

Appleseed This Week

Appleseed Challenges Anti-Immigrant Ordinance

Files Amicus Brief in 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals

May 1, 2008 - Appleseed recently filed an amicus brief with the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia on the **Hazleton anti-immigrant case**, which punishes landlords and employers for doing business with undocumented immigrants. Appleseed, with pro bono attorneys from **Morrison & Foerster**, filed the brief in coordination with Appleseed Centers nationwide, the **National Latino Officers Association** and the **National Black Police Association**.

The local ordinance has been at the center of a national controversy on whether localities have the right to devise their own immigration-related laws. Last year the lower court found the ordinance unconstitutional because it usurped federal immigration policy, violated federal civil rights law, and failed to provide procedural protection to individuals before they were fired or evicted.

"This amicus brief stems from a non-partisan, common sense approach to the immigration debate that focuses on everyone's civil rights, not just the immigrant community," said **Eric Gutiérrez**, Appleseed's immigration policy director. "Appleseed is proud to be a part of perhaps the most historic immigration-related decision in the 3rd Circuit."

Mark David McPherson, Morrison & Foerster's lead attorney on the project, agreed that the final product was the result of excellent legal work and a strong commitment to justice. "I am very proud of this brief, not just because I think it turned out to be great, but because it was a collaborative effort in every sense," McPherson said. "Appleseed gave us a great head start with the brief it prepared in the Riverside (New Jersey) ordinance and with its seminal report, **'Forcing Our Blues into Gray Areas: Local Police and Federal Immigration Enforcement'**."

Appleseed will be closely following the developments of this case and the ruling, which is expected to be delivered this summer.

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