



For more information:
Elise Brown, Esq.
212-417-3753

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MFY Consumer Rights Supervisor Carolyn E. Coffey
to Receive the New York County Lawyers' Association's Public Service Award**

Award Ceremony Will Be Held on September 12, 2012

NEW YORK, NY, August 10, 2012—The New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) announced that Carolyn E. Coffey, Supervising Attorney of MFY's Consumer Rights Project, will receive the Association's Public Service Award at a ceremony on September 12, 2012 at NYCLA headquarters. Since 1990, the Public Service Awards have recognized efforts of lawyers who dedicate themselves to public service but whose achievements are not often publicly recognized.

Ms. Coffey supervises the Consumer Rights Project, which provides advice, counsel, and representation to low-income New Yorkers on a range of consumer problems. In addition to supervising the project, Ms. Coffey represents clients in state and federal courts in both defensive and affirmative cases, conducts trainings on consumer law, engages in legislative advocacy to help pass pro-consumer laws in New York City and New York State, and has co-authored several reports concerning the debt collection industry.

Ms. Coffey played a central role in winning greater protections for New Yorkers against unscrupulous debt collectors and exposed debt collectors' failure to properly serve defendants in debt cases in a June 2008 report, *Justice Disserved: A Preliminary Analysis of the Exceptionally Low Appearance Rate by Defendants in Lawsuits Filed in the Civil Court of the City of New York*. This report exposed rampant "sewer service" in debt collection cases and encouraged the City Council to adopt stricter measures to protect consumers.

Ms. Coffey was previously a staff attorney in MFY's Workplace Justice Project and Consumer Rights Project for four years and, before joining MFY, clerked for the Hon. Deborah A. Batts in the Southern District of New York.