



# Shveta Kakar

Partner

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Highly experienced in nonprofit law, Shveta advises nonprofit organizations on corporate, transactional and governance issues.

She routinely counsels clients on fiduciary duties of directors and officers, conducts board trainings and provides advice on all issues that affect tax-exempt organizations: from compliance with state and federal laws, lobbying and political activities, private benefit and inurement, fiscal sponsorships, charitable giving and endowment administration and management, to internal controls and conflicts of interests/related party transaction.

She routinely handles all aspects of a nonprofit's life cycle, from incorporating, obtaining tax-exempt status, governance and compliance, including drafting and reviewing bylaws and policies and other major events in corporate life, such as sales of property, mergers, consolidations, restructuring, asset sales and dissolution. She also acts as principal outside counsel for a number of her nonprofit clients, reviewing and drafting contracts, pledges, grant agreements and releases and coordinating their legal needs, from insurance, privacy, real estate and employment to intellectual property.

Shveta's practice is unique. A big law litigator by training, she also conducts internal investigations and represents nonprofits in investigations and litigations brought by civil enforcement and regulatory authorities. As is often the case, this naturally leads to counselling clients on their reporting obligations, internal controls, donor obligations and relations, and assisting with crisis management and media relations.

In short, Shveta helps clients in the EO community solve their legal problems. She collaborates with her clients to find solutions to help them further their mission, serving as their advocate both inside and outside the courtroom. Her clients include public charities, private foundations, private operating foundations, social welfare organizations, religious institutions, social clubs, trade organizations, educational institutions, supporting organizations and "friends of" organizations.

## Services

- Nonprofit Organizations
- Taxation & Wealth Planning

## Before Fox Rothschild

Shveta joined us from the New York headquarters of a mid-sized law firm, where she co-chaired the Nonprofit Organizations Practice. Previously, she worked and trained at two global law firms.

## Bar Admissions

- New York

## Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

## Education

- Harvard Law School (LL.M., 2002)
- London School of Economics, U.K. (LL.B., *summa cum laude*, 2000)
- St. Stephens College, Delhi University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1997)

## Board of Directors

- Playwrights Horizon
- The Third Street Music School

## Languages

- Hindi

## Honors & Awards

- Named to *Crain's New York Business*' "Notable Women in Law" list (2026)

## Publications

February 20, 2025

### **16 State Attorneys General Offer Guidance on DEI Policies Amid Federal Scrutiny**

January 8, 2025

### **'Second' Time's a Charm? The Second Circuit Reaffirms the Contours of the Special Interest Beneficiary Standing Rule**

*New York Law Journal*

## Representative Experience

### Litigation and Internal Investigations

- Successfully represented a large national charity in the Second Circuit to obtain dismissal of the action on the basis of standing.
- Authored *amicus* brief in the Second Circuit on behalf of three distinguished academics and the former executive director of Lawyers Alliance on the important issue of limiting standing to sue by foreign beneficiaries of U.S. charities.
- Nonprofit counsel in a litigation brought by a former director against the remaining directors of a prominent artist foundation.
- Successfully represented one of the founding members of a nonprofit organization in a derivative action against the other member and certain officers and directors of the corporation, overcoming a motion to dismiss by the defendants on all 10 causes of action.
- Successfully represented a substantial private grant-making foundation in a discrimination lawsuit by its former executive director and trustee in New York state court.
- Successfully represented a private grant-making foundation in a dispute with a former trustee alleging breaches of fiduciary duty in New York state court, obtaining dismissal of all claims.

- Successfully defended a social service agency from efforts to remove its executive director and take control of the organization and subsequently conducted an internal investigation.
- Successfully represented a CUNY-affiliated foundation and the presidents of multiple CUNY colleges in connection with an investigation by the New York State Inspector General and subsequent investigations by the U.S. Attorney's Office.
- Represented a large public library system, conducting an investigation in connection with the termination of its chief executive officer, as well as advising the library on its governance policies and procedures.
- Represented a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, conducting an internal investigation in connection with fraud and embezzlement by its former CEO and CFO.
- Negotiated a favorable settlement with the New York State Attorney General on behalf of a private grant-making foundation.
- Successful in reversing the removal of a receiver of nonprofit by the court and dismissing the Attorney General's action.

## Governance and Exempt Organization Counsel

- Formed and obtained tax exemption status for myriad nonprofits
- Advised multiple clients on an array of exempt organization issues, from conflicts of interest, related party transactions and/or potential self-dealing issues to endowment administration, charitable fundraising, lobbying and political activities, executive compensation, private inurement and benefit, and real property tax exemption among others.
- Represented a large Swedish organization in structuring its relationship with a foreign student exchange program.
- Counseled multiple nonprofits on the separation of key senior executives.
- Spun off a workforce development program for a well-known foundation.
- Counseled a large New York not-for-profit corporation engaged in humanitarian relief and refugee resettlement on membership restructuring, bylaw revisions and standing rules for compliance with applicable laws and best practices.
- Represented a 501(c)(3) local chapter of a known nonprofit in connection with its disaffiliation process with the national organization.
- Represented a large foundation supporting a New York City college, in a consolidation with another foundation.
- Represented a large foundation supporting a SUNY college in a merger with another foundation.
- Successfully represented one of New York's oldest membership organizations in obtaining a unique property tax-exemption from the New York City Department of Finance.
- Successfully represented a 501(c)(3) organization in connection with the U.S. State Department's inquiries into the administration of its student exchange program.
- Successfully represented multiple New York not-for-profit organizations in obtaining Attorney General approval for the sale of property, mergers and dissolutions.
- Prepared bylaws and policies for multiple not-for-profit organizations, with and without members, for compliance with state not-profit laws and provided governance advice.