

Cornerstone Awards Honor Outstanding Pro Bono Achievements

On December 2, 2021 more than 100 volunteers, nonprofit clients, colleagues, and family gathered virtually for the Cornerstone Awards honoring two law firms and 13 individual attorneys. “These extraordinary legal volunteers have been extremely responsive and supportive, providing their time, energy, and talents to nonprofits during challenging times,” said **Elizabeth M. Guggenheimer**, Executive Director of Lawyers Alliance. Meet our awardees:

Institutional Honorees

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, a firm with a longstanding commitment to pro bono legal services, has partnered closely with Lawyers Alliance for more than 30 years, serving nonprofit clients with the determination and legal excellence that define the firm’s broader culture. Davis Polk received one of the first Cornerstone Awards in 1997, and is the rare recipient of a second Institutional Cornerstone because of the continued breadth of its corporate law and transactional pro bono work, especially as nonprofits have needed timely legal help during the pandemic. For example, the firm provided guidance on a strategic alliance involving New York Disaster Interfaith Services and another organization that provides readiness and response services during disasters and public health emergencies.

Sidley Austin LLP cultivates a strong commitment to pro bono service and devoted more than 169,000 hours total in 2020. For more than three decades, Sidley has partnered with Lawyers Alliance and handled a wide range of timely and complicated legal projects. During this time, Sidley attorneys have taken on increasingly complex matters, and amplified the firm’s positive impact on nonprofits serving low-income New Yorkers. As Sidley’s national presence has grown, so too has its commitment to Lawyers Alliance and high-quality pro bono work by business and transactional lawyers. Recognizing the “force-multiplier” effect of business law and transactional pro bono work for nonprofits, a Sidley representative shared: “Not only are we helping nonprofits with their legal needs, but we also are enhancing their ability to serve more individuals in their communities, many of whom are from disenfranchised and underrepresented populations.”



Individual Honorees

We thank all of the 2,100 attorneys who volunteered for our cases during the past year, with a special shout out to the 2021 Cornerstone cohort:

Prem Amarnani, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP: His corporate law and related work on more than ten pro bono cases has helped nonprofits understand and comply with relevant statutes.

Alnisa Bell, Seyfarth Shaw LLP: Multiple community-based and other nonprofits are grateful for her guidance on delicate employment law issues.

L. Minnie Bellomo, Greenberg Traurig, LLP: Her real estate law expertise guided a multi-service organization on complex transactions so it can better assist low-income seniors.

Peter S. Borock, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP: His real estate law skills are making a positive difference for nonprofits that provide affordable housing to New Yorkers in need.

Alexander J. Callen, Goodwin Procter LLP: This financial regulatory lawyer has provided valuable pro bono legal services to nonprofits improving the financial well-being in low-income communities.

Preetha Chakrabarti, Crowell & Moring LLP: Her legal assistance is helping to protect the valuable intellectual property of nonprofits involved in women’s rights, education, mentoring, and the arts.

Gregory M. Davis, Morgan Stanley: This dedicated in-house counsel deftly answered many pandemic-related legal issues for nonprofits concerning their employees and other workers.

Christina De Vuono and Kaitlin Descovich, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP: Their teamwork and pro bono commitment has led nonprofits to adopt corporate governance best practices.

Anna M. Pomykala, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP: Many nonprofits are stronger because this client-focused attorney helped them to address employee benefit and other business law questions.

Rich Reilly, DLA Piper LLP (US): This talented partner repeatedly has lent his transactional expertise to nonprofits navigating community partnership and funding issues.

Ashley B. Rowe, MetLife: Throughout the pandemic this corporate and insurance attorney has shared her legal and practical insights with nonprofits bettering the lives of New Yorkers.

Kyle Zhu, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP: This thoughtful and diligent attorney provides a stable presence to a chamber of commerce foundation as their legal needs have evolved.

For additional details, please visit our [website](#).