

New Guide Educates Nonprofits on Their Legal Rights to Combat Immigration Enforcement

New York, NY — July 18, 2017 – A [new guide](#) released today by [New York Lawyers for the Public Interest](#) (NYLPI), a leading civil rights advocacy group for New Yorkers, outlines best practices for nonprofits when assisting and protecting immigrant clients amidst heightened immigration enforcement. As one of the first comprehensive documents to be created on this topic, NYLPI's Guidance to Nonprofits Regarding Immigration Enforcement aims to protect and educate nonprofits on how to support and uphold the legal rights of immigrants in their communities.

“Under the new presidential administration, searches and arrests of undocumented immigrants conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have increased at an alarming rate,” said Marnie Berk, Director of Pro Bono Programs at NYLPI. “New York City is home to a thriving immigrant population that makes significant contributions to our city every day, yet actions being taken across the country continue to threaten the safety and livelihood of this community. We are steadfast in our commitment to provide legal assistance to this often vulnerable group, as well as to the organizations that provide vital services to them.”

In providing assistance to immigrant communities, nonprofit organizations often receive sensitive and personal information that could be requested by ICE. Organizations that work in medicine, child care, and abuse victim support must navigate an added layer of privacy in addition to newfound obstacles surrounding immigration.

“We’re honored to provide legal guidance to the nonprofit organizations that work hard every day to make our city a better place,” said Emily Goldberg, Pro Bono Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. “Given the difficult nature of their work we are confident that these guidelines will give them a sense of security in knowing they are prepared and supported.”

The guide aims to provide answers to key questions, advice on how to deal with specific scenarios, and give a background on particular legalities nonprofits should know about. Highlights include:

- What happens if ICE comes to an office workspace or site?
- How can you legally resist giving information?
- What is the difference between a warrant and a subpoena?
- If access to a person or group of people is requested, when can you deny that request?
- How can nonprofits with “sensitive locations” or dealing with particularly personal matters ensure privacy for their clients?

“ICE’s incursion into these spaces is unprecedented, unpredictable, and deeply consequential, causing many immigrants to withdraw from organizations that provide them and their families with important care and support,” said Kevin Curnin, Partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP. “We hope that this guide will empower service providers by informing them of their rights and obligations, while also dispelling doubts in our immigrant communities so they are not denied services they should receive – and at the very least letting them know that their struggles are ours too.”

The guide was authorized by NYLPI and drafted by Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP. An advisory by Northwest Immigrant Rights Project also provided invaluable guidance.

To access a full copy of the guide, click [here](#).

About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) advances equality and civil rights, with a focus on health justice, disability rights, and environmental justice, through the power of community lawyering and partnerships with the private bar. Through community lawyering, NYLPI puts its legal, policy, and community organizing expertise at the service of New York City communities and individuals. NYLPI's partnership with the private bar strengthens its advocacy and connects community groups and nonprofits with critical legal assistance. NYLPI is a recipient of the New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Award.

The following organizations have signed on to this guide as partners:

Brooklyn Community Foundation
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A ("Brooklyn A")
Catholic Migration Services
Community Resource Exchange
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Foundation Center
Housing Conservation Coordinators, Inc.
Human Services Council of New York (HSC)
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigration Advocates Network
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lawyers Alliance for New York
Legal Services NYC
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Make the Road New York (MRNY)
Mobilization for Justice
New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON)
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC)
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC)
Pro Bono Net
Support Center
The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.
The Legal Aid Society
The New York Legal Services Coalition
The Scherman Foundation
United Neighborhood Houses
Urban Justice Center
Violence Intervention Program
Volunteers of Legal Service
Womankind