



Lawyers Alliance for New York

Connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities

Lawyers Alliance Plays Important Role In Milestone Treasury Department Community Development Capital Initiative

THIS PAST FALL, Lawyers Alliance for New York and its network of volunteer law firms took an active role in enabling nonprofit organizations to receive loans from the U.S. Treasury Department CDFI Fund. The CDFI Fund's mission is to expand the capacity of community development financial institutions ("CDFIs") to provide credit, capital, and financial services to underserved populations and communities in the United States with the overall goal of promoting economic revitalization and community development. This recent round of loans was funded through the Troubled Asset Relief Program ("TARP"). The CDFI Fund awarded a total of \$104.9 million, the largest ever regular appropriation round, to 180 CDFIs around the country, including \$12.4 million to CDFIs based in New York State.

During September 2010 the CDFIs, including dozens of low-income designated community development credit unions ("CDCUs"), closed their long-term, low-interest secondary capital loans. Several Lawyers Alliance clients were among the recipients. Participating CDCUs had to demonstrate financial viability and a focus on serving their respective communities. Applicants were subjected to rigorous review by the National Credit Union Administration and the Treasury Department.

Lawyers Alliance worked with the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (the "Federation") to help pair 45 of the CDCU recipients in and outside New York with pro bono counsel from fifteen law firms, including Brown McCarroll, LLP; Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP; Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP; DLA Piper LLP (US); Duane Morris LLP; Kilpatrick Stockton LLP; Linklaters LLP; Mayer Brown LLP; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP; Proskauer Rose LLP; Shearman & Sterling LLP;

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"We believe we do meaningful work at Lawyers Alliance, but seldom are the fruits of our efforts so immediate and so satisfying."



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Heidi Schmid, Stan Renas, and Karen Carbonell of Linklaters LLP

CORNERSTONE AWARDS 2010



Lawyers Alliance Board Chair Tom Kennedy and Miriam Buhl, Pro Bono Counsel at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Energy, talent and mutual admiration were pervasive on October 27, 2010, when Lawyers Alliance for New York's volunteers, client representatives, supporters and friends gathered for the 2010 Cornerstone Awards. In addition to thanking its more than 1400 volunteers from the past year, Lawyers Alliance gave awards to two international law firms, two attorney teams and seven individuals. Presented each year by Lawyers Alliance, the Cornerstone Awards recognize pro bono legal services that have transformed business and transactional law into action that benefits the quality of life of low-income New Yorkers. Pfizer Inc hosted the event.

In his welcoming remarks, **Thomas Kennedy**, Chair of the Board of Directors of Lawyers Alliance, recognized that, "This year's honorees devoted substantial time, energy and expertise to nonprofit organizations that are having a profound and positive impact during challenging economic times."

Institutional Honorees

Sean Delany, Executive Director of Lawyers Alliance, presented the institutional Cornerstone Awards, which reflect significant breadth and depth of business and transactional law pro bono. He commented that this year's winners "raised the bar through their extraordinary commitment."

Linklaters LLP received a 2010 Cornerstone Award for serving as a leader in the community investment and economic development arena. Linklaters has greatly increased the volume and impact of its pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance in recent years, handling 25 active legal matters during the past year. This pro bono work is enabling nonprofit organizations to bring much needed capital, credit and jobs to low-income communities throughout New York City.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP received the award for exemplary and long-standing pro bono leadership, strengthening nonprofits that serve New Yorkers of all ages. During the past 25 years, more than 60 Lawyers Alliance nonprofit clients have benefited from Weil attorneys' legal expertise on more than 80 different pro bono projects. Since 1999, Weil also has sponsored a law firm associate to work full time at Lawyers Alliance on a four-month externship.

Attorney Teams and Individual Honorees

Elizabeth Guggenheimer, Deputy Executive Director of Lawyers Alliance, presented the symbolic Cornerstone Brick to the individual award recipients and applauded "their commitment to dynamic organizations that serve New York residents most in need." These honorees are:

Nia M. Brown, DLA Piper LLP (US): For using her corporate law expertise to enhance the operations and governance of Bedford-Stuyvesant Early Childhood Development Center and Civic Association Serving Harlems.

Jason E. Burritt, Seyfarth Shaw LLP: For counseling eight nonprofit clients on a range of business immigration law and labor issues, helping them to have a strong workforce.



Top Row, L to R: David R. Bauer; Scott A. Gold; Jessica Hoppe; Elizabeth S. Mandell; Karen Carbonell, Heidi Schmid, and Stan Renas on behalf of Linklaters LLP; and Eric K. Moser; Botton Row, L to R: Edward A. Pisacreta; Randy Samson; Miriam Buhl on behalf of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Ron M. Aizen; Jason E. Burrirt; and Nia M. Brown; Not pictured: Peter DiConza; Andrés V. Gil; and Matthew John Gurch

Peter DiConza, Citigroup (formerly of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP): For his strategic real estate counsel, enabling affordable housing, economic development and community organizations to expand their programs.

Andrés V. Gil, Ron M. Aizen and Legal Team, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP: For providing ongoing volunteer general counsel services to Groundswell Community Mural Project, furthering its efforts to engage underserved youth in public art projects throughout the City.

Scott A. Gold, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP: For more than a decade of pro bono employment law services, advising nonprofits that help low-income individuals to buy their first homes, stimulate economic development, and support community centers.

Matthew John Gurch, White & Case LLP: For providing corporate law counsel to Sunnyside Community Services in connection with subcontractor case management agreements, enabling the organization to collaborate and continue vital elder services.

Jessica Hoppe, Elizabeth S. Mandell and Legal Team, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP: For assisting Coney Island Prep and other charter schools with bylaws, tax-exemption filings, a lease, and personnel policies, readying them to open their doors to hundreds of public school students.

Eric K. Moser, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP: For sharing his legal expertise in the area of contracts and financing transactions with East River Development Alliance, furthering its financial fitness, jobs, and other programs for public housing residents in Long Island City.

Edward A. Pisacreta, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (formerly of Holland & Knight LLP): For sharing his intellectual property law wisdom with NPower, which connects nonprofits to affordable information technology, enabling NPower to offer a software product that helps nonprofits manage grants.

Congratulations 2010 Cornerstone Honorees!



Honoree Eric Moser and East River Development Alliance Founder and President Bishop Mitchell Taylor



Honoree Scott Gold (middle) with Bernell Grier and Jeffrey Schanback of Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City

Lawyers Alliance Appoints Kennedy and Lobrano As Officers and Diamond and Landa as Directors

In November 2010, the Board of Directors elected a new Chair, new Vice Chair and two new Board members. **Thomas H. Kennedy** from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP is now Chair. He was most recently Vice Chair. Mr. Kennedy succeeds **Edward F. Greene**, partner at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, who had served as Board Chair since June 2007.

Mr. Kennedy has served on the Lawyers Alliance Board of Directors since 2006 and has been an active member of the Board Resource and Strategic Planning Committees. His legal practice concentrates on mergers, acquisitions and other transactions, with an emphasis on the telecommunications, media and technology industries. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center with an undergraduate degree from University of Virginia.

“It is a privilege to be elected chair of the board, and I am proud to be associated with Lawyers Alliance,” said Mr. Kennedy. “I look forward to working further with the Board and staff to help Lawyers Alliance, its nonprofit clients and its volunteer attorneys to have such a major impact on low-income communities.”

John D. Lobrano from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP was elected Vice Chair. He has served as a Board member since 2008 and has been an active member of the Board’s Development Committee. A leading capital markets lawyer, Mr. Lobrano is a partner in Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP’s Corporate Department where he

is a member of the Capital Markets and Mergers and Acquisitions Practice Groups. He graduated from New York University School of Law with an undergraduate degree from Amherst College.

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Lobrano join **William F. Lloyd** from Deloitte LLP as Board Treasurer and **Patricia A. Sampson** from BNY Mellon as Board Secretary.

In addition, Lawyers Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of two new directors:

Colin J. Diamond is a partner at White & Case LLP concentrating on securities transactions, public mergers and acquisitions and general corporate representations. He has significant experience in connection with registered equity offerings, convertible and high yield bond offerings, ADR programs and the securities law aspects of Chapter 11 reorganizations. He holds an LLM from the New York University School of Law and BA from Pembroke College, University of Cambridge.

Leor Landa is a partner in Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP’s Investment Management / Private Funds Group. He advises a wide range of clients on the development, formation, marketing and operation of private investment fund complexes, including private equity funds, hedge funds, hybrid funds, real estate funds, funds of funds and asset allocation products. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School and received an undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Lawyers Alliance Board of Directors

Thomas H. Kennedy (Chair)
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

John D. Lobrano (Vice Chair)
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

William F. Lloyd (Treasurer)
Deloitte LLP

Patricia A. Sampson (Secretary)
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Joshua Berick
Linklaters LLP

Susan Berkwitz
Winston & Strawn LLP

Ezra Borut
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Ariel J. Deckelbaum
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Mike Delikat
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Colin J. Diamond
White & Case LLP

Blair M. Duncan
Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation

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Arnold & Porter LLP

Elizabeth H. Evans
Jones Day

David J. Gilberg
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Edward F. Greene
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Celayne G. Hill
Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Mark Hoenig
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Brian Krisberg
Sidley Austin LLP

Leor Landa
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Clare O'Brien
Shearman & Sterling LLP

Gregory K. Palm
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Neil Radey
Credit Suisse

Ira I. Roxland
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Stuart M. Saft
Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP

March 25, 2011: Save the Date for Continuing Legal Education

On Friday, March 25, 2011, Lawyers Alliance will hold a CLE event for attorneys covering “Current Issues in Advising Nonprofit Organizations.” If you are a subscriber to Lawyers Alliance e-mail blasts, watch your Inbox for more information.

You can also check www.lawyersalliance.org/cle.php for details including the time and location.

Lawyers Alliance Staff

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Senior Staff Attorney

Elizabeth Perez
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Aaron Perlson
Information Systems Manager

Damali Peterman
Weil Extern Staff Attorney

Carlina Rivera
Administrative and Program Assistant

Neil Stevenson
Senior Staff Attorney

Benefits of an Ongoing Pro Bono Relationship

While the majority of Lawyers Alliance's volunteers take on discrete legal projects, with a beginning and end, sometimes a full team of lawyers from one law firm will commit to an ongoing volunteer general counsel relationship for a single nonprofit client. When that relationship flourishes, and the client and team work well together for years, it is a match to behold.

For Lawyers Alliance's clients, the volunteer general counsel relationship is an opportunity to receive continued, quality legal services from attorneys familiar with its operations. The law firm handles the majority of the client's business and transactional law needs. For the participating law firm or corporate legal department, its lawyers can develop a strong connection with an established and dynamic organization and provide sophisticated pro bono assistance. Among the core ingredients for a successful relationship are: a nonprofit client with multiple legal needs, a specific board or senior staff member to serve as the organization's primary contact and communicate the organization's legal needs, a law firm with a demonstrated commitment to the client's mission and business law pro bono, and a primary pro bono attorney contact to serve as the client's point of entry at the law firm. Lawyers Alliance seeks to foster a mutually worthwhile client-firm partnership by helping to facilitate communications between the parties and by serving as co-counsel on selected legal matters.

Case Example: Groundswell & Davis Polk & Wardwell

Andrés Gil and **Ron Aizen** from Davis Polk & Wardwell's Corporate Department lead such a team. With several colleagues, including **David Bauer** and **Randy Sampson**, they represent Groundswell Community Mural Project ("Groundswell"). Groundswell brings together youth, professional artists, and communities to create murals and other public art in underserved New York neighborhoods. Annually up to 500 youth participate. This client first came to Lawyers Alliance in 2006 for legal assistance updating its bylaws. That project led to another and another, and ultimately to the volunteer general counsel relationship.

During the past five years, the legal team from Davis Polk & Wardwell has helped Groundswell to update its corporate governance practices, review multiple contracts, revise personnel policies, and document its relationship related to artists, mural space, and youth apprentices.

This legal work has enabled the organization to experience a period of growth and to expedite complex relationships with its participants and partners. According to a client representative, "The members of the Davis Polk team have been invaluable and outstanding pro bono attorneys for Groundswell. I feel so much more secure, knowing I can call on them for counsel. They are professional, caring, respectful and responsive." Lawyers Alliance recognized this team's commitment and performance with a 2010 Cornerstone Award.



A Groundswell mural artist adds some finishing touches

Volunteer General Counsel Ron Aizen, third from right, participates in a tour of Groundswell murals



Alumni Profiles: Sheila Avrin McLean and David McLean

In celebration of our 40th Anniversary in 2009, we retraced our rich history from the days of the Council of New York Law Associates to Lawyers Alliance for New York of today. In our fall 2010 newsletter we paid tribute to **Neal Johnston** (1939-2010), a Council founder and one of many public spirited alumni who contributed to the success of this organization over the years. For more on the history of the Council, visit our website at www.lawyersalliance.org/history.php.

To recognize Lawyers Alliance's legacy and the contributions of our alumni, we launch Alumni Profiles, a new series. In this issue, we feature **Sheila Avrin McLean** and **David McLean** interviewed by Lawyers Alliance Development Director Erika Byrnes.

Help us build our archive and alumni database! Send your experiences with the Council of New York Law Associates or Lawyers Alliance for New York to Erika at ebyrnes@lawyersalliance.org



About David

Current activities include:

- › BronxWorks, Board Chair
- › Eagle-Picher Settlement Trust, Trustee
- › Professional Asset Indemnity Ltd., Special Counsel, former Director

Former employment includes:

- › PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP formerly Coopers & Lybrand, LLP General Counsel

Began legal career at:

- › Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Graduate of:

- › Princeton University
- › Yale Law School

About Sheila

Current activities include:

- › Council on Foreign Relations, member
- › Academy for Educational Development, Director
- › International Foundation for Electoral Services, Director
- › Southern Africa Legal Services Foundation, Director

Former employment includes:

- › Boyden World Corp., Pres. & CEO
- › Association of Executive Search Consultants, Pres. & CEO
- › Institute of Int'l Education, VP
- › US International Development Cooperation Agency, GC
- › Ford Foundation, Assoc. GC

Began legal career at:

- › Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Graduate of:

- › Smith College
- › Yale Law School

Q – What initially drew you to the Council of New York Law Associates?

Sheila – I was one of very few female associates at Cravath in 1971. Another was Carol Bellamy. Carol was one of the Council's founders and served on the Steering Committee as Treasurer. She introduced me and David to the organization. We were very active in Carol's state senate campaign (D – Brooklyn) and became Council members at that time.

Q – I've heard from Neal Johnston and others how young associates who were members of the Council and the City Bar upset the City Bar's Executive Committee vote in 1971. Would you tell me the story from your perspective?

David – We were living in Park Slope at the time. So were the Greens (Edward F. Greene, another Council founder, and his wife Dini) and others active in forming the Council.

Sheila – Matt Mallow, a Council member, told me that a group of associates wanted to run a renegade campaign to elect younger members and a woman (a first!) to the Executive Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Elections were scheduled for the Stated Meeting but only attendees could vote. The meeting was preceded by what was then considered a very expensive dinner. Virtually no associates attended. But Matt and another associate, Michael Varet, a member of the Council's Coordinating Committee, read the bylaws and found that you could arrive after the dinner and still vote as long as you did so in person. Matt and Michael wanted to run for Executive Committee seats so they organized associates who were members of the City Bar. They were also looking for a woman who was a City Bar member to join them. There were very few of us in those days. I was home with a new baby and so exhausted, but I told them I would join them if they turned out the vote. With the Great Hall filled with associates and partners, we were elected in a landslide. I was hardly known in the Bar but I won what was then the largest plurality of votes in the City Bar's history because I was a woman and the times were ripe for change.

Q – What do you feel was the significance of that leadership change?

Sheila – One of the first actions we took on the Executive Committee was to eliminate the rule that you needed to be present to vote. For the next class, members could vote by paper ballot received in the mail. Changing the process of election was a first step toward diversifying the leadership for younger members, for women and for others as well. Associates were organizing and addressing pressing issues of the day. For example, during my four-year term on the Executive Committee, we created a committee whose only purpose was to consider legal issues confronting women.

David – The change gave young and non-establishment lawyers a voice in the City Bar's governance.

Q – How did you reconnect with Lawyers Alliance?

David – When I was general counsel of Coopers & Lybrand, I was approached by then Board Chair Mike Cook. Lawyers Alliance was looking to diversify the Board, comprised mostly of partners from large firms, with in-house general counsel. I joined the Board in 1999 and served as Treasurer from 2001 to 2005. Sheila and I have contributed annually and attended events ever since.

Sheila – These gatherings offer us a chance to catch up with old friends, and, for me, to connect with others interested in public service and to see the important work the organization is doing today.

Law Firm Appeal Keeps Lawyers Alliance's Programs Strong

Lawyers Alliance's 2010-2011 Law Firm Appeal is underway, thanks to the appeal's Co-Chairs, **Robert C. Sheehan** and **Thomas H. Kennedy** of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Each year, this appeal raises significant funds to help Lawyers Alliance provide legal services and educational resources that benefit neighborhoods throughout New York City.

Mr. Sheehan, Of Counsel, oversees Skadden's pro bono program. He was Executive Partner of Skadden, Arps from 1994 to 2009 and previously headed the firm's Financial Institutions Merger & Acquisition Group. Mr. Sheehan brings to the law firm appeal unique understanding of how business and transactional lawyers can make a difference through pro bono projects.

Mr. Kennedy, Partner, has significant legal experience in mergers, acquisitions and other transactions and has practiced in this arena since 1981. He is global head of Knowledge Strategy for Skadden, Arps, leading the firm's thought leadership, knowledge management and client communications programs across practices and offices. Recently elected Chair of the Board of

Directors of Lawyers Alliance (*see page four*), Mr. Kennedy's commitment to the organization and leadership in the legal community is invaluable as the 2010-2011 appeal moves ahead.

Mr. Sheehan remarks on the impact Lawyers Alliance has made in New York City communities, "Working together, Lawyers Alliance staff and pro bono attorneys supply nonprofits with effective legal strategies to preserve essential programs, ensure service continuity, and manage financial risk that threatens vital programs."

Adds Mr. Kennedy, "During the economic downturn, Lawyers Alliance has been helping nonprofit clients to address critical human needs and preserve the safety net for New Yorkers and at the same time offering excellent training for young lawyers and tremendous personal and professional satisfaction for more seasoned professionals."

To donate to the 2010-2011 Law Firm Appeal, please contact Senior Development Coordinator **Lemont Leige** at (212) 219-1800 ext. 225 or lleige@lawyersalliance.org.



Robert C. Sheehan



Thomas H. Kennedy

Treasury Department Community Development Initiative

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Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP; Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; and White & Case LLP.

Pro bono counsel guided the CDCUs through the complex loan closing process, including due diligence, negotiation and documentation of loan agreements and required legal opinions. These awards ranged from \$8,000 to more than \$8 million. Additionally, the attorneys helped the CDCUs to appreciate and comply with applicable TARP regulations and understand the obligations under the documentation governing the financing. As part of the follow up, Lawyers Alliance staff attorneys drafted a post-closing compliance memorandum, with input from pro bono counsel, and the Federation then shared this memorandum with the participating CDCUs.

Nine New York CDCUs received legal help through Lawyers Alliance: Bethex Federal Credit Union, Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union, Buffalo Cooperative Federal Credit Union, Fidelis Federal Credit Union, Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, Neighborhood Trust Federal Credit Union, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Union Settlement Federal Credit Union, and Workers United Federal Credit Union.

Says Lawyers Alliance Executive Director **Sean Delany**, "We believe we do meaningful work here at Lawyers Alliance, but seldom are the fruits of our efforts so immediate and so satisfying. The National Federation is to be commended for spearheading this initiative, and we are proud to have played a vital part in it."

BUSINESS LAW & LEADERSHIP GALA · WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011



Please join Lawyers Alliance for New York in supporting pro bono legal services for New York City nonprofits.

WHEN: May 18, 2011 starting at 6:00 pm

WHERE: Gotham Hall · 1356 Broadway at 36th Street in Manhattan

For information please contact **Lemont Leige** at lleige@lawyersalliance.org or 212-219-1800, ext. 225.

Or visit the gala webpage at www.lawyersalliance.org/gala.php.

THE GALA WILL HONOR:

Louise M. Parent
Executive Vice President
& General Counsel,
American Express Company

Deirdre Stanley
Executive Vice President
& General Counsel,
Thomson Reuters

Clifford N. Rosenthal
President and CEO,
National Federation of
Community Development
Credit Unions

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