

Pro Bono News

Summer Edition Vol. 27 No. 1

Pro Bono Partnership Takes the Expressway to Long Island

By Maurice Segall, Director, New York and Fairfield County Program, Pro Bono Partnership

At Pro Bono Partnership our mission is to engage in-house and law firm attorneys to provide free business and transactional legal services to nonprofits in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Having identified a need in the area's nonprofit community, we have actively expanded our presence on Long Island. In the past year the Partnership has hosted information sessions for Long Island attorneys and Long Island nonprofits, and has given several educational seminars for the Long Island legal and nonprofit communities.

There are thousands of nonprofits on Long Island responding to many important issues facing residents. Nonprofits, like any other corporations, regularly need legal advice to understand the complex web of overlapping state and federal regulations by which they are governed. Since the 2013 passage of the New York Nonprofit Revitalization Act, the Partnership has experienced a significant increase in requests for legal advice from current, former, and new nonprofit clients. A disproportionately small number of Long Island nonprofits sought guidance from the Partnership in implementing

the new law, and the Partnership has proactively reached out to the Long Island nonprofit community to help it transition to the new legal framework. This, along with increased demand for services that Long Island nonprofits provide, convinced the Partnership that expansion to Long Island is not only necessary, but integral, to Long Island nonprofits' success.

A sampling of our current Long Island-based nonprofits includes: Mom-mentum, New Ground Inc., Mission Be, Hidden Warriors, Inc., Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN), Be The Best Sport, Inc., Therapy Dogs of Long Island, Sustainable Long Island, Roosevelt Rising Stars, Interagency Council of Glen Cover, and the Nassau County – Coalition on Domestic Violence (CADV).

Lawyers interested in assisting with this initiative do not have to live or work on Long Island. Our staff attorneys and thousands of volunteers are from leading legal departments and law firms and help nonprofits with diverse non-litigation legal matters, which can include corporate governance, nonprofit/tax-exempt law, contracts, real estate, intellectual

property, employment law, environmental issues, tax, privacy, and other business-related legal matters.

Our volunteer opportunities are uniquely structured to suit the talents and needs of busy in-house counsel and law firm attorneys:

- Virtually all projects can be done remotely
- Projects are discrete, manageable, and generally not subject to time deadlines
- Every matter is coordinated by a staff attorney experienced in nonprofit law
- We provide model documents, review drafts, and offer other support as needed
- Liability insurance is provided
- Certain projects qualify for NY CLE credit

If you're interested in learning more about our Long Island Expansion, please contact Maurice Segall at 914-328-0674 x323 or msegall@probonopartner.org. For more information on our services, please visit www.probonopartner.org.