

Education Nonprofits Working in New York City and Across the Country

One of the ways that Lawyers Alliance leads nationally and serves locally is by providing legal help to nonprofits that operate in multiple states, particularly those focused on Quality Education from early childhood through young adulthood. Many education nonprofits started in New York and replicated their programs nationally to multiply their impact for students in low-income communities. Conversely, national nonprofits often seek to partner with New York City schools, the largest school district in the country. These strategies, and the resulting relationships, require quality legal guidance.

Transforming education through technology

Case Example: InnovateEDU uses data, policy, practice, and research to support under-resourced schools and educators in New York City and nationwide. Pro bono attorneys from **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP** helped InnovateEDU acquire intellectual property and other assets from another nonprofit organization. The acquisition allows InnovateEDU to create a national network of school district-level labs to develop policy and practice for the safe and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI). Erin Mote, Executive Director and Co-Founder of InnovateEDU, says, “[Pro bono counsel] was amazing in navigating

a complex situation and did so with grace. They educated me throughout the process and helped protect our interests.” InnovateEDU is partnering with the NYC Department of Education on its upcoming launch of an AI policy lab.

Helping students access and succeed in college

Case Example: Founded in 1999 in New York, **Let’s Get Ready** (LGR) provides students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in 22 states with SAT preparation, college admissions counseling, and support to attain a college education. Services are provided virtually with near-peers to more than 17,000 students annually, often engaged by LGR through its partnerships with high schools and colleges. Pro bono attorneys from **Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati** and **McDermott Will & Emery** helped LGR review and revise consent forms, participation forms, and a template memorandum of understanding with partner schools. Jordan Wesley, LGR’s Managing Director of Partnerships, says, “Thanks to this help, LGR has deepened our understanding of the key risks and negotiation levers to support our data sharing agreements so that we can more effectively enter into contracts and MOUs with our partners.”

Serving society’s youngest learners

Case Example: National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) leverages a nationwide network of providers and partners to expand and promote the power of family child care and high-quality early childhood experiences. NAFCC works in New York City, where it has approximately 180 affiliated providers, as well as in locations around the U.S., serving the most vulnerable children and families. NAFCC needed a new template contract to govern the relationships with these affiliates. Pro bono attorneys from **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** helped NAFCC draft a template contract. Kirkland’s Alex Adamis and Shaq Taylor comment, “It has been enriching to apply our drafting experience to help NAFCC build connections with its affiliates.”

If your education-related organization needs assistance, please e-mail Senior Staff Attorney Ciarra A. Chavarria at cchavarria@lawyersalliance.org.

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Photo: National Association for Family Child Care

National Association for Family Child Care works to expand and promote the power of family child care and high-quality early childhood experiences.