

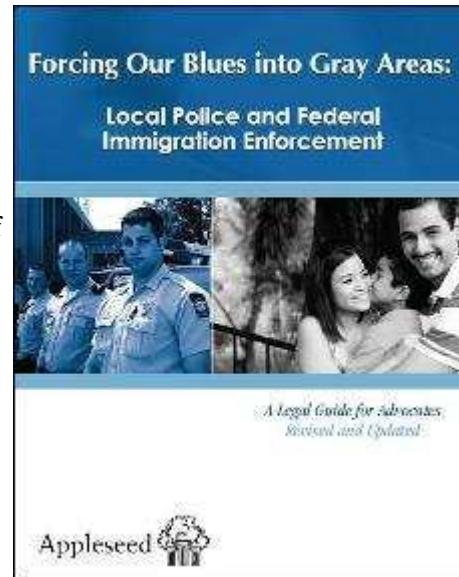
# Appleseed This Week

## Appleseed Report Highlights Policy Challenges of Local Police Enforcing Federal Immigration Law

**May 22, 2008** - Asking state and local law enforcement to don a second hat as federal immigration officers is poor public policy, according to a recently revised report released by Appleseed on Monday.

**"Forcing Our Blues Into Gray Areas: Local Police and Federal Immigration Enforcement"** contains legal and practical guidelines to combat local anti-immigrant ordinances. It also describes troubling legal and political efforts to involve local police in federal immigration matters. These efforts are widely opposed by several national law enforcement organizations, dozens of major cities, and civil rights organizations.

The opponents noted that most state and local police departments are already underfunded and overworked. In addition, police believe that requiring them to enforce federal civil immigration laws makes them less effective public safety officers. When a community fears the police, it becomes less likely that crimes -- from domestic violence to human trafficking to possible terrorist activity -- will be reported, or that witnesses will come forward.



Appleseed released the report at a briefing at the U.S. House of Representatives, which attracted national media attention, including segments on **CNN** and **Univision**. Appleseed Executive Director **Betsy Cavendish** moderated the panel discussion, which included: **Jonathan Thessin**, an associate in **WilmerHale's** Litigation and Controversy Department and lead author of the report; **Ronald Hampton**, executive director of the **National Black Police Association**; **Allison Randall**, public policy director for the **National Network to End Domestic Violence**; and **Joanne Lin**, legislative counsel with the **ACLU National Legislative Office**.

"Appleseed's report demonstrates that harnessing local law enforcement to federal immigration matters actually causes more problems than it cures," Betsy Cavendish said. "It dries up community policing efforts and ultimately harms law enforcement, as well as leads rather inexorably to discrimination."

"This version builds upon the original collaborative effort that has made this report a primer for immigration and civil rights advocates," added **Eric Gutiérrez**, Appleseed's immigrant policy program director. "Our hope is that it lays the foundation for advocacy in this area."

The report was prepared by Appleseed with the assistance of the law firm **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr** and a number of other legal and community advocates. The report is available on Appleseed's website.

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

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