



THE NEW ELLIS GROUP

Monday Monday

Connecting the Dots with Karen Kaplowitz



*Helping you create and reinforce the habits of successful career building,
gleaned from my work as a business development strategist, trainer and coach*

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Strategic Philanthropy. Kudos to lawyers and law firms that combine good work and good deeds. If you are thinking about ways to enrich your business development efforts while also making contributions to your communities, take a look at these examples of superb law firm initiatives and actions:

- **Helping Veterans Get Jobs.** [The Center for America, www.centerforamerica.org](http://www.centerforamerica.org), invited two law firms to create guides for employers to encourage them to hire veterans, National Guard members and Reservists. **Baker & McKenzie's** labor partners Robert Mignin and Celina Joachim created a guide on the requirements under VEVRAA for federal contractors to hire veterans and have also done related webinars. **Caplin & Drysdale's** President Beth Kaufman led the preparation of two guides on federal tax credits for employers who hire veterans along with lawyers Elizabeth Stevens and Clinton Wallace. The tax guides have been downloaded by employers more than 50,000 times.
- **Impact Litigation on Disability Rights.** [Disability Rights Advocates, www.drlegal.org](http://www.drlegal.org), opened a New York office in 2010. Since then, Dan Brown, a litigation partner and pro bono chair at **Sheppard Mullin** and a member of the board of DRA, helped DRA achieve historic results in two matters in New York. In one, a landmark trial victory led to a settlement in which the City of New York agreed to implement the most comprehensive disaster preparedness plan in the country to protect New Yorkers with disabilities. In the second, a settlement with the City and with the Taxi & Limousine Authority will result in fifty percent of New York taxis being wheelchair accessible by 2020.
- **Supporting Women's Civil Rights.** [Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, www.legalmomentum.org](http://www.legalmomentum.org), has honored over 100 of the most powerful and successful women business leaders since 2001 with the annual Aiming High Awards. This year, **Davis Polk & Wardwell's** Arthur Burke and Kyoko Lin took the initiative to identify a highly qualified client, Lynn Charytan, the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Comcast Cable, recommended her to the organization, and made the introduction which led to Charytan's being honored by the group.
- **Hands on Community Project.** **SidleyWomen** partnered with the charity [New York Cares, www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org), and hosted an evening of community service along with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in which clients and friends and **SidleyWomen** assembled hundreds of summer reading kits for underserved children in New York. The firm also encouraged guests to volunteer with New York Cares on other occasions.

The lawyers and law firms featured here took on these projects first because they cared deeply about the issues and community needs involved but they also derived valuable benefits. Can you identify possible new philanthropic and pro bono initiatives which will support your community and provide you opportunities to partner with your clients and extend your networks? Please send me examples of your initiatives that I can share with others.

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