

NYLPI and Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP Win Compensation for Young Person with Learning Disabilities

NYLPI and **Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP** won a significant compensatory award from the New York City Department of Education on behalf of Alexander James, a young man with learning disabilities. He will now be able to obtain the educational support he needs to graduate with a high school diploma.

Cheryl James, Alexander's mother, spent four frustrating years trying to get the



ALEXANDER AND CHERYL JAMES AT THE KOLBOURNE SCHOOL

Department of Education (DOE) to listen to her pleas. Her son was struggling with his disability and failing in school. His negative experiences had taught him to fear academic environments, further impairing his education. The DOE's specialists diagnosed him as mentally retarded, claiming Alexander was not capable of advancing in an academic setting. Ms. James knew otherwise, but could not convince the bureaucracy.

"Nobody believed me," she recalled. "I just went running around in circles...running to the school, on the phone, going to meetings."

After years of frustration, Ms. James finally connected with Pamela Hux-Singh, a special education advocate, and Kim Sweet, NYLPI Associate General Counsel and Coordinator of the Education Program. Sweet and Hux-Singh helped Ms. James build a case that Alexander could succeed academically with the intensive support of a residential school. They had him evaluated by a group of independent experts who agreed with that assessment.

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Pro Bono Models: Bingham McCutchen Partners with Say Yes to Education to Support Harlem Families

Pro Bono Models will be a regular series highlighting the innovative pro bono efforts of our member law firms.

Bingham McCutchen LLP has made a commitment virtually unheard-of in the *pro bono* field: they have agreed to provide over 425 families with free legal services for the next fifteen years.

The firm has partnered with Say Yes to Education, a nonprofit academic intervention program for students who are facing educational and social challenges. The organization, which was founded in 1987 by Hartford financial manager George A. Weiss, adopts entire classes of children and provides them and their families with support to help the students graduate from high

school. Say Yes also provides students who graduate with full college tuition at the institution of their choice.

In New York, Say Yes is working with 425 students from five Harlem schools, and Bingham has committed to providing them and their families with *pro bono* legal ser-



A BINGHAM STAFF PERSON TUTORS SAY YES STUDENTS

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

("PRO BONO MODELS: BINGHAM McCUTCHEEN ..."
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VICES for the next 15 years. These services are comprehensive, including assistance with housing and financial issues, educational needs, immigration questions, criminal matters, and estate planning.

Twice a week, Bingham attorneys travel to Harlem for open "office hours" at the schools. Clients are welcome to drop in and discuss their issues with the attorneys present, who either work directly to resolve the problem or refer them to other attorneys if necessary. In addition, the program operates a 24-hour message line, where clients can leave voicemails for urgent situations.

"By providing comprehensive legal services to some of the City's most indigent residents, we are allowing hundreds of children and their families to remain focused on the child's education," said Jaimie Dockray, Managing Director of Bingham's Say Yes to Education Program.

Since November 2004, when the program kicked off, Bingham has provided services on a range of matters, from preventing the

eviction of a mother with two children whose landlord wanted to increase their rent illegally to aiding twenty families in their quest to legalize their immigration status in the United States.

"This is a rare instance where a law firm can work with a significant client to improve the lives of hundreds of people, while bringing a lot of joy to the individual lawyers and staff who are participating in the project," stated Ed Maluf, Bingham partner.

The firm's interest in the families extends beyond the provision of legal services. Last summer, a group of non-legal staff from Bingham worked at a summer camp program run by Say Yes. The experience was enormously rewarding for all the participants, and further affirmed Bingham's commitment to the students and families.

"They're as committed [to the families] as we are," commented Rachel Flax, Say Yes' Regional Director. "Bingham is setting an example for law firms everywhere."

PRO BONO MATTERS

SPRING 2006

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New Staff and Interns

NYLPI welcomes two new members of our staff:

- Shakima Grant**, Office Assistant
- Jin Hee Lee**, Staff Attorney, Access to Health Care

We also welcome the following interns and volunteers:

- Anthony Allen**, IT Assistant
- Susan Hannigan**, Intake Volunteer, Disability Law Center
- Matthew Larson**, Volunteer, National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights
- Kevin Olson**, Volunteer Attorney
- Eddie Ringel**, Volunteer Attorney
- Camille Zentner**, Legal Intern, Brooklyn Law School



JAIMIE DOCKRAY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BINGHAM'S SAY YES PROGRAM, WITH A SAY YES STUDENT.

Zachary W. Carter, Esq, Honored at Law & Society Award Luncheon

On February 28, 2006, NYLPI hosted the Law & Society Award Luncheon, which honors attorneys who are true exemplars of the highest ideals of our legal profession. This year, we honored Zachary W. Carter, partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP. The event was held at Cipriani's and was attended by 700 attorneys.

Prior to joining his current firm, Mr. Carter served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for six years. He was responsible for numerous prosecutions of national significance, including the successful prosecution of New York City police officers for the torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima.

Mr. Carter was also a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorneys, where he significantly contributed to the development of Department of Justice policies. He has held numerous prominent positions during his career, including U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Criminal Court Judge for the City of New York, and Executive Assistant District Attorney for Kings County.

Mr. Carter serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Hale House, a position to which he was appointed by the New York State Attorney General.



(L TO R) NYLPI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL ROTHENBERG, HONOREE ZACHARY W. CARTER, COUNSEL TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY, EASTERN DISTRICT BARBARA UNDERWOOD, NYLPI BOARD CHAIR SHARON BOWEN.



(L TO R) EPSTEIN BECKER PARTNER BARRY COZIER, NYC DEPUTY MAYOR CAROL ROBLES-ROMAN, US DISTRICT JUDGE OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT GEORGE DANIELS, AND US COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE JUDGE NICHOLAS TSOUCALAS.



(L TO R) MICHAEL ROTHENBERG, FORMER BOARD CHAIR DAVID BRODSKY, BARBARA UNDERWOOD, ZACHARY CARTER, SHARON BOWEN, NYLPI BOARD MEMBER LORETTA LYNCH, CHAIREELECT JOHN SIFFERT.



OVER 700 FRIENDS OF NYLPI ATTENDED THE EVENT.

Associate Matters

Amy Impellizzeri

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Amy Impellizzeri, an associate at **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**, was looking for a *pro bono* opportunity to sink her teeth into when she learned about NYLPI's special education practice. She heard of a case involving a young girl who had been exhibiting behavioral issues in school. The Department of Education intended to place her in a school for children with disabilities, a decision vigorously opposed by the child's mother. Amy decided to take up the child's cause.

Ultimately, the child and her family prevailed in the matter, and she was able to remain within an integrated setting, with supports set up to address her special needs. Impellizzeri was hooked and decided that she wanted special education to be the focus of her *pro bono* work. She's since taken on two additional

**NYLPI
SPECIAL
ED**

cases in the last two years and looks forward to more.

Impellizzeri enjoys many parts of her special education work, but one of its most inspiring aspects has been working directly with parents. "The parents I've dealt with are incredible," she said. "They're so involved, they sincerely want to navigate the system, and they just need someone to help them do it. They're such amazing advocates for their children."

She also acknowledges that this work comes with some unique challenges. "Usually, when I'm dealing with my corporate clients, there's not the emotional component that's present in my special ed cases," she remarked. But developing those relationships with her clients came with rewards, as well.

"Once [the parents] saw that they could trust me, and that I was here to help, they were much more cooperative," Amy noted. "That's how you get good results."

"Amy is amazingly organized, committed, and compassionate," remarked Kim Sweet,

NYLPI Associate General Counsel and Coordinator of the Education Program. "I knew from the moment I met her that she would do wonderful work for our clients."

On her end, Impellizzeri greatly appreciates the support she has received from NYLPI's in-house staff. "The cooperative relationship among the *pro bono* counsel, the parents, and NYLPI, Kim Sweet in particular, has always been what leads to a successful result."

"We're very proud of the work Amy has done in her special education cases. Her dedication to the work is noteworthy, all the more so because all three of her cases have ended successfully," noted Ron Tabak, Skadden's Special Counsel responsible for its *pro bono* program.



SKADDEN, ARPS ASSOCIATE
AMY IMPELLIZZERI



("NYLPI AND KASOWITZ BENSON..."
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Hux-Singh found Alexander a residential school where he would receive the services he needed and, with NYLPI's guidance, successfully advocated for the DOE to pay his tuition. He flourished at the new school, and is on track to graduate by the end of the 2008 academic year.

Kasowitz attorney Albert Shemmy Mishaan entered the picture as Alexander approached his twenty-first birthday. He was already nineteen when he was placed at the school, and the DOE normally would not have had an obligation to fund his tuition after he reached adulthood. If Alexander was not allowed to continue at his residential school, all the progress he had made would not result in a diploma.

At an impartial hearing, Mishaan argued that after years of failing to meet its obligations to Alexander, the DOE had a responsibility to continue supporting his education. The hearing officer agreed, handing down a resounding decision ordering the City to fund his tuition for up to three more years, which would allow him to graduate.

"I felt a sense of relief," recalled Mishaan. "I was very gratified for the family that the

opinion was strong...it sent a message that they were right, that they had been wronged by the system."

Mishaan also noted that, "Alexander already had a great team around him. His mother has always been a strong advocate for him throughout his life, and Alexander himself is a great guy. I can't emphasize enough how much of a collaborative effort this was."

Ms. James had enthusiastic words for the support that Kasowitz, NYLPI, and Ms. Hux-Singh provided for her.

"Every mother who is battling the Department of Education needs this team," she said.

She is also overjoyed at the progress Alexander has made. "For the first time my son said to me, 'Mother, I'm studying.' I've never heard him say that before."



KASOWITZ PARTNER
SHEMMY MISHAAN

Spotlight On: Parents for Inclusive Education

Parents for Inclusive Education (PIE), an organization that NYLPI helped form in 1997 is a group of parents, educators, and advocates working together to make inclusion of children with disabilities a reality in New York City’s schools.

PIE works to ensure that children with disabilities have access to age-appropriate, general education classes, with supports built in to address their special needs. Since its inception, PIE has provided support for over 180 parents, educators and advocates on the issue of inclusion, as well as organized public education campaigns and worked with government officials on systemic reform.

The organization has been a tremendous source of support to parents of children with special needs. “Meeting strangers and talking about their children [who are going through inclusion] is okay, but when you actually know the person, and see how happy and successful their child is, that makes a big difference,” remarked Deborah Cataldo, a PIE member.

In addition, PIE has helped give parents a voice in shaping public policy. One of its

major projects has been to increase parents’ access to information about their rights and options. To that end, they persuaded the City to organize orientation sessions and school tours for parents with children with special needs who are entering kindergarten.

Kim Sweet, NYLPI Associate General Counsel and Coordinator of the Education Program, was one of the founders of the organization, and currently serves as its counsel. “What has kept PIE together is our

shared commitment to the civil rights of children with disabilities. The group attracts parents, advocates, and educators who are willing to push the envelope and take risks to promote a more inclusive society,” said Sweet.

PIE has helped countless parents to empower themselves to become advocates. “PIE helped me through making my decisions, and I want to give back,” said Nora Cohen, a member. “Being involved in PIE gives me the chance to do that.”



MEMBERS OF PARENTS FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION GATHER FOR THEIR MONTHLY MEETING

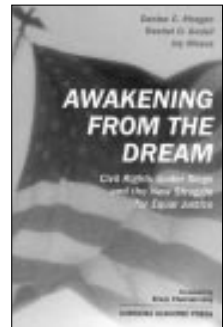
Campaign Launches Book on Dismantling of Civil Rights

The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights which is housed at NYLPI, has just released, the highly anticipated book, *Awakening from the Dream: Civil Rights under Siege and the New Struggle for Equal Justice*.

The book exposes the Supreme Court’s methodical dismantling of federal laws that advance inclusion, equal membership, political participation, and economic mobility in the United States. The ongoing Federalism

Revolution has crippled Congress’ legislative powers and made it difficult for individuals to enforce their civil rights in the courts. Law professors, public interest lawyers, students, and activists discuss some of the Americans who have been deprived of justice by this rollback, starkly portraying the impact of the increasingly right-wing federal judiciary.

For more information on *Awakening from the Dream*, and to order the book, please visit, www.rollbackcampaign.org.



O'Melveny & Myers Counsel Joins Board of Pro Bono Client

HERE Arts Center was in a bit of a tough spot when Joshua Schwartz of **O'Melveny & Myers LLP** picked up their case. The organization, which runs an arts collective and exhibition space, was in the midst of an eviction proceeding that their landlord had initiated while waiting for the resolution of a five-year lease renewal.

In addition, the building where the organization was located was about to be sold to a developer, and HERE was to become part of the ownership group that would take possession of the property.

The attorney would have to advocate fiercely on behalf of HERE, while not upsetting the purchase negotiations. Needless to say, the circumstances were fairly tricky, but Schwartz plunged in without hesitation.

Schwartz, along with O'Melveny associates Bingna Guo and Frank Goldman, worked closely with HERE and **Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP**, which represented the organization in their negotiations with the developer. "He was fantastic, really knowledgeable and experienced, and helped us figure out an effective strategy," said Kristin Marting, HERE's Executive Director.

Thanks to the advocacy of both firms, HERE successfully negotiated renewal of their lease and eventually was able to purchase their space.

Working on the matter proved to be rewarding in a number of ways for Schwartz. While he came to the table armed with confidence and expertise, the HERE matter presented him with an opportunity to take the lead role on resolving a complex situation.

"It was great to be able to roll up my sleeves and take full command of the case," Josh recalled.

Josh also had high praise for HERE. "Kristin Marting, in addition to her creative expertise and vision, is also a very compe-

tent manager. [HERE] was a very sophisticated client." In fact, he was so impressed with the group that in June 2005, Josh officially agreed to join HERE's Board of Directors.

Kristin Marting noted, "Josh really got the mission of the organization, and during the course of working on the matter, he displayed a lot of interest. He seemed really enthusiastic about what we were doing, and it seemed like a great fit."



JOSHUA SCHWARTZ OF O'MELVENY & MYERS, AT HERE ARTS CENTER.

About NYLPI

OUR MISSION

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

OUR WORK

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

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

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

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

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

NYLPI relies on the support

of members of the bar to

achieve our mission of pro-

viding superior legal services

to New York's most vulnera-

ble citizens. To make a con-

tribution, please call Robin

Naismith at 212-244-4664

or visit our web site at

www.nylpi.org.

Cadwalader Hosts Launch for Book Documenting Work of 9-11 Project

On November 1, 2005, **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP** hosted a party to announce the launch of *The 9/11 Project* book. The publication documents the work

"Our idea was to pool the talent, resources, and commitment of our firms to alleviate the suffering of some very vulnerable families. We were there for them, and for each other, not just during the first few weeks but for however long it took."

—Debra Brown Steinberg,
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

of NYLPI's 9/11 Project, a collaboration among a number of New York law firms to assist the families of members of Local 100 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, who worked at Windows on the World, as well as those of Local 32B-J of the Service Employees International Union, who were building maintenance workers in the World Trade Center.

Kenneth R. Feinberg, Special Master of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, addressed the audience of over 80 individuals involved with the project. Chairman Robert

O. Link, Jr. and Debra Brown Steinberg of Cadwalader, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, and Michael Rothenberg, Executive Director of NYLPI, also spoke at the event.

The families faced a wide range of legal needs, including immigration, trusts and estates, custody, tax, workers compensation, housing, and benefits. The firms worked to address all of those needs, and partnered with other institutions, such as accounting



KENNETH FEINBERG, SPECIAL MASTER OF THE 9-11 VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

firms and banks, to provide for the families' other pressing issues.

NYLPI thanks Cadwalader for hosting the event. If you are interested in receiving a free copy of the book, please call Amanda Matteis at 212-244-4664.

NYLPI thanks the nine collaborating law firms that worked on the Project:

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
Herrick, Feinstein LLP
Morrison & Foerster LLP
Shearman & Sterling LLP
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
Zwerling, Schachter & Zwerling, LLP

We also thank the following firms and financial institutions for their contributions:

ECO-STAT LLC
Eisner LLP
Mellon Trust of New York



(L TO R) MELLON FINANCIAL CORPORATION ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT REED CHOATE, CADWALADER PARTNER DEBRA STEINBERG, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, MELLON FINANCIAL CORPORATION SCOTT S. SMALL, AND CADWALADER MANAGING PARTNER ROBERT O. LINK, JR.



DEBRA STEINBERG OF CADWALADER ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE.

Recently Placed Clearinghouse Matters

From 9/17/05 to 1/13/06

Abounding Grace Ministries **O'Melveny & Myers LLP**

Joshua Schwartz

Abounding Grace Ministries is a faith-based organization that provides a variety of community and social services. The firm is representing them in a contract-related litigation.

American Immunization Registry Association

Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP

Salem Katsh, Chanah Brennenson

The organization promotes the development and implementation of immunization registries as a tool in controlling the spread of disease. The firm is advising them on an intellectual property matter.

Artists for Creative Theatre

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Frank Vivero

Artists for Creative Theatre increases access to creative outlets and professional development in the arts for communities that have historically lacked such resources. The firm is working to obtain federal tax-exempt status for the group.

Bendheim Performing Arts Center

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Frederick Green, Steven Margolis, Edward Kim, Roy Wiesner

The firm is helping the organization, which produces a wide range of arts programs, to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Brooklyn Parkinson Group

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP

Erik Sternberg

The Brooklyn Parkinson Group promotes education and community awareness of Parkinson's disease, and provides support to families affected by the disease. The attorney is helping the group file for tax-exempt status.

Brazilian Conservation Society

Shearman & Sterling LLP

Douglas McFadyen, Bradley Thompson

The organization promotes environmental conservation in Brazil through education, grantmaking, and facilitation of strategic partnerships. The firm is providing them with tax guidance.

Committee to Preserve Cadman Towers

Kronish Lieb Weiner & Hellman LLP

Ian Shapiro

The firm is representing the Committee in their fight to keep their Mitchell-Lama development affordable for low and moderate-income families.

Castle Hill Residents Association

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Matthew Craner

The Castle Hill Residents Association is a tenants' association in a public housing development. The attorney is representing them in a dispute with their landlord.

Children of Promise

Holland & Knight LLP

Mark Smith

Children of Promise will work with young people whose parents are currently in the prison system. The attorney is assisting them with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Coalition to Save Admiral's Row

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Benjamin Woolf, Leah Vickers

The Coalition to Save Admiral's Row is a

conglomeration of organizations working to save the Officer's Quarters of the Brooklyn Navy Yard from demolition. The attorneys are providing legal research to the Coalition.

Cornell University Memorial ROTC Scholarship Trust

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Steven Epstein, John Flippen

The organization wishes to support the education of children of Cornell ROTC alumni who have lost their lives while fighting in conflicts abroad. The firm will help the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.



Creative Prison Outlet

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Ann Chamberlain, Jen Lifschitz

Creative Prison Outlet is an arts organization working with prison inmates. The firm is helping them to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

CUNY Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic

Bryan Cave LLP

Jeanette Moshkovich

The CUNY Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic is representing a group of day laborers in a suit against their former employer. The attorney assisted the Clinic in a related matter in bankruptcy court.

Disabled in Action

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

Alexandra Minkovich

Disabled in Action is a civil rights organization committed to ending discrimination against people with disabilities. The attorney is advising their Board of Directors on their fiduciary responsibilities.

Embrace diverse Disabilities

White & Case LLP

Nicole Hart

Embrace diverse Disabilities seeks to remove educational obstacles for children with disabilities and special needs. The attorney will assist them in incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Flying Fingers

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Wallace Larson, Robert Williams

Flying Fingers wishes to establish camps and educational services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as their parents. The firm is helping the organization to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Fort Greene Strategic Neighborhood

Action Partnership

Latham & Watkins LLP

Michelle Mann, Jennifer Sperling

The Fort Greene SNAP seeks to be the all-inclusive, representative voice of several Brooklyn neighborhoods. The firm is representing the group in a landlord-tenant matter.

Four Borough Preservation Coalition

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Cassandra Marshall, Perry Sayles

The Coalition works to improve the quality of life of residents of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. The firm is helping the Coalition legally establish itself as a nonprofit organization.

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Mayer Greenberg

The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institution runs programs to support democratic freedoms in the U.S. and abroad, in the name of the Roosevelt legacy. The firm is providing the group with tax guidance.

Groundwork

Proskauer Rose LLP

Sarah Burt

Groundwork helps young people living in high poverty urban communities to develop their strengths through experiential learning and work programs. The firm is providing the organization with guidance on their employment policies.

Haven Coalition

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Ann Chamberlain

The Haven Coalition provides support to women of limited income who have been forced to travel to New York City in order to obtain abortions. The firm is assisting with legally establishing the organization.

Holy Sacred Baptist Church

Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP

Paul Galante

The firm is representing the Church in a property dispute.

I Challenge Myself

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Sarah Tian

The organization provides high school students in underserved communities with opportunities for leadership development and health awareness. The firm is reviewing the organization's employment policies and drafting contracts.

Idealware

Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP

Herman Raspe

Idealware provides information about nonprofit software to organizations. The firm is providing Idealware with assistance in intellectual property and fiscal sponsorship matters.

International Women's Tribune Center

Nixon Peabody LLP

Richard Bernard, Dennis Drebsky

The International Women's Tribune Center provides support services to organizations throughout the world that seek to improve the lives of low-income women. The firm is representing the organization in a dispute with a creditor.

Jewish Educational Services of North America

Proskauer Rose LLP

Lauren Ernst, Steven Krane

The Jewish Education Service of North America seeks to make engaging, inspiring, and high-quality Jewish education available to every Jewish person in North America. The firm is assisting the group on drafting a consultant agreement.

Jewish Educational Services of North America

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Sherry Didia, David Schwartz

The firm is assisting the organization (see above) with a contract drafting matter.

Jewish Educational Services of North America

King & Spalding LLP

Joshua Levinson

The firm is drafting a contract related to royalties from the use of the software that the organization (see above) has developed.

Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center

Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP

Robert Ward, Jennifer Banner

The Center provides health care and services to medically-underserved residents of Queens. The firm is representing them in a contract dispute.

Literary Arts and Film Foundation
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Christopher Poindexter

The group intends to foster the participation of young people in the arts and media through educational programs. The firm is helping them to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Managalas Educational Fund
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP

Nicolai Sarad

The Fund provides children of the Managalas Plateau with the opportunity to receive an education where it would otherwise be denied. The firm is assisting the group with obtaining tax-exempt status in the United States.

Medwiser

Troutman Sanders LLP

Howard Margulis, Ellen Wolchek

Medwiser endeavors to combat and contain the transmission of HIV/AIDS via public education programs. The organization is planning an HIV/AIDS awareness concert in June, and the firm is drafting contracts with vendors and partners that will be involved in the event.

NYC Amateur Radio Emergency Services
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Frank Puleo, Robert Milton

The New York City District Amateur Radio Emergency Service is an all-volunteer organization that provides communications during community events and emergency situations. The firm will help NYC ARES to obtain tax-exempt status.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP

Ronald Aizen, Stephen Gorell

The firm is providing NYLPI with assistance regarding its retirement plan benefits.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Shearman & Sterling LLP

B. John Williams Jr., Robert Rudnik, Bradley Thompson

A "smart credit card" would enable non-profit organizations to make purchases without paying sales tax, and would likely improve control over the use of the tax-exempt benefit. The firm is collaborating with NYLPI on exploring the viability of the project.

Ohel Alliyah

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Kimberly Worly

Ohel Alliyah promotes immigration of Jews to Israel via public education and outreach to community institutions. The firm is assisting in incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status for the organization.

Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund

Latham & Watkins LLP

Juan Gonzalez, Andrew Warren

PRLDEF is defending the rights of Latino day-laborers who are being evicted from their homes in the Town of Brookhaven. PRLDEF has filed an action against the municipality and the county, and the firm is co-counseling on the matter.

The Family of Queen Washington
Torys LLP

Jeffrey Gracer, Saro Sarmazian

The firm is assisting the family of Queen Washington, a young girl whose life was cut short in a tragic incident, with creating a foundation in her name to support children from her Brooklyn community who want to pursue careers in the arts.

San Marcos Creativity Foundation

Proskauer Rose LLP

Andrew Kleiman

The San Marcos Creativity Foundation is an after-school program that serves low-

income indigenous children living in San Marcos La Laguna, Guatemala. The firm is helping the group to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status in the U.S.

Spoletto Arts Symposium

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Elizabeth Evans, Gardenia Cucci, Doug Plante

The Spoleto Arts Symposia offers a series of arts workshops in Spoleto, Italy. The firm is helping the group with incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status.

Status C Unknown

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Mina Park, Dallas Deluca, Lisa Vicens

Status C Unknown was founded in response to the need for public education on the hepatitis C virus. The firm is helping the group to incorporate and gain tax-exempt status.



Steven Vincent Foundation

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Matt Heiser, Craigh Leonard, Samuel Turvey

The Steven Vincent Foundation was founded in honor of a New York-based journalist who was killed while reporting in Iraq. The firm is helping the group to establish itself as a legal entity.

Union Child Day Care Center

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Douglas Schwarz

The Center provides comprehensive child care services in White Plains, New York. The firm is providing employment-related guidance.

United Parents Association of New York City

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

William Sushon, Andrew Escobar

The group is the oldest independent parent organization in the city, composed of a federation of parents associations in public schools. The firm is representing the organization in litigation.

Universal Health Care Foundation of New York

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCoy LLP

Elihu Robertson

The organization provides grants and support to organizations seeking to achieve quality affordable health care for all. The firm is helping the group to incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

Urban Agenda

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Neda Matar

Urban Agenda is a public policy organization dedicated to uniting labor and the community, as well as working toward social and economic justice in New York City. The attorney is providing legal research on labor practices in the affordable housing development industry.

Vancouver New York Artisans Collective

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Joseph Verdesca, Matt Cammack, Cara Hirsch

The organization supports, mentors, and promotes community artists in Vancouver and New York. The firm is drafting contracts for the group that will protect the interests of both the organization and its member artists.

Weather Awareness Resource Network

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Christian Bergeron

The Weather Awareness Resource Network informs the public about the dangers of severe weather, in order to help minimize loss of life and property. The firm is helping it to obtain tax-exempt status.

Wisconsin Community Services

Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP

Jonathan Lave

A group of community organizations working with individuals with disabilities sought, and were denied, permission from the City of Milwaukee to build a health clinic. The attorney is providing legal research to support their appeal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MATTERS

Matter of Brendan L.

Dewey Ballantine LLP

Mark Allison, Monica Coakley

The firm is advocating on behalf of a child with special needs to obtain tuition payments and support services from the New York City Department of Education.

Matter of Ianna H.

DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP

Caryn Schechtman, Megan Vesely

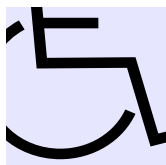
The firm is assisting the client with obtaining accommodations from her high school for her disabilities.

Matter of Jeremy B.

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Samuel Butt

Jeremy and his mother are advocating to get him into an appropriate academic program with the Department of Education.



Matter of John A.

Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP

Joanne Kwong

The firm is assisting John in obtaining services that the Early Intervention Program is obligated to provide for him.

Matter of Larry M.

Davis Polk & Wardwell

Russell Capone

The firm is assisting Larry in obtaining reimbursement from the Department of Education for his tuition at an educational institution where he was receiving services.

Matter of Natasha L.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Philip Riblett

The firm is representing Natasha and her mother in an administrative hearing at the Department of Education, requesting that Natasha be placed in a school that can properly address her learning disabilities.

Matter of Sammy J.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Kathyanne Cohen

The attorney is representing Sammy in an administrative hearing against the Department of Education to challenge his current educational program and get him the additional services he needs.

Matter of Troy D.

Troutman Sanders LLP

Gilbert Hoover, IV

The attorney is representing Troy at an administrative hearing, where he will request compensation for tuition at the private school.

HOUSING ACCESS PROJECT

Matter of James T.

Clifford Chance US LLP

Efrain Harari, Philip Kim, Steve Schwartz

The firm is representing an individual, who is blind, in a housing court dispute.

DISABILITY RIGHTS MATTERS

Matter of Marisol C.

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Claudio Salas

The firm is representing the individual, who is deaf, in a dispute with her housing provider for not providing her with appropriate sign language interpretation services while communicating regarding her tenancy.



Matter of William C.

Strook & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Kevin Curnin, Dennis Villasana

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

GENERAL COUNSEL MATTERS

Fonkoze USA

Shearman & Sterling LLP

Rohan Weerasinghe, Aditi Chandran, Kevin Roggow, Terence Woolf

The firm is working with the organization, which supports economic development programs in Haiti, as its *pro bono* general counsel.

Friends of the Birth Center

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Yvette Teofan, Kara Hailey, Lauren Hakala, Yon Mi Kim, Mina Park

Friends of the Birth Center is establishing a natural childbirth center to provide an option for women who want alternatives to hospital birth. The firm is the organization's *pro bono* general counsel.

New Immigrant Community Empowerment

Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.

Tracey Tiska, Ira Schaefer, Kim Bridges, Arlene Chow, Russell DeClerck

New Immigrant Community

Empowerment works to ensure that new immigrants are informed, active and influential in civic, governmental and public affairs. The firm will serve as the organization's general counsel.

New York International Children's Film Festival

King & Spalding LLP

Vanessa Spiro, Thomas Lyford, Monique Ribando, Valerie Sindoni

The New York International Children's Film Festival is the largest festival of film for children and teenagers in North America. The firm is working with the Festival as its *pro bono* general counsel.

Weil, Gotshal Partners with NYLPI in Project to Aid Individuals with Disabilities

NYLPI and **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** have initiated a partnership project to advocate for individuals with disabilities who need durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, hearing aides, and other items that are essential for day-to-day living.

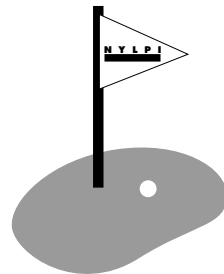
People who rely on such equipment can face lengthy delays and improper denials from New York State agencies, which must approve all requests for equipment and repairs. These delays restrict mobility, decrease functioning, and often lead to serious health complications. Children miss school or attend school using unsafe or unhealthy equipment.

A team of Weil attorneys, headed by partners David Lender and Richard Rothman, with support from NYLPI Senior Staff Attorney Michael Scherz, will work with these individuals to assist them in obtaining the medical equipment they need. We have already begun referring the project's first cases to the firm, and look forward to partnering with them as the cases move forward.



NYLPI's Annual Golf Outing Save the Date: July 11, 2006

The date for NYLPI's annual golf outing at Bethpage State Park is Tuesday, July 11, 2006. We will be playing on the Red Course, which was the site of last year's successful golf event.



If you're interested in playing a day of golf on a beautiful course with fellow supporters of NYLPI, please contact Robin Naismith at 212-244-4664. We hope to see you there!

Associates Committee Sponsors Event on General Counsel for Nonprofits

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote *pro bono* work among lawyers at law firms and corporate legal departments, on November 10, 2005, the NYLPI Associates Committee hosted a panel discussion on serving as general counsel for nonprofits. **Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP** hosted the event, which was attended by over 90 associates.

The panel was moderated by Mindy Tarlow, Executive Director of the **Center for Employment Opportunities**, one of the many groups which has found a general counsel through NYLPI's Clearinghouse. The panelists were Jason Abel of **Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**, Ashley R. Altschuler of **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**, Alison King of **Kaye Scholer LLP**, and Damon Rowe of **Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP**.

All the panelists were attorneys who have served as general counsel to various non-

profits, and they spoke about the rewards and lessons they have learned through their experiences.

Firms benefit from these relationships by receiving an array of transactional matters directly from organizations with which they are familiar. The Clearinghouse has created over 20 such relationships in the last two years, which have proved to be rewarding for both the nonprofits and the firms.

"I really enjoy being *pro bono* counsel for the nonprofits that I represent," said Alison King. "It is a good feeling to be working with organizations that do so much good for the world, while knowing that by doing so I am becoming a better attorney."

If you are interested in learning more about the Associates Committee, or serving as general counsel to a nonprofit, please contact Marnie Berk at 212-244-4664.

Pro Bono Advisory Council

NYLPI is happy to announce the creation of the Pro Bono Advisory Council, which was created to strengthen the Pro Bono Clearinghouse's effectiveness and mobilize lawyers to use their talents to further *pro bono* activities. We thank the members of the Council for their efforts.

Aarthi Belani, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

David Blabey, Dewey Ballantine LLP

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Joshua Sohn, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP

Emily Slater, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Margaret Vining, Davis Polk & Wardwell



(L TO R) PANELISTS DAMON ROWE, JASON ABEL, ASHLEY R. ALTSCHULER, ALISON KING, AND MODERATOR MINDY TARLOW.



DAMON ROWE DISCUSSES HIS EXPERIENCE AS A PRO BONO GENERAL COUNSEL, WHILE ASHLEY ALTSCHULER AND ALISON KING LOOK ON.

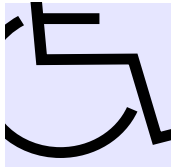
In-House Update

The Disability Law Center

NYLPI remains committed to our efforts to protect and promote the civil rights of people with disabilities. In order to balance our programs and improve the performance of all our staff, we have reorganized the Disability Law Center into three program areas: De-institutionalization, Opportunity & Access, and Education.

De-institutionalization (Roberta Mueller, Coordinator)

The Placement of Children in Foster Care in Nursing Homes: The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) just completed a draft policy that would severely restrict placements of foster children in nursing facilities. ACS developed this policy in response to NYLPI's complaints about the inappropriate placement of foster children in nursing homes. Although the current draft represents a major achievement, NYLPI will have ongoing discussions with ACS to ensure that the final policy sufficiently protects children in the foster care system.



Eligibility for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities: NYLPI has been negotiating with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to alter its eligibility requirements for individuals seeking services. The negotiations reached a milestone in October when OMRDD held a series of statewide trainings for its staff and the staff of voluntary agencies, which will help them better advocate for consumers seeking services. We have also taken on the cases of several consumers who have been turned down for services.

Coler/Goldwater, a Health & Hospitals Corporation Facility: NYLPI continues to work on improving the nursing home's policies. We seek to ensure that residents have appropriate access to fresh air, and that all individuals with developmental disabilities are evaluated appropriately and that they, and their families, are given information about services and residential options. NYLPI was also able to help three adult residents to secure services and placement in community-based settings.

Rutland Nursing Home: NYLPI is working with Rutland Nursing Home to ensure that the

rights of Rutland's residents are adequately enforced. When we first visited the facility last February, residents had very little access to the outdoors. The nursing home has made some improvements in this area, and we continue to work with them to better their policies and practices.

Opportunity & Access (Dennis Boyd, Coordinator)

DIA v. Duane Reade: Four years ago, NYLPI and co-counsel filed suit against Duane Reade on behalf of Disabled in Action and individuals with mobility impairments against Duane Reade, to address the chain's failure to ensure that their stores comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In October 2005, the court issued an order resolving the outstanding issues in the case. The order calls for a settlement by consent decree, sets terms for ensuring that stock that blocks the aisles is removed in a timely way, and clears the way for the terms of the agreement to be made public.

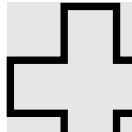
Education (Kim Sweet, Coordinator)

Training: The Learning Disabilities Association of New York State has contracted with NYLPI to train caseworkers in New York City on the educational rights of youth with disabilities who are re-entering the community after placement in juvenile justice facilities. The training program consists of two two-day sessions, the first of which took place in December 2005.

For more information about our education program, please see the feature articles on special education in this issue on pages 1, 4 and 5.

Access to Health Care (Amanda Masters, Coordinator)

Disinvestment in New York's Low-Income Communities of Color: October 2005 was a tumultuous time for residents of Central Brooklyn, who witnessed the loss of a hospital that had been a part of their community for more than a century. NYLPI worked with neighborhood residents to ensure the survival of five outpatient clinics, which were transferred to Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. After the closure, The Committee to Save Our Hospital, a local advocacy coalition, convened a forum to provide information to residents on the status of health care in their community.



The Committee is organizing against future hospital closures by collaborating with other medically underserved communities. NYLPI has begun working with residents of Southeast

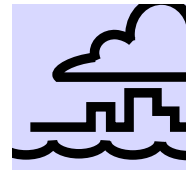
Queens, where Mary Immaculate Hospital is facing possible closure.

Language Access: In November 2005, NYLPI and our allies, including the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), concluded a successful campaign to expand language access services at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. The hospital has implemented a range of significant reforms that will provide increased language services for people who are limited English proficient.

On a broader policy level, NYLPI and NYIC have engaged in discussions with city and state officials to ensure improved language assistance services at all New York hospitals. In addition, NYLPI has provided numerous examples of inadequate services at hospitals in the Medsys network, including Jamaica, Brookdale, and Flushing Hospitals, to aid the Attorney General's investigation of language services in the network.

Environmental Justice (Veronica Eady, Coordinator)

Bronx Voices for Equal Inclusion: NYLPI is assisting several community groups in the creation of a community benefits agreement with the developer of a proposed major retail center to be located at the Bronx Terminal Market. The community wishes to ensure that the developer, and any businesses in the space, commit to hiring local residents and paying living wages. NYLPI is working to ensure that the community benefits agreement is legally enforceable, and provides for adequate oversight.



Concerned Residents Organization: The Concerned Residents Organization in Soundview continues to raise questions about contamination on the former site of Lorai Electronics Systems, where a public high school, is now located. NYLPI is working to ensure that community voices are heard during any discussion about the future of the property. Also, we have been working closely with city officials to ensure that current uses of the property comply with environmental regulations, and are meeting with potential purchasers of the site.

National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights

Please see the article on Awakening from the Dream, on page 5.

Patrons of the Public Interest

NYLPI would like to thank the following businesses for their generous contributions through the Patrons of the Public Interest program. If you or a company you know are interested in this program, please call Robin Naismith at 212-244-4664.

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If you work for a nonprofit or community-based organization working with underserved people in need of legal assistance, please contact Steve Kang at 212-244-4664.

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New York Lawyers for the Public Interest would like to thank the following Member Firms and Corporate Law Departments for their generous annual financial contributions:

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