

## Separate and Unequal Care

**NYLPI files Complaint with Attorney General's Office  
On behalf of Bronx Health REACH**

On June 9th, 2008, the steps of Bronx Borough Hall were filled with hundreds of Bronx residents, religious and community leaders, health professionals and advocates rallying for the end of separate and unequal treatment in the health care system. They gathered to support the complaint filed by NYLPI on behalf of Bronx Health REACH to



Members of the community gathered to rally for the end of separate and unequal care.

the Attorney General's Office, which identifies discrimination in outpatient care at various private hospitals in New York City.

"The complaint documents specific findings of system-wide policies and practices contributing to the segregation of care," remarked Nisha Agarwal, NYLPI Staff Attorney/Skadden Fellow. "This is in direct conflict with federal and local civil rights laws, which state that patients have a right to receive treatment without discrimination as to race, color, national origin and source of payment."

Bronx Health REACH, a coalition including 40 community and faith-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in health care, conducted research that documented these findings. The study found that surveyors posing as patients were often referred to separate paths of care, for example

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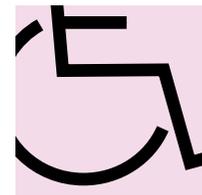
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## NYLPI Bestows a Partnering for Justice Award on Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

On June 25th, 2008, NYLPI presented its Partnership for Justice Award to **Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP** for the firm's exemplary *pro bono* representation on behalf of underserved communities in conjunction with the firm's annual *pro bono* awards.

Michael A. Rothenberg, NYLPI's Executive Director, said of the award, "We are delighted to present our Partnering for Justice Award to Stroock & Stroock & Lavan for their outstanding *pro bono* work, particularly their extraordinary efforts to advance the rights of and opportunities for students with disabilities."

NYLPI honored Stroock for its outstanding *pro bono* efforts in the area of special education and community development. Of the dozens of special education related cases Stroock has taken on, one particular special education matter involves *Benjamin M.*, a fifteen-year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome. The firm was able to successfully obtain funding for his tuition to an appropriate school for the 2007-2008 school year.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

("NYLPI BESTOWS A PARTNERING FOR JUSTICE AWARD ON STROOCK & STROOCK & LAVAN..." CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Along with their special education work, Stroock has taken on the role of general counsel for the Brooklyn Perinatal Network, an organization that works to prevent and reduce infant/maternal illness and death in underserved and vulnerable communities.

Kevin J. Curmin, Director of Stroock's Public Service Project, remarked, "We are honored to receive this prestigious award. Many thanks to the firm's attor-

neys and support staff who dedicated their time and efforts to assisting those in need in the local New York community."



(L to R) Robert Lewin, Alan M. Klinger, Kevin J. Curmin, Michael A. Rothenberg, Stuart H. Coleman.

**PRO BONO MATTERS**

**FALL 2008**

Editor: Yoonmee Cho  
 Writer: Peggy Germain

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- Pauline Yoo, Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Law Center

**If you work for a nonprofit or community-based group working with underserved people and your organization needs legal assistance, please contact Yoonmee Cho at 212-244-4664.**

**NYLPI welcomes the following new staff:**

**Yoonmee Cho**  
 Program Associate,  
 Clearinghouse

**John Dumey**  
 Development Associate

**Tamika Johnson**  
 Staff Attorney,  
 Disability Law 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, or disability.

## NYLPI Bids Farewell to Summer 2008 Interns

NYLPI recognizes the outstanding contributions of our exceptional class of 2008 summer legal interns.

Peter Giordano of Indiana University School of Law, Lauren Hansen from the University of Iowa College of Law, Samar Katnani at the Washington University School of Law, Monique Luse from Georgetown University Law Center, Maya Simek at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, Nicole Townsend from Rutgers University School of Law and Frederick Zarate at Brooklyn Law School.

During the course of the summer the interns worked on a range of matters, including media and organizational outreach for our segregated care campaign, assisting in intake and research and writing for fact sheets on behalf of our Disability Law Center.

**"This year's class of summer interns was an exceptionally diverse and bright group. They brought a wide range of perspectives to our efforts and did an outstanding job on the many issues and projects in which they were involved. It was a pleasure to work with them at NYLPI and we hope they continue to pursue their commitment to public interest lawyering."**

**— Marianne Engelman Lado, NYLPI General Counsel**

NYLPI appreciates their enthusiasm, their diligence, and their commitment to public interest work. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors, as they build careers pursuing justice on behalf of underserved communities.

**"This experience has rekindled my passion and given me new direction. I am truly excited about my future as a public interest lawyer. The mentorship and exposure I received while being able to serve communities that I am passionate about has been a wonderful opportunity."**

**— Monique Luse, Georgetown University Law Center**



2008 Summer Intern Team.

### Help Ensure the Future of NYLPI's Programs

More than thirty years after our creation by Cyrus Vance and other leaders of the New York City Bar in 1976, NYLPI seeks to ensure our financial longevity, which we can do with your support.

NYLPI invites you to become a valued member of the Legacy of Justice Society, a unique group of donors who have shown a strong commitment to social justice by making a planned gift to NYLPI.

Your Legacy of Justice Society gift will:

- Provide you with tax benefits, and in some cases reduce the estate and income taxes of your beneficiaries;

- Provide NYLPI with a long-term financial reserve to support our work protecting the rights of the underrepresented;
- Inspire friends and colleagues to join in your commitment to social justice.

Additional benefits include recognition in our publications (unless you prefer anonymity), invitations to our events, regular updates on our program work, and more.

For more information on the Legacy of Justice Society, please contact:

Michael Rothenberg, Executive Director  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
(212) 244-4664

# NYLPI Kicks Off Visiting Summer Associates Program

On Tuesday, June 10th, NYLPI kicked off its Visiting Summer Associates Program with a beautiful cocktail reception at **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**.

Each summer, NYLPI places summer associates from our member firms at public interest law offices in New York City for two-week externships. This summer we had 23 law firms participate by sending over 125 summer associates to 38 public interest law offices.



The program provides summer associates with an opportunity to experience public interest law first hand, in the hope that the experience will serve as a foundation for a lifetime commitment to *pro bono*. In addition, public interest organizations benefit from additional legal resources. The work done by summer associates varies from legal research, to accompanying attorneys to court appearances and hearings, to handling intake.

NYLPI thanks our member firms, the public interest legal organizations, and the summer associates themselves for supporting the program.

## Words from a Host Organization . . .

**"The Vera Institute of Justice has participated in the NYLPI program for 19 years. The associates who come to us have been invaluable. People are sometimes skeptical about a law student's ability to do useful work in a one- or two-week period. But in our experience, they can explore an area in a way that we rarely have time to do, and in doing so, produce memos that serve us well for years, in situations beyond the ones that prompted the assignments."**

**—Susan Rai, Special Counsel,  
Vera Institute of Justice**

## Words from a Summer Associate . . .

**"I had a fabulous externship experience at Vera. Although the externship was only two weeks, in that time I was able to complete a lengthy memorandum on a substantive legal issue, and to receive helpful feedback from my supervisor there. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to devote two weeks of my summer exclusively to public interest work, particularly at such an exciting organization. It was wonderful to gain exposure to Vera's incredible work."**

**—Diana E. Reiter,  
2008 Davis Polk & Wardwell  
Summer Associate, Vera Extern**



(L to R) Board Member Phoebe Wilkinson of Chadbourne & Parke LLP, Janet Miller of CAMBA, and Bridget Kessler, 2008 Mayer Brown LLP Summer Associate.

## Visiting Summer Associates Program, 2008

### Participating Law Firms

Baker Hostetler  
Bingham McCutchen LLP  
Bryan Cave LLP  
Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP  
Chadbourne & Parke LLP  
Clifford Chance US LLP  
Davis Polk & Wardwell  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP  
DLA Piper US LLP  
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP  
Mayer Brown LLP  
McKee Nelson LLP  
Morrison & Foerster LLP  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Shearman & Sterling LLP  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP  
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP  
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
White & Case LLP  
Winston & Strawn LLP

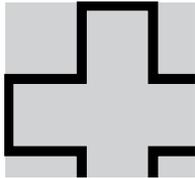
### Participating Legal Services and Public Interest Organizations

Anti-Discrimination Center  
Bronx Defenders  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. A  
CAMBA Legal Services  
CASES (Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services)  
Center for Court Innovation  
CIDNY (Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY)  
Citizens Committee for New York City  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Goddard-Riverside Community Center SRO Law Project  
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society  
JASA/Legal Services for the Elderly in Queens  
Legal Action Center  
Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Neighborhood Office  
Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Office for the Aging  
Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, Administration  
Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, Bronx  
Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, Staten Island  
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House  
Legal Services New York City, Central  
Legal Services New York City, Legal Support Unit  
Legal Services New York City,  
Manhattan Legal Services  
LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today)  
MDRC  
Mental Hygiene Legal Services,  
Bellevue Psychiatric Center  
Mental Hygiene Legal Services,  
Manhattan Psychiatric Center/Ward's Island  
Mental Hygiene Legal Services, Metropolitan Office  
MFY Legal Services  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
New York Legal Assistance Group  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.  
ProBono.net  
Safe Horizon  
Sanctuary for Families  
Urban Justice Center  
Vera Institute of Justice  
WNYC Radio

(“SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL CARE...” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

referred to a hospital’s clinic versus a private doctor’s office, based on their insurance coverage. Their research also exposed these paths as not only separate, but unequal in quality and accessibility. The report further concluded that this systemic inequality is a contributor to the widespread health disparities that exist today between minorities and people of color and whites.

“In short, what we’ve found includes pervasive segregation of care, based on the insurance status of people in the community. As blacks and Latinos are two to three times more likely to be uninsured or publicly insured, there is a close link between race, ethnicity and insurance status. This results in the systematic channeling of whites and minorities into different systems of care,” said Neil Calman, M.D., President of the



**“In short, what we’ve found includes pervasive segregation of care, based on the insurance status of people in the community. As blacks and Latinos are two to three times more likely to be uninsured or publicly insured, there is a close link between race, ethnicity and insurance status.”**

— Neil Calman, M.D.,  
Institute for Family Health

Institute for Family Health and principal investigator for Bronx Health REACH.

The goal of the civil rights complaint filed with the Attorney General’s office is to achieve equal access and equal quality medical services by eliminating forced segregation by insurance status, and de facto, by race.



NYLPI Staff Attorney Nisha Agarwal addressing Bronx Health REACH rally.

## Farewell to Stephen Kang, Assistant Director of Pro Bono Programs

“Stephen has brought his unique blend of sensitivity, wit and intelligence to our work with groups and firms.”

— Marnie Berk, Director of Pro Bono Programs

For three years Stephen Kang contributed greatly to NYLPI, first as a Program Associate in our Pro Bono Clearinghouse and later as the Assistant Director of Pro Bono Programs. This fall he began NYU Law School as a prestigious Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar, established to nurture leaders in public service. His strong interest in the law led Stephen to NYLPI after providing direct social services for several years. Stephen was instrumental in connecting nonprofits and community groups with volunteer attorneys from NYLPI’s member law firms while insuring the highest quality legal services. He consistently earned the praise of nonprofit leaders seeking these services. Stephen helped transform the organization’s *pro bono* communications sending our renowned weekly email. As editor of our newsletter, *Pro Bono Matters*, he greatly improved and expanded its content while our circulation grew to over 7,000 lawyers across the country. He made an extraordinary impact on our Clearinghouse program. We at NYLPI wish him the best of luck at law school and in his future endeavors. Stephen is replaced by Yoonmee Cho, our new Program Associate, who comes to us with a background in corporate marketing and communications.



Stephen Kang

NYLPI thanks

Board Member Jamie A. Levitt  
and Morrison & Foerster LLP  
for hosting Stephen’s good-bye  
breakfast this past July.

## NYLPI Thanks John S. Siffert, Former NYLPI Board Chair



John S. Siffert

As the Board chairmanship of John S. Siffert, a member of the NYLPI Board since June 1998, comes to an end, NYLPI would like to recognize and thank John for his tireless efforts on behalf of the organization and its mission.

John, a partner at **Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP**, is recognized by colleagues for his focus and leadership by example. His legacy as NYLPI Board Chair includes dedicated efforts to greatly increase the fundraising of the organization to ensure

that NYLPI will continue to grow for years to come. John passionately supported increasing the capacity of the organization to carry out our mission of serving under-represented communities.

John is succeeded by Christopher K. Tahbaz, partner at **Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**, who says of his predecessor, "During his tenure as Chair, John demonstrated

**"John raised the bar for all of us in undertaking our new campaign initiative and raising the profile of the excellent work of NYLPI. His dedication and commitment inspire all of us to strengthen our collective efforts in working for social justice. John leads by example where his actions speak volumes louder than his words. And he always does so with the grace and compassion of a true leader."**

**— Sharon Y. Bowen,  
Board Member and former Board Chair,  
Latham & Watkins LLP**

leadership not only through his commitment to the idea of NYLPI, but also through his specific and passionate commitment to the organization's community lawyering model. He was a terrific ambas-

**"It is truly a pleasure to work with John. His leadership of NYLPI has been extraordinary. He has made sure that NYLPI holds strongly to its mission and has taken steps to ensure NYLPI will remain on sound footing. I look forward to seeing many more demonstrations of John's commitment to public service."**

**— Barbara Berger Opatowsky,  
Executive Director,  
New York City Bar**

sador for NYLPI, and we are all better off for his leadership."

NYLPI sincerely thanks John for his hard work and welcomes our newly elected NYLPI Board Chair, Christopher K. Tahbaz.



Former Board Chair John Siffert and newly elected Board Chair Christopher Tahbaz.



John Siffert and Executive Director Michael Rothenberg.

# Pro Bono Advisory Council Advises Law Students on Public Service

NYLPI's Pro Bono Advisory Council continues its work to encourage law students entering major law firms to make *pro bono* work an ongoing part of their legal practice.

On July 8th, 2008, members of the Pro Bono Advisory Council addressed an audience of 40 summer associates from New York's top firms about *pro bono* practice in the law firm world. The speakers included Moderator, Erin J. Law of **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**, and panelists, Philippine Dodd of **Sullivan & Cromwell LLP**, Olga L. Fuentes Skinner of **Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP**, P. Nikhil Rao of **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP** and Marion E. Ringel of **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP**.

**"Incorporating *pro bono* work into my practice was very important to me as a junior associate, and I was able to hit the ground running through the collaborative efforts of my firm and those of a number of NYC-based non-profit legal organizations like NYLPI. Through *pro bono* work, I was able to give something back to the community, and in turn, the experience enabled me to learn valuable skills that have enhanced my overall practice."**

— Erin J. Law, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

The panelists shared their experiences and spoke of the benefits that *pro bono* work has had on them both personally and professionally. They also answered questions from audience members, providing valuable

personal insights and advice.

One panelist spoke of *pro bono* work as an experience that "can be a really integral part of your career not only because you want to do *pro bono*, but because you want to be a better lawyer."

The panelists encouraged the summer associates to consider their *pro bono* options and to take advantage of the opportunities ahead of them. P. Nikhil Rao remarked, "For associates at large firms, *pro bono* work can really be a win-win. While you are providing much-needed advice to underserved communities, you will also gain valuable experience. I have tried to make *pro bono* a regular part of my practice."



Panelists from summer associate event.

## NYLPI applauds four of our member firms on the recent creation of new *pro bono* positions.

### **Sullivan & Cromwell LLP**

Marcia Nan Levy, Special Counsel for Pro Bono Initiatives

### **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP**

Harlene Katzman, Pro Bono Counsel

### **Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP**

Benjamin C. Weinberg, Pro Bono Partner

### **Davis Polk & Wardwell**

Ronnie Abrams, Special Counsel for Pro Bono

HEART-AND-HAND LOVE TOKENS (detail) / artist unidentified / possibly Connecticut / 1840-1860 / ink and varnish on cut paper / 12 x 14" / American Folk Art Museum purchase, 1981.12.15 / photo by John Parnell, New York.



## SAVE THE DATE

**New York Lawyers for the Public Interest's  
Pro Bono Advisory Council  
Annual Fall Attorney Benefit**

**American Folk Art Museum  
Thursday, November 20th, 2008  
6:30-9:00pm**

To purchase tickets, please go to [www.nylpi.org](http://www.nylpi.org)  
or call 212.581.1400 by Thursday, November 13th.  
All proceeds will help support our 2009  
Summer Internship Program.

## NYLPI Achieves Settlement on Pier 11 Ferry Accessibility

New York ferries have become more accessible to people with disabilities. On April 30th, 2008, a settlement agreement became effective between a group of individuals with disabilities represented by NYLPI, NY Waterway, the area's largest private ferryboat operator, and the New York City Commission on Human Rights. The agreement required that a number of steps be completed by the end of July to ensure disability access to services at Pier 11, near the foot of Wall Street, the City's private ferryboat hub.

"The ferry system was expanding fast, there were still no federal guidelines, and it was inaccessible. That's why this complaint was necessary," said John A. Gresham, NYLPI Senior Litigation Counsel and representative of the complainants in the settlement.

The complaint was filed following a demonstration held in 2002, organized by Disabled

in Action. Several individuals with disabilities, most of whom use wheelchairs, discovered they were unable to board ferries at Pier 11. Now, several years later, NY Waterway has succeeded in addressing their concerns by making the necessary adjustments to ensure access for all individuals.

Thomas K. Small, one of the complainants, summed up the victory by saying, "We have some good progress here, but there is a lot of work still ahead of us. Transportation is a terrible problem for many of us with disabilities. We're in this for the long haul."



John Gresham of NYLPI with clients and supporters to celebrate on Pier 11 where the steps blocking access to ferries once stood.

## NYLPI Supporters Tee Off at Sixth Annual Golf Outing



(L to R) Red Course winners Michael Weiss, Greg Alfredo, Joseph De Simone, and Fernando Margáin-Sada.



(L to R) Blue Course winners Joseph Gordon, Grant Herring, James Dailey and Daniel Deevey.

On July 9th, 2008, NYLPI held its sixth annual Golf Outing at Bethpage State Park. The event was a great success, with a total of over \$120,000 raised to support NYLPI's critical work.

Just after noon, 163 players teed off in a shotgun start on Bethpage's Red and Blue courses. At the evening reception, NYLPI recognized the following individuals for their skills on the golf course:

Michael Weiss, Greg Alfredo, and Joseph De Simone of **Mayer Brown LLP** and Fernando Margáin-Sada of **Thompson & Knight LLP** won the Best Team Score on the Red Course, while Joseph Gordon of **TSG Reporting, Inc.** and Grant Herring, James Dailey, and Daniel Deevey of the **Aldan Troy Group** took home the title of Best Team Score on the Blue Course.

Mark Bernstein from **Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP** won this year's putting contest. The recognition for the male longest drive went to John Tetta from **Rallye Lexus** and female longest drive was awarded to NYLPI Board Member Kathy Rocklen from **Proskauer Rose LLP**.

NYLPI congratulates the winners, and sincerely thanks all of this year's participants and supporters.

## In Need of a Home, Not a Nursing Home Lawsuit Clears its First Hurdle

NYLPI, Disability Advocates, Inc. (DAI), Mental Hygiene Legal Services (MHLS) and the law firm of **Schiff Hardin** cleared their first major hurdle this April in their lawsuit, filed in 2006, which aims to put an end to New York State's practice of discharging adults with mental illnesses from state psychiatric institutions and hospital psychiatric wards into nursing homes.

Hundreds of individuals, including the named plaintiffs, Joseph S. and Steven W., have been discharged to nursing homes in New York City, New Jersey and Massachusetts instead of being placed in supportive community-based settings, as required under federal law. Many have been languishing in these nursing homes for years.

Karen A. lives on the third floor of a New Jersey nursing home with the other residents with mental illnesses. A pass is required to leave that floor and can only be used for designated one hour periods throughout the day. Only those who are "doing good" are afforded a pass. Juan R. is an artist who "paints"

with a toothbrush because he has no paint brush. Charles B. wants fresh vegetables.

These individuals do not have physical or medical conditions requiring care in a nurs-

**"The State must address the housing needs of people with mental illness and not simply discharge them into nursing homes without appropriate care or a plan of discharge."**

**– Sandra Del Valle,  
NYLPI Senior Staff Attorney**

ing home and they are much younger than the rest of the nursing home population. Frequently, they do not receive the mental health services they need to complete a full recovery. Often far from the residents' original homes, these nursing homes essentially serve as warehouses for human beings.

"The *pro bono* counsel from Schiff Hardin on this matter has been extremely important," said Sandra Del Valle, Senior Staff Attorney

with NYLPI. "They are an integral part of the team and have always been willing to step up to the plate for this important issue."

After full briefing, Judge Brian Cogan has denied the State's motion to dismiss and the case is going forward with intense discovery.

Lori Greendorfer, a counsel at **Schiff Hardin**, stated that "the wrongs committed against these individuals still have not been addressed by the State. Judge Cogan's decision is the first step in the vindication of their rights."



Floyd, nursing home resident.

## NYLPI Staff Updates

NYLPI attorneys and staff have been speaking to and impacting a range of audiences with regards to our civil rights work and *pro bono* activities

Amanda Masters, Senior Staff Attorney in the Opportunity and Access Program, and Stephen Kang, former Assistant Director of Pro Bono, were honored by Sisterhood Mobilized for AIDS/HIV Research and Treatment (SMART), a not-for-profit organization that works to provide treatment and prevention education and support for women and youths living with HIV/AIDS in order to increase their self-confidence and self-esteem. Amanda is a SMART Board member. Both Amanda and Stephen were recognized for their critical role in improving the social justice system and for their assistance to the organization.



Amanda Masters

Kelly McAnnany, Staff Attorney in the Disability Law Center, and Amanda Masters prepared model comments to the proposed revisions to the federal regulations implementing Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A national working group has disseminated the comments to other disability rights organizations and individuals to be used in their own comments to the Department of Justice.

Tanene Allison, Media Coordinator for the NCRRCR Program, recently published an article titled "Online and Off, Millennials Redefine Civil Rights Activism" in *The Huffington Post*.



Kelly McAnnany



Tanene Allison

## Clearinghouse Placed Cases

1/18/08 to 5/18/08

### *Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund* **Latham & Watkins LLP**

*Alissa Hazan, Julie Shapiro*

AALDEF protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans through a combination of litigation, advocacy, education, and organizing. The firm is providing legal services relating to this year's 2008 election.

### *American Immunization Registry Association* **Seyfarth Shaw LLP**

*Candace Quinn, Frances Rivera-Madero*

AIRA, a project of the Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc., promotes the development, implementation and support of immunization registries, which assist in preventing and controlling diseases. The firm is advising them about the benefits and potential drawbacks of incorporating as an independent not-for-profit.

### *American Indian Community House*

#### **Hogan & Hartson LLP**

*Lee Samuelson, Jessica Straley*

American Indian Community House is an organization providing services to the Native American community. The firm is assisting them with a real estate issue.

### *BlackTop Street Hockey*

#### **Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP**

*Karen Bhatia*

BlackTop Street Hockey is a street hockey league that is administered entirely by volunteers who also participate in the league. Since its founding in 2000, it has gradually increased in size over time to include nearly 450 players. The firm is providing counsel on various liability issues.

### *Bottomless Closet*

#### **McDermott Will & Emory LLP**

*Avi Stieglitz*

Bottomless Closet is an organization that promotes economic self-sufficiency by providing employment counseling and support services to economically disadvantaged New York City women. The firm is representing them in negotiations and review of a new lease.

### *Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A*

#### **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

*Barthomelew Chacchia, David Lutinger*

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A provides neighborhood-based civil legal services to low-income individuals and groups in North and East Brooklyn. The organization is currently working with tenants who have been displaced from their homes due to a fire in the summer of 2004. The firm is representing them in a real estate matter

and serving as advocates for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

### *Center for the Advancement of Women*

#### **Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP**

*Kevin Curnin, David Lowden*

Center for the Advancement of Women is a women's rights organization. The firm is providing guidance on corporate structure.

### *Clean Air Campaign*

#### **Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP**

*Sana Manjeshwar, Kenneth Theil*

Clean Air Campaign is an organizing group working on clean air issues in New York City. The firm is helping them with lease negotiations.

### *Columbian Civic Center*

#### **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP**

*Elliot Friedman, Alexander Yanos*

The Colombian Civic Center promotes Colombian culture in the United States. The Center runs a large annual cultural festival. The firm is representing them in a contract dispute.

### *Community Church of New York*

#### **Linklaters LLP**

*Heidi Schmid*

The Community Church of New York is a Unitarian Universalist church that is engaged in a range of civic activities in their local community, including social justice and anti-racism work. The firm is helping them revise their employee manual.

### *Community Connections*

#### **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**

*John Delaney, Kit Mellem, Zoe Siegal - Reichlin*

Community Connections provides direct services to youth in the criminal justice system as an alternative to incarceration and offers technical assistance and training to other organizations to help them develop effective alternatives for system-involved youth. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

### *Cooper Square Committee*

#### **Clifford Chance US LLP**

*Katrina Crosse*

Cooper Square Committee is a Manhattan-based community development and services not-for-profit. The firm is advising them on how to proceed in a possible civil action suit.

### *Creative Photographers' Guild*

#### **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

*Kizzy Rosenblatt, Menachem O. Zelmanovitz*

The Creative Photographers' Guild provides Staten Island residents with a permanent venue dedicated to photography. The Guild will serve the larger Staten Island community by providing photography-related services to nonprofit organizations, teaching photography classes at senior citizen homes, and donating exhibit proceeds to charities and causes. The firm is helping them obtain tax-exempt status.

### *Federation of East Village Artists*

#### **Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP**

*Amy Curry, Matt Walding*

The Federation of East Village Artists produces the annual Howl! Festival, named in honor of the groundbreaking poem by Allen Ginsberg. The Festival is produced every summer and celebrates the East Village and Lower East Side's role as a preeminent locus of culture. The firm is helping them obtain a permanent ruling on their tax-exemption.

### *Gamma Beta Delta*

#### **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

*Jillian Joseph*

Gamma Beta Delta is a sorority of primarily women of color engaging in philanthropic and fundraising activities for nonprofit organizations. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

### *Gay Officers Action League of New York*

#### **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**

*Gregory Burns, Donald Whittaker*

GOAL is a fraternal organization in the New York Police Department addressing the needs and concerns of gay and lesbian law enforcement personnel, as well as broader civil rights issues affecting the LGBT community. The firm is providing legal counsel and contract review around fiscal sponsorship.

### *Green Hand Action*

#### **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**

*Susan Chafkin, Julie Keersmaekers, David Miller*

Green Hand Action works to plant trees throughout Guinea, West Africa, and to raise awareness of the importance of trees in the lives of the local population.

The organization also plans to organize Guineans to advocate on environmental sustainability issues. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

### *Greening of Tribeca*

#### **Morrison & Foerster LLP**

*Peter Dopsch, Anna Lau*

Greening of Tribeca is a neighborhood-based organization that works to green their local streets by planting in-ground and container trees. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

### *Helping Hands Incorporated*

#### **Seward & Kissel LLP**

*Kassandra Savicki*

Helping Hands Incorporated offers referral and advisory services to individuals with special needs, and helps them prepare applications for public benefits. The firm is reviewing their by-laws and providing guidance on board governance.



*The Immigrant Lives Oral History Project*

**Sidley Austin LLP**

*Predrag Rogic*

The Immigrant Lives Oral History Project collects and disseminates oral histories that document the lives of immigrants in the United States, making these stories available via a range of media, including video, film, and print publications. The firm is assisting them with crafting their by-laws and applying for tax-exempt status.

*John's Boys and Girls Camp*

**Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**

*Julie Keersmaekers, David Miller*

John's Boys and Girls Camp provides inner-city youth with opportunities to enjoy a sleep away camping experience where they can connect with wilderness, and grow in a safe and challenging environment to learn, have fun, and develop confidence. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain their tax-exempt status.



*John Edward Bruce Day Care Center*

**Seward & Kissel LLP**

*Jay Cho*

John Edward Bruce Day Care Center is a Brooklyn day care center. The firm is counseling them regarding an employee misconduct issue.

*Just Vision*

**Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

*Jennifer Kronick*

Just Vision informs local and international audiences about Palestinian and Israeli joint civilian efforts to resolve the conflict nonviolently. Using media and educational tools, the organization raises awareness in order to encourage civic participation in grassroots peace building. The firm is providing employment related advice and reviewing their policies and procedures manual.

*KIDS Unique*

**Proskauer Rose LLP**

*Stephen Brecher*

KIDS Unique is an after-school program that focuses on identifying and developing children's unique strengths. The firm is reviewing an employment contract between the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

*Legal Action Center*

**Clifford Chance US LLP**

*Jeff Butler, Joseph Gasper, Steven Hayes-Williams*

LAC fights discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and advocates for sound public policies in these areas. The firm is representing a client of LAC in a confidentiality violation matter.

*Legal Action Center*

**DLA Piper US LLP**

*Richard Gruenberger, April Frazier*

LAC fights discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and advocates for sound public policies in these areas. The firm is providing extensive legal research in an effort to update the LAC's comprehensive report on state legal barriers facing people with criminal records.

*Legal Action Center*

**DLA Piper US LLP**

*Carrie Duranceau*

LAC fights discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and advocates for sound public policies in these areas. The firm is representing a client of LAC in a confidentiality violation matter.

*Legal Action Center*

**Holland & Knight LLP**

*Deb Roth*

LAC fights discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and advocates for sound public policies in these areas. The firm is representing a client of LAC in a confidentiality violation matter.

*Legal Momentum*

**Thelen Reid Brown Raysman Steiner LLP**

*Zachary Samton*

Legal Momentum is a women's rights organization. The firm is representing them in negotiations with a subtenant of their office space.

*Lung Disease Awareness and Action Association*

**Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

*Mateo Goldman*

The Lung Disease Awareness and Action Association seeks to make patient-centered care for people with pulmonary and respiratory diseases a reality. The organization will facilitate participation of health care professionals and promoting public awareness to increase research and improve prevention, early detection, and care. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status, as well as providing counsel on how to structure a potential relationship with a closely-related partner group.

*Mark Lamb Dance Company*

**Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, & Popeo P.C.**

*Faith Charles, Carrie Kreifels*

The Mark Lamb Dance Company, a group of diverse, socially committed movement artists, performs concerts and dances and also conducts educational workshops to encourage creativity and social activism among their audiences. The company is currently set up as a for-profit corporation. The firm is helping them unwind their current entity to re-incorporate as a not-for-profit.

*Max Reger Foundation of America*

**Clifford Chance US LLP**

*Stefano Campolonghi, Earl Zimmerman*

The Max Reger Foundation of America is a not-for-profit organization that creates opportunities to promote the music and legacy of Max Reger. The organization grants education awards to young children and sponsors recitals, concerts, and music research projects. The firm is helping them develop guidelines and template contracts to identify economically disadvantaged children for these awards.

*Mexican American Legal Defense and*

*Education Fund*

**Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP**

*Elizabeth Haley, Eridania Perez, Henry Solano*

MALDEF seeks to foster sound public policies, laws and programs to safeguard the civil rights of Latinos living in the United States and to empower the Latino community to fully participate in our society. MALDEF is organizing a suit on behalf of 16 plaintiffs claiming civil rights violations as well as damages for infliction of distress. The firm is providing a range of strategy and research support for this litigation.

*Miss Body & Soul Youth Empowerment*

**Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP**

*Audrey Lin, Lauren Waxman*

Miss Body & Soul Youth Empowerment is a Brooklyn-based organization serving young girls between the ages of 12-18 through community service, career mentoring, and group therapy workshops. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

*National Center for Human Rights Education*

**Troutman Sanders LLP**

*Brian Teras, Curry Woods*

NCHRE is a Georgia-based nonprofit that seeks to build a grassroots domestic human rights movement in the United States by providing training and resources to community leaders and student activists. The organization has produced a program designed to introduce individuals to the human rights framework and train them on how to use that framework in domestic activism. The firm is counseling them regarding a possible merger with another nonprofit.

*New Alternatives for Children*

**Heller Ehrman LLP**

*Patricia Cody, Eric Raphan*

NAC provides innovative, high quality services in support of birth, foster, and adoptive families who are caring for children with special medical needs. The firm is conducting sexual harassment trainings for the organization's supervisors and staff, and educating their employees on proper protocol and conduct in the office.

*New York Chinese Cultural Center*

**Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP**

*Samuel Hu*

NYCCC promotes the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture by preserving traditional

genres and nurturing innovative programs that reflect the diversity of their heritage. The firm is providing guidance to the organization regarding a contract on loaned funds.

*New York Community Gardens Coalition*

**Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**

*Ezra Borut, Laura McKinney*

New York City Community Gardens Coalition promotes the preservation and creation of community gardens and community-developed open space in the five boroughs of New York City. The firm is helping them revise their by-laws.

*New York Lawyers for the Public Interest*

**Chadbourne & Parke LLP**

*Thomas Bezanson, Peter Bucci, William Greason*

The firm will co-counsel with NYLPI to research and write an investigative report about the lack of adequate tactile warning strips on New York City subway platforms, particularly in low-income communities of color. The lack of warning strips makes the subway platforms dangerous for people who are visually impaired.

*New York Lawyers for the Public Interest*

**Citigroup Inc.**

*Lou Goldberg*

The firm is working with NYLPI to review a contract with a vendor.

*New York Lawyers for the Public Interest*

**Latham & Watkins LLP**

*Donna Bunbury, Michael Kuh*

The firm is researching tax issues involved with the donation of shares in a time share.

*New York Lawyers for the Public Interest*

**Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP**

*Daniel Ashe, Ella Campi, Nishka Chandrasoma, Lisa Cleary, Brian Guiney, Jean-Claude Lanza, Thomas Pippert, Herman Raspe, Jack Schmeltzer*

NYLPI has been working with a group of residents with developmental disabilities living in a nursing home in an isolated area of the city. Many of the residents are non-verbal, non-ambulatory, and need assistance for most every day activities. NYLPI

believes that many of these residents can be appropriately served in less restricted community-based settings, such as a group home. The firm is assisting by taking on time-limited guardianships for these select residents, petitioning to be court-appointed guardians, meeting with selected residents, reviewing appropriate documentation, and determining appropriate residential placements for them.



*New York Lawyers for the Public Interest*

**Ropes & Gray LLP**

*Erica Fischer, Brian Santerias, Eric Woglom*

The firm is providing NYLPI with guidance on re-filing for trademark on a logo.

*People's Firehouse*

**Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP**

*Stephen Marshall*

People's Firehouse is a not-for-profit community development and housing organization that provides a range of service and development programs, including advocacy and education for tenants regarding their housing rights. The firm is providing representation for the organization in a litigation matter.

*Promotion of Education in Pakistan Foundation*

**Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**

*Christopher Aidun, Faraz Rana*

The PEP Foundation promotes the right of all students in Pakistan to access quality higher education and strives to address the needs of economically disadvantaged but academically gifted students who would otherwise be denied higher education. The firm is providing guidance on how to set up an endowment.

*Positive Health Project*

**Proskauer Rose LLP**

*Roger Cohen*

PHP works to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases by providing health and prevention services to people who use drugs and/or engage in other risky behaviors. PHP runs a mobile clinic, housed in a converted ambulance that serves people in Harlem and Washington Heights. The firm is representing them in criminal court for traffic violations on the mobile unit.

*Prep and Tech*

**Kelley Drye & Warren LLP**

*Matthew Basile, Kate McMenamy*

Prep and Tech fosters ongoing community events, communications and education in the Far Rockaway area in order to prove what is learned in academics is viable and applicable to the outside world. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

*Project MyPatient*

**Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP**

*Andrew Walker*

Project MyPatient assists patients who have amassed exorbitant health care debt and lack the means to pay. They intend to collect donations on behalf of community patients through a website, and remitting the funds directly to the relevant health care organizations, thus satisfying the patient's outstanding medical debts. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

*Prospect Park Alliance*

**Clifford Chance US LLP**

*Scott Macdonald*

Prospect Park Alliance works to restore, develop, and operate the Park for the enjoyment of all by caring for the natural environment, preserving historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs. The organization recently began running a tennis program designed to address the specific needs of children with developmental disabilities. The firm is providing counsel on licensing and potential liability issues involved with the program.

*Romare Bearden Foundation*

**Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP**

*Vanessa Kanaga, James Sligar*

Romare Bearden Foundation runs educational programs on the art and legacy of a prominent African-American artist. They are currently negotiating an agreement with the estate of the artist. The firm is assisting the organization in these negotiations.

*SALAM – Global Summer Leadership Program*

**Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

*Evan Hudson*

SALAM, is an organization committed to the improvement of educational and leadership qualifications of children in developing countries, specifically Mali. SALAM believes in the promotion of quality education, focusing on the development of youth leaders in deprived nations. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

*Seven Starz for Children*

**White & Case LLP**

*Steven Krause, William Robertson*

Seven Starz for Children works with children from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop leadership and organizational skills. The organization provides after-school programs, homework help, tutoring, and cultural enrichment activities, as well as funds scholarships for participants to prestigious prep schools. The firm is helping them review their by-laws and obtain tax-exempt status.

*Sisterhood Mobilized for AIDS/HIV Research and Treatment*

**Seyfarth Shaw LLP**

*Arren Goldman*

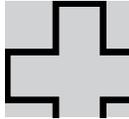
SMART is a community-based treatment and prevention education organization created for, and run by HIV-positive/affected women in New York City. The firm is assisting the organization in negotiations with their landlord regarding renovations and expansion into a contiguous rental space.

*Sisterhood Mobilized for AIDS/HIV Research and Treatment*

**Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

*B. Chase Wink*

SMART is a community-based treatment and prevention education organization created for, and run by HIV-positive/affected women in New York City. The firm is helping the organization clarify policies and procedures regarding the running of a silent auction fundraiser.



*Transform America*

**Linklaters LLP**

*Andrew Bloom*

Transform America is a network of social justice organizations that have joined to combine their resources in an effort to better address societal injustices. The group works on behalf of its member organizations to improve their fundraising efforts, boost volunteerism, and enhance the network's overall public visibility. The firm is helping them complete their incorporation paperwork and file for tax-exempt status.

*Trinity Healing Center*

**Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP**

*Pierre de Ravel d'Esclapon*

Trinity Healing Center is a faith-based organization that helps families affected by domestic violence to understand their options and take steps toward healing and self-sufficiency. The organization offers educational workshops and counseling for community members in their Brooklyn neighborhood. The firm is counseling them on by-laws and governance issues.

*Urban Word NYC*

**Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

*John Agozzino, Eric Gallo*

Urban Word NYC works to ensure that New York City youth have a safe, supportive, dynamic and challenging community in which to discover their powerful voices, through written and spoken word. The organization offers educational programs in the areas of creative writing, journalism, college prep, literature and hip-hop. The firm is helping them apply for tax-exempt status.

*Unidad de Voluntarios para la Educacion de los Adultos*

**O'Melveny & Myers LLP**

*Jared Shure*

UVEA is a nonprofit organization established to offer free basic education services in Spanish for adults. Their mission is to serve New York City's community of Spanish-speaking adults with limited education by helping them to broaden their profes-

sional opportunities and ultimately improve their quality of life. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

*Verrazano Foundation*

**Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP**

*Joon Kim, Ross Moskowitz, Lauren Vollano*

The Verrazano Foundation provides a range of services and advocacy activities for people with mental illness. The Foundation is starting a charter school on Staten Island that will specialize in serving children with psychiatric disabilities. The firm is counseling them on rental options for a leased space.

*WAVES for Development*

**O'Melveny & Myers LLP**

*Adam Hyatt, Sarah Ryan*

WAVES for Development helps communities con-

nect surfing and sustainable development. The firm is helping them incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status.

*Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice*

**Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP**

*Kevin Curnin, Melvin Epstein, Jordan Rosenbaum, Gail Suchman*

YMPJ is a faith-based youth organization, developing the potential and political awareness of young South Bronx residents through youth development and youth organizing with a mission to partner with young people in the community to rebuild the neighborhoods of Bronx River and Soundview/Bruckner. The firm is assisting them with a real estate matter.

**Special Education**

*Anthony E.*

**DLA Piper US LLP**

*Joshua Sohn*

Anthony is a student in the second grade who was classified by the Department of Education (DOE) as having a learning disability. He has spent an entire school year in an inappropriate class setting. The firm is representing him to secure appropriate placement for the coming school year at a state-approved private school and compensatory services for the year spent in an inappropriate placement.

*Christopher V.B.*

**Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

*Andrew Lopez*

Christopher is an eight-year-old boy diagnosed with mental retardation who was deprived of needed services over the course of a year and denied translation of education documents. The firm is representing him to secure appropriate educational and behavioral services, compensatory services for the year of schooling and for translation of all important school documents in Spanish.

*Jazmin R.*

**DLA Piper US LLP**

*Anne Hardcastle, Keren Tenenbaum*

Jazmin is a fifteen-year-old student who has a physical disability and uses a wheelchair. In addition, she also has a reading disability. The firm is representing her to secure an appropriate educational placement to meet her specific needs.

*Kendall F.*

**Winston & Strawn LLP**

*Allison Schrader Dunn*

Kendall is a thirteen-year-old boy with a speech impairment. At the start of the school year, an appropriate school was not identified for him to attend until mid-October. The firm is representing him before the DOE to ensure he receives appropriate special education services in compensation for missing the first six weeks of the school year.

*Matthew J.*

**Milbank, Tweed & Hamilton LLP**

*Eric Moser*

Matthew is a seventeen-year-old young man who has been assessed to have severe decoding deficits that interferes with his ability to read. The firm is representing him to enforce a pre-existing mediation agreement that provided for necessary tutoring services.

*Solimar E.*

**Latham & Watkins LLP**

*Parul Mehta*

Solimar is a student with a disability, who, as a result of errors in the NYC's Department of Education's computer system, was unable to begin school until October 2007. The firm is representing her in an administrative hearing to compel the DOE to provide her with the appropriate special education services and compensation for failing to provide her with an educational program for the first four weeks of the school year.

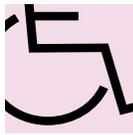
## In-House Update

### The Disability Law Center

#### Education

(Lisa Isaacs, Director)

**Placement Success:** Trystin is an eight-year old boy with emotional disturbance and a history of aggressive behavior. Trystin's school felt he belonged in a much more segregated setting. Although unconvinced this would be appropriate, his mother allowed the Department of Education (DOE) to change his placement. Once Trystin began taking medication that addressed his aggressive behavior, his mother contacted NYLPI because she felt his placement was too restrictive. NYLPI's Advocacy Specialist attended a mediation session with the DOE and crafted an agreement for a more inclusive program.



**Improving Our Direct Service:** NYLPI has embarked upon two special projects to streamline our direct service work. NYLPI staff are working with the legal department at **Goldman Sachs** to improve content on our website and to update fact sheets and information that are provided to parents, advocates, and our *pro bono* partners. In addition, attorneys from **DLA Piper US LLP** have agreed to take on cases involving private school placements with NYLPI staff serving as mentors.

#### Opportunity and Access

(Amanda Masters, Director)

**Subway Accessibility for People with Vision Impairments:** NYLPI is working to address accessibility barriers on subways, specifically the lack of tactile warning strips at platform edges. Without the warning strips, people who are blind and visually-impaired are at risk of dangerous accidents on subway platforms. NYLPI, with **Chadbourne & Parke LLP**, will conduct an empirical investigation of the stations, as well as conduct outreach to riders, in order to draft and publish an investigative report that will advocate for the Transit Authority to install detectable warning strips at all platforms.

**Service Animal Victory:** A.T. is blind and deaf and uses a service dog. Since moving to the South Bronx, he has consistently been refused entry to various establishments in his neighborhood when accompanied by his service dog. NYLPI worked with the New York City Human Rights Commission to make stores aware of their legal obligations in accordance with the ADA and other state and local non-discrimination laws. After discussions and negotiations, all the venues have posted signs indicating that service animals are allowed, and A.T. has begun to patronize the stores.

#### Deinstitutionalization

(Roberta Mueller, Director)

**L.J. vs. OMRDD and ACS:** NYLPI and co-counsel **Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP** and **Lawyers for Children** continue work on this challenge in state court to policies and practices of the city foster care agency (ACS) and the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). Recently the presiding judge granted our motion for class certification and denied ACS's motion for partial summary judgment. The court certified a broad class consisting of all children with developmental disabilities who have been, are, or will be in foster care under the authority of ACS.

**Brad H.:** The *Brad H. v. City of New York* settlement, entered in 2003, required the City to conduct discharge planning to continued treatment of jail inmates with mental illness after their release to the community. This planning included steps to reactivate Medicaid for inmates who lost coverage because of incarceration. The trial court has required that the City provide temporary coverage, pending completion of processing, to a few class members with an "immediate need" for coverage in order to secure treatment. Subsequently the applicability of the "immediate need" standard to Medicaid was tested again in a related case. Assuming the previous results of this case stands, the availability of temporary benefits should be available statewide to those in "immediate need" who appear eligible – including inmates and low-income applicants generally.

#### Environmental Justice

(Veronica Eady Famira, Director)

**PCBs in the Schools:** NYLPI has been carrying out an investigation into the presence of PCBs in caulk used around window and door frames and in expansion joints in public schools. PCBs, banned in 1978, are highly toxic compounds and are especially dangerous to children, and NYLPI staff have been conducting legal and factual research into the problem, as well as reaching out to concerned parents, particularly in the Bronx.



**Artificial Turf:** In response to plans to install an artificial turf football field at the Mott Haven School to cap remaining contamination, and the subsequent concerns raised about the risk of exposure to toxins found in the rubber-infill used, NYLPI is involved in pushing for stronger environmental review for these plans. NYLPI and a small coalition have met with the Mayor's office and state officials for negotiations. NYLPI's activism was highlighted in two NY Times articles and helped to prompt an in-depth study by the State Department of Environmental Conservation. NYLPI is in the process of ana-

lyzing legal avenues to force a more thorough environmental review, and has discussed legislative options with key City Council staffers.

**Intro. 650:** NYLPI has worked to oppose Intro. 650, a City Council legislation initiated by the NYPD that could hinder independent environmental experts' ability to gather and disseminate environmental data. NYLPI's legal analyses and political advocacy have helped build opposition within the City Council and push the NYPD to substantially amend the bill to lessen its potential negative impacts. The bill is pending in the City Council's Public Safety Committee.

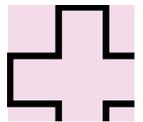
**Faith Breakfasts:** On April 30th, NYLPI, along with faith and community partners, held a faith breakfast in Manhattan, connecting faith institutions with environmental justice and environmental health organizations. NYLPI's partners in organizing the breakfast included WE ACT for Environmental Justice and NY Faith & Justice.

#### Access to Health Care

(Gavin Kearney, Director)

##### Emergency Preparedness in Nursing

**Homes:** NYLPI has been partnering with **Cohen & Gresser LLP** on a project to analyze the sufficiency of emergency evacuation plans at nursing homes in New York City. The State Department of Health issued a blanket denial of our FOIL request for copies of these evacuation plans, which Cohen & Gresser has appealed in state court.



#### The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights

(Cristóbal Joshua Alex, Director)

**Supreme Court Litigation:** Based in part on our successful advocacy before the United Nations last February, the Campaign is working with **Morrison & Foerster LLP** on a brief of *amicus curiae* to the U.S. Supreme Court. The case, *Pearson v. Callahan*, will provide an opportunity for the Court to revisit the doctrine of qualified immunity, which creates a rights-remedies gap that leaves many victims of civil rights violations with no recourse.

#### Community Oversight of Policing Project

(Amanda Masters, Director)

**Cerbelli v. City of New York:** This past quarter, NYLPI was joined by *pro bono* counsel from **Mayer Brown LLP** in a case challenging the police department's treatment of people with psychiatric disabilities. Plaintiffs defended the case against motions for summary judgment before Judge Levy of the Eastern District of New York.

## 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 Tanya Silas at 212-244-4664.

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If you work for a non-profit or community-based group working with underserved people and your organization needs legal assistance, please contact Yoonmee Cho at 212-244-4664.

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