



#WeAreShearman

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts



Lara Aryani
Partner
Mergers & Acquisitions

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The VLA provides an invaluable service to the artists of New York City. This legally-vulnerable community contributes richly to our city and it has been a privilege to give back to them by supporting the VLA’s work.”



Thomas Makin
Partner
Litigation

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Working with VLA clients is especially rewarding for me because it allows me to use my specific intellectual property skills on behalf of the artist community.”

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) was founded in 1969 and is considered New York’s leading legal aid and educational organization that provides free legal services to qualifying artists on all arts-related legal matters. Working with VLA has been a staple at Shearman & Sterling for over 15+ years. Our volunteer attorneys provide brief advice to artists at the VLA legal clinics, which are held 6 times a year on issues such as forming nonprofits, contracts and intellectual property issues as well as disputes and other matters. Many of these artists have little to no experience in legal matters.

[Learn more](#) about pro bono at [#ShearmanLaw](#).

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