

November 4, 2013

## **Davis Polk & Wardwell Legal Team**

### **Exceptional Teamwork Brings Sophisticated and Timely Legal Advice to Strategic Alliance**

**Accomplishment:** Recipient 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:** The Davis Polk & Wardwell legal team is led by partner John H. Butler of the Mergers & Acquisitions group, and composed of associates Jason Mehar and Branden C. Berns of the Mergers & Acquisitions department, associate Rustin M. Brown of the Credit department, and law clerk Kyle Raymond Smit of the Mergers & Acquisitions department.

**Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation** ("HPEDC") has been active for 25 years in the South Bronx, the poorest Congressional District in the nation. Despite many significant achievements over the years, recent economic stresses proved almost insurmountable. To ensure continuity of its principal programs, HPEDC sought a strategic collaboration arrangement with another services provider that HPEDC believed would create great synergies. HPEDC relied on the careful and dedicated counsel of a team of attorneys from Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, headed by partner John H. Butler, coordinated by associate Jason Mehar, and completed by Branden C. Berns, Rustin M. Brown, and Kyle Raymond Smit. This legal team worked swiftly with the client to evaluate structural options, develop a negotiating position, and document and close the initial stage of a strategic alliance – all in approximately twelve weeks.

HPEDC has been effusive in its appreciation of this crucial legal assistance. Says Josephine Infante, Executive Director of HPEDC, "I feel extremely fortunate for having the law firm of Davis Polk & Wardwell represent Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation with its goal of forming a strategic partnership. The project is being handled by Davis Polk with disciplined sensitivity, ultimately producing an agreement and transaction that allows HPEDC to currently continue its services in the Hunts Point community without interruption."

As a result of this strategic collaboration, HPEDC has been able to obtain significant financial support and continue its basic programmatic operations and fundraising efforts. HPEDC's potential is being preserved, all to the great benefit of the residents of Hunts Point.

Mr. Mehar said, "Working alongside Lawyers Alliance to advise Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation, which provides invaluable services to the Hunts Point community, has been a rewarding and deeply satisfying experience for me on both a professional and personal level."

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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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