

Update

January 2015

Recent Success

When government agencies make overpayment errors and discover them years later, it wreaks havoc on our clients’ lives. MFY attorney Chloe Holzman recently successfully argued to Social Security to waive an overpayment of more than $120,000 for a client with a long-standing disability. MFY also succeeded in getting the client’s monthly benefits reinstated and the agency to agree to pay an underpayment of $8,000.

MFY Increased Services in 2014

2014 was MFY’s most productive year ever. The organization handled 10,268 cases, assisting over 20,000 people, an 18% increase over the previous calendar year. Employment cases almost doubled, and legal advice, counsel and representation for families caring for related children outside of the foster care system increased by 52%. MFY’s new government benefits unit, created at the end of 2013, handled 1,376 cases in 2014. MFY also increased its presence in the outer boroughs, with cases in the Bronx up by 73%.

MFY to Honor Firms for Aiding Adult Home Residents

MFY’s annual Dinner-Theatre Benefit, to be held on June 10, 2015, will honor **Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP** and **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP** for their outstanding contributions to securing access to justice for adult home residents with mental illness.

MFY in the News . . .

In a letter to the editor of the [*New York Times*](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/31/opinion/college-help-for-neediest.html?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Ar%2C%7b%221%22%3A%22RI%3A6%22%7d) on December 31, 2014, MFY Supervising Attorney Barbara Graves-Poller drew attention to the difficulties young people who have been raised by relatives face when seeking college financial assistance.

A *New York Times* piece about a [Chelsea soup kitchen](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/30/nyregion/at-a-manhattan-soup-kitchen-piano-music-is-always-on-the-menu.html) profiles Scott Croly, who plays the piano each day for the kitchen’s guests. Croly recently received help from MFY to file a successful pro se bankruptcy petition.

MFY is representing more than [two dozen immigrant women](http://therealdeal.com/blog/2014/12/29/bad-habit-nuns-booting-immigrant-tenants/) who have lived in an SRO in Hell’s Kitchen for years. The facility is owned by a Connecticut order of nuns, who raised rents for these tenants, who are not protected by rent stabilization laws because of an exemption for religious institutions.