

Update

January 2018

# [No](http://mobilizationforjustice.org/news-and-press/mfj-report-nursing-home-residents-are-often-illegally-confined/) Good Deed by Tenant Goes Unpunished

After two decades of active duty in the Army that included combat deployment, in 2011 Mr. A returned to the rent controlled apartment that he grew up in. He found it in deplorable shape, having been neglected by the landlord for decades. Instead of fighting with the landlord, as his parents attempted before him, he ignored the conditions and focused on adapting to civilian life. In December 2015, he decided to make the apartment safe and began cleaning out chunks of plaster and other debris that had fallen from the walls and ceiling. Seeing a dumpster outside, the landlord notified the Department of Buildings, which issued a violation for unlicensed demolition work, and brought an eviction case claiming that Mr. A had been negligent and had damaged the apartment. After a multi-day trial with seven witnesses conducted by MFJ Attorney Ariana Marmora, the Judge ruled in Mr. A’s favor. The threat of eviction over, Mr. A is focusing on his studies to become a social worker.

Domestic Violence Victim Gets a New Financial Start

Domestic violence victims who leave their abusers often face complex financial problems. When Ms. M called MFJ, she had already been turned down for help by several other providers. MFJ Attorney Peter Barker-Huelster helped Ms. M file for bankruptcy and discharge some $35,000 in debt. She also had two student loans that had been fraudulently obtained in her name. Using a novel approach and tenacious advocacy, Mr. Barker-Huelster got those discharged as well, allowing Ms. M to rebuild her life free of crushing debt.

Denied Due Process, 8-Year-Old Secures Appropriate Education Services

Although no formal educational evaluation had been conducted, Z’s public school determined that he was a “hyper aggressive and defiant child who could not be properly and sufficiently educated.” Z suffers from ADHD, asthma and autism. MFJ filed a due process complaint and negotiated with the Department of Education to pay for a series of expert evaluations. With proper evaluations, Z was able to receive appropriate educational services.

MFJ in the news . . .

MFJ and many other advocacy organizations co-sponsored a follow-up study on the impact of Airbnb on New York City’s housing market. [**Read report here.**](http://www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/channels/news/high-cost-short-term-rentals-new-york-city-284310)

This article from Urban Omnibus summarizes a presentation by MFJ Attorney Patrick Tyrrell on the [**impact of Airbnb**](https://urbanomnibus.net/2017/12/illegal-hotels) and other short-term rental companies on the stock of affordable housing in New York City.

MFJ Attorney Evan Denerstein is quoted in this article in Marketwatch, which examines Governor Cuomo’s [**proposals on student loans**](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/new-york-takes-another-stab-at-cracking-down-on-student-loan-companies-2018-01-03). MFJ advocates legislation that will better regulate loan servicers, who routinely fail to give low-income borrowers accurate information on their options.

[**WNYC’s follow-up report on Rivington House**](https://www.wnyc.org/story/scandal-plagued-nursing-home-operator-agrees-open-new-facilities), a nursing home on the Lower East Side that was abruptly closed and sold to make way for luxury housing, includes a quote from MFJ Attorney Daniel Ross on a settlement that requires the former owner to open two new healthcare facilities within five years, donate $1.25 million to healthcare non-profits on the Lower East Side, and pay $750,000 in fines.