

LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

ELIAS GUREWITSCH, *Linklaters LLP*

Investment funds attorney provides legal guidance that strengthens nonprofit operations

Elias Gurewitsch serves as a trusted advisor to organizations during key moments. When **IndieSpace** merged with the Indie Theater Fund, it required support to navigate the challenges of rapid expansion. The organization had to revise its governance documents to align with the requirements of its new status and equip itself with the essential tools for efficient operation, all achieved through Mr. Gurewitsch's work. In 2020, Mr. Gurewitsch helped **AI for the People**, which educates African American communities and legislators about the civil and human rights implications of artificial intelligence, by drafting a vital template nondisclosure agreement. This agreement was instrumental in AI for the People's efforts to combat COVID-19 related disinformation, which was being employed to suppress Black voter turnout during the 2020 presidential election. His work played a significant role in empowering the organization to safeguard democratic processes within marginalized communities.

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

Most of the pro bono opportunities available at my firm are litigation focused, but I was drawn to Lawyers Alliance because it offers the opportunity to work on matters that look much more like my day-to-day practice. Given the nature of the work Lawyers Alliance offers, I feel I can add value and give back in a way I could not on other pro bono matters.

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

It can be very difficult to make time for pro bono given the pressures of my everyday professional and personal life, but I find that if I plan and block a few hours in a week, even if it is only one or two hours, I am amazed how much I can get done in that window while keeping up with my day-to-day obligations.

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

I was preparing a template NDA for an organization seeking to eliminate racial bias from artificial intelligence systems and software. My contact was a professor at Harvard. It is always nice to make a connection with a client, but it was so fun and refreshing to connect with a smart and interesting person, working in an area that I am not familiar with, who does such salient and important work.

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

The feeling of giving back to the community in a professional capacity to organizations that truly appreciate and rely on your support. That is about as good as it gets!

"Through Elias' update of our bylaws and the total overhaul of our conflict of interest and disclosure process, we were able to ensure that the values and policies of IndieSpace were properly reflected in our documents. I appreciated that he took our values seriously and gave us room to incorporate them as much as possible, within what is legally required of us."

— Randi Berry
Executive Director, IndieSpace



Employment:

Linklaters LLP
*Senior Associate,
Investments Funds Group*

Graduate of:

New York University
School of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

AI for the People
CAAAY Organizing Asian
Communities
Goodwill Industries of
Greater New York and
Northern New Jersey
IndieSpace