

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

JONATHAN E. SILVERBLATT, *Dorsey & Whitney LLP*

Strategic Corporate Advice Enables Nonprofits to Pursue Partnerships and Improve Board Governance

Jonathan E. Silverblatt is a partner in Dorsey & Whitney LLP's Corporate practice group and Chair of the Private Equity practice in the New York office. He received a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College in 1991 and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1994.

Mr. Silverblatt first volunteered with Lawyers Alliance in 1999. In 2013 he started working with the **Alliance for Coney Island** (the "Alliance"), a nonprofit dedicated to the transformation of Coney Island into a year-round oceanfront destination while improving the quality of life of the entire community. The Alliance had the opportunity to partner with a local stakeholder to respond to an RFP from the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation for the operation and management of a parking lot in Coney Island. Mr. Silverblatt negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding for the Alliance and, when the proposal was successful, negotiated a marketing agreement between the parties to hold and operate the license. Under the agreement, the Alliance is responsible for marketing the parking lot, and in its capacity as a nonprofit manages community engagement functions for the site. Says Johanna Zaki, Executive Director of the Alliance, "We have a great working relationship with Jonathan. He followed up with us regularly and streamlined the process. The parking lot opened on May 1, 2014 and is a financial investment and important revenue stream for the Alliance."

This year Mr. Silverblatt volunteered to assist the **Millennium Film Workshop** ("MFW"), a media arts center in Brooklyn that provides open access to filmmaking equipment and training and supports a diverse community of students and emerging and working artists. As a nearly 50-year-old organization, MFW had a vast archive of unique films, correspondence, and articles on experimental film, which was of interest to the Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Silverblatt negotiated an Asset Purchase Agreement, which will provide needed funds for MFW. The contract has been signed and the closing is subject to approval from the Attorney General's Office. George Spencer, MFW's Outreach Coordinator, says, "Jonathan was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. He managed his team at Dorsey & Whitney very well, had important insights, and was clearly on top of everything."

Mr. Silverblatt is also reviewing the Alliance for Coney Island and Millennium Film Workshop's corporate governance documents to ensure compliance with the Nonprofit Revitalization Act.

Says Mr. Silverblatt, "Over the years it has been my absolute pleasure to partner with Lawyers Alliance in assisting the needs of New York's nonprofit community. I am deeply honored to receive this award and thank Lawyers Alliance for their consideration. I would also like to accept the Cornerstone Award on behalf of the attorneys and staff at Dorsey that have assisted me this year with representation of Lawyers Alliance clients."

