

2021 Year End Newsletter



Pro Bono Legal Services Continues Critical Support for Leviticus' Mission

The Usinger Law Practice may be one of the newest law firms in New York City, but its sole practitioner Eric Usinger has almost 20 years of legal expertise in commercial real estate, and affordable housing and community development. We are fortunate to have access to the firm's knowledge and welcome Mr. Usinger as the newest member of Leviticus' pro bono legal counsel. Mr. Unger's most recent work involved Leviticus' bridge loan to The Fortune Society, which is featured in this <u>newsletter</u>, and will convert a Manhattan SRO hotel into permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals with histories of involvement with the criminal justice system. The building currently is home to 18 households, who will remain as legacy tenants. Mr. Usinger works extensively with affordable housing and community development clients, in addition to commercial banks and private lenders. He finds his work extremely rewarding because the result provides a public benefit.

"There really are not a lot of pro bono opportunities for affordable housing lending attorneys in New York City," Mr. Usinger explained. "Leviticus does the type of work that I do on a for-pay basis for other clients, so I am really taking my experience and doing it on a pro bono basis. It is a good fit, and it is my belief that attorneys should donate some of their time back to the community." Pro bono legal services provided to Leviticus by firms like Usinger eliminate the lender legal fees that our nonprofit developers would otherwise pay, thus offering a tremendous cost savings within a project's development budget. Just in 2021 alone, the pro bono services provided to Leviticus by seven law firms totaled over \$350,000.

We are very grateful to Mr. Usinger, and to the other law firms, for supporting Leviticus' mission.



Our mailing address is: 220 White Plains Road, Suite 125, Tarrytown, NY 10591

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