

Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News

Date: June 25, 2020
Names of Attorneys: Martha Steinman and Maria Benvenuto
Name of Firm: Hogan Lovells US LLP
Client Served: Jamaica Center Improvement Association (Jamaica Center BID)
Accomplishment: Guided the Jamaica Center Improvement Association through extensive negotiations to successfully form a collective among eight Business Improvement Districts, saving costs and furthering the mission of improving the Jamaica, Queens neighborhood.

Specific Case Highlights: A Business Improvement District (BID) is a geographical area where local stakeholders oversee and fund the maintenance, improvement, and promotion of their commercial district. Founded in 1979, the Jamaica Center BID serves approximately 260,000 people and seeks to make the low-income neighborhood it serves a thriving business hub and an enjoyable destination to shop, work, live, and visit.

Last year the Jamaica Center BID, the largest BID in Queens, was looking into ways to improve its employment environment and save costs, and was considering the viability and related risks of a proposed Professional Employer Organization (PEO) collective arrangement. The BID was facing daunting ERISA considerations and needed help with reviewing and revising a Client Services Agreement, a Mutual Corporate Guaranty Agreement, and a Memorandum of Understanding.

Martha Steinman and Maria Benvenuto of Hogan Lovells US LLP successfully drafted and helped negotiate documentation to support the formation of a collective to secure for all participating organizations better human resources advisory and insurance/employee benefits via a Professional Employer Organization, a complex process that involved seven other participating BIDS, approximately 150 Board members, City officials, and multiple insurance professionals. Lawyers Alliance also referred one of the other participating BIDs, the Grand Street BID in Brooklyn, to Covington & Burling LLP for representation in formation of the collective.

Jennifer Furioli, the Jamaica Center BID's Executive Director, remarked, "Our Hogan [Lovells] team found a brilliant way to prove combinability through the formation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the nonprofits in our collective that would also serve to govern our future decision-making processes. Hogan [Lovells] helped develop an innovative solution that proved satisfactory to all stakeholders, and a structure that I believe can now be replicated for other nonprofits in the same boat. My employees are signing up for better health insurance and human resources benefits as a result of their [Hogan Lovells'] help, and I am very grateful for the wise counsel."

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 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 2,000 volunteer attorneys to represent approximately 700 nonprofit clients on 1,350 matters.

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