

Celebrating 25 Years:

25

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

changing laws. changing lives.

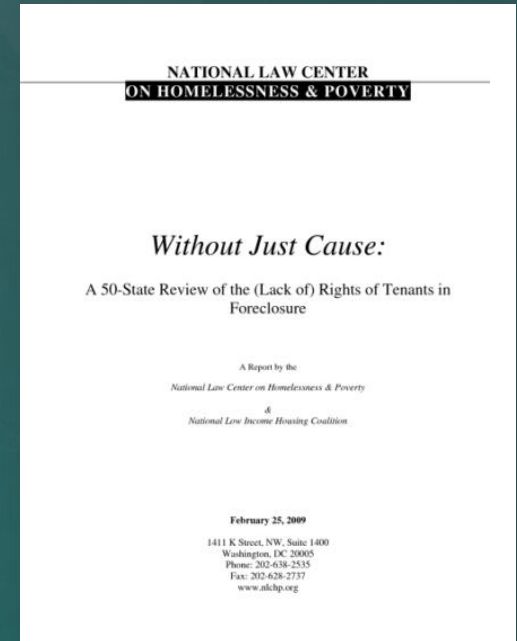
Creating Homes and Opportunities from Vacant Properties



- ➔ The McKinney-Vento Act requires federal agencies to let non-profits use vacant federal property for free, to serve homeless people. But many agencies ignored the law.
- ➔ Since 1990, the Law Center has won multiple court orders *requiring* federal agencies to follow the law.
- ➔ **IMPACT:** Now, 500 formerly vacant properties provide housing, day care, job training , food, and more, to over 2 million homeless or poor persons each year.

Preventing Homelessness for Renters in Foreclosed Properties

- ➔ 2009: Law Center report documents impact of foreclosures on renters — and failure of the law in the 50 states to protect them from unfair eviction.
- ➔ 2009: Based on this information, Congress passed the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA) to protect tenants from unfair eviction.
- ➔ IMPACT: Almost 90% of legal services providers and housing counselors surveyed report that the PTFA helped prevent the evictions of tenants.



Research shows that domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women.



- ➔ **IMPACT 2006:** Law Center wins federal housing rights for survivors in public and subsidized housing.
- ➔ **IMPACT 2013:** Law Center wins major expansion of these rights—covering over 4 million additional households.

Preventing Homelessness:
Protecting Housing Rights of
Domestic Violence
Survivors

Helping Low-Income People Made Homeless by Natural Disasters

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- ➔ **IMPACT 2005:** Law Center's advocacy ensures education rights for children made homeless by Hurricane Katrina.
 - ➔ **IMPACT 2006:** Law Center and allies win class action lawsuit, providing emergency housing for people made homeless by Hurricane Katrina.
 - ➔ **IMPACT 2012:** Law Center's "Disaster Edition" of education rights manual helps children displaced by Hurricane Sandy can stay in their schools and receive meals and basic health care.

Bringing the Human Right to Housing Home

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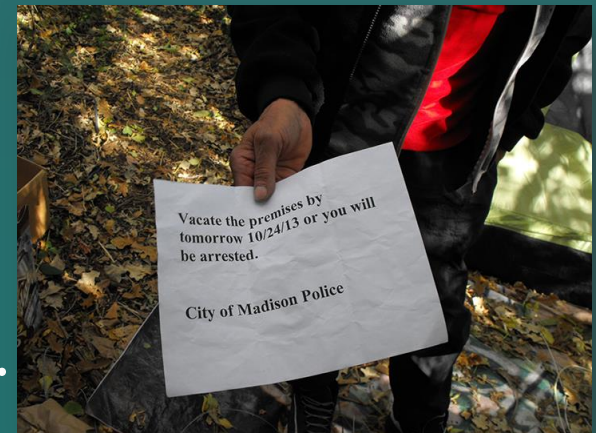
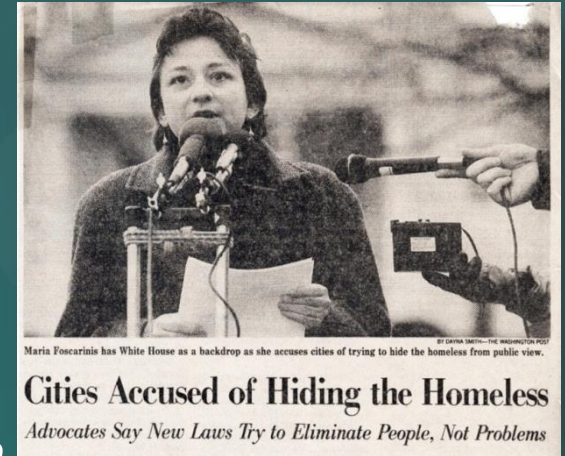
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- ➔ 2003: Law Center and international partner host first US Forum on the Human Right to Housing
- ➔ IMPACT 2004: Cook County enacts right to housing resolution
- ➔ IMPACT 2005: LA includes right to housing in plan to end homelessness
- ➔ 2009: Law Center hosts official US visit of top UN official on Human Right to Adequate Housing
- ➔ IMPACT 2011: Dane County, WI enacts right to housing resolution
- ➔ IMPACT 2011: U.S. accepts UN Human Rights Council recommendation calling for increased affordable housing in U.S.

Fighting the Criminalization of Homelessness

- ➔ 1990: Law Center publishes *Go Directly to Jail*, first-ever national report documenting emerging trend of criminalization in nine cities.
- ➔ 2014 IMPACT: Law Center publishes *No Safe Place* (our 11th report on the topic) examining 187 cities with over 20,500 downloads by the end of 2014.
- ➔ 2014 IMPACT: Extensive media coverage, including a *New York Times* editorial supporting our recommendations and citing our report.



Law Center leads and assists dozens of successful court challenges:

- ⇒ 2003 IMPACT: *Henry v. New Orleans* – police must help, not arrest, homeless people
- ⇒ 2006 IMPACT: *Sacco v. Las Vegas* – law criminalizing sharing food with anyone who looks indigent overturned
- ⇒ 2007 IMPACT: *Kinkaid v. Fresno* – “sweeps” stopped
- ⇒ 2012 IMPACT: *Big Hart v. Dallas* – law preventing faith-based groups from offering food to poor struck down
- ⇒ 2013 IMPACT: *ACLU v. Boise* – law barring begging struck down

Fighting Criminalization
In Court

Fighting criminalization at the federal and international levels

- ➔ 2009 IMPACT: Law Center wins congressional mandate that USICH address criminalization
- ➔ 2010 IMPACT: UN Human Rights Council calls for US to increase protections for homeless persons
- ➔ 2011: Law Center hosts official visit of UN expert on Right to Water & Sanitation, addresses criminalization
- ➔ 2012 IMPACT: USICH and DOJ publish report condemning criminalization, citing Law Center



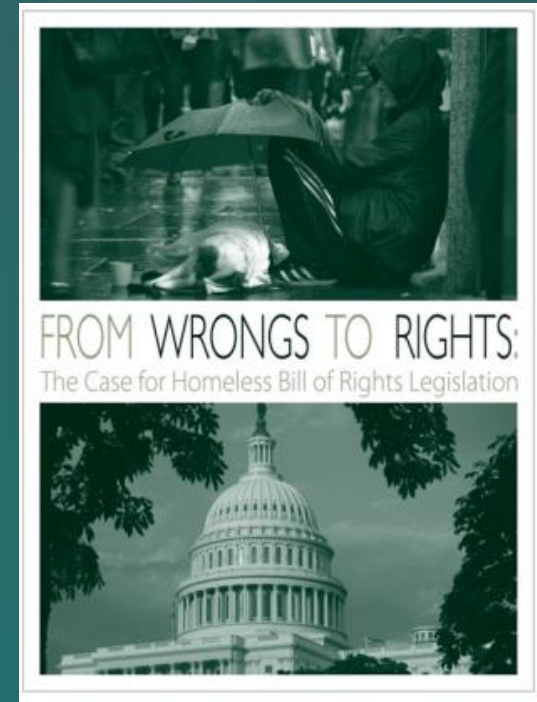
Fighting criminalization at the federal and international levels

- ➔ 2013 IMPACT: USICH adds human rights and alternatives to criminalization page to www.usich.gov
- ➔ 2014 IMPACT: UN Human Rights Committee and Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination condemn criminalization of homelessness, call for U.S. action
- ➔ 2014 IMPACT: Federal agencies begin working with the Law Center to discourage criminalization



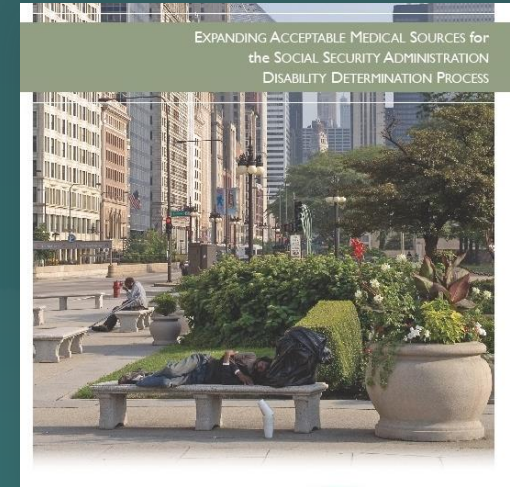
Fighting Criminalization and Discrimination in State Legislatures

- ➔ 2012 IMPACT: Rhode Island Homeless Bill of Rights passes – first such law
- ➔ 2013: IMPACT: Illinois and Connecticut pass Homeless Bill of Rights
- ➔ *From Wrongs to Rights* report: webinar attracts over 100 participants
- ➔ California: now pending



Income and Healthcare for Disabled Homeless People

- ➔ 1990: Law Center sues Social Security Administration, challenging process that leaves many eligible homeless people without SSI benefits
- ➔ 2003 IMPACT: Law Center advocacy wins \$8 million in federal funding per year for 3 years– helping over 1,200 homeless persons to receive SSI
- ➔ 2005 IMPACT: Law Center manual and advocacy help create SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR); to date more than 10,500 homeless people have received SSI





Precedent- Setting Litigation to Enforce Right to Education under McKinney-Vento Act

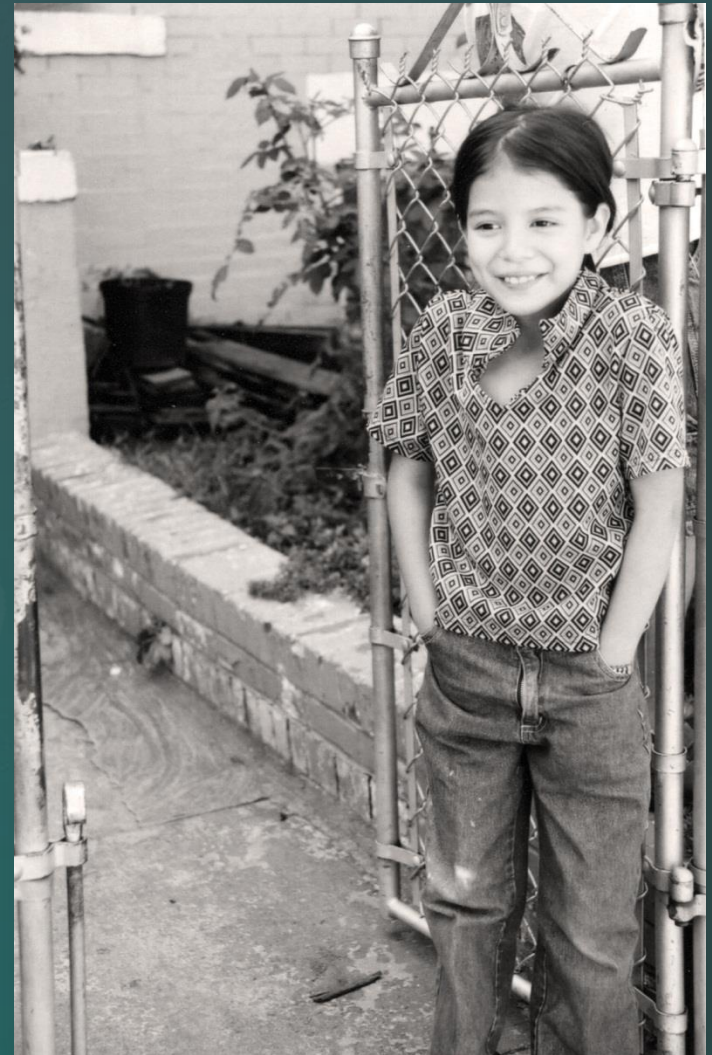
- ➔ IMPACT 1994: *Lampkin v. DC* - Law Center wins federal appeals court ruling establishing homeless children have enforceable right to education
- ➔ IMPACT 2004: *NLCHP v. Suffolk County* - Law Center wins federal class action, upholding the right of 1,400 homeless children to go to school
- ➔ IMPACT 2010: *A.E. v. Carlynton* - Law Center and allies win favorable settlement, upholding education rights of four children and reforming policy for 38,000

- ➔ **2001 IMPACT: Expanded rights to special education for homeless students**
- ➔ **2003 IMPACT: Homeless students included in Title I**
- ➔ **2004 IMPACT: Homeless students included in Higher Education Act**
- ➔ **2007 IMPACT: Expanded rights to pre-school for homeless toddlers**

**Policy Advocacy to
Improve and Expand the
Law**

Outreach and Training

- ➔ Project LEARN: innovative program trained scores of pro bono lawyers to help families
- ➔ Reports, manuals, and *Know Your Rights* kits
- ➔ IMPACT: in 1987, only 50% of homeless students were attending school regularly; now 77% attend regularly



The New York Times Magazine

The New Social Reformers

A number of careerists have left high-paying, high-powered jobs to work full time at helping the poor.



Leading A Legal and Policy Agenda to End and Prevent Homelessness

- ➔ 1992 IMPACT: Beyond McKinney brings together advocates, sets agenda for long term solutions: housing, income, services, and civil rights
- ➔ 1999 IMPACT: Initiate Homeless Advocates group, convening national organizations monthly to share strategies and priorities and move them forward
- ➔ 2003 IMPACT: First national forum on the human right to housing, setting an agenda and strategies
- ➔ 2013 IMPACT: National Symposium on the Human Right to Housing (with Columbia and Northeastern Law Schools) draws 200 leading lawyers, activists, and practitioners

Building a Community of Pro Bono Partners

- ➔ Lawyers Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP), the Law Center's premier pro bono network, provides in-kind contributions of donated legal services and direct financial support annually.
- ➔ In 2013, 17 law firms worked with the Law Center on 42 pro bono matters; of these firms, 11 were LEAP members. They provided to approximately \$4 million in donated legal services.
- ➔ John Grisham (pictured) is the Honorary Chair of LEAP.



Building a Community of Support

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