

OPPORTUNITY FAIRNESS JUSTICE DIGNITY



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR
LAW AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**



REPORT 2010 & 2011

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 2012



Henry A.
Freedman

This report celebrates the essential work that the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) undertook on behalf of low-income people in 2010 and 2011. We have made progress on critical issues facing those in need, including preserving access to benefits (food stamps, Medicaid, cash assistance), securing fairness in workers compensation for ranch and farm workers, helping to preserve the availability of affordable child care, and ensuring that Americans with Disabilities Act protections extend to the frontiers of cyberspace.

These efforts reflect our consistent commitment to our core mission – increasing hope, opportunity, and dignity for those at the bottom of the economic ladder – by using our legal skills with imagination and determination. In the past two years, we have ventured into new areas and new parts of the country, to excellent effect.

Our work will be even more critical in the years ahead. As poverty threatens to become an even larger blight across America, and major safety net programs come under assault, we will continue to explore new frontiers for our work. At the same time, it is critical that NCLEJ's nearly five decades of work in the trenches to ensure fair implementation of public benefits programs continues unabated. A major portion of this work will be focused on assuring that health care is made available to those who need it, whatever happens in the courts, Congress, and the elections this fall.

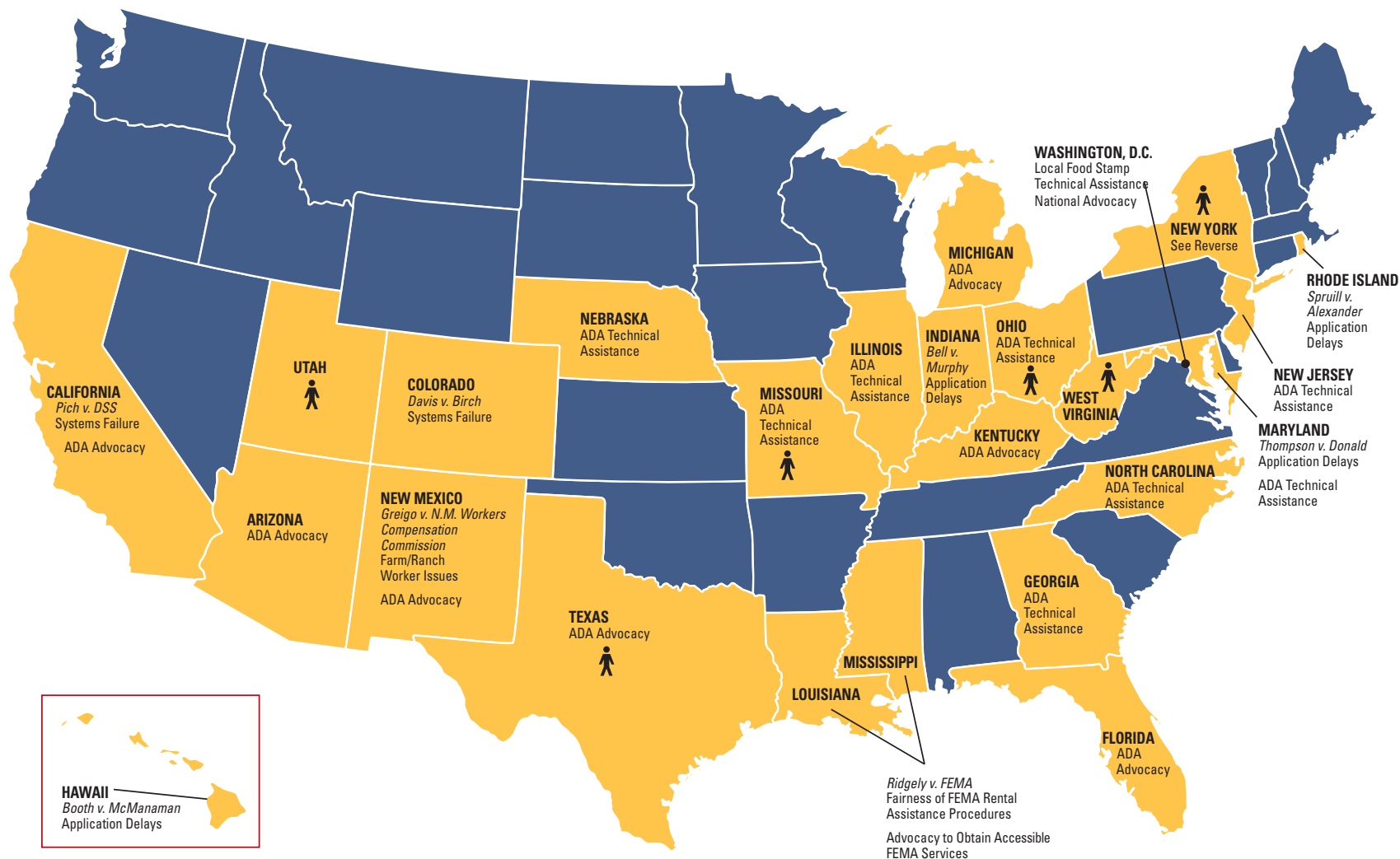
We thank everyone who has made this vital work possible: our extraordinarily dedicated staff and volunteers, a committed Board of Directors, the law firms that have provided invaluable pro bono assistance, our fellow public interest and legal services advocates across the country, and of course generous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

We especially thank the community representatives on our Board, who travel from far and wide to attend our meetings and share their insights, and we acknowledge with sadness the passing last year of our longtime community representative from Texas, Mary Lovings. She will be greatly missed.

Jennifer M. Selendy
Chair, Board of Directors

Henry A. Freedman
Executive Director

NCLEJ: Advocated for Low-Income People in 24 States in 2010 and 2011

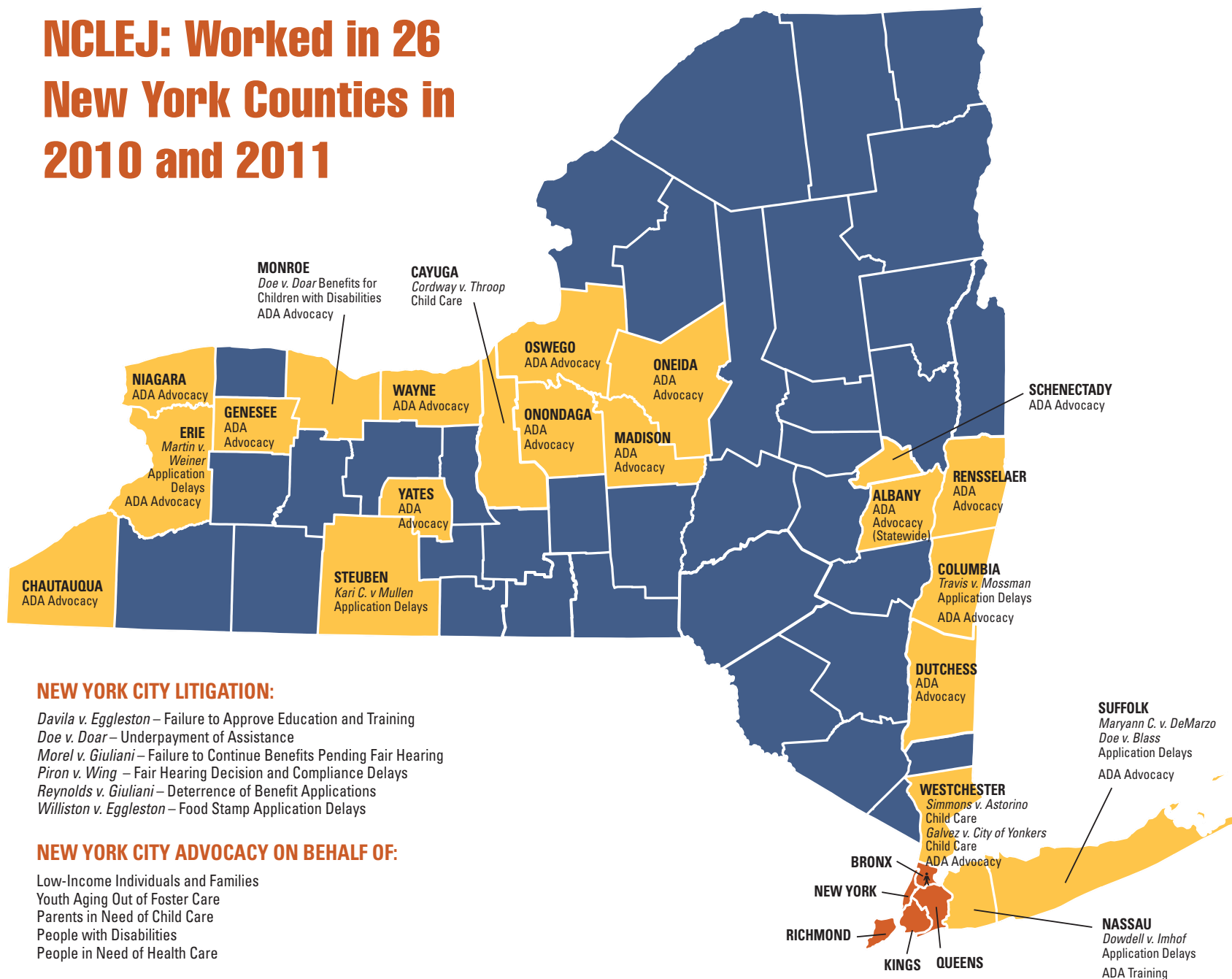


— Board advocate working in this state

Nationally:

- Our work helped ensure that more than two million children received critical food stamp assistance more promptly.
- We fought to get Medicaid applications processed faster for hundreds of thousands of families around the country.
- Our cases led to tens of thousands of low-income families not losing assistance due to bureaucratic ineptitude.
- From Colorado to Indiana to New York, our work led to improvement in computer systems that had been denying critical assistance to tens of thousands of needy families.
- With our assistance, Colorado advocates stopped a state practice that cut off Medicaid to eligible families when the state fell behind on processing their cases.
- We helped to secure a ruling in New Mexico that denying workers' compensation to farm and ranch laborers is unconstitutional.

NCLEJ: Worked in 26 New York Counties in 2010 and 2011



NEW YORK CITY LITIGATION:

Davila v. Eggleston – Failure to Approve Education and Training
Doe v. Doar – Underpayment of Assistance
Morel v. Giuliani – Failure to Continue Benefits Pending Fair Hearing
Piron v. Wing – Fair Hearing Decision and Compliance Delays
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

In New York:

- In New York City, we helped bring more than \$3,000,000 in food assistance to thousands of needy families.
- We conducted more than 15 trainings and workshops, reaching nearly 600 advocates, service providers, and consumers with information about their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Our advocacy resulted in six New York counties adopting improved ADA policies and New York State's issuance of a tool to screen for assistance recipients' disabilities.
- Our victories in New York State courts prevented localities from illegally shutting down critically needed providers of child care to low-income families.
- We assured seamless health coverage for youth aging out of foster care in New York City.

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2010

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Financial Information

	2010	2011
Public Support and Revenue		
Public Support		
Contributions – unrestricted	\$ 222,454	\$ 229,442
Dodyk Fellowship Support	—	279,450
Grants	318,972	351,200
Special Events	632,143	548,645
Donated Services	<u>300,740</u>	<u>150,761</u>
Total Public Support	1,474,309	1,559,498
Revenue		
Attorney Fees	551,282	317,785
Interest and other	<u>7,374</u>	<u>6,255</u>
Total Revenue	558,656	324,040
Total Public Support and Revenue	2,032,965	1,883,538
Expenses		
Program Services	1,433,007	1,269,831
Management and General	156,165	190,345
Fundraising	<u>311,234</u>	<u>305,473</u>
Total Expenses	1,900,406	1,765,649
Increase (decrease) in net assets	132,559	117,889
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,141,185</u>	<u>1,273,744</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$1,273,744</u>	<u>\$1,391,633</u>

Full report may be obtained by request from State of New York, Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

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*As of March 2012.

“Thank you all for decades of **great work** and **friendship.**”

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Tennessee Justice Center

“...NCLEJ is the **leading organization** in the country for this type of economic justice law.”

— **BROOKE RICHIE**
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— **BRYAN HETHERINGTON**
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