MFY SalutesCleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

MFY is proud to honor Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP for their outstanding commitment to pro bono service through their externship programs with MFY.

Each year Cleary and Willkie send externs to MFY who work four-month rotations in our housing unit, representing clients who are facing eviction, harassment by landlords, dangerous building conditions, and a host of other housing problems. Working closely with experienced MFY attorneys, externs carry a full caseload in housing court. When they leave, the new extern from their firm assumes the caseload, with a one-week overlap to ensure continuity.

Cleary Gottlieb was the first law firm in the United States to provide public interest externships, a commitment it has continued for the past four decades. Cleary has been involved with MFY since the late 1960’s and established an externship program in 1975. Willkie Farr & Gallagher launched its externship program with MFY in 1989. Together, these two firms have contributed 60 years of service, providing advice, counsel and representation to more than 12,500 clients.

Externs handle cases from intake through disposition, engage in motion practice, make decisions on cases, and regularly appear in court where they gain valuable litigation experience. The externships are win-wins for the firms and MFY. The biggest winners are thousands of low-income New Yorkers whose affordable apartments and public benefits have been saved through the dedicated work of Cleary and Willkie externs.