

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

IRA H DONNER, *Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*

Intellectual property lawyer repeatedly shares expertise to help nonprofits achieve their missions

Irah Donner is a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, with a practice focusing on Intellectual Property. He received a B.S. in 1985 and M.S. in 1987 in Systems Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1991.

Since 2012, Mr. Donner has generously volunteered for eleven nonprofits seeking to protect their intellectual property (IP) or negotiate complex technology agreements.

Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement (WCECA) supports economic justice and career opportunities for working families in New York City. Its Self Sufficiency Calculator is used by 5,000 social services workers to ensure that New Yorkers are accessing the public benefits for which they are eligible. WCECA is launching a new Calculator based on open source code, which will be available to New York City nonprofits at no cost and can be customized, saving significant development costs. Mr. Donner counseled WCECA to help it understand its intellectual property assets, including its copyrighted material. Executive Director Merble Reagon describes Mr. Donner as "thoughtful, efficient, no-nonsense, very smart, and easy to work with."

Aging in New York Fund (ANYF) operated a time bank to track volunteer services given and received by more than 1,500 people. TimeBanks USA provided the software platform and web hosting services. Mr. Donner negotiated a licensing agreement needed to make the platform viable for New York City. Ali Hodin-Baier, Executive Director at the time, recalls that, "Irah was thorough, helpful, patient, aggressive when needed, and always very supportive. He brought difficult tech IP constructs down to the lay level so that staff could understand the issue. He helped us with a difficult negotiation that involved the transfer and protection of data for both entities. We could not have gone through this process without our complete confidence in him."

Mr. Donner also assisted **Artist Alliance, Benefit Kitchen, Crisis Text Line, Gehl Institute, Houses on the Moon Theater Company, New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care, People's Theatre Project, Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation, and Start Small Think Big.**

Mr. Donner says, "As an intellectual property lawyer, I find it rewarding to give back to my community by advising nonprofit organizations when IP needs arise. Often times, the advice our clients need can be conveyed rather quickly, but doing so helps protect a nonprofit's intellectual property and allows an organization to focus more time and energy on achieving its mission. I am grateful to my law firm, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, for supporting my pro bono work, and to Lawyers Alliance for being such a great resource to nonprofits serving New York City."

