

Meet Peter Labonski, Lawyers Alliance's New Board Chair

Lawyers Alliance's Board of Directors elected **Peter M. Labonski** of Latham & Watkins LLP as the new Board Chair. Mr. Labonski, who joined the Board in 2015, succeeds **Warren M. Nashelsky** of Morrison & Foerster LLP. We thank both Mr. Labonski and Mr. Nashelsky for their leadership.

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

My initial involvement with Lawyers Alliance stemmed from my relationship with [Latham & Watkins] partners David Gordon and Miles Ruthberg, who were instrumental in making Lawyers Alliance an important priority of our firm. Both Dave and Miles believed Lawyers Alliance's ability to positively impact the New York pro bono community made it the preeminent pro bono organization in New York City. Lawyers Alliance's success in directing meaningful transactional pro bono matters to Latham cemented the relationship. Our commitment to pro bono continues to be one of our cultural priorities and Lawyers Alliance is a strategic partner in that it provides access for our lawyers to some of the most cutting edge pro bono transactional work in the market.

It's an exciting time at Lawyers Alliance, with our 50th Anniversary on the horizon. What do you look forward to most in your role as Board Chair?

As the new Board Chair, I look forward to working with the tremendously talented Board and Executive team at Lawyers Alliance to continue and expand upon our mission of serving the New York City pro bono community. To that end, extending existing relationships and developing new ones within the New York legal and business community is an incredibly important element of Lawyers Alliance's mission and our 50th Anniversary provides us with an excellent fundraising and brand development opportunity.

As a pro bono leader, how is Latham & Watkins encouraging business and transactional lawyers to engage in pro bono?

Latham & Watkins has a long-standing commitment to providing pro bono legal services, financial support, and volunteer time to those most in need within our communities. Latham's dedication to pro bono work is a source of pride and reflects a fundamental part of the firm's culture. Each year, our lawyers and professional staff take on matters in nearly every area of public interest law, including veterans' rights, asylum and immigration, domestic violence, Holocaust reparations, anti-human trafficking, prisoners' rights, microfinance and social entrepreneurialism, children, and civil rights.

Latham & Watkins is one of Lawyers Alliance's most active pro bono firms, with 24 open matters in the past year. Recent projects include a complex triple net lease for a charter school in the Bronx; governance documents for a social services organization in upper Manhattan; a vendor agreement for a nonprofit providing support to families dealing with major illnesses; and contracts with partner schools and mentors for a summer academic support organization. One client reported, "The attorneys served as true thought partners throughout the process." Another said, "The Latham & Watkins team went above and beyond the call of duty. They not only helped us with several contracts, they even joined us in the field."



Peter M. Labonski