

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

ANITA L. PELLETIER, *Nixon Peabody LLP*

Trusted advisor to nonprofits makes pro bono a priority

Anita L. Pelletier is a dedicated legal counsel specializing in nonprofits, providing expert guidance on legal requirements and best practices concerning governance and operations. She brings expertise in some of the most high-demand areas for Lawyers Alliance clients: nonprofit corporate governance and resolving Board disputes, tax compliance and audits, and charitable solicitation and sales promotions. During her nearly 20 year tenure as a Lawyers Alliance volunteer, Ms. Pelletier has provided crucial legal advice to organizations as they form, through the incorporation and tax exemption process, and as they grow and evolve, navigating governance and contract issues.

Working with two attorneys from Nixon Peabody, Ms. Pelletier advised **Living Redemption Community Development**, which provides holistic services to at-risk youth in Central and West Harlem, on its fiscal sponsorship contract to determine the best route for moving forward independently. Ms. Pelletier and colleagues also advised **SWBATE**, which provides access and funding for college students from underprivileged communities to intern and/or study abroad, with a comprehensive governance review. The team drafted the organization's bylaws, conflict of interest policy, and helped the organization reclassify as a public charity with the IRS. Reclassification as a public charity opens avenues for increased funding, tax benefits, and enhanced credibility, enabling SWBATE to expand its charitable activities, reach more people, and make a more substantial positive impact for their students.

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

I was connected to Lawyers Alliance through our firm's pro bono coordinator to discuss a matter that involved a nonprofit matter. This was a formation matter for **Women's HIV Collaborative of New York**, a collaboration of nonprofit service providers and advocates for women's health in New York State.

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

Find an area that aligns with your interests and, if possible, your practice. This makes it easier to spend time on pro bono. I have the benefit of working with nonprofits every day. So, working on pro bono matters for organizations that need specialized assistance, but can't afford counsel is an "easy" lift and rewarding at the same time.

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

Assisting nonprofits in achieving their goals is always fun and especially rewarding.

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

Helping nonprofit organizations work through issues to find a solution that works for the organization and is legally compliant.

"We are deeply grateful for the invaluable legal guidance Anita provided during our spin-off from fiscal sponsorship. Her expertise and dedication played a pivotal role in navigating the complexities of the transition. The thorough understanding of the legal landscape, coupled with the strategic insights, ensured a smooth and successful spin-off process."

— Rev. Maurice Winley
*Founder & President/CEO,
Living Redemption Community Development Corporation*



Employment:

Nixon Peabody LLP
*Counsel, Nonprofit
Practice Group*

Graduate of:

Syracuse University
College of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

ESS Community Projects
Hispanic Health Network
Hot Bread Kitchen
Kaleidoscope Psychology
Living Redemption
Community Development
Corporation
SWBATE
Virtual Enterprises
International
Women's HIV Collaborative
of New York