

**Volunteer Attorney Accomplishment for Internal and External News**

**Date:** December 18, 2006  
**Name of Attorney:** Tamika S. Cushenberry  
**Name of Firm:** Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP  
**Name of Client Served:** Wellness in the Schools

**Accomplishment:** Recipient of Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2006 Cornerstone Award honoring outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits.

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**Specific Case Highlights:** Ms. Cushenberry is a former CPA turned tax associate whose pro bono work done early in her legal career provided the necessary counsel for Wellness in the Schools (WITS) to incorporate and receive federal, state, and city tax exemptions. According to Ms. Cushenberry, working with WITS allowed her to "combine her passion for improving public education with her legal and professional skills."

With the mission of providing healthier places of learning, WITS tackles three major issues within schools: environmental health, nutrition, and fitness. To promote environmental health, WITS is spearheading New York City public school's first bio-based green cleaning program called New York City Schools-Go Green. WITS also seeks to bring cleaner-fueled school buses to New York City. In advocating for healthier school lunches, WITS is piloting a school lunch program to provide local and organic food to public school students. To promote fitness in the schools, WITS is piloting a strength and conditioning program and bringing yoga to the schools.

Ms. Cushenberry's expert guidance has allowed WITS to actively pursue its mission of enhancing the environmental health, nutrition, and fitness of New York City public school children. Thanks to Ms. Cushenberry's legal assistance, the organization expects to increase the number of children reached in the coming year, helping kids and their school environments get healthier.

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**About Lawyers Alliance for New York:**

Lawyers Alliance for New York is the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. Our network of pro bono lawyers from law firms and corporations and staff of experienced attorneys work together, delivering expert corporate, tax, real estate, employment, and other legal services to community organizations. By connecting lawyers, nonprofits, and communities, we help nonprofits to develop affordable housing, stimulate economic development, and operate vital programs for children and young people, the elderly, recent immigrants, and other low-income New Yorkers. Each year, the 12 staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance and more than 700 volunteers serve 460 clients on more than 700 legal matters.

**Inquiries:** Please contact Lawyers Alliance Deputy Executive Director Elizabeth Guggenheimer at 212-219-1800 ext. 231 with questions or requests for additional information.