

NONPROFIT SEMINAR

CENTER FOR
NONPROFIT STRATEGY
AND MANAGEMENT

Current Legal and Policy Developments for Nonprofit Organizations

Tuesday, June 18th, 2013
4:00-6:00PM

BIOGRAPHIES

Sean Delany
Executive Director, Lawyers Alliance for New York

Sean Delany is the Executive Director at Lawyers Alliance for New York, Inc., the leading provider of pro bono business legal services to community development organizations and other nonprofit groups in New York City. Through a staff of in-house attorneys who are specialists in nonprofit law and a corps of more than 1400 volunteer lawyers from more than 100 leading law firms and corporations, the Lawyers Alliance provides business legal services each year to more than 600 community-based organizations. From 1997 to 1999 Mr. Delany served as the Legal Director of Lawyers Alliance.

Prior to joining Lawyers Alliance, Mr. Delany served as the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Charities Bureau in the office of the Attorney General of the State of New York. In 1996-97, Mr. Delany served as the President of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Charities Officials (NASCO).

Mr. Delany is Adjunct Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, where he teaches the Business Law Transactions Clinic, teaching business lawyers to work with organizational clients by representing nonprofit organizations on transactional and corporate governance projects.

Mr. Delany serves as the Chair of the Government Relations Committee of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York. Mr. Delany also serves on the Board of Advisors of the Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund, and as an Advisor on the American Law Institute's Principles of the Law of Nonprofit Organizations.

From 2006-2008, Mr. Delany served on the Advisory Committee for Tax Exempt and Government Entities, a group that advises the Internal Revenue Service on issues involving tax-exempt organizations. From 1999 to 2010, Mr. Delany also served as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Bronxworks, Inc., a settlement house serving residents of the Bronx.

Sonia Jarvis, Esq.
Distinguished Lecturer, Baruch College, School of Public Affairs

Sonia R. Jarvis, Esq. is currently a Distinguished Lecturer at the School of Public Affairs, Baruch College, City University of New York. She first joined Baruch College as the Lillie & Nathan Ackerman Visiting Distinguished Associate Professor of Equality and Justice in America responsible for teaching and developing programs to engender a thoughtful dialogue on issues of race, equal justice and ethnicity. A graduate of Stanford University (with B.A. degrees in Political Science and Psychology) and Yale Law School (J.D. degree), Professor Jarvis is an accomplished scholar whose research and teaching focus on race, public policy, nonprofit organizations, and the media.

She has extensive experience in both the private and public sectors including her solo private law practice in Washington, DC that focuses on civil and human rights, nonprofit organizations and small minority businesses. Additionally, she has provided leadership on policy and governance issues to a number of non-profit organizations in various roles as manager, general counsel, and board member, including the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation, Inc., where she served as its Executive Director as well as her past positions a Senior Consultant to the President's Initiative on Race during the Clinton Administration, and as past president of the Black Women's Agenda. She is a frequent commentator on public issues such as the Census and has been interviewed by almost every major media outlet in the country, such as National Public Radio, the Washington Post, PBS and CNN. She is currently engaged in research and writing about the interaction of race, media and politics, and the urgent problem of lack of access to higher education by minorities, low income families and immigrant youth.

Robert J. Vanni
Senior Consultant, Government Relations, Nonprofit
Coordinating Committee of New York

Robert J. Vanni, ESQ., a graduate of NYU School of Law and Columbia Business School, is Senior Consultant – Government Relations for the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York, an umbrella organization representing and serving more than 1500 nonprofit members in the New York City, Long Island and Westchester area. Prior thereto, he was Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, a private non-profit corporation, operating 90 branches and four research libraries with an annual budget of \$240 million. A former corporate associate with the law firm of Shearman & Sterling, Mr. Vanni has also served as the first General Counsel of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, as legislative assistant to Assemblyman Anthony G. Olivieri (deceased), and in legal positions with the United Nations Secretariat.

He has been a member of the board of directors of many non-profit organizations, including the Board of Advisors of the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law; Co-Chair of the Committee on Museums, Libraries and Collections of the National Association of College and University Attorneys; the Afghanistan Relief Committee; the America-Italy Society; Metro International; and the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. He formerly served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York and Chair of its Government Relations Committee.

He is currently on the Board of PILnet, The Global Network for Public Interest Law. Mr. Vanni has served on various committees of the Bar Association of the City of New York, including the Committees on International Law, International Trade (founding chair), Art Law, Non-Profit Organizations, and the Committee for the United Nations, and was listed in Who's Who in America, 57th Ed. and profiled in SuperLawyers—New York Edition (2006, 2008), and in IP Law & Business (Sept. 2007)