

**INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE****O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP**

*Law firm provides exceptional pro bono services that strengthen community organizations*



O'Melveny & Myers LLP is a standout in the legal sector because of its dedication to excellence, innovation, and civic responsibility. Its drive to lead is consistently evident in its pro bono program. More than 90 percent of the firm's lawyers regularly participate in pro bono projects, donating more than 6 percent of the firm's annual total hours to these efforts. O'Melveny has partnered with Lawyers Alliance for more than 25 years. This includes assistance to more than 25 clients on more than 30 legal matters since 2013, with 17 new matters since 2016. Lawyers Alliance is recognizing O'Melveny with its highest award because of the firm's longstanding pro bono commitment, the significant complexity and volume of its transactional pro bono work, and the positive impact of this work on nonprofits improving the lives of New Yorkers.

**Helping Nonprofits Establish Constructive Partnerships to Expand Their Reach**

Nonprofits that seek to collaborate with other nonprofits, for-profit businesses, coalitions, and government agencies to provide better services need sophisticated legal guidance to negotiate terms and protect their interests. The same is true for mergers and strategic alliances that preserve vital community services, including health care and social services.

O'Melveny attorneys repeatedly step up, as they did for **Latinas on the Verge of Excellence** (LOVE), an education organization that enhances academic performance and high school graduation rates among young Latinas. O'Melveny attorneys handled its formation in just three months and "set the foundation that has allowed the organization to grow and impact the community we set out to serve." LOVE later received corporate and contract help for its partnership with Student Success Network (SSN), a community of education practitioners sharing best practices. Through this partnership, SSN provides impact measurement tools for the social and emotional health of the students in LOVE's programs and thereby enhances the services provided to young Latinas. The O'Melveny volunteers also counseled on maintaining LOVE's data privacy. LOVE's staff remarks, "The work with O'Melveny & Myers is always impeccable."

Since 2015, O'Melveny attorneys have assisted the **Staten Island Mental Health Society**, which has provided children's services in Staten Island for over 100 years, with a multi-faceted merger with a hospital system. The client has been so pleased that it honored the lead attorney at an annual awards event in 2017 for his steadfast assistance and compassion for the organization's mission and its clients. A client representative praised the volunteers, noting "They provide us with guidance throughout the process and clearly look out for our interests. They are responsive and wonderful to work with. We are grateful we have them on our team." The merger will enable the client to continue providing its indispensable mental health services to the Staten Island community. The President of SIMHS shares, "I can't say enough about how wonderful the entire team has been in supporting us through this lengthy, complicated, and detailed process."

**Counseling Nonprofits about Business Law Needs to Enhance Ongoing Operations**

Firm attorneys at all levels have advised nonprofits on corporate governance, real estate, human resources, and other legal issues essential for their operations.

Among the many groups benefiting is **Chalkbeat**, the nonprofit news organization covering one of America's most important stories: the effort to improve schools for all children, especially those who have historically lacked access to a quality education. In 2017, Chalkbeat was on a month-to-month lease with one month to move out of its current space, so when space in a building opened up, the organization needed to act fast. An experienced O'Melveny real estate attorney successfully negotiated a sublease within a week. Chalkbeat remarks, "[The attorney] was friendly, efficient, and knowledgeable throughout the transaction. I also really appreciated that he jumped in on a legal matter that required quick turnaround." Four months later, the same attorney helped Chalkbeat negotiate a direct lease with the landlord of its current premises, enabling Chalkbeat to have stable space and focus on using journalism to improve outcomes for children in low-income neighborhoods.

Another appreciative client is **The Reading Team**, a Harlem-based organization dedicated to enabling young children who are at high risk of reading failure to become strong and enthusiastic readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. When an O'Melveny attorney drafted the group's employee handbook, the client commented, "After years of figuring things out as we went along in connection with human resources, we couldn't be happier to have a definitive handbook that lays out clearly what our policies and practices are."

O'Melveny attorneys have also represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last three years: **ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York, ArtsPool, Beach 116th Street Partnership, BronxWorks, Caribbean Women's Health Association, Center for Children's Initiatives, DOROT, Goddard Riverside Community Center, LiveUp Programs, Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, Management Assistance Group, National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, Opera Pomme Rouge, Plato Academy Fund, Riding With Us Foundation, Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation, Stand Beside Them, Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council, and Washington Avenue - Prospect Heights Association.**

Firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: Billy Abbot, Sloane Ackerman, Charles Baker, Andrew Banks, Jacob Beiswenger, Irene Blumberg, Jennifer Cardelus, Matthew Carter, Alexander Chester, Junaid Chida, Matthew Close, Hannah Corning, Rebecca Cottrell, John Dickson, Kelly Donahue, Ross Galin, Nidhi Geevarghese, Scott Gleason, Mia Gonzalez, Jaroslaw Hawrylewicz, Arthur Hazlitt, Wayne Jacobsen, Tobias Knapp, Jeffrey Kohn, Doron Lipshitz, Heather Meeker, Samantha Miller, Catherine Nagle, Mark Racanelli, Irwin Raij, John Renneisen, Marina Richter, Mark Robertson, Eric Rothenberg, Amalia Sax-Bolder, David Schultz, Joseph Spina, Elaine Sun, Suzanne Uhland, and Steve Warren.