A New Beginning

Thanks to your support and the hard work of dedicated volunteers, we reached a significant milestone in our history. Since 1963, the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) has grown significantly over the past 50 years, building the size of our staff as well as our volunteer base that provides valuable assistance to our clients.

In 2013 - our 45th year - NYLAG has a new beginning. With your continued support, NYLAG will be able to address the root causes of social inequities. With your continued help, our next 50 years will be even more successful than our first half century!
Focus on Racial Justice

A growing number of MFY’s expenses focus on seeking justice for those who are suffering the impact of systemic racial inequities.

MFY filed Suit against HUD for Practices that Discriminate against African-American Homeowners

In August 2016 MFY and Emery Call Brinknerhoff & Drey LLP filed a class action lawsuit that exposes the discriminatory practices of HUD’s Noise Sale Program, which is selling mortgages to predatory lenders without informing homeowners that they will go to government protection, or providing an opportunity for them to object to the sale or inform HUD that they are in the matter of losing a home. MFY has also charged discrimination against African-Americans and People with Rental Subsidies

Although MFY’s by far its Housing Justice Center showed a pattern of discrimination by a Bronx landlord who refused to rent to AFRICAN-AMERICANS and people with rental subsidies, MFY and Emery Call Brinknerhoff & Drey LLP filed a class action lawsuit for violation of the law. The case was brought before the court and is in the process of going to trial.

Legal programs for tenants and homeowners account for 38% of our policy advocacy. Over the past year we have greatly expanded our work in the Bronx, where MFY is the only provider to the city’s housing agencies. MFY’s attorneys also represent tenants and homeowners in Harlem and the South Bronx. MFY’s attorneys work hand-in-hand with 20 pro bono attorneys, advocate for appropriate educational services from the NYS Department of Education and ensure that families that are suffering the impact of systemic racial inequities.

MFY’s medical-legal partnerships for children with mental illness open new opportunities for MFY to work with children and parents to ensure medical-legal partnerships for children with mental illness open new opportunities for MFY to work with children and parents to ensure

159 Million Settlement for Debt Collection Victims

In 2016, MFY won a $159 million settlement for New Yorkers in a class action lawsuit filed in 2009 against a debt collection law firm, a debt-buying entity, and a process serving company that obtained debt-collection judgments against consumers in consumer credit transactions by not serving court papers and using fraudulent affidavits of merit. Some 250,000 New Yorkers were affected by the scheme.

NYC Renters and Tenants Union to Increase Access-A-Ride Services

In September a federal judge approved settlement of a class action lawsuit against NYU and the City, challenging the unconstitutional policies of Access-A-Ride, the City’s paratransit system for people who are not able to use public transportation. People with disabilities have been denied Access-A-Ride services with little opportunity to appeal. MFY and the City have agreed to several major general service improvements. NYC must detail the procedures by which a person applying for Access-A-Ride can continue service while the appeal process goes forward and must inform applicants of their right to appeal their case in court. The case was co-chaired by Mindy Wollstone of Pincus & Wolff PLLC.

Class Action Victories Help Thousands

MFY handled 10,824 cases benefitting 26,000 people. MFY secured $2.8 million in affirmative judgments and savings for tenants and homeowners. MFY secured $63 million in judgments and savings for consumers.

Benefits to Clients in FY 2016

Many more than 300 pro bono attorneys and other volunteers worked on 2,000 individual cases and class action cases benefitting more than 300,000 New Yorkers.

Client Income Sources

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

■ Public Assistance, SSI, SSD (41%)
■ Employee (23%)
■ Social Security only (10%)
■ Public Assistance (10%)
■ Other Benefits (7%)
■ Unemployment Ins. & Workers’ Comp. (5%)
■ None (4%)