



Lawyers Alliance  
for New York

Connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities

CORNERSTONE  
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November 9, 2011

## VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENT

**Louis Vlahos of Farrell Fritz, P.C.**

*Coordinated Pro Bono Teamwork Ensures that Nonprofits Receive High-Quality Corporate and Tax Law Assistance*

**Accomplishment:** Recipient of Lawyers Alliance for New York's **2011 Cornerstone Award** honoring outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits, to be presented on Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

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**Highlights:** Since 2005, Mr. Vlahos has worked with many Lawyers Alliance clients on corporate and tax-related issues, handling a total of 11 matters so far. In addition, Mr. Vlahos serves as the firm's primary pro bono contact, keeping in touch with Lawyers Alliance staff and ensuring appropriate staffing on pro bono cases within his firm.

Mr. Vlahos is assisting **Bard High School Early College-Queens PTA (BHSEC-Queens PTA)**, an association of parent and teacher advocates for Bard High School Early College, with incorporating as a not-for-profit corporation and preparing applications for local, state, and federal tax exemption. Bard High School is a unique public school that offers students a high school diploma *and* an associate's degree from Bard College by taking college credits during their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Says BHSEC-Queens PTA President Jan Clark, "Mr. Vlahos and his team continue to guide us through this overwhelming process by painstakingly reviewing each document and attachment we prepare. What would we do without them?!"

When **East River Development Alliance (ERDA)** was approached by a healthcare provider about collaborating on a flu vaccine program, Mr. Vlahos and colleagues were happy to assist. ERDA fosters the social and economic development of Long Island City and the surrounding neighborhoods to ensure that less-privileged residents have access to affordable housing, job and financial counseling, and community services. ERDA and other community groups assisted in promoting and hosting the vaccine program, while the healthcare provider supplied and administered the vaccines. By drafting and negotiating the collaboration agreement, including indemnification provisions, Mr. Vlahos and colleagues helped protect ERDA's interests and programs.

Says Mr. Vlahos of his pro bono experience, "I am grateful for the opportunities Lawyers Alliance has given Farrell Fritz to help many of these organizations. Our experiences have been very rewarding. Through Lawyers Alliance referrals, my firm has provided an array of legal services to not-for-profits that promote education, family services, elder care, and economic development."

**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 collaborate to deliver expert corporate, tax, real estate, employment, intellectual property, and other legal services to community organizations. By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, we help nonprofits to develop affordable housing, stimulate economic development, promote community arts, and operate and advocate for vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, and other low-income New Yorkers. During the past year, 14 staff attorneys and 1,484 volunteer attorneys represented 625 clients on 1,014 matters.

**Inquiries:** Marketing and Communications Coordinator Emily Crossan at 212-219-1800 ext. 233