

NATIONAL LAW CENTER  
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

National Forum on the  
Human Right to Housing

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June 6-7, 2017 • Washington, D.C.

Hosted by Sidley Austin LLP

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Bob Erlenbusch, Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness

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Jeff Foreman, Care for the Homeless

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## 2017 NATIONAL FORUM ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING AGENDA

**Tuesday, June 6, 2017**

**8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast & Networking**

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**9:00 - 9:15 Welcome & Setting the Stage**

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Edward McNicholas, Sidley Austin, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty Board

Robert Warren, People for Fairness Coalition, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty Board, Planning Committee Co-Chair

Maria Foscarinis, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**9:15 - 10:30 Plenary: The Election and What It Means for Our Work and the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign**

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*Panelists will share their thoughts and answer questions on the impact of the new Administration and Congress on housing, homelessness, and criminal justice advocacy, and how we can best adjust our strategies to still make progress with the national and local goals of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign.*

**Moderator:** Janet Hostetler, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Panelists:**

Chiraag Bains, Harvard University Law School

Don Saunders, National Legal Aid & Defender Association

Diane Yentel, National Low Income Housing Coalition

**10:30 - 11:45 Plenary: Lessons from Recent Wins at the State and Local Level**

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*Panelists will share recent victories and how they achieved them, including Indianapolis' law requiring adequate housing be provided prior to the eviction of a homeless encampment, Los Angeles' approval of a new tax to fund affordable housing, creative work going on across the country using smart data (and smart policies) to reduce the overuse of criminal justice on chronically homeless persons, and victories in the courts fighting criminalization of homelessness.*

**Moderator:** Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Panelists:**

Lynn Overmann, Arnold Foundation

Sam Petsonk, Mountain State Justice

Don Sawyer, A Bigger Vision

Pete White, LA Community Action Network

**11:45 - 1:00 Lunch and Keynote**

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Catherine Lhamon, Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

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**1:00 - 2:30      Plenary: Widening the Lens: Criminalization of Homelessness and Intersectionality**

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*Homelessness falls disproportionately on persons of color, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals (particularly LGBTQ youth), and other marginalized communities. Moreover, discrimination based on racial, ethnic and gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or disability contributes to and exacerbates criminalization based on homelessness. This panel will explore the intersections of status and identities and discuss how an intersectional analysis informs how advocates work together.*

**Moderator:** Tristia Bauman, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Top Panelists:**

Janaé Bonsu, Black Youth Project 100

Marc Dones, Center for Social Innovation

Meghan Maury, National LGBTQ Task Force

Ann Menasche, Disability Rights California

Nahal Zamani, Center for Constitutional Rights

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**2:30 - 2:45      Break & Transition**

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**2:45 - 4:00      Breakouts I: Putting in Place Model Policies**

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- ***Shorten Homelessness by Stopping its Criminalization***

*This session will discuss model policies to address the criminalization of homelessness and best practices in getting them implemented, including state-level Homeless Bills of Rights, using homeless continuums of care to leverage power, and using litigation in coordination with other advocacy to promote positive policy change.*

**Moderator:** Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Panelists:**

Kirsten Anderson, Southern Legal Counsel

Deborah Gilbert White, HerStory Ensemble

Jeff Foreman, Care for the Homeless

- ***Prevent Homelessness by Strengthening Housing Protections***

*This session will discuss model policies to address prevention of homelessness, and best practices in getting them implemented including eviction-prevention measures such as just-cause eviction laws, protections for survivors of domestic violence, and highlighting New York City's new right to counsel in evictions program.*

**Moderator:** Michael Santos, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Panelists:**

Karlo Ng, National Housing Law Project

John Pollock, National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel

Elayne Weiss, National Low Income Housing Coalition

- ***End Homelessness by Increasing Access to and Availability of Affordable Housing***

*This session will discuss model policies to address ending homelessness by ensuring adequate, affordable housing. Panelists will discuss policies which promote the use and transfer of vacant properties for housing poor and homeless persons, as well as other strategies for increasing affordable housing stock.*

**Moderator:** Tristia Bauman, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Panelists:**

Deborah Dickerson, Picture the Homeless

J.R. Fleming, Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign

Terese Howard, Denver Homeless Out Loud

Rob Robinson, Take Back the Land

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**2:45 - 4:00 Breakouts I: Putting in Place Model Policies (cont'd)**

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- **Media Communications**

*This breakout will discuss how the press currently covers criminalization, homelessness and poverty issues and make recommendations for groups hoping to get their campaigns covered.*

**Moderator:** Rebecca Vallas, Center for American Progress

**Panelists:**

Pam Fessler, NPR

Søren Rasmussen, Voices for Civil Justice

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**4:00 - 4:15 Break**

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**4:15 - 5:30 Breakouts II**

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- **Messaging for the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign**

*This breakout will be a training in messaging social justice issues, and help participants work on thinking through strategies and tactics for framing their own issues to be most effective in reaching and engaging key audiences and inspiring them to action.*

**Trainer:** Camille Ward, Voices for Civil Justice

- **Unique Strategies for Addressing Criminalization and Housing in Response to Youth Homelessness**

*This session will discuss school disciplinary procedures, the school-to-prison pipeline, status offenses, and other ways in which youth are uniquely subjected to criminalization, as well as their unique needs in developing constructive alternative policies.*

**Moderator:** Michael Santos, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Panelists:**

Shahera Hyatt, California Homeless Youth Project

Amy Louttit, National Network for Youth

Diane O'Connell, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Naomi Smoot, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

- **Talking About and Taking Action on Homelessness & Racism**

*This breakout will discuss how racism causes and perpetuates homelessness. Addressing racism and racial inequity in homelessness means fundamentally changing the conversation we are having in the United States about the root causes of housing instability, risk for homelessness, and barriers to exiting homelessness for people of color.*

**Panelists:**

Marc Dones, Center for Social Innovation

Jessica Venegas, Community Solutions

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**5:30 - 7:00 Reception**

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## HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS STRATEGIZING

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast & Networking

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8:30 - 9:00 Breakfast Keynote: Peter Edelman

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9:00 - 9:20 Reorientation to Today's Tasks

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Maria Foscarinis, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

9:20 - 9:30 Break

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9:30 - 11:30 Strategizing Sessions: Developing Next Steps

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- ***Litigation: Using the Courts to Stop Criminalization—and Advance Housing in Evolving Courts***

*This workshop will engage attorneys and other allies to discuss challenges in using the courts to stop criminalization and promote housing. Topics to workshop include:*

- *Building on post-Reed momentum in panhandling and addressing new challenges*
- *Rapid responses to sweeps*
- *Fighting civil citations*
- *Using pro bono resources*

**Moderator:** Tristia Bauman, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Discussants:**

Kirsten Anderson, Southern Legal Counsel  
Michael Bern, Latham & Watkins  
Carol Sobel, Law Office of Carol A. Sobel

- ***Organizing: Building the Movement to End Criminalization—and to Promote the Right to Housing***

*This workshop will provide space for organizers to discuss challenges and plan coordinated next steps to advance the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign. Topics to workshop include:*

- *Coordinating/planning trans-local actions*
- *Surveys*

**Moderator:** Bob Erlenbusch, Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness

**Discussants:**

Jeff Foreman, Care for the Homeless  
Megan Hustings, National Coalition for the Homeless  
Lori Leibowitz, Neighborhood Legal Services  
Megan Smith, Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless

- ***Policy Advocacy: Stopping Criminalization, Promoting Homeless Bills of Rights and Advancing the Right to Housing***

*Policy advocates in this workshop will discuss:*

- *How to build translocal support/momentum for Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign participants' goals*
- *How to link anti-criminalization and pro-housing work*
- *How do we weaken/allay/stop opposition to homeless bills of rights*
- *How can national/local work better support each other*

**Moderator:** Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Discussants:**

Kelley Cutler, Coalition for the Homeless

Terese Howard, Denver Homeless Out Loud

Heidi Wegleitner, Dane County Board of Supervisors

- ***Campaign Communications: Crafting New Messages, Reaching New Audiences***

*Advocates and communications practitioners in this workshop will discuss goals, audiences, and messages that will effectively resonate with key audiences. After identifying goals and audiences, the group will discuss:*

- *How to build empathy with the right narrative*
- *What messaging will educate and engage the general public to take tangible actions*
- *What messaging is needed to establish, maintain and motivate collaborative networks*

**Moderator:** Maggie Ardiente, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**Discussants:**

Mark Horvath, Invisible People

Don Sawyer, a Bigger Vision

## **11:30 - 12:30 Report back**

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Workshop rapporteurs

### **Closing Debrief and Next Steps**

Maria Foscarinis, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Kirsten Anderson:** Kirsten Anderson is the Litigation Director at Southern Legal Counsel, Inc., a Florida statewide non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to equal justice and the attainment of basic civil and human rights. Ms. Anderson has directed SLC's Ending Homelessness Project since 2007, a statewide project to remove legal barriers to ending homelessness with a particular focus on challenging laws and policies that criminalize homelessness. She has litigated and advocated against adoption of ordinances, successfully stopping criminalization measures that ban panhandling, trespass, food sharing, and sleeping in cities and counties across the state of Florida.

**Maggie Ardiente:** Maggie Ardiente is the Director of Development and Communications for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Maggie previously worked for twelve years as the director of development and communications at the American Humanist Association and the senior editor of its online news site, TheHumanist.com. She appeared on or has been quoted in Fox News, NPR, The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, and other local and national media. She's also served on the board of directors of the Secular Student Alliance and the Humanist Institute.

**Chiraag Bains:** Chiraag Bains is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program and a Leadership in Government Fellow with Open Society Foundations. He is writing a book about policing and the need to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Until January 2017, Chiraag was Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked on criminalization of homelessness, unlawful fine, fee, and bail practices, and the investigation of the Ferguson Police Department and Municipal Court, amongst other issues. He also served as a prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section, and clerked for the Honorable Nancy Gertner and the Honorable Karen Nelson Moore. Chiraag is a graduate of Yale University, University of Cambridge, and Harvard Law School.

**Tristia Bauman:** Tristia Bauman is a senior attorney at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, where she combines litigation, legal education, and legislative advocacy strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Her work focuses on combating the criminalization of homelessness and advocating for laws that protect the civil and human rights of homeless people. Tristia also conducts legal trainings around the country, writes reports and other publications related to housing, and serves as a legal resource for homeless advocates.

**Michael Bern:** Michael Bern, an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Latham & Watkins LLP, specializes in Supreme Court and appellate litigation matters. Mr. Bern has experience with a variety of civil and criminal subjects, and is currently involved in litigation challenging the criminalization of homelessness in Boise, Idaho.

**Janaé Bonsu:** Janaé Bonsu is the National Public Policy Chair of the Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100). Janaé has co-led BYP100's anti-criminalization and police accountability campaigns, and co-authored the organization's policy platforms, the Agenda to Keep Us Safe and the Agenda to Build Black Futures. She is also a doctoral student at Jane Addams College of Social Work whose research interests center on participatory action with criminalized Black women and girls.

**Kelley Cutler:** Kelley Cutler is a Human Rights Organizer with the Coalition on Homelessness in San Francisco. Kelley is a social workers and has spent the past 15 years working on homelessness in San Francisco. She has a passion for street outreach and has been the lead organizer on human rights violations related to encampments.

**DeBoRah Dickerson:** DeBoRah Dickerson is formerly homeless and a Certified Community Organizer with Picture the Homeless. She has been an active member of Picture the Homeless for 11 years, with Life Experience Faith Sharing Associates for 21 years, works on Safety Net Activities and is a voting member of the New York City Continuum of Care.

**Marc Dones:** Marc Dones is a leader in equity-based systems transformation and co-leads the SPARC team at the Center for Social Innovation (C4). Marc's work at C4 has focused on the transformation of service delivery systems to better care for vulnerable populations. Prior to joining C4 Marc worked in the Office of the Assistant Secretary at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services where, among other responsibilities, they helped design and implement program and policy responses for youth experiencing homelessness and health inequities facing LGBTQ communities. Marc is a graduate of New York University with a degree in Psychiatric Anthropology. Their favorite color is chartreuse.

**Peter Edelman:** Peter Edelman is a Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center. He served as Assistant Secretary of HHS for Planning and Evaluation in the Clinton Administration, and earlier in his career he was a Legislative Assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Issues Director for Senator Edward Kennedy's 1980 Presidential campaign. Mr. Edelman's most recent book, *So Rich, So Poor: Why It's*



So Hard to End Poverty in America, was published by The New Press in the spring of 2012.

**Bob Erlenbusch:** Bob Erlenbusch began as an advocate on homeless issues in November 1984 as a community advocate for the Health Care for the Homeless Project, Los Angeles. He worked there for six years and in 1990 founded the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness where he was the Executive Director for 20 years. He moved to Sacramento 10 years ago and founded the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness in 2013. He currently is the Board President of the National Coalition for the Homeless where he has been a board member for 20 years. Finally he serves on the Steering Committee for the National Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign.

**Traci Feit-Love:** Traci Feit-Love is the President & Executive Director of Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG) an organization of nearly 130,000 lawyers and supporters who joined together in the wake of the November 2016 election to become “the legal arm of the Resistance.” A graduate of Harvard Law School, Traci worked as a litigator at DLA Piper and then spent nearly a decade designing and implementing law firm digital media strategies before founding L4GG in November 2016.

**Pam Fessler:** Pam Fessler is a correspondent on NPR’s National Desk, where she covers homelessness, hunger, and welfare, income inequality and other issues facing low-income families. Her poverty reporting was recognized by a 2011 First Place Headliner Award in the human interest category. Before coming to NPR in 1993, she was at Congressional Quarterly magazine for 13 years as both a reporter and editor, covering tax, budget, and other news. She also worked as a budget specialist at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, and was a reporter at The Record newspaper in Hackensack, NJ. Fessler has a Masters of Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and a bachelor’s degree from Douglass College in New Jersey.

**JR Fleming:** Willie JR Fleming is the executive director of the Chicago Anti Eviction Campaign a human rights organization and enforcer of the human right to housing! Willie JR Fleming is also the President of the Chicago Owners Land Trust which has been funded to rehab 50 homes for low and moderate income homebuyers thru funding provided by Bank of America and Chicago Community Loan Fund.

**Jeff Foreman:** Jeff Foreman is the Director of Policy at Care for the Homeless in New York. Jeff has an extensive background in state and local government, business and law, as an organizer and advocate and in academia. He has graduate degrees from Penn State (MA, American Studies), Temple University (MS, Ed.), University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute (MGA) and Widener University School of

Law (JD), where he was valedictorian. Jeff was a Toll Fellow at the Council of State Governments, an Education Fellow at the Educational Policy Leadership Center, and is a certified Mediator. He serves on the Policy Committees of Homeless Services United, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, New York Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, and the Coordinating Committee of United to End Homelessness. Jeff is active in his community, serves as Secretary of the Friends of Hunters Point Library and previously served on the Board of his neighborhood organization in Queens.

**Maria Foscarinis:** The founder of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Maria has advocated for solutions to homelessness at the national level since 1985. She is a primary architect of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the first major federal legislation addressing homelessness, and she has litigated to secure the legal rights of homeless persons. Maria has written widely on legal and policy issues affecting homeless persons; her work has appeared in scholarly as well as general audience publications. She speaks and lectures regularly on law, public policy and homelessness and is frequently quoted in the print and electronic media.

**Mark Herzog:** Mark Herzog is pro bono counsel at Sidley Austin. He also serves on the DC Access to Justice Commission and the DC Commission on Human Rights. Previously, Mark was the associate director of the DC Bar Pro Bono Center.

**Mark Horvath:** Mark has more than 30 years of leadership and marketing experience and a vast knowledge of homelessness, including lived experience. As an award-winning television and multimedia producer, Mark’s original expertise was in response television. Today, Mark is known for his work in transmedia storytelling, social media, cause marketing and content marketing. Mark is the founder of Invisible People, a unique digital storytelling organization that uses video and social media to change the story of homelessness and gives a voice to those who are too often overlooked. He is an internationally recognized activist and ambassador for the millions of individuals and families who reside in shelters, motels, tents along the streets and under highway bridges across the country.

**Janet Hostetler:** Janet is the Deputy Director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, where she helps drive legal and policy strategies to end and prevent homelessness and to protect the rights of people experiencing homelessness and also oversees the Law Center’s operations and finances. Previously, Janet was Chief of Staff of HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, where she coordinated major priorities for the 500+ person civil rights office. Janet was the Francis

**D. Murnaghan Appellate Fellow** working on civil rights and poverty issues at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland and was the Voter Protection Director for the 2008 Obama Campaign in Nevada. After law school, Janet clerked for the Honorable Nicholas G. Garaufis of the Eastern District of New York. She has degrees from the New York University School of Law, the Australian National University, and Wellesley College.

**Shahera Hyatt:** Shahera Hyatt is the Director of the California Homeless Youth Project, an initiative of the California Research Bureau focusing on educating policymakers on the needs of homeless youth in California. She has authored several publications on the topic of youth homelessness including policy briefs on LGBTQ youth, as well as the nation's first state action plan on ending youth homelessness. During the day she works to uplift the voices of marginalized youth, and at night she tells jokes at dive bars and comedy clubs all over Northern California.

**Terese Howard:** Terese Howard has been an organizer with Denver Homeless Out Loud since its founding in 2012. Together with DHOL and as a member of Western Regional Advocacy Project she has worked to run the Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign in Colorado running the Right to Rest Act at the State Capitol three years in a row. She also works as part of DHOL on local legislation to decriminalize homelessness, creating tiny home villages, running litigation in the federal courts against sweeps of homeless survival camps in Denver, and much more!

**Megan Hustings:** Megan Hustings is the Interim Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless. She came to NCH as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in 2006. After her year of service she was hired as Development Director, moving on to be the Director of Operations before stepping into the interim director role. Megan is a 2001 graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa. She has worked for a variety of anti-poverty efforts since childhood. In previous employment, Megan provided case management and life-skills training for individuals with developmental disabilities, and managed electronic journal and database subscriptions for university libraries. She enjoys spending time with her daughter and crafting.

**Lori Leibowitz:** Lori is the coordinator of DC's Right to Housing Initiative, a collaboration of lawyers, organizers, and community members working together strategically and creatively in pursuit of a community where all residents can enjoy safe, affordable, accessible housing. Lori has worked towards that goal as an organizer, a policy analyst, a shelter volunteer coordinator, a coalition-builder, and, most recently, as a legal services attorney who focuses primarily on tenants' rights.

**Catherine Lhamon:** Catherine E. Lhamon is the Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. President Obama appointed Lhamon to a six-year term on the Commission in December 2016. Before coming to the Commission, Lhamon served as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education from 2013-2017. Immediately prior to joining the Department of Education, Lhamon was director of impact litigation at Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm. Before that, she practiced for a decade at the ACLU of Southern California, ultimately as assistant legal director. Earlier in her career, Lhamon was a teaching fellow and supervising attorney in the Appellate Litigation Program at Georgetown University Law Center, after clerking for The Honorable William A. Norris on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In 2016, Politico Magazine named Lhamon one of Politico 50 Thinkers Transforming Politics and the National Action Network honored Lhamon with their Action & Authority Award. In 2015, Yale Law School named Lhamon their Gruber Distinguished Lecturer and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities awarded Lhamon their Special Recognition Award. Chronicle of Higher Education named Lhamon to their 2014 Influence List as the Enforcer. The Daily Journal listed her as one of California's Top Women Litigators in 2010 and 2007, and as one of the Top 20 California Lawyers Under 40 in 2007. In 2004, California Lawyer magazine named Lhamon Attorney of the Year for Civil Rights. Lhamon received her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate, and she graduated summa cum laude from Amherst College.

**Amy Louttit:** Amy Louttit, JD is Public Policy Associate at the National Network for Youth, an organization which mobilizes the collective power and expertise of our national community to influence public policy and strengthen effective responses to youth homelessness. Amy began working in the field of youth homelessness a decade ago when she first started in direct services. Upon realizing there were many laws creating barriers to the success of young people experiencing homelessness, she decided law school and policy work were necessary to make broad change.

**Meghan Maury:** Meghan Maury is Policy Director at the National LGBTQ Task Force, a social justice organization with an LGBTQ lens. Meghan uses her personal and professional experience to inform her work on economic justice and criminal justice, and is particularly focused on how economic systems and the criminal legal system impact people who live at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities. Through that frame, she has advocated to end the criminalization of homelessness, poverty, drug use, and HIV, and to provide services and supports for the communities most deeply impacted by these systems.

**Edward McNicholas:** Ed McNicholas is a co-leader of Sidley Austin's Privacy, Data Security, and Information Law practice. Recognized by the National Law Journal as a "Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Trailblazer," Ed spearheads Sidley's cybercrime focus and has significant experience with litigation and investigations related privacy consumer class actions, enforcement actions by the FTC, state Attorneys General, SEC, OCR and other government agencies. Prior to joining Sidley, Ed served as an Associate Counsel to President Clinton. In that capacity, he advised senior White House staff regarding various Independent Counsel, congressional and grand jury investigations. Ed is also Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

**Ann Menasche:** Ann E. Menasche is a Senior Attorney with Disability Rights California, who has practiced civil rights and public interest law for four decades. She has represented a number of homeless clients with disabilities, including ground-breaking litigation against a homeless shelter for discrimination, and is currently negotiating with the City of San Diego to stop the ticketing of homeless clients with disabilities whose only shelter is their RVs.

**Karlo Ng:** Karlo Ng is Supervising Attorney at the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) in San Francisco where she manages the organization's Domestic and Sexual Violence Project, which offers technical assistance, trainings, and support to legal aid attorneys, survivor advocates, and housing providers on the rights of survivors accessing and maintaining housing. Karlo also focuses on fair housing and civil rights issues, as well as housing issues impacting immigrants and people with limited English proficiency. Before joining NHLP, Karlo was the George N. Lindsay Fellow and an associate counsel at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C., where she worked on several national campaigns as well as litigated cases under the federal Fair Housing Act and related civil rights statutes. Karlo received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

**Diane O'Connell:** Diane O'Connell is a Staff Attorney at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, where she provides legal services to homeless youth and non-youth in a variety of areas including civil rights, poverty law, and criminal cases. She is currently co-counsel in the first substantive case brought under the Illinois Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act, and is working with homeless residents of a Chicago tent city on their campaign for permanent housing in the face of threatened eviction. Diane lives on the Westside of Chicago with her husband and two daughters.

**Lynn Overmann:** Lynn Overmann is Vice President of Data Driven Justice (DDJ) at the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, continuing work that she started as senior

advisor to the U.S. chief technology officer in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The effort helps governments use data to identify those who are frequently involved with local criminal justice and health care systems, and assists jurisdictions in finding ways to improve human outcomes. Lynn spent eight years in the Obama Administration working on criminal justice reform issues, and began her career as a public defender and a civil rights attorney.

**Sam Petsonk:** Sam Petsonk is an attorney at Mountain State Justice. He joined Mountain State Justice in 2013 as a Skadden Fellow, launching the Miner Safety and Health Project. Sam practices in the areas of workers' rights, employment law, cooperative law, and various public interest and class action matters. He spent several years working for U.S. Senators Robert C. Byrd and Carte Goodwin in Washington, DC on energy and labor policy. He is engaged in various community and economic development projects, and serves on the West Virginia Advisory Committee of the Natural Capital Investment Fund.

**John Pollock:** John Pollock is a Staff Attorney for the Public Justice Center who has served for the past 8 years as the Coordinator of the National Coalition for the Civil Right to Counsel. He focuses entirely on working to establish the right to counsel for low-income individuals in civil cases involving basic human needs such as child custody, housing, safety, and public benefits. Previously, John was the Enforcement Director for the Central Alabama Fair Housing Center and a Law Fellow for the Southern Poverty Law Center. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2005.

**Soren Rasmussen:** Soren Rasmussen is a Communications Associate at Voices for Civil Justice with a background in journalism, nonprofit communications, and political organizing. At Voices, he works with the JusticeVoices network to develop stories about civil legal aid for media placement nationally and locally, provides strategic guidance to ATJ commissions and local legal aid organizations, and trains civil justice advocates across the country in communications, messaging, and media. Soren holds a degree in journalism from the University of Southern Denmark and a master's degree in Elections and Campaign Management from Fordham University. Soren was a field organizer on the 2014 gubernatorial race in Florida, worked on press and communications for one of the largest student unions in Denmark, and reported for the investigative magazine Fagbladet 3F.

**Rob Robinson:** Rob Robinson is a co-founder and longtime member of the Leadership Committee of the Take Back the Land Movement and a staff volunteer at the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI). After losing

his job in 2001, he spent two years homeless on the streets of Miami and ten months in a New York City shelter. Rob has been a voting member on the Steering Committee of the New York City Coalition on the Continuum of Care since 2008. He is currently a Mellon Fellow at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

**Michael Santos:** Michael Santos is an attorney at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty whose work focuses on advocating for renters' rights and homeless youth access to education through public education, impact litigation, and policy advocacy. Prior to joining the Law Center, Michael Santos has had a long history of working on the rights of low-income and underrepresented communities through the Department of Health and Human Services and various non-profit organizations.

**Don Saunders:** Don Saunders is the Vice President for Civil Legal Services at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. Don is a nationally-recognized leader of America's civil justice community. He has spearheaded NLADA's civil division for more than 20 years, building the organization's expert training and technical assistance capacity and advocating with Congress, the Legal Services Corporation, federal agencies, and four Presidential administrations on a wide array of issues relating to the effective delivery of civil legal services. Prior to joining NLADA in 1990, Don was Executive Director at the North Carolina Legal Services Resource Center in Raleigh, NC. He received his J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

**Don Sawyer:** Don Sawyer is a documentary filmmaker who produced the movie "Under the Bridge" on criminalization of homelessness in an encampment of homelessness in Indianapolis. His film and local advocacy led to a landmark change in Indianapolis' law. He has worked closely with the campaign on communications issues.

**Naomi Smoot:** Naomi Smoot serves as Executive Director of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. During her tenure at CJJ Naomi spearheaded the organization's federal policy work and served as co-chair of the Act4JJ Coalition. She assisted State Advisory Groups in their pursuit to build their capacity as change agents, and worked with youth members in an attempt to improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities in which they work. Prior to CJJ, Naomi represented young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia in juvenile court proceedings and special education matters. Before attending law school Naomi worked as a print journalist for nearly a decade, amassing nearly a dozen awards for her news coverage. She received her J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law, and her B.S. from Christopher Newport University.

**Carol Sobel:** Carol Sobel is a solo practitioner in Santa Monica, California. Prior to going into private practice, she spent 20 years working in various positions for the ACLU, including as Senior Staff Attorney for the last seven years she was there. She has been involved in numerous significant cases in federal and state courts including in *Jones*, *Desertrain* and *Lavan*, the three Ninth Circuit cases addressing the criminalization of homelessness. In 2002, she was named as one of Los Angeles' Super Lawyers for Civil Rights. Attorney Carol Sobel is a graduate of the Peoples College of Law.

**Megan Smith:** Megan Smith is an outreach worker and case manager with the House of Hope CDC's PATH program. She is a member of the Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project and a regular collaborator with the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, and worked with these groups to pass Rhode Island's Homeless Bill of Rights in 2012. She is currently working with a group of advocates on issues related to the criminalization of homelessness in Rhode Island, including enforcement of the Homeless Bill of Rights.

**Eric Tars:** Eric Tars serves as a senior attorney at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, focusing on human rights, civil rights, and children's rights programs through trainings, litigation, and policy advocacy at the national and local levels. Eric graduated *magna cum laude* as a Global Law Scholar from Georgetown University Law School and *magna cum laude* from Haverford College.

**Rebecca Vallas:** Rebecca Vallas is the Managing Director for the Poverty to Prosperity Program at American Progress. Before joining American Progress, Vallas served as the deputy director of government affairs at the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives, or NOSSCR, where her work was devoted to preserving and strengthening Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income for workers with disabilities. Prior to that, Vallas worked directly with low-income individuals and communities for several years as a legal aid attorney and policy advocate at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, where she was named a Skadden Fellow and a Borchard Fellow in Law & Aging. She is also a past co-chair of the national Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force.

**Jessica Venegas:** Jessica Venegas is Director of Strategic Partnerships for Community Solutions International. She leads the organizational efforts to effectively leverage partnerships with the public and private sector to support successful community outcomes in ending Veteran and chronic homelessness in the US. She is currently part of the team supporting 70 communities nationwide to reach functional zero through the Built for Zero Campaign. Jessica holds a B.A. in Urban Community Development



from Azusa Pacific University and completed a graduate fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Urban Redevelopment Excellence (CUREx). She is based in Washington, D.C.

**Camille Ward:** Camille Ward is a Communications Associate at Voices for Civil Justice. Camille brings to Voices to Civil Justice a background in journalism, research, and community organizing. She has written extensively about social justice issues, including affordable housing, for an alternative newsweekly in Indianapolis and a leading weekly magazine for housing professionals in the United Kingdom. She has provided strategic communications support to nonprofits in Indiana, Michigan and Oregon. As an AmeriCorps\*VISTA in rural Oregon, she led development and implementation of a domestic violence awareness campaign.

**Robert Warren:** Robert Warren, a lifelong D.C. resident who proudly claims Anacostia as his home, is a professional advocate and organizer, lecturer, and director of People for Fairness Coalition, D.C.'s premier advocacy group working on behalf of those without permanent housing. Robert is also a founding member of the Street Sense Filmmaker's Co-op and a key player in the Street Sense theater group. He has penned dozens of articles for the Street Sense newspaper, a publication he proudly supports and vends.

**Heidi Wegleitner:** Heidi is a housing rights attorney practicing in 9 counties in South Central Wisconsin. She specializes in eviction defense and subsidized housing matters and serves on the Board of Directors for the Dane County Continuum of Care (CoC). Heidi was elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and has been a leader for housing justice, working to recognize housing as a human right in Dane County, expand fair housing protections, strengthen rights of persons accessing emergency shelter, establish a comprehensive day resource center, require annual reports on evictions, establish an affordable housing development fund and enhance funding for affordable housing development, create a homelessness restorative justice project, and increase funding for services for homeless persons and tenants.

**Elayne Weiss:** Elayne is a senior policy analyst at the National Low Income Housing Coalition. In her position at NLIHC, Elayne advocates for increased funding for federal housing programs and is responsible for NLIHC's work in the areas of criminal justice reform, homelessness, and fair housing, among other issues. Prior to joining NLIHC in 2014, Elayne served as a legislative assistant for the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office where her work concentrated on reproductive and women's rights. Elayne holds a JD from the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law and a BA in economics from Brandeis University. Elayne is originally from Philadelphia.

**DeBorah Gilbert White:** DeBorah Gilbert White, Ph.D. is founder and coordinator of HerStory Ensemble, a community-based advocacy, awareness and education group comprised of women who are former homeless, experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness. She asked the question that began the work on developing a Homeless Bill of Rights for the State of Delaware and continues to connect community partners to protect the dignity and rights of those identified as homelessness; the most vulnerable on the streets, and members of the invisible majority.

**Pete White:** Pete White is the Founder and Executive Director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network, a grassroots organization working to ensure the rights to housing, health and security are upheld in Los Angeles. A lifetime resident of South Central Los Angeles, he is committed to fight for a Los Angeles that does not tolerate racial injustice, promotes an equitable distribution of resources, and includes everyone. Pete believes that organizing and leadership development are essential tools needed to achieve social change and racial justice.

**Diane Yentel:** Diane Yentel is the President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a membership organization dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. Previously, Diane was Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Enterprise Community Partners and the director of the Public Housing Management and Occupancy Division at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She also worked to advance affordable housing policies with Oxfam America and the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, and served for 3 years as a community development Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Housing Conference and the Coalition on Human Needs and has a Masters in Social work from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Nahal Zamani:** Nahal Zamani is an Advocacy Program Manager at the Center for Constitutional Rights, where she directs CCR's advocacy and campaigns in the U.S. Nahal's current advocacy portfolio includes challenging the NYPD's abusive stop and frisk practices and other discriminatory policing practices, the persecution and criminalization of LGBTQ communities, and economic injustice.

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

## **Statement of Principles**

Millions of individuals, families, and youth on their own experience homelessness in this country each year and millions more lack access to decent, stable housing they can afford. Rather than providing adequate housing options, too many communities criminalize homelessness by making it illegal for people to sit, sleep, and even eat in public places, even in the absence of adequate alternatives.

People experiencing homelessness can be targeted under these laws for harassment, displacement, loss of property, threats, or criminal penalties when they live outdoors. And yet these expensive policies are ineffective at addressing homelessness or reducing the number of people who must sleep on the streets. In fact, more effective policies, such as providing affordable housing and services, actually cost less than criminalizing homelessness.

Criminalization of homelessness might mean that individuals experiencing homelessness are taken to jail, where they may remain for weeks if they cannot pay their bail or fines, perhaps losing custody of their children, property and/or employment in the process. Once released, they could have criminal records that make it more difficult to get or keep a job, housing or public benefits. Communities of color, mentally and physically disabled persons, and LGBTQ youth and adults, already disproportionately affected by homelessness, are most likely to be further marginalized by criminalization.

We agree that in order to end the crisis of homelessness, the criminalization of homelessness must end and all persons experiencing homelessness should instead have access to housing, services, and opportunities that allow them to live with dignity. This solution makes sense regardless of whether we approach the issue from a legal, moral, fiscal, or policy perspective.

Specifically, we call for local governments to:

- (1) Rescind or stop enforcement of all policies and practices that criminalize homelessness;
- (2) Protect people experiencing homelessness from discrimination and violence;
- (3) Adopt constructive alternatives;
- (4) Ensure housing for all homeless and at risk people.

We call for state governments to:

- (1) Adopt laws that protect people experiencing homelessness from being punished for life-sustaining activities or other discrimination;

- (2) Implement policies to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place, including appropriate anti-discrimination and due process protections;

- (3) Ensure housing for all homeless and at risk people.

We call for the federal government to:

- (1) Disincentivize criminalization of homelessness through its funding, regulatory, legal, and enforcement powers;
- (2) Implement policies to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place, including appropriate anti-discrimination and due process protections;
- (3) Ensure housing for all homeless and at risk people.

We call for the general public to:

- (1) Stand up for the dignity and rights of people experiencing homelessness;
- (2) Demand the end to all policies and practices that criminalize homelessness; and
- (3) Speak out for housing for all homeless and at risk people.

## **Values:**

- We work together with people currently experiencing homelessness and those who have experienced homelessness in the past.
- We are motivated by the fact that all humans have inherent dignity and that the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to adequate housing, are necessary to uphold that dignity.
- We define the right to adequate housing as more than simply four walls and a roof, but according to internationally-accepted standards that include: (1) security of tenure, (2) availability of services, materials, and infrastructure (3) affordability, (4) accessibility, (5) habitability, (6) location, and (7) cultural adequacy.
- We are informed by an understanding of how structures of inequality and bias facilitate the existence of extreme poverty and homelessness and this understanding must be incorporated into solutions.
- We are committed to nonviolence in all of our work. This includes engagement that acknowledges levels of homelessness, awareness of diverse experiences among advocates, and consideration for others in the words we use to express opinions, thoughts or ideas.

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

## The Housing Not Handcuffs Act of 2017:

Stop Criminalization of Homelessness, Eliminate Unjust Evictions, & Increase Access to Affordable Housing

With the cost of housing far outstripping wages, millions of Americans face homelessness each year, and millions more live in tenuous or unstable housing situations. All Americans need access to affordable housing, defined by legal security of tenure, habitability, accessibility, location, cultural adequacy, and provision of any needed services. But right now, over 7 million households in the U.S. lack access to affordable housing; of this number some are forced to live in public places. At the same time, many communities have enacted or are enforcing laws that make living in public a crime. This is potentially unconstitutional, wastes precious public funds, and makes it harder for people to exit homelessness by saddling them with criminal records.

To this end, the Housing Not Handcuffs campaign presents model policies for the local, state, and federal levels to break this vicious cycle and shift law and policy away from this misuse of the criminal justice system to address homelessness and towards true solutions.

### What types of proposals are included in the model policies?

#### Shorten Homelessness by Stopping its Criminalization

- Until sufficient affordable, safe, and decent housing is available to meet the need of homeless individuals and families, the laws, policies, and practices that prohibit or limit the use of public space by homeless people for life-sustaining activities shall be repealed, and will not be enforced or funded.
  - No person shall be subject to, or threatened with, civil or criminal sanctions or harassment by law enforcement, other state actors, and/or private security personnel for moving, resting, sitting, standing, lying down, sleeping, protecting oneself from the elements, or conducting other life sustaining activities on public property or in a legally parked car.
  - The right to use and move freely in places of public accommodation without discrimination based on actual or perceived housing status shall not be abridged.
  - No person shall be subject to civil or criminal sanctions for soliciting, sharing, accepting, or offering food, water, money or other donations in public places.
  - Personal property of homeless persons shall not be subject to unreasonable search and seizure.

#### Prevent Homelessness by Strengthening Housing Protections and Eliminating Unjust Evictions

- It shall be unlawful to deny housing or social services based upon an individual's or family's:

- Perceived or actual housing status, including lack of an address;
- Lack of rental history due to homelessness;
- Poor credit history due to homelessness;
- Source of income; or
- Status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or human trafficking.
- It shall be unlawful to deny housing based upon an individual's criminal, eviction, or credit history that is unrelated to the individual's future ability to abide by reasonable terms of tenancy.
- Evictions without just cause shall be unlawful.
- A right to counsel shall be provided in all eviction cases.
- Any institution or system of care that receives [federal/state/local] funds, such as prison/jail/detention, health/mental health care, and foster care, shall develop and implement a plan to discharge residents into housing.
- State level: Each state shall make birth certificates and state identification cards available without cost.

#### End Homelessness by Increasing Access to and Availability of Affordable Housing

- Universal protections shall be instituted such that no person need pay more than 30% of their income on rent. These shall include:
  - A minimum wage indexed to actual housing costs for a given area;
  - Federal level: Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance payments indexed to actual housing costs for a given area;
  - A universal voucher program.
  - A small area Fair Market Rent (FMR) shall be used to determine voucher values.
- Federal level: The National Housing Trust Fund shall be fully funded
- Local & State levels: Establish and fund local/state housing trust funds
- Surplus government property and vacant private property shall be made available, at no cost, to provide housing and/or services for homeless persons.
- Local level: In order to promote the immediate growth of adequate housing stock appropriate to meet the needs of the community:
  - When need for affordable housing is greater than supply, zoning restrictions on affordable housing shall be suspended.

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

## The Campaign has been endorsed by:

### Public Officials

The Honorable Eric Holder, former U.S. Attorney General

Barbara Poppe, Former Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams  
Bridgeport City Council Member Scott Burns

NYC Council Member Stephen Levin  
City of Tallahassee Commissioner Gil Ziffer

### Organizations

#### National Organizations:

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty\*

National Coalition for the Homeless\*

A Way Home America

Amnesty International USA

Coalition for Juvenile Justice\*

Family Promise\*

Funders Together to End Homelessness\*

The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Justice in Aging

Kairos: The Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary

National Alliance to End Homelessness\*

National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

National Center for Lesbian Rights

National Center for Transgender Equality

National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel\*

National Coalition for Legislation on Affordable Water

National Council of Jewish Women

National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

National Fair Housing Alliance

National Health Care for the Homeless Council\*

National Housing Conference

National Housing Law Project

National Juvenile Justice Network

National Legal Aid and Defender Association

National LGBTQ Task Force

National Low Income Housing Coalition\*

National Network for Youth\*

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

SchoolHouse Connection

StandUp For Kids

The Salvation Army, National Headquarters

True Colors Fund

US Human Rights Network

Woodhull Freedom Foundation

#### State, Regional and Local Organizations:

a Bigger Vision, LLC (Indianapolis, IN)\*

ACTIONN (Reno, NV)

Ali Forney Center (New York, NY)

Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic (New Haven, CT)

ArchCity Defenders (Saint Louis, MO)

Baltimore Area Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau

Barrier Free Living (New York, NY)

BeLoved Asheville (Asheville, NC)

Bill Wilson Center (Santa Clara, CA)

BronxWorks (NY)

Burrito Brigade (Eugene, OR)

California Homeless Youth Project\*

Cape Haven, Inc (Auburn, NY)

Care for the Homeless (New York, NY)

Care for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board (New York, NY)

Caridad (Las Vegas, NV)

Catholic Worker House (San Antonio, TX)

Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice (Cambridge, MA)

Cherished Angels (Philadelphia, PA)

Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless\*

Chico ACLU (Chico, CA)

Citizens Education & Advocacy (Roseburg, OR)

Civil Liberties Defense Center (Eugene, OR)

Collective Action for Safe Spaces (DC)

Community Access (New York, NY)

Community Renewal Society (Chicago, IL)

Community Solutions (NY)\*

Cup of Cool Water (Spokane, WA)

Denver Relief Consulting

Detroit Action Commonwealth\*

Disability Rights Maryland

Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing (Dover, DE)

Eugene Human Rights Commission (Eugene, OR)\*

Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network (Jobs With Justice) (Eugene, OR)

Fair Housing Justice Center (Long Island City, NY)

Family Tree House Assisted Living (Greenville, NC)

Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection  
Florida Legal Services, Inc.

Four Freedoms Forum (Honolulu, HI)

Fox House (New York, NY)

Gravity Podcast (San Francisco, CA)

Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition\*

Harvard Law School Homelessness Coalition (MA)

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau (MA)

Health Care for the Homeless (MD)

Heartland Alliance (Chicago, IL)

Hearts Full of Grace Inc. (Virginia Beach, VA)

Helping Hands Development Center, Inc. (Wilmington, DE)

HerStory Ensemble (DE)\*

Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky



Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc. (Baltimore, MD)	Public Justice Center (Baltimore, MD)	Welcome Home Coalition (Portland, OR)
Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (Seattle, WA)	Rankin & Taylor PLLC (New York, NY)	Western Center on Law & Poverty (CA)
Homeless Services United (New York, NY)	Release Aging People in Prison (New York, NY)	Western Regional Advocacy Project (OR, CO, CA)*
Homeless Voices of Redding	Rick Vanstory Resource Center (Wilmington, DE)	Young Women's Freedom Center (San Francisco, CA)
Homeless Youth Law Clinic (Portland, OR)	Root & Rebound (Oakland, CA)	YouthCenter (Seattle, WA)
Hope 4 Restoration (Anaheim, CA)	Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness*	
House of Hope (West Warwick, RI)*	Sacred Heart Community Service (San Jose, CA)	
House the Homeless Inc. (Austin, TX)*	Safer Foundation (Chicago, IL)	
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania	Safety Net Activists (New York, NY)	
Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere (Providence, RI)	Santa Clara University – International Human Rights Clinic (CA)	
Human Rights Advocates (Berkeley, CA)	Signs of Providence (Providence, RI)	
I Am My Brother's Helper, Inc (Waukegan, IL)	Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing	
Inner City Law Center (CA)	Southern Legal Counsel (FL)*	
Justia Agenda-Fordham University (NY)	St. Johns County Legal Aid (St. Augustine, FL)	
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (CA)	St. Joseph Services (Chicago, IL)	
Law Office of William Kennedy (Elk Grove, CA)	Street Democracy (Detroit, MI)	
Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc.	Street Sense (Washington, DC)*	
Loaves and Fishes Community (Duluth, GA)*	Street Sheet (San Francisco, CA)	
Low Income Housing Institute (WA)	Teen Living Programs (Chicago, IL)	
Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Inc.*	TENAC (DC Tenants' Advocacy Coalition (Washington, DC)	
MFY Legal Services, Inc. (New York, NY)	The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Mathew (Wilmington, DE)	
Mission in Citrus Inc. (Crystal River, FL)	The Institute for Family Health (New York, NY)	
Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MD)	The Kearney Center (Tallahassee, FL)	
Nazareth Housing Inc. (New York, NY)	The Osborne Association (Brooklyn, NY)	
New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness	The Public Interest Law Project (Oakland, CA)	
New Jim Crow Movement (Jacksonville, FL)*	Tolentine Zeiser (Bronx, NY)	
Ninth Circuit Public Defender (Charleston, SC)	University of Mary Washington Homelessness and Human Rights Research Group (VA)	
Open Table Nashville	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (Cambridge, MA)	
Operation Nightwatch – Portland	Urban Justice Center (New York, NY)	
Parable of the Sower Intentional Community Cooperative (Jacksonville, FL)*	Urban Pathways (New York, NY)	
Peoples' Institute for Housing Justice (Chicago, IL)	Vermont Workers Center	
Picture the Homeless	Vivian's Angels (Atlanta, GA)	
Poly-Connection (Greenbrook, NJ)	Waking the Village: Tubman House (Sacramento, CA)	
Project Renewal, Inc. (New York, NY)	Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (DC)*	
Propel Foundation, Inc. (DC)		
Providence House Inc. (Brooklyn, NY)		

\*Organizations involved in initiating the campaign

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness. We work with federal, state and local policymakers to draft laws that prevent people from losing their homes and to help people out of homelessness. We have been instrumental in enacting numerous federal laws, including the McKinney-Vento Act, the first major federal legislation to address homelessness. We helped enact the federal program that makes vacant government properties available at no cost to non-profits for use as facilities to assist people experiencing homelessness, and we ensure it is enforced including through litigation. We have won federal legal protections for tenants affected by the foreclosure crisis and we are working to make sure lenders comply with it.

We aggressively fight laws criminalizing homelessness and promote measures protecting the civil rights of people experiencing homelessness. We are advocating for proactive measures to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to housing, jobs, and public benefits even though they have no address so that they can escape homelessness. We are also upholding the right to vote for those who are experiencing homelessness.

We work to improve access to housing for domestic violence survivors and their children and we were instrumental in adding landmark housing rights amendments to Violence Against Women Act.

We invalidate laws that prevent other charitable organizations from distributing food and social services to people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

We protect the right of children experiencing homelessness to stay in school and get the support they need to succeed.

For more information about our organization, access to publications, and to contribute to our work, please visit our website at **[www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)**.

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