

# Appleseed This Week

## Appleseed Commemorates 15th Anniversary at New York Event

**June 26, 2008** - Last Thursday **Appleseed** celebrated its 15- year anniversary at its annual New York event, raising nearly \$400,000 and honoring **Robert L. Mallett** for his pro bono support, visionary leadership and commitment to Appleseed. The event, "**15 Years: Celebrating Appleseed's Past, Present and Future**," was held at Gotham Hall, one of New York City's most prominent and prestigious social, corporate, and nonprofit event venues.

Mallett is co-chair of Appleseed's board of directors, Senior Vice President, Worldwide Alliance Development, Philanthropy, and Corporate Responsibility, and President of the **Pfizer** Foundation. He has direct supervision of Pfizer's worldwide groups encompassing philanthropy and corporate giving, alliance development, corporate responsibility, international affairs and multilateral institutions. He also co-chairs Pfizer's Intellectual Property Task Force and co-leads the company's efforts on enhancing global access to medicines.

"Appleseed isn't just an organization filled with great legal minds," Mallett said. "It's also one of big hearts and grand visions. And when you combine those things, you really can make this world more just. ...Appleseed feeds the hunger we all have to serve others. Not by creating tensions to expedite change, although organizations that do that play an important role. But by overcoming tensions. Not by litigating, although that's a critical part of our justice system. But by bringing stakeholders together, by creating consensus, by finding common ground, by coming up with solutions. In doing that, Appleseed makes life better for those who can't speak up."

Also commemorating Appleseed's 15th anniversary was **Richard Medalie**, one of Appleseed's founders. In 1993, Medalie, a successful Washington lawyer, wrote to his fellow **Harvard Law School** classmates to solicit their involvement in "an exciting development" that had occurred during their 35th reunion. "Members of our Class," he reported, "voted to establish a Class of 1958 sponsored and funded foundation to help organize, establish, and guide state centers for law in the public interest throughout the country." Their strategy was to focus on broad systemic social initiatives, rather than the traditional model of providing legal services to individuals. "I don't think any of us in that original group -- in our wildest optimism -- could have anticipated Appleseed would have developed this way," Medalie said. "It was a group of friends who had an idea of how to utilize the talents of accomplished lawyers for the public good."

Other special guests included **Jimmy Breslin**, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author, and keynote speaker **David A. Andelman**, editor of *World Policy Journal*, the 25-year-old foreign policy magazine published by the World Policy Institute. Andelman previously served as executive editor of *Forbes.com* after serving as business editor of the *New York Daily News*.



*Robert L. Mallett, Co-Chair of Appleseed's board of directors, Senior Vice President for Worldwide Policy and Public Affairs for Pfizer, Inc and President of the Pfizer Foundation*

"For years I've admired your organization and your mission," Andelman said, "improving lives, helping to bring justice to those who so often have known none in their communities or their entire experience."

**James F. Rogers**, partner at **Latham & Watkins** and co-chair of Appleseed's board of directors, was the master of ceremonies. **Vicki Walcott-Edim**, an associate at **Jones Day**, spoke on behalf of Appleseed's **Isaac Newton Society**, a group that helps Appleseed attract and engage younger volunteers. Society members are attorneys who have distinguished themselves in their pro bono work for Appleseed and whom Appleseed would like to involve in leadership roles.

**For more information on Appleseed, visit [www.appleseednetwork.org](http://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.