

Appleseed This Week

eNewsletter - October 29, 2009



A nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico, Appleseed is dedicated to building a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to justice is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

QUICK LINKS

[Appleseed Website](#)

[Subscribe to ATW](#)

[Archive](#)

[Donate](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Publications](#)

**New Ways to
Support
Appleseed!**

Appleseed is now a
member of the United

New Program Offers Legal Aid to Those in Debt

NY Center Connects Unrepresented with Pro Bono Help

Happy Pro Bono!

This week marks the first annual National Pro Bono Celebration, and along with the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, Appleseed is thrilled to join organizations around the country in recognizing and celebrating the commitment of our pro bono partners. Without such dedication - nearly 19,000 volunteer hours were applied to Appleseed projects this year - our vision of equal and universal access to the law would remain beyond reach.

In the spirit of the National Pro Bono Celebration, New York Appleseed has launched an exciting new program to engage pro bono assistance for one of our nation's foremost legal crises: consumer debt. Approximately 300,000 consumer debt cases were filed in New York City in 2008, with over 98 percent of defendants going unrepresented. As a result, many people remain unaware of their rights and options when confronted with litigation.

The Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Consumer Credit Project, based in Brooklyn's Kings County Civil Court, will provide consumer debt defendants with legal assistance and representation on a limited basis. Trained pro bono counsel will be available to work with defendants as they navigate the courtroom and hearing that day.

Appleseed is honored to participate in the creation and management of this innovative project, and we salute our partnership with the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program as overseen by its Director, Honorable Fern Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of New York City Courts.

Staffed entirely by volunteer attorneys and Appleseed's new

**Way of the National
Capital Area (UWNCA)
and the Combined Federal
Campaign (CFC).**

**Please make a note of the
Appleseed designation
codes below.**

UNWCA: 9639

CFC: 10758

Coordinating Attorney, Adam Friedl, this one-year pilot project received seed funding from the ACE Rule of Law Fund with a matching grant from the Access to Justice Program.

Like many in the Appleseed network, Friedl has demonstrated firm commitment to those who fall through the cracks of our legal system: prior to joining Appleseed, he served as a Staff Attorney at The Family Center, a nonprofit organization in New York City that represents families affected by terminal illness. He also has worked for nonprofits that provide social services to homeless and disadvantaged children.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact afriedl@appleseednetwork.org.