

Update

January 2017

MFY Will Represent Public Housing Tenant at the NYS Court of Appeals

MFY Supervising Attorneys Leah Goodridge and Michael Grinthal will argue a case at the New York State Court of Appeals later this year on behalf of Jonas Aponte, who sought to succeed to his mother's New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartment.  Mr. Aponte had moved in with his mother to care for her after doctors diagnosed Ms. Aponte with advanced dementia and concluded that her condition made her unfit to live alone.  She submitted a request to add Jonas as an occupant and noted that she suffered from dementia and could not live alone.  NYCHA denied Ms. Aponte's request and later Jonas’ application for succession rights.  Mr. Aponte's Article 78 petition in NY Supreme Court was denied and NYCHA's decision was sustained.  However, Mr. Aponte successfully appealed this decision at the First Department of the Appellate Division which held that he is entitled to succession rights. NYCHA is appealing.  The central question in this case is whether NYCHA was required to make an exception to its rules by providing a reasonable accommodation to Ms. Aponte.

MFY and Allies to Develop Policy Changes to Access-A-Ride

The New York Community Trust has awarded a grant to MFY Legal Services, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Center for Independence of the Disabled-New York, and Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled for community organizing, policy, and legal support to advocate for trans­formative improvements to the New York City Transit Authority’s Access-A-Ride program and to achieve equal access to transportation for people with disabilities. The overarching goal is to make the current Access-A-Ride system significantly more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and transform the system into one that actually works for them. The groups’ organizing and advocacy will look for straightforward policy and operational changes to Access-A-Ride while also exploring other, much more dramatic changes, including an integration of the city’s vast taxi system into paratransit services.

MFY in the News . . .

Elizabeth Lynch, Supervising Attorney of MFY’s Foreclosure Prevention Project, is cited in Joe Nocera’s [Remember Robo-Signing at Banks? Neither Does Mnuchin](https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-01-31/remember-robo-signing-at-banks-neither-does-mnuchin) in his column for Bloomberg View.

Efforts to [end harassment of tenants](http://chelseanow.com/2017/01/tenants-stand-tall-at-packed-town-hall/) by construction got a boost as hundreds of tenants throughout the city made their opinions known at a [town hall meeting](http://thevillager.com/2017/01/11/building-a-movement-vs-construction-harassment/), where Supervising Attorney Marti Weithman participated on a panel of experts.

MFY consumer Staff Attorney Evan Denerstein is quoted in this article in MarketWatch on the government’s aggressive approach in forcing [disabled borrowers to lose benefits over student loans](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/this-lawsuit-claims-feds-needlessly-force-disabled-borrowers-to-lose-benefits-over-student-loans-2016-12-30).

Coming Soon . . . A New Name for MFY! In the spring MFY will become MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE.