



NEW YORKERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING

NEWS RELEASE

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STATEWIDE CONSUMER COALITION REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PURSUING ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR NEW YORKERS

Groups Pledge to Be a New York “Firewall” Against Federal Backsliding Under Trump Administration

New Yorkers for Responsible Lending (NYRL), a statewide coalition of more than 180 consumer protection and fair lending groups, reaffirmed its commitment to the goal of financial justice for all New Yorkers and pledged to be a “firewall” against any federal backsliding on consumer financial protection, fair lending and marketplace oversight under the Trump administration.

“Now more than ever before—and especially given changes on the national scene—we call on our legislators and policy makers to band together to solidify prior successes and head off any attempts to weaken protections that could harm New Yorkers,” the Coalition said.

Formed in 1999, NYRL promotes economic justice as a matter of racial and community equity, through legislative and policy advocacy, public education, media advocacy, and organizing campaigns. Representatives from many of its member groups attended the annual conference in Albany on December 2, 2016, to review accomplishments of the past year, discuss upcoming challenges, and set priorities for 2017.

Members of NYRL praised the passage of key legislation in 2016 that creates the Community Restoration Fund to preserve affordable housing, strengthens the foreclosure settlement conference process, gives foreclosure defendants opportunities to avert default judgments, ensures better pre-foreclosure notices for distressed homeowners, and tackles the problems associated with “zombie foreclosures.” Ken Stevens of Foreclosure Resisters said that “thanks to NYRL’s hard work, New York continues to be a leader in protecting homeowners and keeping communities intact.”

In addition, in 2016 NYRL successfully led the efforts to block another attempt by the payday lending and check casher lobby to evade New York’s strong usury laws. Carolyn Coffey

of MFY Legal Services stated that: “As a result of NYRL’s tireless campaign against this dangerous legislation—which would have opened the doors to predatory and abusive lending—low-income and working New Yorkers will continue to enjoy New York’s strong consumer protection laws.”

At the annual meeting, NYRL also heralded achievements in expanding state regulation of out-of-state schools, educating regulators about student loan servicing issues and advocating for affordable, nondiscriminatory auto and homeowners insurance. NYRL recommitted to supporting protections for subprime auto borrowers, robust compliance with the recently passed mortgage laws, and heading off the payday loan industry by backing constructive alternatives.

NYRL members expressed unflagging support for the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and its progress in making the marketplace fairer for low-income consumers. As Kirsten Keefe of the Empire Justice Center said, “NYRL believes it is critical for the CFPB to remain a strong force for consumers and continue in its efforts to better regulate the debt collection industry nationwide, ban forced arbitration, and ensure fair mortgage and other lending and consumer practices.”

Speakers at the meeting expressed great concern that the incoming Trump administration will attempt to eviscerate the CFPB and erode other consumer protections. NYRL is forming a working group to monitor and participate in legislative and regulatory developments at the federal level. NYRL’s top priority for 2017 is developing an action plan in New York to ensure that the results of the recent election do not lead to negative consequences for New Yorkers.

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NYRL is a statewide coalition of more than 180 groups, which promotes access to fair and affordable financial services and the preservation of assets for all New Yorkers and their communities. NYRL members represent community-based organization and financial institutions, affordable housing groups, labor unions, advocates for seniors, legal services organizations, and community reinvestment, fair lending, and consumer advocacy groups.(A member list is attached to this press release.)



NEW YORKERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING

NYRL Members

AARP • Abyssinian Development Corp. • Affordable Housing Partnership • AFSCME New York • Albany County Rural Housing Alliance • Albany Housing Coalition • Alternatives FCU • Anti-Discrimination Center • Arbor Housing and Development • Asian Americans for Equality • Assoc. for Neighborhood & Housing Development • BEC New Communities HDFC • Belmont Housing Resources for Western New York • Bethex FCU • Better Neighborhoods, Inc. • Bridge Street Development Corp. • Brooklyn Branch NAACP • Brooklyn Cooperative FCU • Brooklyn Housing & Family Services, Inc. • Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A • Brooklyn-Wide Interagency Council of the Aging • Buffalo Urban League • Bushwick Housing Independence Project • Business Outreach Center Network, Inc. • CAMBA • Capital District Community Loan Fund • CASH Buffalo • Catholic Charities, Brooklyn and Queens • Center for NYC Neighborhoods • Central NY Citizens in Action • CHANGER • Chhaya CDC • Children's Defense Fund - NY • Citizen Action of NY • CNY Fair Housing • Common Cause NY • Common Law, Inc. • Community Action in Self-Help • Community Agency For Senior Citizens • CDC of Long Island • Common Law, Inc. • Community Housing Innovations • Community Service Society of New York • Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Central NY • Consumers Union • Cooper Square Committee • Cooperative Federal • Credit Education Bureau • Cultural Renaissance for Economic Revitalization • Cypress Hills Local Development Corp. • Dēmos • District Council 1707, AFSCME • District Council 37, AFSCME • Drum Major Institute • Ellicott District Community Development • Empire Justice Center • Enterprise Community Partners • Erasmus Neighborhood Federation • ESL FCU • Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc. • Fifth Avenue Committee • Fillmore-Leroy Area Residents • Financial Clinic • Flatbush Development Corporation • Foreclosure Resisters • Genesee Co-op FCU • Good Old Lower East Side • Greater Rochester Community Reinvestment Coalition • Group 14621 Community Assoc. • Grow Brooklyn • Habitat for Humanity - NYC • Health & Welfare Council of Long Island • Hempstead Hispanic Civic Assoc. • Hispanic Brotherhood of Rockville Center • Hispanic Senior Action Council • Home Headquarters • The Housing Council • Housing Court Answers • Housing Help • Housing Resources of Columbia County • Human Development Services of Westchester • Inner City Public Interest Law Project • Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly • JASA/Legal Services for the Elderly of Queens & LEAP • JPAC for Older Adults • Justice Action Center - Economic Justice Project, NY Law School • Labor for Industry and Education • Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo • Legal Aid Society • Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY • Legal Aid Society of Rockland County, Inc. • Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. • The Legal Project • Legal Services for the Elderly of Western NY • Legal Services of Central NY • Legal Services of the Hudson Valley • Legal Services NYC • Legal Services NYC-

Bronx • Long Island Housing Services • Long Island Jobs with Justice • Lower East Side People's FCU • Manhattan Legal Services • Margert Community Corp. • Marketview Heights Assoc. • Metro Justice of Rochester • MFY Legal Services • Midwood Development Corp. • MinKwon Center for Community Action • Mutual Housing Association of NY • NAACP Legal Defense Fund • Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee • National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions • Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS • Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners • Neighbors Helping Neighbors • NeighborWorks Alliance of NYS • NeighborWorks Rochester • Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant • Neighborhood Housing Services of NYC • New Economy Project • NY Appleseed • NY CDFI Coalition • NY Legal Assistance Group • NYC Financial Network Action Consortium • NY Public Interest Research Group • NYS Rural Housing Coalition • NY StateWide Senior Action Council • Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson • Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corp. • Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition • Nuevo El Barrio Para la Rehabilitacion de la Vivienda y la Economia • N.W. Queens Housing Corp. • Opportunities for Chenango • Orange County Rural Development Advisory Corp. • Parodneck Foundation • PathStone • Pratt Area Community Council • Pratt Center for Community Development • Project Enterprise • Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund • PUSH Buffalo • Queens Legal Services • ReConnect Program, Correctional Association of New York • Regional Center for Independent Living • Renaissance Economic Development Corp. • Rensselaer County Housing Resources • Retail Action Project • Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) • Rochester District Community Ministries, The United Methodist Church • Rockland Housing Action Coalition • Rural Law Center of NY • Sanctuary for Families • Sojourner House • South Brooklyn Legal Services • St. John's University School of Law Elder Law Clinic • St. Lawrence County Housing Council • Staten Island Center for Independent Living • Staten Island Interagency Council for Aging • Staten Island Legal Services • SUNY Buffalo Law School Consumer Financial Advocacy Clinic • Syracuse United Neighbors • Syracuse University Securities Arbitration and Consumer Law Clinic • Teamsters Local 237 • The Century Foundation • Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program • UAW Region 9A CAP Council • University Neighborhood Housing Program • Urban Homesteading Assistance Board • Urban Justice Center • Urban Upbound • Walmart Free NYC • West Harlem Group Assistance • Westchester Residential Opportunities • Western New York Law Center

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