

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



TODD C. ARENA, *O'Melveny & Myers LLP*

Consistent Champion for Economic Development

Todd C. Arena is an associate at O'Melveny & Myers LLP specializing in finance, project development, and real estate. He received a B.A. from the University of Arizona in 2005 and his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2009.

Mr. Arena provided counsel to the **National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions** (the Federation) in resolving several governance complexities raised by its operation in multiple jurisdictions. He also assisted the Federation in updating its bylaws, meeting a tight and expedited deadline with great success. The Federation's Fiscal Officer/Director of Operations Irene Prince says, "Todd has an excellent understanding of the community development arena and our work in particular. He was willing to go the extra mile for us; he came to our Board meeting and made a presentation on the governance issues and worked closely with Lawyers Alliance to answer all our nuanced questions about how to comply with the laws of the different states in which we are active. Todd not only 'gets' our mission but it is one that he clearly shares and is passionate enough about to offer his all when any issue or challenge arises."

Mr. Arena also worked with **Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union** (LESPFCU) in drafting an agreement with a partner organization to provide mobile banking services in underbanked communities. LESPFCU's Chief Executive Officer Linda Levy comments that, "Todd initially helped us with an agreement with one of our partners. A few years later the program needed to be reworked and we had to make changes to the documents. I contacted Todd and, without any hesitation, he agreed to make amendments to the document."

Mr. Arena is currently assisting the **Washington Avenue – Prospect Heights Association** (WAPHA) in reviewing its bylaws and applying for federal tax exemption. WAPHA aims to engage in a variety of community-building activities, such as attracting new businesses, providing supplementary sanitation and street-cleaning services, marketing area businesses and community activities, and providing support services to area businesses.

He has also worked with **Union Settlement Association** and, in early 2013, volunteered at two Lawyers Alliance Hurricane Sandy legal clinics, offering legal assistance to nonprofits severely affected by the storm.

Says Mr. Arena of his pro bono experiences, "Lawyers Alliance is an invaluable resource for New York-based nonprofits, including many community development financial institutions providing critical services to New York's diverse communities. They are also an invaluable resource for pro bono attorneys seeking to support the work of these great community-focused organizations."