

Stephen Miller

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Henry Freedman
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
275 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1506
New York, NY 10001



Dear Henry,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work alongside everyone at NCLEJ in the cause of economic justice during the past year. It has been an eye-opening experience; indeed, it is a year I will not soon forget.

When I began volunteering at NCLEJ, I thought I knew something of the hardships millions of Americans endure daily. Now that the year is done, it is safe to say that I am aware of both the acute suffering of so many, and the critical need for NCLEJ's work on their behalf.

Some of the most poignant memories from the past year come from various outreach activities, where a number of us volunteers left the calm of the office to meet with public benefits applicants. Statistically, we already knew that many of these people were not receiving the benefits to which they were entitled. But seeing the pain in their eyes and hearing the strain in their voices as they worried about how they were going to feed their children that night illuminated the widespread problems of application processing delays and wrongful denial of benefits. These were heartbreaking scenes.

Once we had these stories, it was a privilege to work with NCLEJ's dedicated staff to build cases that led directly to people receiving their full benefits, and to state and county governments fixing their broken processing systems. It was truly impressive to witness and become a part of a small group of committed professionals who make a real difference in countless lives across the country. I also found it enlightening to see the important role private law firms played in our successes, and was encouraged by how well the different groups came together to achieve just results for low-income people.

As I move on to my new job in the private sector, I hope to continue my involvement in NCLEJ's efforts, especially now that I've seen how well that kind of partnership works.

Henry, thank you again for the terrific opportunity to be a part of something special. I wish you and everyone at NCLEJ all the best.

Sincerely,

Stephen Miller