

INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

DENTONS US LLP

Global Law Firm with Proactive Approach to Pro Bono and Corporate Responsibility Is Serving Communities in Need

Dentons US LLP, along with its predecessor firms, has partnered with Lawyers Alliance for more than eighteen years, providing pro bono assistance to more than 75 nonprofit clients on more than 90 legal matters since 1998, including 22 cases during the past year. Helping communities in need is at the heart of this firm's pro bono and corporate responsibility work, just as it is core to Lawyers Alliance's focus on strengthening nonprofits that are improving quality of life in low-income communities.


Providing Critical Guidance throughout the Lifecycle of an Exempt Organization

The firm's dedicated volunteers have applied their business and legal experience to assist nonprofit clients with multiple lifecycle events, from starting out, through required filings and regulatory compliance, and during significant events. Clients rave about the firm's "incredibly helpful" and "informative" support. Representative positive outcomes include:

- Updating the corporate bylaws, and thereby strengthening the board governance, of **Coro New York Leadership Center**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building the skills of New York leaders engaged in municipal and community affairs.
- Advising **Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI)** in negotiating an asset transfer agreement with the Pride Center of Staten Island to transition CHASI's historical LGBT programs and funding to a fully independent, community-controlled entity offering a range of local services and activities that promote the well-being of Staten Island's LGBT people.

Negotiating and Preparing Strategic Agreements

Dentons pro bono counsel similarly received praise for listening carefully, responding well, and being creative and thorough when reviewing and negotiating corporate transactions and documents. Examples of such exceptional service include:

- Crafting an affiliation agreement and reviewing related documents to help **CHASI**, which offers community-based health outreach, screening, education, care coordination, benefits enrollment, and the full spectrum of substance use disorder services, form a strategic alliance with **HELP/PSI**, which provides primary care and behavioral health services to low-income people, as part of an effort to expand the continuum of comprehensive community-based care for those lacking access and experiencing health disparities.
- Advising **Dance Theatre Etcetera** in its collaboration with two other nonprofits that enabled the organizations to offer a Digital Boot Camp for teens and young adults in Red Hook, Brooklyn.

Offering Significant Employment Law Support to Improve Personnel Management

Our nonprofit clients, like their for-profit counterparts, want a productive workforce and regularly face labor and employment law questions related to personnel

policies, classification of workers, hiring, and supervision. In 2015, Dentons' Global Employment and Labor Practice implemented a streamlined placement process for the firm to take on more employment cases on behalf of nonprofits supporting low-income New Yorkers. One of the practice area's attorneys coordinates new work, enabling the firm's associates, mentored by more senior lawyers and the practice co-leader, to participate in a range of projects, develop professionally, and make an impact. In 2015 and 2016, Dentons' pro bono attorneys assisted 15 clients with 18 employment and labor law matters.

Among Dentons' many successful projects are employee handbooks, independent contractor agreements for teaching artists and fundraising counsel, offer letters and employment contracts, workplace trainings and anti-harassment policies, and advice on how to terminate an employee. Clients report that they have "benefitted tremendously." Representative successful projects include:

- Drafting operational and human resource policies for **Bronx Community Cable Programming Corporation (BronxNet)**, which employs about 50 people to provide local television to the Bronx community, thereby helping this organization enhance its capacity through a period of growth.
- Reviewing job descriptions and worker classifications, for **Literacy, Inc.**, to support an organization whose staff and volunteers are actively involved in fostering literacy for 15,000 children in 33 schools, in 16 libraries, and with 39 community partners.
- Assisting **Bent On Learning**, which brings yoga to thousands of elementary school children each week, with adapting an independent contractor agreement for an individual responsible for curriculum development, and doing so in a manner that was "responsive, enthusiastic, and made everything easy" for the client.

Lawyers from Dentons also have represented the following nonprofit clients during the past three years: **Bedford Stuyvesant Early Childhood Development Center, Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, The Campaign for New York Health, Inc., Center for Community Development for New Americans, Center for Human Development & Family Services, Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Coney Island Prep Charter School, East Harlem Business Capital Corporation, Green City Force, Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds, In Our Backyards, Inc., Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Lawyers Alliance for New York, More Art, New Alternatives for Children, New York Immigration Coalition, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Queens Cluster Federal Credit Union, Sky Light Center, Statement Arts, Voces Latinas, and We Care for Credit Unions.**

Current firm lawyers who have worked on Lawyers Alliance pro bono matters during the past three years include: Joel Bock, Neil A. Capobianco, Anthony Carroll, Brian S. Cousin, Andrew Dalin, Lindsay Ditlow, Seth Engel, Elizabeth H. Evans, Irina Fayman, Gregory Fennell, Timothy Fitzsimmons, Angelo Gentile, Barbara Grossman, Paul Gunther, Sandra Hauser, Jon T. Hutchens, Elvira Kras, Brian Lee, Matthew Loeb, Mark Mahoney, Michael Maryn, Shannon E. McSwain, Jane A. Meyer, Jeffrey Murphy, David Natter, Christopher O'Leary, Carolina Ramirez, Richard I. Scharlat, Avi Schick, Michelle Shapiro, Ben Weinberg, Sara R. Werner, and Ryan Zucchetto.