

Newsletter

Spring 2005

**Lawyers Alliance
for New York**

C E L E B R A T I N G 3 5 Y E A R S O F B U I L D I N G A B E T T E R N E W Y O R K

Lawyers Alliance Launches Elder Services Initiative

Older New Yorkers have many special needs. In most cases, they want to live their lives in the homes and communities they are accustomed to, surrounded by friends, family and other support systems. But the rising cost of housing, food and medical care can make this goal a challenge for many seniors. Consider that 18% of elderly New Yorkers live in poverty, as opposed to a national rate of close to 10%, and that an astonishing 60% of elderly Latino and African Americans are poor based on the government's definition of poverty.

Lawyers Alliance for New York recently launched its Elder Services Initiative to help provide more business law services to more elder services organizations. The initiative underscores the commitment of Lawyers Alliance's Board of Directors and staff to support this underserved area of the nonprofit sector.

Through the Elder Services Initiative, Lawyers Alliance is focusing particular attention on the "Aging Services Network," an informal web of community-based social service providers that seniors depend on for vital services that allow them to remain in their homes. These organizations offer meals-on-wheels programs, adult social day care, case management, transportation, and many other services.

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Senior Staff Attorney Linda Manley; 2004 Cornerstone honoree Ashley Altshuler of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Legal Director Elizabeth Guggenheimer; and Igal Jellinek of client Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City.

I N S I D E

2004 CORNERSTONE AWARDS

Why Do Pro Bono Attorneys Volunteer for Lawyers Alliance?

When we asked our volunteers that question through a written survey, we found that the quality and types of cases provided by Lawyers Alliance is the number one reason volunteers turn to Lawyers Alliance for pro bono projects. The survey also revealed that personal satisfaction and the opportunity to work with organizations whose goals they admire are important reasons.

What's more, we found that 89% of our volunteers are "extremely satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Lawyers Alliance's services. Almost all our volunteers (98%) say they would recommend us to their colleagues for pro bono projects. As proof of their satisfaction, two out of

every three volunteer attorneys come back to us for additional pro bono cases.

This track record rate is due to our focus on four essential elements of a successful pro bono program:

Client Outreach

Our staff is actively engaged in outreach to nonprofit organizations undertaking dynamic work. We understand their legal needs and programs. Current outreach areas include: Economic Development; Children and Youth Services; Housing and Homeless Services; Immigrant Communities; and Elder Services. Our network of nonprofit clients ensures a steady supply of rewarding pro bono cases.

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Elder Services Initiative

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As part of its planning for the initiative, Lawyers Alliance developed even more extensive expertise on the business law needs of elder service providers. While Lawyers Alliance's staff and volunteers are available to handle the full range of business law issues faced by such groups, some of the more common legal concerns relate to:

Governance and Accountability

In this era of increased scrutiny of nonprofits, board members and senior managers must make sure that their organizational documents are current and their governance practices sound.

Recent Case: *Lawyers Alliance is representing a multi-service agency in Queens that has operated a senior center for several years. The organization's certificate of incorporation does not include the operation of the senior center among its corporate purposes. Lawyers Alliance staff attorneys are amending the certificate of incorporation to be in compliance.*

Human Resources

Elder service agencies often face complex human resource issues because they rely on both employees and volunteers to deliver services.

Recent Case: *Lawyers Alliance staff and pro bono attorneys are currently helping an elder service agency on the Upper West Side*

of Manhattan to revise its personnel policies and develop a volunteer manual.

Public Contracts

New York City is an important source of revenue for many organizations, but the City's procurement policies and procedures are complex and often confusing.

Recent Case: *Lawyers Alliance counsels agencies on the process of securing contracts from the City of New York. For example, Lawyers Alliance staff attorneys helped a multi-service agency with legal issues related to its meals-on-wheels contract by reviewing a contract with a caterer, drafting subcontracts, and counseling the agency regarding a performance bond.*

Real Estate

Elder Service agencies need assistance leasing and acquiring real estate properties.

Recent Case: *Lawyers Alliance is representing a senior center in Queens that is building a new senior center thanks in part to a grant of \$500,000 from the City of New York. Lawyers Alliance staff and pro bono attorneys are helping this agency to negotiate the terms of the grant.*

If your agency needs assistance with these or other issues, please call **Linda S. Manley**, Senior Staff Attorney, at (212) 219-1800 ext. 239 or **Christine Chute**, Program Associate for Client Relations, at ext. 223. ■

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Give Online to Lawyers Alliance

All contributions – whether large or small – allow Lawyers Alliance to provide expert, low-cost legal advice to nonprofit groups creating jobs or building affordable housing, as well as organizations serving the elderly, new immigrants, and children and youth.

If you wish to support Lawyers Alliance for New York, you can do so by visiting our website at www.lany.org where you will find a “Donate Now” button linking you to NYCharities.org. This portal, sponsored by a Lawyers Alliance client, makes online giving both simple and secure. You can also mail in your donation – using either a check or credit card – by printing a contributions form that you will also find on our home page.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you for your generosity!



Cornerstone Awards Honor Outstanding Pro Bono Business Law Services



**Jonathan Goldstein of
Winston & Strawn LLP**

Seven lawyers and two law firms are the recipients of Lawyers Alliance's 2004 Cornerstone Awards for outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits serving low-income New Yorkers. The honorees received their awards at a reception hosted by Pfizer on November 17, 2004. Pfizer is a former Cornerstone honoree and longtime pro bono partner of Lawyers Alliance.

"Lawyers Alliance for New York applauds the 2004 Cornerstone Award recipients for contributing their time, skills, and commitment to community organizations that are creating new opportunities in New York City's low-income communities," said **Christine D. Rogers**, chair of the board of directors of Lawyers Alliance for New York and a partner at Arnold & Porter LLP. "These lawyers and firms represent the very best of the legal profession," added Ms. Rogers, who delivered the welcoming remarks at the reception.

As the honorees were presented the traditional red brick Cornerstone Awards by **Sean Delany**, executive director of Lawyers Alliance, they drew enthusiastic applause and cheers from their friends, family members, colleagues, and nonprofit clients, who were among the more than 200 guests at the awards ceremony.

The 2004 institutional honorees are:

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP for the firm's expanded and sophisticated pro bono legal services offered to nonprofits that are improving the quality of life in low-income neighborhoods, including organizations that are building a better future for inner city children and stimulating economic development across New York City.

Winston & Strawn LLP for the firm's continued and meaningful pro bono business law services to nonprofits, including top-quality assistance to community groups that serve immigrant populations and organizations that are developing affordable housing in New York City's neighborhoods.



**Sandra Hauser of Sonnenschein Nath
& Rosenthal LLP, with Lawyers Alliance
Board Chair Christine D. Rogers.**



**David L. Cohen, Lisa Swanson, Christine D. Rogers, Lawyers Alliance
Executive Director Sean Delany, James P. McIntyre, and Ashley R.
Altschuler.**

The 2004 individual honorees are:

Ashley R. Altschuler, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, for advising Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City on a variety of corporate governance, contracting, and other legal issues, including the development of the Homeplate Senior Nutrition Marketplace for New York, an Internet-based venture through which Council members will purchase products at sizeable discounts.

David L. Cohen, formerly of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, for his service to A Family Place, Ifetayo Cultural Arts Facility, New York Professional Advisors for Entrepreneurs, and Sustainability Education Center, on incorporation, intellectual property, liability and other legal matters.

Bradley G. Kulman, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, for his ongoing service as pro bono counsel to Urban Education Exchange and Health People on intellectual property, employment, real estate, corporate governance, and reporting issues.

James P. McIntyre, Davis Polk & Wardwell, for transactional legal assistance that helped Hour Children to acquire and rehabilitate an eight-family property that will provide supportive housing to formerly incarcerated women and their children, families at risk of homelessness.

Joseph E. Suh, McDermott Will & Emery LLP, for his eight years of service to Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, an advocacy organization that has benefited from his counsel on a variety of legal issues, including the development of leases, independent contractor agreements, and other legal documents.

Lisa Swanson, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, for advising numerous nonprofits on proper personnel management, on matters such as drafting employee handbooks, representing employers during government investigations, and providing legal advice on personnel decisions.

Brian L. Taylor, Dewey Ballantine LLP, for representing Hudson Guild as it negotiated a complex long-term lease for its Eliot Center with the New York City Housing Authority, enabling Hudson Guild to use the space rent-free and undertake a major renovation of its main building so it can provide enhanced programs and services.

The 2004 Cornerstone Awards reception was made possible by Pfizer, the event's host, and the Merrill Corporation, which donated the printing for the evening's promotional materials. ■



Bradley G. Kulman of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP



Brian L. Taylor of Dewey Ballantine LLP



Honoree Joseph E. Suh with clients Vanessa Leung and Wayne Ho of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families.

Why Do Pro Bono Attorneys Volunteer for Lawyers Alliance?

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Client Screening

An experienced staff attorney interviews all potential clients to determine whether the organization (1) is ready for legal assistance, and (2) has the staffing and commitment to work with an attorney. These interviews also allow our staff to determine what legal skills and experience are needed for a particular legal case, helping us to match nonprofit clients with the right attorney.

Volunteer Support

Co-counsel: A staff attorney is available to volunteers and clients for every pro bono case. The attorney serves as co-counsel, contributing expertise in business law and nonprofit

issues such as New York not-for-profit corporation law, childcare and after-school regulations, and affordable housing development.

Educational programs: Our volunteer attorneys have access to our annual Continuing Legal Education (CLE) training sessions on legal issues of particular concern to nonprofits. As a Pro Bono CLE Provider, we can offer CLE credit for approved pro bono activities performed for our clients. We also offer 17 publications on topics ranging from employment law to mergers and strategic alliances.

Online resources: Through a partnership with Probono.net, we offer research materials, model documents and memoranda on the New York Community Development site, www.probono.net/ny/nonprofit/index.cfm, which is hosted by Lawyers Alliance.

Volunteer Recognition

We encourage clients and employers of our volunteers, as well as bar associations, to show their appreciation for the quality work done by these volunteers. We also participate in informal and formal volunteer recognition activities, such as Lawyers Alliance's Cornerstone Awards and the New York State Bar Association large firm pro bono award. Volunteer recognition lets the legal and nonprofit sectors know that pro bono business lawyers are making a real difference in low-income communities.

For further information about volunteering, call Legal Director **Elizabeth Guggenheimer** at (212) 219-1800 ext. 231 or Program Associate **Christine Chute** at ext. 223. ■

“Lawyers Alliance helped me to find NYANA, which is doing lending work similar to what I do on a day-to-day basis for big clients. For me it’s been an extremely rewarding process. Lawyers Alliance makes it very easy to get involved.”

— **Michael Anderson, pro bono attorney and 2003 Cornerstone honoree from Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.**

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Susan Berkwitt and Ed Greene Join Board

Lawyers Alliance for New York is pleased to announce the appointment of two new board members:

Susan Berkwitt is a corporate partner in the New York office of Winston & Strawn LLP. Susan focuses her practice in financing transactions, acquisitions, workouts, and general corporate matters.

Edward F. Greene, General Counsel of Citigroup's Global Corporate and Investment Bank, was previously a partner at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP, resident in the London office. He was a founder of the Council of New York Law Associates in 1969, the organization now known as Lawyers Alliance for New York.

Welcome, Susan, and welcome back, Ed! ■

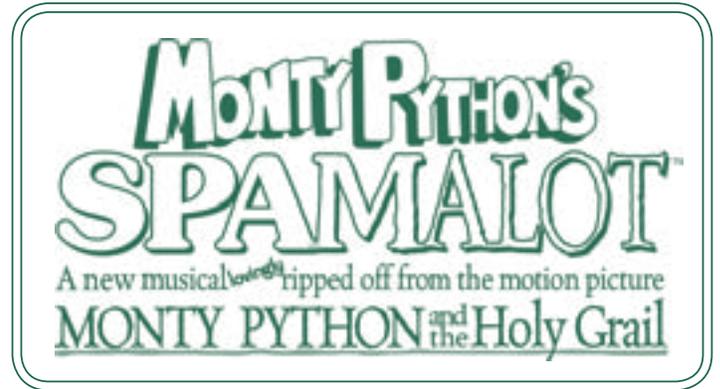
Spamalot June 1 Theater Benefit Promises “real belly laughs”

Lawyers Alliance for New York’s 2005 Theater Benefit, scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, at 8:00 p.m., will feature the hilarious new musical *Spamalot*, billed as being “lovingly ripped off” from the movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Directed by the great Mike Nichols (who has won many awards including an Oscar for *The Graduate* and six Tony Awards), *Spamalot* stars David Hyde Pierce (of *Frazier* fame), three-time Emmy Award winner Hank Azaria, and Tim Curry (from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, among his many credits). *The New York Post* recently said *Spamalot* is “poised to give a mediocre season a much-needed lift.” *Time Magazine* predicted “real belly laughs.”

Benefactor Tickets are \$300 each and Supporter Tickets are \$200. A special rate of \$150 is available for nonprofits. Tickets include admission to a pre-theater reception from 5:30 to 7:30 at The Supper Club in Times Square.

If you would like to purchase tickets or sponsor the benefit, please contact **Lemont Leige** at (212) 219-1800 ext. 225 or lleige@lany.org. *Tickets are limited!* ■



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