

## **A Second Chance for People with Criminal Histories**

Each year MFY attorneys and pro bono partners help people with criminal records re-enter the workforce by representing them at administrative hearings to get licenses to work as security guards, nursing assistants and other professions that require licenses. In most cases the incident that led to a criminal history happened long ago and the individuals involved have worked successfully in various occupations. Recent successes include Ms. A, who lost her Certified Nursing Assistant license seven years ago but got a security guard license with MFY's help; and Mr. M, who had won early release from prison in 1996 and worked successfully since then but who was denied a security guard license until MFY represented him in his appeal.



## **Three-Quarter House Residents and Supporters Rally at City Hall in Support of City Council Bills**

On October 6, 2016 dozens of three-quarter residents, along with MFY, VOCAL-NY and Neighbors Together, joined City Council members Stephen Levin, Jumaane Williams, Rafael Espinal and Corey Johnson to support five bills to improve the lives of three-quarter house residents. The bills would prohibit landlords from compelling residents to attend specific treatment programs, and require the city to provide better relocation services, ease documentation of residency requirements, provide "know your rights" materials, and track and report building violations, rental payments, relocations and rental subsidies. Tenant leader Daryl Gates described how residents have been evicted for refusing to attend a landlord-chosen treatment program in this [Op-Ed in the Gotham Gazette](#).

## **Carolyn Coffey Receives NCLC's Rising Star Award**

Carolyn Coffey, MFY's Director of Litigation for Economic Justice, received the Rising Star Award from the National Consumer Law Center, given to "an attorney...who made major contributions to consumer law within the past two years by trying or settling a case of great success and significance." The award recognized Ms. Coffey's work in *Sykes v. Mel Harris et al*, which resulted in a \$59 million settlement for NYS victims of debt collection abuse.

## **MFY in the News . . .**

MFY Supervising Attorney Justin La Mort comments on [new affordable housing lottery guidelines](#) in AM-NY.

MFY's report on the impact of illegal rentals by Airbnb on New York City's housing market continues to spur discussion in opinion pages, such as this [article in the Daily News](#).

MFY's Evan Denerstein, a Staff Attorney in the Consumer Rights Project, comments on the problems faced by tens of thousands of people who are [burdened by student debt](#) in this article in Market Watch.

New York State lags behind the rest of the nation in amending its definition of large employer for insurance purposes, forcing thousands of employers with 51-100 employees to drastically increase their insurance costs. MFY Executive Director Jeanette Zelhof speaks out in this [opinion piece in NYN Media](#).