

## INDIVIDUAL HONOREE



**PATRICIA J. GRAVES**, *Goldman Sachs*

***Corporate pro bono leader mobilizes colleagues to provide timely legal consultations to nonprofits***

Patricia J. Graves works at Goldman Sachs in the firm's Global Investment Research (GIR) Division. She also serves as Coordinator for the Goldman Sachs Legal Pro Bono Committee. In her capacity as Coordinator, she focuses on projects with legal service providers. In addition, she manages the legal clinics for the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at LaGuardia Community College.

In recent years, as Lawyers Alliance has been expanding its pro bono relationships with corporate legal departments, Patricia Graves has stood out each step of the way. One of the formats by which Lawyers Alliance and corporations have been providing legal information and assistance to the nonprofit sector is through half-day pro bono clinics, where nonprofits receive concentrated assessments and guidance on timely legal topics. In early 2018, Goldman and Lawyers Alliance created the Nonprofit Assistance Project to combine forces and provide high quality legal advice to New York community-based nonprofits that are serving low-income individuals in New York City. Ms. Graves galvanized support from legal department leaders at Goldman Sachs, and volunteer lawyers from several major corporations and law firms, to help Lawyers Alliance roll out the Project with a series of pro bono clinics. Topics hosted at Goldman or involving Goldman volunteers included corporate governance, contracts, and employment. Ms. Graves continues to serve enthusiastically as Lawyers Alliance's point person at Goldman Sachs on all pro bono matters, where she and her colleagues graciously open their doors to other in-house counsel and law firm attorneys committed to pro bono work.

Thanks to Ms. Graves' organizational talents, personal qualities, dedication, and follow-through, 103 business law and transactional attorneys have participated in Goldman's pro bono clinics for nonprofits since 2018. Collectively they have helped 49 organizations that are improving the lives of low income New Yorkers. Ms. Graves made sure each one of these clinics came to life and was seamlessly executed. Clients served at the clinics Ms. Graves organized at Goldman found the legal information they received to be incredibly constructive. Elizabeth Oyen of **East Village Community Coalition** says, "It helped me determine the best approach for rewriting our bylaws and we had a very valuable discussion on some of the areas where I was struggling." Sara Le Brusq of **New American Leaders** says the legal advice she received at a corporate governance clinic was especially valuable as she was "considering growth and direction for our organization."

Of her involvement, Ms. Graves says, "I have had great experiences working on pro bono projects in collaboration with Lawyers Alliance. I am especially grateful that our clinics together have also fostered more collaboration amongst the in-house pro bono community as well!"