

# **PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES BY WORKSHOP**

## **A. Medicaid in 2014: Impact of Federal and State Reform**

**Rebecca Antar Novick** is the Supervising Attorney of The Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit. Rebecca was a Staff Attorney in the Health Law Unit from 2008 until 2013, and represents clients on issues including access to and navigation of public health insurance; health care benefit and service denials; reduction and elimination of medical debt; and long term care. Rebecca also provides technical assistance and training to community based organizations, health advocates, and legal services advocates across the state.

Rebecca is the Chair of the Medicaid Matters New York managed care workgroup and a member of the Medicaid Matters Steering Committee. She is actively involved in consumer advocacy efforts regarding significant changes to the Medicaid program as a result of state Medicaid Redesign efforts and federal health reform.

Rebecca received a B.A. in History of Science from Harvard University in 2000 and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2008. Before law school, Rebecca was a Senior Legislative Assistant for Congressman Rahm Emanuel, working on health care, education, and other social issues. Rebecca also worked as a Legislative Analyst at Jennings Policy Strategies, a health policy consulting and communications firm, and as a Research Associate at the Advisory Board Company.

**Christine Chiu** is a Staff Attorney in the Health Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI). Her work focuses on access to insurance and quality health care for immigrant and limited English proficient communities in New York State. Prior to joining NYLPI, Christine was at African Services Committee doing primarily immigration representation as a Kirkland & Ellis New York City Public Service Fellow. Christine is a 2011 graduate of NYU Law School. While earning her J.D., Christine worked at the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Platform for Labour Action – advocating for the rights of marginalized workers in Uganda, and the Door Legal Services – providing legal assistance to New York City youth. She also co-authored a report on discrimination against Muslim communities in post-9/11 counterterrorism policy.

**Belkys García** has been a staff attorney with The Legal Aid Society since 2007 representing low-income New Yorkers in accessing various government benefits. In the Health Law Unit she represents clients and engages in policy and legislative reform on issues regarding access to healthcare. She also provides trainings on eligibility, accessing care and due process rights within public health insurance and insurance affordability programs. Previously in The Legal Aid Society's Bronx Neighborhood Office she represented clients on appeals of denials of public assistance, food stamps, and disability benefits in administrative hearings, New York State Courts and US District Court. Belkys is a steering committee member of the Coalition to Protect the Rights of New York's Dually Eligible. She is an active member of the Medicaid Matters New York managed care workgroup. Belkys is a graduate of CUNY School of Law and The New School.

**Geoffrey A. Hale** is a Senior Health Law Attorney at the Empire Justice Center, where he has worked since 2009 on legal issues in health, health policy, and disability advocacy. His health work focuses primarily on Medicaid and Medicare, ensuring access to needed health care through a combination

of direct client representation, administrative and legislative advocacy, and litigation. Together with co-counsel from the National Health Law Program, he brought federal litigation challenging service limitations in the New York Medicaid program. As the Medicaid Redesign continues to transform Medicaid beneficiaries' access to care, he continues to work with clients to challenge issues from faulty eligibility determinations to service denials and reductions through the Medicaid fair hearing process. In particular, much of his recent work has focused on helping clients challenge improper reductions in home care services by their Medicaid Managed Care and Managed Long-Term Care plans. In addition to client advocacy, Geoffrey also provides training, legal support, and technical assistance to health advocates throughout New York State and has presented at numerous state-wide conferences on health and disability issues. He is the lead attorney for Empire Justice on their role in Community Health Advocates, a statewide network of agencies supporting individuals facing difficulties accessing care through their insurance plans for both public and private programs purchased through the New York State of Health Marketplace. His policy work involves collaborating with various state-wide coalitions as well as working with partners at the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure that the dramatic changes of our health care system through the Medicaid Redesign and the Affordable Care Act continue to meet the needs New York's most vulnerable populations.

Geoffrey earned his law degree at the University at Buffalo; he also holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and the Johns Hopkins University.

**Linda R. Hassberg** is an attorney in the Long Island office of the Empire Justice Center. Empire Justice is the only statewide, multi-issue, multi-strategy non-profit law firm focused on changing the "systems" within which poor and low income families live. With a focus on poverty law, Empire Justice undertakes research and training, acts as an informational clearinghouse, and provides litigation backup to local legal services programs and community based organizations. As an advocacy organization, Empire Justice engages in legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of those impacted by poverty and discrimination. As a non-profit law firm, it provides legal assistance to those in need and undertakes impact litigation in order to protect and defend the rights of disenfranchised New Yorkers.

Ms. Hassberg is a senior staff attorney in the Long Island office of the Empire Justice Center. Her primary responsibility is impact litigation in the areas of public benefits, access to health care, and disabilities. She has filed class action lawsuits against both counties in Long Island challenging untimely eligibility determinations for benefits applications, due process violations, and failure to provide emergency assistance. In addition, she has represented clients at administrative hearings and in court seeking assistance with child support, Medicaid coverage, day care benefits, and adequate emergency housing. She is an active member of the Long Island Language Advocates Coalition and chairs its Courts Committee.

**Orier Okumakpeyi** is a Staff Attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc. serving people with mental illness and the elderly. Ms. Okumakpeyi specializes in health law, providing advice, brief services and full representation. She has conducted numerous trainings to lawyers, social workers and benefits specialists on issues of public health insurance benefits. Ms. Okumakpeyi also practices in the areas of housing, disability and general public benefits law. She received her B.A. from Carleton College and her J.D. from City University of New York School of Law. Before law school, Ms. Okumakpeyi worked as the Housing Director for Pathways to Housing, Inc., a scatter-site housing program for

psychiatrically-disabled, homeless New Yorkers. She was responsible for managing the organization's 400+ apartments and working with case managers to assist clients to maintain their independent housing.

**Carol Santangelo** has been a Staff Attorney in the Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit since 2002. Before that, she worked in the Society's Criminal Appeal's Bureau. Carol also holds a Master's Degree in Nursing and a Certificate in Bioethics and Medical Humanities. Carol is a steering committee member of the Coalition to Protect the Rights of New York's Dually Eligible and an active member of the Medicaid Matters New York managed care workgroup. She is a co-moderator of the Health Law Taskforce, and an active member of the New York City Bar Association's Mental Health Law Committee. In the Health Law Unit, Carol's practice includes representation of individual clients, health policy advocacy and technical assistance and training for legal services providers and community based health advocates. The Health Law Unit handles a wide range of cases involving issues with managed care organizations, Medicaid, Medicare, medical debt, and patients' rights including those of the un/underinsured and immigrants access to health care.

**Rebecca Wallach** is a staff attorney with the Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program. She was awarded the Skadden Fellowship in 2012 for her advocacy of "dual eligibles," those who receive both Medicare and Medicaid because they are both aged, disabled or blind and have low incomes and limited financial resources. As a result of mandates requiring dual eligibles to access medical services through managed care plans, there is an increased need for such assistance. Rebecca graduated from CUNY Law School in 2012 as a Haywood Burns Graduate Fellow in Civil Rights and Human Rights. She participated in a CUNY Health Law Externship at Selfhelp Community Services, Inc. Rebecca has extensive experience working as a consultant with a public affairs firm, helping obtain governmental and private funding for HIV/AIDS, environmental, and immigration organizations and expanding access for free mammograms and breast cancer treatment through the Medicaid program in multiple states. She received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College.

## **B. Intentional Program Violations, Administrative Disqualification Hearings, and Related Welfare/SNAP Fraud Issues**

**Ian F. Feldman** began his legal services career in 1972 as an attorney with The Legal Aid Society in New York City. After 35 years with the Society, Ian joined the Urban Justice Center as the director of legal services for the Center's Mental Health Project. At administrative hearings, individual lawsuits in state and federal courts, class actions in federal courts, and state and federal appellate courts, Ian has represented people seeking to obtain or maintain government benefits involving the disability, public assistance, food stamps, medical assistance, unemployment insurance, and housing rental subsidy programs. He is a recipient of New York State Bar Association Legal Services Award and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Legal Services Award. Ian is a graduate of the City University of New York, Queens College, and Brooklyn Law School.

**Maryanne Joyce**, a longtime legal services attorney, is currently working with Part of the Solution in the Bronx, assisting with POTS' weekly legal clinic. She most recently worked at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley where she supervised the benefits practice. Prior to that, Maryanne worked as a staff attorney at Legal Services NYC-Bronx from 1999 to 2012, where she specialized in public benefits

issues, representing clients at administrative hearings, including Administrative Disqualification Hearings, and in New York State Supreme Court. At LSNYC-Bronx, Maryanne litigated several Article 78 proceedings that resulted in policy changes benefitting public assistance applicants and recipients. One of her cases was *Boyd v. Doar*, which resulted in replacement food stamp and public assistance benefits being issued to a client who was a victim of repeated theft of his benefits from the EBT system. Maryanne has conducted numerous trainings on benefits issues, including several on IPV/fraud issues in the public benefits context. Maryanne received her undergraduate degree from Yale University, and has an M.A. in Counseling from N.Y.U. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School.

**Diana C. Proske** is a Staff Attorney in the Public Benefits Unit at Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. in Buffalo, New York. Ms. Proske represents low income clients, primarily those experiencing homelessness, on public benefits matters. Most of her practice involves applications for ongoing benefits and emergency assistance issues including accessing shelter through local social services departments. Ms. Proske supervises the Homeless Task Force, a supportive services project funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development through the local Continuum of Care agency, including direct supervision of volunteers and staff members providing outreach and legal advocacy to people experiencing homelessness in the Buffalo area. Ms. Proske represents individual clients using both informal advocacy and the state administrative hearing process. Ms. Proske also represents Neighborhood Legal Services in local organizations including the Western New York Coalition for the Homeless and the Homeless Alliance of Western New York. Prior to her employment at Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc., Ms. Proske practiced before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in both the Northeastern and Western New York districts. Ms. Proske is a graduate of the State University of New York, University at Buffalo School of Law. Ms. Proske also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State University.

**Cathy Roberts** is a senior paralegal at the Albany office of the Empire Justice Center. She provides technical assistance and training to legal services advocates and community based organizations on SNAP and Medicaid issues and monitors SNAP fraud policies and practices.

Cathy formerly worked as a food stamp specialist for the Nutrition Consortium of NYS (now known as Hunger Solutions New York), and as a paralegal at the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY where she provided advocacy services to clients in need of government benefits. She has over 20 years of legal services experience and holds a B.A. in English Education from the State University of New York at Albany.

## **C. Meeting a Client's Immediate Needs: An Intensive Treatment of Emergency and One-Time Assistance**

**Saima Akhtar** is a staff attorney with the Public Benefits and Health Unit in the Albany office of the Empire Justice Center. She works on issues that include cash public assistance, emergency assistance, subsidized child care and supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits (food stamps). Saima represents low income clients both in court and in administrative proceedings. She provides legal representation to her clients by handling their individual cases and through class action litigation, challenging laws or administrative policies and practices that harm low income

people. Saima has served as counsel to the class in a number of cases in New York's State and Federal Courts including *Richard C. v. Proud* and *Williams v. Carrión*. She has also provided continuing legal education trainings on emergency assistance, cash public assistance and basic lawyering skills for new attorneys. Saima currently serves as the second vice president of the board of directors for New York's Early Care and Learning Council. She is a graduate of Albany Law School of Union University and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy from the University at Albany.

**Susan C. Bahn** has been working in the civil practice of The Legal Aid Society (LAS) in New York City since 1984. She started a career in general civil poverty law at the LAS Queens office. Since 1987 Ms. Bahn has worked in the office that serves Brooklyn and has spent most of her time litigating, training and mentoring on the intersection of housing and public benefits law. In addition to working on the *Jiggetts* case for 16 years Ms. Bahn has worked on many individual housing and welfare cases and several welfare impact cases including *McQueen v. Grinker (1990)*, *Kelly v. Kalladjian (1993)*, *Davila v. Hammons (1996)*, *Brownley v. Doar (2006)*, *Hercules v. Doar (2010)*, *Pena v. Doar (2012)*. Ms. Bahn is a graduate of Wellesley College and Hofstra University School of Law where she was an editor on the law review.

**Diana C. Proske** is a Staff Attorney in the Public Benefits Unit at Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. in Buffalo, New York. Ms. Proske represents low income clients, primarily those experiencing homelessness, on public benefits matters. Most of her practice involves applications for ongoing benefits and emergency assistance issues including accessing shelter through local social services departments. Ms. Proske supervises the Homeless Task Force, a supportive services project funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development through the local Continuum of Care agency, including direct supervision of volunteers and staff members providing outreach and legal advocacy to people experiencing homelessness in the Buffalo area. Ms. Proske represents individual clients using both informal advocacy and the state administrative hearing process. Ms. Proske also represents Neighborhood Legal Services in local organizations including the Western New York Coalition for the Homeless and the Homeless Alliance of Western New York. Prior to her employment at Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc., Ms. Proske practiced before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in both the Northeastern and Western New York districts. Ms. Proske is a graduate of the State University of New York, University at Buffalo School of Law. Ms. Proske also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State University.

## **D. Defending and Assisting Consumers in Debt Collection Lawsuits**

**Carolyn E. Coffey** is a Supervising Attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc., which provides free legal assistance to New York City residents in the areas of housing, foreclosure, public benefits, civil and disability rights, employment, consumer and family law, prioritizing services to vulnerable and under-served populations, while simultaneously working to end the root causes of inequities through law reform, impact litigation, and policy advocacy. Ms. Coffey supervises MFY's Consumer Rights Project, which provides advice, counsel, and representation to low-income New Yorkers on a range of consumer problems and represents consumers in state court lawsuits and appeals and in federal court proceedings in affirmative cases, including class actions. She also supervises MFY's Low-Income Bankruptcy Project, which provides full representation in Chapters 7 and 13 bankruptcy

filings to New Yorkers seeking a fresh start who are unable to afford an attorney, and prepares petitions for pro se debtors with the help of pro bono attorneys. She also engages in legislative advocacy, successfully helping to enact pro-consumer laws in New York City and New York State, drafts amicus curiae briefs, has co-authored reports concerning the debt collection industry, and conducts trainings on consumer law. Ms. Coffey is active in the CLARO (Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office) program in the courts, and regularly serves as a consumer law expert. Ms. Coffey is also an adjunct professor at Cardozo Law School, where she teaches a consumer clinic seminar.

**Evan Denerstein** is a Staff Attorney at MFY Legal Services' Consumer Rights Project. The Consumer Rights Project provides advice, counsel, education and representation to low-income individuals on a range of consumer issues, prioritizing direct services to people living on fixed incomes and people with disabilities. Prior to joining MFY, Mr. Denerstein assisted clients on a variety of consumer issues as a Staff Attorney at The Financial Clinic. Mr. Denerstein received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley (2004) and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School (2010).

**Adam Friedl** joined Pro Bono Net in September 2012. Previously, Adam was the Coordinating Attorney for New York Appleseed's Volunteer Lawyer for the Day - Consumer Credit Project. He has also worked as a staff attorney at The Family Center and served as Acting Director of the Public Interest Center at St. John's University School of Law. Before law school, Adam was a case manager working with immigrant communities in the South Bronx and his native Oklahoma.

**Matthew Parham** is an attorney with the Western New York Law Center in Buffalo, handling consumer rights litigation matters and serving as the consumer law expert at CLARO-Buffalo consumer law clinics. After graduating from NYU Law School in 2004, Mr. Parham clerked for the Honorable Rosemary S. Pooler of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and then spent five years at the Manhattan headquarters of the global law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP, at which he represented large financial institutions and other corporations in high-stakes commercial litigation and handled pro bono immigration matters. Between October 2010 and September 2012, Mr. Parham operated a solo law practice in Buffalo practicing consumer and civil rights litigation, including debt collection defense and prosecuting debt collector harassment, wrongful automobile repossession, and other consumer rights matters, and police and correction officer misconduct cases. Mr. Parham has also served as an adjunct clinical professor at the SUNY-Buffalo Law School teaching consumer finance law and litigation.

## **E. From Childhood to Adult: An Overview of SSI Age 18 Reviews**

**Bridgit M. Burke** is a professor at Albany Law School. For twenty years with the Albany Law School Law Clinic & Justice Center's Civil Rights and Disabilities Law Clinic Prof. Burke represented individuals with disabilities and supervised law student admitted to the limited practice of law. Throughout this time period much of her work involved representing individuals in need of special education services, accommodations and integrated residential settings. Prof. Burke has been honored with an Albany City Human Rights Award in 2013, the Clinical Legal Education Associations Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case in 2011 and in 2007 she was the recipient of a Community Leader of the Year award.

**Shubh Nigam McTague** received a J.D. from Albany Law School in 2004 and a B. A. from Seton Hall

University in 2001. She has been a Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York for almost 6 years, where she practices Social Security Disability law and represents both adults and children. Her practice includes individual representation in administrative and federal court proceedings.

Prior to joining LASNNY, Mrs. McTague worked at the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York as a law clerk to Magistrate Judge Randolph Treece for 2 years and then as a Staff Attorney for all of the Magistrate Judges of the Northern District for another 1 ½ years. As a Staff Attorney for the District Court, she wrote Habeas Corpus as well as Social Security decisions for the Magistrate Judges.

Mrs. McTague is admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York and New York State Courts. She also had an article published in the Environmental Law Reporter in 2005 entitled “Nuclear Power or Renewable Energy?: Available Options in Today’s Energy Market.”

**Louise M. Tarantino**, a senior attorney at the Empire Justice Center, is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. She focuses her practice in Social Security and disability law. Ms. Tarantino is a member of the New York State Bar Association and serves on its Committee on Disability Rights. She is a contributing author of the committee’s publication, *Representing People with Disabilities*. She is also a contributing author of *Benefits Management for Working People with Disabilities: An Advocate’s Manual*. Ms. Tarantino is admitted to practice in New York and the District of Columbia. She is a frequent lecturer and trainer on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income issues.

## **F. Typical Mental Impairments in Young Adult SSI Claims**

**Catherine M. (Kate) Callery** is the Disability Advocacy Project (DAP) Coordinator at the Empire Justice Center in Rochester, New York, focusing on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability issues. She is a graduate of Smith College and the University of Connecticut Law School. She is admitted to practice in Connecticut (1979) and New York (1983). Kate serves as coordinator of the Western New York DAP Task Force and has presented trainings for the National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR), the New York State Bar Association, the Monroe County Bar Association and various DAP conferences. She has represented numerous clients before the Social Security Administration and in federal court.

**Katrina H. Colistra** earned her Master’s Degree in criminal justice in from Northeastern University in 2000. She went on to earn her doctorate in clinical psychology from The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology in 2007. While in graduate school she specialized in Forensic Psychology and trained in various forensic settings including the Federal Medical Center in Devens, MA; The Massachusetts Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons in Bridgewater, MA; The Division of Youth Services in Boston, MA; and Bedford Policy Institute in Braintree, MA. In these settings she began her work with people who committed sexual offenses, which led to her interest and completion of her doctoral project entitled, *An Investigation of Common Factors in Those Who Dropout or Do Not Complete Sex Offender Specific Treatment*. She then completed her pre-doctoral training as an intern at The Federal Correctional Complex in Butner, NC, where her rotations

included the residential sex offender treatment program, as well as forensic and general population rotations.

Following her graduation she was employed with the New York State Office of Mental Health in the Bureau of Sex Offender Evaluation Assessment and Treatment, where she worked as a Psychiatric Examiner following her licensure. The duties of this position included evaluating detained sex offenders in New York State for the presence of a Mental Abnormality and Dangerousness. She routinely testified to her findings in Supreme Courts across the state. In her position she educated the courts on sex offender related issues and collaborated with various stakeholder agencies on a routine basis.

After five years with New York State Office of Mental Health, she formed a private forensic practice with a colleague which specializes in forensic evaluations for the court and provides treatment to a variety of special populations. On a daily basis she manages a variety of duties that include providing treatment to groups and individuals, conducting a variety of forensic evaluations, teaching undergraduate courses at local colleges, as well as general business duties.

## **G. Problems Proving Vocational Issues in Young Adult Disability Claims**

**Ann Biddle** is the Deputy Director at Queens Legal Services NYC. Ann is a 1984 graduate of Emory University and she worked in the financial services sector before returning to school in 1990. She is a 1992 graduate, with honors, of Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she spent two years on the Cardozo Law Review and was fortunate enough to meet her fabulous husband. She has worked for various civil legal services organizations for the past 22 years, specializing in Social Security disability issues and issues affecting the elderly. She is admitted to practice law in the State of New York, in Federal District Courts (Eastern and Southern Districts of New York), and in the Courts of Appeals for the Second and the Federal Circuits.

**Tanya Douglas** is the Director of the Disability Advocacy Project (DAP) at Manhattan Legal Services. Tanya is also the Legal Services NYC DAP Task Force Coordinator. Tanya is a graduate of Cornell University and Cornell Law School. Tanya has spent her entire legal career as a public interest attorney with Legal Services NYC. During this time, she had represented clients in SSI/SSD claims at all levels (reconsideration, hearings, Appeals Council and Federal Court) as well as in education matters

**Ellen Rita Heidrick** is a supervising attorney at the Bath, New York, office of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.® (LawNY®). She practices primarily in the field of Social Security Disability Benefits. She is admitted to practice in New York State and the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. Ellen earned her law degree from the University at Buffalo Law School. She is also a graduate of College Misericordia (currently known as Misericordia University).

Ellen is responsible for representing disabled individuals seeking Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income benefits at Administrative Law Judge hearings, at the Appeals Council, and in U.S. District Court. She also mentors other LawNY® advocates who work in the Disability Benefits field. In addition, Ellen participates actively in the Disability Advocacy Program Task Force facilitated by the Empire Justice Center.

Within LawNY®, Ellen co-directs the LawNY® Training, Leadership, and Diversity Committee and is the co-convener of the LawNY® SSI Workgroup. Ellen is also a member of the LawNY® Advocacy Workgroup. She has been a trainer and training coordinator for the LawNY® orientation for AmeriCorps paralegals. Also, Ellen has presented trainings on Social Security disability law to the Steuben County Bar and at the 2012 New York State Bar Association's Partnership Conference.

**Peter Racette** has been a Deputy Director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York since 2004. From 1988 until 2004, he was a staff attorney and then executive director at North Country Legal Services. He has represented more than a thousand clients in their claims for Social Security disability and SSI benefits and has often served as a trainer and panelists in disability-related training events. Mr. Racette is a graduate of Bennington College and Vermont Law School.

## **H. Proving Young Adult Disability Claims: Mock Hearing**

**Lynda (L. J.) Fisher** is a senior attorney in the Disability Advocacy Project (DAP) in the Rochester office of the Empire Justice Center, concentrating on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability issues, primarily administrative hearings and appeals. She is a graduate of the City University of New York School of Law. Before coming to Rochester in 2004, she was a staff attorney at Nassau Suffolk Law Services in Riverhead, Long Island, representing HIV positive clients in a variety of civil legal issues.

**Jocelyne Martinez** is a graduate of St. John's University and Georgetown Law Center. She is a supervising attorney in the Brooklyn Neighborhood Office of The Legal Aid Society in NYC. She has 24 years of experience as an attorney and has represented clients in housing; consumer law; family law and public assistance cases. For the past 14 years, Jocelyne has represented clients in disability cases. Jocelyne has represented applicants and claimants in all aspects of their disability cases, including young adults. She currently supervises public assistance and disability attorneys and paralegals. Jocelyne trains pro bono attorneys on how to interview potential clients, make meritorious representation determinations, research, gather evidence, prepare for hearings, write pre-hearing briefs, and conduct hearings.

**Emilia Sicilia** is the Director of Disability Benefits Advocacy at the Urban Justice Center's Mental Health Project. She represents individuals with mental illness in appealing the denial of disability benefits in their individual administrative and federal court claims, and in impact litigation against the Social Security Administration, including the class action lawsuits *Martinez v. Astrue*, which challenged SSA's policy of suspending and denying benefits based on an outstanding warrant, and *Padro v. Astrue*, which charges the denial of due process based on biased and hostile proceedings by five administrative law judges in SSA's Queens hearing office. Prior to joining the Urban Justice Center, Ms. Sicilia worked at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School and Wesleyan University.

## **I. Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits in New York State: New Developments & Review of the Basics**

**Susanna D. Evarts** has been a paralegal casehandler with The Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit

since 2013, representing low-income clients on various issues relating to medical assistance and healthcare coverage. Along with client representation and advocacy, she also conducts trainings on Medicaid eligibility, budgeting, and access to care. She is a graduate of Brown University.

**Barbara Weiner** is a senior staff attorney with the Empire Justice Center in its Albany, New York office, a public interest law firm focused on the legal needs of the poor. The Empire Justice Center provides technical support, training and litigation assistance to New York’s local legal services programs and to community advocacy organizations throughout the state. Empire Justice also engages in administrative and legislative advocacy, as well as undertaking class action litigation, to address system-wide problems facing low income New Yorkers.

Barbara is a 1976 graduate of Golden Gate University College of Law in San Francisco, California. She has spent her legal career working in legal services programs, both at the neighborhood level and, for the past 22 years, at a state-wide level with the Empire Justice Center (formerly known as GULP). At Empire Justice, her efforts have been focused on public benefits issues. After the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation was enacted, which drastically limited the access of noncitizens to federal and state public benefits programs, she expanded her focus to include immigration law, focusing particularly on the intersection between immigration status and public benefit eligibility. She has written numerous articles on the subject and has provided training to legal services programs and community organizations in this area.

In addition to her state-wide training and technical support responsibilities, during her tenure at the Empire Justice Center, Barbara has co-counseled with the New York Legal Aid Society and other legal services programs in several major impact lawsuits aimed at remedying systemic problems in the delivery of public benefits to poor New Yorkers.

**Susan Welber** has been a staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society in New York City since 2002 where she has worked on public benefits and disability cases in Legal Aid’s Bronx and Brooklyn Neighborhood Offices and is currently an attorney in the Civil Practice Law Reform Unit. She has served as lead counsel on the monitoring phase of the settlement entered in *M.K.B. v. Eggleston*, which seeks to protect immigrants in New York City from being erroneously denied benefits based on their immigration status. She has also served as counsel on the case *Pelegrin v. Doar*, which resulted in a settlement discontinuing the local social services district’s policy of holding sponsors liable for the value of benefits received by immigrant recipients. Susan has trained numerous advocates and community groups in New York City on immigrant eligibility for public benefits issues. Susan was an associate at Paul Weiss before coming to Legal Aid. She earned her B.A. from Columbia College and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

## **J. Beyond Law Reform: Building a Practice That Meets the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Clients**

**Elizabeth (Ez) Cukor** is a staff attorney in the Justice at Work and LGBT Law Projects at NYLAG. Ez represents LGBT clients in employment, housing, and name change matters. Ez also conducts outreach to and “Know Your Rights” trainings for LGBT communities, social service providers, and

advocates. Ez is also a member of the New York City Bar Association's LGBT Rights committee. Prior to law school, Ez worked at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Ez received a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

**Laurie Izutsu** has been a staff attorney with Brooklyn Legal Services since 2009. Laurie currently provides advocacy and representation on immigration matters, with an emphasis on serving same-sex bi-national couples, LGBT asylees, and LGBT victims of crime. Laurie initially represented low-income homeowners in foreclosure proceedings against predatory mortgage lenders as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow. Subsequently, she assisted survivors of domestic violence with mental health issues in cases involving custody, orders of protection and divorce. Prior to joining Brooklyn Legal Services, Laurie served as an Immigration Staff Attorney for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She earned her Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School in 2005 and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington in 1996.

**Ashe McGovern** is an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the LGBT Law Project of New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). At NYLAG, Ashe focuses on providing direct legal services and advocacy to low-income LGBTQ clients who experience discrimination or lack meaningful access to affirming healthcare and public benefits programs, particularly within aging communities and transgender and gender non-conforming communities. In law school, Ashe worked with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Transgender Rights Project of Lambda Legal. Ashe's writing on LGBTQ legal issues has been published in the Huffington Post and Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy. Ashe has presented on LGBTQ issues at advocacy conferences such as Creating Change and the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference. Ashe earned a B.A. magna cum laude from Cornell University in 2008 and a J.D. from Cornell Law School in May of 2013.

**Elana Redfield** is a Staff Attorney with the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and the Director of SRLP's Survival and Self Determination Project. Elana received her Bachelor's degree from New York University in 2003, and her J.D. from the City University School of Law in 2009 with a clinical focus on immigration law. A longtime advocate for grassroots organizing strategies and community leadership in legal work, Elana co-authored "The Role of Lawyers in Trans Liberation: Building a Transformative Movement for Social Change" with Pooja Gehi and Gabriel Arkles. In her role as staff attorney, Elana assists hundreds of community members each year in name change proceedings, government identification issues, health care challenges and immigration proceedings. Elana is also one of SRLP's primary trainers, having trained over 1000 service providers in transgender awareness, criminal justice, disability justice, and immigration issues.

**Julia A. Sáenz** is the 2013-2015 Hanna S. Cohn Equal Justice Fellow in Empire Justice Center's Rochester office. Julia created the LGBT Rights Project in September 2013 and through her project provides free legal services to low-income LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) clients in Western and Central New York, with a focus on anti-discrimination in employment, education, housing, and public accommodations. Her work includes community outreach, civil rights litigation, and legislative advocacy.

Julia graduated *magna cum laude* from Boston University School of Law in May 2013. At BU Law, she worked in the Civil Litigation Housing, Employment, Family & Disability Clinic and externed with the ACLU of Massachusetts. As a summer legal intern, Julia worked for the New York State Division of Human Rights in Albany and the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts in Boston. She also

volunteered with the Black and Pink pen pal program for LGBT prisoners by processing letters and sending advocacy materials to prisons across the United States. Prior to law school, Julia was the Outreach Project Director at the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault. In that role, she presented statewide trainings on anti-violence and LGBT cultural competency and engaged in legislative advocacy.

Julia graduated *summa cum laude* from New York University with her undergraduate degree in social work. While attending NYU, she concentrated her clinical and policy work on the LGBT communities and completed her social work fieldwork at the Ali Forney Center and Sanctuary for Families in New York City. Julia began her social justice advocacy in high school by serving as her school's Gay Straight Alliance President and GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) NY Capital Region Youth Board Member.

**Sonja Shield** is a Senior Staff Attorney with the Comprehensive Rights Unit at Brooklyn Legal Services, a program of Legal Services NYC, where she represents LGBT people and HIV-positive people in housing court, welfare hearings, and in obtaining SSI benefits. Shield is also an adjunct professor at New York Law School, where she team-teaches a clinical course focused on client interviewing, counseling, and negotiation. Prior to joining SBLS in 2008, she worked as a staff attorney in the Civil Action Project at The Bronx Defenders, and clerked for Magistrate Judge Cheryl Pollak of the Eastern District of New York. She received her J.D. from NYU School of Law in 2005, where she was a Sinsheimer Scholar in the Root-Tilden-Kern program. Shield received a B.A. in History from Swarthmore College in 1997, and received a Masters in Social Work from NYU in 2004. In 2008, Sonja was awarded the Dukeminier Award for Best Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law Review Articles of 2007. Sonja's article, "The Doctor Won't See You Now: Rights of Transgender Adolescents to Sex Reassignment Treatment," was originally published in the NYU Review of Law and Social Change.

## **K. Breaking Down the Barriers to Language Access**

**Linda R. Hassberg** is an attorney in the Long Island office of the Empire Justice Center. Empire Justice is the only statewide, multi-issue, multi-strategy non-profit law firm focused on changing the "systems" within which poor and low income families live. With a focus on poverty law, Empire Justice undertakes research and training, acts as an informational clearinghouse, and provides litigation backup to local legal services programs and community based organizations. As an advocacy organization, Empire Justice engages in legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of those impacted by poverty and discrimination. As a non-profit law firm, it provides legal assistance to those in need and undertakes impact litigation in order to protect and defend the rights of disenfranchised New Yorkers.

Ms. Hassberg is a senior staff attorney in the Long Island office of the Empire Justice Center. Her primary responsibility is impact litigation in the areas of public benefits, access to health care, and disabilities. She has filed class action lawsuits against both counties in Long Island challenging untimely eligibility determinations for benefits applications, due process violations, and failure to provide emergency assistance. In addition, she has represented clients at administrative hearings and in court seeking assistance with child support, Medicaid coverage, day care benefits, and adequate emergency housing. She is an active member of the Long Island Language Advocates

Coalition and chairs its Courts Committee.

**Cheryl Keshner** is a Senior Paralegal/Community Advocate with the Empire Justice Center on Long Island, where she assists indigent people, particularly immigrants, in obtaining assistance from the Department of Social Services and other government agencies. She is active in advocating for the rights of people with limited English proficiency and has provided training and technical assistance to other advocates throughout the state. She is the coordinator of the

Long Island Language Advocates Coalition (LILAC), a coalition of individuals and organizations based on Long Island working to attain equal access to programs and services, such as health care, law enforcement, social services, education and justice through the courts, for persons who are limited English proficient. LILAC was instrumental in gaining the passage of executive orders mandating language access at county agencies in both Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Prior to joining the Empire Justice Center, Cheryl worked for fifteen years as a social worker with Nassau/Suffolk Law Services, where she assisted numerous homeless individuals and families, challenged work rules disqualifications and provided representation at fair hearings. She has also worked as a community organizer with the NYC Commission on Human Rights. Cheryl gains her inspiration from her clients who demonstrate incredible spirit and determination, despite the many obstacles and prejudices they may face. Cheryl is the recipient of the 2013 Equality Award from the Suffolk chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union. She has a Masters in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work.

**Robin Marable** is a Staff Attorney with Legal Assistance of Western New York®. Ms. Marable litigates cases in the areas of Reentry, Public Benefits and Fair Housing in administrative and court proceedings. Ms. Marable has successfully asserted federal language access requirements to prevent the loss of housing and public benefits and has litigated numerous cases in the Western District of New York and the Division of Human Rights. Ms. Marable is currently working to create a coalition of advocates in Monroe County to address systemic issues that are creating barriers to persons with limited English proficiency. Ms. Marable provides numerous trainings to community agencies in Monroe County on topics relating to housing and employment discrimination. Ms. Marable is a 2002 graduate of Pennsylvania State University-Dickinson School of Law. Since then she has worked for both LawNY and the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, another public interest law firm.

**Amy S. Taylor** is a Senior Staff Attorney and the Coordinator of the Equal Rights Initiative at Legal Services NYC, the largest provider of free civil legal services for low-income people in the country. The Equal Rights Initiative is a civil rights project that challenges unlawful discriminatory policies and practices based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation and other protected categories. Amy also coordinates the Language Access Project at LSNYC, a cutting edge project that seeks to increase access to services and justice for low-income limited English proficient (LEP) New Yorkers through litigation and policy advocacy. The Language Access Project seeks to both improve the accessibility of Legal Services NYC's own services and to challenge discriminatory practices that prevent LEP clients from obtaining the government benefits and services to which they are entitled. Before working at Legal Services NYC, Amy was the Director of Policy at the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Prior to law school Amy was the Public Benefits and Language Access Coordinator at the New York Immigration Coalition and one of the lead advocates for the passage of the Equal Access to Human Services Act, a landmark civil rights law and one of the first local ordinances to

require language services in the nation. Amy received her J.D. from the CUNY School of Law.

## **L. Understanding the Basics of the New York State Foreclosure Process – a general overview for Non-Foreclosure Defense Attorneys**

**Rebecca Caico** is a senior attorney in the Rochester office of the Empire Justice Center and has been exclusively doing foreclosure prevention work since 2003 in the Consumer, Finance and Housing unit. She is currently serving as the Regional Coordinator for Central and Western NY under the NY Attorney General's Home Ownership Protection (HOPP) Anchor Partner Program. Through the HOPP Partner Program, she is the lead attorney providing trainings and technical assistance to attorneys across upstate NY who assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Prior to joining Empire Justice Center, she earned her law degree from the Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law.

**Rose Marie Cantanno** is the supervising attorney of NYLAG's Foreclosure Prevention Project. The unit assists clients in all aspects of foreclosure and the loss mitigation process, including representation at court-mandated Settlement Conferences, negotiation of loan modifications and foreclosure litigation. NYLAG also represents clients in the short sale process from contract to closing.

Before working at NYLAG, she was a partner for twelve years in the real estate law firm of Liotta & Cantanno, LLP which specialized in representing buyers, sellers and lenders in residential real estate transactions. The firm also represented clients seeking loan modifications and short sales.

She received her JD from Brooklyn Law School in 1993 and a BA in Classical Studies from Hunter College in 1990.

**Jacob Inwald** is Director of Foreclosure Prevention at Legal Services NYC, where he provides training, supervision and support to more than 40 foreclosure prevention advocates engaging in a range of foreclosure prevention and affirmative litigation services to low-income New Yorkers at Legal Services NYC's offices across New York City. Jay came to LSNYC in 2009, after nearly 25 years in private practice as a commercial litigator, most recently at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal (now known as Dentons), bringing considerable litigation expertise to LSNYC's foreclosure and predatory lending city-wide practice, which is the largest (and one of the oldest) practice of its kind in the country. He has become a statewide expert on foreclosure procedural issues, working directly with practitioners throughout New York City, and he has played a leading role in developing and maintaining an on-line foreclosure practice resource used by non-profit foreclosure defense practitioners across New York State. Since 1993, Jay has served as a pro bono arbitrator in the Civil Court of the State of New York, Small Claims Division. After graduating from George Washington University Law School *magna cum laude* in 1984, where he was Notes Editor of the Law Review, Jay served as a law clerk at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, California before returning to New York to begin practicing law. Jay graduated *summa cum laude*, with High Honors in History, from Brandeis University in 1981, where he was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

## **M. Avoid Foreclosures through Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Plans**

**Peter M. Frank Esq.**, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1971, and began the practice of law with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in New York City. He left that Firm to become an entertainment lawyer and entrepreneur in the music business. During this time he managed several music groups including The Manhattan Transfer and produced and or directed live concert films and music videos. Mr. Frank joined Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in 2000 as a housing attorney. He is now Senior Staff Attorney concentrating his practice in the areas of defense against foreclosure, housing homelessness prevention, bankruptcy representation and consumer protection working out of the Kingston, County of Ulster, New York office.

**Kirsten E. Keefe** is a Senior Attorney with the Consumer Finance and Housing Unit of Empire Justice Center and Director of its Anchor Partner program for the NYS Office of the Attorney General's Homeownership Protection Program (HOPP), funded through the National Mortgage Settlement. In addition to managing statewide grants to non-profit organizations providing direct assistance to homeowners, Kirsten works on policy issues regarding mortgage lending, foreclosures and financial consumer issues. Kirsten has focused on subprime lending and foreclosure since 1998, having started in direct services at Community Legal Services, Inc. in Philadelphia, PA. In 2009, Kirsten was appointed to and served a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's Consumer Advisory Council. She is Co-Chair the Board of Directors for the National Association of Consumer Advocates, a steering committee member of New Yorkers for Responsible Lending (NYRL), and part of the HomeSave Coalition of the Capital Region. She also serves on lending committees of the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region. Kirsten has taught consumer law at Temple University Beasley School of Law, and has lectured at Albany Law School and other local universities. Kirsten received a B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross and a J.D. from Beasley School of Law at Temple University. Prior to law school, Kirsten served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand.

**Hon. Robert E. Littlefield, Jr.** is the Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York. Prior to his appointment to the bench in 1995, Judge Littlefield served as a Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Standing Trustee in the Northern District of New York, as well as a former Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 Trustee. Judge Littlefield is a past president and former advisory board member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees ("NACTT") and a former member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judge's Liaison Panel to the NACTT. He is also a founding/organizing member of the Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar Association.

Judge Littlefield was a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Second Circuit and, by special designation, has adjudicated cases in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Denver and his J.D. from Albany Law School.

**Mark H. Wattenberg** is a graduate of Columbia Law School. Almost his entire career has been spent with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc., though he had a 10-year stint in private practice in Olean, NY. He is an attorney at the Bath office of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. He has an active bankruptcy practice, including Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 proceedings. He has represented clients in a variety of cases in bankruptcy court, including cases involving mortgage foreclosure, Truth in Lending Act violations, land contract issues, utility terminations, and evictions.

## **N. Preservations Issues in HUD Subsidized Housing**

**Afua Atta-Mensah** is the Director of Litigation at the Safety Net Project of the Urban Justice Center since 2012. She graduated from Fordham University School of Law as a Stein Scholar in 2004 and received her B.A. from Trinity College in 2001, where she was a President's Fellow in Sociology. Prior to joining the Urban Justice Center, Afua was a staff attorney in The Legal Aid Society's Civil Practice Law Reform Unit, and a Fulbright Fellowship recipient for work on women and property law in Ghana. Ms. Atta-Mensah specializes in federally subsidized housing and landlord-tenant practice.

**Ellen Davidson** is a staff attorney in the Legal Aid Society's Law Reform Unit. Prior to joining the Law Reform Unit in 2006, Ellen worked as a staff attorney in the Bronx Neighborhood Office representing tenants in summary eviction proceedings, administrative proceedings and affirmative cases in state and federal court. Ellen specializes in law reform issues concerning federally subsidized housing.

**Edward Josephson** is the Director of Litigation at Legal Services NYC. He previously served as the Housing Law coordinator for LSNYC, and from 1990 – 2006 worked at South Brooklyn Legal Services as housing attorney, Housing Unit director, and Director of Litigation.

## **O. Low Income Housing Tax Credit Developments: Issues in the Identification of the Unique Occupancy and Eviction Requirements of those Development and Strategies for Representing Occupants of LIHTC Housing**

**Natalie Ann Knott** is a Staff Attorney working on Housing and Public Benefits at Legal Assistance of Western New York. She is beginning her second year of practice and focusing on developing a specialty in subsidized housing. Her favorite aspect of her practice is working with other service providers at the Department of Social Services and housing authorities to achieve good outcomes for clients.

**Robert R. Romaker** is a Managing Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) in the Albany office. Mr. Romaker graduated with a B.A. from The Ohio State University in 1987. He obtained his J.D. from the University of Toledo College of Law in 1990. Mr. Romaker has been a legal aid attorney his entire career. He was a staff attorney for Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS) from 1990 to 1997, during which time his primary focus was housing representation in all types of private and public housing. Mr. Romaker became a managing attorney at SEOLS in 1997, and continued in that position until 2009. During that time, he handled and supervised multiple attorneys handling housing cases, including federally subsidized housing and LIHTC cases. In 2009, Mr. Romaker moved to New York and started with LASNNY as a staff attorney in the Amsterdam office in 2009. As a staff attorney, he exclusively handled all types of housing cases in 3 largely rural counties. He became a supervising attorney with LASNNY in April 2012, supervising several foreclosure attorneys and a housing/consumer attorney in Albany, while continuing as a housing attorney in Amsterdam. Mr. Romaker became a Managing Attorney in the Albany office on December 3, 2012. In his current position, he supervises numerous housing and foreclosure attorneys, who all handle cases throughout the Capital District.

## **P. Cornerstone Advocacy: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Working with Families**

**Richard Barinbaum** joined Center for Family Representation (CFR) in September of 2007. Prior to that, his work entailed advocating for families in a variety of capacities. He worked as a legal clinic coordinator for two non-profit organizations in Washington DC during a year of AmeriCorps service, followed by three years of work as a Care Coordinator, Conference Facilitator and then Trainer/Consultant for the Mental Health Association of New York City for an initiative that worked to keep children effected by mental illness at home with their parents. Rick has been a Social Work Supervisor at CFR since September of 2011 and directly supervises social work, family advocate and parent advocate staff. Rick frequently conducts in-service trainings at CFR on Team Communication, the Role of the Social Worker and Time Management; as well he has done presentations for a variety of community based agencies on family court and child welfare practice. Rick received his Masters from the Hunter College School of Social Work where he was a Child Welfare Fund Fellow, and then adjunct professor teaching social welfare policy.

**Christine Zielinski** is a litigation supervisor at the Center for Family Representation (CFR). She directly supervises staff attorneys and participates in various training and policy initiatives with CFR staff and outside agencies. Christine began working at CFR as a staff attorney in 2007. Before joining CFR, she clerked in the Family Part in Bergen County, NJ for the Hon. Ellen Koblitz. She attended the CUNY School of Law at Queens College, where she participated in the Battered Women's Rights Clinic, the law review and during which time she interned at several non-profit organizations. She received the Equal Justice Works fellowship for a summer internship at CONNECT and the Paul O'Dwyer Human Rights Fellowship for a summer internship at the Welfare Law Center. She attended Montclair State University from where she received a B.A. and M.A. in Practical Anthropology.

## **Q. The Color of a Bruise: Addressing Racial Inequalities in Legal Protection for Victims of Bruising Injuries**

**Tiffany E. Barber** is a PhD Candidate in Visual and Cultural Studies at the University of Rochester. Her research centers on representations of race, gender, and sexuality in contemporary visual art and she teaches classes in Art History and Visual Culture, African American Studies, and Gender Studies, all aimed at examining how notions and expectations of blackness, gender, and sexuality are constructed. She recently performed a collaborative study with the University of Rochester's Laboratory of Interpersonal Violence and Victimization on bruising outcomes for victims of color and co-authored a paper detailing her findings.

**Lauren Deutsch** received her Bachelor of Arts from Smith College in 2001, and worked in migrant women's health in San Diego, California prior to law school. She graduated with her Juris Doctor from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 2008, and began her legal career in New York City as a Postgraduate Domestic Violence Fellow with the New York Legal Assistance Group. Lauren has been a Domestic Violence Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society of Rochester since 2010.

Lauren recently completed a study with the University of Rochester Medical Center on bruising

injuries in victims of color, and presents on topics in Domestic Violence and New York State Law.

## **R. The Ethics and Practice of Representing Indigent Respondents in Child Support Cases**

**Susan C. Antos** is a Senior Staff Attorney at the Empire Justice Center in Albany, New York with special interest in the equal protection and due process rights of low income families and individuals. She began her career with Empire Justice as co-counsel on two class actions establishing the right of public assistance recipients to notice and opportunity to be heard in the IV-D child support context – first, with respect to the child support pass through (*Schwartz v. Perales*) and then regarding excess support (*Broniszewski v. Perales*). She also was co-counsel in *Velazquez v. State*, 7 A.D. 3d 449 (First Dep’t 2004), a statewide class action regarding the rights of indigent respondents in child support proceedings to rebut their ability to pay a monthly minimum order.

Ms. Antos is the author of a number of publications on child support issues of interest to attorneys representing low income individuals, including: *New Law Provides Uniform Standard for Assessing Medical Child Support and Protections for Low Income Parents*, “Family Law Review, A Publication of the New York State Bar Association, Spring, 2010; *What’s New in Child Support? A review of the provisions in the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 which become effective in 2008 and 2009*, Legal Services Journal, February 2008; *Child Support Desk Reviews: New State Procedures Frustrate Those Seeking Relief*, Legal Services Journal, June, 2007; and S. Antos and M. Smyth, “*Public Benefits and Child Support Arrears*,” NYU Review of Law and Social Change, Volume 30 Issue 4, (2006).

**Mollie A. Dapolito** is a Staff Attorney in the Geneva, NY office of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.® where she has worked since graduating from Vermont Law School. She represents the indigent in the following areas of law: Family Law, Social Security Disability Appeals (Supplemental Security Income), some Landlord/Tenant Law, and some Elder Law. She primarily practices family law in Wayne, Ontario, and Yates counties with the majority of her practice committed to representing respondents in child support violations.

**Jeffrey M. Reed** is the Managing Attorney of the Olean, NY office of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.® where he has worked since graduating from The City University of New York Law School at Queens College in 1991. He has been representing non-custodial parents in child support proceedings for more than 15 years with a concentration on non-custodial parents who are applying for or are recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

## **S. Economic Issues and Family Law: Navigating the Intersections of Consumer, Family, and Foreclosure Laws.**

**Kevin Purcell** is the Supervising Attorney of the Foreclosure Prevention Unit in Empire Justice Center's Rochester office. Kevin works with low-income homeowners who have been targeted by predatory lenders as well as with those homeowners who are unable to meet current mortgage obligations in an attempt to prevent foreclosure. In addition, Kevin has done extensive community outreach and trainings around the state. Kevin graduated cum laude from George Mason University Law School in 2005, where he was on the Moot Court Board and Civil Rights Law

Journal.

**Laura A. Russell** is currently the Supervising attorney of the Family Law/Domestic Violence Unit of the Bronx Neighborhood Office, Harlem Community Law Office and the Queens Neighborhood Office of The Legal Aid Society in New York City, and the Co-Supervising Attorney of the Domestic Violence Immigration Unit. Formerly, she was the Matrimonial Director of Sanctuary for Families, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services and prior to this, the Director of SHIELD, a program of the New York City Bar's Justice Center. As a Supervising attorney, she supervises staff in family law and immigration matters, works on domestic violence policy issues and coordinates family law matters for the two neighborhood offices. She has handled a variety of matrimonial and family law actions, including Contested Matrimonials, Orders of Protection, Abuse/Neglect matters and Custody/Visitation issues. Ms. Russell is admitted in both New York and New Jersey, and has lectured on various family law topics, including equitable distribution, domestic violence and Orders of Protection, and also on consumer and tax issues, especially as they relate to domestic violence. She sat on Judge Miller's Matrimonial Commission, the NYC Bar's Judiciary Committee, and the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence's Matrimonial Committee. She currently sits on the Attorney for the Child Advisory Committee for the Second Department, the NYC Bar's Civil Courts Committee and the Bronx Bar's Matrimonial Committee.

**Matthew Schedler** is the Supervising Attorney in charge of CAMBA Legal Services Consumer Law Project. The Consumer Law Project works in coalition with the Urban Justice Center, Housing Conservation Coordinators, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, and Westside SRO Law Project to assist housing clients at these organizations with debt collection and credit issues in order to achieve self-sufficiency after representation is complete. Mr. Schedler has also been a founding member of the DV CLARO Project and works with domestic violence survivors regarding financial abuse and consumer debt issues. Mr. Schedler received his B.A. from the University of Rochester and his J.D. from Boston University.

## **T. Effective Legislative Advocacy for Lawyers and Advocates**

**Harvey Epstein** is the Associate Director of the Urban Justice Center. In addition, he is the Project Director of the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center which supports dozens of community-based organizations to win legal cases, publish community driven research reports, assist with the formation of new organizations and cooperatives, and provide technical and transactional assistance in support of their work towards social justice. These cases are litigated in both state and federal court and are usually on behalf of groups of individuals organized by the community-based organization. Prior to working at UJC, Harvey was the Associate Director/Managing Attorney for Housing Conservation Coordinators ("HCC"), a community based Not-For-Profit organization which works to preserve decent affordable housing. Prior to working for HCC, Harvey was a staff attorney at the Community Law Offices for The Legal Aid Society. As a staff attorney, Harvey worked in the Housing Development Unit which represented tenant associations in affirmative litigation including rent strikes, and group actions seeking repairs. In addition, Harvey worked with numerous tenant associations in obtaining ownership of their buildings. Harvey was also instrumental in creating a Community Economic Development Project at The Legal Aid Society which assists small businesses and Not-For-Profits with transactional legal matters including incorporation, applications for tax exemption, negotiating commercial leases and loan agreements.

Harvey is a graduate of Ithaca College and CUNY School of Law

**Kate Rubin**, as a Managing Director of the Civil Action Practice at The Bronx Defenders, leads a staff of 30 advocates and attorneys providing comprehensive civil legal representation to thousands of people each year. Responding to the legal needs and priorities of our clients with criminal justice and family court involvement, the Civil Action Practice handles a wide range of issues including housing, employment, public benefits, civil forfeiture, and immigration. The practice also looks beyond individual cases, addressing systemic problems through legislative and administrative advocacy, grassroots organizing, and affirmative litigation. Kate also oversees community legal education programs and Reentry Net/NY, an online resource center on the consequences of criminal proceedings in New York State.

Prior to assuming leadership of the Civil Action Practice in January 2014, Kate established and directed the community organizing and policy reform initiatives at The Bronx Defenders. During her five years as Director of Policy & Community Development, Kate led the office's legislative advocacy activities, community partnerships, and The Bronx Defenders Organizing Project. She has played a key role in multiple victories in both the City and State legislatures, including passage of landmark police reform legislation over Mayoral veto in New York City in 2013, enactment of the Charitable Bail Organization Act in 2012, and reforms of the Rockefeller Drug Laws in 2009.

Before joining The Bronx Defenders, Kate worked as Research Associate in the Economic Justice Project at the Brennan Center for Justice, supporting low-wage worker organizing campaigns, and ran education programs for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth. She holds a BA in History from Cornell University, and serves on the Advisory Committee of the Advocacy Institute and the Steering Committee of Communities United for Police Reform.

**John Wright** is a seasoned government affairs expert with a proven track record in servicing the needs of not-for-profit organizations throughout New York. John is particularly adept at developing successful collaborations between not-for-profit organizations and government officials to assist under-served communities. Within government, John has a reputation for effectiveness, cooperation, geniality and the ability to help elected officials understand how collaborations with his clients can advance both the clients and elected official's agendas and public priorities. John's in-depth understanding of the not-for profit-community is based on his front line service in several social agencies. John served as Assistant Executive Director for the Center for Children and Families/Safespace, Inc. He was also the Assistant Executive Director of New York City's oldest African-American-run child welfare agency, the Harlem Dowling-Westside Center.

## **U. Community Lawyering: Sharpening Our Theory & Developing Our Toolbox**

**Jennifer Ching** is the Director of Queens Legal Services. At QLS, she manages the borough-wide legal services and advocacy program, which includes fourteen practices, including disaster aid. Jennifer has coordinated advocacy responses post-Sandy on issues ranging from federal, state and city agency responsiveness to long-term community rebuilding issues. She has presented and lectured on disaster issues in numerous settings, including CLE programs. Prior to joining QLS, Jennifer was Director of New York Appleseed, a citywide public interest advocacy center. From 2004-2008,

Jennifer was a litigator with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where her pro bono representation included litigation on behalf of 13 Saudi nationals held in Guantanamo. Jennifer was a 2002 Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest Law and Constitutional Litigation, where she litigated national security, employment, civil rights and death penalty matters. She taught as an adjunct professor at Rutgers School of Law-Newark and, as a Skadden Fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, Jennifer founded New Jersey's first legal advocacy project for low-wage immigrant workers.

**Marika Dias** is the Managing Attorney at Make the Road New York. In addition to managing a legal practice that includes housing, immigration, employment, benefits and health advocacy services, Marika directly supervises Make the Road's immigration legal services, while also maintaining an active caseload of immigration and LGBTQ rights cases. Marika is currently engaged in policy work relating to NYC detainer laws, immigration reform, U-Visa certifications, and policing of LGBTQ communities. Marika initially joined Make the Road in March 2011 as a Supervising Attorney of the Housing and Benefits Practice. Prior to joining Make the Road, Marika was a housing attorney at the SRO Law Project of the Goddard Riverside Community Center based in Manhattan. Marika had practiced as an attorney in Melbourne, Australia for over 5 years before moving to the U.S. There, Marika also worked in grass-roots organizations that combined community organizing with legal services. Her work was similarly driven by the needs of low-income communities, with an emphasis on criminal defense, police accountability, and the impact of post-September 11 counter-terrorism laws on communities of color. In 2008, Marika won her state Bar Association's award for Young Lawyer of the Year.

**Reyna Ramolette Hayashi** has been a Workers' Rights Attorney with Empire Justice Center since 2011. She established the Wage Justice Project which seeks to empower low-wage workers to fight wage theft and workplace exploitation using: grassroots organizing, outreach, and education, impact litigation, and bottom-up policy reform. Reyna represents low-wage and immigrant workers in wage and hour and other employment law litigation in federal and state courts. She provides policy support to community coalitions on local and state legislative reform including campaigns to Ban the Box in Rochester and to raise New York's minimum wage. Reyna is a founder and Steering Committee member of P.O.W.E.R. People Organizing for Worker Empowerment & Respect, a worker center in Rochester. She is also a member of the Upstate New York Worker Center Alliance, a former Hanna S. Cohn Equal Justice Fellow, and served on the Legal Working Group of Occupy Rochester.

**Kate Rubin**, as a Managing Director of the Civil Action Practice at The Bronx Defenders, leads a staff of 30 advocates and attorneys providing comprehensive civil legal representation to thousands of people each year. Responding to the legal needs and priorities of our clients with criminal justice and family court involvement, the Civil Action Practice handles a wide range of issues including housing, employment, public benefits, civil forfeiture, and immigration. The practice also looks beyond individual cases, addressing systemic problems through legislative and administrative advocacy, grassroots organizing, and affirmative litigation. Kate also oversees community legal education programs and Reentry Net/NY, an online resource center on the consequences of criminal proceedings in New York State.

**Purvi Shah** is the Director of the Bertha Justice Institute at the Center for Constitutional Rights, a new training institute committed to building a diverse generation of movement lawyers to serve

social movements in the US and across the world. Purvi has over a decade of experience as an activist, organizer, attorney and law professor. In 2006, she received a New Voices Fellowship to launch the Community Justice Project at Florida Legal Services. While there, Purvi worked collaboratively with community and worker organizations to represent tenant unions, public housing residents, immigrants' rights groups, and taxi drivers. From 2007-2011, Purvi served as a professor at the University of Miami, School of Law, where she co-founded and co-directed the Community Lawyering Clinic. Over the years, Purvi has become a regularly featured panelist and trainer on the connection between law and organizing, conducting numerous state and national trainings for law students and young lawyers. Prior to becoming an attorney, Purvi worked as a community organizer with youth in Miami, students in India and families of incarcerated youth in California. Purvi has received many awards for her work including the Rodney Thaxton Award for Racial Justice from the ACLU of Florida and the Miami Fellowship for rising civic leaders from the Miami Foundation. Purvi is a graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law at the University of California and of Northwestern University.

**Garrett Wright** is a staff attorney at the Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center, where he provides litigation support to grassroots community-based organizations that are fighting against gentrification and displacement and for the realization of housing justice. Prior to working at CDP, Garrett was on a fellowship at the Center for Constitutional Rights, where he worked on the Center's litigation against the NYPD's racist stop-and-frisk policies. He has also participated in labor, racial justice, and antiwar organizing work. Garrett is a past President of the National Lawyers Guild – New York City Chapter and a past co-chair of the NLG's Anti-Racism Committee. Garrett is a proud member of UAW – National Organization of Legal Services Workers (Local 2320) and the NYC branch of the Industrial Workers of the World. He graduated from the University of California – Berkeley School of Law in 2007 and from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2001.

**Helena Wong** is the former executive director and current member of CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities, a grassroots organization working directly in Asian immigrant and refugee communities in New York City. She has organized in low-income in Asian communities for nearly twenty years, leading campaigns targeting slumlords, advocating for policy changes around issues such as language access and tenant harassment. During this time, Helena also served as a coordinating committee member of the Right to the City national alliance, and worked in collaboration with a number of other organizations addressing housing injustice for tenants and long-time residents in gentrifying neighborhoods. She has led delegations to China over the past two years, meeting with migrant workers, feminist and queer organizations, and organizations concerned about land rights and the environment. Helena is currently an independent consultant working with a number of non-profit organizations around the country.

## **V. It Will Happen to Us All: An Essential Guide to Delivering Disaster Legal Aid**

**Christine N. Appah** is a 2008 graduate of Duke University School of Law. She is a *magna cum laude* graduate of The City College of New York (CUNY). At City College, Ms. Appah double majored in International Studies and Urban Legal Studies and minored in public policy. She also earned honors

in Liberal Arts and History.

Ms. Appah joined The Legal Aid Society of New York in the Queens Neighborhood Office in 2008. Ms. Appah's work has focused on the areas of housing and homelessness prevention. As a staff attorney, Ms. Appah makes regular court appearances and counsel's clients on a variety of housing related matters. Christine has also been involved in outreach and disaster relief related legal work and currently serves as an attorney in Legal Aid's disaster relief unit.

Ms. Appah is also very committed to the study of legal ethics in the context of public interest law. Most recently, she served on the ethics training panel of The Legal Aid Society of New York's Civil Division. Christine is involved in various community outreach activities geared towards improving the quality of life for Queens residents.

**Sunny Noh**, prior to Superstorm Sandy, was Staff Attorney in NYLAG's Housing Project for 3.5 years, providing direct services to tenants in litigation and administrative advocacy. However, shortly after Superstorm Sandy, in January 2013, Ms. Noh was named a Supervising Attorney in the newly created Storm Response Unit, which provided outreach to impacted communities, trainings to disaster case managers, attorneys and other advocates and dedicated direct services to Sandy survivors. Currently, Ms. Noh primarily supervises the housing practice and insurance practice within the unit. Ms. Noh is a *cum laude* graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School, SUNY.

**Fazeela Siddiqui** is a Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society in NYC, where her primary focus is disaster-relief law. She has represented numerous clients affected by Hurricane Sandy with widespread issues that range from advocating for hotel shelter clients facing eviction, FEMA appeals, representing clients against unscrupulous debt-collectors, to mediating homeowner's insurance claims on behalf of low-income homeowners. Fazeela has provided testimony to the New York City Council on critical issues such as accountability and oversight in disaster fund tracking to the oversight of the City's "Build it Back" program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

Fazeela holds a law degree from the Northeastern University School of Law, a Master's in Social Policy & Evaluation from the University of Michigan School of Social Work and a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Behavior and Spanish from the University of Michigan.

**Anne Stephenson** is a staff attorney in the Homeowner and Consumer Rights Project at Queens Legal Services. Her practice centers on foreclosure defense and Superstorm Sandy-related policy advocacy and direct services in such areas as insurance disputes, contractor fraud, and FEMA disaster assistance appeals. Anne graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2012 and has been working at Queens Legal Services since April 2013.

### **Moderator**

**Jennifer Ching** is the Director of Queens Legal Services. At QLS, she manages the borough-wide legal services and advocacy program, which includes fourteen practices, including disaster aid. Jennifer has coordinated advocacy responses post-Sandy on issues ranging from federal, state and city agency responsiveness to long-term community rebuilding issues. She has presented and lectured on disaster issues in numerous settings, including CLE programs. Prior to joining QLS, Jennifer was Director of New York Appleseed, a citywide public interest advocacy center. From 2004-2008,

Jennifer was a litigator with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where her pro bono representation included litigation on behalf of 13 Saudi nationals held in Guantanamo. Jennifer was a 2002 Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest Law and Constitutional Litigation, where she litigated national security, employment, civil rights and death penalty matters. She taught as an adjunct professor at Rutgers School of Law-Newark and, as a Skadden Fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, Jennifer founded New Jersey's first legal advocacy project for low-wage immigrant workers.

## **W. The Future of Technology in the Effective Delivery of Legal Aid**

**Christine M. Fecko** is the General Counsel of the IOLA Fund of the State of New York and currently serves on the NYSBA President's Committee on Access to Justice, the NYSBA Committee on Legal Aid, and the NYC Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Services Committee. Prior to joining IOLA, Ms. Fecko spent nearly five years as the General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer of My Sisters' Place, a non-profit organization providing social and legal services to domestic violence victims in Westchester County, New York. Previously, she practiced commercial litigation in New York City for over ten years at McGuire Woods LLP and Kelley Drye & Warren LLP. Ms. Fecko served as a member of the Westchester County Domestic Violence Council and secretary to the New York City Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence; she is a former Chair of the NYC Bar Association's Committee on Legal Services for Persons of Moderate Means. After her graduation from the New York University School of Law, she clerked for Chief Judge F.A. Little, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. She earned a B.A. from SUNY Binghamton in History and Women's Studies.

**John T. Greiner** is the Chief Information Officer for Legal Services NYC and has worked to improve the quality and delivery of legal services through the effective and efficient application of leading information technologies. Mr. Greiner leads the planning and development of services that increase the level of communication, resource sharing, and collaboration between LS-NYC offices and with sister organizations across New York and the nation. Prior to joining LS-NYC, Mr. Greiner led Illinois Legal Aid Online, which develops and manages leading legal information resources and tools for advocates, volunteers, and Illinois residents. He also served the Clinton Administration in implementing the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, worked for Indiana Legal Services as a staff attorney and technologist, and as a state and Congressional legislative aide. Over the years, Mr. Greiner has consulted with legal aid and other non-profit agencies on the use of technology in service delivery and has been active in legal and non-legal technology communities. He is an honors graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Anna Hineline** is the Technology Coordinator at Legal Assistance of Western New York. She has assisted in the administration of a variety of innovative technology related initiatives including LSC TIG funded projects. She works with the LawNY staff to ensure that they have access to and understand the technology that is available to better serve clients and effectively collaborate across the organization. This is her third year with LawNY. Anna has served as the Upstate Organizational Listing Coordinator for LawHelpNY and coordinator of the Geneva office's pro-se divorce clinic. She started at LawNY as an AmeriCorps VISTA, establishing the Veteran Outreach Project.

**Jeff L. Hogue** served as a legal aid attorney for 14 years and has spearheaded a number of innovative technology and legal aid projects. He serves on the NYSBA Committee on Legal Aid and is the national co-chair of the NLADA tech section. Jeff is currently Community Relations Coordinator for LegalServer, which provides technology solutions for legal aid providers. He is a graduate of Cornell Law School and the Fulbright College Honors Program at the University of Arkansas. Jeff was honored in 2010 with the New York State Bar Association's 2010 Denison Ray Civil Legal Services Award.

## **X. Governance and Management Changes in New York Law**

**Courtney Darts** is a Senior Staff Attorney in the Pro Bono Partnership's White Plains, New York office, where she advises nonprofit organizations on corporate and tax-exempt legal matters. She was previously in private practice with the law firm Kelley Drye & Warren LLP and is admitted to the bar in Connecticut and New York. She is a graduate of Fairfield University and Fordham University School of Law.

**Linda Schechter Manley**, Legal Director at the Lawyers Alliance, oversees client representation services and manages the in-house attorney staff. Ms. Manley has significant experience in the areas of childcare, elder services, mergers and strategic alliances, corporate restructuring, nonprofit governance and coping with financial distress. She also initiated Lawyers Alliance's initiative Program Preservation that helps nonprofits cope with the legal impact of the economic downturn at a time of increased demand for their services. From 1997-2006, Ms. Manley was a staff attorney and senior staff attorney at Lawyers Alliance. Previously, she was an associate at the law firms of Jones Day and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, and she served as law clerk to Hon. Loretta A. Preska in the Southern District of New York. She received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 1991 and B.A. magna cum laude from State University of New York at Albany in 1988. Professional Activities: Board of Trustees, Grand Concourse Academy Charter School.

## **Y. Cultivating Pro Bono Leaders**

**Joseph M. Dougherty** is a member of the Hinman Straub P.C.'s Labor and Employment and Litigation departments. He represents a wide variety of clients in addressing issues that arise in and out of the workplace. Mr. Dougherty regularly advises employers and employees on labor and employment as well as commercial litigation matters. He has represented clients in administrative matters before the United States Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, National Labor Relations Board, NYS Division of Human Rights, NYS Department of Labor, NYS Department of Tax and Finance, NYS Retirement System, NYS Public Employment Relations Board, NYS Workers' Compensation Board, NYS Department of Health, state legislature and federal and state courts.

Mr. Dougherty's practice includes various aspects of the public and private employer/employee relationship, including: negotiating employment contracts and separation agreements, restrictive covenants, disciplinary procedures, alternative dispute resolution, sexual harassment and discrimination, wage and hour (NYS/FLSA), independent contractors and contingent workers, prevailing wage, I-9 compliance, OSHA, substance abuse and drug testing, class action litigation as

well as other employment-related matters. In addition, Mr. Dougherty is experienced in mass/class litigation including representation in connection with the failure of various NYS self-insured trusts involving hundreds of millions in claims in state and federal litigation and representation in connection with multiple FLSA class action lawsuits.

Mr. Dougherty has lectured on myriad topics related to NYS and federal labor and employment laws, including management training programs to avoid sexual harassment and EEO problems, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the New York State Civil Service Law. Moreover, he has conducted educational conferences for in-house attorneys and human resource professionals on a wide range of other labor-management issues. He is a 2002 graduate of Hamilton College and a 2006 graduate of Albany Law School.

**Sheila A. Hubbard** is the Executive Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) of the Boston Bar Association, which provides free civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Greater Boston, primarily through the pro bono services of private attorneys. She has dedicated her entire professional career to public service in government, higher education, and the non-profit arenas. She has worked as a Homeless Specialist for the Department of Social Services, on issues of diversity as the Director of Boston's Minority and Women Business Enterprise Office, and on criminal justice issues as the Chair of the Massachusetts Parole Board, where she supervised 240 employees responsible for 5,000 parolees and a \$13.1 million budget. During her seven year tenure as Chair, she was elected President of the Association of Paroling Authorities International. She has also been the Associate Director of the Office of Public Interest Advising at Harvard Law School, working with law students and alumni who wanted to pursue public interest and legal service careers and immediately prior to VLP was the Senior Program Director for the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama working on issues of race and poverty, parole and probation, and juvenile justice. Last year she was appointed to the Boston Bar Association Statewide Task Force to Expand Civil Legal Aid and is serving her third year on the Boston Bar Association Council. She is a 1982 graduate of Yale College and a 1985 graduate of Harvard Law School.

**Cheryl M. Zalenski** is the Director of the American Bar Association Center for Pro Bono. The Center, a project of the ABA's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, provides technical assistance and means for encouraging pro bono activity to and among pro bono programs, bar associations, legal services programs, law firms, corporate legal departments, government attorney offices, law schools, and other segments of the legal profession. In her capacity at the Center, Ms. Zalenski has authored numerous articles on pro bono engagement and is a regular speaker on pro bono policy and management.

Ms. Zalenski joined the Center for Pro Bono in 1999. Previously, she was Managing Attorney and Pro Bono Coordinator at Legal Services Organization of South Central Michigan in Battle Creek, Michigan. She graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1993 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bradley University. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and a licensed attorney in Michigan and Illinois as well as a member of the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals.

## **Z. Using Business Law and Partnerships with Pro Bono Attorneys to Assist Small Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations in Order to Improve the Quality of Life of Individuals in Low-Income Neighborhoods**

**Rolando Gonzalez** is a senior staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society's Community Development Project, where he represents low-income small businesses, community-based nonprofit organizations, HDFC cooperatives and tenant groups that work to preserve affordable housing. Prior to that he worked in Legal Aid's Housing Development Unit and as an attorney in the 9/11 Small Business Legal Assistance Project, where he represented small businesses located below 14th Street affected by the events of September 11. Mr. Gonzalez was also a staff attorney at Harlem Legal Services and prior to that was Deputy Counsel for Planning and Economic Development for Congressman Jose E. Serrano. He frequently addresses community groups and he has been a panelist in CLE trainings, including: *Effective Representation of Low-Income and Immigrant Microentrepreneurs: Practical Considerations in Conducting a Microenterprise Practice* (National Legal Aid & Defender Association Conference); *Providing Legal Assistance to Persons Affected by Superstorm Sandy* (New York State Bar Association); and, most recently, *Disaster Lawyers Delivering Legal Aid Post Sandy* (New York City Bar Association), as well as previously presenting at the 2010 & 2012 New York State Bar Association Partnership Conference. Mr. Gonzalez provides training to Legal Aid attorneys and externs from the private bar. He is a graduate of Fordham University and Albany Law School of Union University.

**Jessica A. Rose** is the Director of Community and Economic Development (CED) Program of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (Brooklyn A). She joined the CED Program in 2004 and became the Director of the Program in 2008. Brooklyn A's CED Program serves as general counsel and special project counsel to non-profit community based organizations primarily focused on affordable housing, healthcare and educational facility development. The development projects frequently include title or commercial lease acquisition, rehabilitation and construction loan financing, project management, low income housing tax credit and new market tax credit syndications, a variety of federal, New York State and New York City low income housing programs, public-private joint ventures, bond financing, and school and community based primary health care center facilities development financing. Prior to coming to Brooklyn A, Jessica was an associate at Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP where she worked as bond and underwriter's counsel in the public offerings and private placement of debt obligations of governmental entities.

Jessica received her Juris Doctorate from Fordham University School of Law, where she was a Stein Scholar in Public Interest and Ethics, and her Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University. Prior to studying law she worked as a paralegal in the Civil Division of the Legal Aid Society, Housing and Government Benefits Programs of the Brooklyn Neighborhood Office and City-wide Immigration Program and also as an educational support specialist at Aspira of New York, Inc. In law school she was an Ella Baker intern at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Jessica has published a number of articles on public interest lawyering including *Community Economic Development Lawyers Assist Nonprofit Organizations in Creating Holistic Green Communities* (44 Clearinghouse Rev. 257 (Sept.-Oct. 2010), co-authored with Daniel Hafetz and Nicole Prenoveau) and *The Greening of Community Economic Development: Dispatches From New*

*York City* (31 W. New Eng. L. Rev. 645 (2009)), co-authored by Carmen Huertas-Noble and Brian Glick). She regularly guest teaches classes focused on community and economic development and public interest law at CUNY School of Law and Fordham University School of Law. She was a founder and continues to be a convener of the New York City CED Attorney Network. She is a member of Housing and Urban Development Committee of the New York City Bar Association, the Advisory Committee of the Fordham Urban Law Center, and the HDFC Task Force. In 2009 she was honored by the National Lawyers Guild – New York City Chapter at its annual event for her contributions to the tenants’ rights movement and in she was a 2012 New York County Lawyers’ Association (NYCLA) Public Service Award recipient for a distinguished service as a public-sector lawyer.

## **AA. Filling in the Gap: Using Non-Lawyers to Educate & Assist Pro-Se Litigants**

**Katherine Chang** is a Program Coordinator at University Settlement's Project Home, an eviction prevention program. She is currently working on her program's new pilot project for Court Navigators in collaboration with the Office of Court Administration. Katherine began her work at University Settlement as an eviction prevention case worker. She holds a BA from Fordham University.

**Jameelah J. Hayes**, *Director of Programs* at Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), has been on staff since February 2011. In her role, she assists staff in answering legal questions, creating LIFT’s legal resource guides, as well as developing and maintaining a core program that fosters communication based skill-building training for LIFT staff. Ms. Hayes doubles as the organizational representative for various committees and coalitions. She has collaborated with her colleagues to implement the web based legal education curriculum to provide more information to self-advocating clients. Prior to LIFT, Ms. Hayes worked as a court attorney to the Hon. Jeanette Ruiz in Kings County and Bronx County Family Courts. She started her career as a law guardian in the Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice representing children in Child Protective Proceedings in Kings Family Court. Ms. Hayes obtained her B.S. in Natural Science with a concentration in Environmental Studies from Spelman College, J.D. from the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, and her M.S. in Philanthropic Development & Management from New York University, George H. Heyman Center.

**Jennifer Vallone**, *Program Director* of Project Home, has been employed at the Settlement since 1999. She has worked in various capacities within the organization including: Case Manager, Organizer, and Senior Housing Advocate; assuming the role of Director in July 2005. She is currently the President of the Emergency Rent Coalition and a Board Member of Housing Court Answers. Ms. Vallone has a B.A. from Hampshire College and a Master’s degree in Urban Affairs from Hunter College.

## **AB. Implementing Federal Rights; the American Private Enforcement Model**

**Peter Dellinger** is an attorney with the Empire Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm, in Rochester, New York, where he represents low-income clients in consumer, civil rights and employment

matters. He received his B.A. degree from University of Toronto, and has an M.A. degree in American Government from American University. Before attending law school he was a Robert F. Kennedy Fellow, and after receiving his J.D. from the Antioch School of Law in 1981, he clerked for Judge John T. Curtin of the United States District Court for the Western District of New York.

Mr. Dellinger began his legal services career in the Midwest, where he directed a state-wide legal services program representing migrant farmworkers in minimum wage, employment, and immigration matters. During this time, he completed language course work at the Academia Hispano Americana in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Ohio, and New York, and before the United States Tax Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

**Jonathan Feldman** is an attorney with the Empire Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm, in Rochester, New York, where he represents low-income clients in civil rights, education, and disability rights matters. He received his B.A. degree from Oberlin College. Upon graduating from New York University School of Law in 1988, he clerked for Judge James T. Giles of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining Empire Justice, Mr. Feldman worked for the Education Law Center in Newark, NJ, and the Community Service Society in New York City. He has taught and published in the fields of civil rights law and education law. He has twice served as a visiting clinical professor of law; first at Syracuse University College of Law, where in 2007 he directed the Disability Rights Clinic, and most recently at Cornell University Law School, where in 2013 he directed the Legal Aid Clinic. He is the co-author of an education law textbook (Education Law, Fifth Edition [Routledge, 2014]).

## **AC. Tax 101 for the Legal Services Practitioner**

**Sarah B. D'Alessandro** is a Staff Attorney for the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc. Sarah's clients are low income individuals experiencing tax related issues and she provides counseling, advice and representation in tax matters throughout several upstate New York counties. Sarah is a member of the American Bar Association's section on Taxation and is a previous recipient of VITA and TCE certifications. Sarah has a demonstrated commitment to public service and meeting the needs of the underserved. While attending Fordham University School of Law, Sarah worked at the Tax and Consumer Litigation Clinic and volunteered at the Manhattan Civil Legal Advice and Referral Office. Sarah received a B.S. from the R.H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland in College Park and a J.D. from the Fordham University School of Law. Prior to law school, Sarah served as a Revenue Officer with the Internal Revenue Service's Small Business Self-Employed division in Manhattan.

**Elizabeth A. Hay** is Attorney in Charge of the Harlem Community Law Office (HCLO) of The Legal Aid Society, and project director for the HIV/AIDS Representation Project (H/ARP) and the Elderlaw Project, as well as the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. Member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York AIDS Committee, and City Bar Chorus. Member of the American Bar Association Tax Section Low Income Taxpayer Committee.

Responsible for overall administration of HCLO and supervision of legal practice in State and federal courts and administrative agencies. Received J.D. from New York University School of Law Admitted

to practice in New York State, California, federal courts (E.D.N.Y., S.D.N.Y., 2d Circuit Court of Appeals) and U.S. Tax Court. Received B.A. in History from University of Rochester.

**Anne-Marie Malak** is a Managing Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) and Clinic Director of LASNNY's Low Income Tax Payer Clinic. She is a graduate of Albany Law School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She became the staff attorney for LASNNY's Senior Legal Services Program in 1997 and currently supervises that program along with the Children's Law Project, HIV/AIDS Legal Consortium, Nutrition Outreach and Education Program, and Consumer Law Clinic.

## **AD. Criminal Law for the Civil Practitioner: Bridging the Gap between Arrest and Reentry to Work towards Holistic and Transformative Delivery of Direct Legal Services.**

**Paul B. Curtin** has been with the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo for 13 years. During that time he has been staff attorney in the Civil, Felony Appeals, and Attorneys for Children Units. He is currently a managing attorney in the Civil Unit, concentrating on matters related to Reentry, Housing, Bankruptcy and financial well-being, Foreclosure defense, and Veterans and Military Families issues. Together with other members of the Civil Unit, he has established a Reentry initiative at Legal Aid that cooperates with Federal and State Probation, Federal Reentry Court of the Western District of New York, the University of Buffalo Reentry Practicum, and a range of community organizations and agencies to assist individuals facing barriers related to incarceration or criminal records. The Reentry initiative recently expanded to provide supportive services for a regional Restorative Justice project.

**Christa Douaihy** is a Team Leader and attorney in the Civil Action Practice with The Bronx Defenders. In her current position, Christa leads one of the office's interdisciplinary teams and works collaboratively with criminal defense and family defense attorneys, advocates and social workers to assess clients' civil legal needs and provides representation in courts, administrative tribunals and appellate fora.

Before The Bronx Defenders Christa was a staff attorney with the Disability Rights Unit at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in Westchester County, NY. During her tenure at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, she served on the Tri-County Steering Committee of Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, responsible for intra-regional administration of congressionally appropriated funds for Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties. She is a certified mediator and an accredited representative with the US Department of Veteran's Affairs. Recently, Christa became Secretary of the New York City Bar Association's Special Committee on AIDS. She also serves as the Legal Expert at Thebody.com -- the complete HIV/AIDS resource. Christa is admitted to practice law in New York Courts and the Southern District of New York, U.S. District Court. She received her Bachelor of Arts at The University of Pittsburgh and her Juris Doctorate at The City University of New York School of Law.

**Runa Rajagopal**, an experienced litigator and social justice advocate for over 9 years, is currently a Team Leader and Supervising Attorney in the Civil Action Practice at The Bronx Defenders. Runa supervises and supports over twenty-five attorneys and advocates defending against the full range of consequences that arise out of an arrest; including evictions; termination of crucial benefits;

suspension of employment; forfeiture of property and police misconduct. Runa trains and provides technical assistance to defense attorneys and civil practitioners alike in identifying the potential civil fallout from entry into the criminal justice system and developing strategies to safeguard clients and promote reintegration and reentry into the community. Prior to joining The Bronx Defenders, Runa was a Senior Staff Attorney for the Mental Health Law Project at MFY Legal Services, Inc., where she represented mental health consumers in the areas of fair and affordable housing; income preservation; consumer defense; family law and disability rights. Runa received her J.D. from the Washington College of Law, American University and her B.A. in Sociology and Communication from the State University of New York at Geneseo.

**Shary Enid Sanchez** is a Staff Attorney in the White Plains, New York office of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. She represents the indigent in the following areas of law: Family law, Social Security Disability appeals (Supplemental Security Income), Landlord/Tenant law, Consumer Debt Collection, Public Benefits, HIV/AIDS discrimination and breaches of HIV/AIDS confidentiality.

Prior to joining Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Ms. Sanchez worked at The HIV Law Project representing people living with HIV/AIDS in a number of practice areas throughout the Bronx and Manhattan. She graduated from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2009.

**Judith Whiting** is General Counsel at the Community Service Society of New York (CSS), performing a full range of legal services for this 170-year-old nonprofit organization. She also directs the work of CSS's Legal Department, helping to develop litigation, advocacy and legislative approaches to ending discrimination against people with criminal conviction histories, with a particular emphasis on employment and housing. In addition, she supervises the Legal Department's Next Door Project, whose staff and specially-trained older adult volunteers' help New Yorkers obtain understand and fix mistakes in their official criminal conviction histories.

Before coming to CSS, Judy was Senior Staff Attorney at the Legal Action Center, where she worked on anti-discrimination litigation and policy affecting people with criminal records, histories of substance use disorders and/or HIV/AIDS. She previously served as Assistant Attorney General in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division. She also worked as staff attorney with the Criminal, Civil and Volunteer Divisions of The Legal Aid Society in New York, specializing in representing the elderly and mentally impaired persons charged with crimes. Judy also served as clinical instructor at Hofstra Law School's Housing Law Clinic and as adjunct faculty at Suffolk University Law School.

Judy is a graduate of Barnard College and Cornell Law School, where she received the first Freeman Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Award, and in 2014 received its Exemplary Public Service Award. She is past Chair of and currently serves on the New York City Bar Association's Corrections and Community Reentry Committee, was formerly a member of its Nominating Committee and Council on Criminal Justice, and in 2008 received the Association's Legal Services Award. Judy is also a member of the New York State Bar Association.