

MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE

Our mission is to achieve social justice, prioritizing the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised, or have disabilities. We provide the highest quality free, direct civil legal assistance, conduct community education and build partnerships, engage in policy advocacy, and bring impact litigation, with a focus on four key areas: Housing, Economic Justice, Disability & Aging Rights, and Children's Rights.

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July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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2019 YEAR-END REPORT



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MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE VICTORIES – THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!

MFJ Opens First Ever Office in the Bronx

On June 12, 2019, MFJ celebrated the launch of its new office in the Bronx—our first office ever outside of Manhattan!

In 2018 MFJ absorbed the legal unit of BOOM!Health, a well-regarded social services agency serving the Bronx. MFJ's new South Bronx office is at 424 East 147 Street. "The Bronx has the highest poverty rate in the city, and tenants desperately need legal help," said Jeanette Zelhof, MFJ Executive Director. "We have served the Bronx for years and are thrilled to now have a fully-equipped office in the Hub." Bronx tenants will benefit greatly from our expanded presence as well as our long experience and expertise in advocating on behalf of poor and low-income New Yorkers in housing, disability and aging rights, economic justice and children's rights.

MFJ Secures Adoption for Terminally Ill 9/11 First Responder

Mr. and Mrs. V have been caring for Timmy since he was an infant because his mother faced mental health challenges and the NYC Administration for Children's Services threatened to put him in foster care. All was well until Mr. V, who was a paramedic during the September 11th tragedy, was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension ("first responder's disease"). Mr. V's condition deteriorated rapidly and he was given months to live.

Mr. and Mrs. V contacted MFJ urgently seeking to adopt Timmy before Mr. V passed away so Timmy could receive Mr. V's social security survivor's benefits. This would give Mr. V peace of mind knowing that Timmy would be provided for, and Mrs. V wouldn't have to carry the financial burden of raising him on her own.

MFJ supervising attorney Jacqueline Adorno immediately stepped in to prepare the paperwork, but the family faced a barrier: they had to obtain a private home study, required in all adoptions. Richmond County, where the family lives, does not provide for free court-appointed social workers to complete home studies, so all prospective adoptive parents must pay the many hundreds of dollars required out of pocket. After



years of medical bills and Mr. V's inability to work, the family was just not able to afford this last hurdle.

One of MFJ's pro bono partners at Disney stepped in to cover the cost of the private home study, with a matching gift from the company. Mr. and Mrs. V's adoption was filed and finalized in record time. Timmy was so excited he cheered "great job" to all counsel and the judge!

Asylum Granted for Refugee Ms. U and Her Four Children



Ms. U was a victim of female genital mutilation at the age of 10. She suffers from severe medical conditions that will last a lifetime. She left her country in 2018 with her four children and sought assistance applying for asylum from Mobilization for Justice. MFJ paralegal Germán Castaneda completed the applications for them in March 2019. From March to June 2019, Germán and MFJ attorney Ernie Colette met with Ms. U and her children twice a week preparing testimony that was often painful to discuss, and gathering documentation for the June hearing. All the hard work was worth it when Ms. U, Uriel, Nancy, Marian and Daniel were all granted asylum. Eldest child Daniel is looking forward to going to college and the youngest, Uriel, is looking forward to continuing his new American traditions.

Disabled Nursing Home Patient Saved by MFJ from Discharge to a Homeless Shelter

MFJ represented Mr. F, an older adult with physical disabilities, who was facing an imminent involuntary discharge from a nursing home to a homeless shelter, an increasingly frequent and dangerous, unhealthy practice in the city's nursing home system. During the two-day hearing before a Department of Health Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), MFJ director of litigation Kevin Cremin cross-examined numerous nursing home staff, and retained an expert witness, who testified that Mr. F's health needs could in no way be met in a homeless shelter. While the ALJ was drafting her decision, MFJ successfully advocated with a senior housing provider to accept Mr. F, taking him off their waiting list and transitioning him immediately into senior housing, where he belonged.

Fighting for a Student's Right to an Appropriate Education

Steven was a fourth grader with learning disabilities. MFJ's Warren Sinsheimer Children's Rights Project secured evaluations necessary to identify the nature of his disabilities and special education needs, including a neuropsychological evaluation and Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) conducted by outside evaluators not employed by the Department of Education (DOE). The FBA concluded that he was not learning in the educational setting provided to him by the DOE. An Impartial Hearing Officer found that Steven was denied an appropriate education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for several school years, and he was awarded 720 hours of compensatory tutoring.

Bushwick Tenants Sue Landlord after Years of Neglect



After years of enduring severe neglect in their building, including extensive fire damage and dozens of housing violations, five tenants of 299 Troutman Street in Bushwick, Brooklyn decided to sue their landlord. They asked the Housing Court to appoint a 7-A administrator to manage the building, recognize their rent stabilized rights, and make their apartments habitable.

The tenants sought help from Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, who referred

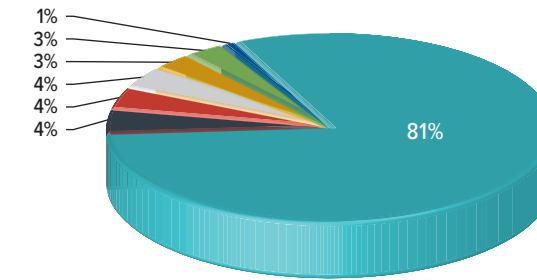
the case to Mobilization for Justice through a monthly legal clinic at her district office. The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development took swift action in this case and supported the tenants' application for the appointment of a 7-A administrator. MFJ attorneys Ariana Marmora and Patrick Tyrrell led a victory press conference to shed light on long-standing neglect by an absentee landlord and to celebrate the preservation of decent affordable housing for low-income tenants.

"I am proud to stand with the tenants of 299 Troutman as they seek restorative justice for their building. Housing is a human right and as such no one should face vital repairs being neglected due to absentee landlords. I applaud Mobilization for Justice for assisting these tenants in their court case," said Assemblywoman Maritza Davila on the building steps.

2019 Audited Financial Overview FY 2019

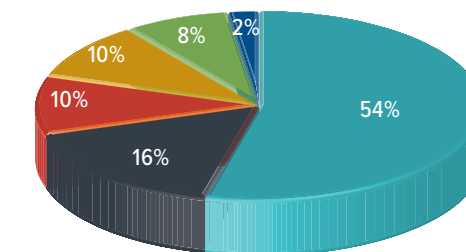
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Revenue: \$15,041,928



- Government **\$12,199,545**
- Cy Pres, Atty Fees, Interest & Other **\$662,614**
- Foundations & Corporations **\$660,350**
- Theatre Benefit **\$555,748**
- Annual Fund **\$440,171**
- Donated Services **\$400,000**
- Capital Campaign **\$123,500**

Expenses: \$15,002,088

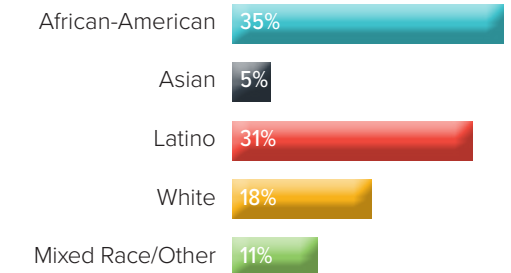


- Housing **\$8,118,558**
- Disability & Aging Rights **\$2,425,147**
- Economic Justice & Immigration **\$1,456,839**
- Children's Rights **\$1,444,156**
- Administration **\$1,185,999**
- Fundraising **\$371,389**

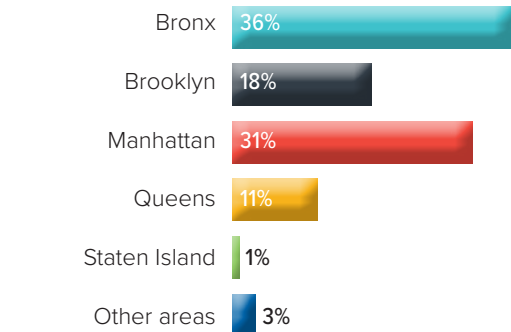
Client Profiles and Services FY 2019

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

FY 2019 Clients by Race



FY 2019 Clients by Residence



FY 2019 Client Cases

