

Lawyers Alliance's First Virtual Business Law & Leadership Gala

On June 15, 2020 two hundred people gathered virtually for Lawyers Alliance for New York's annual [Business Law & Leadership Gala](#). "In just a few months, the nonprofit and legal sectors have repeatedly pivoted in creative ways, together. Lawyers Alliance celebrates this spirit, and our distinguished honorees," said **Elizabeth M. Guggenheimer**, Lawyers Alliance's Executive Director.

Guests enjoyed speeches from the honorees; a video and slideshow highlighting the work of our nonprofit clients and volunteer attorneys; an enthusiastic chat room; and a chance to toast honorees, lawyers, nonprofits, and resilient communities with special Lawyers Alliance-themed beverages.

This year's honorees were:

Lucy Fato, American International Group, Inc.

Lucy Fato is Executive Vice President & General Counsel at American International Group, Inc. (AIG), a global insurance company with operations in more than 80 countries. Ms. Fato is responsible for overseeing the Global Legal, Compliance, Regulatory, Government Affairs and Public Policy groups. Prior to joining AIG, she was Managing Director, Head of the Americas & Global General Counsel of Nardello & Co.; Executive Vice President & General Counsel of S&P Global; and Deputy General Counsel & Corporate Secretary at Marsh & McLennan Companies. Ms. Fato began her legal career at Davis Polk & Wardwell where she was a partner in the firm's capital markets group.

Ms. Fato believes helping the nonprofit sector is a professional and personal responsibility. In 2019 alone, over 200 employees participated in AIG's Pro Bono Program providing over 4,400 hours of free legal and related services. She also serves on the Boards of Advocates for Children of New York, Randall's Island Park Alliance, and The Coalition for the Homeless. Lawyers Alliance is pleased to honor Lucy Fato for her dedication to pro bono legal services and support of nonprofit organizations.

Mark A. Steffensen, HSBC North America – USA

Mark Steffensen is a Senior Executive Vice President and the General Counsel of HSBC North America Holdings, HSBC USA and HSBC Bank USA, where he is also responsible for the US Corporate Secretary and Public Affairs functions. He previously held various leadership roles within HSBC North America Legal, supporting the investment and commercial bank. Prior to joining HSBC, one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations, Mr. Steffensen served as a senior attorney for Morgan Stanley's investment banking and sales and trading division, and was associated with the law firms of Davis Polk and Vedder Price. He also served as Special Counsel at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Market Regulation.

Mr. Steffensen is an active proponent of the legal sector supporting the communities in which employees live and work. HSBC and its legal team uses its expertise to advise micro-entrepreneurs, prepare young people for the global job market, combat food insecurity, champion sustainability, and serve nonprofit organizations working in underserved neighborhoods. Mr. Steffensen serves on the Boards of Horizons National and The Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, as well as SIFMA and The Clearing House Association. Lawyers Alliance is pleased to recognize Mark Steffensen for his corporate leadership and pro bono commitment.

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Board Chair Peter Labonski welcomed attendees to the virtual Gala.

Thoughtful assessment of financial reporting and fiscal best practices

American International Group attorney:

"One-day clinics allow our attorneys to make a big difference for nonprofits in a defined period of time."



Exponentum / Lawyers Alliance National Day of Service

American International Group attorneys volunteered at the Exponentum® National Day of Service.

Supportive culture of community service and volunteerism

HSBC Attorney:

"Being able to work with colleagues from our legal team to improve the City and its waterways is a responsibility and honor."



Riverkeeper

HSBC supports community service with nonprofits such as Riverkeeper.

Business Law & Leadership Gala

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Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, The New York State Mentoring Program

Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo has dedicated decades of service and leadership to the nonprofit sector. A former teacher, her advocacy work and volunteerism for the advancement of rights for women, children, and families has transcended local, national, and international boundaries. As First Lady of New York State from 1983 to 1995, Mrs. Cuomo chaired several education initiatives including the Decade of the Child Initiative, the Governor's Commission on Child Care, and the Citizens Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. She also led New York State in the United Nation's World Summit for Children.

In 1984, Mrs. Cuomo established The New York State Mentoring Program, the nation's first statewide one-to-one school-based mentoring program to prevent school dropout. She continued this work by founding Mentoring USA in 1995, a nonprofit child advocacy and mentoring program. In 2015, the New York State Mentoring Program was reinstated. It continues to be chaired by Mrs. Cuomo and engage volunteer mentors to provide students the tools necessary to succeed both academically and professionally. In 2017 Mrs. Cuomo was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Lawyers Alliance is proud to honor Mrs. Cuomo in 2020 for her personal and longstanding commitment to quality education and the well-being of all New Yorkers.

Lawyers Alliance especially thanks our Platinum sponsor American International Group, Inc.; and Gold sponsors Dentons; HSBC; O'Melveny & Myers LLP; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; and Sullivan & Cromwell LLP.



Click above to view the virtual gala on YouTube.

Volunteers Negotiate Contracts

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"Great Jazz on the Great Hill" Is Streamed Online

Case Example: Summer after summer, people of all ages have enjoyed outdoor concerts in New York City parks sponsored by **Jazzmobile**, an organization that produces free jazz programs. This year, COVID-19 social distancing restrictions meant that Jazzmobile and the Central Park Conservancy (CPC) needed to produce their annual "Great Jazz on the Great Hill" concert for streaming online. To accomplish that involved amending the terms of Jazzmobile's agreement with CPC so that it could record the concert in Central Park.

Lawyers from **Loeb & Loeb LLP** volunteered on one day's notice to review Jazzmobile's contract with CPC in order to enable the recording. Thanks

to the Loeb & Loeb volunteers and the wonderful jazz musicians, jazz lovers enjoyed **"Great Jazz on the Great Hill"** and the beautiful Central Park setting safely from home. Robin Bell-Stevens, Jazzmobile's Director, says, "Jazzmobile is pleased that we can always count on Lawyers Alliance for high quality pro bono legal counsel. Additional legal services open the door to prestigious firms such as Loeb & Loeb LLP. Their lawyers were easy to work with and fully knowledgeable in this ever-changing area of the law!"

To volunteer to assist nonprofits on contracts or other matters, please visit [the Lawyers section of Lawyers Alliance's website](#).

Because of the pandemic, Jazzmobile produced one of its annual concerts for online streaming.

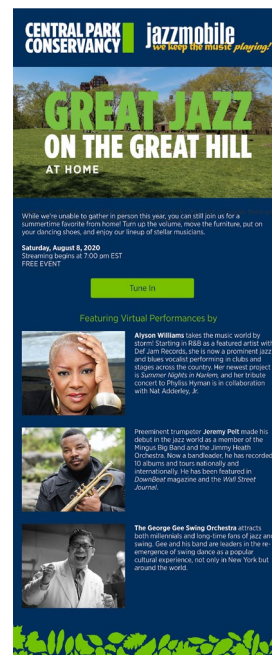


Photo Credit: Jazzmobile