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 (IDEA). The New York City Department of Education appealed the decision, and MFJ represented Steven and his parents in an Impartial Hearing to 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 the Bushwick Tenants for their tenacity and perseverance. MFJ, along with the Bushwick Tenants, successfully secured evaluations necessary to identify the nature of Steven’s disabilities and special education needs. MFJ’s legal team successfully presented the new evidence at a January 2019 Impartial Hearing in Manhattan Supreme Court. Steven’s attorney, Maritza Davila, who referred the case to Mobilization for Justice through a monthly legal clinic at her district office, onto 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 and the tenancy is in the process of being stabilized.

MFJ Opens First Ever Office in the Bronx

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