Serving Women Veterans

On the March 23 Champions of Justice radio show, ICLC's Homeless Veteran Project Senior Staff Attorney Melissa Tyner was interviewed by attorney Tom Girardi and ICLC Board member Amy Solomon about the problems that women veterans face when they return home from Iraq and Afghanistan. As Melissa explained:

- One in three female soldiers experience Military Sexual Trauma during their tour of duty;
- 20% of female veterans have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- Almost 1,000 of the 8,000 homeless veterans in Los Angeles County are women;
- 45% of homeless women veterans have dependent children;
- 80% of veteran benefits claims are denied;
- ICLC is the only legal services organization in the country to focus on serving women veterans.

Too many of our women veterans return from military service to find themselves in a spiral of homelessness. According to Amy Solomon, "We welcome these men and women into the military with the stamp of honor, integrity and respect, but when they finish their tour where did all that honor, integrity and respect go?"

Click here to hear the full interview highlighting the challenges that female veterans face when they return home.

Keeping Families in Their Homes

An unscrupulous landlord illegally divided his property into eleven units, including four units in his basement, one in his attic, and two units in two trailers on his property, renting them to vulnerable low-income tenants. This was done without required permits or meeting basic standards of habitability. Living conditions were horrible, and all the tenants shared one illegally constructed bathroom. Mr. Ruiz (not his real name), a tenant in one of the basement units, complained that sewage dripped from his ceiling, but rather than make repairs the landlord attempted to evict Mr. Ruiz for complaining.

ICLC attorneys represented Mr. Ruiz in defeating two
improper eviction attempts and a frivolous lawsuit by the landlord. An ICLC advocate contacted various government agencies over 80 times for assistance with the case, and ultimately secured intervention by the Los Angeles Housing Department days before the second eviction trial. Thanks to ICLC's intervention, Mr. Ruiz received $9,650 in relocation benefits, which he used to avoid homelessness, pay his medical bills, and move into a much better apartment.

Thirteenth Annual Awards Luncheon- Save the Date

Inner City Law Center's annual Awards Luncheon is our single most important fundraising event, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to power ICLC's efforts to provide the poorest among us with the same access to justice as the richest and most powerful. For more information about the luncheon, please click here.

**Inner City Law Center invites you to join us on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, from 12:00-1:30 p.m., at The L.A. Hotel Downtown to honor:**

**The Honorable Hilda L. Solis**  
*Katharine Krause Award Recipient*

Former United States Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis shares Inner City Law Center’s vision that "no one should experience homelessness - no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home." From her upbringing as the daughter of immigrant parents, to her leadership in Congress and at the Department of Labor, Ms. Solis' efforts align perfectly with the mission of Inner City Law Center. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy called her "a voice for the voiceless with a true passion for fairness and justice."

**Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and Margaret Levy**  
*Humanitarian Award Recipient*

Manatt's pro bono work with Inner City Law Center has spanned all of our legal projects. Manatt attorneys have helped guide Inner City Law Center's policy work, represented low-income tenants facing habitability issues or unlawful evictions, assisted veterans who were improperly denied VA benefits, and fought against discrimination targeting people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sharing the award will be Margaret Levy in recognition of the extraordinary depth of her commitment to providing free legal services to the poor and her two decades of service on Inner City Law Center's Board of Directors.
Thirteenth Annual Awards Luncheon
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*as of April 29, 2013*
About Inner City Law Center

Inner City Law Center is the preeminent housing and homelessness legal-services organization working on behalf of poor people in Southern California. As the only provider of legal services located on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, ICLC combats slum housing throughout Los Angeles and develops strategies to end homelessness.

Each year, ICLC's staff of 40 (including 20 attorneys) provides free, high-quality legal representation to thousands of low-income tenants, working-poor families, immigrants, people who are homeless or disabled, and veterans. Driven by the fundamental principle that every person should always be treated with dignity and respect, ICLC works for long-term, positive, and meaningful change.