

INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP***Leading firm's collaborative approach to client service and pro bono improves communities in need***

Latham & Watkins LLP's dedication to pro bono work is a source of pride and reflects a fundamental part of the firm's culture. In 2016, Latham & Watkins provided approximately 206,000 hours of free legal services valued at approximately \$135 million. Lawyers Alliance is recognizing the firm because of the steady increase in sophisticated pro bono legal services it has offered to nonprofit organizations on a range of corporate and transactional matters. The firm has partnered with Lawyers Alliance for more than 20 years and provided pro bono assistance to more than 25 nonprofit clients on more than 30 legal matters since 2012, with 22 new matters since 2015.

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Corporate and Contract Law Assistance Enhances Nonprofit Programs

Latham attorneys have used their corporate, intellectual property, information technology, and employment law skills to allow nonprofit clients to understand and enter memoranda of understanding, form contracts, website policies, cooperative agreements, vendor contracts, and employment agreements.

This includes the volunteers' tireless efforts on four different legal projects for **Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC)**, which protects, manages, and restores 20,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and grasslands in New York City. Attorneys assisted NAC on a joint project for reforestation and trails in Marine Park, Brooklyn, by drafting a collaboration agreement and preparing a request for proposal for a contractor to develop the trails. As a result, NAC has established a network of trails in Brooklyn's largest city-owned park. Latham volunteers assisted NAC in negotiating an agreement with the New York Natural Heritage Program to provide vegetation classification services to NAC, and a separate agreement with the Research Foundation of the State University of New York for technical services in connection with the vegetation classification services. This year, Latham attorneys helped NAC update its general liability waivers and releases for volunteer events and tours. A grateful NAC representative reports, "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."

Corporate Governance and Regulatory Advice Strengthens Nonprofit Operations

Latham attorneys have enabled nonprofits to incorporate as a legal entity, create or revise bylaws, secure recognition of tax exempt status, comply with regulatory requirements, and amend governance documents. Improved governance means better operations.

Pro bono attorneys helped **Statement Arts**, which brings arts education to at risk and underserved youth, to amend its organizational documents so it could hire licensed social workers to serve its students. "Though their support may seem largely technical, the effects of these changes are far reaching," a client representative reflected. The firm also "served as a true thought partner throughout the process" of

updating the bylaws of **Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation** to comply with changes to the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

A team of Latham lawyers has been assisting **Broadway Bound Kids** with legal issues related to its efforts to be an independent entity, so it can continue to bring creative visual and performing arts opportunities to children throughout New York City. "From our very first meeting with Latham & Watkins, it was clear that we were in excellent hands," a client representative remarked.

Transactional Legal Assistance Improves Nonprofit Finances and Facilities

Pro bono attorneys from Latham have provided nonprofits with the experienced legal counsel needed to negotiate financing, real estate, and other strategic transactions.

For five years, **Grand Concourse Academy (GCA)**, a New York State K-8 charter school in the Bronx currently serving more than 600 children, had been in search of a permanent home. When a viable opportunity arose, Latham real estate attorneys reviewed a term sheet, and negotiated a development agreement and "triple net" lease. The Latham volunteers worked through the Thanksgiving holiday to ensure that GCA could finalize its agreement before the developer's option to purchase expired. "The Board of Trustees, leadership, and students of GCA cannot thank the Latham team enough for their diligence and dedication, and for exemplifying the best of the legal profession," a client representative reported.

Latham attorneys have also represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last three years: **Advanced Research in Government Operations, Arts for Art, ArtWorks NYC, Cofound Harlem, Community Health Action of Staten Island, Comunilife, Inc., Corbin Hill Food Project, Council for Airport Opportunity, Do Something, Inc., Forte Preparatory Academy Charter School, Girls Incorporated of New York City, Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care, Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York, Sprout Farms, Streetwise Partners, T.A.L.L.O.M. Foundation Inc., The Character Connection Initiative, and White Plains Road Business Improvement District.**

Firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: Marie-Joe Abi-Nassif, Joel Acevedo, Aaron Bernstein, Steven Betensky, Paul Bonewitz, Shira Bressler, Colin Bumbly, Samuel Chaffin, Jiyeon Chun, Jared Coppotelli, Matthew Crorey, Kirk Davenport, Chirag Dedania, David Della Roca, Michael Dreibelbis, Ariel Emmanuel, Alyssa Galinsky, Sami Ghneim, Montgomery Gim, Ryan Gold, Lori Goodman, Julianne Guzman, Keith Halverstam, Gregory Hannibal, Tiana Hertel, Eli Hunt, Cameron Kates, Eric Kaufman, Michelle Kelban, Timothy Kirby, Michael Kuh, David Kurzweil, Peter Labonski, Dennis Lamont, David Langer, William Lu, Ghaith Mahmood, Nicolo Majnoni, Aino Makisalo, Amy Maloney, Michela Mancini, Anisha Mehta, Saswat Misra, Betsy Mukamal, Jocelyn Noll, Michael Ontell, Austin Ozawa, Priyen Patel, Timothy P. Pisacreta, Michelle Purdy, Karen Ritter, Brittany Ruiz, Claudia Salomon, Jessica Selby, Jesse Sheff, Graeme Smyth, Federico Soddu, Matthew Sommer, Didi Teng, Joshua Tinkelman, Jonathan Walder, Alfred Xue, Roger Yarett, and Lynn Zheng.