

## INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



**ADITYA (DEAN) RAMANATHAN**, *Brown Rudnick LLP*

### *Intellectual property associate protects assets of local nonprofits*

In two years, Aditya (Dean) Ramanathan has volunteered on six legal matters with Lawyers Alliance for five clients. His pro bono work has focused primarily on intellectual property issues, a specialized area of importance. Mr. Ramanathan worked with **White Coats for Black Lives**, a nonprofit run by doctors created in response to the events of summer 2020, on intellectual property and trademarking issues. He not only trademarked relevant intellectual property, but also provided practical counsel about how to use it to protect the organization. Mr. Ramanathan also helped **AIRnyc** with negotiations around a software agreement. The client noted that he and Brown Rudnick were a pleasure to work with and very respectful and understanding of their needs as a not-for-profit. Currently he is working with **Good Call**, which provides a hotline for those recently arrested, to trademark their logo and other materials.

#### **Employment:**

Brown Rudnick LLP  
Associate, Intellectual  
Property

#### **Graduate of:**

Fordham University School  
of Law

#### **Lawyers Alliance clients:**

AIRnyc  
All Our Kin  
Good Call  
Museum Hue  
White Coats for Black Lives

#### **Q. How and why did you first become involved with Lawyers Alliance?**

I became involved with Lawyers Alliance through Brown Rudnick's pro bono practice, directed by Meredith Joseph along with pro bono specialist Miranda Black. Each of them deserve all the credit in the world for the pro bono work done at Brown Rudnick.

#### **Q. Share a tip for making time for pro bono.**

It does help to have your pro bono hours count toward your billables. You can collaborate with associates and partners outside your practice group. Working with new people on matters that aren't part of your daily routine can be refreshing. Building larger teams also means that you can share responsibilities on pro bono matters without over-burdening your workload.

#### **Q. Share a fun or unexpected moment from pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance.**

With Lawyers Alliance clients, I've had the opportunity to draft a few agreements, including user licenses, from a blank slate. It's a completely different experience from reviewing and marking-up existing agreements. Pro bono clients have appreciated the plain language that you can use in drafting agreements, because many of the agreements that they (and all of us) have worked with have been painful to read.

#### **Q. What's the most rewarding aspect of pro bono work?**

The most rewarding aspect of pro bono work is the appreciation that clients have for the work that you do for them. Mission-focused organizations are all about collaboration. Unfortunately, collaboration frequently leads to difficult questions about intellectual property and ownership of ideas. These questions can weigh heavily on organizations who (i) rightfully want credit for the work that they do and (ii) don't want to be mistakenly associated with groups that may not share their values. I feel genuinely helpful in providing that clarity to organizations.

"Dean got everything together quickly and within a couple of months all of our intellectual property work was done. He really took the lead and stayed on top of everything and we greatly appreciated that."

— Charlotte Austin

*Board Member, White Coats for Black Lives*