

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

**BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF 2 NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Brooklyn, New York** — The Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) announces the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors following election at the organization's September 29, 2020 board meeting.

Joining the VLP's Board of Directors are Lisa J. Braun, Managing Director, PwC and Thanya Polonio-Jones, Vice President, Compliance, Goldman Sachs. Upon their election, the new members shared the following:

*"I am excited to join the Board of Directors and have the opportunity to contribute to the important work being done by the VLP to demystify and help resolve legal matters that have a lifelong impact for underserved individuals in the Brooklyn community," said Lisa.*

*"I am thrilled to join the board of this amazing organization and excited to support the management, staff, and volunteers as they advance the VLP's mission to provide all with access to justice and to meet the legal needs of our community at this critical time," said Thanya.*

Amid the fallout of the ongoing global pandemic, vulnerable Brooklynites continue to be in the greatest need of immediate assistance. The VLP has engaged new leaders like Lisa and Thanya to extend the VLP's reach throughout Brooklyn and to enhance our partnerships within the NYC legal and business communities.

*"As we celebrate the VLP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we could not be more delighted to welcome Lisa and Thanya to the VLP's Board of Directors. Their combined expertise, diverse skills, and shared passion for justice will not only help to advance the VLP's mission, but strengthen our ability to remain nimble and responsive to the growing legal needs of our community," said Daniel Angel, Board Resource and Governance Committee Co-Chair, VLP Board of Directors.*

Lisa and Thanya join a 19 – member board that oversees the VLP's finances and strategic development including: Lynn E. Judell, Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP, Chair; Lawrence F. DiGiovanna, Abrams Fensterman, Vice Chair; Gregory Messer, Treasurer; Stephen Z. Williamson, Law Office of Stephen Z. Williamson, P.L.L.C., Secretary; Daniel Angel, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP; Caroline Conway, Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners; Jeffrey B. Gewirtz, BSE Global; Adam B. Gilbert, Nixon Peabody LLP; Sean Mikala Gray, Capital One; Heidi Lee Henderson, Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, President; Alexander Kaplan, Oppenheim + Zembrak, LLP; Colin S. Kelly, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Mark Lande, Island Capital Group LLC; Michael Leahy, American International Group, Inc.; Scottye Lindsey, Deutsche Bank; Manas Mohapatra, Viacom; Adam Shepherd, Macquarie Group; Michael Watson, Ford Foundation; and Steven Zelkowitz.

At a pivotal time in the VLP's organizational history, board recruitment efforts continue as the VLP seeks diverse candidates who possess the combined interests, skills, enthusiasm, and dedication needed to fulfill the organization's mission and goals and propel the VLP to its next 30 years.

---

**About the VLP:**

The mission of the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP), an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is to ensure that the legal system is accessible to those who, because of special needs or the overwhelming burden of poverty, would not otherwise have their rights protected or their voices heard. Since 1990, the VLP has harnessed the powerful pro bono commitment of the private bar to provide critical civil legal services and equal access to the justice system to thousands of Brooklyn residents. As an essential legal lifeline, the VLP remains uniquely responsive to the evolving legal needs of Brooklyn's overlooked and underserved communities.

For more information please visit: [www.brooklynvlp.org](http://www.brooklynvlp.org).

**Press Contact:**

Melissa Starr | Senior Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives | 718-473-9209 |  
mstarr@brooklynvlp.org

###