The National Center on Philanthropy and the Law was established at New York University School of Law in 1988 to explore a broad range of legal issues affecting the nation’s nonprofit sector, the largest voluntary sector in the world. Participating in this program are legal scholars, practicing attorneys, judges, law students, executives, and other professionals engaged in this field.

The Center promotes free intellectual inquiry that concentrates on the legal aspects of the organization and operation of charitable and social welfare entities. Conferences, research projects, a growing library, and the creation of a bibliography on nonprofit law, as well as law school courses, all are being used by the Center to produce and disseminate scholarship and to educate the legal and charitable communities about the many important issues of law affecting this large and vital sector.

Lawyers Alliance for New York (Lawyers Alliance) is the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations that are improving the quality of life in New York City’s low-income neighborhoods. It was founded in 1969 by dedicated attorneys who believed that improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers was a personal and professional responsibility.

Last fiscal year, Lawyers Alliance represented 668 nonprofits on 1,212 legal matters and assisted hundreds more through brief consultations and educational programs. The missions of nonprofit organizations that Lawyers Alliance represents each year are as diverse as the nonprofit sector itself. These nonprofits are developing and providing housing, stimulating economic opportunity, improving urban health and education, promoting community arts, and operating and advocating for vital programs that benefit low-income New Yorkers of all ages. Because any nonprofit that is operating programs that have a positive impact on the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods is eligible for its services, its clients include community-based local organizations, city-wide nonprofits, state-wide organizations, and national or even international organizations.
The NCPL Fellowship in Nonprofit Law permits one Fellow each year to spend a year in residence at a nonprofit organization. The 2020-2021 Fellow will work closely with senior staff and staff attorneys at Lawyers Alliance who have practice specialties that will expose the Fellow to a broad range of disciplines that address the legal needs of nonprofit organizations.

Given the varied nature of the legal work performed by Lawyers Alliance and the diverse group of nonprofit organizations it represents, the NCPL Fellow will experience the widest possible exposure to representing nonprofit organizations on interesting and complex legal projects. These legal challenges will enable the NCPL Fellow to develop relevant skills to the maximum extent.

The selection process consists of a written application and interviews of final candidates. The timetable is as follows:

- Application Deadline
  November 1, 2019

- Finalists Selected
  November 2019

- Interviews Conducted
  December 2019-January 2020

- Fellow Commences Work
  September 2020

Lawyers Alliance provides corporate, tax, real estate, employment, and a complete range of other business law services to its nonprofit clients. The 24-person staff includes 14 attorneys, who represent nonprofit clients on legal projects that are technically complex, delivered on a fee basis, or too urgent for placement with its volunteer network of more than 1,800 volunteers from law firms and corporations. Lawyers Alliance staff also co-counsels all of the legal projects handled by the outside volunteer attorneys, providing guidance on issues such as nonprofit law and the Internal Revenue Code’s regulation of tax exempt organizations that may be unfamiliar to the volunteers. In recent years, Lawyers Alliance has developed a paid practice representing private foundations, initially to encourage their grant making in support of nonprofit advocacy but, more recently, to address a complete range of philanthropic legal needs.

A list of recent legal projects Lawyers Alliance staff has been working on can be found at this link.