

NYS Attorney General Sues Chinatown Landlord for Tenant Harassment



Chinatown residents represented by MFY Legal Services won an important victory in their struggle for safe and decent housing when NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced a lawsuit against the landlords who own the buildings and Marolda Properties, Inc., which manages rent-regulated apartment buildings. An investigation by the state's Tenant Protection Unit found that Marolda harassed tenants and tried to force long-term Asian-American tenants out of apartments, often by threatening an eviction proceeding if tenants did not leave. The lawsuit also alleges that defendants have at times locked tenants out of their apartments, engaged in unnecessary or burdensome repairs and at other times failed to make necessary repairs, leaving tenants with substandard, unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

MFY Report Shows that NY Courts Do Not Accommodate People with Disabilities

[A report released in November](#) by MFY Legal Services shows that New York's Unified Court System is not effectively administering a program that would enable people with disabilities to access the court system and exercise their right to fully participate in court proceedings to which they are a party. The report details the specific problems of the Court's ADA Liaison Program and offers recommendations to fix it. [Read report here.](#)

MFY's Suit against Mortgage Rescue Scammer Spurred AG Investigation Resulting in a \$1.6 Million Settlement

In 2013, MFY filed a lawsuit on behalf of several Queens homeowners who lost thousands of dollars as part of a mortgage rescue scam perpetrated by American Hope Group, Inc. and others. MFY brought the matter to the attention of the NYS Attorney General, who initiated an investigation that found that American Hope collected millions of dollars in monthly fees from homeowners yet routinely failed to deliver on its promises to provide substantial relief from unaffordable mortgage payments through loan modifications. [American Hope must now pay \\$1.6 million to the state.](#) MFY's case against the scammers is ongoing.

MFY in the News . . .

The NYS Attorney General's office issued a lengthy [press release](#) on its lawsuit against Marolda Properties. Read more about Marolda in this [article at Patch.com](#).

MFY's report on illegal rentals by Airbnb and other home-sharing sites continues to get press attention. Read the [article in the Gothamist](#) and MFY Attorney Marti Weithman's [comments on tax issues](#) with Airbnb in this article in Inc.com.