

INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



JENA GRADY, *Nixon Peabody LLP*

Talented attorney makes complex healthcare rules clearer for nonprofit providers of community services

As the healthcare regulatory environment continues to change, more nonprofits are asking for help to understand the evolving laws and regulations. Jena Grady has counseled clients on reimbursement contracts, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) policies, data sharing agreements, and patient treatment forms, including nine projects the past three years. For example, she drafted a template subcontract and HIPAA-compliant business associate agreement for a pro bono client to use as part of a New York State program to provide language access and navigation resources for those who do not speak English as their primary language to access health insurance. Her legal work helps organizations better reach children, seniors, immigrants, and other individuals with health needs.

Employment:

Nixon Peabody LLP
Associate, Health Care

Graduate of:

B.A. Arizona State University
M.H.S.M. Arizona State University
J.D. Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Lawyers Alliance clients:

AIDS Service Center of Lower Manhattan
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families
Elmcor Youth & Adult Activities
Haitian Centers Council
Hudson Guild
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families

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

I was seeking pro bono work in my wheelhouse. I think it is very easy to assume that all pro bono work is litigation related. I reached out to Lawyers Alliance and was pleasantly surprised how many opportunities there were to assist clients with healthcare legal issues.

Q. Share a tip for making time for pro bono during the COVID pandemic.

Treat pro bono work just like it is any other type of client work. If you make time for your clients during the COVID pandemic, you can make time for pro bono work.

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

One of the best things and yet unexpected about my pro bono work is the opportunities to further develop relationships with pro bono clients. Once we handle the imminent legal issue, we are able to work together in developing strategies and policies to further comply with healthcare laws and regulations.

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

I am always looking for ways to contribute to my community. Between work and family obligations, the standard boots on the ground volunteer opportunities (e.g. delivering meals to those homebound) are challenging to fit in my schedule. Being able to assist nonprofits to develop the tools necessary to comply with and navigate complex healthcare laws and regulations on my own schedule (well, I guess my toddler owns my schedule) is very rewarding.

"Jena helped Hudson Guild assess and negotiate two critical agreements related to our mental health programming and outcomes measurement. She was diligent, thorough, and sensitive to our goals and needs. Our work with Jena was meaningful and helpful."

— Ken Jockers
Executive Director, Hudson Guild