

# What Others Say...

Dear Anne-

We are writing to thank you for the work that Empire Justice Center does for families like ours. One of your staff attorneys saved us from becoming homeless.

We call her our guardian angel. She saved our home and everything we have worked so hard for all of our life. Without her help, we would have lost everything.

We are still struggling to dig out from the mess that the predatory lenders got us into. But, we have a roof over our heads and hope for the future.

Sincerely,  
J.S. and K.S

Dear Kristin-

On behalf of my clients, thank you SO MUCH for finding the energy to advocate for this change in policy.

I don't know what we advocates would do without you and your colleagues working to ensure that low income people get a tiny slice of the financial pie to help provide services that can lift them out of poverty!

Sincerely,  
A.P



## Office Locations

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
119 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210  
Phone: 518-462-6831  
Fax: 518-462-6687

**ROCHESTER OFFICE**  
The Telesca Center for Justice  
One West Main Street  
Suite 200  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: 585-454-4060  
Fax: 585-454-2518

**LONG ISLAND OFFICE**  
Public Advocacy Center  
Touro Law Center  
225 Eastview Drive  
Room 222  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
Phone: 631-650-2316

**WHITE PLAINS OFFICE**  
80 North Broadway  
White Plains, NY 10603  
Phone: 914-422-4329  
Fax: 914-422-4391

Empire Justice is a statewide, multi-issue, multi-strategy non-profit law firm focused on changing the "systems" within which poor and low-income families live.

Empire Justice protects and strengthens the legal rights of people in New York State who are poor, disabled or disenfranchised.

We do this through systems change advocacy, training and support to other advocates and organizations, and high quality direct civil legal representation.

# Making the Law Work for all New Yorkers

Albany ♦ Long Island ♦ Rochester ♦ White Plains



# What We Do...

## Training & Support Training

As an accredited provider of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE), Empire Justice offers extensive training opportunities, which include events, sessions and webcasts geared specifically for the legal services community and those providing assistance to poor and low-income New Yorkers.

## Technical Assistance

With attorneys concentrating in a host of poverty law areas, Empire Justice staff handle thousands of requests for technical assistance each year. Over the phone, through dynamic listservs and via web inquiries, staff share expertise, strategize on complex legal issues and provide general support and assistance to advocates serving low-income clients.

## Publications

The Legal Services Journal (LSJ) and Disability Law News are published six times per year, providing advocates with a full range of information and updates regarding poverty law issues. Both are available electronically on our website.

## Impact Litigation

In providing a full and vibrant range of legal representation to our clients, Empire Justice undertakes the major class actions and impact litigation that is often needed to ensure

that the rights of poor and low-income New Yorkers are protected and defended. Our impact litigation covers a broad spectrum of legal issues, including public benefits, health, education and civil rights.

## Legislative & Administrative Advocacy

In our quest to make the law work for all New Yorkers, we seek out ways to maximize our advocacy so that we can affect positive change as broadly as possible. By changing the law or improving the way the law is implemented, our Legislative and Administrative work allows us the opportunity to improve the lives of millions of New Yorkers at once, rather than on an individual basis. Combined with our direct legal services and impact litigation, we are able to take a multi-level approach to achieving our mission.

## Policy & Research

We undertake policy analysis and research regarding issues that affect families living below the poverty level or on low incomes. We highlight the finding of our research and analysis in published reports that are used to educate and inform policymakers and the public with the ultimate goal of affecting change.

## Direct Legal Services

### ADA Enforcement

We represent people with disabilities who have been unable to use places of public accommodation because of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations.

### Civil Rights

We represent low-income clients who have been discriminated against because of race, gender, disability, family status or national origin.

## Consumer/Predatory Lending

We provide legal services to low-income people who have been victimized by predatory practices, involving mortgages, credit cards, car dealers, payday lending and rent-to-own stores.

## Creating Assets, Savings & Hope

Through C.A.S.H., volunteers help working families build stronger financial futures by: increasing incomes through free tax preparation services and the Earned Income Credit; offering alternatives to predatory practices; and maximizing financial assets through financial education, credit repair, matched savings, and home ownership.

## SSI/SSD

We provide representation and advocacy to individuals in Monroe County whose SSI or Social Security Disability benefits have been denied or discontinued.

## Health Law Collaboratives

We participate in a number of collaborative projects involving the delivery of legal assistance to patients onsite at health centers. Advocates work with the medical staff and social workers to assess and address a patient's legal health and needs resulting in a holistic approach to providing care and services.

## Immigrant Rights

We provide legal assistance to immigrants with a focus on HIV/AIDS and domestic violence.

## Special Education

We represent students with disabilities in grades K-12 in the Rochester area throughout the special education process - from the school level to federal court.

## HIV/AIDS

We assist individuals living with HIV/AIDS with a wide variety of legal issues.

[www.empirejustice.org](http://www.empirejustice.org)

Our website plays a vital role in keeping advocates up-to-date on issues that impact the legal rights of low-income New Yorkers. Within the website is the **Online Resource Center**, an area that includes a Fair Hearing Bank and a number of specialty areas, including Benefits Law, Domestic Violence, Disability and Housing. Each area contains a searchable database of case law to assist advocates in their day-to-day representation of clients.