

NYLPI and South Bronx Residents Force City to Take Action at Toxic School

In spring 2004, Mary McKinney walked outside of her home to discover a construction site across the street where an electronics manufacturer had operated for thirty years. The site had stood vacant since it closed ten years ago. Instead of cleaning up the abandoned buildings and contamination, the new owner used the location as, among other noxious uses, an illegal parking lot for pesticide trucks and solid waste tractor trailers.



NYLPI STAFF ATTORNEY JANETTE WIPPER, CONCERNED RESIDENTS ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT MARY MCKINNEY, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOUNDVIEW COMMUNITY IN FRONT OF THE FORMER TOXIC SITE.

Ms. KKinney was worried when she heard that the Department of Education intended to build a high school on the site. “We wanted the school, but we didn’t want the children to come into a contaminated place,” she recalled.

In 2000, she and other Soundview residents formed the Concerned Residents Organization (CRO) to advocate for their community. The group is particularly worried about the site’s health impact on the surrounding area because the site is suffused with pollutants at levels far above safe standards. Soundview residents are already disproportionately affected by illnesses such as asthma and cancer. In addition, they were concerned about the students attending the school because a wire fence is the building’s only protection from the site’s most contaminated sections.

NYLPI attorneys and organizers have been working with CRO to push the city’s School Construction Authority and the Department

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Inside:

Summer Associates	3
NYLPI Annual Golf Outing	3
Where Are They Now?	4
Felix Fishman Awards	5
Goodbye Summer Interns	5
Clearinghouse Matters	6
In-House Update	10
Associates Garden Tour	11

Panel Encourages Pro Bono Work Among Summer Associates

The NYLPI Associates Committee recently sponsored a panel discussion entitled “Making A Difference: *Pro Bono* as Part of Your Law Firm Career Path.” Member firm **Debevoise & Plimpton** hosted the event, which was attended by over 70 summer associates from over 20 different law firms.

The Committee is made up of a dedicated group of associates at various law firms, who encourage *pro bono* work among their fellow attorneys. This discussion was aimed at summer associates to plant the seeds of public service work early in their careers.

The panelists, all Committee members, were Joseph Drayton of **Kaye Scholer**, Michael Kuh of **Latham & Watkins**, Emily Slater of

Debevoise & Plimpton, and Joshua Sohn of **DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US**. The discussion was moderated by Heather Marvell of **Clifford Chance US**.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



PANELISTS (L TO R): HEATHER MARVELL, MICHAEL KUH, JOSH SOHN, EMILY SLATER, JOSEPH DRAYTON.

("SUMMER ASSOCIATES PANEL DISCUSSION ..."
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The speakers shared their experiences working on a variety of *pro bono* matters, including representing individual clients in the criminal justice system, working on an impact litigation case to improve the treatment of people with psychiatric disabilities as they are released from jail, and serving as *pro bono* general counsel to New York's bid for the 2012 Olympics. They discussed the unique benefits and challenges they had experienced while making *pro bono* a significant part of their legal practice, and offered suggestions to the audience on how to balance their public interest engagements with their billable work.

Panelist Michael Kuh stated, "When I was a summer, I remember trying to envision what my life would be like when I became a full-

fledged associate. I hope the panel helped the summers integrate *pro bono* work into their vision of their own legal careers."

If you are interested in learning more about the NYLPI Associates Committee, please contact Marnie Berk at 212-244-4664.



JOSEPH DRAYTON SPEAKS ABOUT HIS PRO BONO EXPERIENCES.



THE PANELISTS OFFER THE INSIGHTS THEY HAVE GAINED FROM THEIR WORK ON PRO BONO MATTERS.

PRO BONO MATTERS

FALL 2005

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- Michael Scherz, Senior Staff Attorney
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- Kimberly B. Sweet, Associate General Counsel
- April O. Turner, Media Coordinator, NCRRC
- Elexia P. Urea, DLC and Health Organizer
- Nancy Vazquez, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
- Janette Wipper, Staff Attorney
- Pauline H. Yoo, Staff Attorney

NYLPI

New Staff and Interns

NYLPI welcomes the following new staff members:

- Ajamu Brown, Community Organizer, Access to Health Care
- Margaret Fequiere, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director
- Genevieve Gazón, Executive Assistant to the General Counsel
- Amanda Matteis, Legal Assistant
- Jaime Rivera, Community Organizer, Environmental Justice Program
- Jessica Rosero, Intake Coordinator, Disability Law Center

- April O. Turner, Media Coordinator, NCRRC
- Nancy Vazquez, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

NYLPI also is pleased to host four interns for the fall:

- Nicole Bramstedt, CUNY Law Schools Equality Clinic
- Jennifer Ganata, CUNY Law School
- Mark Ladov, University of Pennsylvania Law School
- Allison Mihelich, Hunter College School of Social Work

Summer Associates Dip Into Public Interest

This summer, NYLPI coordinated the Visiting Summer Associates Program, placing summer associates from our member firms at local public interest legal organizations for two weeks.

The program kicked off at a welcome reception hosted by **Weil, Gotshal & Manges**, and from there, 80 summers from 13 different firms worked at 29 organizations. The groups included leaders in their respective fields, including ACORN, the Bronx Defenders, MFY Legal Services, and the Vera Institute for Justice. Summer associates had the opportunity to work on a variety of different issues, ranging from disability rights, to immigration law, to prisoner's rights.

The program fits into our ongoing work encouraging *pro bono* activities at private law firms, as well as helping summer associates gain exposure to many different kinds of legal work. Summers conducted legal research, accompanied staff

attorneys to court appearances, and provided intake services to individual clients.

Our hope is that the externship program will serve as the foundation for a lifetime commitment to *pro bono* work. To that end, we thank all our participating member firms, organizations, and summers for their contributions toward making this program such a success.

Visiting Summer Associates Program, 2005 Participating Law Firms

Bingham McCutchen LLP
Cahill, Gordon & Reindel LLP
Carter, Ledyard & Milburn LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Dechert LLP
Dewey Ballantine LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Heller Ehrman LLP
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
White & Case LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

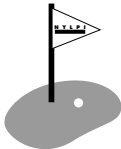
Visiting Summer Associates Program, 2005 Participating Legal Services and Public Interest Organizations

ACORN
Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York, Inc.
Bronx Defenders
Brooklyn Legal Services, Corp A.
The Center for Alternative Sentencing and
Employment Services
Center for Reproductive Rights
Citywide Task Force on Housing Court
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Harlem Legal Services
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
JASA/Legal Services for the Elderly in Queens
Legal Action Center
Legal Aid Office for the Aging, Brooklyn Office
Legal Information for Families Today
Legal Momentum
Legal Services for New York City
Legal Services for New York City, Manhattan
Mental Hygiene Legal Services,
Metropolitan Hospital
MFY Legal Services
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York Legal Assistance Group
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund
Vera Institute for Justice
Welfare Law Center
WNYC Radio

NYLPI Tees Off at Third Annual Golf Outing

Over 120 individuals joined NYLPI at its Third Annual Golf Outing, held at Bethpage State Park on July 12, 2005. The event was a great success, raising over \$30,000 in funds to support our organization's ongoing work.

After a beautiful day of golf on Bethpage's Red Course, NYLPI honored three people for their exceptional golf skills: Frank Male of **F.R. Male Associates**, who shot a 71 to win the award for Best Male Score, Marjorie Pearce of **Stillman & Friedman, P.C.**, who captured the award for Best Female Score at 86, and Lawrence Bader of **Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason & Silberberg, P.C.**, who shot a hole-in-one on the fourth hole. Frank Male's team, which included Troy David, Jim Magnuson, and Erik Magnuson, won the first place trophy.



NYLPI congratulates the winners, as well as our other participants and supporters, for an excellent day of golf.



[L TO R] TROY DAVID, FRANK MALE, JIM MAGNUSON, AND ERIK MAGNUSON COMPRISED THE WINNING TEAM. FRANK MALE ALSO WON BEST MALE SCORE, WITH A ONE OVER PAR 71.



MARJORIE PEARCE (SECOND FROM RIGHT), WON BEST FEMALE SCORE, SHOOTING 86. HER TEAMMATES WERE [L TO R] NICHOLAS DE FEIS, GREGORY O'CONNELL, AND DAVID BRODSKY.



LAWRENCE BADER (FAR RIGHT), SHOT A HOLE-IN-ONE ON HOLE 4 OF THE COURSE. HIS TEAMMATES WERE [L TO R] DAVID RICHMAN, BARRY BOHRER, AND DEIRDRE MURPHY.

("NYLPI AND SOUTH BRONX..." CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

of Education to address the community's concerns. Through a combination of community organizing, media work, and targeted pressure on City officials, NYLPI and the CRO negotiated an agreement with the City to institute a maintenance and monitoring program. The City will also conduct additional testing to ensure that contamination levels remain within standards.

While the Soundview residents are pleased with the initial agreement, they are waiting to see whether the City follows through on its end of the bargain. "We really hope the



THE FORMER LORAL ELECTRONICS SITE.

SCA is going to do what they say they're going to do," said Ms. McKinney.

NYLPI thanks Raju Goyal of **Ropes & Gray**, who provided legal research.

Where Are They Now?

NYLPI's *Pro Bono* Clearinghouse serves as a matchmaker for hundreds of nonprofits looking for legal assistance every year. Many are new organizations just getting off the ground; others are well-established groups with more complex legal needs. We are always interested in seeing what the organizations we work with have accomplished. Below are a few updates from groups that have found legal assistance through our Clearinghouse in recent years.

TOUCH Foundation

The TOUCH Foundation is a nonprofit that began operations in January 2005 to help address the global health care crisis by helping developing nations to train medical professionals who are committed to serving their local communities. TOUCH's current focus is on assisting with the construction of the first medical school in Tanzania. Attorneys from **Weil, Gotshal & Manges** assisted the organization in establishing itself, while **Torys** provided assistance with employment-related matters.



CUP for Education

CUP for Education helps poor rural coffee communities of Central and Latin America build schools. CUP also works to provide them with the teachers and tools needed to educate the future generations of coffee farmers. CUP recently donated small libraries of Spanish language books to farms in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras. CUP exists as a nonprofit thanks to **Kaye Scholer**, which, in 2003, helped the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.



StoryCorps

StoryCorps is a national project to instruct and inspire people to record each others' stories in sound. In StoryBooths, a facilitator assists visitors in recording broadcast-quality interviews with their loved ones. In recent months, the group has grown by leaps and bounds, beginning with the relocation of the original StoryBooth, formerly placed in Grand Central Station. They have also constructed a new booth at the World Trade Center site, which opened in June 2005. StoryCorps is also about to launch nationally, with two MobileBooths making stops in 24 cities in a year. Attorneys from **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett** assisted the group with a contract review.



NYLPI Produces Book to Document Work of 9/11 Union Project

The 9/11 Project was a collaboration formed to represent families of union member workers who died on 9/11. Coordinated by NYLPI, the Project depended on the tireless energy and commitment of volunteers from nine New York City law firms and two financial services firms, as well as Local 100 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 32BJ of the Services Employees

International Union, and the management of Windows on the World. The Association of the Bar of the City of New York also provided support.

To commemorate the work of the project, NYLPI has produced a book, entitled *The 9/11 Project*, which was launched at a gathering at **Cadwalader, Wickersham, and Taft** on November 1, 2005.

If you are interested in ordering a copy of *The 9/11 Project* book, please call Amanda Matteis at 212-244-4664.

Felix Fishman Awards Honor Social Justice Activists

On June 22, 2005, NYLPI held its annual Felix Fishman Awards Luncheon at the City Bar Association, honoring two members of the public interest community for their extraordinary contributions to the public good. NYLPI was pleased to honor **Mayra Rodriguez** and **Gregory Williams** for their passionate commitment to social justice.

Ms. Rodriguez is the District 75 Inclusion Coach for the New York City Department of Education, where she assists children with obtaining quality educations in the least restrictive environments possible. For many years,

she has been a tireless community activist, motivated by a strong belief that individuals with disabilities are best served by full integration in their schools and communities.

Mr. Williams is the President of The City College of New York, and was honored for his contribution to the struggle for racial equality. He is the author of *Life on the Color Line*, a memoir of his childhood, during which he grew up believing he was white until his parents separated when he was 10 and he moved in with his father's relatives, who were black. Mr. Williams is a leader in promoting *pro bono* work and diversity in the legal profession.



(L TO R) FAMILY OF FELIX FISHMAN, INCLUDING MAGGIE FISHMAN, ANDREW FISHMAN, AND AMIE FISHMAN, WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL ROTHENBERG.



NYLPI BOARD MEMBERS (L TO R) GIL KLEMMANN OF AVON PRODUCTS, JAMIE LEVITT OF MORRISON & FOERSTER, AND FORMER BOARD MEMBER TOM BEZANSON OF CHADBOURNE & PARKE.



FELIX FISHMAN HONOREES (L TO R) GREGORY WILLIAMS AND MAYRA RODRIGUEZ WITH NYLPI BOARD CHAIR SHARON BOWEN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL ROTHENBERG.



NYLPI STAFF MEMBERS (L TO R) DARYL SAMUEL, JACKIE OKIN BARNEY, AND VERONICA EADY.

NYLPI Says "Thank You" to Summer Interns

NYLPI bids a fond farewell to our exceptional 2005 summer interns, Dustin Brown of NYU Law School, Eugene Brown of the North Carolina University School of Law, Ariane Buglione of Harvard Law School, Edward Jones of the University of Iowa College of Law, Lauren Popper of Harvard Law School, Brian Wong of Yale Law School, and Carrie Zoubul of Brooklyn Law School.

For ten weeks, they worked on a diverse array of matters, ranging from legal research to aid the work of our Environmental Justice program, to accompanying clients to the Civilian Complaint Review Board, to taking intake calls on our Disability Law Center helpline.

NYLPI thanks the interns wholeheartedly for their outstanding contributions, their energy, and their commitment to public interest work. Their assistance was invaluable to our organization's pursuit of justice on behalf of the clients and communities we represent.



NYLPI SUMMER INTERNS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BRIAN WONG, EDWARD JONES, DUSTIN BROWN, EUGENE BROWN, ARIANE BUGLIONE, CARRIE ZOUBUL, LAUREN POPPER.

Recently Placed Clearinghouse Matters

From 5/21/05 to 9/16/05

9/11 Environmental Action **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom**

Robert Greebel, J.R. Lederer

9/11 Environmental Action works to ensure proper clean-up of the World Trade Center site. The organization will incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status with the help of the firm.

Amazon' Hazen Smashing Kids Center **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom**

Aileen Dowd

The firm is helping the group, which is working to fund juvenile cancer research, to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

American Camp Association New York **DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US**

Kathryn Colson

The attorney is reviewing the organization's by-laws to ensure that it is in compliance with all state and federal regulations concerning non-profit governance.

Angels of Mercy Prison Services, Inc.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

Sanu Thomas

Angels of Mercy provides a variety of services and resources to individuals leaving the prison system. The attorney is assisting the organization with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

BaseLine Wheelchair Tennis Foundation

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Jodi Lashin

The firm is assisting the organization, which will help tennis players with disabilities to compete in international tournaments, with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Bipolar Buddies

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Andrea Bisconti

Bipolar Buddies will provide mentorship services for young people with psychiatric disabilities. The attorney is assisting the group with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Break the Cycle New York

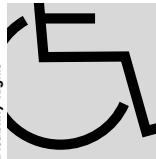
Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Barbra Broudy, Alex Lynch, Sharon Shachar

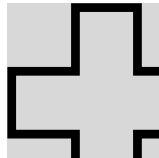
Break the Cycle New York is an organization that educates young people about domestic violence. The firm is helping the group to spin off from a national organization and establish itself as a New York-based entity.



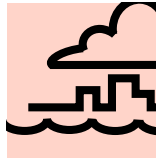
Pro Bono



Disability Rights



Access to Health Care



Environmental Justice

Brooklyn School

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Meriem Soliman

The School is establishing itself as a charter school, with assistance from the firm.

Casa de Esperanza por Mujeres y Ninos

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Corey Chivers, William Horton, Marcus Johnson

Casa plans to provide transitional housing and services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. The firm is helping the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Casa Pueblo

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton

Samak Azar, James Matheus, Francisco Cestero

Casa Pueblo will provide immigrant communities with legal services, advocacy, and education. The firm is assisting them in establishing their organization.

Children of Abraham

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Amy Hundert, Jesse Zigmund

The organization promotes interaction between Jewish and Muslim youth in 40 countries. The firm is assisting it with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Classroom to Life

Debevoise & Plimpton

Daniel Magida

The group works to enrich public education by providing a seven-week traveling program. The firm is helping it to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Congregation Habonim

Bingham McCutchen

Jessica Boar

The firm is helping the organization to draft an employment manual and develop training procedures for its employees.

Cyrus Vance Center for International Justice

Initiatives

Dechert

Ezra Rosenberg, Suzanne Turner, David Uitti

The firm is aiding Latin American human rights organizations by drafting an amicus brief related to freedom of information issues.

Cyrus Vance Center for International Justice *Initiatives*

Torys

Frances Browne, Jeffrey Gracer, John Maltbie

The firm is drafting an amicus brief on a case relating to a Chilean citizen's rights to freedom of expression.

Committee to Save Our Hospitals

Dewey Ballantine

David Blabey, Benjamin Hoch, Andrew Klein

The firm is aiding the coalition in its struggle to prevent hospital closures in Brooklyn neighborhoods that lack adequate access to health care facilities.

Common Ground Community

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

Kristopher Hansen, Brett Lawrence, Rebecca Parra

The firm is assisting the organization, which develops housing for individuals who were formerly homeless or have special needs, as it reorganizes its corporate structure.

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Chris Reynolds, Eric Hoffman

The firm is representing the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the nation's first and only dance African-American dance company, in an employment-related matter.

Disabled American Veterans

Kaye Scholer

Mark Beckman, Phillip Geraci, Cassandra Porter

The firm is representing the New York chapter of the organization in a dispute regarding the election of chapter officials.

Family Resilience Project

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Cavalié Edgardo

The firm is assisting the Project, which provides support to individuals who are survivors of trauma, with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Fred Waring Foundation

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

Kevin Curnin, Melvin Epstein, David Lowden, Abraham Paul

The Foundation provides assistance to orphaned children living in Southeast Asia. The firm is aiding it with its incorporation and application for tax-exempt status.

Fonkoze USA

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

John Wallin

Fonkoze USA, an organization supporting economic development efforts in Haiti, wishes to run a direct mail campaign in the U.S. The attorney is assisting the organization with incorporating as a charity in various states.

Friendly Neighbors Youth Association

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

T.J. Duane

The attorney is providing guidance to Friendly Neighbors, a multi-service neighborhood group, on how to best establish itself as a legal entity.

Global Emergency Fund

Holland & Knight

George Parnell

The Fund will work to coordinate relief efforts of individuals and organizations providing aid in areas afflicted by various disasters. The attorney is helping the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Grassroots Initiative

Debevoise & Plimpton

William Beekman, Catherine Doll

The Initiative seeks to empower community residents to engage in public decision-making. The firm is providing counsel on a variety of transactional and governance-related matters.

Green Phoenix Sustainable Communities

Shearman & Sterling

James Loftus

Green Phoenix will educate communities about how to build in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner. The group is seeking to establish itself as a nonprofit organization.



Hugs for Harlem

Shearman & Sterling

Susan Reiss

The organization connects young people with community leaders, who provide mentorship and guidance on various important social issues. The firm is assisting the group with trademarking their name.

International School of Brooklyn

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

Keke Kyriakopolous, Andres Mendoza, Damon Rowe, Eduardo Vidal

The firm is serving as general counsel to the School, assisting it with a variety of transactional matters as it establishes itself as an educational institution.

Jackson Heights Parents Association

Shearman & Sterling

Chinedu Amankulor

The group provides support to parents and families in the Jackson Heights neighborhood of Queens. The firm is assisting the organization with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Lathrope Voorspy Memorial Scholarship Fund

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

Robynn Brathwaite, Ellen Grossman

The firm is helping the group, which will provide funding for young people to attend training academies in preparation for political activism and leadership, to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Lower East Side Family Union

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Leonard Klingbaum

The firm is acting as general counsel to the organization, which provides a variety of social services to families in the Lower East Side area. The firm will assist it with a variety of transactional matters.

Lucis Trust

DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US

William Russell

Lucius Trust is a small nonprofit publisher seeking to resolve issues with a series of books to which they hold the copyright. The firm is representing the group in negotiations with the Copyright Office.

Mobile Creches Mission

Proskauer Rose

Frank Lopez

The firm is assisting the organization, which provides childcare services to children of day laborers in India, with forming a nonprofit entity in the U.S. for fundraising purposes.

Multiple Sclerosis Research Center of New York

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Kim Blanchard, Warren Buhle, Natalie Maksin, Bryan Mignone

The firm is assisting the Research Center with its application for tax-exempt status.

My Sister's Keeper

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Eric Czepyha, Daniel Medalie

My Sister's Keeper is a mentorship group for teen mothers. The firm is assisting the organization with its application for federal tax-exempt status.

New York Charter School for Literacy

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal

Ioannis Retsois, Robert Zimmerman

The firm is assisting the school to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

New York Council for Amputees

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Matthew Bloch, Steven Margolis, Stuart Morrissey, Jose Singer-Freeman

The Council will provide funding for individuals who need to purchase prosthetic limbs. The firm is assisting the Council with forming a nonprofit organization.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Ropes & Gray

Raju Goyal

The firm is assisting NYLPI with legal research on environmental justice issues in the Soundview area of the Bronx (see p. 1).

Noble Mansion Tenants Association

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison

Jeremy Gladstone

The attorney is helping a group of organizations in a Bronx neighborhood to seek recourse for an environmental justice issue in their community.

Ohapyday Teen Scene Films

Sullivan & Cromwell

Lucretia Messiah

Ohapyday educates young people on the process of filmmaking. The group is incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status with the assistance of the firm.

Oxonian Society

Shearman & Sterling

Susan Reiss

The attorney is assisting the Oxonian Society with trademarking its name, and other intellectual property matters.

Pearl Merchant

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Conrad Bahlke, Christine Jarmier, Nancy Lynch, Fareeha Mahkdumi, Nancy Tong

Pearl Merchant is a faith-based organization that will operate a mobile food outreach unit serving underprivileged communities in New York. The firm is assisting it with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Parents of P.S. 2

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Olga Fuentes, Patrick Robson

The attorneys are representing a group of parents who seek to prevent the merging of an elementary school with another school of significantly lower quality.

Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund

Clifford Chance US

Valeria Calafiore

The firm is serving as co-counsel to PRLDEF in a case involving an employer who enforced a discriminatory English-only policy in the workplace.

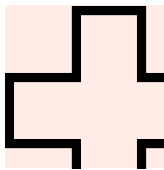


Red Hook Health Initiative

Kelley Drye & Warren

Christine Tormey

Red Hook Health Initiative provides health education services to the Red Hook community of Brooklyn. The firm is assisting it with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.



School Settlement Association

Schulte Roth & Zabel

Robert Goldstein, Karen Yan

The firm is representing the School Settlement Association in a merger with another community-based organization.

Sequoia Community Initiatives, Inc.

Linklaters

Mary Warren, Kate Douglas-Hamilton

The firm is assisting Sequoia Community Initiatives by developing an artists' contract for an arts-based program the organization operates for tenants of its housing programs.

Society of Architectural Historians

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

F. Scot Berg

The firm is aiding the organization, which seeks to advance the understanding of the history of architecture, with establishing itself as a nonprofit organization.

Soulforce NYC

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

William Horton, Jeffrey Morneau

Soulforce works to increase acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in religious communities. The firm is assisting the group with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

St. John's Bread and Life

Torys

Lauren Krasnow

The firm is assisting the organization, which works with low-income individuals and families in Bedford-Stuyvesant, with an employment-related matter.

Sullivan County Parents

Kelley Drye & Warren

Anjna Kapoor

Sullivan County recently decided to close several area schools, forcing children to travel long distances to obtain their educations. The firm is providing a parents' group with research into the legality of these actions, and advising them on their options.

Tenants of 758 Miller Avenue

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Ed Reisner

The firm represented the tenants in a dispute with their landlord, who was attempting to collect rents for a period of time during which he was not the legal owner of the building.

Time's Up

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Justin Despirito, William Ferullo

The firm is representing the organization, which uses educational outreach and direct action to promote a more sustainable, less toxic city, in a dispute with the City of New York.

Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund

Bingham McCutchen

Jessica Boar, Douglas Schwarz

The firm is co-counseling with Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund on a matter involving a local bar that allegedly discriminates against transgender individuals by preventing them from entering the establishment.

United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Brian Cheng, Sonia Inamdar, Kevin Nah, Jeremy Waiser

The firm is assisting the entity, which works to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the world, with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status in the United States.

Web Lab (Digital Innovations Group)

Torys

Evan Sils

The attorney is reviewing a service contract that the client is entering into with a large corporation.

West Side Day Nursery

Bingham McCutchen

Margaret Campbell

The firm is assisting the organization with revising its corporate documents to reflect its changed mission and purposes.

Special Education Matters

Matter of Brittney L.

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Berit Winge

Brittney is a girl with dyslexia, whom the attorney is assisting in her efforts to enroll in a school that will meet her special educational requirements.

Matter of Jared G.

Heller Ehrman

Helene Cartaina

The attorney is representing Jared, an eleven-year old boy with learning disabilities, in an administrative hearing to obtain reimbursements for his education.

Matter of Jhonathan C.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Keith Sambur

The attorney is advocating for Jhonathan with the Board of Education to fund his education in an appropriate setting.

Matter of Kevin C.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Margarita Platkov

Kevin C. is a boy who is seeking to attend a school that specializes in working with children with severe reading disabilities. The attorney is advocating for Kevin's placement into an appropriate educational setting.

Matter of Steven F.

Linklaters

James Warmot

The attorney is representing Steven as he advocates with the Board of Education to pay for his schooling in an institution that will properly accommodate his learning disabilities.

Matter of Tonaya H.

Debevoise & Plimpton

Ilana Blass

Tonaya seeks compensation for the Board of Education's failure to provide her with adequate educational services. The attorney is representing her in administrative hearings.

Disability Rights Matters

Matter of J.B.

Heller Ehrman

Lauren McMillen

The firm is representing the individual in an appeal before the New York City Human Rights Commission.

Matter of J.H.

Heller Ehrman

Sebastian Jerez, Daniel Sheridan

The attorneys are representing the client in a dispute with the Social Security Administration.

Matter of R.S.

Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner

Jeffrey Weinberger

The client is a person who is deaf, and currently residing in an assisted living facility. The facility has not provided her with sign language interpreters. The attorney is representing the client in negotiations with the facility to obtain appropriate interpretation services.

Housing Access Projects

Matter of Caroline L.

Clifford Chance US

Joel Cohen, Todd Jussin, Michelle Williams

The firm is representing a woman with a disability in a dispute with the co-op board of her apartment building.

Matter of William C.

Clifford Chance US

Kevin Curnin, Dennis Villasana

The attorneys are assisting William in obtaining reasonable accommodations from a housing organization where he wishes to reside.

About NYLPI

OUR MISSION

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest is a nonprofit, civil rights law firm that strives for social justice. In partnership with member law firms, corporate law departments, and other organizations, NYLPI helps underrepresented people develop legal strategies to serve their vision for themselves and their communities.

OUR WORK

Created in 1976 to address unmet legal needs, NYLPI combines a *pro bono* clearinghouse with an in-house practice that blends innovative lawyering, community organizing, and advocacy.

The *Pro Bono* Clearinghouse provides community groups and nonprofit organizations with free legal assistance by drawing on hundreds of volunteer lawyers from New York's most prestigious law firms and corporate law departments.

The Disability Law Center protects and promotes the civil rights of people with disabilities.

The Environmental Justice and Community Development Project provides organizing and legal assistance to low-income neighborhoods and communities of color that bear an unfair burden of environmental threats.

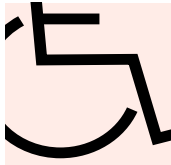
The Access to Health Care Program works to ensure access to quality health care for people in medically underserved communities or facing barriers due to limited English proficiency, racial and ethnic discrimination, and disability.

In-House Update

The Disability Law Center

De-Institutionalization of People with Developmental Disabilities: NYLPI staff have been working to give individuals with developmental disabilities who are residing in nursing homes more options in terms of services and community integration. At one home, approximately five people have already moved to community placements, and another six will be moved into a home sponsored by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). OMRDD expects to make another dozen community-based spots available in the next two months. As a result of NYLPI's advocacy, OMRDD is actively reaching out to families to inform them of available services.

NYLPI is advocating on behalf of residents at Coler/Goldwater, a Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) facility. HHC assured NYLPI that all residents with developmental disabilities will receive appropriate and legally-mandated evaluations to determine whether individuals can live in less restrictive settings. Coler will also train its staff on the various community options available to individuals with developmental disabilities, and will educate residents and their family members about community-based residential options.



NYLPI wishes to ensure that people who are placed in nursing homes, as well as their families, are made aware of the community-based alternatives and the services offered by OMRDD. Toward this end, the state Department of Health recently issued a letter reminding nursing home administrators that all individuals must be assessed for community placements before admission, and that failure to do so will result in the loss of Medicaid payments for that individual.

Finally, OMRDD has agreed to a number of critical policy changes to their appeals process for eligibility applications. OMRDD has agreed to train providers and other agencies regarding the new process, and NYLPI has helped shape the message of those trainings. NYLPI has undertaken individual advocacy in this area, as well,

securing services for two individuals who had been denied for years.

Special Education Reforms: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which governs the provision of educational services to children with disabilities, was reauthorized and amended in December 2004. Over the summer, NYLPI staff spent considerable time reviewing the new law, preparing formal comments on proposed regulations, and participating in public hearings.

Special Education Clinic with New York Law School: Kim Sweet and Jaclyn Okin Barney of NYLPI are collaborating with New York Law School on an intensive clinical course in special education advocacy. After a series of classes taught by NYLPI staff on special education law and practice, the students will be handling real cases chosen from NYLPI's intake.

COPP and Externship Opportunities: The NY CPR Community Oversight of Policing Project (COPP) provides free counseling and advocacy to victims of police misconduct before the Civilian Complaint Review Board. The project is run by volunteer law students from various schools, including Columbia Law School. The externships give students the opportunity to learn hands-on client advocacy skills. During the pilot run of the project, which ran from Spring 2004 to Summer 2005, more than 150 people contacted the program for assistance. This fall, students are working on capacity building for the project, instituting a tracking database, planning community outreach, and creating a Community Advisory Board comprised of people who have experienced police misconduct.

Access to Public Locations in New York City: NYLPI provided technical assistance on a significant piece of legislation that went before the City Council. The legislation achieved some important steps toward adopting better standards of accessibility to boats and piers. The law will kick in by the end of 2008.

NYLPI also worked with a coalition of disability advocates on a successful effort to improve the accessibility of the Staten Island Ferry. The Ferry has agreed to allow people with wheelchairs to board by a route that will avoid the dangerously steep gangways and ramps inside some of the boats.

Environmental Justice

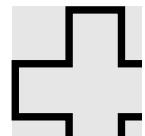
Soundview: To learn more about NYLPI's efforts on behalf of the residents of the Soundview neighborhood of the South Bronx,

please view our feature story on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Access to Health Care

Committee to Save Our Hospital: In June, St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center submitted a draft closure plan for St. Mary's Hospital to the state Department of Health (DOH). On July 5, SVCMC as a whole filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring. Negotiations with DOH were fruitless for CSOH, and on July 22, after hearing that the closure plan was about to be approved, the Committee filed litigation to force DOH to follow the public health law and consider the community's input on the closure. Despite intensive advocacy from NYLPI attorneys and co-counsel at **Dewey Ballantine**, DOH recently approved the hospital's closure. We are currently working to ensure that community members have the opportunity to participate in negotiations about the future of health care in their neighborhood.

Language Access in New York's Hospitals: Together with our partners at the New York Immigration Coalition, NYLPI has been involved in drafting new state regulations to govern interpretation services at hospitals throughout the state. NYLPI has participated in discussions with the state Department of Health as well as representatives from the Greater New York Hospital Association. DOH is close to finalizing the new regulations. NYLPI also continues to work on behalf of community groups to improve language access policies at particular hospitals, including Brooklyn Hospital, New York Presbyterian, Medisys Network (which includes Jamaica, Brookdale, and Flushing Hospitals), and Bronx-Lebanon Hospital.



National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights

On June 24, NYLPI and the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights convened a meeting in Louisiana of regional activists and leaders on a wide range of social justice issues. The group discussed how the rollback of civil rights in the courts is affecting their efforts and what can be done to address the bench's increasing extremism. This is the first in a series of meetings to convene a cross section of activists on a regional level and hear from local leaders which issues and themes are important to their struggles.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO  RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

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Associates Committee Hosts Summer Garden Tour

The NYLPI Associates Committee, in cooperation with the community group Green Guerillas, hosted a tour of the East Village's beautiful community gardens for a group of 15 associates from various member firms. The event introduced the group to the rich history of garden projects in the neighbor-

hood, and also highlighted some unique *pro bono* opportunities for associates.

Jason Padgett, an associate at **Sullivan & Cromwell**, spoke about a *pro bono* matter that he had taken on through the Clearinghouse, to help a local group in their attempt to preserve their community garden. Jason is representing the gardeners in negotiations with a private developer and the City of New York. Rebecca Ferguson, from Green Guerillas, explained the role of community gardens in the fabric of neighbor-

hood life. She also recounted how in 1999, many of these gardens were in danger of being sold in open auction by the City. NYLPI was instrumental in connecting the organization with *pro bono* legal assistance to keep the gardens open.

NYLPI thanks Green Guerillas, Jason Padgett, and all the associates who attended and made this event a success.

greenguerillas

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