



Lawyers Alliance for New York

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Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News

Date: June 18, 2010
Name of Attorney: Matthew Gurch
Name of Firm: White & Case LLP
Client Served: Sunnyside Community Services

Accomplishment: Assisted Sunnyside Community Services (SCS) in establishing subcontracts for collaborative work related to Department for the Aging elder services case management contracts.

Specific Case Highlights: Sunnyside Community Services (SCS) was started in 1974 by a group of older residents as a tiny senior center in a church basement. Responding to community needs over the years, SCS has grown to become the largest community-based social service agency in Western Queens, and now reaches more than 18,000 residents who range in age from five to 95 (and over).

SCS came to Lawyers Alliance when the Department for the Aging (DFTA) consolidated all New York City case management contracts handled by elder-serving organizations down to 23 service providers. SCS was selected as one of the lead Queens-based organizations, and DFTA awarded SCS two contracts. Under the consolidation scheme, SCS was to collaborate with two other elder-serving organizations, who would serve as subcontractors.

Matthew Gurch at White & Case created subcontractor agreements for the SCS collaborations. The agreements included terms providing SCS with the necessary protection under the primary DFTA contract. In addition, because case management services may fall within the auspices of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), it was necessary for SCS to set up HIPAA safeguards. Mr. Gurch helped to assess the organization's obligations under HIPAA and included the safeguards in the subcontract agreement.

As a result of these efforts, SCS is able to work effectively with its partners to ensure seniors in New York City receive vital case management services.

About Lawyers Alliance for New York: Lawyers Alliance for New York is the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. Our network of pro bono lawyers from law firms and corporations and staff of experienced attorneys work together, delivering expert corporate, tax, real estate, employment, and other legal services to community organizations. By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, we help nonprofits to develop affordable housing, stimulate economic development, and operate vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, recent immigrants, and other low-income New Yorkers. Each year, the 13 staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance and more than 1400 volunteers serve more than 550 clients.

Inquiries: Please contact Marketing Coordinator Anoush Bagdoyan at 212-219-1800 x233 with questions or requests for additional information.