

CITY BAR
JUSTICE
CENTER



WALK A MILE IN
THEIR SHOES

CBJC RESPONDS TO RECORD NEED

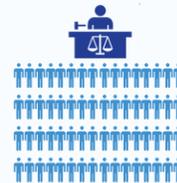


OPENING

LOW-INCOME, DISADVANTAGED NEW YORKERS face challenges in daily living while often lacking the support systems on which others with resources can depend. Not knowing the rules of the road and unable to hire an attorney to handle their legal problems, they must face red tape, agency bureaucracies and complicated legal procedures on their own. Each year, 10,000 callers reach the Legal Hotline of the City Bar Justice Center (CBJC)—the city’s largest free legal hotline—and receive legal advice, brief services, information and referrals on civil legal matters. Without help, unrepresented New Yorkers rapidly expend their bandwidth for problem-solving and suffer tremendous stress.

In addition to the Legal Hotline, CBJC recruits, trains, and matches volunteer (“pro bono”) attorneys with the legal cases of New Yorkers who would otherwise not be able to afford counsel to help them with essential life matters. With help from pro bono volunteers, these clients have a better chance to win their cases. Often a retroactive recovery or assistance with responding to court papers is the key to getting people back on their feet. New York’s top law firms, corporate legal departments, lawyers and law students partner with CBJC to volunteer to make a profound difference for low-income clients. We invite you to walk a mile in the shoes of our clients, New Yorkers looking for help with their legal challenges.

UP THE PRO BONO TAP



2.1 MILLION
NEW YORKERS ARE UNREPRESENTED IN COURT



1.2 MILLION
NEW YORKERS HAVE 3 OR MORE LEGAL PROBLEMS PER YEAR



4 OUT OF 10
NYC RESIDENTS LIVE BELOW 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (\$47,100 ANNUAL INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF 4)

Data from the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York, November 2013



CHALLENGE #1:

CLIMBING OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

CBJC'S LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE HOMELESS

CBJC's Legal Clinic for the Homeless provides advice, advocacy and representation on public assistance matters to families who are residents of homeless shelters. The project sponsors legal clinics at shelters, with services provided by a partner law firm or corporate legal department.

SHELTER STORIES

No child should have to grow up in a homeless shelter. But the number of children in shelters is at an all-time high, and CBJC's Legal Clinic for the Homeless is busier than ever advocating for families with the goal of getting them out of the shelter system. CBJC fights for families at public assistance hearings, helping them get back their economic footing. CBJC and its pro bono attorneys also make a difference by resolving irrational transfers. Families in

shelters are routinely transferred to other shelters, resulting in lost possessions, disrupted education and distance from doctors. Among those helped were: a woman with bladder cancer who was moved to a shelter without an in-unit bathroom; a disabled child who was moved two hours away from her school; and a diabetic placed in a shelter without cooking facilities, unable to make any—let alone, appropriate—meals.



RECORD NEED



53,615 PEOPLE SLEEPING EACH NIGHT IN NYC SHELTER SYSTEM



22,712 CHILDREN LIVING IN HOMELESS SHELTERS, AN ALL-TIME HIGH



12,724 HOMELESS FAMILIES ON AVERAGE IN SHELTERS



14.5 MONTHS AVERAGE STAY IN SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



\$560 AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET FOR FAMILY OF 2 IN A SHELTER (\$270 IN FOOD STAMPS AND \$290 IN CASH)

Data from Coalition for the Homeless, April 2014



\$517 AVERAGE AMOUNT WON IN BENEFITS BY CBJC FOR EACH FAMILY HELPED



CHALLENGE #2: COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS

CBJC'S IMMIGRATION PROJECTS

CBJC's **REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT** represents individuals who have suffered torture and other forms of persecution in their home countries who are seeking asylum in the U.S. The project also assists clients with filing relative petitions and obtaining asylum-related benefits.

CBJC's **IMMIGRANT OUTREACH PROJECT** coordinates community outreach to provide accurate information about immigrant rights and options. CBJC also represents long-term residents of New York who are detained in immigration jails and may be eligible for cancellation of removal. These efforts are led by the Fragomen Fellow through a longstanding partnership with the global immigration law firm of Fragomen.

CBJC's **IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROJECT** assists survivors of violence, abuse and human trafficking in legalizing their immigration status. Project staff train law enforcement, community-based organizations and NGOs about the legal remedies available to these crime victims.

KAREN'S STORY

At age 13, Karen's stepmother sent her from her native Jamaica to live with "family friends" in the U.S. Entering with an altered passport, Karen went to live with a Miami family where she was treated as a household slave: caring for children, cleaning, and cooking without pay, isolated and not allowed to go to school or telephone her parents. After the father in the household started raping Karen, she fled with a friend of his to NYC, where the father's friend impregnated her. Karen gave birth to a daughter before that man abandoned her.

With the help of CBJC, Karen received a T Visa, which gives legal status to immigrant trafficking victims who aid in prosecuting their traffickers, and a work permit. She has since gotten her GED and is a dental assistant. She lives in NYC with her daughter.

"The value of pro bono work cannot be underestimated. Taking part in pro bono work has given me the chance to contribute to the legal profession. Through my work at the City Bar Justice Center, I have been given a rare opportunity to make a significant difference in someone's life."

A.V. – Pro bono volunteer for CBJC's Immigration Projects



CHALLENGE #3:

OVERCOMING ROAD BLOCKS, DISCRIMINATION AND RED TAPE

CBJC's **ELDERLAW PROJECT** maintains the dignity and independence of elderly people by training pro bono attorneys to assist seniors in preparing life planning documents, including wills.

CBJC's **CANCER ADVOCACY PROJECT** provides cancer patients and survivors with information and pro bono legal assistance on issues relating to workplace discrimination, health law, insurance, advance directives, and wills.

CBJC's **PLANNING AND ESTATES LAW PROJECT** assists low-income New Yorkers with end-of-life legal matters over the phone or in-person at legal clinics. Cases are screened by the Legal Hotline and referred for consultation by a pro bono panel of experts. The project works closely with the Surrogate's Courts.

CBJC's **LGBT ADVOCACY PROJECT** was launched to provide pro bono legal services, including the enforcement of newly gained rights, to coordinate services with other NYC providers and to advise other CBJC projects on issues specifically related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender low-income clients.

CHALLENGE #4:

ESTABLISHING A SMALL BUSINESS

CBJC'S NEIGHBORHOOD ENTREPRENEUR LAW PROJECT

CBJC's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project provides micro-entrepreneurs with the legal advice needed to launch or strengthen their businesses via legal clinics, pro bono representation and community presentations.

TANIA'S STORY

Tania, a single mother of two, no longer had time to prepare healthy meals after moving to the Bronx from Puerto Rico. Food-related health issues sparked her entrepreneurial spirit and she created Coquí the Chef, a small company that promotes a holistic approach to eating through healthy recipes and fresh ingredients. Her company emphasizes that cooking at home is not only essential but fun. Tania approached CBJC's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project (NELP) for assistance with a trademark application.

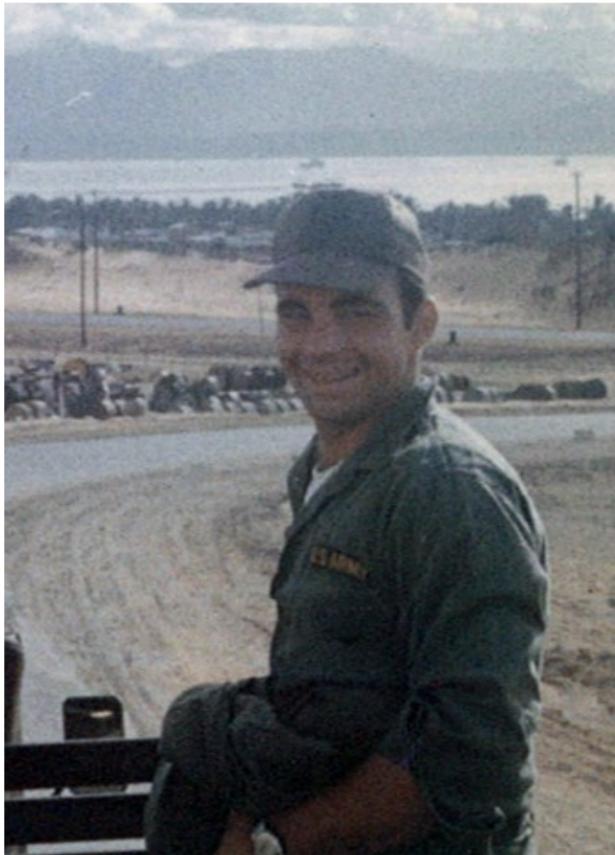
Through NELP, pro bono attorneys helped her trademark her business name and logo. They counseled her on other intellectual property issues and plans for expanding her business. Tania now has a recipe blog, a cooking show on YouTube and a website, www.coquithechef.com, where she sells cookbooks and cooking classes. What sprang from necessity and true passion has grown into an enduring business supporting Tania and her children.



Photo Credit: Tania Lopez

CHALLENGE #5: RELIEVING FINANCIAL DISTRESS

CBJC'S VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROJECT recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono assistance to veterans pursuing disability benefits claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Awards may include new or increased disability benefits and/or retroactive payments.



RICHARD'S STORY

Richard, a Vietnam veteran, came to a Veterans Assistance Project clinic after trying on his own for years to obtain benefits for PTSD, which were denied. With the help of pro bono representation obtained through CBJC, he received a disability rating acknowledging the PTSD, which entitled him to monthly benefits and considerable back payment.

“This is the story I’ve been trying to tell the VA all the while, but I couldn’t prove it...I gave [CBJC] my story and they did the rest.”

“This program is a lifesaver for otherwise responsible, hardworking people. I did not feel judged by any staff member. I was always treated with dignity and for that I am thankful.”

M.P. – Consumer Bankruptcy Project client

CBJC'S CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY PROJECT provides legal assistance to low-income consumers with outstanding debts. It assists debtors filing pro se bankruptcy petitions and provides pro bono representation to debtors in contested matters.

CBJC'S FORECLOSURE PROJECT assists distressed homeowners in an effort to preserve homes and minimize damage to creditworthiness. It is the largest pro bono foreclosure project in New York State.



WAYS TO GIVE

The City Bar Justice Center (CBJC) provides free legal services to the poor and underserved people of New York City. For this reason, donations to CBJC qualify for the *New York State Court's biennial pro bono reporting requirements* for attorneys.

It is easy to support CBJC, and there are many ways to give:

- **GIVE** online at www.citybarjusticecenter.org/donate
- **DONATE** by check payable to “City Bar Justice Center”
- **RECOMMEND** a grant through a donor advised fund or family foundation
- **CONTRIBUTE** securities
- **DESIGNATE** CBJC as a beneficiary as part of estate planning
- **DIRECT** a cy pres award

Please note: CBJC is included in the listing of organizations participating in the *New York City Combined Federal Campaign* and is an approved charity to receive contributions from federal employees under the terms of the program.

Also, CBJC is an approved charity to receive grants through the CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) American Donor Fund, which encourages tax-effective giving by UK/US dual-registered taxpayers.

If you have any questions about giving or would like assistance in making a contribution, the Director of Development Marilyn F. Casowitz (212.382.6661, mcasowitz@nycbar.org) is happy to speak with you.

MAILING ADDRESS:

City Bar Justice Center
Attn: Development Department
42 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

A copy of the most recent annual financial report may be obtained, upon request, from the City Bar Justice Center or the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, ATTN: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

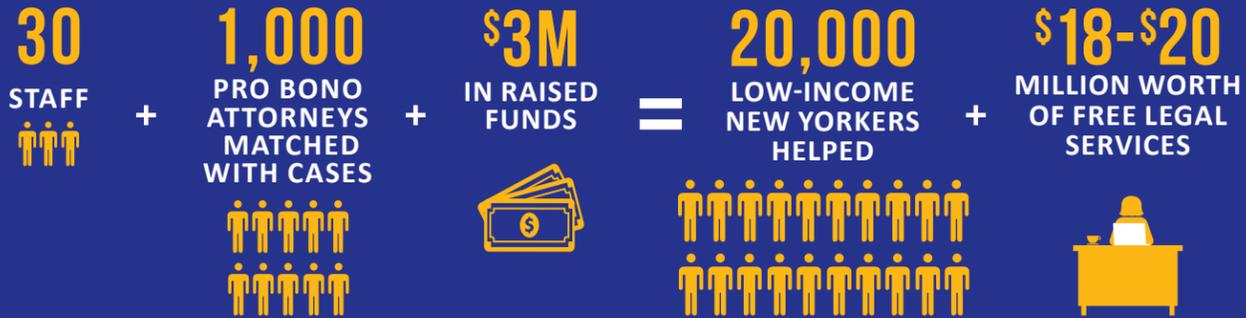
CBJC is a department of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc., the 501(c)3 established by the New York City Bar Association.



MISSION

THE CITY BAR JUSTICE CENTER'S MISSION is to increase access to justice by leveraging the resources of the New York City legal community. Drawing upon our relationship with the New York City Bar Association, the Justice Center provides legal assistance to those in need; mobilizes lawyers, law firms, corporate legal departments, and other legal institutions to provide pro bono legal services; educates the public on legal issues; fosters strategic relationships; and impacts public policy.

THE POWER OF PRO BONO LEVERAGING



FREE LEGAL HOTLINE: 212-626-7383

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