

# nclej

## ADVANCING ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Joining with Low-Income People to Fight for Fairness

### **Kenneth Feinberg, Brooke Richie-Babbage, and Constantine Cannon LLP to be Honored at NCLEJ's 2016 Benefit Dinner**


*Ricardo Anzaldúa, Sheila Birnbaum, Stephen Cutler, Henry Freedman, Kevin McCarthy to Serve as Co-Chairs*



NCLEJ has expanded our roster of honorees for our annual Benefit Awards Dinner with the addition of the law firm **Constantine Cannon LLP**. Constantine Cannon joins our previously announced honorees, **Kenneth R. Feinberg** and **Brooke Richie-Babbage**.

Ken is one of the nation's foremost mediators, arbitrators, and experts in alternative dispute resolution and negotiation strategy. Among his many accomplishments are his leadership of the September 11 and Boston Marathon Victim Compensation Funds. Brooke is the Founder and Executive Director of the Resilience Advocacy Project. She previously worked at NCLEJ as a Skadden Fellow and then as a staff attorney. Constantine Cannon is being honored for its groundbreaking pro bono assistance protecting the rights of Florida's farmworkers and advancing the work of the Fair Food Program and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

In addition, we are pleased to announce the first five Dinner Co-Chairs. They include **Ricardo A. Anzaldúa**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at

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Vice Chairman of JPMorgan Chase & Co., **Henry A. Freedman**, NCLEJ's former Executive Director, and **J. Kevin McCarthy**, the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of BNY Mellon.

**Caitlin J. Halligan**, a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and a former Solicitor General for the State of New York, will serve as the evening's emcee.

The Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 26, at The Lighthouse on Pier 61 of Chelsea Piers from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. To support the dinner, [click here](#).

### **Class Action Challenges New York's Termination of SNAP for Certain Adults**

The Empire Justice Center and NCLEJ are challenging New York's termination of SNAP benefits, also known as food stamps, to thousands of New Yorkers. On August 19, the federal class action, *Brooks v. Roberts*, was filed in the U.S. District Court. The benefits were terminated following New York State's implementation of a federal rule imposing a three-month time limit on receipt of food stamps by able-bodied adults without dependents unless they meet work requirements. The lawsuit claims that the state's highly flawed implementation is unlawful because it fails to ensure that only those properly subject to the time-limit are terminated. [Read more](#).

### **Children with Disabilities and Their Families to Benefit from NH Supreme Court Decision**



Low-income New Hampshire families with a child with a disability won a major victory on August 2, when the New Hampshire Supreme Court struck down a rule requiring that the child's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits – intended for the child's needs – be treated as income for other family members in

determining their eligibility for cash assistance. Typically, this harsh policy has made the whole family ineligible for cash assistance or reduced the family grant dramatically, leaving the family with only the child's SSI income. The Court unanimously ruled that the policy violates the federal SSI program's goal of providing a minimal level of support to children with serious disabilities. New

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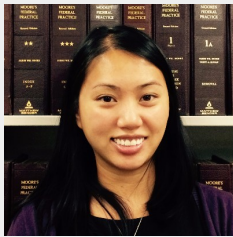
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litigation. [Read more.](#)

## NCLEJ Ensures that Workers Compensation Hearings are Open to the Public

NCLEJ secured a significant victory toward making the New York State Workers Compensation Board more responsive to low-wage workers with limited English proficiency. Worker Centers have complained that the Workers Compensation system is often denies workers adequate interpretation services. NCLEJ attorneys have organized a project to monitor Workers Compensation hearings and plan for appropriate systemic reforms through policy advocacy and, if necessary, impact litigation. Marking one of the first successes of this project, we enforced a State requirement that all Workers Compensation hearings be open to the public after NCLEJ advocates were denied admittance. [Read more.](#)

## NCLEJ Welcomes Theresa Lau to Our Staff



NCLEJ is thrilled to welcome Theresa Lau, a National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Law Foundation Partners and In-House Counsel Community Law Fellow. Theresa, a 2016 American University Washington

College of Law graduate, was awarded a fellowship from the NAPABA Law Foundation to work on issues of access to health benefits for New York's Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. As a Public Interest/Public Service Scholar in law school, Theresa worked as a student attorney with the Women and the Law Clinic and interned at the New York City Law Department, the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, the Legal Aid Society of Washington DC's Public Benefits Unit, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

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