

OPPORTUNITY  
FAIRNESS  
JUSTICE  
DIGNITY



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
LAW AND ECONOMIC  
JUSTICE**



*Fighting for fairness for  
people in need*



**REPORT 2012 & 2013**

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## 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.



Jennifer M.  
Selendy

## From the CHAIR and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 2014



Henry A.  
Freedman

We are pleased to report on the continued accomplishments of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) on behalf of low-income individuals, families, and communities in 2012 and 2013.

We have made gratifying progress on critical issues facing those in need across America, including preserving access to food stamps, Medicaid, and cash assistance; securing fairness in workers' compensation for ranch and farm workers; helping to preserve access to affordable health care and child care; and ensuring that Americans with Disabilities Act protections are enforced meaningfully for residents of public housing suffering from asthma due to unaddressed moisture and the spread of black mold.

These efforts reflect our unyielding commitment to our core mission – increasing hope, opportunity, and dignity for those at the bottom of the economic ladder. We continue to achieve these results by using our legal skills with imagination and determination. We are now looking forward to an exciting and challenging future, as we hand the baton to a new Executive Director in 2014, and NCLEJ celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2015.

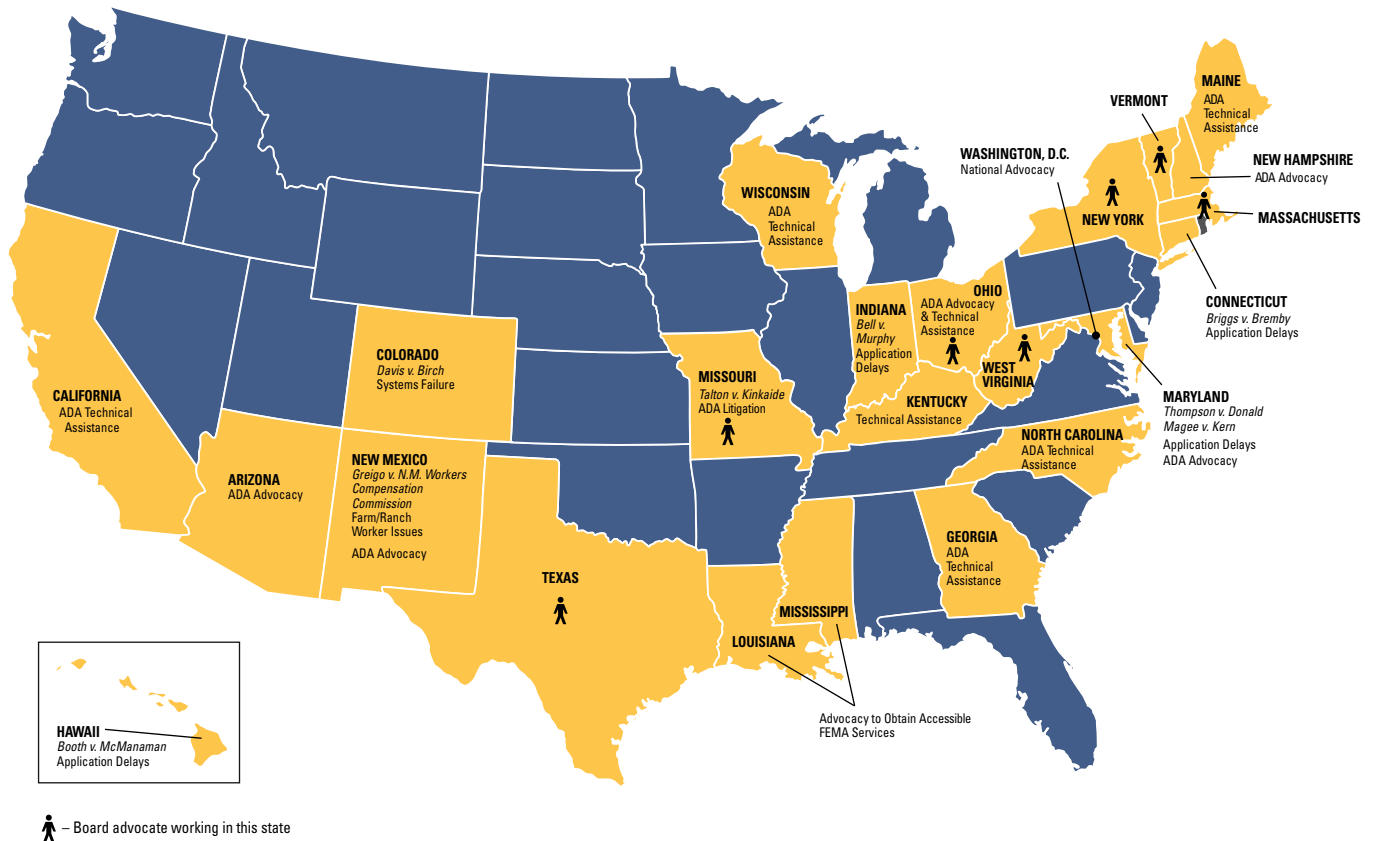
We will continue to explore new frontiers for our work, while assuring that NCLEJ's nearly five decades of work in the trenches to ensure fair implementation of public benefits programs – including greatly expanded health care coverage – continues unabated.

We thank everyone who has made this vital work possible: our extraordinarily dedicated staff and volunteers, a committed Board of Directors, the law firms that have provided invaluable pro bono assistance, our fellow public interest and legal services advocates across the country, and of course generous financial supporters. Many are listed in this report, and we thank them all.

Jennifer M. Selendy  
Chair, Board of Directors

Henry A. Freedman  
Executive Director

# Advocated in 24 States in 2012 and 2013

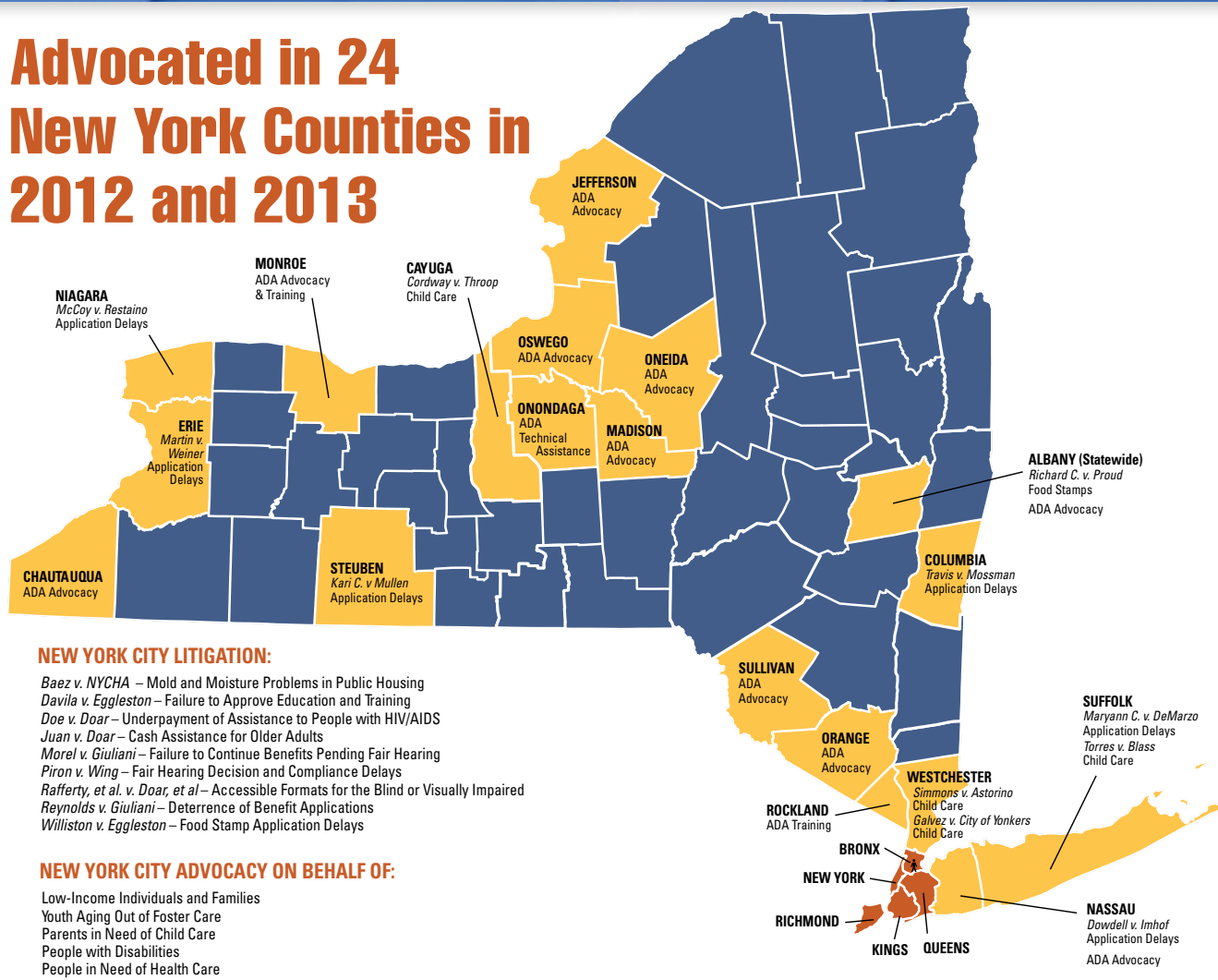


## Spotlight: NCLEJ and Colleagues Achieve Speedier Payment of Food Stamps to Low-Income Hawaiians

Food stamp recipients in Hawaii are getting their crucial benefits even faster as the result of the final settlement in *Booth v. McManaman*, a federal class action. This case has already

achieved a substantial improvement in agency performance, with thousands more low-income households receiving food stamps promptly, and the settlement requires further improvement in benefit processing times. NCLEJ joined Hawaii Applesseed Center for Law and Economic Justice and Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing as counsel in this case.

# Advocated in 24 New York Counties in 2012 and 2013



## NEW YORK CITY LITIGATION:

*Baez v. NYCHA* – Mold and Moisture Problems in Public Housing  
*Davila v. Eggleston* – Failure to Approve Education and Training  
*Doe v. Doar* – Underpayment of Assistance to People with HIV/AIDS  
*Juan v. Doar* – Cash Assistance for Older Adults  
*Morel v. Giuliani* – Failure to Continue Benefits Pending Fair Hearing  
*Piron v. Wing* – Fair Hearing Decision and Compliance Delays  
*Rafferty, et al. v. Doar, et al* – Accessible Formats for the Blind or Visually Impaired  
*Reynolds v. Giuliani* – Deterrence of Benefit Applications  
*Williston v. Eggleston* – Food Stamp Application Delays

## NEW YORK CITY ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF:

- Low-Income Individuals and Families
- Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
- Parents in Need of Child Care
- People with Disabilities
- People in Need of Health Care

## Spotlight: NYC Housing Authority Agrees to Fix Rampant Mold and Moisture Problems

The New York City Housing Authority will address mold and excessive moisture in its apartments more quickly and thoroughly as a result of an agreement in a federal lawsuit filed by NCLEJ and the Natural Resources Defense Council on behalf of people with

asthma living in public housing. Excessive moisture in NYCHA housing, home to 400,000 New Yorkers, has led to rampant and severe mold problems. Residents with asthma are particularly vulnerable to the ill effects of mold and moisture. Under the terms of the agreement, for the first time, NYCHA will be required to respond to mold and moisture complaints within strict time frames depending on the severity of the condition.

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## Financial Information

	2012	2013
<b>Public Support and Revenue</b>		
Public Support		
Contributions - unrestricted	284,805	236,534
Contributions - Dodyk Fellowship	20,050	8,760
Grants	392,396	530,000
Special Events	523,920	554,375
Donated Services	<u>140,734</u>	<u>43,929</u>
Total Public Support	1,361,905	1,373,598
Revenue		
Attorneys Fees	432,622	623,353
Interest and Other	<u>2,315</u>	<u>6,235</u>
Total Revenue	434,937	629,588
Total Public Support and Revenue	1,796,842	2,003,186
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	1,260,470	1,313,190
Management and General	113,208	129,734
Fundraising	<u>300,171</u>	<u>295,247</u>
Total Expenses	1,673,849	1,738,171
Increase (decrease) in net assets	122,993	265,015
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,391,633</u>	<u>1,514,626</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$1,514,626</u>	<u>\$1,779,641</u>

Full report may be viewed on NCLEJ's website ([www.nclej.org](http://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.

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