



ADVANCING ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Joining with Low-Income People to Fight for Fairness

NCLEJ Challenges Unconstitutional Revocation of Driver's Licenses in Tennessee



NCLEJ, along with co-counsel Civil Rights Corps, Just City, and the law firm of Baker Donelson, has filed *Thomas v. Haslam*, a federal class action lawsuit challenging the unconstitutional revocation of driver's licenses — without notice or opportunity to be heard — from more than 146,000 low-income people in Tennessee who are too poor to pay criminal justice debt.

In Tennessee, as in many jurisdictions, defendants in the criminal justice system incur substantial debt, as they are charged with the costs of their own prosecution. Tennessee law requires that people must pay these costs within one year or suffer the mandatory revocation of their driver's licenses. Without their driver's licenses, people have difficulty getting and keeping work, accessing medical care, and even engaging in simple activities of daily life like grocery shopping and visiting friends and family. [Read more.](#)

Read press coverage from [The Tennessean](#) and [SFGate](#).

NCLEJ and Colleagues Challenge Reduced Medicaid Services for Adults with Severe Disabilities

NCLEJ has joined advocates from Legal Services of South Central Michigan and the Michigan Poverty Law Program as co-counsel in *Waskul v. Washtenaw County*

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that have resulted in significant reductions in Medicaid services for adults with severe developmental disabilities.

Michigan receives federal funding under a Medicaid waiver to assist people with developmental disabilities with critically needed activities of daily living necessary to allow them to live in their own homes, or in a community supported living arrangement setting. For fiscal reasons, the defendant county agency reduced the individually allocated budgets for the plaintiffs that allow their guardians to pay caregivers to deliver medically necessary services in the home. As a result, they have been placed at significant risk of being uprooted from their homes and institutionalized. [Read more.](#)

[Theresa Lau's Op-Ed on the Importance of the Affordable Care Act Published in NBC News](#)



An op-ed by Theresa Lau, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Law Foundation Partners and In-House Counsel Community Law Fellow, has been published in NBC News. In response to the 2016 election results,

Theresa, along with many other healthcare advocates, opposes the new administration's plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare and the ACA). The piece discusses the serious repercussions a repeal would have on the millions of Americans who gained coverage because of the ACA, and highlights the needs of a commonly ignored minority group – the low-income, limited English proficient Asian-American community. [Read Theresa's op-ed here.](#)

[Ed Krugman Joins NCLEJ as a Volunteer Senior Attorney](#)

NCLEJ Board member Edward P. Krugman has joined the organization as a volunteer Senior Attorney, effective January 17. Ed recently retired as a Partner at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, where he remains a Senior Counsel in the insurance litigation and commercial litigation practice groups. "Ed is an excellent lawyer with a deep commitment to NCLEJ's mission, and we are

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Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP

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delighted that he will use his vast experience and well-honed skills to benefit our clients,” said NCLEJ Executive Director Marc Cohan.

Ed added, “The work of NCLEJ is now more important than ever, and

NCLEJ’s lawyers are the best in the country at what they do. I am as excited about learning from them as I am about adding to NCLEJ’s capacity for its truly vital work.” [Read more.](#)

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