JOINING WITH LOW-INCOME PEOPLE TO FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS
Mission
Advancing the cause of economic justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities across the country.

Values
Because NCLEJ’s Board and staff believe that this nation should strive to ensure that no one lives in poverty or is denied basic human rights, we subscribe to the following values:

**Income Security:** Income security is a basic goal and fundamental defense against poverty.

**Access to Employment:** Low-income people should have full opportunity to participate in all forms of education, training, and services to help them secure and retain living wage jobs.

**Access to Health Care:** All low-income people should receive affordable, comprehensive, high-quality health care.

**Fair Treatment:** Fairness must be the foundation of government administration.

**Public Accountability:** Governmental decision-making and administration should be open, accessible, and responsive to constituents.

**Access to Justice:** Low-income people must have effective access to the justice system to challenge violations of their rights, secure effective relief, and gain greater public accountability.

**Fair and Safe Workplace:** All workers should be assured a safe workplace, a living wage, and full protection from discrimination.

**Community Action:** Community action and coalition building should be encouraged at the local, state, and national level as powerful strategies for social change.

**Civic Participation:** Low-income individuals and their communities should have a voice in shaping the public policies that affect their lives.

From the CHAIR and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer M. Selendy
Marc Cohan

We are pleased to share this report on the significant accomplishments of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) in 2014 and 2015.

In 2015, NCLEJ celebrated its 50th anniversary. Honoring that legacy, NCLEJ’s skilled attorneys continue to work collaboratively with low-income people and their advocates across the country. We have made important progress on a wide range of issues facing those in need, using a combination of groundbreaking litigation, policy advocacy, and support for community organizing. Key accomplishments have included:

• fighting in court to protect access to food stamps so that families and individuals across the country do not go hungry;
• advocating for fair pay, safe working conditions, freedom from discrimination, access to workers compensation, and prevention of wage theft for low-wage workers;
• ensuring that low-income New Yorkers who are blind or visually impaired can get information about food stamps and Medicaid in formats they can use;
• enforcing Americans with Disabilities Act protections for residents of public housing suffering from asthma, which is exacerbated by unaddressed moisture and mold in their homes;
• combatting abusive debt collection practices that target low-income people; and
• increasing access to needed health care and child care.

These efforts reflect NCLEJ’s unyielding commitment to its core mission – increasing hope, opportunity, and dignity for those at the bottom of the economic ladder. As we look to the future, NCLEJ staff will continue to use their legal skills with imagination and tenacity, joining with low-income people nationwide to fight for fairness for those in need.

Thank you to everyone who has made this vital work possible: our generous financial supporters, an extraordinarily dedicated staff, a committed Board of Directors, law firms that have provided invaluable pro bono assistance, our fellow public interest and legal services advocates, and our dinner honorees and sponsors. Many are listed in this report, and we thank them all.

With gratitude,

Jennifer M. Selendy
Chair, Board of Directors

Marc Cohan
Executive Director
Nationally:

- Louisiana restored $4.3 million in lost food stamps to more than 24,000 low-income adults without dependents effective January 2016. NCLEJ and the New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice had filed suit to challenge an unlawful new policy that cut food stamps to this population. The new Governor credited the lawsuit as driving the decision to restore assistance.

- In Georgia, we challenged a system-wide failure to process food stamp applications and renewals. Thanks to our class-action lawsuit, Melanie K. v. Horton, nearly 48,000 low-income Georgia families who were wrongly deprived of food stamps are benefitting from a $22 million settlement.

- Low-wage workers nationwide face systemic violations of their most basic rights. We are collaborating with worker centers and other organizations to combat widespread wage theft, discrimination, dangerous working conditions, and lack of access to workers’ compensation.
New York State Advocacy Reaches 22 Counties

NEW YORK CITY LITIGATION:
- Baez v. NYCHA – Mold and Moisture Problems in Public Housing
- Carver v. State Department of New York – FLSA Protections for Workfare Workers (Amicus - Statewide)
- Davila v. Eggleston – Failure to Approve Education and Training
- Doe v. Doar – Underpayment of Assistance to People with HIV/AIDS
- Fishman v. Davies – Medicaid Due Process (Amicus)
- Juan v. Doar – Cash Assistance for Older Adults
- Morel v. Giuliani – Failure to Continue Benefits Pending Fair Hearing
- Rafferty, et al. v. Doar, et al – Accessible Formats for the Blind or Visually Impaired
- Reynolds v. Giuliani – Deterrence of Benefit Applications
- Sykes v. Mel S. Harris and Associates LLC – Debt Collection Abuses in New York State Courts (Statewide)
- Williston v. Eggleston – Food Stamp Application Delays

ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF:
- Homeless Individuals and Families
- Low-Income People with Disabilities
- Low-Wage Workers, including Pregnant Workers
- Parents in Need of Child Care
- People Harmed by Unfair Debt Collection Practices
- People in Need of Public Benefits
- Tenants of Public Housing

In New York:
- In Rafferty v. Doar, we secured the right for food stamp and Medicaid applicants and recipients who are blind or seriously visually impaired to receive notices, forms, and other written communications in alternate formats, such as Braille, large print, and audiotape.
- In collaboration with the New Economy Project, NCLEJ staff helped to secure a $59 million settlement benefitting more than 350,000 people in Sykes v. Mel S. Harris & Associates, a federal class action challenging widespread abusive consumer debt collection practices in NY State courts.
- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenants with asthma will breathe easier as a result of a settlement approved by the court in Baez v. NYCHA, filed by NCLEJ and Natural Resources Defense Council. A special master was appointed to help oversee NYCHA’s remediation of mold and excess moisture in its apartments.
2014 - 2015 REPORT

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LAW AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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Joan Granlund
John DeWitt Gregory*
Sara Sandusky and Jeff Petrow
Benjamin W. Heineman Jr.

To our DINNER HONOREES

2015
J. Kevin McCarthy
Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel, BNY Mellon
Camille D. Holmes
Director, Leadership & Racial Equity, National Legal Aid & Defender Association

2014
Stephen M. Cutler
Executive Vice President and General Counsel (now Vice Chairman), JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Henry A. Freedman
Former Executive Director, National Center for Law and Economic Justice

To our PRO BONO PARTNERS

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*Donations were made in full or in part in support of the Paul M. Dodyk Fellowship

2014 - 2015 REPORT

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LAW AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
Financial Information

Public Support and Revenue

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<tr>
<td>Public Support</td>
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<td>Contributions – unrestricted</td>
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<td>Dodyk Fellowship Support</td>
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<td>The Freedman Fund for Due Process</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Special Events, net of direct costs</td>
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<td>Donated Services</td>
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<td>Revenue</td>
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<td>Attorney Fees</td>
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<td>Interest and other</td>
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<td>Total Public Support and Revenue</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
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<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
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<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$2,284,060</td>
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Full report may be viewed on NCLEJ’s website (www.nclej.org) or by request from the State of New York, Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.
Joining with Low-Income People to Fight for Fairness

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