

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



DOUGLAS DUA, *Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP*

Dedicated corporate counsel lends assistance on intricate matters

Douglas Dua has been volunteering with Lawyers Alliance since 2015, helping five clients on seven different matters, including complex corporate structuring matters. Mr. Dua and other attorneys at Hunton helped the **Neighborhood Preservation Center** put together a comprehensive separation agreement from its fiscal sponsor. The agreement included numerous provisions governing intellectual property, naming rights, and termination, allowing the Neighborhood Preservation Center to smoothly transition to its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit. He also helped **Hester Street Collaborative** review and negotiate a subcontract with a planning firm to create an innovative participatory planning process.

Employment:

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
*Counsel, Energy and
Infrastructure Transactions*

Graduate of:

Washington and Lee
University School of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

BlocPower Community
Corporation
Green Shores NYC
Hester Street Collaborative
Neighborhood
Preservation Center
The Knowledge House

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

I became involved with Lawyers Alliance promptly after starting work at my first firm in New York. Lawyers Alliance has an excellent outreach model with firms, and they have always enabled practicing attorneys to easily keep track of available pro bono opportunities and choose matters that are well-suited to their skills.

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

It can be challenging when balancing a full slate of client and other firm demands to add responsibilities, but I keep in mind a couple of benefits of pro bono work. Attorneys performing this work are using their valuable skills to help people and organizations that are in need. Pro bono work also provides attorneys with an accessible opportunity to diversify their skill sets and, from an early time in their careers, to have meaningful client contact and responsibility.

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

These moments tend to pop up due to the variety of the matters and how different they can be from my ordinary work. Recently I was able to take a deep dive into cooperative business entities and their governance, and I found the model to be illuminating. I also assisted Hester Street Collaborative in its work related to the rehabilitation of a neglected area of a park, which enabled me to learn about the park and restoration efforts. Some more casual moments have also arisen. Early during the pandemic, a client's family member became known for stepping outside to play a tuba for his neighbors once per day at an appointed time. The client shared a video, which was enjoyable.

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

The most rewarding aspect, to me, is using my skills to help underserved people and organizations. Pro bono work through Lawyers Alliance is one of the most accessible and immediate ways for attorneys in New York to give back to their community and society.

"We were so satisfied with the engagement with Douglas. It was fantastic. Working on a separation agreement from our former fiscal sponsor allowed us to stand on our own two feet after 20 years. His work and guidance was helpful and invaluable. He was a perfect match."

— Felicia Mayro
Board Chair, Neighborhood Preservation Center