



Urban Justice Center

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VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT

New York City has over 250,000 veterans, many of whom suffer from mental illness, including PTSD and substance abuse problems. Yet half of veterans in need of mental health care do not seek treatment. When these veterans face legal challenges, such as eviction or an improper termination of food stamps, it drastically increases the risk that they will spiral further into illness, become homeless, or even commit suicide. Having a zealous advocate—to fight evictions, to ensure access to healthcare, and to appeal benefits denials—makes all the difference. The VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT helps veterans achieve the stability needed to regain their health and rebuild their lives.

WHO ARE WE?

THE VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT is a part of the Mental Health Project (MHP) at the Urban Justice Center. MHP has a staff of twelve attorneys and social workers dedicated to advocating for clients with mental illness.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Housing**
Defend clients in Housing Court to prevent evictions and homelessness. Assist veterans in finding supportive housing.
- **Health Care**
Ensure veterans' access to health care and mental health treatment. Connect veterans with the appropriate services and support, including substance abuse treatment and counseling.
- **Income**
Support clients in maintaining an income, through programs such as Food Stamps, Social Security, and welfare.

WHY IS OUR WORK NECESSARY?

There is a common misperception that veterans are taken care of by the VA for life. The truth is that access to VA services is a complicated and lengthy process—and not every veteran will qualify.

Recently, the VA revealed that 18 veterans commit suicide each day. The number of veterans suffering from PTSD, depression, and substance abuse is only growing. Many cycle between hospitals, jails, and the streets. To beat the odds, we assist our clients in obtaining the basic necessities of life: housing, medical care, and an income for food and clothing.

*For more information, please contact
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