

A Great Year



Maeve O'Connor
Board Chair

2017 was an exciting year for our organization.

After more than 50 years as MFY Legal Services, Inc., we changed our name to Mobilization for Justice, which better conveys our mission while maintaining a tie to our roots as part of Mobilization for Youth.

In addition, we moved into newly renovated, state-of-the-art offices at the end of May. Our new home provides us with space we badly needed after six years of rapid growth. We now have room for our growing staff and potential expansion, and we are better able to host volunteer attorneys and law students, client meetings and training sessions. We are grateful to the Board of Directors and their firms for helping to raise funds needed for this move.

2017 has also seen tremendous growth in our programs. New York City's new Universal Access to Counsel initiative has enabled us to expand our anti-eviction work, especially in hard-hit areas of the Bronx. And in the midst of moving and changing our name, we launched two new practice areas: the Taxpayer Assistance Project to help low-income people resolve disputes with the IRS, and the Worker Health & Safety Project, which represents workers who have been injured on the job or who work in unsafe conditions.

Mobilization for Justice now handles more than 12,000 individual cases per year while bringing impact litigation and advocating for policy changes to improve the lives of New Yorkers in need. Your support, generosity and friendship have made this growth possible. We are deeply grateful and hope we can count on your continued support in the coming year.

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Through June 30, 2017

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NYC Human Resources Administration
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NYS Legislature
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MFY salutes the following firms that have provided pro bono assistance to our clients:

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Special thanks to our on-site volunteer attorneys:

Cynthia Brill, Linda Clarke, Erin Evers, Lynette Morrow, Jon Plasse, Eric Roper, Judge Marilyn Shafer, Sydney Smith, Martin Webb

Front cover: Mobilization for Justice helped Juan gain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and a path toward citizenship. Brought to the U.S. at age 3, his parents later abandoned him, and his aunt, pictured at right, became his guardian.



2017 YEAR-END REPORT

Mobilization for Justice: 2017 Highlights

Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities

Access-A-Ride: After settling a class action lawsuit against New York City Transit challenging its policies on denying Access-A-Ride services for New Yorkers with disabilities, Mobilization for Justice joined with advocates across the city to demand improvements in paratransit services, on which 148,000 New Yorkers depend. MFJ Attorney Samantha Rauer testified at meetings of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which led to the agency's agreement to launch a new e-hail service for people with disabilities. On the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in July, MFJ and advocates called on the Governor to declare a state of emergency for Access-A-Ride, detailing horrendous service and showing how the lack of reliable transportation is the second biggest barrier to employment for people with disabilities.



Nursing Home Closures:

After two nursing homes were purchased, closed and then sold to luxury housing developers, Mobilization for Justice filed suit in Supreme Court of New York County in May, challenging the New York State Department of

Health's (DOH) refusal to release documents related to its interactions with the Allure Group, which purchased two nursing homes, operated them briefly as for-profit facilities, then closed them to convert the properties to luxury residential buildings. Under NYS regulations, nursing home owners must inform DOH of an intent to close a facility and file a written closure plan. The lack of DOH open oversight may have helped the Allure Group to empty its facilities quietly before flipping the properties to developers. After delaying for over a year, DOH denied MFJ's FOIL request. The lawsuit aims to find out what DOH may be hiding.

Universal Access to Counsel for Tenants

Years of advocacy by MFJ, the legal services community, and tenants' organizations resulted in the city agreeing to provide an attorney for low- and moderate-income tenants who are faced with eviction in housing court. The new program will enable MFJ to continue to expand its housing practice and help hundreds more tenants avoid the loss of affordable apartments.

New Programs Help Workers and Low-Income Taxpayers

Mobilization for Justice launched two new practice areas in 2017 to address unmet legal needs of low-income New Yorkers.

The **Taxpayer Assistance Project** provides advice, counsel and representation to low-income New Yorkers who have tax controversies before the IRS. These problems often result in liens, levies or denial of refunds that can jeopardize a family's ability to meet rent or mortgage payments and mire them in a host of civil legal issues. The project assists with audits and examinations; Earned Income Tax Credit appeals; liens and levies; identity theft, and other issues. Morrison & Foerster, Fried Frank, and Shearman & Sterling are providing pro bono support.

Responding to the lack of legal assistance for low-income and immigrant workers injured on the job, MFJ expanded its employment practice by launching a new project on **Workplace Safety and Health**. The project provides advice, counsel and representation to workers who are injured on the job or who face unsafe or unhealthy conditions. It offers assistance on Workers' Compensation claims, medical leave and disability accommodations, disability discrimination and reporting unsafe conditions. The project was spearheaded by Marissa Cooper, who received a one-year Stimson Fellowship from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP to develop the project at Mobilization for Justice.

MFJ Expands Neighborhood Legal Clinics

Over the past year, Mobilization for Justice has taken its services to neighborhoods all over the city in partnership with community-based social service organizations, Community Boards, senior centers, and offices of local elected officials. Local partners publicize the days and times when MFJ attorneys will be on site and often set up appointments in advance. MFJ works with neighborhood-based advocates to help them identify legal issues and connect their constituents to MFJ services.



Mobilization for Justice also operates walk-in clinics at courthouses around the city. Bronx tenants facing eviction can meet with MFJ attorneys every Friday, and homeowners in Queens and Brooklyn facing foreclosure have regular access to our attorneys. MFJ attorneys also counsel New Yorkers with consumer debt issues at evening clinics at courthouses in Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island.

Legislative Victory for Three-Quarter House Residents

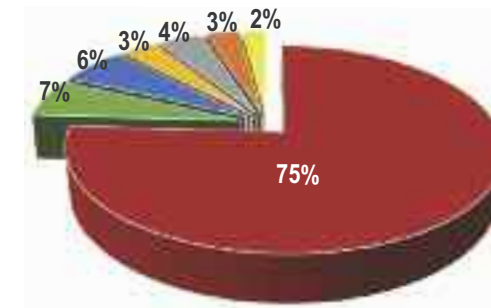


After years of organizing and advocacy by Mobilization for Justice, three-quarter house residents, and advocates in the Three-Quarter House Reform Coalition, the New York City Council passed five bills to protect tenants' rights and rein in abusive three-quarter house operators. The legislation makes it illegal for landlords to force tenants to attend medical treatment, interfere with their medical treatment, or discriminate based on whether tenants received treatment or not. It is widely alleged that operators receive kickbacks from treatment programs, and some operators have been indicted for Medicaid fraud. Other bills help tenants secure relocation services, allow alternative forms of documentation when applying for assistance, and mandate that the City inform tenants of their rights against illegal eviction.

2017 Audited Financial Overview

Revenue Sources

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

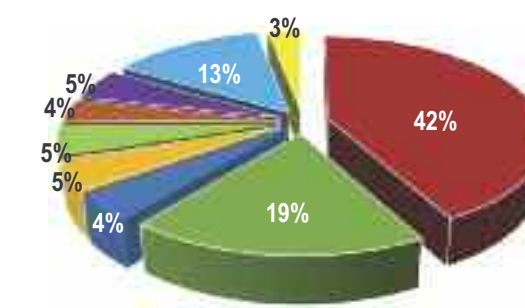


Total Revenue: \$12,237,628

- Government: \$9,181,167
- Foundations & Corporations: \$786,500
- Capital Campaign: \$750,834
- Donated Services: \$400,000
- Special Event: \$510,350
- Cy Pres/Atty Fees/Other: \$330,555
- Individuals: \$278,222

Program Expenses

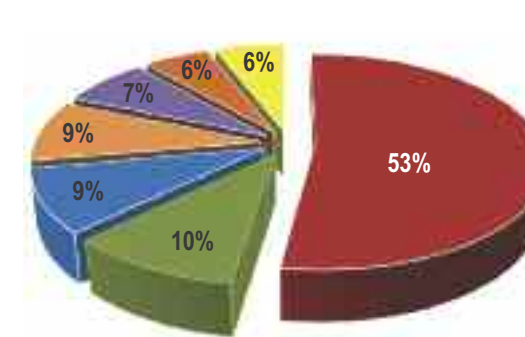
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



Total Program Expenses: \$10,316,308

- Legal programs for tenants and homeowners (42%)
- Legal programs for people with disabilities (19%)
- Legal programs for the elderly (13%)
- Legal programs for low-wage workers (5%)
- Legal programs for low-income consumers (5%)
- Legal programs for kinship caregivers (4%)
- Legal programs for public benefits recipients (5%)
- General/administrative expenses (3%)
- Fundraising expenses (3%)

2017 Cases



- Housing, Foreclosure (53%)
- Consumer (10%)
- Employment (9%)
- Government Benefits (9%)
- Individual Rights, Immigration (7%)
- Family (6%)
- Health & Educ. (6%)

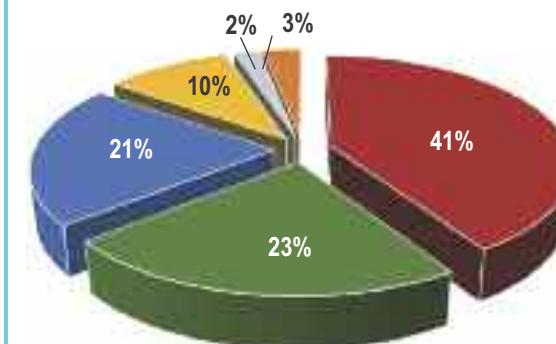
Benefits to Clients in FY 2017

- MFJ handled some **12,000 cases** benefitting over 25,000 people.
- MFJ secured more than **\$43 million** in affirmative judgments for tenants, consumers, homeowners and others.
- MFJ secured more than **\$9 million** in savings for low-income New Yorkers.
- More than **30,000 people** benefitted from community legal education, fact sheets, and website downloads.
- More than **300 pro bono attorneys** and other volunteers provided assistance in approximately 2,500 individual cases and in class action lawsuits benefitting over 100,000 people.

Our Clients

Client Borough of Residence

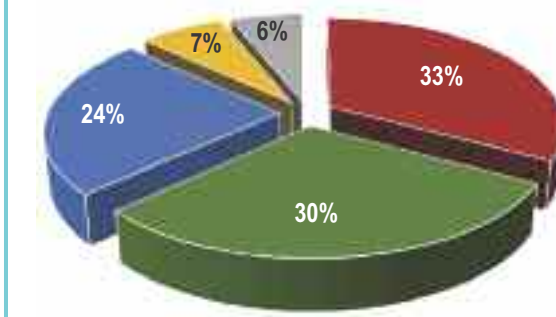
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



- Manhattan (41%)
- Bronx (23%)
- Brooklyn (21%)
- Queens (10%)
- Staten Island (2%)
- Other areas (3%)

Client Ethnicity

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



- African-American (33%)
- Hispanic (30%)
- White (24%)
- Mixed Race / Other (7%)
- Asian (6%)