FIGHTING FOR FAIR & EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE
NEW YORK LEGAL ASSISTANCE GROUP (NYLAG) IS A LEADING NON-PROFIT THAT PROVIDES FREE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES AND FINANCIAL COUNSELING, AND ENGAGES IN POLICY ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

90,800 adults and children impacted by NYLAG's services

150+ community sites (courts, hospitals, libraries, community centers) in which we work across NY

120 people obtained U.S. citizenship with NYLAG's help

7,600 housing and foreclosure cases handled by NYLAG resulted in thousands of people remaining in their homes

4,000 people attended NYLAG legal clinics and presentations in their communities

29 languages spoken by staff to provide clients with the support they need in their primary language

WHO WE ARE

191 Attorneys
69 Paralegals
14 Financial Counselors
1,974 Pro Bono Attorneys and Volunteers

All statistics are from FY19 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)
*As of June 2019
OUR PROGRAMS

We collaborate across practice areas, recognizing that our clients often have an array of interconnected needs.

CONSUMER PROTECTION
Fighting against unfair financial practices, saving our clients $3.3M.

EMPLOYMENT LAW
Standing up for workers’ rights, winning $75K for a client who was a victim of sexual harassment.

EVELYN FRANK LEGAL RESOURCES
Helping 1,700 seniors and people with disabilities access healthcare and home care services.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW
Empowering survivors to achieve safety, helping 1,200 survivors with orders of protection, divorce, and custody issues.

FINANCIAL COUNSELING
Planning for financial stability, increasing our clients credit score by 42 points on average.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION
Preserving affordable homeownership, preventing 840 foreclosures.

HOLOCAUST COMPENSATION
Working with 680 survivors to access compensation and restitution funds.

IMMIGRANT PROTECTION
Standing with immigrants, handling 18,500 cases—from asylum claims to deportation defense—affecting 38,000 people from 170 countries of origin.

LEGAL HAND
Addressing problems before they escalate into legal proceedings, serving 5,400 people.

LEGALHEALTH
Complementing healthcare with legal care, conducting 228 legal clinics monthly in 36 hospitals and medical facilities.

LGBTQ LAW
Addressing the unique legal needs of the LGBTQ community, working with 780 people.

MOBILE LEGAL HELP CENTER
Bringing free legal services to isolated communities, with 175 site visits at 63 different locations.

MEDIATION
Offering dispute resolution without lengthy litigation; 81% of couples who have mediated with NYLAG have either reached an agreement or reconciled.

PRO SE CLINIC
Serving 2,100 unrepresented litigants in the Southern District of New York.

PUBLIC BENEFITS
Assisting 3,200 people, including seniors and children, obtain vital public benefits.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Securing vital education services for 120 children with special needs.

SPECIAL LITIGATION
Combating injustice through impact ligation and class actions that include 8,000,000 class members.

TENANTS’ RIGHTS
Defending tenants facing eviction, displacement, and homelessness, stopping 1,200 evictions.

VETERANS’ RIGHTS
Advocating for 2,800 veterans, whose service spans from WWII to those who recently returned home.

All statistics are from FY19 (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019)
WE BELIEVE YOU MUST BE IN THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Last year, we worked in more than 150 community sites across NY, including courts, hospitals, libraries, and community centers.

We also make visits to homebound clients, because everyone should have access to a lawyer.

Our Mobile Legal Help Center is on the road nearly every day to serve hard-to-reach communities, such as people with disabilities and seniors.
2018/19 HIGHLIGHTS

NYLAG DRAFTS NEW LAW TO HELP IMMIGRANT PARENTS

JULY 2018 - The new Standby Guardianship law—which NYLAG drafted with pro bono partner Greenberg Traurig—is implemented. It allows immigrant parents to designate a trusted guardian for their children should they be separated due to immigration enforcement.

NYLAG’S SPECIAL LITIGATION HELPS SENIORS REMAIN AT HOMES

DEC 2018 - NYLAG obtained final approval of a settlement bringing relief to people whose Medicaid-funded home care services had been wrongfully reduced or terminated, allowing hundreds of elderly clients to remain safely in their homes. (Caballero v. Senior Health Partners).

TAILORING FINANCIAL COUNSELING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

DEC 2018 - NYLAG was awarded a major grant for a new partnership with EmpoweredNYC, a multi-agency collaboration, to provide tailored financial counseling services to people with disabilities and their families.

A NYLAG CLASS ACTION PROVIDES RELIEF TO DEFRAUDED STUDENTS

MAY 2019 - NYLAG defeated the U.S. Department of Education’s motion to dismiss a class action aimed at redressing the Department’s failure to notify students of a defunct for-profit school of their right to discharge their loans. (Queros v. Devos)

NYLAG DOUBLES DOWN EFFORTS ON RACE EQUITY AND INCLUSION

AUG 2019 - Caprice Jenerson was named as NYLAG’s first-ever Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, an outgrowth of our strategic plan, which includes a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

UNVEILING A BOLD NEW NYLAG VISUAL IDENTITY

SEPT 2019 - Because of NYLAG’s exponential growth, and to better reflect NYLAG’s mission and values, NYLAG unveiled a new visual identity, including a new logo and website, to strengthen how we communicate our lifesaving and vital work.
NYLAG DENOUNCES INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR SNAP BENEFITS

APRIL 2019 - NYLAG submitted comment on USDA’s proposed rule, outlining how it will only increase the number of people facing hunger in the U.S.

NYLAG ATTORNEYS HELP DECREASE CITYWIDE EVICTIONS

JAN 2019 - New York City announced a 37% decrease in citywide evictions since 2013 - a huge victory that could not have been possible without NYLAG’s dedicated housing attorneys.

LOOPHOLES THAT ALLOW SCAM AGAINST VETERANS IS CHALLENGED BY NYLAG

JAN 2019 - NYLAG testified to the NYS Legislature against loopholes that allow for-profit schools to target vets for their education benefits. In May, NYLAG sued U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs for failing to release related public records.

IMMIGRANTS WITH ORDERS OF REMOVAL CAN NOW TURN TO NYLAG

SEPT 2019 - In response to dramatically increased immigration enforcement, NYC and NYS created a Rapid Response Legal Collaborative, which includes NYLAG, to represent immigrants detained by ICE facing imminent removal.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020, NYLAG will honor its 30th year of providing free legal services to people experiencing poverty.

NYLAG IN THE NEWS

80+ media reports that featured NYLAG experts, programs, and clients

5 opinion pieces NYLAG authored, ranging from understanding how trauma affects witness testimony to why a third-country rule for asylum seekers is morally and legally wrong

20+ outlets in which NYLAG was featured including NY Daily News, NBCNews, and USA Today
NYLAG’S CASE OF A PREGNANT IMMIGRANT MOM DETAINED BY ICE CAUSES A NATIONAL MEDIA FRENZY

Alma Santiago—a pregnant woman with two young U.S. citizen children—was detained by ICE in April 2019. While in custody, she experienced a medically difficult pregnancy and was retaliated against when she demanded proper care. ICE isolated Alma and sought to deport her immediately.

After an emergency stay was denied, our lawyers, along with pro bono co-counsel Greenberg Traurig and NSC Community Legal Defense, shifted gears and filed an emergency request in federal court to prevent ICE from precipitously deporting Alma. The Court granted a Temporary Restraining Order. The Department of Homeland Security subsequently agreed to release Alma from ICE detention. Her story was met with a heartwarming wave of public support, and we were at LaGuardia Airport to welcome her home.
“NYLAG HELPED ME WITH MY VETERAN BENEFITS, KEEP MY HOME, OH, AND THAT PREDATORY FOR-PROFIT SCHOOL? NYLAG GOT THEM, TOO!”

- LESTIEL

Lestiel is a mom of two, a Gulf War veteran living with a disability that prevents her from working, and a survivor of military sexual assault. Three NYLAG attorneys - a veterans’ benefits expert, a housing lawyer, and a disability advocate - worked with Lestiel to erase her student loan debt, access treatment for her PTSD, stabilize her rent, and obtain the disability benefits to which she was entitled.
BEHIND THE NUMBERS:
QING, BRIAN, AND FAITH

Behind each of the 90,800 people we helped last year is a story of hardship, a will to persevere, and a NYLAG attorney who helped someone in need get justice.

“MY HAPPIEST MOMENT WAS WHEN NYLAG HELPED ME GET CUSTODY OF MY CHILDREN FROM MY ABUSIVE EX.” — QING

Qing survived years of domestic abuse. Even though she had an order of protection against her ex-husband, he was stalking her and their kids. Qing, who spoke limited English and was wary of the American legal system, felt comforted when NYLAG was able to connect her with an attorney who speaks Mandarin, one of 29 unique languages NYLAG staff speak. After nearly two years of proceedings, in which Qing was forced to face her abuser in court, NYLAG helped Qing win sole custody of her children, child support, a final order of protection, and a judgment of divorce.

“I SAW MY FRIENDS KILLED—I COULDN’T IMAGINE TALKING ABOUT THAT IN FRONT OF THE VA. NYLAG HELPED.” — BRIAN

While serving in Iraq, Brian faced near-death experiences and saw close friends killed. He developed PTSD, painful flashbacks, and suicidal thoughts. Brian applied for VA compensation benefits to which he was entitled, but was denied after he failed to appear at an exam for his PTSD. Like many veterans, he missed it because he felt paralyzed by the thought of recounting his traumatic military experience. NYLAG compiled new evidence to support his claim for service-connected compensation and prepared him for the exam. As lawyers trained in trauma, we know how important it is for trauma survivors to know what to expect. With NYLAG’s help, Brian was finally awarded benefits needed to address his PTSD.

“NOW, I HAVE SOMEONE IN MY CORNER, SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO REALLY FIGHT FOR ME.” — FAITH

Faith is the mom of two children with nonverbal autism who were not receiving the education services to which they were entitled. Faith says she was “…unsure the future direction [her] kids’ life would take without the necessary helped they needed in school to progress in life.” Desperate, she turned to NYLAG. NYLAG took the case, knowing that Faith was ready to do whatever it took to fight for her kids. Together, we won the services Faith’s children need to make meaningful educational progress. Every single year we will fight, which is what must be done in the education-advocacy realm. Faith’s children have made huge progress, and she feels hopeful about their future.
NYLAG attorney Crystal Fleming helped 8-year-old Tomas gain asylum on the grounds of the violence he experienced in his home country. Crystal oversees NYLAG’s Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) work, helping children who have survived abuse, neglect, or abandonment, the ability to seek lawful permanent residence in the U.S.
NYLAG’S PRO BONO PARTNERS TAKE THE TIME TO TRANSFORM LIVES

NYLAG strategically engages skilled volunteers—retired and veteran attorneys, law graduates, students, and others—who broaden our reach and strengthen our impact.

1,974 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS AND VOLUNTEERS
94,800 HOURS DONATED
$33.5M VALUE OF TIME

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- Arent Fox LLP
- Bank of America
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- Blackstone
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- Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
- Clifford Chance US LLP
- Cohen & Gresser
- Cooley LLP
- Covington & Burling LLP
- Cozen O’Connor
- Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
- Davis & Gilbert LLP
- Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

NYLAG attorney Deb Wolf, and her client Ericka, a breast cancer survivor. NYLAG partners with NYU Cancer, Pfizer Inc., and their pro bono firms (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; DLA Piper LLP; and Ropes & Gray LLP) to run a clinic for cancer patients who need legal services.
YOUR SUPPORT HELPS TO ENSURE FAIR AND EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE. THANK YOU.

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Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
James J. Peters VA Medical Center
Maimonides Medical Center
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Montefiore Medical Center
Mount Sinai Hospital
Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center
Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center – Oncology
“WHEN YOU BECOME DISTRESSED IN LIFE, SOMETIMES YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO HELP YOU OUT. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, OUT OF NOWHERE, YOU HAVE A SUPERHERO COME IN. MY NYLAG ATTORNEY FLEW IN AND SAVED ME FROM LOSING MY HOME.”

- Darrylle
## REVENUE

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<th>Source</th>
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**TOTAL REVENUE BEFORE IN-KIND LEGAL SERVICES** $31,458,689

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**TOTAL REVENUES** $65,057,630

## EXPENSES

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**TOTAL EXPENSES BEFORE IN-KIND LEGAL SERVICES** $31,679,301

**In-Kind** $33,598,941

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $65,278,242
HOW YOU CAN HELP
Together, we can advance justice, promote change, and improve the lives of children and adults experiencing poverty. Here are different ways you can support NYLAG’s work:

ONLINE: nylag.org/donate

BY CHECK: Checks may be made payable to New York Legal Assistance Group and sent to:
New York Legal Assistance Group
c/o Development Department
7 Hanover Square
New York, NY 10004

MORE WAYS TO GIVE: To make a gift by wire transfer, a planned gift, a matching gift, or a gift of stock please email donate@nylag.org.

“I WANT TO SEND A HEARTFELT THANKS. YOU [NYLAG] ACTED ON MY BEHALF FOR MY SPECIAL NEEDS SON, GIVING YOUR TIME, ENERGY, AND TALENT. BEING A GOOD PERSON DOES NOT DEPEND ON YOUR RELIGION OR STATUS IN LIFE, YOUR RACE OR SKIN COLOR, POLITICAL VIEWS OR CULTURE. IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU TREAT OTHERS.” - RAHIMA
"I was sitting in the courtroom thinking, ‘When David was facing Goliath, did he feel this alone?’ Yet at that moment, a NYLAG attorney offered to help me. I bumped into an angel.”

-Mauricio

Last year, NYLAG tackled the legal challenges and systemic barriers that threatened the economic stability, well-being, and safety of 90,800 people experiencing poverty.