

Update

November 2014

Recent Successes . . .

November brought several successes for elderly clients and people with disabilities:

In the ongoing struggle on behalf of the eight remaining elderly residents of the **Prospect Park Residence** in Brooklyn**,** a judge ruled that the Department of Health’s closure plan was invalid. The owner, who has been cited for contempt for cutting back on services, purchased the facility intending to flip it after evicting all the residents and re-sell it to developers. MFY, the Legal Aid Society, and pro bono counsel are representing the tenants. See article below.

Eighteen months ago MFY, with co-counsel from Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady, filed a **federal discrimination lawsuit** on behalf of the Fair Housing Justice Center against five senior living residences that openly discriminated based on disability, race and religion. In November, all parties signed a settlement agreeing to revamp their advertising and application procedures to eliminate discrimination based on disability, race, and religion; stop limiting residents’ ability to have home health aides; stop evicting residents for declining health; adopt non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation policies; undergo fair housing training; and pay fees and damages.

Our Willkie extern **saved an elderly couple** from homelessness (ages 86 and 93) when they fell into a gap on eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE). Quick action undid a default judgment and careful research found several unclaimed cost-of-living deductions that brought their income down to the eligible amount and saved their affordable housing.

Our new **Three-Quarter House Project organizer** held the first-ever tenants’ meeting in the Bronx after only two weeks on the job. The project is playing a leadership role in the **Three-Quarter House Reform Coalition**, which includes some 15 organizations that are working to craft policy and legislative solutions to end abuses and develop a housing model that meets the needs of residents.

MFY on the run . . .

MFY’s running team has participated in six races this year, helping to raise funds for a number of causes, including the Anti-Violence Project, Autism Speaks, and God’s Love We Deliver.

MFY in the News . . .

The [**New York Times**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/29/nyregion/at-assisted-living-home-prospect-park-residence-set-to-close-holdouts-dig-in-as-services-dry-up.html?_r=0) reports on conditions in the Prospect Park Residence.

The [**Associated Press**](http://www.newsday.com/news/region-state/fema-asking-some-elderly-disabled-patients-to-repay-superstorm-sandy-aid-1.9600326) article about FEMA asking adult home residents to repay Sandy aid appeared in multiple outlets.

The [**NY Law Journal**](http://www.newyorklawjournal.com/this-weeks-news/id=1202676034441/Court-Finds-Arbitrary-Citys-Denial-of-ReEmployment?mcode=1202615038803&curindex=1) reported on a decision giving MFY’s client a second chance at employment.