

## **MODERATOR**

### **Paula Z. Segal**

Paula Z. Segal is a Senior Staff Attorney in the Equitable Neighborhoods practice. Prior to joining the TakeRoot Justice team, Paula was the founding director of 596 Acres, Inc., NYC's community land access advocacy organization, where she developed programs to make public land available for public use and to protect charity-owned properties from foreclosure and eviction.

She is an Ashoka Fellow recognized for building the field of community land access advocacy. Paula has practiced civil rights and freedom of information law at Rankin & Taylor, been a Fellow at the Fordham Urban Law Center and a Supervising Attorney in Fordham's Community Economic Development Clinic, and was an attorney in the Staten Island Legal Services Disaster Recovery unit after Superstorm Sandy.

Before law school, she taught English to immigrants and refugees at the City University of New York. She graduated from City University of New York (CUNY) Law School and Brown University. Paula came to the United States of America as a refugee in 1985. Paula is currently a member of the New York City Bar Association's Real Property Law Committee.

Contact: [psegal@takerootjustice.org](mailto:psegal@takerootjustice.org)

## **SPEAKERS**

### **Arthur Kats**

Arthur is the Director of the VOLS Microenterprise Project where he supervises a staff of lawyers, Pro Bono Scholars, interns, Americorps VISTA fellows, and pro bono lawyers who provide transactional legal services, education, and advocacy to underserved small business owners. A cornerstone of Arthur's work is representing commercial tenants in through the City's Commercial Lease Assistance Program.

Before joining VOLS, Arthur was an associate attorney at a boutique Brooklyn law firm specializing in commercial landlord-tenant litigation and leasing transactions, where he litigated extensively in city, state, and federal courts in commercial and residential contexts representing both landlords and tenants.

Contact: [AKats@volsprobono.org](mailto:AKats@volsprobono.org)

### **Joam Alisme**

Joam Alisme is Alisme Law LLC's owner and founding member. Mr. Alisme is deeply rooted in Brooklyn, despite not originally being from the borough. Following the end of his work as a court attorney, Mr. Alisme pursued a one-year legal fellowship at a nonprofit before working at a prominent New York City law firm as a business and real estate litigator.

As a Commercial Division Court Attorney, Mr. Alisme drafted legal decisions on cases such as commercial real estate contract disputes, shareholder derivative actions, corporate dissolution petition, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud claims. Following the end of his work as a court attorney, Mr. Alisme pursued a one-year legal

fellowship at a nonprofit before working at a prominent New York City law firm as a business and real estate litigator. Mr. Alisme's practice focuses on business litigation real estate litigation and real estate transactions.

Mr. Alisme currently serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Law School Alumni Association. He is a member of the Small Law Firm Committee at the New York City Bar Association and a former member of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section at the New York State Bar Association. He is an affiliated member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the Brooklyn Bar Association.

Contact: [joam@alismelaw.com](mailto:joam@alismelaw.com)

### **Leslie R. Byrd**

Leslie R. Byrd focuses her practice on representing for-profit and not-for-profit developers of market rate and affordable condo, coop and rental projects in connection with financing (including government programs), preparation of offering plans, and unit sales. She has over 25 years of private and public sector experience in leasing and development, including more than a decade of work with condominiums and cooperatives.

In addition, she negotiates office, warehouse and ground leases for major retailers and financial institutions, purchase and sale agreements, management agreements and zoning lot development agreements.

Contact: [lbyrd@stroock.com](mailto:lbyrd@stroock.com)

### **Hillary A. Jury**

Hillary A. Jury is a transactional attorney with experience in real estate finance, development, acquisitions and dispositions, leasing and joint ventures. Her practice covers construction, conventional and mezzanine financing matters and participations and intercreditor arrangements. In real estate workouts and distressed real estate, Hillary has experience representing both lenders and borrowers on a range of matters.

Hillary is General Counsel at The Battery Group, a firm focused on direct investments in real estate, finance, healthcare and asset management. Previously, Hillary was a Partner at Wilk Auslander in New York City. She also worked as an Assistant Director of Real Estate Development for one of the largest community development organizations in the country, developing and financing affordable multifamily housing, charter schools, and healthcare facilities.

Hillary is a member of the Board of Directors of Win (formerly Women in Need), the largest provider of family shelter and supportive housing in New York City. She is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law – Newark and was an active member of the Community Law Clinic. Hillary holds an undergraduate degree from Hunter College, where she graduated summa cum laude. Hillary is a member of the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars.

Contact: [h.jury@thebatterygroup.com](mailto:h.jury@thebatterygroup.com)