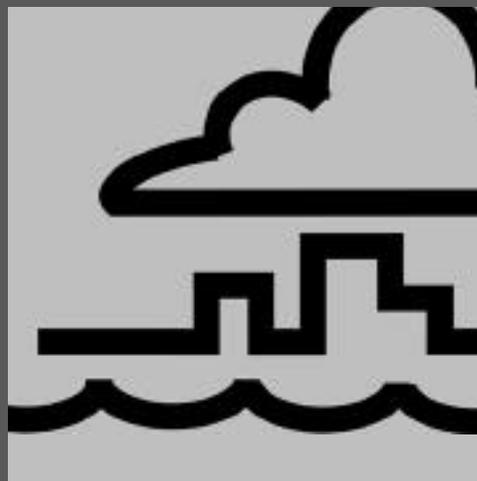
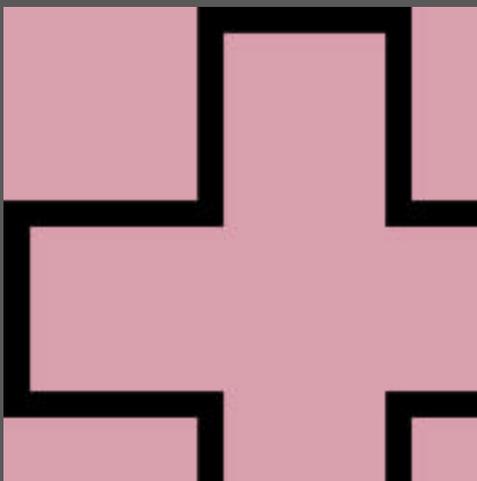
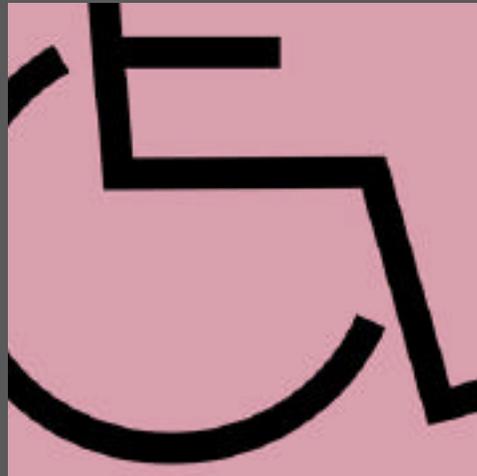


New York Lawyers For The Public Interest



Year 2000 Annual Report

Contents

About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest	3
Message from the Chair and the Executive Director	4
The Pro Bono Clearinghouse	5
The Disability Law Center	21
The Access to Health Care Program	25
The Environmental Justice and Community Development Project	27
Partnership Across Borders	30
Law & Society Award	30
Financial Statement	31
NYLPI Board of Directors and Staff	32
NYLPI Members and Supporters	33



New York Lawyers For The Public Interest

151 West 30th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Tel 212-244-4664 Fax 212-244-4570 TDD 212-244-3692

Email info@nylpi.org Website www.nylpi.org

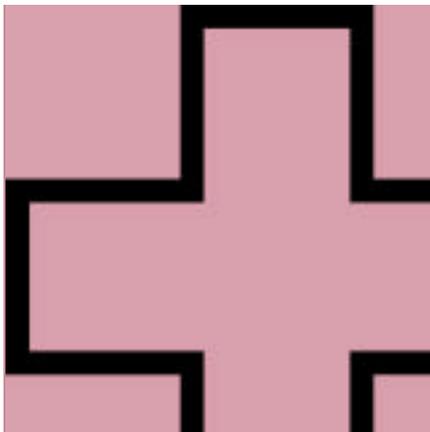
About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest



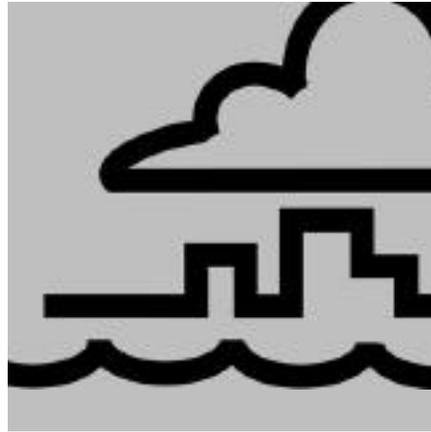
Pro Bono Clearinghouse



Disability Law



Access to Health Care



Environmental Justice

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) was created in 1976 to address the unmet legal needs of disadvantaged New Yorkers. NYLPI finds unique ways to tackle the problems facing low-income and underrepresented people throughout New York City using two related approaches: a *pro bono* clearinghouse and an in-house legal program focusing on disability law, access to health care, and environmental justice.

The Pro Bono Clearinghouse matches community-based and not-for-profit organizations working on behalf of the underserved with attorneys who provide free legal assistance.

The Disability Law Center works to enable people with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of American life.

The Access to Health Care Program works to protect access to quality health care for New York's most vulnerable populations.

The Environmental Justice and Community Development Project provides legal assistance and community organizing resources to environmentally distressed neighborhoods.

Message from the Chair and the Executive Director

This Annual Report comes to you at a time of both continuity and change at NYLPI.

July of 2000, Jim Rayhill assumed the responsibilities of Board Chair. Jim's involvement with NYLPI goes back to our founding. He participated in discussions at the City Bar Association that led to our establishment, joined the Board during our second year of operation, and was instrumental in the development of our in-house legal representation program.



James W. Rayhill

Effective January 1, 2001, Joan Vermeulen stepped down as Executive Director after 15 years and turned leadership of the organization over to Michael Rothenberg. Michael first came to NYLPI as a law student 12 years ago, when he worked with the Clearinghouse and our mental health and disability practice for a year and a half. Four years ago he returned to become Associate Director.



Joan Vermeulen

From our various vantage points, we see an impressive list of achievements. NYLPI continues to meet the expectations of its founders, combining an innovative and always evolving private bar involvement program with an outstanding litigation and advocacy program working on behalf of low-income New Yorkers in the areas of disability rights, access to health care, and environmental justice. Over the past 15 years our staff has grown from six to 24 and our member firms and corporate law departments from 36 to 81. We have expanded our practice to include environmental justice and community economic development, an area underserved in New York City and one that successfully combines the work of our staff with that of our member firms. Our Disability Law Center is one of the leading advocates, both nationally and in New York State, working through litigation, public policy, and public education to enable people with disabilities to participate in the mainstream of American life and to protect and promote their civil rights and civil liberties.

The original goal of NYLPI's founders, to institutionalize *pro bono* work as a firm responsibility rather than an individual responsibility, is now widely accepted. NYLPI's Clearinghouse has become a crucial part of the delivery system for providing access to the legal system for the most vulnerable New Yorkers. There has been a significant expansion in opportunities available for non-litigators and a range of new and innovative approaches to *pro bono* assistance, such as our Disability Rights Task Force and Partnership Projects.

Our work would not be possible without the enormous support of the private bar and the public interest community. Our achievements are equally yours.

This annual report is dedicated to Joan for her 15 years of tireless service to NYLPI. We will miss her vision and wisdom.



Michael A. Rothenberg



The Pro Bono Clearinghouse

Nearly 25 years ago, NYLPI's founders created a mechanism for referring complex public interest legal projects to volunteer lawyers from the City's leading law firms. Over the years, their vision has resulted in a significant expansion of *pro bono* work and created new opportunities for lawyers whatever their areas of specialization.

Today, the *Pro Bono* Clearinghouse, which screens and refers requests for legal assistance to 84 member law firms and corporate legal departments, continues to be the cornerstone of our work. Last year alone, NYLPI placed over 150 projects with volunteer lawyers, who use their expertise to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged New Yorkers.

The Clearinghouse has worked hard this past year to enhance its programs. A task force comprised of board, staff, and leaders of the legal community analyzed how NYLPI could meet the growing needs of disadvantaged New Yorkers. As a result, NYLPI created Partnership Projects, lasting collaborations that enable member firms to have a significant impact on an issue or develop a strong and lasting partnership with a community-based organization. In addition, NYLPI has upgraded its communication systems by going on-line with a new interactive web page, redesigning *Pro Bono Matters*, our quarterly newsletter, and creating a new membership brochure.

Protecting the Disadvantaged through Litigation

Providing both affirmative and defensive litigation assistance to protect and expand the rights of disadvantaged New Yorkers is a primary objective of NYLPI's work. Member firms have undertaken groundbreaking litigation in areas such as housing; civil rights and civil liberties; disability rights; and employment and environmental discrimination.

Helping Communities through Transactional Assistance

Member firms provide extensive transactional assistance to community-based organizations. Attorneys provide crucial legal services such as corporate, tax, and real estate work; sophisticated financing arrangements; and community and economic development initiatives to provide housing and social services for the disadvantaged.

Partnership Projects

Partnership Projects represent a commitment of significant resources aimed at strengthening communities or addressing systemic problems. These projects, whether involving litigation or transactional work, enable member firms to have a significant impact on an issue or develop a strong and lasting partnership with a community-based organization or legal services provider and the people it serves.

Protecting the Disadvantaged through Litigation

New Projects

The African Peoples Council (APC)

Carter, Ledyard & Milburn

APC is a not-for-profit organization that provides vital assistance to African immigrants, refugees, and political asylum seekers. The firm successfully defended the organization in an eviction proceeding.

Amicus Brief to the 2nd Circuit in

Freydel v. New York Hospital

Cravath, Swaine & Moore

The firm is co-counseling with NYLPI on an amicus brief to the 2nd Circuit in a case concerning hospitals' obligations to provide sign language interpreters for patients who are deaf.

Amicus Brief to the 2nd Circuit in Lewis v. Grinker

Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison

The firm prepared an amicus brief in a case challenging the federal government's position that Medicaid does not cover prenatal care for undocumented pregnant women.

Amicus Brief to the Appellate Division, 1st Department in
Brad H. v. City of New York

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

The firm prepared an amicus brief in support of requiring New York City and its jail healthcare contractors to provide adequate discharge planning for inmates with mental illness. (See p. 23 for more information.)

Association of Community Organizations for
Reform Now (ACORN)

Davis Polk & Wardwell

ACORN is a community-based organization working with individuals and families in predominantly low-income communities. In connection with ACORN's tenant advocacy work, a landlord sued ACORN for \$16 million alleging libel, slander, trespass, and vandalism in what appears to be a strategic lawsuit against public participation. The firm is representing ACORN. (See p. 7 for more information.)

Broadway American

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy

The Broadway American is being converted from an SRO into a tourist hotel. The Westside SRO Project believes that the landlord is implementing demolition practices designed to

drive out the tenants. In response to the conditions in the building, some tenants filed an action in State Supreme Court. The firm is co-counseling with the SRO Project.

The Center

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

The Center is a not-for-profit community health center in central Brooklyn. The firm researched whether Medicaid reimbursement rates include capital debt service costs under managed care.

Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)

Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe

The firm is serving as co-counsel with CCR in a suit by public school teachers of color challenging two discriminatory tests used by the Board of Education and the NYS Education Department for teacher certification.

Center for Independence of the Disabled in

New York (CIDNY)

Davis Polk & Wardwell

CIDNY is a not-for-profit organization working to enable people with disabilities to live independently. The firm advised the organization on issues relating to client confidentiality.

The Green Haven Correctional Facility Access Issues

White & Case

Exemplary prisoners with disabilities at the Green Haven Correctional Facility are unable to receive "honor block" privileges because those facilities are not accessible. The firm is litigating this matter on behalf of several prisoners.

Matter of Brendan B.

Esanu Katsky Korins & Singer

Brendan B. is a 3-year-old boy diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). Brendan's mother wants the school district to provide Brendan with a one-to-one therapy called Applied Behavioral Analysis, which has been effective for children with PDD. The district refused his mother's request. The firm is representing Brendan at an impartial hearing.

Matter of Daniel K.

Kelley Drye & Warren

The firm represented a 5-year-old boy with autism and obtained the Board of Education's agreement to provide him with an intensive, one-on-one therapy called Applied Behavioral Analysis.

Matter of Daryl P.

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Daryl P. is a seven-year-old boy who has been diagnosed with a language impairment and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. He was transferred from his neighborhood school which created problems that have negatively affected his education. The firm represented Daryl at an impartial hearing against the Board of Education, demanding that he be transferred back and provided with occupational therapy on site.

Matter of Frances R.

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy

The firm is representing Frances R. at a special education impartial hearing to address problems with bus service and to seek compensatory education for time excluded from school.

Partnership Project

Protecting the Right to Organize

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)

Davis Polk & Wardwell

ACORN is the largest low- and moderate-income membership organization in the country, with over 125,000 active families. ACORN's first priority is building organization in low-income communities.

In 1996, ACORN's Bronx office organized a very successful tenant union in one of the largest buildings owned by a major Bronx landlord.

ACORN and the tenant union have been able to get the owner to make some repairs, and they are also pressuring the landlord to make institutional changes in how it treats tenants. ACORN has received significant press attention throughout the campaign, including at least two articles in *The New York Times*.

In June, 2000, the landlord sued the New York and Bronx offices of ACORN for \$16 million for libel, slander, extortion, trespass, and vandalism. Davis Polk & Wardwell is defending ACORN in this action and counterclaiming that the landlord is engaged in a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP). SLAPP suits are often filed with no realistic

expectation of prevailing but merely in hopes of scaring, silencing, or hobbling persistent critics by overwhelming them with paperwork and tremendous legal expenses. Many non-profits and grassroots activists are concerned about the ACORN lawsuit and its implications for free speech and public involvement.

"It's been great to work on behalf of low-income tenants in a case that involves such novel issues at the intersection of the First Amendment and tenant rights. We've had a packed courtroom for every hearing, which I think underscores how important this litigation is to the tenants involved."

—Harry Chernoff, Esq.
Davis Polk & Wardwell
attorney



Members of ACORN stand outside of the courthouse with *pro bono* attorneys Harry Chernoff and Josh Levine of Davis Polk & Wardwell.

Byron H. Folles

Matter of J.A.

Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton

The firm won an administrative hearing challenging a Board of Education policy that effectively deprived poor children with disabilities of the same educational opportunities afforded to their wealthier peers. The decision in the case, as well as the firm's brief, are being used by education advocates throughout the City.

Matter of Jennifer S.

Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe

Jennifer S., a young woman with a history of mental illness, was dismissed from a private school. The firm is negotiating with the school to have her reinstated.

Matter of R.K.

Morgan & Finnegan

Immigrant day laborers have been congregating in front of R.K.'s deli and in the adjacent parking lot to be picked up by potential employers. When R.K. refused to remove the day laborers, Brewster officials began to harass him. The firm and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund are investigating bringing a damage action against the town.

The New York City Community Sailing Association, Inc.

Proskauer Rose

The Association provides affordable opportunities for sailing in New York City. The firm is assisting the Association to obtain a permit from the Hudson River Park Trust to operate sailing programs to benefit low-income New Yorkers.

New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)

Davis Polk & Wardwell

NYPIRG and a coalition of civic organizations are working with the firm to litigate a potential dispute over the implementation of the City's new Campaign Finance Reform Program.

Pathways to Housing

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Pathways to Housing is a not-for-profit organization that provides housing and intensive case management services for people who are homeless and have a psychiatric disability. The firm advised the organization on lease issues.

El Puente - New Visions High School

Rosenman & Colin

El Puente is a Brooklyn community and youth leadership movement for peace and justice. The firm is representing El Puente in its claim against the owner of a property that El Puente is under contract to buy. It is also defending the organization's interest in two sites in Brooklyn for which there are zoning variance applications. (See p. 11 for more information.)

Matter of D.B.

Morgan & Finnegan

A woman (D.B.) who has been driving a NYC bus since 1997 was demoted to a porter position when she disclosed to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) that she was taking medication for multiple sclerosis (MS). Initial evidence suggests that the MTA is applying a *per se* rule that prohibits bus driving by all persons with MS, regardless of whether they experience symptoms. The firm is representing D.B.

Partnership Project

Protecting Fairness for Teachers

Center for Constitutional Rights

Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe

The firm is co-counseling with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) on a civil rights case brought on behalf of public school teachers of color challenging two discriminatory tests used by the City Board of Education (the Board) and the New York State Education Department (the Department). The tests are used to determine qualifications for licensure and employment in the New York City Public School System. Attainment of qualifying scores either on the National Teacher Examination Core Battery (NTE) or on the Liberal Arts & Sciences Test of the New York State Teacher Certification Examination (LAST), the successor to the NTE, is required by the Board and the Department as a condition of City licensure and State certification.

"Thanks to NYLPI, I've had the opportunity to work on a meaningful civil rights case that I would never have had the chance to work on in my regular practice. It's been a tremendous experience, one that I would emphatically recommend to anyone considering taking on a *pro bono* case."

—Josh Sohnberg, Esq.
Piper Marbury attorney

According to statewide studies, White test-takers have passed the NTE and LAST at a much higher rate than African-American and Latino test-takers during the same period. Moreover, the test is negatively correlated with educational level. Thus, one's chance of passing the examination decreases as one ascends the education ladder.

As a result of the disparity in NTE and LAST passing rates, African-American and Latino public school teachers have lost their licenses, been demoted to per diem substitute status, suffered significant reductions in compensation, and lost tenure rights, pension rights, and seniority rights. Notwithstanding these teachers' failure to attain qualifying scores, the State and the Board have retained them in the same teaching positions with the same course load, albeit with 25-40% reductions in salary. The firm is seeking injunctive relief against the Board.



Piper, Marbury, Rudnick & Wolfe represents teachers of color in their challenge to the Board of Education's use of discriminatory tests.

Sakhi for Southeast Asian Women

Cravath, Swaine & Moore

Sakhi is a not-for-profit organization that is working to end violence against Southeast Asian women. The firm is defending the organization in a defamation suit.

Sovereign Immunity Project

Covington & Burling

The firm worked with NYLPI to conduct an analysis of sovereign immunity in the context of the Americans with Disability Act. (Although not a member, the firm allowed a lateral associate to continue to work on this project).

Matter of Deborah G.

Rosenman & Colin

Deborah G, a woman with disabilities, received an accessible van from VESID that broke down frequently. VESID refused to pay for repairs. The firm intervened and the agency reversed its decision.

Wildcat Service Corporation

Esanu Katsky Korins & Singer

Wildcat was established in 1972 as a private not-for-profit training and employment organization that helps chronically unemployed individuals find jobs. The firm is defending Wildcat against an allegation of employment discrimination.

Willowbrook Class Member: Trust and Guardianship

Davis Polk & Wardwell

The firm is representing a Willowbrook class member with a developmental disability in a trust and guardianship matter.

Youth At Risk – Our Future Leaders, Inc. (Future Leaders)

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Future Leaders is a community-based organization that serves residents of Central and East Brooklyn. The firm represented Future Leaders in a housing court proceeding.

Continuing Projects

228 West 17th Street Tenant Association

Debevoise & Plimpton

This building was taken by New York City in 1991, but the estate of the former owner has attempted to regain title. The firm is advising the Tenant Association and working on a plan that will allow the tenants to purchase the building.

Advice to Low-Income Co-ops

Rosenman & Colin

The Housing Energy Alliance for Tenants Cooperatives (HEAT) was established by the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board to provide oil to low-income co-ops. When HEAT went into bankruptcy, owing thousands of dollars to a private oil provider, the oil company sued the co-ops for money they had already paid HEAT. The firm is defending the co-ops.

Association of Community Organizations for

Reform Now (ACORN)

Davis Polk & Wardwell

ACORN is a community-based organization. The firm is counseling ACORN on a city wide campaign to stop the racial steering of children into gifted and talented programs.

Bruneau v. South Kortright Central School District

Schulte Roth & Zabel

A 14-year-old girl and her female classmates who were verbally and physically harassed by four of their male classmates reported the incident to their teacher and other school officials. When the school officials failed to act, one of the girls brought a federal civil rights action. The case was lost at the trial level, and an appeal is pending.

Butler v. Target Windows

Proskauer Rose

The firm is representing the estate of a woman who was the victim of home-equity fraud. The family had been threatened with foreclosure. The firm is currently negotiating with the bank.

Cambria Heights Sports Association (CHSA)

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

CHSA has provided recreational and cultural activities to the children of southeastern Queens for over 35 years. The firm is representing CHSA in a negligence suit.

Community Food Resource Center, Inc. (CFRC)

Solomon, Zauderer, Ellenhorn, Frischer & Sharp

CFRC promotes the use and improvement of vital government food assistance programs. The firm brought a class action on behalf of CFRC in federal court against the Board of Education regarding violations of federal regulations prohibiting the sale of food of minimal nutritional value in school lunchrooms.

Deluca v. Hammons

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae

The firm, with co-counsel from Legal Aid and Legal Services for the Elderly, filed a class action suit challenging the expanded use by the Medicaid program of Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS), computer devices that enable people to summon help if they have an accident. The matter was settled, with the City agreeing to ensure that PERS are given only to people capable of using them.

Fountain House

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy

Fountain House, an advocacy agency for persons with mental disabilities, has been renting three apartments in a privately owned building on behalf of its clients. After repeated attempts to evict Fountain House were defeated by the firm, the landlord finally renewed the leases pursuant to the rent-stabilization code. The firm is now monitoring the situation.

Fraudulent Conveyance Suit Against Employer by

Immigrant Workers

Schulte Roth & Zabel

The firm is co-counsel with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of 40 garment workers who are owed back wages by their employers. In the fall of 1994, the workers obtained a default judgment against the factory and its two owners. One owner fled and the other sold his property to avoid judgment. The firm continues to pursue a fraudulent conveyance suit.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Schulte Roth & Zabel

A neighborhood group seeks to protect this Bronx park from the City's proposed construction of a water filtration plant.

The firm is representing the group in efforts to protect parklands and force an environmental impact review. After losing in District Court, the firm has appealed to the Second Circuit.

Friends of Wickers Creek Archaeological Site (FOWCAS)

Morrison & Foerster

FOWCAS is dedicated to preserving a prehistoric Indian ceremonial ground located in the Hudson Valley. A private developer owns the site and intends to develop the land. The firm is assisting FOWCAS in challenging the proposed development.

Generation X-cel Youth Center

Kaye Scholer

The Center provides programs for young people on the Lower East Side. The firm is representing the Center in a dispute with the NYC Housing Authority, which evicted the Center after orally committing to provide them community space. Lease negotiations failed and the firm has filed suit.

Gloria Wise Boys and Girls Club

Morgan & Finnegan

The Club has supported the development of self-esteem and critical thinking skills for Bronx children for 20 years. The firm is representing the Club in an employment discrimination matter.

Hernandez v. Hammons

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

This class action suit challenges the extensive delays in the issuance of emergency moving fees to individuals who are HIV-positive and homeless. The First Department issued a preliminary injunction ordering the City to issue moving fees within a limited time frame. The state Supreme Court has granted plaintiffs declaratory judgment making the relief permanent. The issue of attorneys' fees is still pending.

Jones v. Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center

Winston & Strawn

The firm filed a claim against the State of New York on behalf of a patient at a state psychiatric hospital who was injured as the result of an attack by another patient. The case is currently in discovery.

Litigation to Address Vocational School Abuses

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

The firm has undertaken litigation to remedy recurring abuses perpetrated by vocational schools in New York City. A class action suit was filed in the Eastern District of New York against one of the worst schools. The parties are in settlement negotiations.

Lodging House Class Action

Chadbourne & Parke

Although recent litigation established that lodging houses (SRO hotels) are subject to rent stabilization, there are at least two such establishments that openly flout the law. The firm initiated a class action complaint on behalf of the tenants in one of these establishments.

Mary McDowell Center for Learning

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

The Center is a Quaker elementary school for children with learning disabilities. In 1998, the firm helped the school purchase a building. A real estate agency is suing the previous owners and the Center for a commission they claim they are owed resulting from the sale. The firm is representing the Center.

Open Housing Center (OHC)

Dechert

The OHC, a fair housing organization, found that one particular realty company was discriminating against prospective African-American renters in Astoria Queens. The firm is acting as co-counsel in a suit against the company.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

The firm is representing OHC in its suit against a Brooklyn realtor. Oral arguments are pending on a motion for summary judgment.

White & Case

The firm will co-counsel with OHC on a case of alleged housing discrimination on the basis of marital status.

Public Access to Brooklyn Waterfront

Sullivan & Cromwell

The Port Authority authorized the sale of property in Red Hook, Brooklyn to a local developer who agreed to transform the pier into an industrial/commercial center with a landscaped pedestrian esplanade. The developer subsequently reneged on his commitments. The firm represented a coalition of Red Hook residents seeking to force compliance with the terms of the sale. The firm continues to monitor the implementation of a recently reached settlement.

Regional Economic Community Action Plan

(RECAP) v. City of Middletown

Orans, Elsen & Lupert

RECAP is an agency that advocates for people with disabilities. The City of Middletown, NY, denied RECAP a special use permit to establish housing for homeless alcoholic women and their children. The firm is representing RECAP in a fair housing suit against the City. The firm is appealing a decision to grant the defendant's motion for summary judgment.

Selis Manor Tenants Association

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

Selis Manor is a federally funded building for people with visual impairments. The Associated Blind (TAB) provides essential on-site services and programs for residents. Recently TAB terminated these services at Selis Manor. The firm is representing the tenants in litigation that seeks to enforce a lease under which TAB was to provide the services for 20 more years. The parties are currently negotiating a settlement.

Staten Island Alliance for the Mentally Ill (SIAMI)

Debevoise & Plimpton

SIAMI and one of its members have filed a complaint with the State Division of Human Rights concerning the Metropolitan Transit Authority's policy of granting half-fare cards to individuals with certain disabilities but not to individuals with mental illness. The firm has filed several briefs with the Human Rights Division. A decision is now pending.

Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) Appeal

Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells

The firm is helping a woman with disabilities in a reimbursement dispute with VESID. Despite losing at the fair hearing, VESID has continued to refuse reimbursement. The firm is now representing the client in a federal court action.

Partnership Project

Assisting An Innovative Public High School

El Puente – New Vision High School

Rosenman & Colin

El Puente, a Brooklyn community and youth leadership movement for peace and justice was founded in 1982. El Puente currently works with 10,000 children and adults in six northeast Brooklyn neighborhoods.

El Puente operates two community-based centers for holistic community youth development. In 1993, the El Puente community center partnered with the Board of Education to create one of 16 New Vision schools—public high schools built from the ground up by individual communities. Today, the El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice (the Academy), is the only high school for human rights in the country. For the past year, NYLPI member firm Rosenman & Colin has been working with El Puente to move the Academy from its present temporary quarters to a permanent facility in Williamsburg.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to NYLPI for once again supporting our movement. The legal assistance you have provided El Puente, our children, and families has kept alive our dream of a community-owned public school. A law firm of the caliber of Rosenman & Colin would normally be out of the reach of our organization."

—Luis Acosta
co-founder and teacher

El Puente had signed a contract to purchase the building from South Fourth Street Properties. South Fourth Street Properties is not the owner of the building but had entered into a contract with the owner to buy the building. The owner has refused to close on the sale of the building and South Fourth has sued for specific performance and damages. El Puente, represented by Rosenman, intervened in that action seeking to compel the sale.

Rosenman is also helping El Puente to acquire a vacant parcel that is adjacent to the intended site of the new school. In addition, the firm is currently reviewing El Puente's corporate structure, helping El Puente to create a new separate corporate entity that will own and operate the new school, and has agreed to assist El Puente in obtaining bond financing to fund the construction.



Rosenman & Colin is helping the El Puente Academy to relocate.

Walls v. Giuliani

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy

This firm is acting as co-counsel with the Center for Constitutional Rights in a class action filed on behalf of displaced residential tenants living in properties owned by the City of New York.

Completed Projects

610 West 178th Street: Negotiations with the NYC Housing and Preservation Department (HPD)

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

When a group of tenants bought this building HPD made a commitment to provide Section 8 certificates to all qualifying tenants. Federal cutbacks in Section 8 vouchers prevented HPD from providing the certificates. The firm negotiated with HPD to obtain other housing subsidies for the tenants.

Amicus Brief to the Appellate Division, 1st Department in Anonymous v. Anonymous

Kaye Scholer

The firm and NYLPI submitted an amicus brief on behalf of a defendant in a divorce action arguing that a provision of New York's Domestic Relations Law violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The provision states that a marriage may be voided if either spouse has been incurably mentally ill for five years during the marriage. The Appellate Division rejected the argument and denied leave to appeal.

Amicus Brief to the United States Supreme Court in Roberts v. Galen

White & Case

The firm worked with NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund on this amicus brief. The matter before the Court involved how broadly to read the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) which was enacted to deter hospitals receiving federal funding from turning away indigent, uninsured patients. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff.

Amicus Brief to the New York State Court of Appeals in Queens Coalition v. Giuliani

Dorsey & Whitney

The Campaign filed suit against the City to prevent Coney Island Hospital from being subleased to a private for-profit corporation. The court granted summary judgment to the plaintiffs, the City appealed and lost. The firm submitted an amicus brief on behalf of the plaintiffs.

Bushwick-Hylan Community Center (BHCC)

Chadbourne & Parke

BHCC provides youth services to over 100 young people between the ages of 6-21. The firm assisted the organization with a complaint filed by the former director for back wages. The case was dismissed when the plaintiff failed to appear.

Child Abduction Case

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

The firm defended a woman accused by her ex-husband of kidnapping their infant daughter. The matter was settled and the parties entered into an agreement giving the father visitation rights and providing for mediation for any future disputes.

Partnership Project

Assisting With Community Urban Planning

Nos Quedamos (We Stay)

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

We Stay/Nos Quedamos represents 6,000 residents in the Melrose Commons area of The Bronx. It is a coalition of homeowners, tenants, local institutions and businesses resolved to remain a part of the Melrose Community. In 1992, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development unveiled an urban renewal plan for the Melrose area of the South Bronx. The urban renewal plan called for the displacement of hundreds of Latino and African American families who had survived years of economic devastation.

The We Stay/Nos Quedamos Committee advocated that as long-term residents committed to Melrose they wanted a renewal plan that didn't displace families and that would reflect their values and needs. They successfully fought to be included in the City's urban renewal planning process, resulting in a truly inclusive community plan that minimized displacement and called for sustainable and affordable housing development.

"NYLPI has provided me personally, and our firm Simpson Thacher, an excellent opportunity to give back to the community in a tangible and meaningful way. Without NYLPI's efforts, it is doubtful that such an opportunity would ever have presented itself."

—Glenn Kesselhaupt, Esq.
Simpson Thacher attorney

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett is providing counsel to the organization to ensure that the organization's interests are protected. In July 1996, Nos Quedamos discovered that the city-owned landmark Bronx County Courthouse, currently abandoned, was to be auctioned off to a private bidder even though it is a key element to the success of the Urban Renewal Plan. The firm, as co-counsel with NYLPI, filed suit in state court alleging violations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act. In 1999, the real estate developer that had acquired the courthouse acknowledged that he had been unable to secure financing for the development and intended to put the property up for sale. Simpson Thacher is currently working with Nos Quedamos to help them acquire and convert the Courthouse into a community center.



The abandoned Bronx County Courthouse.

The Committee to Preserve Brighton Beach (CPBB)

Arnold & Porter

CPBB sought to prevent the New York City Parks Department from signing a 20-year lease with a private business for 73 acres of Brooklyn's Dreier-Offerman Park. CPBB, citing the City Charter, argued that a formal public review process was required. The firm represented the organization in several hearings on the matter.

Davison v. Polak

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The firm successfully represented an elderly sub-tenant in a civil suit that was instituted by the tenants of record to remove her from the apartment she had sublet for over 20 years.

The Door

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The Door provides preventive, enrichment, and remedial programs to over 5,500 adolescents annually. The firm successfully defended The Door against an employment discrimination complaint.

Eviction Case Appeal

Davis Polk & Wardwell

The firm helped a large Hasidic family that was evicted from a federally subsidized Brooklyn apartment. The case raised important issues of women's rights, as the wife was not named as a necessary party.

Fox v. Michael's Pub

White & Case

The firm represented a woman who uses a wheelchair. In January 1994, she and a friend tried to go to Michael's Pub to hear Woody Allen perform. They were subjected to abusive behavior by the Pub's management because of the wheelchair. The matter closed because the Pub filed for bankruptcy.

Gowanus Expressway Community Coalition

Arnold & Porter

The Coalition is working to protect adjoining neighborhoods from the impact of the reconstruction of the Gowanus Expressway in western Brooklyn. The firm, along with NYLPI, filed suit on behalf of the Coalition to force state and federal authorities to prepare a Major Improvement Study as required by law. The matter recently settled. (See p. 29 for more information.)

James Weldon Johnson Houses Tenant Association

Rosenman & Colin

The James Weldon Johnson Houses are home to 4,000 public housing tenants in East Harlem. For over ten years the NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) donated space in a Community Center. NYCHA recently padlocked the space. The firm represented the Tenant Association in negotiations with NYCHA.

Local Development Corporation (LDC) of East New York

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

Founded in 1979, LDC supports commercial revitalization activities in East New York. The firm successfully defended LDC in an employment discrimination suit in federal court. Thereafter, an action was commenced in state court, but it was dismissed pursuant to the statute of limitations.

Matter of Bryan G.

Davis Polk & Wardwell

Bryan G. is a child with autism who was receiving special education services paid for by the Board of Education while he attended a private preschool paid for by his mother. Bryan's mother requested that the Board also pay the preschool tuition, arguing that it is an integral part of Bryan's special education program. The firm won an administrative appeal and the Board of Education was ordered to reimburse Bryan's mother.

Matter of Sean H.

Pollack & Greene

Sean H. is a three-year-old boy with autism who is covered under his father's health insurance plan. The boy received speech and behavior therapy but the plan refused to pay. The firm challenged the denial of reimbursement.

NEO/Presearch Energy Foundation

White & Case

The Foundation provides leadership and educational training for neighborhood residents in the South Bronx. The City of New York tried to evict the Foundation. The firm succeeded in blocking the eviction and negotiated a settlement requiring the City to make repairs.

Open Housing Center (OHC)

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

During the past year, the OHC completed twelve housing discrimination tests of a Brooklyn realtor/owner. They confirmed that the landlord engaged in racially discriminatory housing practices. The firm filed a complaint in federal court and a settlement was negotiated that provided for set-aside apartments, advertising in minority newspapers, training sessions for the realtor's employees, and \$100,000 to OHC.

Pathways to Housing

Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler

Pathways to Housing rents apartments for people who are homeless and have a psychiatric disability. Recently, one landlord sought to terminate his leases with Pathways. The firm successfully negotiated a settlement requiring the landlord to execute leases with the majority of individuals, thus providing them with protections afforded under New York's Rent Stabilization Code.

Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled (PEOPLE)

Blank Rome Tenzer Greenblatt

PEOPLE is a consumer-run social service and advocacy organization for persons with psychiatric disabilities. The firm represented the organization in an employment discrimination suit filed by a former employee.

Representation Before Federal Grand Jury in Retaliatory Investigation

Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason & Silberberg

The firm represented an African-American Deputy United States Marshal who was being investigated by a federal grand jury in retaliation for his bringing employment discrimination charges.

Representation of Deaf Alumni Association to Ensure Participation in C-30 Process

Shearman & Sterling

J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf was established in 1908 as the only public deaf school in NYC. The school's Alumni

Association sought representation in the selection process for school administrators. The firm provided counsel to the Association in negotiations with the Board of Education.

Rodriguez-Nunci v. 319 W. 47th Street Tenant Association

Carter, Ledyard & Milburn

This building, a low-income Housing Development Fund Corporation, was being sued by a former commercial tenant for breach of contract. The firm moved to dismiss the complaint, eliminating most of the causes of action. It then reached settlement on the remaining issues.

Sunnyside Community Services

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy

Sunnyside is a multiservice agency serving the residents of western Queens. The firm advised the agency in efforts to avert litigation concerning Sunnyside's financial responsibility for a failed public/private childcare center.

Victims Services (VS)

Davis Polk & Wardwell

Victims Services, which recently changed its name to Safe Horizon, is the largest victims assistance organization in the U.S. VS staff occasionally need to breach confidentiality and take action, such as warning a third party or calling the police. The firm produced two memos that provide guidance on this issue.

West Harlem Environmental Action (WHE Act)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

WHE Act is a community-based advocacy organization serving Harlem and northern Manhattan. WHE Act also works on city, state and national issues that relate to environmental justice. The firm provided counsel on a variety of issues.

Helping Communities through Transactional Assistance

New Projects

Advocates for the Integration of Recovery and Methadone (AFIRM)

Gordon Altman Butowsky Weitzen Shalov & Wein

Founded in 1994, AFIRM, is a group of methadone maintenance treatment providers, consumers and advocates committed to a goal of abstinence from opiates, and other chemicals. The firm is assisting the organization to incorporate and obtain its tax-exempt status.

Agenda 21

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Agenda 21 is a community-based organization that initiates commercial revitalization and community development strategies in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park. The firm is advising Agenda 21 on the scope of community and economic development activities permissible under the organization's corporate charter and state law, and on issues concerning development of their web site, such as privacy and trademark.

Asian Women in Business (AWIB)

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

AWIB, a not-for-profit membership organization founded in

1995, helps Asian women realize their entrepreneurial potential by providing information, education and networking opportunities. The firm gave a presentation on internet law at a AWIB workshop.

Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ)

Chadbourne & Parke

BVSJ is a not-for-profit community-based organization that advocates for and provides services to veterans, their families and low-income members of the community. The firm is reviewing the organization's personnel manual and has provided advice on an individual personnel matter.

Blue Beta Media Group, Inc. (BBMG)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

BBMG is organizing to offer Internet domain name registration, e-mail services, web design and web hosting to not-for-profit organizations that are not yet on-line. The firm is assisting BBMG to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

The Bronxdale Tenants League Day Care Center

Credit Suisse First Boston

The Center provides group and family day services, and preschool and after-school programs to over 250 children in the Soundview section of The Bronx. The firm helped revise the organization's by-laws.

Brooklyn Heights Montessori School (BHMS)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

BHMS is an independent school which has a special education program for children from age 3 through kindergarten called the Little Room. The firm acted as volunteer general counsel, advising on not-for-profit corporate law and finance, employment law and state regulation of special education programs.

Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC)- Youth Entrepreneur Day

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

CCNYC, a non-profit organization that assists community-based organizations, together with Fleet Bank, created Youth Entrepreneur Day to support, recognize, and award youth entrepreneurs from NYC's low-income communities. The firm organized a workshop for Youth Entrepreneur Day and is providing legal advice to the entrepreneurs. (See p. 15 for more information.)

Cypress Hills Congregation

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

The firm is helping the congregation to establish ownership of the property that serves as its place of worship.

The Democracy and Equality Project

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The Project develops curricula to teach public high school students the skills necessary for meaningful participation in civil society, politics and government. The firm is assisting the organization to obtain its tax-exempt status.

Forced Migration Project

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

The Project promotes efforts by the international community to prevent the causes of forced displacement, to protect and assist refugees, and to provide durable solutions to those seeking to re-establish their lives. The firm is advising the organization as it affiliates with another not-for-profit.

Hoops 4 Hope

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

Hoops 4 Hope, a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to providing children of Southern Africa with recreational resources that promote fitness, leadership and self-confidence, works with grassroots organizations to build basketball courts. The firm is assisting the organization with its trademark.

iMentor

Credit Suisse First Boston

iMentor is a not-for-profit Internet-based children's mentoring program. iMentor's goal is to provide young people from underserved communities with adult mentors, the opportunity to explore career options, and basic technological literacy. CSFB is serving as general counsel to help with intellectual property issues, drafting contracts and web site development.

Inform, Inc.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Inform is a not-for-profit organization that conducts environmental research and advocacy on issues such as pollution prevention, clean fuels, and tracking of toxic substance flows. Other organizations are using the name "Inform" and are involved in similar work. The firm is helping Inform to protect and strengthen its name.

The International Youth Leadership Institute

Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison

The Institute's mission is to assist African-American and Latino high school students to develop critical thinking and analytical skills as they learn about international affairs. The firm is assisting the organization to obtain its tax-exempt status.

The Lark Quartet (LQ)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

LQ is a chamber music string quartet that performs concerts throughout the world. It also performs free benefit concerts in low-income communities. The firm is reviewing LQ's corporate structure, by-laws, article 5 of incorporation, and audit to ensure they are in full compliance with city, state and federal laws and regulations.

Matter of Alex L.

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

Alex L. is a recipient of SSI who is mentally ill and currently lives with his mother. Recently an apartment in the building became available for him. Alex's uncle has promised to pay the extra rent until a Section 8 subsidy becomes available, but this promise may not be sufficient. The firm is creating an escrow agreement and exploring other help to insure that Alex gets the apartment.

The National Academy of Design

Credit Suisse First Boston

The Academy is a not-for-profit fine arts institution comprised of an association of artists that sponsor a school of fine arts and a museum. The firm is assisting the organization to review and revise its constitution and by-laws.

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

The firm is reviewing and revising the Academy's contracts in connection with exhibitions and rental space.

The Neighborhood School Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

The PTA works to raise funds for programs at this elementary

school located on the Lower East Side. The firm is assisting the PTA to obtain tax-exempt status.

New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)

Rosenman & Colin

NICE is a cross-cultural grassroots organization committed to ensuring through advocacy, research and public education that new immigrants are active in civic affairs. The firm is helping the organization to incorporate and gain tax-exempt status, in addition to providing advice on trademark protection, lobbying and political activity.

New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) Micro-enterprise Development Program

Debevoise & Plimpton

NYANA's Microenterprise Development Program assists immigrants to establish their own businesses. The firm assisted a refugee from the former Soviet Union to purchase a small restaurant. (See p. 16 for more information.)

Psychiatric Disaster Services

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae

A group of medical residents who volunteered with the Red Cross during the aftermath of the 1998 Swissair crash were interested in establishing an organization to provide psychiatric disaster services. The firm helped them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status and continues to advise them.

The Same Boat Coalition

Chadbourn & Parke

The Coalition is a membership organization that is comprised of a diverse group of community and religious organizations, advocates and individuals interested in social and economic justice for all New Yorkers. The firm is assisting the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (SPDV)

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

SPDV is a not-for-profit organization that provides safety and support for those who have been harmed by domestic violence. The firm is drafting a charter for SPDV.

South Bronx Overall Development Corporation (SOBRO)

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

For over twenty-five years, SOBRO has been a leading force in the economic revitalization of the South Bronx. The firm assisted SOBRO with real estate issues as it developed its new office in a building in the South Bronx.

Sustainable America

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

Sustainable America is a national, not-for-profit organization comprised of racially and geographically diverse members whose mission is to promote sustainable development, community-based planning and economic equality. The firm advised the organization on commercial lease issues.

Thalia Spanish Theatre

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Thalia Spanish Theatre, a prominent not-for-profit theater group in Sunnyside, Queens, has occupied its current building since 1977. Thalia's 5-year lease expires in 2002 and the group wants to extend the lease. The firm is helping Thalia in its negotiations with the landlord.

Partnership Project

Assisting Youth Entrepreneurs

Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC) – Youth Entrepreneur Day

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

CCNYC, a prominent non-profit organization that assists community-based organizations, co-sponsors an Annual Youth Entrepreneur Day together with Fleet Bank. Youth Entrepreneur Day is designed to support and recognize youth entrepreneurs from high schools in low-income communities.

Youth Entrepreneur Day is attended by hundreds of students, teachers, student advocates and prominent leaders from corporate, government and non-profit organizations. The winning entrepreneurs showcase their products or services and explain their businesses to prospective high school and college entrepreneurs.

Last year, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius participated in the Second Annual Youth Entrepreneur Day by organizing a legal business work-

shop on the day and a follow-up workshop for the winning entrepreneurs. The firm is also offering direct *pro bono* legal assistance to the winning youth entrepreneurs. This year it is providing corporate, tax and intellectual property assistance to a 13-year-old winner who designed a swim cap for people with thicker hair. The product will appeal to African-American and Caribbean swimmers who have largely been ignored by the swim apparel industry.

"The special efforts extended to CCNYC by NYLPI are exceptional. We are especially impressed with how proactive you are in providing assistance and your careful and methodical approach to filling our needs. We are extremely grateful to you for introducing us to Morgan Lewis, whose professionalism and quality of work is just outstanding."

—Bill Chong

VP of Program Services at CCNYC

The firm is now helping to organize the Third Annual Youth Entrepreneur Day.



NYLPI's Clearinghouse staff joins Maura Leeds from Morgan, Lewis and Bockius in greeting a young entrepreneur during the Fleet Youth Entrepreneur Day.

*The Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ)
Mount Morris Park Community Improvement
Association (MMPCIA)*

Proskauer Rose

UMEZ designated the MMPCIA to serve as project liaison for the Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard Adopt an Avenue Program. MMPCIA is responsible for organizing, implementing and maintaining improvements along Lenox Avenue from 110th to 125th Streets. The firm assisted the organizations with a personnel issue.

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

The firm is serving as general counsel to MMPCIA.

United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE)

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

UPROSE provides educational support services to young people in Sunset Park, in addition to advocating on environmental justice and social service entitlements. The firm is helping UPROSE create a conservancy to develop and maintain a park on a site that was formerly a brownfield.

Workers Awaaz

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Workers Awaaz is a not-for-profit membership organization committed to organizing low-wage South Asian women workers and advocating for humane and just working conditions. The firm assisted the organization on a personnel matter and continues to offer advice on various issues.

Continuing Projects

401 West 40th Street Real Estate Project

Schulte Roth & Zabel

The West 40th Street housing complex is a designated project in HPD's Neighborhood Redevelopment Program. The firm is providing ongoing real estate, corporate and finance counsel.

786 Ninth Avenue Tenant Association

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

The firm is providing advice to this low-income cooperative in the re-negotiation of two commercial leases.

The Abilities Riding Center (ARC)

Chadbourne & Parke

ARC provides horseback riding programs for children and adults with disabilities. The firm incorporated the organization and is currently helping them to obtain tax-exempt status.

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

Credit Suisse First Boston

CEO provides employment and job training to men and women released from prison. CSFB provides corporate assistance to CEO concerning funding, insurance and real estate issues.

Citizen Action/Public Policy and Education Fund (PPEF)

Sullivan & Cromwell

PPEF and Citizen Action are research and public education organizations. In order to limit the influence of wealthy contributors to politics, PPEF and Citizen Action created the Clean Money, Clean Elections Coalition. The firm was enlisted to help the Coalition place a campaign finance reform referendum on the ballot.

Partnership Project

Assisting Immigrant Entrepreneurs

New York Association for New Americans (NYANA)

Micro-enterprise Development Program

Debevoise & Plimpton

NYANA is the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of educational, social, legal and business services to refugees and immigrants.

NYANA's Micro-Enterprise Development program helps its clients to learn about the American marketplace and how to apply for a loan to start a business. The program assists immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs who want to start or expand micro-businesses by providing them with technical assistance in business management and by offering them start-up money through micro-loans.

"We see our relationship with Debevoise & Plimpton as extremely empowering for our clients who are immigrant entrepreneurs. The sessions are always informative, dynamic and presented in a very accessible way."

—Leonid Ostrovsky
Program Specialist at NYANA

In 1998, NYLPI arranged for Debevoise & Plimpton to assist with all aspects of the organization's Micro-Enterprise Development Program. Over the last two years, more than 15 attorneys from Debevoise have worked with NYANA. They have conducted workshops, covering topics such as development of a business

plan, product development, fiscal management and legal compliance; and provided individualized technical assistance to entrepreneurs working on business plan development, financial projections, and loan applications.

Additionally, Debevoise has helped NYANA internally by reviewing, revising and drafting lending documents for them. The firm has also assisted NYANA in the drafting of a Savings Term Agreement to be executed by the organization and clients who enter into NYANA's Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program. The IDA Program is the largest business-oriented savings incentive plan in New York State whereby small businesses that maintain IDAs receive matching investment dollars.

Debevoise has also represented participants of NYANA's Micro-Enterprise Development Program. These matters include assisting a NYANA client in a dispute with a landlord and acting as counsel in the purchase of a fast-food business.



Gennadiy Gamburg, owner of the "Chicken Stop," purchased his small restaurant with the help of a Debevoise attorney.

courtesy of Leonid Ostrovsky

Citizens for Responsible Care in Psychiatry & Research (CRCP&R)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

CRCP&R is an information network for individuals dedicated to advancing responsible and ethical treatment of persons with brain disorders. The firm incorporated CRCP&R and is now helping the organization gain tax-exempt status.

Clinton Housing Development Company, Inc. (CHDC)

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

The firm represents CHDC in its acquisition and financing of a set of contiguous buildings in Hell's Kitchen (Clinton Hill). CHDC is currently in the process of rehabilitating the buildings and creating a community garden.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

The firm is preparing commercial leases for stores located in CHDC-managed buildings that are participating in HPD's Special Initiatives Program, a city program that renovates vacant, city-owned buildings and delivers them to not-for-profits as owner/managers.

Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF)

O'Melveny & Myers

CHCF was founded in 1982 to improve the quality of life for Latino children and families through community education, training and public policy advocacy. The firm is advising CHCF on its personnel manual.

Crown Heights Youth Collective (CHYC)

Schulte Roth & Zabel

Over the years, CHYC has served more than 50,000 young people through its dropout prevention programs, counseling, crisis intervention, drug prevention and cultural programs. The firm provides ongoing assistance on a range of matters.

Family Learning Center (FLC)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

FLC is a community-based organization committed to the empowerment of people through education, employment and support services. It serves the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx, one of the poorest and most crime-ridden neighborhoods in the U.S. The firm continues to serve as general counsel.

Fonkoze USA

Arnold & Porter

Fonkoze helps individuals and community organizations engage in successful economic activities in Haiti. Fonkoze created an alternative bank that used the resources of Haitians living outside Haiti to create a low-interest loan fund for economic development projects and organizations serving the poor in Haiti. The firm is currently assisting the organization to create an information statement for potential investors.

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

GMHC is the world's oldest and largest not-for-profit AIDS organization, providing services to people with AIDS and their loved ones, educating the public and advocating for fair and effective AIDS policies. The firm assists GMHC's Legal Department with trust and estate matters and provides counsel on GMHC's planned giving program.

Korean American Service and Education Consortium (KASEC)

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

KASEC distributes educational materials to promote multi-

cultural understanding, monitors anti-Korean activities, and runs a summer study-in-Korea program. The firm helped KASEC incorporate and secure tax-exempt status and continues to provide assistance on corporate issues.

Lower East Side Vendor's Association (LESVA)

Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells

LESVA is a group of vendors who run a food market and sponsor summer concerts on the Lower East Side. The firm previously negotiated with the City to secure permits on behalf of all of its members. The firm continues to assist LESVA on various corporate matters.

Mid-Bronx Desperadoes Community Housing Corporation (MBD)

White & Case

MBD was formed in 1974 by local organizations and churches concerned with the alarming wave of arson and abandonment in the Crotona Park East section of The Bronx. The firm is advising MBD on issues relating to the development of a retail center in the area.

Morningside Area Alliance (MAA)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

MAA is a community-building organization in Morningside Heights. MAA is creating a plan for a model worker-owned child-care cooperative. The firm is assisting in the development of this model program.

Multiple Sclerosis Society, Long Island Chapter

Thelen Reid & Priest

Young adults with multiple sclerosis who are unable to live at home are often faced with placement in geriatric nursing homes. The firm is providing counsel to the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Long Island Chapter in its efforts to develop alternative living and care arrangements for these young adults.

Operation Role Model

Haythe & Curley (Torys)

Operation Role Model is an organization established in 1993 to arrange for role models to speak to students in NYC high schools. The firm provides ongoing general corporate counsel. (Although not a member, the firm allowed a lateral associate to continue to work on this project.)

Osborne Association (OA)

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

The firm represented OA in the establishment of El Rio, an all-day treatment facility in the South Bronx. It functions as an alternative to incarceration for crack-involved young people, ages 14 to 30. The firm continues to provide legal assistance. (See p. 18 for more information.)

Phun Phactory Aerosol Art Corporation (PPAAC)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

PPAAC is a community-based organization in Long Island City that provides a safe haven and advocacy services for young graffiti artists. The firm helped the organization obtain tax-exempt status and continues to provide ongoing legal assistance.

Project Teen-Aid and Family Services

Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue

The Project provides professional child care for the infants of teenage mothers so that the mothers can remain in school. The firm assisted the Project in merging with another not-for-profit

Partnership Project

A Long-Term Commitment to Improving the Criminal Justice System

Osborne Association (OA)

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

For almost 70 years, OA has worked to contribute to its founder's goal of a criminal justice system that "restores to society the largest number of intelligent, forceful honest citizens." The OA is now NYC's largest provider of health, mental health, substance abuse, and counseling services to prisoners and ex-offenders.

Over 10 years ago, the OA came to NYLPI seeking legal assistance in setting up an all-day treatment facility for crack users in the South Bronx. The facility would serve as an alternative to incarceration, targeting jail-bound defendants and reserving treatment slots for offenders with HIV/AIDS. Through NYLPI's Clearinghouse, the OA secured the services of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. With the firm's help, the OA was able to establish El Rio, an intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment program that uses traditional counseling and 12-step techniques along with acupuncture and other holistic approaches that provide an effective treatment program, as well as an alternative to prison.



Participants at work

Since the establishment of El Rio, the firm has continued to serve in a general counsel capacity to the OA, providing assistance in both transactional and litigation matters. The firm has represented the OA in several employment-related disputes and real-estate projects.

This past year, OA merged with the South Forty Corporation, New York's oldest and most comprehensive provider of employment services for prisoners and ex-offenders. Attorneys from Paul, Weiss worked diligently to ensure that the merger was a success. They also helped secure a 15-year lease for South Forty's new office in Long Island City.

Now in its second decade, the partnership between OA and Paul, Weiss continues to work to improve New York City's criminal justice system.

"The relationship with Paul Weiss has been incredibly successful. They helped us to create our cornerstone El Rio program over 10 years ago and several lawyers have been actively helping in a number of different areas ever since, including on our recent merger with South Forty Corporation and negotiation of a fifteen-year lease in Long Island City to house our new South Forty employment program."

—Carolina Dyer, Paul Weiss attorney

it and pursuing a plan to renovate a Brooklyn building for low-income housing. The firm continues to provide general corporate advice. (Although not a member, the firm allowed a lateral associate to continue to work on this project).

The Rainforest Alliance

Morgan & Finnegan

The Rainforest Alliance works to increase public awareness of tropical deforestation. The firm provides ongoing representation on a variety of intellectual property matters.

Riverside Edgecomb Neighborhood Association – Community Organization Alliance (RENA-COA) Multi-Service Center

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

RENA-COA provides recreational, cultural, educational and social programs to more than 2,000 low-income residents from the Washington Heights and Harlem communities. RENA-COA was notified by the IRS that the organization owed taxes, penalties and interest. The firm is advising RENA-COA on these matters.

Sibling Center for Sisters and Brothers of the Disabled

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

The Center provides services specifically designed to meet the social and psychological needs of family members of persons with disabilities. The firm obtained not-for-profit status for the organization and serves as its general counsel.

SIEMBRA

Rosenman & Colin

SIEMBRA, which means "plant a seed" in Spanish, provides programs for at-risk inner-city youth that promote the cultivation of character through social responsibility. The firm is assisting SIEMBRA to incorporate.

South Bronx Overall Development Corporation (SOBRO)

Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts

SOBRO works to revitalize the South Bronx by stimulating economic development in the community. SOBRO is opening a business incubator, a commercial space with supports designed to help small businesses grow. The firm is assisting SOBRO to draft and negotiate leases for the incubator tenants.

Transnational Resources & Action Center (TRAC)

Morgan & Finnegan

TRAC posts information about the impact of corporate globalization on its website titled Corporate Watch. Another organization providing on-line financial and investment services with the trademark name "A CORPORATE WATCH" threatened litigation. The firm is advising TRAC on this issue.

Venture House

Debevoise & Plimpton

Venture House is a day treatment and vocational program for persons with mental illness. The firm is providing legal assistance to program participants.

Vera Institute of Justice (Vera)

Morgan & Finnegan

Vera designs and implements innovative programs that encourage just practices in public services and improve the quality of urban life. Vera's pioneering projects and research in criminal justice and social reform have provided practical solutions to urgent problems in cities throughout the world. The firm provides representation on a variety of intellectual property matters.

Partnership Project

Assisting High School Students

High School Law Teaching and Advocacy Program

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

White & Case

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells

The High School Law Teaching and Advocacy Program trains lawyers to teach a fundamental legal education class to NYC public high school students from lower income backgrounds. After the training, lawyers are matched with a participating school where they will teach a law course and also provide basic legal advice to students.

The goal of the program is to enable a number of law firms to establish a relationship with a particular high school and handle students' legal needs as they arise. The sad reality is that high school students in New York City are frequently forced to deal with legal issues in the ordinary course of their lives. Access to an attorney can often make a significant difference in their lives.

"Because of your efforts, we have seven law firms participating in the project. The lawyers are doing a great service to the community by doing important work in the city schools. The project would not have been the success it is without NYLPI. Thanks."

—Harry Feder
program founder and teacher

In its first training cycle, the Program worked with: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; and White & Case. In the second, it worked with: Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel; Hughes Hubbard & Reed; and Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells. Lawyers from these firms are trained by the Program at the Urban Academy, a Board of Education laboratory school, in how to teach the class, as well as in the substantive legal problems which commonly arise in the lives of city high school students.



Students at the Urban Academy participate in a discussion about constitutional law with program founder and teacher Harry Feder (right).

We Stay/Nos Quedamos

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

We Stay/Nos Quedamos is a coalition of homeowners, tenants, local institutions, and businesses resolved to remain a part of the Melrose community in The Bronx. The firm is advising the organization, to ensure that its interests are protected during the City's 5-year redevelopment project. (See p. 12 for more information.)

World Monument Fund (WMF)

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

WMF was founded to preserve architectural treasures. The firm is assisting WMF in establishing the Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Closed Projects

Batey Relief Alliance (BRA)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The BRA was created to support Haitian sugar cane laborers working in the Dominican Republic. The firm assisted BRA to obtain its tax-exempt status.

Boerum Hill Association

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The Association is involved in community planning and public education efforts in Brooklyn. The firm assisted the Association with obtaining its tax-exempt status.

The Center for Independence for the Disabled in New York

(CIDNY) Personnel Manual and By-law Revision

Credit Suisse First Boston

CIDNY is the oldest of New York State's Independent Living Centers. CSFB helped CIDNY revise its personnel manual and develop new by-laws.

Commission for the Public's Health Systems

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The Commission works to ensure the availability of health care services to city residents and monitors NYC's public health and hospital systems. This firm assisted the Commission in incorporating and securing tax-exempt status.

Crown Heights Jewish Community Council (CHJCC)

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

CHJCC provides an array of services to low-income residents of Brooklyn. It also works on projects to foster interracial peace and to unify area residents. The firm advised the organization on community economic development projects.

East New York Urban Youth Corps (ENYUYC)

Kaye Scholer

ENYUYC works to promote and facilitate neighborhood-controlled revitalization, growth, development and empowerment in the East New York section of Brooklyn. The firm finalized a new personnel manual/employee handbook and represented the organization in a wrongful termination suit.

Future Leaders Network (FLN)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

FLN provides young people with the opportunity to meet and learn the skills necessary to become leaders in the effort to achieve social justice. The firm assisted in incorporating the organization and provided counsel to secure tax-exempt status.

In Re N.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Hale House provides housing and care for orphaned children who are HIV positive. It is currently housing three orphaned siblings with no living relatives. The firm helped Hale House secure guardianship for the children and set up a trust fund with the proceeds of their father's life insurance policy.

Just Food

Latham & Watkins

Just Food fosters understanding, communication, and partnership among diverse groups concerned with farming and hunger in NYC. The firm assisted the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

The National Black Theater (NBT)

Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison

The NBT presents theatrical productions and offers subsidized rental space to the artistic community. The NBT owns and operates a mixed-use complex that recently ran into financial difficulty. The firm assisted in negotiating the terms of a forbearance agreement with their bank.

New York City Garden Coalition

Dechert

The Coalition advocates for community-based planning and provides information and technical assistance to community gardeners. The firm helped the Coalition to incorporate and secure tax-exempt status.

The Planners Network

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

The Network is an association of people involved in social, economic and environmental planning in urban and rural areas. The firm helped the Network secure tax-exempt status and incorporate.

Pro-RADS

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel

Pro-RADS is committed to helping young people of color, young women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth, and young people living with HIV/AIDS. The firm helped Pro-RADS incorporate as a not-for-profit and provided general corporate advice to the organization.

Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) Merger

Proskauer Rose

The firm represented PRLDEF in its merger with the Institute for Puerto Rican Policy, an organization specializing in urban policy analysis.

Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation

Schulte Roth & Zabel

The firm helped Nobel laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum to establish a foundation to defend and promote the human rights of indigenous people.

St. Mary's Community Service

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

St. Mary's is a non-sectarian community-based organization that provides adult education, youth employment and social services to its clients. The firm helped St. Mary's revise its personnel manual.

Trust and Estates Representation

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

This firm helped an elderly South Carolina resident in his attempt to gain access to a dormant trust fund left by his mother. The estate is located in NY and was never probated.

United States Squash Racquets Association (USSRA)

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

USSRA is the national governing body for the game of squash. The firm helped USSRA revise its by-laws and restructure its board of directors.

Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ)

Chadbourne & Parke

UMEZ works to revitalize the economy of Upper Manhattan by providing grants, low-interest loans and tax benefits. The firm assisted UMEZ with employment and personnel matters.

Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB)

Debevoise & Plimpton

UHAB assists in the development and administration of low-income, tenant-owned housing throughout New York City. The firm represented UHAB in contract negotiations with its union.

Rosenman & Colin

The firm helped UHAB to create its own insurance company, which will ultimately lower the cost of insurance for tenant-owned buildings. UHAB will use the profits to provide additional technical assistance and training for tenant co-ops.

Thank you to the Clearinghouse member firms that provided pro bono legal services to NYLPI in 1999-2000:

Hughes Hubbard & Reed

The firm is representing a former NYLPI attorney at a deposition regarding legal assistance he provided a tenants association.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

The firm advised NYLPI in its adoption of a pension plan.

O'Melveny & Myers

The firm provided NYLPI with labor advice.

Proskauer Rose

The firm assisted NYLPI with its personnel manual.

Rosenman & Colin

The firm helped NYLPI negotiate a lease and subleases for office space.



The Disability Law Center

The Disability Law Center at NYLPI is one of New York's leading advocacy groups for people with disabilities. Through a combination of education, advocacy, and litigation, the Center pursues two basic objectives: first, to enable people with disabilities to participate fully in the mainstream of American life; and second, to protect and promote their civil rights and liberties. Above all, NYLPI seeks to overcome the notion that people with disabilities are unable to experience fully realized and accomplished lives.

This year, the Center worked on multiple fronts—from pursuing the needs of people in nursing homes, to ensuring that children with disabilities receive a sound education, to securing necessary mental health services for inmates being released—to protecting the civil rights and liberties of people with disabilities.

The Access Campaign

NYLPI launched the Access Campaign to remove barriers faced by people with physical disabilities. Many services and opportunities in New York City are all but closed to people with mobility, visual, or hearing impairments, or other physical disabilities. All too often, entering a store, meeting room, or restaurant requires navigating a curb or climbing stairs, and often providers of even critical services such as health care fail to provide interpreters for people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

This year, the Access Campaign engaged in a multi-pronged attack on these barriers. In New York City, and across the

Access Campaign Victories This Year

Accessible Taxi Cabs. NYLPI has been working with Disabled in Action and other groups on the "Taxis for All" Campaign since 1995. We achieved a huge victory in February when the Taxi and Limousine Commissioner announced that \$1 million would be budgeted for making taxis accessible. The Commissioner also pledged support for the goal of making all yellow cabs wheelchair accessible by the end of 2003.

Gash v. Rutland Nursing Home. NYLPI filed a suit against Rutland Nursing Home on behalf of a patient who was deprived of the use of her motorized wheelchair as a punitive measure. The nursing home had taken her wheelchair away after she engaged in a protest of a nursing home policy restricting patient access to the cafeteria. NYLPI settled the case for the plaintiff.

Rivera v. New York City Housing Authority. NYLPI worked with co-counsels the Legal Aid Society, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, and the Brooklyn Social Justice Project at Brooklyn Law School to settle this long-standing class action challenging the failure of the New York City Housing Authority to provide a sufficient number of accessible housing units for people with mobility impairments.



John Creatham

Increased funding has been allocated for making NYC taxis accessible for all.

state, we advocated for expanding access. With our partners statewide we targeted barriers faced by health care consumers. We also reached out to providers to ensure they had information and assistance to facilitate their compliance with the law so that people with disabilities have the same access to health services as the general population.

On another front, NYLPI and member firm Fish & Neave threatened suit against Duane Reade, a fast-growing pharmacy chain, for failing to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Duane Reade itself claims that it chooses stores with unusual configurations, making it much more difficult to make stores accessible. Moreover, Duane Reade's marketing practices rely on displays of merchandise in the aisles, and neither floor designs nor management practices are aimed at ensuring accessibility as required by the law. In many stores the pharmacies are placed upstairs with no escalators or elevators, effectively barring people with disabilities access to critical services.

Working with Parents to Ensure Inclusive and Appropriate Education

NYLPI devoted substantial efforts to advocacy on behalf of children with special needs. We worked closely with parents fighting the exclusion of their children from general education classrooms, and we represented children in New York City in litigation and administrative procedures when the Board of Education failed to provide appropriate education.

NYLPI also serves as co-counsel, with member firm Davis, Polk & Wardwell, to Parents for Inclusive Education (PIE), a group of parents, educators, and advocates that promotes policies that will increase and improve inclusive educational placements for children with disabilities in New York City's public schools. This year PIE initiated a campaign to reach out to parents of children with disabilities who are finishing preschool to inform them of their rights and options. PIE parents were also involved in training district Committees on Special Education and Advocacy to ensure effective implementation of the Board of Education's new continuum of special education services. In addition, PIE focused on special education funding reform at the state level at a particularly crucial time. The state was reconsidering the funding formula that shapes school incentives to promote inclusion or pull children out of mainstream classrooms for services.

R.B. v. Board of Education. Plaintiff's son, L.B., was eleven-years-old when he had to spend an entire year at home, with minimal schooling and no interaction with his peers, because the Board of Education failed to provide him with the basic educational services to which he was entitled. After pleading with the Board for months to no avail, L.B.'s mother contacted NYLPI.

NYLPI worked with co-counsel Kaye Scholer on a suit seeking damages from the Board of Education on behalf of L.B. The goal was to send the Board a clear message—that every child deserves and has a legal right to a proper education. We won an important round in federal court, leading the Board of Education to settle the case in a manner favorable to L.B.

Matter of J.A. After five years of special education services in the public schools, 12-year-old J.A. could neither read nor write. Federal law provides that a child who does not receive an appropriate educational setting in public school is entitled to attend a private school at public expense. However, the parents have to pay the tuition up front for all but a relatively small number of approved schools, effectively barring families of limited means from accessing the services to which they are entitled. NYLPI and member firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton took J.A.'s case to an administrative hearing challenging this Board of Education policy. We won a decision compelling the Board to pay the tuition prospectively. The decision in the case, and the brief filed in support of J.A.'s position are being used by advocates throughout the City.

Challenging Conditions in City Jails

Brad H. v. City of New York. NYLPI and our partners won an important victory this year in *Brad H.*, litigation brought on behalf of the thousands of city jail inmates who receive treatment for mental illness while in jail each year and then are literally dumped back onto city streets.



Rikers inmates are dropped off at Queens Plaza with a metro card and little else.

Currently, people with mental illness who are released from New York City jails are dropped off by bus in the middle of the night with a Metro Card and no resources to access continued care, no Medicaid card, no prescriptions, and no connection to a provider of care — adequate discharge planning would include identifying the patient's continuing treatment needs and planning how they will be met. In July of last year, a state judge granted the inmates a preliminary injunction directing the City to provide discharge planning pending final resolution of the case. NYLPI, member firm Debevoise and Plimpton, and the Urban Justice Center, are preparing for trial to ensure that the City provides discharge planning.

Protecting the Vulnerable

The Willowbrook Class. The Willowbrook Developmental Center was an overcrowded and dehumanizing institution that was closed down three decades ago as a result of a court order. The landmark case established the right of former Willowbrook

residents to appropriate individualized care and treatment in the least restrictive setting. Currently, NYLPI and co-counsel the New York Civil Liberties Union represent approximately 3,400 of the former residents. NYLPI advocates on a continuing basis for individual class members denied appropriate care, and negotiates with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to resolve systemic problems in the delivery of community-based services to class members.

This year the parties finalized a stipulation regarding defendants' obligations under the Permanent Injunction with respect to community integration, case management, needs assessments, and staffing. In addition, NYLPI represents class members on an almost daily basis on issues ranging from Do Not Resuscitate Orders, consent to autopsy, HIV testing, involuntary medication and medical consent issues, confidentiality of records, medical research issues, abuse and neglect, guardianship, the establishment of supplemental needs trusts, Medicaid liens asserted against inherited assets by the state, and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As the members of the class grow older, new and important questions have arisen. This year NYLPI and member firm Davis Polk & Wardwell won a key case in state court, protecting funds inherited by a class member against a lien asserted by the state. The problems and issues involved remain compelling and there are continued concerns for the quality of care that people in institutions are receiving.

Defending the Right to Decide Treatment

Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Law. NYLPI is working with a number of groups on legal challenges to New York State's new Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Law. Under the law a person with mental illness can be held without a court hearing for up to 72 hours if a physician concludes that the individual "may" be committable.

We believe that this law strips away the fundamental rights of an individual and does not provide him or her with due process. There are many constitutional alternatives to involuntary commitment, such as making needed services fully available. In fact, evidence shows that voluntary outpatient treatment programs are more successful than involuntary treatment, and that most individuals with mental illness are able to understand treatment alternatives and make reasoned treatment decisions.

With our partners we have created the IOC Watch, a coalition of groups that monitors and informs on the effects of the law. We filed amicus briefs in *Matter of J.D. and J.S.* in Brooklyn, and *Matter of K.L.* in Queens, the two leading cases that are testing the legality of the new law.

Disability Rights Task Force

NYLPI's Disability Rights Task Force brings together attorneys from NYLPI's member firms and corporate law departments who possess a substantial interest in disability rights law and a desire to do *pro bono* work in the area.

Task Force membership has two components. First, members attend four meetings a year, which feature presentations on a

case or issue pertinent to disability rights. The meetings foster the growth of expertise as well as cooperation and a sense of community among Task Force members. During the past year, presentation topics included: inclusive education for children with disabilities, challenges to the Americans with Disabilities Act based on sovereign immunity, and trends in television coverage of disability rights issues. As a second component of membership, each member is expected to take on at least one *pro bono* project.

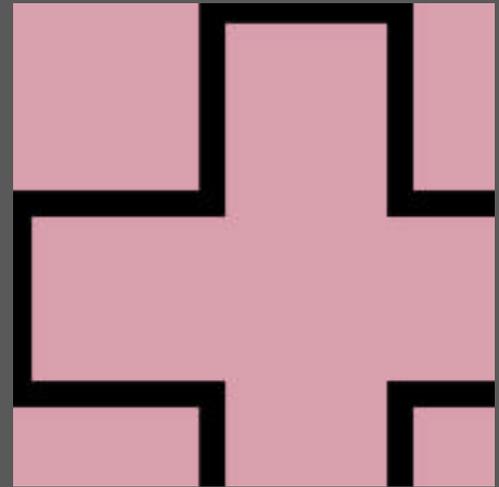
Projects are varied in nature, scope, and subject matter, and NYLPI staff attorneys mentor and support each effort. For example, a number of Task Force members have been involved in *Bartlett v. New York State Board of Law Examiners*, which deals with the right to reasonable accommodations for a person with a learning disability taking the bar exam. Two task force members and their law firms, (Stroock & Stroock & Lavan and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson) have written amicus curiae briefs to the Second Circuit in the case. Another Task Force member, from Shearman & Sterling, is looking into non-litigation advocacy strategies for improving the process by which accommodations on the bar exam are granted or denied.

Other Task Force projects focus on individual clients. In one, Task Force members at Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler are representing a 58-year-old man who is deaf and was wrongly placed in a psychiatric hospital. In another, a Task Force member at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom provides ongoing consultation to NYLPI and court-appointed lawyers on criminal matters involving adults with developmental disabilities who are members of the Willowbrook class.

The Task Force currently has 40 members from 26 different law firms and corporate law departments. They consist of partners and associates, litigators and transactional lawyers, and attorneys with and without prior experience in disability rights law.



Due to the lack of accessibility in this NYC Housing Authority building, this tenant must safeguard his wheelchair by chaining it outside his home.



The Access to Health Care Program

New York's low-income residents have long struggled to obtain quality health care services. For those living in medically underserved communities or who face barriers due to limited English proficiency, a disability, or racial discrimination, access to care is particularly difficult to obtain. The Access to Health Care Program focuses on removing these barriers and aims to ensure access for all to quality health care services.

This year, NYLPI was engaged in a statewide outreach effort to inform vulnerable groups about a little-known set of government programs that provides health insurance coverage. In addition to providing training and assisting program applicants, NYLPI prepared a report to the federal government recommending substantial reforms.

Piloting Medicare Buy-In

Last year NYLPI was one of four organizations in the country chosen by the federal government to operate the Medicare Savings pilot program.

The federal government created the Medicare Savings Program in 1989 to help people manage rising health care costs. The Program assists low-income people with disabilities and senior citizens by covering Medicare's monthly fees and out-of-pocket expenses.

The government launched the pilot program to educate consumers and advocates about the Medicare Savings Program, to gather information about what would make the program more accessible, and ultimately to increase enrollment. Even today, despite a rising level of public concern about the cost of health care for people on Medicare, the program remains largely under-enrolled with many of those who qualify either unaware of the program or of its benefits for them.

We drew upon our wide outreach and organizing experience and our long-standing relationship with diverse communities to advocate on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities across New York, choosing diverse target areas with high concentrations of people who qualified for the Medicare Savings Program, focusing our efforts particularly on communities in East Harlem, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Rochester, and the Cattaraugus Reservation, South of Buffalo.

NYLPI's community organizer traveled all over the state, training advocates and benefits counselors in local organizations, giving presentations to the consumers they serve, and gathering information from both groups. Ultimately, NYLPI provided recommendations for reforming the program at the state and national level, including:

- Simplifying the application process for all savings programs
- Making applications and informational materials accessible, by using large print formats and languages other than English
- Making interpretation services available for consumers with limited English proficiency
- Tracking applications as they travel through various government agencies to reduce the number of lost files
- Ensuring that consumers are not penalized with the loss of other benefits for participating in the Savings Program

Saving the Public Hospitals

NYLPI took an active role in preserving New York City's public hospitals through its efforts to retain services at North Central Bronx Hospital (NCB). As the demographics of the north and central Bronx have changed over the past two decades, NCB has increasingly become an important provider of health care for low-income and uninsured neighborhood residents.

In early 1999 a number of cutbacks to services at NCB posed serious threats to the hospital's already difficult mission of pro-

viding quality health care to some of the lowest-income neighborhoods in the City.

Working with a coalition of community residents, advocates, staff, unions, politicians, community organizations, and legal entities, NYLPI fought to preserve NCB from further reduction of services, or even worse, from closure. While the community coalitions, partners such as the Commission on the Public's Health System, and unions effectively organized rallies, petitions, community meetings, and political pressure, the legal team including NYLPI raised concerns about the legality of the cutbacks at NCB to the State Department of Health.



New York Daily News

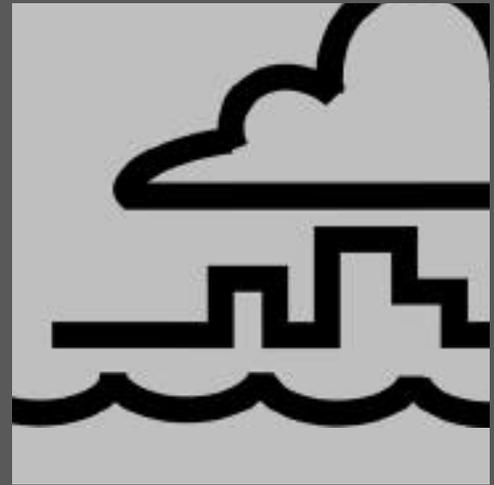
Citizens oppose the closing of North Central Bronx hospital at a City Council meeting.

The coordinated efforts of the broad coalition produced results. The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation announced that it was restoring services to NCB and investing money to renovate parts of the hospital. The coalition continues to monitor NCB and to work for the restoration of all vital services at this important neighborhood health care provider.

Monitoring Medicaid Managed Care

Proponents of New York State's shift to Medicaid Managed Care herald it as the way to ensure high-quality health care for low-income people while cutting costs for the State. As New York makes this major shift in the health care delivery system for low-income persons, NYLPI is working on several fronts to make sure that the change to Medicaid Managed Care brings increased access to health care for New York's most vulnerable populations:

- Monitoring the enrollment of Medicaid consumers into managed care in New York City to ensure that sufficient information is provided to allow for an informed decision.
- Advocating for a fair policy that allows exemption from mandatory enrollment due to language barriers to ensure that non-English speakers are not forced to enroll into managed care plans that cannot serve them in their language.
- Ensuring that both the Medicaid managed care enrollment broker and the managed care plans offer non-English speaking enrollees access to information and services in the appropriate language.
- Ensuring that the Medicaid managed care system, from enrollment to health care service delivery, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provides adequate health care for individuals with disabilities.



The Environmental Justice and Community Development Project

In recent years there has been increasing recognition that communities of color and low-income communities in New York City bear an unfair burden of environmental hazards. The Environmental Justice and Community Development Project addresses this problem by offering legal assistance and community organizing resources to environmentally distressed neighborhoods. NYLPI's goal is to strengthen the ability of communities to assert their right to a healthy environment.

The closing of Fresh Kills Landfill this year raised the question of how the City would deal with its waste, and which communities would bear the brunt of the problem. NYLPI and its community partners were ready for the challenge — and won several major triumphs.

Rerouting the Garbage

The Waste Transfer Station Campaign. The organizing efforts of NYLPI and the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods (OWN) forced the City to abandon plans for mega waste management stations and to give communities a voice in the environmental decisions that affect them, a major shift in the City's waste management policy.

New York City's private trash haulers bring approximately 26,000 tons per day of commercial garbage to the approximately 80 private waste transfer stations operating in New York City for transfer onto trucks bound for out-of-state disposal. Most of these stations are on the waterfront, clustered in predominantly low-income areas and communities of color. The heavy truck traffic is noisy and pollutes the air; the foul-smelling stations attract vermin; and the host communities suffer from the highest asthma rates in the country. In the wake of closing the Fresh Kills Landfill, the City is trucking an additional 13,000 tons of residential waste each day through these communities.

The City's new proposed long-term plan emphasizes borough self-sufficiency, with no borough accepting another's waste, and entails a decentralized mix of retrofitting existing Marine Transfer Stations and building smaller transfer stations.



Our campaign was multifaceted, including litigation on a number of fronts:

- Hunts Point was sited for the mammoth American Marine Rail transfer station. NYLPI and OWN went to battle and won a significant victory in August, when a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Administrative Law Judge ruled that the State had erred in waiving an Environmental Impact Study for the site. The State rescinded its conditional permit.
- NYLPI sued the City on behalf of community groups in Red Hook when the City granted a permit to Brooklyn Crushed Materials (BCM) for a 5,000 ton per day fill material transfer station without any environmental

review. The transfer station could have resulted in as many as 550 truck trips per day through the community, and was to have been located within 50 feet of a community park. The judge nullified the permit and issued a permanent injunction against the City and BCM.



Gail Suchman, NYLPI's Senior Environmental Counsel, discusses litigation strategies.



Jay McKnight of Red Hook explains why the transfer station would harm his community.

- NYLPI represents OWN in a lawsuit seeking to compel the City to adopt reasonable siting regulations for transfer stations. Last spring the City offered to enter into mediation to discuss the potential for re-promulgation of regulations that will satisfy community concerns. In the meantime the City is not allowed to permit any transfer station without giving NYLPI and the Court 20 days notice to allow for consideration of an injunction on any particular siting.

Going on the Offensive

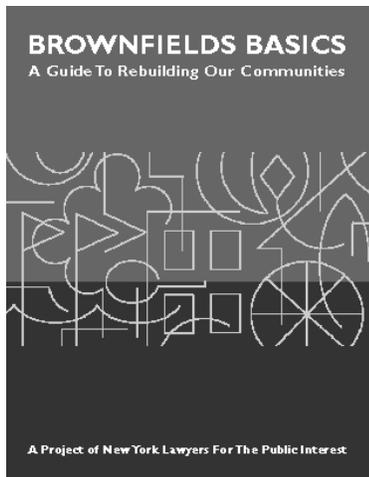
The Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Brownfields properties not only present a threat to public health but also add to the economic woes of neighborhoods by deterring investment. According to the Mayor's Office of

Environmental Coordination, New York City has approximately 5,000-6,000 brownfields sites, most of which are located in waterfront communities where, historically, manufacturing zones have existed with tens of thousands of residents.

The redevelopment of brownfields presents a rare opportunity to turn a negative into a positive by developing the land in an environmentally sound manner. To aid in this process NYLPI developed and distributed ***BROWNFIELDS BASICS: A Guide to Rebuilding Our Communities***. This comprehensive manual for communities, which explains the brownfields redevelopment process, is the first New York resource to provide information on the myriad federal and state programs for brownfields redevelopment.

NYLPI is also an active member of the Brownfields Coalition organized to continue pressing for provisions in state law that would encourage community input and sustainable development. Most Albany watchers expect a brownfields law to pass this session.

Utilizing its in-house expertise and the *pro bono* Clearinghouse, NYLPI also provides transactional legal counsel to community organizations in negotiations with banks, environmental agencies, and developers.



impact on local communities in their plan to rehabilitate and expand the Gowanus expressway. Moreover, the settlement provides for ongoing community involvement in the review process, and financial support for a community technical advisor.



Members of the Gowanus Coalition celebrate a favorable settlement of their suit.

Scoring Community Victories

The Power Plant Campaign. By early 2000 it became clear that NYLPI's community partners faced a challenge from the siting of new power plants in their neighborhoods. In response, NYLPI helped co-found Communities United for Responsible Energy (CURE). Our first victory took place when CURE member UPROSE was successful in its fight to pressure the NYS Siting Board to reject Sunset Energy Fleet's application for a 900 foot, 520 megawatt power plant barge.

Gowanus Expressway. Since 1995, NYLPI has worked with the Gowanus Expressway Community Coalition to formulate an organized response to the government's plan to rehabilitate and expand the Gowanus Expressway. Under the original plan 10,000 vehicles a day would have been rerouted onto the streets of neighborhoods already suffering from some of the highest levels of asthma in the country. Because the plan was approved without a review of the economic, environmental, and social impact on local communities, NYLPI and member firm Arnold and Porter sued the Federal Highway Administration and the New York State Department of Transportation on behalf of the Gowanus Coalition. The suit challenged the government's failure to perform transportation analyses as required under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991. In a major victory, the suit was settled and the State was compelled to include a review of the

Partnership Across Borders

NYLPI Co-Sponsors International Conference

In April of 2000, NYLPI and the City Bar organized an international conference on access to justice for poor people. Lawyers and activists from 14 countries came together to exchange experiences and approaches on both procedural and substantive justice for poor people.

The conference, *Partnership Across Borders: A Global Forum on Access to Justice*, was organized to strengthen ties between the growing numbers of public interest lawyers around the world. Today, the vast majority of the world's populations are denied access to legal services. The conference's 80 participants were united by their commitment to finding new ways to address the legal needs of the poor, and their understanding that providing individuals, communities, and disenfranchised groups effective access to the legal and judicial system is crucial to making "legal rights" real.

Over the course of two days activists from places as far flung as Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Lithuania, Eastern Europe, and



Andrea Durbach, creator of the Public Interest Law Clearinghouse (PILCH) in Australia, and Martin Bohmer, leader of the *Pro Bono* Initiative in Argentina, both modeled their organizations after NYLPI's *Pro Bono* Clearinghouse.



Joan Vermuelen shares a moment with William Kerfoot and Vincent Saldana from the Legal Resource Center in South Africa.

the United Kingdom came together at the House of the Association to discuss issues such as legal service delivery models, *pro bono* practices, and funding strategies. While comparing legal systems uncovered vast differences, particularly between developing and developed countries, the participants also found many points of commonality among their commitments and priorities. Participants left the conference with a sense of common purpose, new colleagues, and the desire to make access to justice a universal reality.

The Global Public Service Law Project of New York University School of Law, the Public Interest Law Initiative in Transitional Societies of Columbia Law School, the Stein Center for Law and Ethics at Fordham Law School, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York joined New York Lawyers for the Public Interest in co-sponsoring the conference.

Sheila L. Birnbaum Honored at 2001 Law & Society Luncheon

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest honored Sheila L. Birnbaum at its 2001 Law & Society Luncheon, attended by over 450 lawyers representing over 80 major New York City law firms and corporate law departments. Ms. Birnbaum, a member of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, is highly regarded for both her litigation skills and her long-standing commitment to public service. Most recently, Chief Judge Judith Kaye of the NYS Court of Appeals, who attended the lunch, appointed her Chair of the Statewide Commission on Fiduciary Appointments. Ms. Birnbaum has also served as Executive Director of the Second Circuit Task Force for Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Fairness; President of the New York Women's Bar Association; a Member of the Board of The Legal Aid Society; and was the first woman to receive tenure at Fordham University School of Law. She has received numerous awards, including the ABA's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and New York University's Florence E. Allen Award for distinguished achievement in law.



Sheila L. Birnbaum (second from left) with James W. Rayhill, NYLPI's Chair (left), and from left to right, Michael Rothenberg, NYLPI's Executive Director, Dean John D. Feerick, Fordham University School of Law, who presented the award, and Bettina B. Plevan of Proskauer Rose, luncheon co-chair.

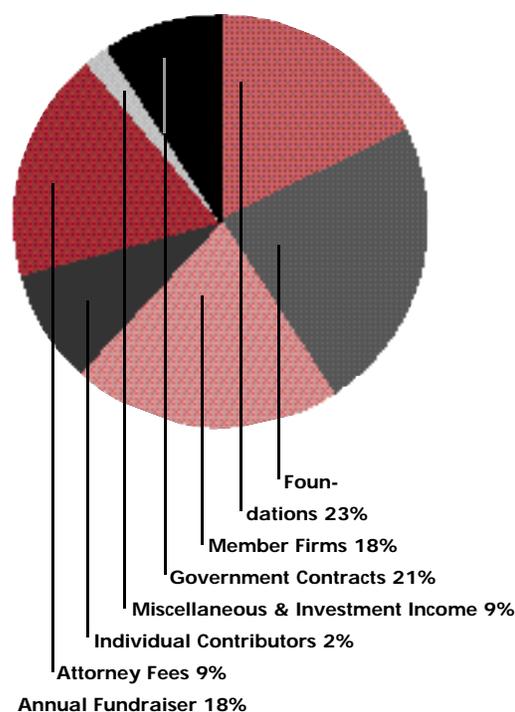
Financial Statement

May 31, 2000 and 1999

Assets	2000	1999
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,019,499	\$ 1,047,895
Grants receivable	136,858	131,797
Accounts receivable	196,594	106,581
Prepaid expense	21,450	10,567
Total current assets	1,374,401	1,296,840
Property and equipment:		
Furniture and fixtures	18,950	18,950
Office equipment	197,562	144,574
Leasehold improvements	105,598	44,923
	322,110	208,447
Less accumulated depreciation	142,426	115,291
	179,684	93,156
Other assets:		
Security deposits	31,000	31,000
Total assets	\$ 1,585,085	\$ 1,420,996

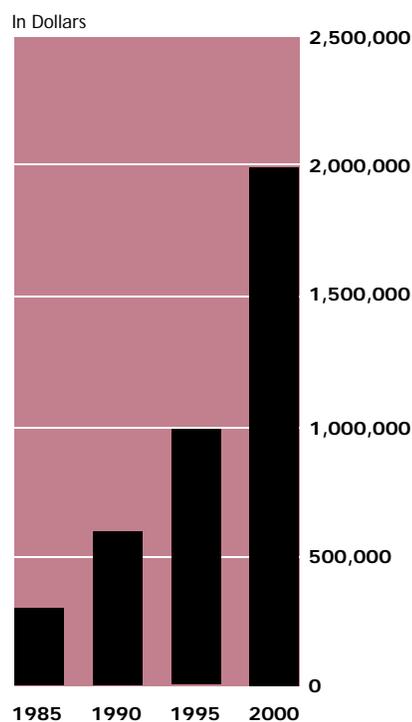
Sources of Operating Support

Total operating budget of 2 million



Liabilities and Net Assets	2000	1999
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 48,359	\$ 45,715
Obligations under capital lease	8,248	3,576
Other current liabilities	9,972	8,227
Total current liabilities	66,579	57,518
Long-term liabilities:		
Obligations under capital lease	26,682	5,612
Total liabilities	93,261	63,130
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	1,283,837	1,203,571
Temporarily restricted	129,987	54,295
Permanently restricted	78,000	100,000
Total net assets	1,491,824	1,357,866
Total liabilities and net assets:	\$ 1,585,085	\$ 1,420,996

Operating Budget



NYLPI Board of Directors

James W. Rayhill, Chair
Robert I. Kleinberg, Vice Chair
Mitchell A. Lowenthal, Vice Chair
Ogden N. Lewis, Vice Chair
Kent T. Stauffer, Vice Chair
Mark G. Cunha, Vice Chair
Maria Imperial, Secretary
Timothy G. Rogers, Treasurer

Thomas E. Bezanson
Sharon Y. Bowen
David H. Braff
David M. Brodsky
Steven G. Brody
Martin Flumenbaum
Max N. Friedman
Joseph S. Genova
Stuart W. Gold
Gina M. Higgins
James E. Hough
Christopher K. Hu
Beth D. Jacob
Mitchell A. Karlan
Jeffrey I. Kohn

Daniel J. Kramer
Douglas M. Kraus
Robert Lewin
Patricia A. Martone
Robert L. Mason
Joseph F. McDonald
Elizabeth W. Millard
Daniel R. Murdock
Michael Nissan
Barbara Berger Opotowsky
Bettina B. Plevan
Sarah L. Reid
Gerald A. Rosenberg
Michael E. Salzman
Amy W. Schulman
John S. Siffert
Arthur M. Siskind
Alexander R. Sussman
Christopher K. Tahbaz
Evan A. Davis
Director Ex-Officio
Adrian W. DeWind
Director Emeritus

NYLPI Staff

Tracey L. Andrews, Paralegal
Eddie Bautista, Director of Community Planning
Sylvia Borrero, Office Manager
Dennis R. Boyd, Senior Staff Attorney
Sofia Casini, Development Associate
Jyothi Desai, Paralegal
Matthew Fox, Community Outreach Coordinator
John A. Gresham, Senior Litigation Counsel
Gail E. Horwitz, Staff Attorney, NAPIL Fellow
Marianne L. Engelman Lado, General Counsel
Amanda Masters, Staff Attorney
Roberta Mueller, Senior Staff Attorney
Isabel Ochoa, Development Director
Elizabeth Mae Olson, Legal Assistant
Bryan Pu-Folkes, Director, Private Bar Involvement Programs
Lourdes I. Reyes, Staff Attorney
Michael A. Rothenberg, Executive Director
Bryan Seeley, Administrative Assistant
E. Gail Suchman, Senior Environmental Counsel
Kimberly B. Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney
Charlene A. Toombs, Senior Office Associate
Elexia P. Urrea, Administrative Office Associate
Denise P. White, Executive Assistant
Pauline H. Yoo, Staff Attorney



Back Row: Elizabeth Olson, Bryan Pu-Folkes, Dennis Boyd, John Gresham, and Jyothi Desai

Middle Row: Sofia Casini, Bryan Seeley, Lourdes Reyes, Roberta Mueller, Charlene Toombs, Kim Sweet, Tracey Andrews, and Joan Vermuelen

Front Row: Isabel Ochoa, Gail Suchman, Gail Horwitz, and Michael Rothenberg

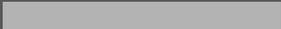
Member Law Firms and Corporate Law Departments

AOL Time Warner	Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto	Morgan Stanley	Sidley Austin Brown & Wood
Arnold & Porter	Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson	Morrison & Foerster	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Avon Products		Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason & Silberberg	Sive, Paget & Riesel
Bingham Dana	Friedman Kaplan & Seiler	National Financial Partners	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Blank Rome Tenzer Greenblatt	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher	O'Melveny & Myers	Solomon, Zauderer, Ellenhorn, Frischer & Sharp
Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison	Goodkind Labaton Rudoff & Sucharow	Orans, Elsen & Lupert	Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft	Greenfield, Stein & Senior	Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler	Squadron, Ellenhoff, Plesent & Sheinfeld
Cahill Gordon & Reindel	Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison	Stroock & Stroock & Lavan
Carter, Ledyard & Milburn	Hughes Hubbard & Reed	Pennie & Edmonds	Sullivan & Cromwell
Chadbourne & Parke	J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.	Philip Morris Companies	Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman
Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton	Kalkines, Arky, Zall & Bernstein	Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon	Thelen Reid & Priest
Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells	Kaye Scholer	Pillsbury Winthrop	Torys
Colgate-Palmolive Company	Kelley Drye & Warren	Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe	Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Cravath, Swaine & Moore	Kornstein Veisz & Wexler	Proskauer Rose	Weil, Gotshal & Manges
Credit Suisse First Boston	Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel	Reed Smith Shaw & McClay	White & Case
Davis Polk & Wardwell	Lankler Siffert & Wohl	Robinson Silverman Pearce Aronsohn & Berman	Willkie Farr & Gallagher
Davis Wright Tremaine	Latham & Watkins	Rosenman & Colin	Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
Debevoise & Plimpton	LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae	RubinBaum	Winston & Strawn
Dechert	McDonough Marcus Cohn Tretter Heller & Kanca	Schulte Roth & Zabel	
Dewey Ballantine	Metropolitan Life	Shearman & Sterling	
Dorsey & Whitney	Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy		
Dreier & Baritz	Morgan & Finnegan		
Esanu Katsky Korins & Siger	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius		
Fish & Neave			

Additional Major Supporters

The Accetta Group	Daniel J. Kramer	One to One: Wall Street Charity Fund
Ann Cole Opinion Research and Analysis	Douglas M. Kraus	PaineWebber Incorporated
Aon Professional Services Group	Levi Lubarsky & Feigenbaum	Peterson Consulting
Arch Chemicals	Robert Lewin	Pfizer Inc.
Thomas E. Bezanson	Ogden N. Lewis	Bettina B. Plevan
Sheila L. Birnbaum	LEXIS-NEXIS	Beth A. Rasin
David H. Braff	Lorillard Tobacco Company	James W. Rayhill
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Mitchell A. Lowenthal	Sarah L. Reid
David M. Brodsky	Leslie A. Lupert	Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.
Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust	MacAndrews & Forbes Holdings Inc.	Timothy G. Rogers
The Chase Manhattan Foundation	Manhattan/Advocate Reporting Legalink Companies	Gerald A. Rosenberg
Citigroup Inc.	MARSH	Schering-Plough Corp.
The Commonwealth Fund	Patricia A. Martone	The Scherman Foundation, Inc.
Court TV	Robert L. Mason	John S. Siffert
Creative Alternatives	Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.	William J. Snipes
Evan A. Davis	Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation	Julie T. Spellman
Martin Flumenbaum	Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach	Nate B. and Frances Spingold Foundation, Inc.
Austin T. Fragomen	Elizabeth W. Millard	Kent T. Stauffer
Fund for the City of New York, Inc.	The Ambrose Monell Foundation	Jeffrey & Susan Stern
Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman & Mackauf	Morgan Stanley	Christopher K. Tahbaz
Joseph S. Genova	Ellen R. Nadler	The Taconic Foundation
Herman Goldman Foundation	National Economic Research Associates, Inc.	TrialGraphix/TrialLogix
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	The News Corporation Limited	The Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
John H. Hall	The New York Community Trust	Albert and Bessie Warner Fund
Independence Community Foundation	New York Law Journal	The Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund
Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of New York (IOLA)	N.Y.S. Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled	West Group
Robert M. Kaufman	Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Inc.	
Robert I. Kleinberg		
Jeffrey I. Kohn		

N Y L P I



New York Lawyers For The Public Interest

151 West 30th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001