

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



CHRISTOPHER J. PALMESE, *Seyfarth Shaw LLP*

Responsive, client-focused attorney guides multiple nonprofits through leases and negotiations

Christopher J. Palmese is an associate in the Real Estate department in Seyfarth Shaw LLP's New York office. He received a B.A. from Muhlenberg College in 2004 and his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law in 2011.

Mr. Palmese has volunteered on ten different cases over a three year period. He provided counsel to the **Northeast Bronx Senior Citizen Center (NBSCC)** in negotiating a lease agreement for space NBSCC rented in a church basement. NBSCC had been paying utility costs that should have been shared among other parties using space in the church. NBSCC brought that to the attention of Mr. Palmese and he negotiated a fair deal for NBSCC. In addition, he negotiated a lease with no increase in rent for a six year period, a benefit NBSCC had never enjoyed before his involvement. Silvia Ponce, NBSCC's Executive Director says, "For years, I felt it was not a fair lease but that complaint fell on deaf ears until I spoke with Christopher Palmese. He got right on the issue and negotiated a truly fair lease agreement. Chris was always available for our questions and concerns no matter how silly they might have been at the time. He was very committed to all our needs from day one."

Mr. Palmese also worked with **New York Center for Interpersonal Development (NYCID)** in drafting an amendment to its certificate of incorporation. Candace Gonzalez reports that Mr. Palmese was "responsive, thorough, and friendly and I always felt he had the best interest of NYCID throughout the entire process. It was a pleasure working with him."

Recently Mr. Palmese provided his real estate expertise to **Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE)** in a lease negotiation for new space at 44 Wall Street. Amelia Erwit, the Managing Director of CFE says, "Chris has been terrific. He has been incredibly thoughtful and patient in walking us through the lease and negotiating process and has been very generous with his time. "

Mr. Palmese has also represented **CommonWise Education, Inc.** in four separate matters including a lease negotiation, a fiscal sponsorship arrangement, a copier lease agreement, and an employment matter. He also has represented the **Jewish Community Center of Staten Island** and **Literacy, Inc.**

Says Mr. Palmese, "Lawyers Alliance has been a great partner and an invaluable resource for me in representing pro bono clients. Their breadth of experience with nonprofit and community-based organizations has helped me to better represent clients on several occasions. I especially appreciate their responsiveness and professionalism in educating outside counsel on topics that are of particular importance to our clients and their help in pairing outside counsel with organizations in need."