



Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News



Date:	March 14, 2023
Names of Attorneys:	Chirag Dedania and Hamna Ahmad
Name of Firm:	Latham & Watkins LLP
Client Served:	Bartow-Pell Landmark Fund/Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum
Accomplishment:	Restructured related entities and applied for a charter from the Board of Regents of the State of New York to operate as a museum to allow for greater funding opportunities.

Specific Case Highlights:

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, the last remaining 19th-century estate in the Bronx's Pelham Bay Park, is a cultural and educational institution that serves the broader New York City community. The Museum offers an array of public programs, student experiences, exhibitions, and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present, and cultivate an appreciation for the area's natural, cultural, and historical resources. Annually, the Museum serves a diverse audience with more than 18,000 visitors passing through its doors, strolling its gardens, and hiking its trails.



The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum first opened to the public in 1946 under what is now known as the Bartow-Pell Conservancy. In 1975, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Landmark Fund was separately formed as a charitable trust, for purposes of managing, preserving, and improving the Museum. The two organizations worked closely together over the following years, but much documentation about the origin and relationship between the two entities has been lost, and no one left on the Board or staff of either entity had complete knowledge of the exact relationship between the two organizations.

Though the Museum is recognized as a historic house museum by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, in order to access greater funding opportunities, Bartow-Pell Mansion Landmark Fund needed to obtain its own legal status as a museum. It sought legal assistance to help research the relationship and current legal status of the entities so that it could then seek a charter from the New York State Education Department Board of Regents. **Chirag Dedania and Hamna Ahmad of Latham & Watkins LLP** assisted Bartow-Pell with researching and restructuring the historic entities that had been operating for many decades and applying for an Absolute Charter.

Alison McKay, Executive Director of the Museum, said, "Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is grateful to Latham & Watkins and specifically, the efforts and expertise of Chirag Dedania and Hamna Ahmad, who navigated us through the process of untangling the legal entities that comprise the museum. We would like to thank Chirag and Hamna for working through the museum's complicated corporate structures, allowing us to move forward with applying for a Board of Regents Charter through the New York State Department of Education."

About Lawyers Alliance: [Lawyers Alliance for New York](https://www.lawyersalliance.org/) is the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations and social enterprises that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, Lawyers Alliance for New York helps organizations to provide housing, stimulate economic opportunity, improve urban health and education, promote community arts, and operate and advocate for vital programs that benefit low-income New Yorkers of all ages. During the past year, staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance worked with more than 2,000 volunteer attorneys to represent 700 nonprofit clients.

Inquiries: Please contact Marketing and Communications Director Emily Crossan at 212-219-1800 ext. 233 or ecrossan@lawyersalliance.org.