

A Personal Note from Henry

What a great run I have had! I could say it started in 1967 when Ed Sparer, the genius who had created the field of welfare law and in 1965 founded the program I now direct, asked if I could fill a staff vacancy “for a few months.”



But it really started many years before. Both my father, a life-long policy planner at the Social Security Administration, and my mother instilled in me the importance of public service and economic justice. Years later, my father would speak of his pride when his boss turned to him at a staff meeting and asked, “Nate, is that your son suing us?”

Of course I was not suing the government alone. I have been so fortunate since becoming Executive Director in 1971 to have extraordinarily committed Board and staff members pursuing our vision of due process and economic justice.

I have also been fortunate to have so many friends and supporters who understand the value of having a cadre of vigilant lawyers working day and night to assure that government agencies treat everyone fairly. That’s why I decided that my last act for NCLEJ would be to establish a fund to help support efforts focused specifically on fostering due process, and I am proud to call it the Freedman Fund.

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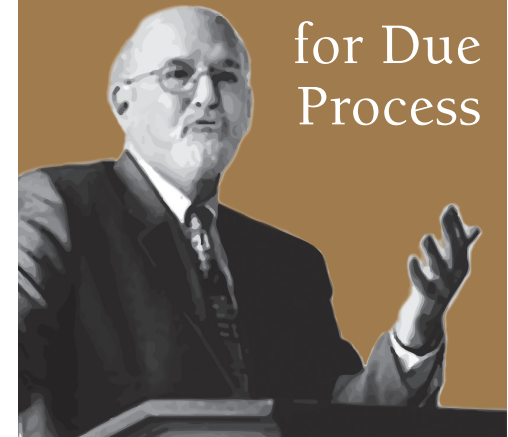
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*Fighting for fairness
for people in need*

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The Freedman Fund for Due Process



Preserving the Legacy of
Goldberg v. Kelly

A campaign to
honor and continue
the life’s work of
Henry A. Freedman
and to sustain
the legacy of
Goldberg v. Kelly

“...nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...”

WHY DUE PROCESS?

Under Henry Freedman’s leadership, the National Center for Law and Economic Justice has been a champion of due process – of fair treatment, preserving dignity and respect – for low-income Americans since the 1960s.

Five years after its founding, NCLEJ achieved a great victory in the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark 1970 case called *Goldberg v. Kelly*. The winners in that case were very poor New York City individuals and families who were eligible for cash assistance – but, without explanation, were thrown off the rolls and, as the Court put it, deprived “of the very means to live.”

This case dramatically changed the legal relationship between government and people in need. Now agencies must tell people why they are losing their benefits and give them a chance to explain why they should keep them. These notions of fundamental fairness are at the heart of constitutional due process protections.

Overwhelmed and under-funded, agencies often behave arbitrarily, and NCLEJ and its allies have to step in to make sure desperately needy people

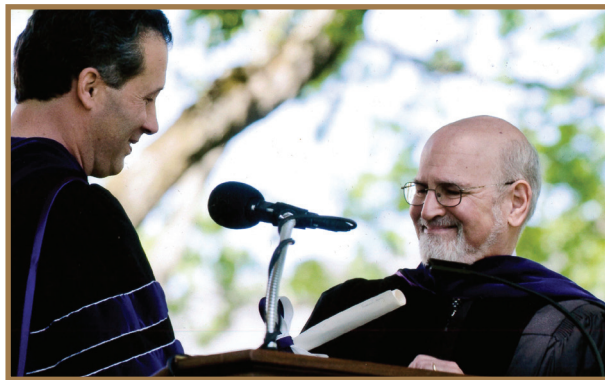


Henry Freedman addressing supporters (1994).

receive fair treatment. Day after day, NCLEJ fights to make government programs work as they should, so that people can stabilize their lives and seek to move out of poverty. NCLEJ’s active docket of cases includes many focused on ensuring that low-income people are treated fairly and with dignity (nclej.org/fairadministration).

THE FREEDMAN FUND FOR DUE PROCESS

Henry has devoted his career to fighting for fairness and dignity for low-income people dealing with government agencies. To make sure this work can continue after he retires, he has established the Freedman Fund for Due Process at NCLEJ to preserve the legacy of *Goldberg v. Kelly*.



Amherst College President Anthony Marx presenting Henry with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree (2008).

Donations to the Freedman Fund will honor the legacy of Henry Freedman and support NCLEJ’s efforts to fight for fairness for people in need. NCLEJ is a nonprofit organization, and all donations to the Freedman Fund are fully tax deductible. Donations at the \$1,000 level and above will be listed in all Freedman Fund publications.

A LIFETIME OF LAWYERING FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Baltimore native Henry Freedman became Executive Director of NCLEJ, then known as the Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law (CSWPL), in 1971. After graduating from Amherst College and Yale Law School, Henry worked in a private law firm, served a fellowship at CSWPL, and taught at Catholic University Law School, before rejoining the organization as Executive Director. During his fellowship, Henry helped initiate *Goldberg v. Kelly* and was involved throughout the litigation of the case.

Under Henry’s 43 years as Executive Director, NCLEJ has been a leading force in the development of public benefits law and successful high-impact litigation. Henry argued and won *Califano v. Westcott*, in which the Supreme Court struck down unconstitutional sex discrimination in a major cash assistance program, bringing benefits to hundreds of thousands of needy families.

Henry has received the National Legal Aid and Defender Association’s Reginald Heber Smith Award for Dedicated Service (1981), the New York State Bar Association’s Public Interest Law Award (1998), the New York County Lawyers’ Association’s William Nelson Cromwell Medal (2001), and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Amherst College (2008). He has chaired the Organization of Legal Services Back-up Centers and the New York City Bar Association Committee on Legal Aid, and served on a variety of national, state and local bar association committees and federal and state welfare reform task forces.

Henry has been married for almost 50 years to Helen E. Freedman. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.