

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

CHRISTINE L. ROCH, *Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP*
(formerly of *Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP*)

Dedicated Real Estate Lawyer Furthers Economic Development and Supportive Housing

Christine L. Roch joined Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP in 2011 as a Senior Associate in the Real Estate practice. She has a broad real estate and real estate finance practice. Ms. Roch received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College in 1996, an M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1998, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 2005.

Among other projects, Ms. Roch negotiated a funding agreement between the **YM and YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood** (the Y) and the New York City Economic Development Corporation for a capital improvements grant to the Y's facility, and drafted agreements with an architect and general contractor. The Y strives to improve the intellectual, moral, spiritual, social, and physical condition of those in Washington Heights and Inwood. Says Michael Fermaglich, the Y's Chief Operating Officer, "No matter how busy she is, Chris makes us a priority. She has done more for the Y than we ever could have imagined. Chris has given us the ability to effectively review and negotiate contracts at a high level, a critical element of due diligence and compliance that we otherwise lack the resources to conduct as a community-based nonprofit."

Ms. Roch served as co-counsel in the acquisition of three supportive housing facilities for **Community Access, Inc.**, an organization that assists people with psychiatric disabilities as they make the transition from shelters and hospitals to independent living. Says Maggi Knox, Project Manager, "Chris not only drafted all the legal documents for the transactions, she took the time to learn all the ins and outs of the State contracts and everything else about the project. She was an active and spirited advocate on our behalf, returned all phone calls and emails seemingly within minutes, and made us feel as if we were her most important client. She was a pleasure to work with in every way and we are forever in her debt."

Ms. Roch has also assisted **United Community Centers** through Lawyers Alliance. While she performed the majority of her pro bono work to date while working at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, we are pleased that she continues to be a Lawyers Alliance volunteer at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

Says Ms. Roch of her pro bono experiences, "I consider pro bono legal representation a critical part of my transactional practice. The regulatory scheme facing New York not-for-profits can be so complex as to overwhelm organizations doing important work and providing necessary services to their communities. Working with and through Lawyers Alliance, I have had the opportunity to learn about and support these organizations, as well as to gain important skills for an associate attorney, including managing clients, negotiating with government agencies, and gaining familiarity with documents to which I might not otherwise be exposed."

