTC, said, "Our experience with Richard Aftanas and the Kirkland attorneys has been absolutely phenomenal. We are beyond thrilled and could not have been connected to a better partner than Kirkland. They have been our most valuable, helpful and supportive allies to date, and have exceeded any expectations that we at CVTC could have possibly held. Our gratitude could not be deeper."

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](http://LawyersAllianceforNewYork.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 affordable housing, stimulate economic development, promote community arts, strengthen urban health, and operate and advocate for vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, and other low-income New Yorkers. During the past year, staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance worked with more than 1,900 volunteer attorneys to represent approximately 660 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 with questions or requests for additional information.