

Access to Justice is a Core Value, Not a Special Interest

We Urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- ▶ Support the \$15 million emergency IOLA rescue funding request in the Office of Court Administration budget
- ▶ Maintain all State funding for legal services in the State budget

New Yorkers Are In Need: Thirteen percent of New Yorkers live in poverty—2.5 million people—a number that has undoubtedly grown since the last count.

Maintain State Support: Since 1993, the Legislature, through the efforts of the Assembly Majority, has supported civil legal services in each year's State budget. Last year, the new Senate Majority secured additional funding for these critical services. This year, the proposed Executive Budget actually eliminates ALL funding—over \$13 million—including the \$1 million the Governor himself set aside in last year's budget.

New Partnerships: Given the new threat of dramatic losses in IOLA funding, the Judiciary took the bold step of including \$15 million in the 2010-11 Unified Court System Budget to provide emergency funding to IOLA to maintain existing services. Legislative leaders have urged support of this, and these funds must be included in any final budget.

Crisis in Legal Services: As we struggle with the impact of this Great Recession, we must ensure that our core services to constituents are not eroded. Indeed, it is at this very moment of crisis that the need for legal services skyrockets as low-income constituents and recently unemployed New Yorkers struggle with the legal complexities of evictions, foreclosures, domestic violence, and access to fundamental benefits to meet the needs of daily living. New York cannot stand by while the crisis in legal services cascades across New York State.

For more information please contact:

Steve Banks
Adriene Holder
The Legal Aid Society (NYC)
(212) 577-3277
(212) 577-3355

Donald Crosswell
1199/SEIU United Healthcare
Workers East
(212) 261-2380

Anne Erickson
Empire Justice Center
(518) 462-6831

Alan S. Harris
The Legal Aid Society of Rochester
(585) 232-4090

Kathleen Masters
CAMBA (Brooklyn)
LEAP
(718) 282-2500

Andrew Scherer
Legal Services NYC
(646) 442-3636

Gibb Surette
UAW Local 2320 (NYC)
Legal Services Staff Association
NOLSW
(212) 228-0992

Deborah L. Wright
UAW Local 2325 (NYC)
Association of Legal Aid Attorneys
(212) 343-0708

Members of the Statewide Campaign for Civil Legal Services

New York City: Legal Aid Society; Legal Services NYC; LEAP Coalition - CAMBA Legal Services; Goddard SRO Law Project; Housing Conservation Coordinators; Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Make the Road New York, MFY Legal Services, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, New York Legal Assistance Group, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation Legal Services, Urban Justice Center

Outside of New York City: Chautauqua County Legal Services; Empire Justice Center; Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc; Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Inc.; Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society; Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York; Legal Aid Society of Rochester; Legal Aid Society of Rockland County; Legal Assistance of Western New York; Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York; Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo; Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc.; Legal Services of the Hudson Valley; Nassau/Suffolk Law Services; Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.; Rural Law Center; The Legal Project; Volunteer Legal Services of Monroe; Western New York Law Center

Labor: UAW 2320; National Organization of Legal Services Workers (NOLSW); UAW 2325; Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (ALAA); 1199/SEIU United Healthcare Workers East