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INDIVIDUAL HONOREES

JUNAID H. CHIDA and GEORGE M. WILLIAMS JR

Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP

Significant Partner Leadership Brings Capital and Credit to Low-Income Neighborhoods

Junaid H. Chida is the Managing Partner of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP's New York office and a member of the firm's Global Finance, Project Finance, Aircraft Finance and International Practice Groups. He received a B.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1978 and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1983.

George M. Williams jr is a Partner in the Corporate, Corporate Finance, and Bank and Institutional Finance Groups of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, and chair of the firm's Corporate Opinion Committee. He received a B.A. from Davidson College in 1966, a Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1971, and a J.D. from the State University of New York School of Law at Buffalo in 1978.

In 2010, the **National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions** (the Federation) approached Lawyers Alliance for assistance with a major national project. The Federation, a coalition of credit unions that help low- and moderate-income communities achieve financial independence, was actively involved in helping many of its member credit unions receive funds through the Community Development Capital Initiative, a program administered by the U.S. Treasury utilizing Troubled Asset Relief Program money. These funds enable community development credit unions to provide extended capital, credit, and financial services to underserved constituents.

Dewey & LeBoeuf took on the pro bono transactions for five federal credit unions, which collectively received more than \$4 million in financing: **Buffalo Cooperative, Liberty County Teachers, MariSol, Tongass, and UNO Federal Credit Union**. Mr. Chida spearheaded the firm's involvement in the landmark project, assembling a dedicated team of attorneys who closed on these transactions within the Treasury's strict deadline. Mr. Williams lent his expertise in regulatory requirements for lending institutions, reviewing the transaction documents and overseeing the firm's issuance of legal opinions on behalf of the credit unions.

In praising Mr. Chida and Mr. Williams' pro bono efforts, Tongass Federal Credit Union Chief Executive Officer and President Susan E. Fisher says, "The CDCI loan money enabled us to step out boldly on projects and programs that we would not have been able to undertake for many years due to our low required reserves." As a result, the credit union is building a branch on an island in Alaska where it will be the only financial institution serving an Alaska Native community.

Mr. Chida leads by example and is an active supporter of the firm's pro bono efforts. Mr. Williams recognizes that, through pro bono efforts like the credit union project, clients are able to receive "the kind of technical assistance they need, but are not generally in a position to obtain, particularly with regard to bank and financial regulatory issues."

