



Appleseed This Week

Appleseed Names New Katrina Project Director

August 9, 2007 - Appleseed announced last week that it hired **Allison Berger Tiller** as its first full-time **Hurricane Katrina project** director. The announcement comes as the second anniversary of the devastating storm approaches, but as many more years of work lie ahead to rectify the problems caused and revealed by Katrina.

Tiller, who received both her undergraduate and law school degrees from the University of Virginia, previously worked in the financial institutions practice of **Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom** in Washington, D.C. Tiller relocated to her native New Orleans days before Katrina hit and has spent a year coordinating post-Katrina insurance claims for her family's real-estate development and investment firm.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of such a well-respected and important organization," Tiller said. "In conducting my job search, I was hoping to combine my legal background and passion for the post-Katrina rebuilding effort to find something both meaningful and fulfilling. I was aware of Appleseed from my time at Skadden Arps, and as I learn more about the organization, I continue to grow more impressed." Tiller will provide development and leadership support for Katrina collaborative project work at **Appleseed Centers in Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Georgia**, coordinating efforts to devise solutions to problems in the areas of housing, education and financial access that continue to hamper the daily lives of storm survivors.

Tiller will operate out of **Louisiana Appleseed's** offices at the law firm of **Adams and Reese**. The Center has established itself as an important force for reform in New Orleans. In July, Louisiana Appleseed was selected as an **"Innovator of the Year"** honoree by **New Orleans CityBusiness**. To date, the Center has enlisted more than two dozen volunteer lawyers across the state to work on projects that include resolving title-clearing issues for Road Home applicants to educating the growing Hispanic population about how to gain access to mainstream banks and financial institutions.

In the wake of Louisiana Appleseed's success, **Christy Kane**, the ConocoPhillips/Adams and Reese fellow who serves as the executive director of the Center, has been appointed by the president of the **Louisiana State Bar Association** to its **Access to Justice Committee** for 2007-08. This committee seeks to support and help strengthen an integrated statewide network to increase the delivery of legal services to the poor. Kane has also been invited to be a Fellow of the **Louisiana Bar Foundation**.

In another major personnel announcement, **Nebraska Appleseed** named **Rebecca Gould** as its executive director. Gould has served as interim director of the Center since the departure in February of **Milo Mumgaard**. Gould joined Nebraska Appleseed as staff attorney for the Welfare Due Process Project in 2001 and soon led successful class action law suits that, among other

things, returned health care coverage to tens of thousands of low-income working mothers, assured that welfare recipients receive job training and education for good jobs and gave back millions of dollars of cash benefits to thousands of poor children who had been unlawfully denied them. In 2005 she was promoted to director of Nebraska Appleseed's Low-Income Self-Sufficiency Program.

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

Appleseed, a non-partisan and non-profit organization, is a network of public interest law Centers working to identify and address injustices in their communities. Appleseed works to build a just society through education, legal advocacy, community activism and policy expertise, addressing root causes and producing practical solutions. As one of the nation's largest legal pro bono networks, Appleseed Centers work both independently and collectively, bringing their own experiences to create local solutions that are nationally relevant. We connect the top private practice lawyers, corporate counsel, law schools, civic leaders, and other professionals to tackle problems locally, at their root cause.

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