

RUMBLE IN THE BRONX OVER FREE LEGAL SERVICES

In the Bronx, where residents have the least access to legal representation of any borough, one of the few law firms that provides free legal services there is putting its funding on the line.

For two years, Bronx Legal Services has been warned that it would have to consolidate with the rest of the city's Legal Services system. Last Monday, the Bronx organization filed a lawsuit against its funders, claiming these demands violate both their contract and federal antitrust laws.

Bronx Legal Services Director Walker Thompson said the increased central oversight dictated by its funders compromises his office's independence. But others think the lawsuit is a mistake. "The position that consolidation means the community will suffer is exactly wrong," said Ghita Schwarz, president of the Legal Services Staff Association, the union for legal service employees.

Bronx Legal Services is one of seven nonprofit groups in the city that contract with Legal Services of New York (LSNY) to provide legal services to the poor. LSNY, in turn, reports to its national parent corporation and primary funder, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), established by federal legislation in 1974. All are chronically underfunded: According to the LSC, only 20 percent of the 43 million potential clients eligible for federally-funded legal assistance actually get the help.

And changes made by Congress in 1996 didn't help matters: The legislature cut LSC funds by 31 percent, to about \$280 million. That same year, Congress also told the LSC to start using competitive bidding for its contracts. Struggling to to continue its mission of serving the poor, LSC ordered each of the 14 state legal service groups it finances to find new funding resources and to coordinate services better.

New York, like many states, did not embrace the idea at first. But recognizing that its own funding could be jeopardized if it did not follow LSC's

orders, LSNY released a plan in October 2000 that consolidates services and centralizes decision-making. While preserving the neighborhood groups' own boards of directors, the proposed plan makes them accountable to one central LSNY board for decisions like staffing and budgets.

To date, six of the seven local offices have given the plan a preliminary thumbs up. But the Bronx alone refused, saying that Legal Services lawyers might be forced to answer to LSNY's funders rather than focus exclusively on their clients' interests. The plan, Thompson explained, "enhances the likelihood of the lawyer having to look over his shoulder."

Legal Services of New York calls that concern—and the lawsuit itself—unfounded. "The new system does raise the accountability level," said LSNY board member Michael W. Martin. But he added that LSNY is "committed to the need of the clients and to local input"—which is why LSNY is maintaining the local boards.

More importantly, LSNY has to hold onto its federal funding. Because LSC will only fund organizations that cover the entire city, LSNY has to cover the Bronx. If Thompson's office won't cooperate, said Martin, LSNY will have to break ties with it and find another local partner.

Thompson seems willing to take the risk. In studying his \$4.6 million budget, about 40 percent of which comes directly from LSNY, he determined that Bronx Legal Services could run on its own in two years—if he starts fundraising now.

—Jill Grossman

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ALL BUT ONE COMPANY LEFT BEHIND

Six months after giving public school principals a chance to propose a new literacy program for their schools, education officials in Albany have decided to reward millions of dollars in contracts to a company with close ties to the Bush administration.

As part of his No Child Left Behind education campaign, President George W. Bush last year doled out \$328 million for states to invest in reading programs for their poorest

schools. New York State put its \$82 million toward 251 schools, and told them that as long as the curriculum followed strict federal guidelines, educators in each school district could come up with a program and choose local partners best suited for their schools.

Many of the schools' leaders did just that, spending hundreds of hours crafting proposals and submitting them to the state. But at a statewide conference for the grant winners in late July, they were told the state Department of Education had made its own decision: The grants the schools get will total half of the \$500,000 many of them had hoped for. What is left would be needed for teacher training. And a chunk of the contract—about \$10 million—will go to Voyager Expanded Learning, a Dallas-based for-profit company with connections to Bush.

According to reports in the *Dallas Morning News*, Bush received generous donations from Voyager's founder and investors while he was governor, when the company was bidding for a contract to run after-school programs in the Texas schools. In 1998, company founder Randy Best reportedly gave Bush \$10,400, while company investors gave another \$35,000. And just this March, Bush's former Texas Education Commissioner, Jim Nelson, took a job at Voyager.

And on top of that, some city educators don't like the company's services. "I was unimpressed," said District 6 Superintendent Jorge Izquierdo. But "now we are being forced to use it," he said.

The Education Department stands by its decision: "The feds were quite clear, they wanted a single program," agency spokesman Tom Dunn. "They wanted people to address the reading crisis with one specific set of tools."

That doesn't change local educators' anger: Said Izquierdo to a round of applause at the conference, "If this doesn't change, there is a feeling among many superintendents that maybe we need to tell the state, 'No thanks.'"

—Chris Hawke
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YOUR PENSION, PLEASE

Both Democratic gubernatorial hopefuls last week said they would use a larger chunk of the state pension funds to create affordable housing if elected.

As state comptroller, H. Carl McCall oversaw the investment of only a fraction—less than one percent, according to his opponent—of the state's \$600 billion in pension funds in affordable housing construction. Investment in real estate is risky, said McCall, and New York can't take that chance with its retirement money without a guarantee. But a guarantee is possible, if federal legislators are willing to grant it. So he and U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton have begun drafting legislation calling for a federally-backed guarantee on these kinds of investments, he told a roomful of housing advocates at a candidate forum spon-

sored by Tenants and Neighbors, a lobbying group, last Wednesday.

At least some state finance experts don't think it's such a bad idea. "Housing investments are less risky than venture capital investments," said James Parrott of the Fiscal Policy Institute, a statewide budget watchdog. "There is some risk of default, but the federal guarantees would erase that problem." And, he added, "The jobs of public sector employees will be more secure because of investments in affordable housing."

On this point, McCall and his Democratic opponent seem to agree. While Cuomo skipped the forum for a week-long visit to Israel, he did suggest in a written statement that New York at least match California's commitment: The Golden State's Public Employees' Retirement System currently invests over \$2 billion, or almost 1.4 percent of its assets, in affordable housing, he noted. New York State's Common Retirement Fund, he said, only puts about \$200 million, or less than .2 percent of its total resources, into affordable housing.

"I was quite intrigued by McCall's suggestion of using pension funds," said Michael McKee of Tenants and Neighbors, which has endorsed McCall. "We can build a lot of housing with just a bit of that money."

There is certainly a need. According to Housing First!, a housing advocacy group, New York City is short about 225,000 affordable apartments for its residents. And housing production has slowed down. In the 1990s, the number of housing units increased by 83,000 units, compared to the 1960s when five-times more apartments were built.

Green Party candidate Stanley Aronowitz had another idea: raise taxes. According to his math, a 2 percent tax hike for people earning more than \$80,600 a year could bring in about \$4 million to \$6 million annually.

—Anupama Chandrasekaran
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THIS WEEK

Mon., Aug. 12, 1 p.m. Public Hearing: Making the Construction of Assisted Living Facilitates More Affordable. Sponsor: New York State Assembly, 250 Broadway. Call 518-455-4355.

Tue., Aug. 13, 7 p.m. Public Hearing: New York Charter Revision. Sponsor: Office of the Public Advocate, 9

Metrotech Center, Brooklyn. Call 212-669-7200.

Thu., Aug. 12, 10 a.m. Public Hearing: Designating New York as the Host for the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Sponsor: City Council, at City Hall. Call 212-788-7100.

Thu., Aug 15, 7 p.m. Public Hearing: New York Charter Revision. Sponsor: Office of the Public Advocate, at LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Avenue, E Building. Call 212-669-7200.

Thu., Aug. 15, 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing: NYCHA Draft Annual Plan. Sponsor: NYCHA, at The Hilton New York, 1335 Sixth Avenue. Call 212-306-8252.

Sun., Aug. 18, 9 a.m. Public Forum: World Trade Center Building Code Issues. Sponsor: Department of Buildings, 280 Broadway, 7th Floor. Call 646-248-8000.

Sun., Aug. 18, 10 a.m. Event: Afghan Heritage Day. Sponsor: Afghan Communicator, Flushing Meadow Corona Park, Festival Site, Queens. Call 718-445-6438.

J O B A D S

The Forest Hills Community House, a multi-service, settlement house serving the borough of Queens seeks to fill positions necessary to provide services to individuals and families directly impacted by 9/11. The project is to commence in late August/early Sept. Persons fluent in Spanish, Arabic, Asian and South Asian languages and with sensitivity to and appreciation of diverse populations encouraged to apply for the following positions: **PROJECT SUPERVISOR** — MSW, supervisory experience, program development experience, crisis intervention experience, experience working with diverse communities, knowledge of entitlements, strong communication, writing, organizational, and computer skills. **CASEWORKERS** — BSW or equivalent, social service experience with immigrant communities, previous work with families, advocacy experience, knowledge of entitlement systems, good communication and organizational skills. **COMMUNITY WORKER** — Seeking organizer with social service experience, multilingual with strong communication, organizational and outreach skills. Fax Resume & Cover Letter: Mary Abbate, Assistant Executive Director 718-592-2933.

Selfhelp Community Services Inc., is an established not-for-profit innovator of home care concepts, senior housing and social services programs. We are presently seeking **MANAGERS** for our senior

centers/housing division. The qualified candidate will coordinate all activities of the Senior Centers/Housing Division. This includes staff supervision, training and performance evaluation; analyzing and implementing the divisions operational and philosophical goals; assuming all long and short term budgetary and fiscal planning responsibility; acting as primary liaison with all government agencies, private grants and elected officials; and community outreach. Must have an MSW or a Masters degree in a related field along with at least 5 years supervisory experience. Experience with seniors is a plus. Interested applicants send resume to: Human Resources Manager, 520 8th Ave., NY,NY 10018; fax 212-695-0941 or email: mbeech@selfhelp.com EOE

ADVOCATE/ORGANIZER — DIHR is seeking a militant, activist advocate/organizer who will strengthen and expand our work to build partnerships and coalitions with parents/parent groups, providers of services, community groups, legal organizations, concerned professionals, and disenfranchised and minority communities. Objectives: social change, social justice, equity and empowerment of adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Qualifications: 1-2 years in community organizing; coalition building and outreach skills; ability to communicate in Spanish and English is desirable; knowledge of the developmentally disabled social service system is helpful. Contact person: Dr. Robert Schwartz, Email dihrny@aol.com or mail to: DIHR, 891 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025. Fax: 212-665-7104

CAMPAIGN MANAGER — Tenants & Neighbors seeks full-time staff person to manage campaign to renew state rent laws in June 2003. Ideal candidate is an experienced organizer with good understanding of state and local politics. Salary commensurate with experience. Send or fax resume / cover letter to: Joe Heaphy, Tenants & Neighbors, 105 Washington Street, NYC 10006. Fax: 212- 619-7476.

Doctors Council, SEIU Local 10MD, has 2 openings for **CONTRACT ADMINISTRATORS**. Doctors Council, established in 1973, affiliated with SEIU in 1999. Represents approximately 2,500 Attending Doctors in collective bargaining in both the public and private sectors in and around the New York City region. The duties of the Contract Administrator include handling grievances, arbitration and negotiation preparation, and all aspects of membership development. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are required. Ability to work in a team atmosphere. Minimum of 3 years experience in the labor movement is preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits including paid health insurance and pension. Send Cover Letter, Resume and Salary Requirements to Renee Campion, Director of Contract Administration at 21 East 40th Street, 8th floor, NYC 10016, fax 212-481-4137 or e-mail to rcampion@doctorscouncil.com

PARALEGAL CASEHANDLER/TENANT ORGANIZER — Based in Bronx Neighborhood Office of Legal Aid Society, organizing tenants in buildings in both Brooklyn and Bronx receiving Section 8 funding. Responsibilities include completing project reports, drafting material distributed to tenants, and speaking at public meetings. Attend night meetings in Brooklyn and Bronx. Work as part of team of attorneys and paralegals addressing needs of

tenants. Salary \$31,600 + excellent benefits. Requires 4-year college degree or paralegal certificate. Send cover letter, resume and short writing sample to: Helaine Barnett, Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Division, Legal Aid Society, 166 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Women, people of color, gays and lesbians and people with disabilities especially encouraged to apply.

Garment Industry Development Corporation (GIDC), a non-profit consortium of business, labor and government working to retain good jobs in the garment industry, seeks a **RESEARCHER**. Responsibilities include: Research apparel companies using interviews, publications, databases, and internet sources; Track business operations of targeted companies; Identify and analyze growth opportunities; Develop well-written and persuasive analyses. Reqs.: BA/BS in economics, business, labor studies or other related field; Experience in conducting research from primary and secondary sources including Internet; Ability to interpret statistical information and financial statements and organize information; Ability to conduct informational interviews; Excellent written and verbal communication skills; Interest in apparel industry; Commitment to labor issues; Proficient user of database software, i.e. Access. Salary: low to mid 30's. Mail or FAX resume and cover letter to: GIDC, 275 Seventh Avenue, 9th Floor, re: Researcher, New York, NY 10001, FAX: 212-366-6162, www.gidc.org.

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER — Early Childhood Program. Coordinate & process intakes for our ACD funded program as well as submit the required paperwork. Organize & run the Parent Advisory Committee. Establish & maintain an ongoing relationship w/parents. Coordinate trips & make unit visits as nec. Maintain close relationships with staff & children & assist the Director as needed. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Social Work nec. Must have exp in processing Agency for Child Development (ACD) paperwork. Previous exp working w/adults & children req'd. Salary starts in low \$20's, but is based on education & exp. Send resumes to: Ruth Freeman, HELP Bronx Morris, 285 East 171 St. Bronx, NY 10457, via fax at 718-583-9085 or via email at rffreeman@helpusa.org.

IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST — Queens settlement house is commencing a project headed by the Legal Aid Society to provide advocacy and assistance to immigrant adults participating in our Adult Education program. We seek an individual sensitive to diverse immigrant populations, bilingual (Spanish most helpful), advocacy experience and some knowledge of immigration policy in rela-

tion to food stamps, public assistance, education and citizenship. The position is 28 hours per week, 2 evenings per week required, and is available in September. Send cover letter and resume via Fax to: Attention K.C. Williams @ 718-898-7461

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR — Local government agency seeks liaison to community boards and community organizations. Responsibilities include effective outreach, technical assistance, monitoring of local issues, and participation in public events. NYC residency, excellent writing, interpersonal and public speaking skills, BA/BS degree, three years of community affairs experience and drivers license required. Knowledge of city government, community boards and neighborhoods in the borough of Brooklyn a plus. Salary mid to high 30's. Send resume, writing sample and salary history fax # 718-802-2655.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR — Outreach/drop-in prog serving homeless mentally ill/mica, Upper West Side. Intensive case mgmt, stabilization, pmnt hsg. Resp incl prog admin & devpt, clinical oversight & staff supvsn, contract compliance, personnel, ensuring effective community/interagency relations. Req: CSW or rel MA, proven record of successfl mgmt. Sal com w/exp, exc ben. Let/res: Mona Bergenfeld, Project Reachout/GRCC, 593 Columbus Avenue, NY, NY 10024.

MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGER — ART is a collaborative project of the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) Office of Health and Mental Health Services (OHMHS). ART provides time-limited, specialized case management services for clients of HRA's HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA, formerly known as DASIS) who have serious mental illness. Position Summary: The ART - Mental Health Case Manager performs biopsychosocial assessments of clients in their place of residence in conjunction with NYC HRA Office of Health and Mental Health psychiatrists. Provide time-limited specialized case management services to individuals with serious mental illness and HIV, including linkage to community-based mental health substance abuse, and other treatment facilities. Provide crisis intervention services as well as monitoring services. Refer clients to supportive housing programs. Maintain documentation. Experience and Skills: MSW and three years experience in services to individuals with serious mental illness. Please send resume & salary requirements to: Medical and Health Research Association, Inc. (MHRA) - attn: Kris Picariello, 40 Worth Street -Suite 720, New York, NY 10013 (Att:KP-MHCM); Fax: 212-267-3895; E-mail: MHRAemployenet@mhra.org (attn:KP-MHCM) EOE M/F. Please visit our website at www.mhra.org for more infor-



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Lenox Hill Neighborhood House seeks **DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR** for Homeless Services. Duties include overall responsibility for five service programs, supervision, program development, personnel, managing \$5 mil budget, and serving as part of executive staff of agency. Generous leave time, benefits, staff devel, free use of fitness center and indoor pool make LHNH the place to work. Req: MSW or equivalent degree plus min. 8 yrs rel. exp. which must include clinical, supervisory and administrative experience. We seek and value a diverse workforce. EOE. Resumes to: Lynn Appelbaum, Deputy Executive Director for Programs, LHNH 331 E. 70th St. NY, NY 10021.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT — Manages general support, supports categorical fundraising, and coordinates strategic planning and communications for dynamic nonprofit community development corporation in Williamsburg-Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Excellent benefits and compensation. Reports to Executive Director. Should have interest and experience in community development, be a strong writer, and able to work independently. Submit resume and cover letter to: Michael Rochford, Executive Director, SNNPC, 11 Catherine Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211, e-mail: mortiz@stnicksnpc.com www.stnicksnpc.org.

SOCIAL WORKER — The Green Chimneys Children's Services @ Ungar House has a full-time position available as a social worker in the Gramercy Program for gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning adolescents. The position requires a minimum of a MSW degree. Experience with foster care, GLBTQ populations and bilingual in Spanish- a plus. Full benefits. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please fax resume to: the social work supervisor: Ms. Shannon Morse at 212-673-1476. For additional info on our programs, please visit our website at www.greenchimneys.org.

CASE MANAGER — MSW/BSW with Human Services & Exp with seniors preferred. Assess/plan & coordinate services to homebound elderly in community-based agency. Challenging, rewarding work. Salary \$30,000+. Resume to: Betsy Tuft, Director, Project Life, 312 E. 109th St. New York, NY 10029.

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR for New Members, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations — The Riverside Church is seeking a motivated, team player to ensure the seamless, satisfactory integration of new members into The Church, as you will help recruit and nurture them. In this position, you will maintain the database of member info; execute the New Members Plus program, coordinate interfaith outreach events, and manage ongoing communication with members. Additionally, the Executive Coordinator will be involved in fundraising and the training/supervision of volunteers, and handle administrative duties, such as correspondence, phones, supplies and the Director's calendar. The qualified individual we seek must at minimum, have a Bachelor's degree, with 5-7 years of diverse experience in business, technology and office administration. A high level of proficiency with PC's is critical, which ideally includes MS Word, Outlook, Access, PowerPoint and Outlook; graphic software; and Raiser's Edge. Solid organization, problem solving, communications and listening skills are a must, as is a recognizable

focus on members and volunteers. Expertise in business management or not-for-profit administration are an asset; fundraising experience is required. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Please submit cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: Human Resources, The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027; Fax: 212-870-6708; E-mail: hresources@theriversidechurchny.org. No phone calls please; only qualified candidates will hear from us. EOE M/F

UNIT LEADER — Venture House, an innovative mental health program, is seeking a highly motivated individual for this supervisory position in the Administrative Services Unit of our clubhouse. This unit is responsible for member enrollment, publishing our newsletter, member records management, report preparation and data entry. You would also provide assistance to people with mental illness with goal setting, employment placements, entitlements, and needed services while working in partnerships with members. Flexibility and a belief in rehabilitation and recovery are essential. Several years experience in the mental health field is required. Supervisory experience important. Competitive salary and benefits. Some evening and weekend work required. Please fax your resume to Ray Schwartz at 718-658-7899 or mail it to 150-10 Hillside Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432.

OFFICE SPACE

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY — Over 8,000 square feet St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Parish House, 157 Montague St. Bus. Dist. Subdividable; Nonprofit only, suitable for classrooms, conference center, administrative offices; Access from all major subways; Term: 2 to 3 years; Rent: \$15-\$20 per sq ft, net Contact: Gregory Eaton, 718-875-6960

RFP

RFP — The New York Mortgage Coalition invites responses to its Homeownership Education and Counseling Program RFP. Non-profit groups experienced in providing homeownership education and counseling to low-and-moderate-income persons are encouraged to submit proposals. Submissions are due August 21, 2002. Contact Corrine Alleyne, 646-336-8609.

RFP — The New York Women's Foundation, a public foundation committed to helping low-income women and girls achieve sustained economic self-sufficiency and self-reliance, has changed its funding process. They are seeking Letters of Intent for 2003 funding. The deadline is Friday, September 13, 2002. For more information, visit www.nywf.org or call 212-414-4342.

OFFICE SPACE