

Cornerstone Awards Honor Outstanding Pro Bono Service to Nonprofits

TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS of the legal, business, and nonprofit communities gathered on December 14, 2006 at Pfizer world headquarters to celebrate as Lawyers Alliance for New York presented its seventh annual Cornerstone Awards. This year's awardees include two law firms and eleven individuals whose pro bono legal work for nonprofit organizations has improved the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

In her welcoming remarks **Christine D. Rogers**, Chair of the Board of Directors of Lawyers Alliance and a partner at Arnold & Porter LLP, recognized the exemplary work of the awardees: "The Cornerstone Awards represent the very best tradition of the legal profession: volunteer work by lawyers for clients who could not otherwise afford their services."

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Left to right: Kelly Talcott, Robert Safron, Joshua Sohn, Carolyn Levine, Tamika Cushenberry, Daniel Rosenberg, Carolyn Rosenthal, Thomas Claps, Robert Friedman, Deirdre Roarty Mitacek, Robert Whitman, William Perkins, and Cindy Wenig

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and tagline. Below is a navigation menu and a main content area with three columns: Lawyers, Nonprofits, and Communities. Each column has a brief description and a 'Learn more' link. There is also a 'Probono.net' resource link.

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The New Year Brings a New Look to Lawyers Alliance

Lawyers Alliance debuts a new visual image, featuring an updated website and new web address, www.lawyersalliance.org. Designed to promote interactivity and deliver timely, accessible information, the website enhances Lawyers Alliance's continued commitment to its mission. Now, with the click of a mouse, site visitors can access current program information, register for workshops for nonprofit managers, order publications, and interact with Lawyers Alliance through surveys and requests for legal assistance.

The new Lawyers Alliance tagline, "connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities," captures both our long-standing reputation and our ongoing growth. Today, Lawyers Alliance represents a record number of nonprofit clients, on a record number of legal matters, and works with a record number of volunteer attorneys.

Highlights of the new www.lawyersalliance.org

Lawyers can learn more about:

- The Lawyers Alliance Pro Bono Program
- Becoming a Volunteer
- Resources for Volunteers
- Volunteer Recognition
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Credit for Pro Bono Casework

The Lawyers section also provides access to model documents and memoranda on Probono.net, as well as a roster of Founders and Early Members of The Council of New York Law Associates. In addition, volunteers can now complete the Volunteer Case Closing Questionnaire online.

Nonprofits gain valuable information on:

- The Lawyers Alliance Service Model
- Becoming a Client
- Requesting Legal Assistance
- Resources for Nonprofits
- Workshops, News and Legal Alerts for Nonprofit Managers

Clients can now complete the online Client Case Closing Questionnaire. New York Foundation Grantees and DYCD Contractors can learn about special benefits available exclusively to them.

The **Communities** section shows Lawyers Alliance's impact throughout the City's five boroughs and offers comprehensive information on five program priorities:

- Affordable Housing and Homeless Services
- Economic Development
- Children and Youth Services
- Immigrant Communities
- Elder Services

In addition, there are pages dedicated to two special initiatives that address emerging legal needs of the nonprofit sector: Disaster Relief and Nonprofit Accountability.

See what's new – visit us online at www.lawyersalliance.org.



Legal Assistance Helps Children Get a Head Start

Lawyers Alliance's practice advising Head Start programs continues to grow. Head Start, a federally funded, early childhood development initiative, provides free educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged children age 3 to 5, plus a variety of family support services. To succeed, nonprofits operating Head Start programs need not only a strong curriculum and caring environment, but also appropriate space, an active governance structure, and funding. In recent years, through representation on a range of business law matters, Lawyers Alliance has enabled 40 Head Start programs to meet such challenges.

Head Start programs will receive enhanced legal services in 2007 thanks to a new partnership between Lawyers Alliance and the New York office of **DLA Piper US LLP**. As the first phase of the firm's Access to Education pro bono project, DLA Piper attorneys have teamed with Lawyers Alliance to advise 20 Head Start programs on transactional, regulatory compliance, and real estate issues related to a Federal audit of Head Start programs. This effort significantly increases the network of pro bono attorneys committed to Head Start. While Lawyers Alliance handles a full range of business law issues for Head Start programs, the work primarily focuses on two issues:

Board governance

Lawyers Alliance assists its Head Start clients in implementing Head Start's "shared governance" model, which encourages active parental and community involvement in shaping children's educational programming. Organizations receiving federal Head Start funding must have not only a Board of Directors but also a Policy Committee, a majority of whose members must be parents of participating children. The Board of Directors and Policy Committee must reach consensus on decisions relating to hiring and firing of key staff, program design and budgets.

Example: Pro bono attorneys from DLA Piper have been advising the Board of Directors and Policy Committee of the Seventh Avenue Center for Family Services, a Manhattan- and Bronx-based Head Start program. This includes guidance on the shared governance model, procedures for resolving differences between the board of directors and policy committee, and the overall governance structure. The governance model now meets regulatory requirements and fosters a strong program.



Photograph by Erin Dey

Head Start programs will receive enhanced legal services in 2007 thanks to a new partnership between Lawyers Alliance and the New York office of **DLA Piper US LLP**.

Real estate and facilities

Challenges that nonprofits face finding affordable, suitable space are exacerbated by health and safety requirements that limit the location of a Head Start program. Lawyers Alliance staff and volunteer attorneys guide Head Start programs through legal issues related to leasing and purchasing space, while helping secure Federal authorization to apply Head Start funds towards the purchase and renovation of space.

Example: Pro bono attorneys from Kirkland & Ellis recently represented the Committee for Early Childhood Development, a Head Start program in Hollis, Queens, in negotiations, lending agreements, and the creation of the corporate structure needed for the organization to purchase, rather than lease, its building. This legal assistance helped the Committee to establish the legal structure and to fund the purchase through a \$1.1 million loan from the Low Income Investment Fund and a \$1 million grant from the federal government.

Work with Head Start programs is an important part of Lawyers Alliance's Children and Youth Services program priority. With significant pro bono support, Head Start programs will be stronger and better able to improve educational outcomes for New York children. For more information, please contact Senior Staff Attorney **Maria Cilenti** at (212) 219-1800 ext. 222 or mcilenti@lawyersalliance.org.

Cornerstone Awards Honor Outstanding Pro Bono Service



Lawyers Alliance Board Chair Christine D. Rogers and Executive Director Sean Delany.

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Elizabeth Guggenheimer, Deputy Executive Director of Lawyers Alliance, presented the traditional red brick Cornerstone Award to the institutional honorees. **Sean Delany**, Executive Director of Lawyers Alliance, presented the Cornerstone Award to each of the individual honorees.

The 2006 institutional honorees:

DLA Piper US LLP: For exemplary commitment to pro bono service and leadership in some of New York City's most exciting transactional and business law pro bono projects today. This includes the firm's pro bono signature project, Access to Education (see article about Head Start); real estate closings for a nonprofit building homes in Bedford-Stuyvesant; contract reviews for an innovative job training program in East Harlem; by-laws and employment matters for several youth, public health, and social services programs; and other substantial matters benefiting New Yorkers.

Goodwin Procter LLP: For the breadth and significance of the pro bono legal work performed by attorneys and legal staff at all levels of the firm. Since 2001, approximately 50 Goodwin Procter attorneys have represented 17 pro bono clients through Lawyers Alliance. Highlights include negotiating contracts for job training and job placement services in Brooklyn; representing a client in negotiating loans to rehabilitate affordable housing in Brooklyn and the subsequent home sales to individuals; reviewing a sublease for an organization dedicated to an international network for public schools; and counseling housing, anti-hunger and adult literacy groups on personnel matters.

The 2006 individual honorees:

Thomas E. Claps, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP: For his long-term pro bono commitment to young people as volunteer general counsel to Health Jam, an organization helping teens make healthy lifestyle choices through education and entertainment.

Tamika S. Cushenberry, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP: For her impact on New York City public schools through pro bono legal work to form Wellness in the Schools, a group promoting children's environmental health, nutrition, and fitness.

Robert Friedman, Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., formerly of Dickstein Shapiro LLP: For his critical legal support of The Bridge that enabled this provider of mental health and rehabilitation services to construct new supportive housing in the Bronx for the homeless.

Carolyn B. Levine, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP: For her central role in helping Lawyers Alliance's clients to establish new resources and increase assets in low-income neighborhoods, by providing guidance to Local Development Corporation of East New York, Staten Island Botanical Garden, Cathedral of Joy Community Development Corporation, and Housing & Services.

Deirdre Roarty Mitacek, Farrell Fritz, P.C.: For using her tax law expertise to establish the East River Development Alliance and the Queensbridge Scholarship Fund, two new organizations that are designed to expand economic development and educational opportunities in Queens.



Attorney Joshua Sohn of DLA Piper US LLP with Lawyers Alliance Legal Director Linda S. Manley and Head Start clients Doris Perkins and Tolu Oluwole.

William P. Perkins, Seyfarth Shaw LLP: For providing comprehensive employment law representation to CAMBA for the past several years, which has helped the organization to strengthen its human resources and continue to provide education, health, housing, job, legal, social, youth, and business development services to thousands of New Yorkers each year.

Cindy L. Wenig, Chadbourne & Parke LLP: For using her real estate and corporate expertise to lead a team of attorneys in creating a new entity for CAMBA to develop the Morris Manor affordable housing project in Flatbush, Brooklyn. Colleagues Charles O'Neill, Lauren Kelly, Emily Abrahams, and Carla Copeland were key members of this team.

Daniel Rosenberg, Chanel: For assisting Dorot with employment law questions that arise as it services to the elderly, and demonstrating how pro bono attorneys from corporate legal departments can help nonprofits make a positive difference in New York City communities.

Robert M. Safron, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP: For his expert real estate counsel to several nonprofits, which is helping Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing, Better Brooklyn Community to obtain space for services to low-income families, and M. L. Wilson Boys and Girls Club to expand programs serving the youth of Harlem.

Kelly D. Talcott, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP: For his intellectual property guidance assisting Lower Eastside Girls Club in securing trademark and copyright protection for key products and services to allow the organization to protect its products, reputation, and future.

Robert S. Whitman, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, formerly of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP: For providing a decade of guidance on ongoing and urgent employment law matters for organizations such as African American Planning Commission, Bailey House, City Futures, Historic District Council, New York Center for Interpersonal Development, Ridgewood Older Adult Center & Services, and Supportive Housing Network of New York.

Lawyers Alliance applauds the Cornerstone Award recipients and all of our volunteers for the contributions they have made toward a better New York.



The Goodwin Procter Team (left to right): Ken Nguyen, Ira Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal, Peter Mugo, Karen Axt, Jo Ellen Cooper, Michael Mills, Chris Kocher.

CORNERSTONE AWARDS

This event was made possible with a portion of the funds raised from sponsors of Lawyers Alliance's 2006 Theatre Benefit, including:

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Special Thanks to

*Pfizer Inc
for hosting the 2006 Cornerstone Awards, and
RR Donnelley
for the printing of the invitations and programs.*

Law Firm Appeal Helps Connect Lawyers, Nonprofits, and Communities

Co-chairs **John R. Ettinger** and **Richard J. Sandler**, from **Davis Polk & Wardwell**, are leading Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2006-07 Law Firm Appeal, the annual effort to raise funds from New York's legal community. With the generous support of law firms, Lawyers Alliance staff and more than 700 volunteer attorneys provide valuable services and educational resources to more than 460 nonprofit clients. The Appeal is off to a strong start, with over \$400,000 already pledged by New York law firms.

Mr. Ettinger, the firm's Managing Partner, focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, restructuring, takeover defenses, and corporate governance issues. He also provides general corporate and securities law advice. Mr. Sandler, a Partner at the firm, heads the global Capital Markets Group and has extensive experience advising on corporate governance matters, securities regulatory matters and all aspects of public and private securities offerings.

Speaking in support of the appeal, Mr. Ettinger remarked on the unique role Lawyers Alliance plays in the community and the value of law firm

donations. "By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, Lawyers Alliance helps nonprofits to develop affordable housing, stimulate economic development, and operate vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, recent immigrants, and other deserving New Yorkers. Davis Polk & Wardwell is proud to be a part of this effort to support pro bono legal services and improve the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods."

Mr. Sandler pointed to the benefits and opportunities for both the city's vibrant nonprofit community as well as the New York City legal community. "Lawyers Alliance meets the business and transactional needs of dynamic nonprofits so they can continue their important work. Supporting this effort provides law firms and corporations the opportunity to expand their pro bono efforts and allows many lawyers here in New York to participate meaningfully in helping to improve the lives of others and the quality of the City."

To donate to the 2006-2007 Law Firm Appeal, please contact **Lemont Leige** at (212) 219-1800 ext. 225 or lleige@lawyersalliance.org.



John R. Ettinger



Richard J. Sandler

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Lawyers Alliance Staff Changes Support Program Expansion

Over the past decade, Lawyers Alliance has more than doubled in terms of its annual operating budget and number of employees. In 2006, the tally of clients, volunteers, and legal matters reached all-time highs. Lawyers Alliance is pleased to announce several staff promotions and additions to enable it to continue to provide high quality legal services to nonprofits.

Guggenheimer, Manley, and Subramanian promoted

Lawyers Alliance has enhanced its management team by drawing on the expertise and commitment of two long-time staff members. **Elizabeth M. Guggenheimer**, formerly Legal Director, is in the new position of Deputy Executive Director. She will continue to oversee Lawyers Alliance's pro bono and educational programs and will assume new responsibilities related to fundraising, marketing and other external relations.

Linda S. Manley, formerly a Senior Staff Attorney, is now Legal Director. She will focus on overseeing client outreach and the legal work of Lawyers Alliance's in-house attorneys.

In addition, **Sunita Subramanian**, is promoted from Staff Attorney to Senior Staff Attorney. She leads Lawyers Alliance's program area for Immigrant Communities, which focuses on legal and educational services to nonprofits working with new immigrants.

New staff will increase capacity for service

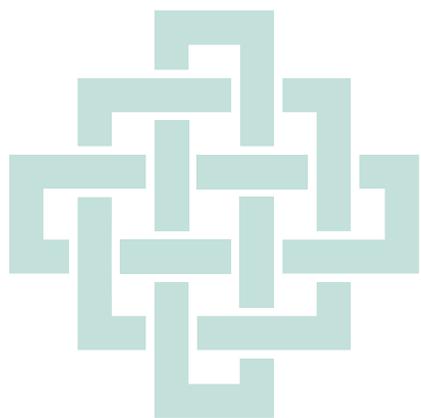
Tanya Apple, a graduate of the University of Delaware with nonprofit experience, joined Lawyers Alliance in September 2006 as Administrative Assistant.

Anoush Bagdoyan, a seasoned marketing professional, joined Lawyers Alliance in January 2007 as Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

Viva Obioha, previously an attorney at Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen's Counsel, joined Lawyers Alliance in November 2006 as Staff Attorney. She will work with Ms. Manley to expand Lawyers Alliance's Elder Services initiative, aimed at helping nonprofits that serve the low-income elderly population in New York.

Jenna Richardson, a recent graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, joined Lawyers Alliance in November 2006 as Program Assistant.

"These are exciting staff changes, which will enable Lawyers Alliance to meet new opportunities and challenges and continue its role as the leading provider of business and transactional legal services to New York neighborhoods," said **Sean Delany**. He noted, "We are fortunate to have talented experienced staff members at Lawyers Alliance to assume additional, senior level responsibilities as the additional staff could be added."



"These are exciting staff changes, which will enable Lawyers Alliance to meet new opportunities and challenges and continue its role as the leading provider of business and transactional legal services to New York neighborhoods."

Lawyers Alliance Staff

Tanya Apple
Administrative Assistant

Chitra Arunasalam
Director of Finance & Administration

Anoush Bagdoyan
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Gail Bayarin
Staff Attorney

Jolynda Burton
Pro Bono Coordinator

Angela Cheng
Program Associate for Client Relations

Maria Cilenti
Senior Staff Attorney

Nancy Cruz
Administrative Assistant

Sean Delany
Executive Director

Elizabeth M. Guggenheimer
Deputy Executive Director

David Hartman
Program Associate Youth & Community Development

Lemont Leige
Development Associate

Linda S. Manley
Legal Director

Viva Obioha
Staff Attorney

Hedwig O'Hara
Senior Staff Attorney

Aaron Perlson
Information Systems Manager

Jennifer Richardson
Program Assistant

Neil Stevenson
Senior Staff Attorney

Sunita Subramanian
Senior Staff Attorney

Brett Dakin
Cleary Extern, Staff Attorney

Aaron Saltz
Skadden Extern, Staff Attorney

Shulamit Shvartsman
Weil Extern, Staff Attorney

March Workshop in Advising Nonprofits Offers CLE Credit

Taught by Lawyers Alliance's legal staff, this program is designed to help attorneys represent community development and other nonprofit organizations in business and transactional law matters. Whether you are a new or experienced attorney working in this area, there are many important legal principles governing nonprofit organizations that you should know to help you best represent your client.

For more workshop information and to register online, visit www.lawyersalliance.org/cle.php.

TITLE: *Current Issues in Advising Nonprofit Organizations*

DATE: March 23, 2007

PROGRAM: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (registration begins at 9:00 am)

LOCATION: Laura Parsons Pratt Conference Center
281 Park Avenue South (at East 22nd St)
New York, NY

TOPICS: Life Cycle of a Nonprofit Organization
Advising Nonprofits on Employment Issues
Nonprofit Business Ventures
Creating Affordable Housing
Ethical Issues in Pro Bono Representation

