Congressman Charles Rangel, executive vice president and general counsel James L. Lipscomb, and advocate Jillynn Stevens will be honored at the Center’s annual awards dinner on Monday, May 14, 2007, at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

Congressman Rangel, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and one of the leading voices on issues of poverty in America, will receive the James Corman Award for Public Service. This award is named for past Center Board member and former Representative James Corman who was instrumental in fighting for the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and was a leading advocate for low-income people. Senators Ted Kennedy and Charles Schumer, Wendell Primus, and Peter Edelman, previous recipients of the Corman Award, have been invited to join us in honoring Congressman Rangel for his lifetime of public service.

Emmy- and Tony-award winning actress Cynthia Nixon has used her public profile to advocate for better public schools and fair school funding in New York, both as a parent and through her work as a spokesperson for the Alliance for Quality Education. She has also been involved with many other charitable causes, including Planned Parenthood and the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center. In addition to numerous acting accolades, she has received the “Distinguished Alumni Award” from Barnard College.

James L. Lipscomb has served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of MetLife, Inc. since 2003 and has been with the company since 1972. We are pleased to honor him for his...
For 42 years, the Center has advanced the cause of economic justice, and the successes continue:

- Thousands of needy families in California will get the federal food stamp benefits to which they are entitled under the law – now and for years to come – through our collaboration with our California colleagues.

- Single mothers in New York City now get a chance to pursue education and training to improve their job skills – and their children’s life chances – thanks to our litigation.

- Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees with disabilities are benefitting from our settlement with FEMA, which led to Senator Edward Kennedy’s letter reproduced on the next page.

As Bill Moyers recently reminded us, America’s “story joins the memory of struggles that have been waged with the possibility of victories yet to be won, including healthcare for every American and a living wage for every worker . . . that leave no one out.”

Our Dinner honorees this year are dedicated to assuring that no one is left out. I am gratified that we will be able to honor Charles Rangel with our James Corman Award. For many years, Jim Corman, formerly of our Board, chaired the Ways and Means subcommittee with direct responsibility for welfare programs. He and Congressman Rangel worked together to improve the lives of low-income families.

I am also pleased that we will be able to honor Cynthia Nixon for her tireless advocacy on behalf of New York City public school students; James Lipscomb of MetLife for his longstanding commitment to addressing pressing issues of poverty, inequity, and the role of in-house counsel in providing pro bono legal services; and Dr. Jillynn Stevens for her commitment to promoting education as a means of lifting poor families out of poverty.

I must also acknowledge the increased involvement of our Board members. Sandra Hauser, who had been on our staff for five years and is now at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, has been elected Secretary. We have been strengthened by the addition of five new Board members:

Lauren Aguiar, Skadden Arps
Mary Lu Bilek, CUNY Law School
Anita Graham, Community Voices Heard
Jonathan Schwartz, Cablevision
George Yankwitt, Bryan Cave

Sadly, this fall, we lost Inez Mitchell, a low-income representative from Rochester, New York. Her passionate faith in our mission throughout her 16 lives of service will be missed.

Finally, thank you again to all those who contributed to our year-end campaign – including many new friends brought in by our Board members. It is because of that generous support that we can continue to help our low-income clients come closer to realizing the American Dream.

Henry A. Freedman
Executive Director
We’ve Been Busy! …across New York State

The past several months have seen Center staff working closely with colleagues from across the state to promote economic opportunities for New Yorkers in need. Highlights of this work include the following:

- Marc Cohan, the Center’s Director of Litigation, and Tedde Tasheff, Senior Attorney, attended settlement conferences before the Magistrate judge in Buffalo in *Martin v. Weiner*, our class-action complaint against the commissioners for the Erie County Department of Social Services and the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The case is challenging, among other issues, Erie County’s policies and practices of failing to process applications and provide food stamps, Medicaid, and cash assistance in a timely manner in violation of federal and state law.
- Senior Attorney Cary LaCheen, in collaboration with the Empire Justice Center, conducted an extensive analysis of local welfare agency self-evaluation forms on accommodating clients with disabilities and limited English proficiency, and provided it to the state and counties, with recommendations. This led to a meeting with the New York State welfare agency, which has agreed to conduct training for local welfare agencies on complying with disability rights laws, with input from the Center.
- Cary LaCheen also trained the staff of New Alternatives for Children, a multi-service agency for families with children with disabilities, on the rights of children with disabilities in the child care system.
- Laura Redman, our Pfizer/Equal Justice Works Fellow, participated in the two-day Pfizer Pro Bono Access to Health Care Conference in New York City, which addressed such topics as the Deficit Reduction Act of 2006, medical-legal partnerships, Katrina-related legal services work, and Pfizer’s Community Health Advocacy program.

On the national level—

Senator Kennedy Praises Center’s Success on Behalf of Gulf Coast Evacuees with Disabilities

**United States Senate**
**WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1151**

October 11, 2006

Henry A. Freedman
Executive Director
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
275 Seventh Ave, Suite 1306
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mr. Freedman,

Warmest congratulations to you and the Center for your impressive victory in *Brown v. FEMA* on behalf of disabled Katrina and Rita evacuees.

Because of your skillful leadership, the evacuees will finally receive the temporary housing they need, and once again have the dignity they deserve and the opportunity to care for themselves.

Your dedication and commitment to make sure that the federal government provides fairly for all its citizens will make a meaningful difference in thousands of lives in the Gulf Coast, and I commend you for your success.

The LBJ’s great victory on behalf of disabled Gulf Coast hurricane victims reminds me of the words of my brother Robert Kennedy, who said, “Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and courage, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Your extraordinary work to improve the lives of the disabled serves as an inspiration to us all, a shining example of how much dedicated attorneys can do to make our society truly fair and just for all our citizens. Well done.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy
Law Firms’ Pro Bono Assistance a Boon to Center’s Work

The Center’s impact and reach have been helped immeasurably by private lawyers who have donated their expertise and time. Recent and ongoing assistance have been provided by the following firms:

**Dewey Ballantine LLP:** Assistance with two ongoing class action suits in New York brought to preserve due process in the public benefits administrative hearing process.

**Hogan & Hartson LLP:** Appeal of denials of Freedom of Information requests for documents related to a privatized program for assessing and serving welfare recipients with disabilities.

**Kirkland & Ellis LLP:** Continued assistance on ongoing litigation against FEMA on behalf of Gulf Coast residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP:** Research on a variety of matters concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act, freedom of information laws, and procedural due process.

**Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP:** Collaboration with Center staff and colleagues in developing potential litigation on behalf of low income people.

Many thanks to all of these firms for upholding the finest traditions of the legal profession!