

ARIAS Goes to Brooklyn!

The Brooklyn Bridge. Prospect Park. The original Dodgers. Hipsters. Jay-Z.

To this list of Brooklyn icons, we now add (drum roll) ARIAS•U.S. This fall, ARIAS will leave behind the tourist traps and gaudy lights of Midtown Manhattan to make the short trip across the East River to Brooklyn. It is a journey I make every day, having moved to New York's better borough several years ago.

As Brooklyn gets ready to welcome ARIAS for the first time, I thought a brief introduction to my part of the city would be helpful to you all. In this issue, I'll start with the basics. More information will be shared as the conference gets closer.

A caveat before I start: Brooklyn is huge. While Manhattanites usually lump Brooklyn into one amorphous, distant land accessible only by a treacherous journey worthy of a "Lord of the Rings" movie, Brooklyn is in fact a colorful collection of neighborhoods, each with its own distinct flavor and history. We Brooklynites keep one fact handy at all times: if you broke up New York City into its five boroughs, Brooklyn would rank as the third largest city in American by population, behind only Los Angeles and Chicago. There is much to experience in Brooklyn, and much to do.

Where we'll be. Our fall conference will be held at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. Full disclosure: you cannot actually see the



Brooklyn Bridge from the hotel. The hotel is located in downtown Brooklyn, not too far from the on-ramp to the Brooklyn Bridge. The hotel is also near Borough Hall, the administrative center of Brooklyn, and near the state and federal courthouses.

Downtown Brooklyn is a rapidly changing part of the borough. While Brooklyn is rarely associated with tall buildings or a striking skyline, that is starting to change. Downtown Brooklyn has seen a spike in luxury high rises, which have transformed the downtown area. They are all visible from the hotel, a few blocks away. These buildings have been attracting renters tired of the high prices and cramped spaces of Manhattan apartments. They have also given rise to bars and restaurants that cater to the new arrivals.

How to get there. The hotel is located near numerous subway lines. Less than a block from the Marriott is the Jay Street-Metrotech Station. The A/C (Blue), F (Orange), and R (Yellow) lines all take

you right there.; the A/C will take you directly to and from Penn Station if you are coming in by train (the ride is about 20 minutes). For those who want to get into Midtown, the F line travels along the 6th Avenue corridor in Manhattan.

Two more blocks away are the subway lines at Borough Hall Station. Those include the 2/3 line (Red) and the 4/5 line (Green). The 2/3 will take you right to Times Square in less than 20 minutes, while the 4/5 gives you access to the east side of Manhattan. For those who want to travel into Manhattan by car, a taxi or Uber ride will cost about \$25 and take about 30 minutes.

If you are traveling by plane, LaGuardia Airport is the closest in terms of time—20 minutes without traffic, 30 with. Getting to and from JFK can take, on average, about 40 minutes.

The surroundings. The hotel is within a few minutes of some of Brooklyn's most upscale and recognizable neighborhoods. None of these neighborhoods will strike you as remotely



Suman Chakraborty assists clients in resolving domestic and international commercial disputes, with an emphasis on reinsurance and complex insurance litigation. He has a nationwide litigation practice in state and federal courts, where he defends insurers, reinsurers, and third-party administrators in coverage and bad faith cases and in a range of tort claims. Having practiced in both London and Tokyo, he brings an awareness of the needs of transnational companies as well as an understanding of his clients' commercial and industry challenges.

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“hipster-y.” Brooklyn Heights, known as “America’s first suburb,” is just across Cadman Plaza from the hotel. Few neighborhoods in New York can match the beauty of Brooklyn Heights’ elegant brownstones, tree-lined streets, and impressive scenery.

Also within a few minutes are Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill, two family-friendly neighborhoods full of restaurants, bars, and coffee shops. Court Street (which divides the two neighborhoods) and Smith Street (which runs parallel to Court in Boerum Hill) are the main thoroughfares.

DUMBO (an acronym for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass) is also just a 10-minute walk from the hotel. Once a haven for artists, it is now the most expensive Brooklyn neighborhood in which to live.

Top things to do. In the next issue of the *Quarterly*, I’ll share recommendations for restaurants and other things to do in the area. In this issue, I’ll tell you the top three places to visit while you are here.

The first is the Brooklyn Heights Promenade. The view of the lower Manhattan skyline, framed on one side by the Brooklyn Bridge and on the other side by the Statue of Liberty, is jaw-dropping. It is a must-visit on your trip.

Just below the Promenade is Brooklyn Bridge Park. Accessible from Atlantic Avenue, DUMBO, and the Squibb Bridge in Brooklyn Heights, this waterfront park has been completely transformed in the last few years. It is a perfect place for those seeking to take a morning walk or run. The views from the park are spectacular—I particularly

recommend the view from Jane’s Carousel on the far DUMBO end of the park.

Finally, you should walk the Brooklyn Bridge. It can get awfully crowded with both pedestrians and cyclists, so early morning or evening is better than midday. Most people who walk the bridge start on the Brooklyn side and walk into Manhattan. If you don’t want to walk back into Brooklyn after that, you can take the 2/3 at Fulton Street or the 4/5 at Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall Station to make the return trip.

I am excited you will all have a chance to experience Brooklyn. And I’m particularly excited that a Fall Conference in Brooklyn means I actually might wake up in time to attend the first morning session.