

## INSTITUTIONAL HONOREE

### DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON LLP

#### *Fifty years of unwavering pro bono commitment to transforming New York City communities with Lawyers Alliance*

Attorneys from Debevoise & Plimpton LLP have provided pro bono services, leadership, and financial support of Lawyers Alliance for five decades, dating back to its beginnings as the Council of New York Law Associates. Since its founding in 1931,

Debevoise has maintained a steadfast dedication to pro bono work and Lawyers Alliance is thrilled to be a longtime partner of the firm.

Since 2008, Debevoise and Lawyers Alliance have built a longstanding relationship with **Accompany Capital**, with Debevoise attorneys assisting Accompany Capital on matters ranging from reviewing and negotiating sublease and loan agreements to applying for PPP relief during the pandemic.

Most recently, Accompany Capital was the first Community Development Financial Institution to participate in New York City's Taxi Medallion Relief Program. With help from Debevoise, Accompany Capital entered into the program and is making loans to taxi medallion owners, restructuring and reducing their debts significantly.

Debevoise serves as a trusted counselor to nonprofits during every stage in their lifecycle. As a young organization, **Create in Chinatown d/b/a Think!Chinatown**, a nonprofit working at the intersection of storytelling, arts, economic development, and neighborhood engagement, sought out the firm's sophisticated corporate expertise. Debevoise attorneys conducted a thorough governance review, enabling it to focus confidently on its mission of serving Chinatown's community. When a nonprofit organization focusing on criminal justice was considering a potential merger, Debevoise conducted an exhaustive due diligence process, drafted documents to govern the merger and helped negotiate its terms. Ultimately, the firm's expert advice enabled the Board to decide to decline the merger, which it determined was best for the future of the organization.

Thanks to Debevoise volunteer attorneys' dedication, Lawyers Alliance nonprofit clients have had essential support with their legal needs, and have been able to focus on their programs, operations, and finances, improving the quality of life in low-income communities throughout New York City.

#### ***Q. How does the firm encourage and support business and transactional lawyers at all levels to participate in pro bono?***

We have expanded the variety of transactional pro bono projects available. They range from individual representations of low-income entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations to large matters assisting nonprofit organizations with mergers, joint ventures, and wind-downs and cutting-edge work in impact investment, environmental projects, and community development. Through this work, our transactional lawyers use their professional expertise to develop new approaches to support under-resourced communities. In addition, understanding the unpredictable schedules of our transactional lawyers, we offer projects with a range of time commitments and time sensitivity so that lawyers can choose a project that fits with their other obligations.

**Debevoise  
& Plimpton**

# LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

## **Q. How has the firm's pro bono program evolved during the last few years?**

Our pro bono program has grown, both in the hours committed and the range of projects that we have taken on. There is growing interest in using the tools and structures from investment banking, private equity, and finance to create economic opportunity and tackle social issues. Because of our cutting-edge commercial work and deep commitment to pro bono, we've been able to contribute significantly to those efforts.

Debevoise attorneys have represented the following Lawyers Alliance clients in the last three years: **Accompany Capital, Bay Ridge Center, Benefit Kitchen, Bronx Community Cable Programming Corporation d/b/a BronxNet, Bronx River Alliance, Co-op Power, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn, Create in Chinatown d/b/a Think!Chinatown, Fifth Avenue Committee, Fordham Road District Management Association, Foundation for the Advancement of Autistic Persons, Fund for NYC Voter Assistance Corporation, Girl Vow, I'RAISE Girls and Boys International Corporation, Neighborhood Trust Federal Credit Union, New York Disaster Interfaith Services, NYC Together d/b/a We Build the Block, Participatory Politics Foundation, Practice Makes Perfect Holdings PBC, Refoundry, Sephardic Community Center, SAGE (Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders), Street Lab, Teachers & Writers Collaborative, and The Square Deal.**

Firm lawyers who worked with these clients include: Amanda Ackaway, Alexander Adler, Alexander Altieri, Nariné Atamian, Jason Auman, Andrew Bab, Michael Bolotin, Ezra Borut, Victoria Brown, Suchita Brundage, Paul D. Brusiloff, Zhiyan Cao, Martin E. Connor Jr., Lachlan Conroy, Jordan Corrente Beck, Jennifer Cowan, Jeffrey Cunard, Jacqueline de Jong, Luke Dembosky, Marisa Demko, David Deutsch, Chris Duff, Danielle Eiger, Daniel Farrell, Andrew J. Ford, Ben Friedman, Ruth Fruchter, Chris Gallucci, Caroline Geiger, Avi Gesser, Spencer Gilbert, Jyotin Hamid, Peter J. Irwin, Eric Juergens, Tigist Kassahun, Meir Katz, John Kiernan, Molly Bailey Klinghoffer, Brian Kudowitz, Natasha Labovitz, Jennifer Lang, Henry Lebowitz, Congrui Lin, Linda Lin, Xiuna Lin, Peter Loughran, Greg Lyons, Emily Mackay, Michael McGuigan, Carl Micarelli, Sophie Mirzaian, Matthew Mrozek, John Nelson, Colin O'Neal, Xinyi (Iris) Pan, Michael Pan, Max Pearl, Benjamin Pedersen, Amy Pereira, Erasmo Perez, Paisley Piasecki, Edward Rishty, Paul M. Rodel, Thomas Rose, Christopher Rosekrans, Jeffrey E. Ross, Melissa Runsten, Joshua Samit, Kristen Scully, Isadore Shamah, Tricia B. Sherno, Samuel Siegel, Daniel Sinrod, Keith Slattery, Zahra Sowder, Michael Stephan, Adele Stichel, Beatrice Techawatanasuk, Christel Tham, Bradley Waldstreicher, Matthew Walsh, Helen Wang, Elie Worenklein, and Chen Xu.

"If a team of attorneys at Debevoise & Plimpton had not stepped in to help us when we were going through a very challenging time, Accompany Capital would not exist today. We have since then gone on to make over \$51 million in loans to over 4,000 small businesses, and provided advice to over 10,000 businesses. A heartfelt thank you to Debevoise & Plimpton for enabling us to continue to help small businesses in New York City thrive and prosper!"

— Yanki Tshering,  
*Executive Director, Accompany Capital*