



At 45, Lawyers Alliance's Leadership and Momentum Strengthens Its Impact

FOUNDED IN 1969, Lawyers Alliance for New York continues to be inspired by the passion and vision of its founders who, as members of The Council of New York Law Associates, believed that lawyers can and should be a vital force for positive change. Throughout our history, and one million hours of quality legal assistance by staff and volunteers, Lawyers Alliance has been committed to strengthening New York nonprofit organizations and improving quality of life in the neighborhoods they serve. After 45 years, Lawyers Alliance's Board, staff, and mission remain focused on impact.

The nonprofit sector and legal community have changed dramatically since 1969, and the past five years is no exception. As they have evolved, so has Lawyers Alliance. Today, we proudly embrace Lawyers Alliance's leadership role as an expert advisor to nonprofit organizations, legal advocate for the nonprofit sector, and proponent of the national expansion of business law pro bono.

During the past five years, our nonprofit clients worked hard to sustain their vital programs and develop long term strategies to meet larger demand, notwithstanding challenging economic times. Lawyers Alliance made it a priority to provide more business and transactional legal services to nonprofit organizations that create affordable housing, stimulate economic development, improve urban health, foster community arts, and help children and youth reach their full potential. We plan to continue these program priorities going forward.

Increasingly, nonprofit organizations must advocate for their positions at local, state, and national levels to be effective. We have expanded our legal and educational services to reach more advocacy and community organizing groups so

that they are better equipped to implement their goals. At the same time, Lawyers Alliance has become a more vocal advocate for responsible laws and regulations affecting the nonprofit sector. We will continue to use our nonprofit legal experience to advance public policies that expand opportunities for nonprofit organizations and lighten the regulatory burdens on their operations.

Lawyers Alliance is where it is today because of our dynamic clients, talented volunteers and pro bono coordinators, supportive funders, collaborative partners, and dedicated Board members, staff, alumni, and friends.

Building the national field of business law pro bono is an important part of our agenda. Lawyers Alliance's impact is magnified by our volunteers, drawn from more than 125 of the nation's premier law firms and corporate legal departments, who exemplify a service model with nationwide opportunities. We also regularly convene and share best practices with a national network of peer organizations that provide business law pro bono services to nonprofit organizations in major markets across the country.

Lawyers Alliance is where it is today because of our dynamic clients, talented volunteers and pro bono coordinators, supportive funders, collaborative partners, and dedicated Board members, staff, alumni, and friends. Working with you, we look forward to the next 45 years.

Cornerstone Awards Honor Outstanding Pro Bono Achievements



Steven A. Navarro of Institutional Honoree Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; John D. Lobrano, Lawyers Alliance for New York Board Chair; and Joanne S. Ollman of Institutional Honoree Proskauer



I-Hsing Sun, Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund with Honoree B.K. Lee



(back row, left to right): Russell D. Sacks, *Shearman & Sterling LLP*; Joseph B. Rothenberg, *DLA Piper LLP (US)*; Carolyn Austin, *Arent Fox LLP*; Alexander W. Bogdan, *Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP*; (front row, left to right): Emilie A. Hendee, *Jones Day*; B.K. (Boong-Kyu) Lee, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*; Lauren B. Grassotti, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP* (accepted on behalf of honoree James W. Perkins); Jonathan E. Silverblatt, *Dorsey & Whitney LLP*

Lawyers Alliance for New York volunteers, client representatives, and supporters gathered on October 30, 2014 for the Cornerstone Awards. Presented annually, the awards recognize outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits. In addition to honoring two firms and nine individual attorneys, the event provided an opportunity to salute *all* of Lawyers Alliance’s 1,500 volunteers. During Lawyers Alliance’s 45th anniversary year, we also recognized members of the 15 Year Circle (see page 5). **Credit Suisse** hosted the volunteer recognition event.

“This year’s Cornerstone Award winners have delivered exemplary pro bono services, helping nonprofit organizations to provide vital programs for individuals and neighborhoods in need,” said **John D. Lobrano**, Chair of the Board of Directors of Lawyers Alliance.

Institutional Honorees

“The Institutional Cornerstone Awards are Lawyers Alliance’s most significant honor because they represent substantial depth and breadth of business and transactional law pro bono, as evidenced by this year’s winners,” noted **Elizabeth Guggenheimer**, Lawyers Alliance’s Deputy Executive Director and Director of Institutional Advancement.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP: This firm’s exceptional commitment and service is evidenced by the high volume, quality, and impact of its pro bono representation. The firm’s New York office has handled a disproportionately large volume of business and transactional law pro bono matters for its size, including more than 70 legal projects through Lawyers Alliance since 1996 and 10 new projects begun within the last year. This includes an excellent blend of long-term, complex, and immediate matters. Morgan Lewis’s assistance with corporate, governance, contract, employment, and intellectual property law is ensuring that nonprofit organizations are powerful forces in low-income communities. Partner **Steven A. Navarro** accepted the Award on behalf of Morgan Lewis.



Members of the 15 Year Circle, volunteers whose pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance spans at least the last 15 years

Proskauer: This firm’s outstanding pro bono tradition is reflected in its longstanding service to New York nonprofit organizations, from Lawyers Alliance’s earliest days as The Council of New York Law Associates. Proskauer attorneys have worked on more employment law pro bono matters than any other law firm in Lawyers Alliance’s 45-year history. The firm’s corporate and real estate attorneys have provided top quality assistance to numerous nonprofit organizations serving children, families, and seniors. Since 2005, Proskauer has handled more than 80 legal matters through Lawyers Alliance, including 13 begun within the past year. Chief Professional Resources Officer **Joanne S. Ollman** accepted the Award on behalf of Proskauer.

Individual Honorees

“These individuals are stars. Since the inaugural Cornerstone Awards in 1997, only 176 of our 6,000 volunteers have received an Individual Cornerstone Award, and the 2014 honorees are especially deserving,” said **Sean Delany**, Executive Director of Lawyers Alliance.

Carolyn Austin, Arent Fox LLP: For her supportive real estate law and negotiation assistance to nonprofit groups working with disadvantaged children and workers.

Alexander W. Bogdan, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP: For his trusted employment law advice to eight nonprofit clients since 2007, allowing these organizations to grow and thrive.

John B. Dodson and Joseph B. Rothenberg, DLA Piper LLP (US): For their quality teamwork on a sale-leaseback transaction that is enabling a community-based organization to continue its education, health, and social services programs.

Emilie A. Hendee, Jones Day: For responsive employment law assistance to 16 nonprofit clients over the past seven years and recruiting colleagues for additional pro bono projects that strengthen nonprofit staff and programs.

B.K. (Boong-Kyu) Lee, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP: For expert structuring and contract advice to a nonprofit organization that is expanding financial counseling to thousands in need in cities throughout the country.

James W. Perkins, Greenberg Traurig, LLP: For leading a stellar team that is helping Lawyers Alliance advocate on behalf of the nonprofit sector regarding a charitable exemption from real estate taxes.

Russell D. Sacks, Shearman & Sterling LLP: For keen insight in guiding credit unions serving low-income communities through complex regulatory and compliance matters.

Jonathan E. Silverblatt, Dorsey & Whitney LLP: For strategic corporate advice enabling nonprofit organizations to pursue partnerships and improve board governance.

Congratulations to all of the 2014 Cornerstone honorees!



Honoree **Joseph B. Rothenberg**; **Tata Traore-Rogers, Turning Point**; and **Joseph Philip Forte, DLA Piper LLP**



Honoree **Carolyn Austin** and **Karen Drezner, Children’s Aid College Prep Charter School**

CORNERSTONE
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A Lawyers Alliance Timeline

1969 - 1979

Cultivating volunteerism and activism

- **Recruited** more than 500 law firm associates in the first year alone
- **Spearheaded** efforts to mobilize attorneys, share information, and create new public interest law organizations to assist individuals and nonprofit organizations with pressing legal needs
- Volunteers **served** as trained, neutral observers of political demonstrations and helped organize 2,000 lawyers to march in Washington, D.C.
- Volunteers **drafted** legislation for elected officials at federal, state, and local levels

1979 - 1989

Strengthening communities

- **Created** the Community Development Legal Assistance Center to advise nonprofit housing groups and other community-based organizations
- **Launched** the Nonprofit Law Program to provide legal education and training and to advocate for the nonprofit sector in the public policy arena

1989 - 1999

Reaching new horizons

- **Renamed** Lawyers Alliance for New York and reaffirmed the mission of uniting lawyers to effect positive change in New York City, recruited law firm partners and corporate counsel as board leaders
- **Recognized** members of the legal community whose pro bono service had a far-reaching impact with the inaugural Cornerstone Awards
- **Launched** program priorities that focus on child care, economic development, workforce development, and public schools improvement, in addition to continuing work in affordable housing

1999 - 2009

Achieving advances and unprecedented growth

- **Invigorated** new and expanded program priorities, resolving to support the work of more nonprofit organizations in all five boroughs of New York City
- **Led** disaster relief initiative in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 to assist nonprofits both affected by the disaster and responding to it
- **Delivered** business and transactional legal services to more than 1,300 nonprofit clients on more than 3,000 legal matters
- **Experienced** substantial growth in volunteer network, increasing to 1,400 pro bono attorneys annually by 2009

2009 - 2014

Responding to the evolving needs of the nonprofit and legal sectors

- **Created** program preservation initiative to help nonprofits cope with the economic downturn at a time of increased demand for their services
- **Launched** program priorities that focus on community arts and urban health and renewed commitment to affordable housing, children and youth services, and economic development
- **Reactivated** disaster relief initiative in response to devastation caused in some New York City neighborhoods by Hurricane Sandy
- **Expanded** advocacy initiative to increase voice in public policy discussions and inform nonprofits about laws and regulations pertinent to electioneering activity
- **Coordinated** national network of business law pro bono programs serving nonprofits

2014 & beyond

Shaping the future

- Lawyers Alliance **continues to expand** our legal and educational services to meet the evolving needs of dynamic nonprofits serving New York City, while increasing our presence and impact in the national arena

Lawyers Alliance Staff

Laura Abel
Senior Policy Counsel

Faith Alexander
Law Clerk
Harvard Fellow

Jennifer Beamish
Law Clerk
Pritzker Northwestern Fellow

Avie Bertaccini
Client Relations Coordinator

Kathryn Byrd
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Judith Moldover
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Mariel Read
Associate Director of
Development

Kelsey Ripper
Staff Attorney
Equal Justice Works Fellow
sponsored by Sutherland
Asbill & Brennan LLP

Neil Stevenson
Senior Staff Attorney

Jamie Stockton
Extern
Staff Attorney

Faith Thomas
Office Administrator

Katy Yang
Cleary Extern
Staff Attorney

Friends Profile: 15 Year Circle and Ira G. Rosenstein

As part of Lawyers Alliance's 45th anniversary year celebration, the 2014 Cornerstone Awards featured the announcement of the 15 Year Circle. This special group consists of more than 60 volunteers whose pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance spans at least the last 15 years. In many instances, the attorneys' pro bono work began much earlier. Lawyers Alliance presented members of the 15 Year Circle with certificates honoring their continued commitment to New York City.

The cohort includes several attorneys who have continued or taken on pro bono projects at multiple law firms or corporate legal departments or in multiple positions as their careers have developed. Several have represented the same nonprofit client on a variety of legal matters; others have represented multiple nonprofits. Overall, 15 Year Circle volunteers have applied their legal skills and expertise to more than 475 legal matters for 400 clients.

One of the exceptional members of the 15 Year Circle is **Ira G. Rosenstein**, whose law firm, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, received the 2014 Institutional Cornerstone Award. Mr. Rosenstein is a partner in Morgan Lewis's Labor and Employment Practice and co-chair of the Individual Employment Litigation and Arbitration subpractice.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Rosenstein has provided pro bono legal services to BronxWorks and Lawyers Alliance on general employment law matters. BronxWorks helps individuals and families in the South Bronx to improve their economic and social well-being. Mr. Rosenstein's legal guidance, including counseling on personnel policies, hiring, and workforce management issues, has enabled both organizations to operate smoothly. Says **Eileen Torres**, Executive Director of BronxWorks, "It is difficult to accurately quantify the value of the legal advice Ira has provided to BronxWorks, but his pro bono services have resulted in savings to the organization, allowing us to provide a warm and safe place to sleep for countless homeless individuals and families; ensure healthy, hearty meals for hundreds of seniors; and help teens and young adults graduate from high school or get their GED and fulfill a dream of going to college."

We asked Mr. Rosenstein to share some thoughts about his longstanding pro bono relationships, and his responses are below:

What motivated you to become and remain involved with Lawyers Alliance?

"Pro bono work is one of the things that distinguishes the *profession* of lawyers from traditional jobs. The opportunity to use your unique skills to give back something of value to constituencies that exist to support cultural and societal advancement not only recognizes that we have benefited personally from the larger culture in which we live, but also that we appreciate our role in contributing to that advancement. I became involved with Lawyers Alliance as a younger lawyer because I believed in making that level of contribution and I wanted to affect community organizations. I have enjoyed the varied and interesting work throughout."

How has your pro bono experience on behalf of BronxWorks affected your professional choices and growth?

"My work for BronxWorks has been among the most emotionally satisfying things I've done in my career. The organization is supported by so many hard working employees, driven to improve the lives of those in our community. We have faced issues that have resulted in my immersion in the local community and it's a privilege to be able to use some of the skills I've developed over the years to make even a small contribution."



Photo: Lily Kesselman

Eileen Torres and Ira G. Rosenstein



Photo: BronxWorks

BronxWorks helps individuals and families in the South Bronx improve their lives.

Help us build our archive and friends database. Send your experiences with The Council of New York Law Associates or Lawyers Alliance for New York to Marketing and Communications Manager Emily Crossan at ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org.

2013-14 Law Firm Appeal Surpasses Previous Record

Thanks to our outstanding co-chairs, **Creighton Condon** and **Clare O'Brien** of Shearman & Sterling LLP, Lawyers Alliance's 2013-2014 Law Firm Appeal reached a new record high of \$854,350 and included 78 participating law firms. This support has helped Lawyers Alliance and its staff-supported pro bono program to provide

much needed business and transactional legal services to more nonprofit organizations and engage more volunteers than ever before. We thank the co-chairs for their exemplary leadership and the following firms that contributed \$1,000 or more to the annual appeal ending June 30, 2014:

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Allen & Overy LLP
Alston & Bird LLP
Arnold & Porter LLP
Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann, LLP
Bingham McCutchen LLP
Blank Rome LLP
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered
Cassin & Cassin LLP
Chadbourne & Parke LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Clifford Chance US LLP
Condon & Forsyth LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Dechert LLP
Dentons US LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)

Duane Morris LLP
Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, P.C.
Goodwin Procter LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Herrick, Feinstein LLP
Holland & Knight LLP
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
Jackson Lewis P.C.
Joseph Hage Aaronson LLC
Kaye Scholer LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Linklaters LLP
Lowenstein Sandler PC
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
McCarter & English, LLP
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
McKool Smith
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
Nixon Peabody LLP

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Proskauger Rose LLP
Robinson & Cole LLP
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Shearman & Sterling LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
Venable LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
White & Case LLP
Winston & Strawn LLP
Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP

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Brian Krisberg
Sidley Austin LLP

Leor Landa
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Doreen E. Lilienfeld
Shearman & Sterling LLP

Lauren M. Nashelsky
Morrison & Foerster LLP

Heidi L. Naunton
Viacom Inc.

Jeff Norton
Linklaters LLP

John R. O'Neil
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Miles N. Ruthberg
Latham & Watkins LLP

Matthew B. Zisk
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Lawyers Alliance Welcomes New Board Member



Doreen E. Lilienfeld

Lawyers Alliance is pleased to announce the election of **Doreen E. Lilienfeld** of Shearman & Sterling LLP to our Board of Directors. Ms. Lilienfeld, a partner at Shearman, is the Deputy Practice Group Leader of the Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits Group and was elected a member of the firm's nine member Policy Committee in 2014. She has been involved in a wide variety of compensation-related matters, including the design and implementation of retention and compensation plans, disclosure and regulatory compliance, and employment negotiations with senior executives. Ms. Lilienfeld is a 2009 Cornerstone Award recipient.

2014-15 Law Firm Appeal Supports Legal Services for Nonprofits



Darren M. Nashelsky

Lawyers Alliance’s 2014-2015 Law Firm Appeal is co-chaired by **Darren M. Nashelsky** and **Jonathan M. A. Melmed** of Morrison & Foerster LLP. The funds raised through this Appeal help Lawyers Alliance to provide legal services and educational resources to nonprofit organizations serving low-income neighborhoods throughout New York City.

Mr. Nashelsky is the Chair and Chief Executive Partner of Morrison & Foerster and a member of Lawyers Alliance’s Board of Directors. He brings to this role nearly 25 years of experience in U.S. and international restructurings, including Chapter 11 reorganizations, workouts, secured financings, and distressed acquisitions and investments. As Chair of the firm, a role he has held since 2012, Mr. Nashelsky takes the lead in setting policy and providing strategic direction to the firm.

Mr. Nashelsky notes, “My involvement with Lawyers Alliance as co-chair of the Law Firm Appeal and a member its Board of Directors enables me to share with my colleagues and peers the significant impact of Lawyers Alliance’s staff-supported pro bono program. Morrison & Foerster has long been a leader in pro bono, and our partnership with Lawyers Alliance furthers our active involvement in the community. The

Law Firm Appeal helps to ensure that volunteer attorneys at firms throughout New York City have opportunities to provide business and transactional legal guidance that make a difference in the lives of thousands of New Yorkers.”

Mr. Melmed is a partner at Morrison & Foerster and co-chair of the firm’s Global Private Equity & Buyouts practice. He represents private equity funds and their portfolio companies, hedge funds, corporate clients, and investment banking firms in U.S. and international mergers and acquisitions and complex corporate transactions.

Mr. Melmed remarks, “As a long-time supporter of Lawyers Alliance, Morrison & Foerster is proud to spearhead this year’s Law Firm Appeal. As a firm, we recognize the importance of giving back to the communities in which we work and live. The funds raised will ensure that nonprofit organizations have the legal help they need to continue providing vital services to New York City’s low-income people and communities.”

To donate to the 2014-2015 Law Firm Appeal, please contact Development Coordinator **Kathryn Byrd** at (212) 219-1800 ext. 225 or kbyrd@lawyersalliance.org.



Jonathan M. A. Melmed

Updated Edition of *Advising Nonprofits* Reflects New Nonprofit Law



The cover maintains its signature red color, but the content includes significant updates. Released in fall 2014, Lawyers Alliance’s Sixth Edition of *Advising Nonprofits* incorporates major changes in New York law and procedures due to the Nonprofit Revitalization Act (NPRO). This 526 page publication also discusses legal issues related to corporate governance and structuring, contracts, regulatory compliance, fundraising, personnel management, lobbying and political activity, intellectual property, and revenue-generating activities. The appendices contain model documents and useful checklists.

Like previous versions of this core publication, the Sixth Edition of *Advising Nonprofits* is an informative, practical guide to the multiple legal issues that nonprofit staff, Board members and attorneys encounter in operating, managing, and counseling not-for-profit corporations. In another sign of changing times, the Sixth Edition is available in both print and electronic formats. View the Table of Contents at www.lawyersalliance.org/pdfs/AdvisingTOC.pdf. For further details or to order, please visit www.lawyersalliance.org/publications.php or call (212) 219-1800 ext. 223.



Lawyers Alliance
for New York



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Five Ways Nonprofits and Their Legal Advisors Can Enjoy Year-End

Specific legal issues can arise near the end of the year, but the following suggestions can help nonprofits manage them successfully.

1 | Dealing with Donors

Mindful that tax-deductible gifts factor into individual tax planning, many tax-exempt organizations conduct year-end fundraising campaigns. Acknowledging charitable contributions is a legal requirement for certain gifts and good donor relations for all gifts.

2 | Prepare for Heightened Audit Oversight

As per the Nonprofit Revitalization Act, as of January 1, 2015, for groups with revenue of at least \$500,000, either the Board or an audit committee comprised solely of independent directors must oversee the corporation's accounting and financial reporting processes and audit.

3 | Track and Accrue Leave Time Under New York City Law

Private sector New York City employers must allow their employees to use up to 40 hours of sick time each year beginning 120 days after the start of employment. Employers with five or more employees must offer paid sick leave, while smaller employers must offer equivalent unpaid time.

4 | File End-of-Year Lobbying Reports and Plan for 2015

Organizations required to register with and report to the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics as a client and/or lobbyist must file reports covering the end of 2014 by January 15, 2015. Organizations that use their own employees to lobby and anticipate spending in excess of \$5,000 on lobbying in calendar year 2015 must register by January 1, 2015. Organizations required to register with and report to the New York City Clerk's Lobbying Bureau as a client and/or lobbyist must file their final reports for 2014 by January 15, 2015.

5 | Don't Forget about Charities Filings

Nonprofit organizations whose fiscal year ends on December 31st generally must file their completed Form 990 or Form 990-EZ with the IRS no later than May 15th, unless an extension has been requested on or before the due date. These federal filings are necessary to maintain tax-exempt status. Annual financial filings with the Charities Bureau of the New York Attorney General's Office are also due no later than May 15th, absent an extension.

For general information about these and other legal issues affecting nonprofits, please call Lawyers Alliance's Resource Call Hotline at (212) 219-1800 ext. 224.
