



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Hillary Wasserman

212-784-5726

hwasserman@grouppgordon.com

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Hires Marinda van Dalen in Senior Role Sponsored by Weil

New York, NY – August 3, 2017 – New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a leading civil rights advocacy group for New Yorkers in need, today announced that Marinda van Dalen has joined the organization as a Senior Staff Attorney. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, a longtime partner of NYLPI, sponsored this position through a generous gift.

As Senior Staff Attorney, van Dalen will further NYLPI's mission of advancing civil rights and social justice, with a focus on disability, health, and immigrant justice. In addition to supporting current NYLPI projects – such as education advocacy for children with disabilities – she will be responsible for identifying, managing and advancing new campaign and litigation opportunities.

“In these times when health, disability, and immigrant rights are under attack, it couldn't be more critical to have the best and brightest attorneys fighting for justice,” said McGregor Smyth, Executive Director of NYLPI. “With her vast experience working with underserved communities as a public interest lawyer, Marinda is the perfect addition to our team. Weil's support makes her essential work possible and will directly benefit New Yorkers in need of legal services.”

In her most recent role, van Dalen served as a Managing Attorney at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, where she established the organization's Brownsville, Texas office. She litigated complex civil cases, primarily in the area of civil rights, on behalf of individual and organizational plaintiffs in one of the most impoverished counties in the country. She previously held positions at the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Texas Rural Legal Aid. A native New Yorker, she received her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law and speaks fluent Spanish and Dutch.

Van Dalen noted that “it's a great pleasure to join New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. I look forward to bringing my experience and passion to NYLPI's ground-breaking work for social justice. Now more than ever we must stand together to protect and advance fundamental rights and keep the doors to justice accessible to the most vulnerable in our community.”

NYLPI and Weil share a long history of collaboration, including working together on pro bono cases to protect the educational rights of children with disabilities. Weil's generous contribution will fund van Dalen's civil rights work, advancing equality and social justice in a time of great unmet need. This gift continues Weil's practice of donating back to NYLPI the attorneys' fees Weil collects from litigating cases referred by NYLPI.

“Weil hopes that this gift will help NYLPI to continue fighting for the civil rights of New Yorkers most in

need,” said David J. Lender, the Global Co-Head of Weil’s Litigation Department and a NYLPI Board Member. “We also hope that other firms will follow our lead and find ways to support the important work that NYLPI is doing.”

About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) advances equality and civil rights, with a focus on health, disability and environmental justice, through the power of community lawyering and partnerships with the private bar. Through community lawyering, NYLPI puts its legal, policy and community organizing expertise at the service of New York City communities and individuals. NYLPI’s partnership with the private bar strengthens its advocacy and connects community groups and nonprofits with critical legal assistance.

About Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Founded in 1931, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has been a preeminent provider of legal services for more than 80 years. With approximately 1,100 lawyers in offices on three continents, Weil has been a pioneer in establishing a geographic footprint that has allowed the Firm to partner with clients wherever they do business. The Firm's four departments, Corporate, Litigation, Business Finance & Restructuring, and Tax, Executive Compensation & Benefits, and more than two dozen practice groups are consistently recognized as leaders in their respective fields. Please see www.weil.com for more information, including awards and rankings.

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