

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty: Lawyers Working to End Homelessness

Each year, more than 3 million people experience homelessness, including 1.3 million children. Beginning in the early 1980s the number of homeless Americans grew dramatically. The face of homelessness became diverse. It began to include mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and racial and ethnic minorities.

One-third of the homeless population is made up of families.

The mission of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) is to prevent and end homelessness by serving as the legal arm of the nationwide movement to end homelessness. NLCHP is the only national legal advocacy organization dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness. Our attorneys go into courtrooms and the halls of our legislatures to protect the needs of society's most vulnerable members.

Through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education we address the root causes of homelessness at the local, state, and national levels.

Changing Laws & Changing Lives

NLCHP makes a crucial difference in the lives of millions of homeless men, women, and children across the country. Our programs:

- Ensure that homeless children are able to go to school
- Prevent domestic violence survivors from becoming homeless
- Help impoverished families when they are made homeless by natural disasters
- Hold the U.S. government accountable until the human right to housing is a reality for all
- Protect homeless people from discrimination based on their status
- Create homes and communities for homeless people from unused government property

Key Accomplishments

Major accomplishments include:

- **Preventing thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees from becoming homeless.** NLCHP and pro bono partner Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP filed a successful lawsuit against FEMA that ensures that evacuees will have the opportunity to secure long-term assistance rather than become homeless.
- **Keeping 2,000 homeless children in New York in school.** NLCHP and pro bono partner Goodwin Procter successfully resolved a lawsuit against the Long Island, New York school system that ensures access to school and school services for homeless children in Suffolk County.
- **Helping homeless assistance organizations obtain over \$100 million in surplus federal property.** After successfully advocating for a federal law that makes surplus federal property available to homeless assistance organizations at no cost, NLCHP recently created a toolkit and provides technical assistance to help local advocates apply for and obtain federal property.
- **Presenting a Shadow Report to the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) on the status of housing in the U.S.** The HRC quoted directly from NLCHP's Shadow Report while questioning the U.S. on housing issues and drew on the organization's assistance when it issued its Concluding Observations.

- **Leveraging over \$1,896,780 in pro bono support from law firms in 2007.** NLCHP partnerships with law firms directly and indirectly serve to enforce the rights and improve the lives of homeless and low-income Americans.
- **Passing federal legislation to prevent domestic violence survivors from becoming homeless.** NLCHP played a lead role in drafting and winning enactment of new Public and Section 8 housing protections and housing programs to assist homeless and near-homeless domestic violence survivors included in the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.
- **Protecting homeless persons' civil rights.** NLCHP and Goodwin Procter filed an amicus brief in a federal case challenging a Las Vegas law that prohibits sharing food with "indigent" individuals. In another case in Fresno, California, the court cited an NLCHP affidavit when it instructed the city to cease destroying homeless persons' property during police "sweeps."

Major Funders

NLCHP has formed a variety of partnerships to accomplish our mission of ending and preventing homelessness. Listed below are some of NLCHP's major institutional and corporate funders in 2008:

Butler Family Fund; Capital One; Courembis Commercial Real Estate Services; Community Foundation for the National Capital Region; Consumer Capital Partners; Freddie Mac Foundation; Herb Block Foundation; Microsoft Corporation; National Association of Realtors; Paige Family Foundation; PMI Mortgage Insurance Co.; Public Welfare Foundation; Trellis Fund; U.S. Human Rights Fund; and Waitt Family Foundation.

LEAP (Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners to Prevent & End Homelessness)

LEAP is a national legal community philanthropic effort to help homeless and poor Americans achieve self-sufficiency. LEAP members provide financial support and pro bono legal services to help NLCHP prevent and end homelessness. LEAP members include the nation's top law firms. The following firms and individuals are LEAP members:

Sidley Austin LLP; Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP; Blank Rome, LLP; Bruce Rosenblum; Covington & Burling LLP; Dechert LLP; DLA Piper; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Goodwin Procter LLP; Greenberg Traurig LLP; Hogan & Hartson LLP; Jenner & Block LLP; Jones Day; Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP; Latham & Watkins LLP; Morrison & Foerster Foundation; O'Melveny & Myers LLP; Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP; Sullivan & Cromwell LLP; and WilmerHale.

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