

PROGRAM



SATURDAY, SEPT. 26th
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY AT LINCOLN CENTER
Lowenstein Building – 113 West 60th St. at Columbus Ave.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:

10AM – Registration & breakfast
10:30AM – Welcome & keynote
11AM – Morning workshops
12:30PM – Lunch
1:30PM – Afternoon workshops
3PM – Wrap-up & closing session
4PM – Enjoy the rest of your day!

FREE CHILDCARE: In room 515 (5th floor). You must bring your child here to sign them in and out.

SPANISH TRANSLATION: We hope to have enough head-sets to translate simultaneously for all Spanish-speakers. To borrow a head-set you must leave a picture ID at the translation coordination table located next to the registration area.

OUTREACH TABLES: Please check out all the organizations tabling at the conference. They have useful information about tenants' rights and how you can contribute to the movement for affordable housing and livable communities.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY: See signs for elevators to workshops and a special entry into the Pope Auditorium.

THIS IS YOUR CONFERENCE: Tenant volunteers help put this event together each year. There's a suggestion box at the registration table if you have ideas about how to make this conference even better.

10AM – 10:30AM REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST

Food in Pope Auditorium (ground floor)

10:30 AM WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Pope Auditorium (ground floor)

Ivette Nuñez – Outreach & Education Coordinator, Housing Conservation Coordinators
Jackie Del Valle – Director of Organizing, Housing Conservation Coordinators
Scott Stringer – Manhattan Borough President
Christine C. Quinn – City Council Speaker

KEYNOTE: Jerrold Nadler – U.S. REPRESENTATIVE



WORKSHOPS MAY FILL UP. PLEASE HAVE A SECOND (AND MAYBE THIRD) CHOICE IN MIND.

11AM – 12:30AM **MORNING WORKSHOPS**

Housing Benefits for Seniors

What rent regulated seniors should know, including updates on eligibility status for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) applicants. We'll also share information on senior housing.

Linda Rosenthal – New York State Assembly Member

Kevin Queen – Director of Programs, NY Foundation for Senior Citizens

Roy Carmona – Outreach Coordinator, New York City Department for the Aging

Ruth Ellen Simmonds – Executive Director, One Stop Senior Services

Garret Wright – Staff Attorney, Urban Justice Center Community Development Project

Organizing a Tenant Association

In this workshop participants will learn how to organize a strong and effective tenant association. Included will be tips on hosting your first tenant association meeting, enforcing your rights as a tenant, and how to get organizing and legal help.

Bob Kalin – Tenant Organizer, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Katie Goldstein – Coordinator of Education and Leadership Development, Tenants & Neighbors

How to Get Help with Rent Arrears

This workshop will cover the basics of emergency rent arrears resources. We will discuss how tenants can qualify for help from private charities, and how to get a “one shot deal” from the Human Resources Administration.

Jenny Laurie – Assistant Director, Housing Court Answers, a service of the City-Wide Task Force on Housing Court

Update on Tenant Laws

The workshop will present changes in the law affecting tenants including recent court decisions related to rent regulation, Section 8, succession rights, and NYCHA.

Ellen Davidson – Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society

Obtaining Repairs

This workshop will give you the facts on how to obtain the repairs to which you are entitled in your home. We will discuss the proper authorities to alert as well how to start a court proceeding to compel your landlord to repair the conditions accordance with New York City Housing standards.

Christopher Schwartz – Supervising Attorney, MFY Legal Services

C.J. Masimore – Staff Attorney, MFY Legal Services

Aapta Garg – Community Liaison, MFY Legal Services

Go Green at Home: Saving \$\$\$ on Energy Bills

In this workshop you will learn energy saving tips that can help you in your daily lives. You will learn how to consume less energy and save money with your everyday household appliances.

Alex Dilone – Weatherization Construction Manager, Housing Conservation Coordinators

David Lazala – Weatherization Field Technician/Post Inspector, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Understanding the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB)

In this workshop we will provide an overview of the RGB, the folks that vote each year on how much rents go up (if at all) for rent stabilized and S.R.O. tenants. We'll discuss who is on the Board, how it works, and how we can reform the system to make it fairer to tenants.

Susanna Blankley – Tenant Organizer, West Side SRO Law Project

Jackie Del Valle – Director of Organizing, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Hannah Weinstein – Organizer, Tenants & Neighbors

Nick Guntli – Organizer, Tenants & Neighbors

Making Your Home Asthma-Free

In this workshop we'll discuss steps tenants can take to protect their families and themselves by ensuring the air we breathe at home is clean and free from dangerous asthma triggers. We'll learn about various public health risks and what West Siders can do to fight together for cleaner air.

Carolyn Eberle – Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Lucas Shapiro – Community Organizer, Housing Conservation Coordinators

12:30PM – 1:30 PM LUNCH

Food in Pope Auditorium (ground floor)

1:30PM – 3PM AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Finding Affordable Housing

In times of economic hardships, affordable housing is even more difficult to locate. Join our workshop and find out what steps you need to take to obtain an apartment that meets your financial criteria.

Monica Morante – Intake Coordinator, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Overview of Housing Court

This workshop is a basic introduction to housing court with information about the different types of cases heard at the court, procedures and court forms, as well as resources available to tenants without attorneys.

Gina Cuevas – Senior Borough Coordinator (Manhattan), Housing Court Answers

Economic Crisis & Housing

We will explore the causes and effects of the recession internationally and nationally, and locally we will examine the NYC housing market. Panelists will talk about how tenant groups are pressuring government to strengthen the rent laws and how tenants are fighting back building by building.

Bennett Baumer – Tenant Organizer, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Max Fraad Wolff – Writer and economist, New School University's Graduate Program in International Affairs

Lauren Springer – Member, Queens Vantage Tenants' Council

Stopping Illegal Hotels

This workshop will review the negative impact illegal hotels are imposing on tenants and NYC's affordable housing stock. We'll discuss what is being done legislatively at the state and city levels, and how tenants are working to combat this growing problem.

Richard Gottfried – New York State Assembly Member

Yarrow Willman-Cole – Tenant Organizer, West Side SRO Law Project

Vivian Riffelmacher – Steering Committee, West Side Neighborhood Alliance (WSNA)

Navigating DHCR: A Primer for Rent-Regulated Tenants

The Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) administers the rent regulation programs known as rent control and rent stabilization. Panelists will discuss how the agency can assist tenants and answer questions from the attendees.

Romeo Ymalay – Legislative Aide, Office of New York State Senator Thomas K. Duane

Veronica Diaz – Deputy Director of Upper Manhattan BRO, DHCR

Jenny Laurie – Assistant Director, Housing Court Answers, a service of the City-Wide Task Force on Housing Court

Project Based Section 8, Mitchell-Lama, and Section 8 Vouchers

In this workshop participants will learn about eligibility requirements and applicants' and tenants' rights in project-based Section 8 housing, the Mitchell-Lama program, and the Section 8 voucher program. We will discuss some of the threats to these affordable housing programs in New York City, and strategies for protecting and strengthening them.

Katie Goldstein – Coordinator of Education & Leadership Development, Tenants & Neighbors

Stuart Lawrence – Staff Attorney, Housing Conservation Coordinators

NYCHA Housing Updates

This workshop will be about the latest updates on NYCHA housing, and new health provisions in NYCHA buildings.

Gennaro Palumbo – Manhattan Deputy Director, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Gale Brewer – New York City Councilmember

Rosalba Rodriguez – Director of District Office for Gale Brewer

Organizando en su Edificio (training in Spanish)

This interactive workshop—conducted entirely in Spanish (with music too!)—will cover the basics on organizing and power. We'll learn about tenant associations in the context of the broader struggle for affordable housing in New York City.

Ángel Vera – Tenant Organizer, Make the Road New York

Mercedes Torres – WSNA en Español, West Side Neighborhood Alliance

PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL OUT EVALUATION FORMS AT THE END OF EACH WORKSHOP!

3PM – 4PM WRAP UP & CLOSING SESSION

Pope Auditorium (ground floor)

The NYC Housing Movement & the Fight for Tenants' Rights in Albany

Jackie Del Valle – Director of Organizing, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Terry Bocanelli – Steering Committee, West Side Neighborhood Alliance

Adrienne Holder – Tenant representative to the Rent Guidelines Board; Attorney-in-Charge, The Legal Aid Society Civil Practice

Thomas K. Duane – New York State Senator

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Housing Conservation Coordinators	www.hcc-nyc.org	212-541-5996
Fordham Law- Housing Advocacy Project	http://law.fordham.edu	212-636-6952
Hartley House	www.hartleyhouse.org	212-246-9885
Housing Court Answers – a service of CWTFHC	www.housingcourtanswers.org	212-962-4795
The Legal Aid Society	www.legal-aid.org	212-489-0323
Legal Services for New York City--Manhattan Office	www.legalservicesnyc.org	646-442-3100
MFY Legal Services	www.mfy.org	212-417-3700
Tenants & Neighbors	www.tenantsandneighbors.org	212 608-4320
West Side Neighborhood Alliance	www.westsidenyc.org	212-716-1664
West Side SRO Law Project	www.goddard.org/srolawproject.html	212-799-9638
U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler	www.house.gov/nadler	212-367-7350
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer	www.mbpo.org	212-531-1609
State Senator Thomas Duane	www.tomduane.com	212-633-8052
State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried	www.dickgottfried.org	212-807-7900
State Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal	http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=067	212-873-6368
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn	http://council.nyc.gov/d3/html/members/home.shtml	212-564-7757
City Council Member Gale Brewer	http://council.nyc.gov/d6/html/members/home.shtml	212-873-0282

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING WITH THE CONFERENCE!

Matt Abuelo	Kate Cavanagh	Nadia Mohamed
Leonor Angel	Terry Cullimore	William Morrison
Paula Angel	Pete Diaz	Diana Nuñez
Ashley Baret	Hillary Exter	José Parra
Anita Black	Joyce Frank	Betty Ramírez
Terry Bocanelli	Mona Gavin	Paul Reilly
Nico Boccio	Michael Gordon	Vivian Riffelmacher
Rodrigo Bonifaz	Cynthia Hopkins	Allison Smith
Richard Brender	Paul Jags	Mercedes Torres
Corey Brothers	Matt Klein	Marc Valentin
Joyce Brown	Sean Meehan	Al Weiss
Maureen Burns	Angie Méndez	Reina Wolinsky

BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT FOR AN AFFORDABLE, DIVERSE & LIVABLE WEST SIDE!

If you live in Chelsea, Clinton/Hell's Kitchen or the UWS: Please consider becoming a member of the West Side Neighborhood Alliance (contact info above) to stand up for tenants, affordable housing, and to have our voices heard in planning our community! Join one of WSNA's campaign committees or attend an upcoming event!

If you're an SRO tenant: Get in touch with the West Side SRO Law Project! Contact info above.

If you don't live on the West Side or in an SRO apt: Get involved with your local community group or a state/city-wide organization like Tenants & Neighbors. Contact info above.