

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

RITA DATTOLA, *Holland & Knight LLP*

Expert Real Estate Lawyer Serves as Pro Bono Role Model to Colleagues and Clients

Rita Dattola is a partner at Holland & Knight LLP specializing in real estate. She received a B.A. from Wesleyan University and her J.D. from Boston University Law School.

She was a member of The Council of New York Law Associates, Lawyers Alliance's original name, and is part of the 15 Year Circle of current volunteers whose pro bono work spans at least 15 years.

Ms. Dattola represented **CAMBA** in a lease negotiation for a building that was to be constructed in Brooklyn. CAMBA provides programs and services in economic development, education and youth development, family support, health, housing, and legal services to 45,000 New Yorkers each year. Representing a client in a lease negotiation for a building not yet built is a challenging task. The client needs protection against potential construction delays and advice on building plans. Ms. Dattola's thorough negotiation provided CAMBA with the protection it needed, ultimately saving it a year of rental payments when the new building was not ready on time. Robin Landes, Deputy General Counsel of CAMBA, says, "We love Rita! She was always available, responsive, and her advice is invaluable. We could not have done this project without her guidance. Rita is still readily available to address issues that arise regarding the lease and tenancy."

Another recent client is **SCAN-New York Volunteer Parent-Aides Association** (SCAN), which provides support to at-risk children and families in the South Bronx and East Harlem. Ms. Dattola represented SCAN in negotiating space agreements with the New York City Housing Authority, reviewing and revising agreements between SCAN and sub-licensees that occupy space in some of the NYCHA facilities, and negotiating an agreement with the New York City Department of Parks to operate the Mullaly Recreation Center. Lew Zuchman, Executive Director of SCAN, says, "I was really impressed with Rita and the legal services we received. We knew we were in the hands of an expert who gave us the absolute same service she would give to a paying client. We dramatically appreciated her help!"

Ms. Dattola represented **Goddard Riverside Community Center** in negotiating a difficult sublease of space due to zoning restrictions, and handled the sale of ten condominium apartments for **Habitat for Humanity NYC**. Ms. Dattola also helps match colleagues with pro bono opportunities with additional Lawyers Alliance clients.

Says Ms. Dattola, "I enjoy being the intermediary to connect our firm's real estate attorneys to the transactional needs of Lawyers Alliance's clients. Personally, I have been honored to work with CAMBA and other dedicated clients for an extended period of time. I recently worked with Goddard Riverside Community Center and came away with an appreciation of the difficult work that Goddard Riverside performs. Thank you Lawyers Alliance for allowing our firm to perform meaningful legal work."

