

PROGRAM



SATURDAY, NOV. 5th
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY AT LINCOLN CENTER
School of Law – 140 West 62nd St. at Columbus Ave.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:

9:00AM – Registration & light breakfast
10:30AM – Welcome & keynote address
11:15AM – Morning workshops
12:30PM – Lunch
1:00PM – Afternoon workshops
2:30PM – Closing panel discussion
3:00PM – Info tables
4:00PM – Enjoy the rest of your day!

SPANISH TRANSLATION: Select workshops will provide simultaneous Spanish translation. To borrow a head-set you must leave a picture ID at the translation coordination table.

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: Follow signs for elevators to take you to workshops on the second and third floors

THIS IS YOUR CONFERENCE: Tenant volunteers help put this event together each year. In order to make the conference even better next year, please fill out the evaluation forms.

FREE ON-SITE ASSISTANCE TABLES:

Rent Arrears Help: Housing Court Answers will be providing information at their table on rental arrears. Tenants can find out if they qualify for help from the city or from private charities if they owe back rent and are facing eviction

SCRIE/DRIE Application Help: Assembly Member Gottfried's office will be providing advice at their table on a first-come, first-serve basis on how to fill out SCRIE and DRIE applications.

NYCHA Help! Council Member Gale Brewer's Office will have a representative from NYCHA answering questions throughout the day.

9:30AM – 10:00AM REGISTRATION/LIGHT BREAKFAST

Platt Atrium (first floor) Spanish translation provided

10:30 AM WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

McNally Amphitheater (first floor)

Jackie Del Valle – Director of Organizing, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Jerry Dickinson – Chair of Fordham Law School's Housing Advocacy Project (HAP)

Richard Gottfried – NY State Assembly Member Representing the Westside of Manhattan



KEYNOTE: Tom Robbins, "Voice of the Tenants" Investigative Journalist in Residence at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

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

11:15AM – 12:30PM **MORNING WORKSHOPS**

Housing Benefits for Seniors (McNally Amphitheater – first floor) *Spanish translation provided*

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

Ruth Ellen Simmonds--Executive Director, One Stop Senior Services

Kenneth Lau--Supervising Attorney, MFY Legal Services Seniors Project

Debra Feinberg--Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, New York City Department of Finance

Understanding the new rent laws and recent legal rulings (Room 204 – second floor)

Learn how the new rent laws passed strengthened rent regulation, what we still need to fight for to better protect tenants and how recent court decisions are affecting tenants' rights. In this workshop, two state electeds will discuss the recent battle for the renewal of the rent laws in Albany and future rent law reform. Then, participants will get updates on important recent court rulings including Casado v. Marcus (the RGB poor tax), NYCHA and Section 8.

Thomas K. Duane - New York State Senator

Dick N. Gottfried - New York State Assembly Member

Ellen Davidson - Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society

Rights of Public Housing Tenants (NYCHA) (Room 203 – second floor)

This workshop will be about the latest updates on NYCHA housing and the rights of tenants in NYCHA buildings.

Gale Brewer – New York City Councilmember

Horace Miller and Rosa Ubiles, - Social Services Department, New York City Housing Authority

Abraham Arackathara,- Borough Deputy Director, Manhattan, Manhattan Property Management, New York City Housing Authority

Energy Efficiency for your home: Saving \$\$\$ on Energy Bills (Room 310 –third floor)

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 Energy Auditor, Housing Conservation Coordinators

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

Fighting Tenant Harassment on the City and State Level (Room 303 – third floor)

This workshop will explain the laws that protect tenants from being harassed by their landlords, and how tenants can use these laws to take action against their landlords in administrative agencies and in court.

Sadia Rahman – Supervising Attorney, Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center

Shafaq Islam – Staff Attorney, Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center

Succession Rights (Rent regulated Apartments) (Room 302 – 3rd floor) *Spanish translation provided*

This workshop will give you the facts on how to protect your family's rights to succession in a rent-regulated apartment.

Aapta Garg – Community Liaison, MFY Legal Services

Maria Tibin– Staff Attorney for the Neighborhood Preservation Project, MFY Legal Services

Christopher Schwartz – Supervising Attorney for the Neighborhood Preservation Project, MFY Legal Services

HCR reform campaign (Room 205 – second floor)

Have you had a fraudulent MCI in your building? Are you being over charged for rent? Have you applied for a rent reduction and still haven't heard back from (D)HCR (NY State Department of Homes and Community Renewal)? Are there units in your building that were taken out of rent regulation by illegal hotel use? If you are frustrated and want to do something about it, then you are not alone! Come to this workshop to learn about our new (D)HCR reform campaign and how you can become involved to push for a more responsible (D)HCR.

Katie Goldstein –Organizer, Tenants & Neighbors

Ericka Stallings – Director for the Initiative for Neighborhood and City-Wide organizing, ANHD

What is “Affordable” Housing?: Programs, Politics & Development Paradigms (Room 211 – 2nd fl)

Spanish translation provided

This interactive workshop seeks to answer questions, such as: How does our government define “affordable”? What programs produce “affordable” and “subsidized” housing? What is NYC’s “Median Family Income”, why is it important, and how does it compare to income levels where we live and work? What kinds of affordable housing already exist on the West Side and what types of new housing should we be fighting for?

Matt Klein – Community Organizer, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Stephanie Barreto – Center for Neighborhood Leadership apprentice, Housing Conservation Coordinators

12:30PM – 1:00 PM **LUNCH**

Stay in your Morning Workshop room, lunch will be delivered to you!

1:00PM – 2:15PM AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Major Capital Improvements (MCIs) (Room 203 – second floor)

When owners make certain improvements to buildings subject to rent stabilization or rent control laws, owners can apply for permission to raise tenants' rents based on the cost of the improvements. At this workshop, you'll learn the basics of how to challenge an owner's application for an MCI Increase and how, if granted, the MCI Increase will affect your tenancy.

Aurora DeCarlo – Supervising Attorney, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Fighting a Non-payment case in Housing Court (Room 302 – third floor)

This workshop is a basic introduction to nonpayment cases in Housing Court. The workshop will provide information on how to find help with the back rent, how to get help in court, and how to survive the process when the landlord sues you for rent.

Jenny Laurie – Assistant Director, Housing Court Answers

Gina Cuevas – Housing Court Answers

Tenants' and Applicants' Rights and Responsibilities in Mitchell-Lama and HUD-Subsidized Multifamily Housing (Room 303 – third floor)

In this workshop participants will learn about eligibility requirements and applicants' and tenants' rights in project-based Section 8 and Section 236/Mitchell-Lama housing. The workshop will give an overview of these programs and address recertification rules and procedures, how tenant rents are calculated, and how to avoid and deal with problems that can arise in subsidize housing tenancies.

Stuart Lawrence – Staff Attorney, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Bedbugs 101: Know Your Rights (McNally Amphitheater – first floor) *Spanish translation provided*

What tenants should know regarding bedbugs: what they look like, how to prevent them, and what to do if you have them. We'll also share information about your rights as a tenant and the landlord's legal obligations if you have an infestation.

Linda Rosenthal – New York State Assembly member

Gale Brewer – New York City Councilmember

Gil Bloom – Certified Entomologist, Director Pest Management Institute, Mayoral Appointee to NYC Bed Bug Advisory Board

Barbara Flynn--Intergovernmental Affairs, New York City Housing Preservation and Development

Darryl Vernon--Partner, Vernon & Ginsburg, LLC

Ed Butts - DOHMH

Winning Repairs and Organizing an Effective Tenant Association (Room 211 – second floor)

Spanish translation provided

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, winning repairs and how to get organizing and legal help.

Bob Kalin and Bennett Baumer – Tenant Organizers, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Finding Affordable Housing (Room 204 – second floor)

In times of economic hardships, affordable housing is even more difficult to locate. Join our workshop and find out what steps you can take to find and get on waiting lists for affordable housing programs you may qualify for. Learn how to navigate websites and government agencies to obtain critical information

Larry Wood – Community Organizer, Goddard Riverside Community Center

SRO Tenant's Rights and Oversight / How to fight illegal use (Room 205 – second floor)

Spanish translation provided

This workshop is for tenants of Single Room Occupancy housing. Not only are SRO tenants rent-stabilized; they enjoy tenancy rights unique to SRO housing. Learn what these are, discuss common issues in SROs, and talk about how you (and your neighbors!) can defend your rights and improve conditions. We will focus on addressing illegal hotels, a common problem affected by a law enacted on May 1.

Tara Buentello and Daniel Land-Parcerisas –Community Organizers West Side SRO Law Project

Healthy Homes (Room 310 – third floor)

Participants in this workshop will learn about the New York City's Healthy Home Project whose goal is to keep homes healthy and safe for children. Come to this presentation to learn about Lead, Mold, Pests and rodents/ Integrated Pest Management, Household Products/Household Product and Chemical Poisoning, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Asthma/Allergens.

Dewayne Jolly - Education Specialist NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Education and Community Partnerships Unit

2:30PM – 3:00PM CLOSING LECTURE: The Great Recession.

(McNally Amphitheater –first floor) Spanish translation provided

Bennett Baumer - Tenant Organizer, Housing Conservation Coordinators

Max Fraad Wolff – Economist, Columnist and Teacher at the New School.

3:00PM – 4:00PM INFO TABLES - Platt Atrium (first floor)

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Housing Conservation Coordinators www.hcc-nyc.org 212-541-5996
Chelsea Coalition on Housing chelseacoalition.cch@gmail.com 212-243-0544
Fordham Law- Housing Advocacy Project <http://law.fordham.edu> 212-636-6952
Housing Court Answers – a service of CWTFHC www.housingcourtanswers.org 212-962-4795
MFY Legal Services www.mfy.org 212-417-3700
Tenants & Neighbors www.tenantsandneighbors.org 212 608-4320
Association for Neighborhood Housing and Development www.anhd.org 212-757-1832
West Side Neighborhood Alliance www.westsidenyc.org 212-716-1664
Goddard Riverside West Side SRO Law Project www.goddard.org/srolawproject.html 212-799-9638
Goddard Riverside Community Center www.goddard.org 212-873-6600
The Legal Aid Society www.legal-aid.org 212-577-3300
The Urban Justice Center www.urbanjustice.org 646-602-5600
The New York Immigration Coalition www.thenyic.org 212-627-2227
U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler www.house.gov/nadler 212-367-7350
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer www.mbpo.org 212-669-8300
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!

Zelene Pineda	Susan Lee	Lourdes Camacho
Anita Black	Nico Boccio	Brendan Hudson
Kay Kumarasingha	Richard Brender	Sean Meehan
Mona Gavin	Murray Kiok	Pat Hooper
Stephanie Barreto	Allison Tupper	Kathy Spaldo
Terren Wing	Matt Abuelo	Paul Reilly
Alyssa Benson	Vivian Riffelmacher	Carole Lazio
Katie Reiter	Samantha Varn	Santa Pimentel

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR GENEROSITY



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 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!

WESTSIDE
neighborhood alliance
www.westsidenyc.org
212-956-2573 / wsna@hcc-nyc.org

Come to our next all member meeting
on Thurs. Dec. 15th at 6:30!

500 West 52nd St. #2E (at 10th Ave)

OUR CAMPAIGNS:

Better rent laws & tenant protections
Affordable housing & a new school on the P.S.51 site
Cleaner air & better quality of life
Stopping Illegal Hotels
Defending SRO tenants and their buildings
Community-friendly rezoning of 11th Ave
Spanish-language outreach with *WSNA en Español*
Responsible Banking Act
Making development=good jobs. Pass the living wage bill!