

Appleseed This Week

Martin Stern Honored for Vision and Leadership

Louisiana Center to Host Launch Celebration in New Orleans!

November 14, 2008 - Congratulations to **Louisiana Appleseed** board member **Martin Stern** of **Adams and Reese**, who was honored last week with the 2008 **Evelyn Singer Award**, presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Appleseed. When announcing the award at the Nov. 7 board meeting, Executive Director **Betsy Cavendish** declared that Stern, in spearheading the revitalization of the Louisiana Center, "has translated his desire to make a difference into a powerful reality."



The award represents yet another achievement in a distinguished career of effecting social justice. Recognized by Adams and Reese as the firm's "Outstanding Pro Bono Lawyer for the Year" in 2006, Stern also was honored recently by **New Orleans CityBusiness** newspaper as one of its 50 "Leaders in Law" for professional and community leadership. Among Stern's most notable contributions to the field is his pro bono counsel in *Kennedy v. Louisiana* (2008), in which the U.S. Supreme Court established that the death penalty is unconstitutional for criminal cases that have not resulted in the death of the victim.

As Stern is eager to point out, his efforts to restore Louisiana Appleseed could not have succeeded without the cooperation of numerous individuals, among them **Christy Kane**, who will assume full-time duties as executive director on Jan. 1, 2009. Kane has directed the Center as the **ConocoPhillips/Adams and Reese Fellow** since its re-emergence in early 2007. Full-time volunteer and Legal Fellow **Jeannine Sullivan** and Gulf Coast Recovery Project Director **Allison Berger Tiller**, also have contributed mightily to the revival of the Center.

Inspired by the need to mitigate Hurricane Katrina's devastating effect on underprivileged communities along the Gulf Coast, a group of outstanding individuals and law firms, led by Stern and **Harry Hardin** of **Jones Walker**, pooled efforts to revive the Louisiana Center over the past few years. Chief among its current projects is the ongoing effort to promote reform in heir property law, thereby ensuring that homeowners are able to secure title to their properties. Meanwhile, a comprehensive report on increasing Latino access to financial institutions is in the final stages, and will

be distributed by the end of the year, and two projects related to public education are gaining momentum.

Join us in congratulating Louisiana Appleseed on these impressive achievements and help us celebrate a renewed sense of civic engagement and social advocacy throughout the region! The Center's journey to independence will culminate in New Orleans on Jan. 29, with an event to celebrate the Center's continued dedication to overcoming systemic injustice and inequality.

Muriel's Jackson Square in the French Quarter will host an evening cocktail reception with live local music. Special guests in attendance will include prominent political commentators and New Orleans residents **James Carville** and **Mary Matalin**.

Representing opposing sides of the political spectrum --despite a marriage of many years-- their participation at the event highlights the bipartisan nature of Appleseed's mission to promote justice and economic opportunity. For more information about the reception and details about purchasing tickets, please contact:

Nakia Kelly

nkelly@appleseednetwork.org

202.347.7960, ext. 108

For more information on Appleseed, visit www.appleseednetwork.org. To support the work of Appleseed, donate [here](#).

Appleseed, a nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the United States and Mexico, uncovers and corrects social injustices through legal, legislative and market-based structural reform. Appleseed Centers bring together volunteers from the law, business and academic professions to devise long-term solutions to problems in such areas as education, financial access and health care. For more information, visit: www.appleseednetwork.org.