



November 4, 2013

**Michael A. Lehmann and Jim Walsh of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP  
Experienced Advocates Help Lawyers Alliance Seek Reform  
of Not-for-Profit Corporation Law**

**Accomplishment:** Recipients of Lawyers Alliance for New York's **2013 Cornerstone Award** honoring outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits, to be presented on November 6.

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**Highlights:** Michael A. Lehmann is a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP focusing on tax, employee benefits and global compensation, not-for-profit corporations, and capital markets, in the firm's New York City office. He received an A.B. from Brown University in 1984, a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1987, and an LL.M. from New York University School of Law in 1991.

Jim Walsh is counsel at Manatt, with a practice focusing on government relations and regulatory compliance matters, in the firm's Albany office. He received a B.A. from the State University of New York at Albany in 1990 and his J.D. from Albany Law School of Union University in 1996.

Mr. Lehmann and Mr. Walsh volunteered to advocate on behalf of **Lawyers Alliance for New York** in connection with the New York legislature's revision of the Not-for-Profit Corporations Law (NPCL) in 2013. Revisions are sorely needed, because the NPCL has not been comprehensively revised in forty years. As a result, Lawyers Alliance clients and other New York nonprofits operate under extraordinary and unnecessary constraints, delaying and adding significant expense to incorporation, merger, dissolution, and even routine real property transactions. Mr. Lehmann and Mr. Walsh helped Lawyers Alliance make the case for amendments to the law to enable small, community-based organizations to operate more efficiently, freeing up resources to dedicate to their important charitable missions. The legislature passed a comprehensive reform bill in June 2013; as of mid-October the bill is awaiting signature by the Governor. Lawyers Alliance Executive Director Sean Delany says, "Jim and Michael's deep knowledge of the legislative process, combined with their invaluable strategic insights, were essential in encouraging Lawyers Alliance to have a strong voice on behalf of its clients. The legislature's passage of a strong reform bill is a real testament to their work."

Says Mr. Lehmann, "Working with Sean and his team was a terrific experience. The law revisions we worked on together have been something I've wanted to see for years. I was pleased to be a contributor to the dedication, focus, and energy they brought to this project."

Adds Mr. Walsh, "I am glad to have been able to help Lawyers Alliance as it considered amendments to the Nonprofit Revitalization Act, which the State Legislature passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Those amendments, when signed into law, will change the requirements governing not-for-profit organizations for at least a generation. Working to ensure the amendments made sense is just another example of how private law firm attorneys can promote Lawyers Alliance's critical mission."

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***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, strengthen urban health, and operate and advocate for vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, and other low-income New Yorkers. During the past year, 13 staff attorneys and more than 1,300 volunteer attorneys served more than 625 nonprofit clients on more than 1,000 different legal matters.

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