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Update

September 2016

MFY and Chinatown Tenants Demand Safe Housing



MFY Attorney Shi Shi Wang represents tenants of two Chinatown buildings who [rallied on September 22](#) to draw attention to two lawsuits they have filed against the landlord, R.A. Cohen, for failing to address building code violations that have made the buildings unfit for human habitation. Tenants cited mold, pests, crumbling cabinets and defective appliances as persistent problems. The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence is working with the tenants, who are represented by MFY and the Urban Justice Center. Ms. Wang and others spoke about the problems and the impact of gentrification in Chinatown in a [special report on WBAI radio](#). Additional coverage [here](#).

MFY Aids Tenants Suing Slumlord for Creating Illegal SRO

MFY is representing a group of tenants at 80 New York Avenue in Brooklyn who are suing their landlord for renting out individual rooms within apartments as if they are separate dwelling spaces, alleging illegal deregulation and rent overcharges. In a scheme proliferating in many gentrifying neighborhoods, landlords convince single adults desperate for an affordable place to live to co-sign a lease. Tenants say the group lease is a cover for a living arrangement that looks more like an illegal rooming house. The [exposé in The Gothamist](#) and an [article in The Real Deal](#) show how in 2014 the eight-unit building was entirely rent-stabilized. Eighteen months later all but three apartments are rented by the room, at rents three to four times the rent-stabilized rate, thereby reducing the stock of available apartments low-income New Yorkers can rent.

MFY's Nicole Arrindell Named a 2016 Rising Star

Nicole Arrindell, a Senior Staff Attorney in MFY's Consumer Rights Project, has been named a Rising Star by *City & State*, and will be recognized at a celebration on October 18. The award recognizes 40 rising stars under the age of 40 for achievement in NYC government, advocacy, media and policy. Ms. Arrindell began working at MFY in 2013, assisting victims of Superstorm Sandy and currently represents low-income New Yorkers with consumer problems.

MFY in the News . . .

MFY's [class action lawsuit](#) against HUD for [discriminatory practices](#) in its note sale program continues to generate media attention. [Listen to a BRIC-TV interview](#) with Supervising Attorney Elizabeth Lynch.

Marti Weithman, Supervising Attorney in MFY's housing unit, [comments on rent subsidies](#) in this article in *The New York Times*.

The [Norwood News](#) reported on MFY's case against a multimillionaire Bronx slumlord and a tragic fire that forced tenants to relocate.

City Limits published MFY's Op-Ed on the [Campaign for Better Bronx Housing](#), a joint effort by MFY and NY Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) to focus on the environmental effects of poor housing conditions.

MFY's report on the devastating impact of illegal Airbnb rentals on New York City's housing market continues to generate public attention to the issue. The [Huffington Post reports](#) on scrutiny over Airbnb's tax deals.

MFY Senior Staff Attorney Nahid Sorooshyari comments on two [new reports on Access-A-Ride](#) in AM-NY.