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MICHAEL KESSLER, *Clifford Chance US LLP*

Thoughtful and Thorough Legal Guidance Helps Children's Arts Organization Pursue National Fundraising and Program Development

Michael Kessler is counsel in the Capital Markets group at Clifford Chance US LLP. He regularly advises private equity firms, hedge fund managers, clean energy companies, and real estate businesses in domestic and international capital markets offerings. He received a B.S. from the University of Florida in 2002 and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2005.

Nonprofits that engage in multistate fundraising must navigate state charities registration laws, financial filing rules, and charities offices that vary state-by-state. Mr. Kessler first assisted **Children's Arts Guild** in 2012 when it was registering to solicit funds for charitable purposes in multiple states besides New York. Children's Arts Guild is a nonprofit organization that helps children transcend limiting expectations and explore and develop their authentic selves through creativity education. Mr. Kessler has remained involved, and now provides regular advice about the fundraising laws and filing requirements in twenty different states, enabling Children's Arts Guild to increase its ability to raise funds. Plus, he and his team have assisted with additional corporate law matters to help the organization grow and thrive. Alexander Kopelman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Arts Guild, says, "We have been very fortunate to work with Mike Kessler and his team at Clifford Chance for nearly five years. Mike is thoughtful, thorough, and very generous with his time. He has contributed tremendously to helping advance our mission."

Recently Mr. Kessler and Clifford Chance colleagues volunteered for an additional legal project to help another youth education focused organization. They are advising on the creation and use of an endowment fund and donor communications for **Oliver Scholars**, a nonprofit organization that works to prepare highly motivated African-American and Latino students for top independent high schools and prestigious colleges.

Says Mr. Kessler, "I am grateful to Lawyers Alliance for connecting our firm with the Children's Arts Guild. Over the last few years, we have worked alongside the Guild as they have grown and thrived in their mission. Initially, we helped prepare their fundraising related state filings, and, as the organization continued to thrive, our partnership with them evolved, with our engagement becoming more varied and dynamic. In particular, we advised the Guild on their acquisition and integration of another charitable organization with similar core values. It has been a rewarding experience for me and my firm, and without Lawyers Alliance, this relationship would have never taken flight."

