



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News



Lawyers Alliance
FOR NEW YORK
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Date:	January 13, 2023
Names of Attorneys:	Nicole Simonian and Jackson Pai
Name of Firm:	Crowell & Moring LLP
Client Served:	The Brave House
Accomplishment:	Attorneys provided expertise on employment and tax obligations related to the hiring of a Mexican national living in Mexico City, resulting in a timely and informed job offer.

Specific Case Highlights:

The Brave House is a Brooklyn-based nonprofit organization providing legal and holistic support to young immigrant women ages 16-24, with a focus on survivors of gender-based violence. It provides trauma-informed therapy, career advice, English lessons, and a calendar of wellness events such as art, meditation, dancing, and self-defense. The Brave House envisions a world where women and girls can thrive, lead, learn, and belong, regardless of their nationality or past trauma.

The Brave House requested a consultation regarding the employment and tax compliance obligations the organization would incur if it were to hire a Mexican national to work remotely from Mexico as an Outreach Coordinator.

Nicole Simonian and Jackson Pai of Crowell & Moring LLP volunteered to assist The Brave House, providing counsel on the legal obligations of a prospective international hire. The Crowell team was methodical and diligent, utilizing their Mexican counsel to best comply with Mexican employment laws. With this help, The Brave House was better positioned to make a job offer and hire the candidate.

Lauren Blodgett, Executive Director of The Brave House, said, "Hiring a bilingual Outreach Coordinator greatly impacted our ability to support and onboard young immigrant women in New York City into our community. Based out of Mexico City, this person is an integral part of our team and joined us remotely on a range of tasks, from liaising with schools in New York City, to creating our membership outreach materials, to leading our website and social media presence. This position helped us grow from supporting 125 girls to more than 180 girls, and we greatly appreciate the volunteer pro bono attorneys' help with informing us about this hiring process. The Crowell Moring team was clear, effective, communicative, and thorough in their work with us." Ms. Blodgett added, "One key benefit that has come from this role is our collaboration with John Jay College's Immigrant Student Success Center, a partnership that she helped establish and coordinate. Once a month, our team goes on-site to John Jay to offer wellness events to their immigrant students, from art therapy to jewelry-making to yoga. We are able to serve the young immigrant community in this way as well as raise awareness about The Brave House and welcome new members."

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 700 nonprofit clients.

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