

## INDIVIDUAL HONOREES



**PREM AMARNANI**, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

***Committed legal work ensures statutory compliance for nonprofits***

Prem Amarnani is a member of the Investment Management Group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He received a B.S. from Stevens Institute of Technology in 2003, an M.Eng. from that same institution in 2004, and his J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 2007.

He has volunteered on 10 Lawyers Alliance cases, including nine in the last five years, working on a wide range of entity formation, tax exemption, and contract matters.

Mr. Amarnani assisted **Cool Culture** on a review of governance documents, including bylaws. Cool Culture works to amplify the voices of families and strengthen the power of marginalized communities through engagement with art and culture, both within cultural institutions and beyond. The review helped the organization comply with statutory updates under the New York Not-For-Profit Revitalization Act. Says Kanika Srinivasan, Senior Director of Operations and Strategy at Cool Culture, “Prem and the Skadden team were responsive, helpful, and very thorough. We had a really good experience working with them. As a small nonprofit we just don’t have the capacity to have a full-time general counsel and this assistance has been invaluable to us in a lot of different ways.”

In 2019, Mr. Amarnani and a colleague helped draft a consultant agreement for the **Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation**. The organization sought to bring on a consultant to help establish a new Business Improvement District in downtown Staten Island. Says Linda Baran, President and CEO at the Chamber Foundation, “Prem was very thorough, very efficient, and had a quick turnaround on things. He answered any questions right away and brought up things that I wouldn’t have even thought to ask about. We brought the consultant on immediately and still use the consultant agreement today.”

He has also worked on a team to help **Friends of Verdi Square** incorporate and obtain 501(c)(3) tax exemption. He later helped the all-volunteer organization draft policies that set forth guidelines for volunteer gardeners. Among the other matters Mr. Amarnani has worked on are the formation of a for-profit venture for **Exponents** and the incorporation of **REMA4US**.

Mr. Amarnani is currently working with **STEM Kids NYC** on a memorandum of understanding and with **Streetlives** to obtain their 501(c)(3) tax exemption.

Says Mr. Amarnani, “I view pro bono as a fundamental part of my responsibilities as a lawyer. I am fortunate to have had opportunities and guidance in my life and it is important that I pay it forward. Pro bono work is a way for me to potentially make a meaningful and positive impact on individuals and communities that may not have been so fortunate.”