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For Immediate Release

Ropes & Gray LLP Joins MFY Legal Services' Extern Program

Associate Will Help the Elderly Avoid Eviction

NEW YORK, NY, July 9, 2012—MFY Legal Services will expand its externship program with an associate from the law firm of Ropes & Gray LLP, which is providing a full-time extern to the organization beginning today. Working closely with experienced MFY attorneys, the extern will carry a full caseload, providing advice, counsel and representation in housing court and before administrative agencies. When the extern leaves, another Ropes & Gray extern will rotate in and assume the caseload.

“MFY currently has two externs. Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton has had an externship program with MFY since 1975 and Willkie Farr & Gallagher since 1989,” said MFY’s Executive Director Jeanette Zelhof. “The externship program is a win-win for MFY and for the firms. It enables MFY to serve more clients and gives externs valuable experience handling cases from intake through disposition, engaging in motion practice, making decisions on cases, conducting trials and regularly appearing in court. Externs return to the firm with hands-on litigation experience.” Robert Fischler, the head of Ropes & Gray’s litigation department and long-time MFY board member, said that the firm “is delighted to support the important work that MFY does for indigent New Yorkers and to join Cleary Gottlieb and Willkie Farr in sponsoring an MFY extern.”

The Ropes & Gray extern will work in MFY’s Manhattan Seniors Project, which is dedicated to helping older adults age in place with dignity in their own homes. The Project provides representation in housing court to Manhattan residents over age 60 who are facing eviction, and helps seniors with Medicare and Medicaid problems, Social Security and public benefits problems, consumer issues, and access to health care.

MFY Legal Services, Inc., founded in 1963, provides free legal assistance to over 7,500 New Yorkers each year in housing, public benefits, civil and disability rights, consumer, foreclosure, employment and family matters.

Ropes & Gray is a leading global law firm representing a broad spectrum of industries in corporate law and litigation matters.