

## **FISCAL YEAR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

For 22 years, Her Justice has recruited, trained and mentored volunteer attorneys from New York City's law firms and corporations to stand side-by-side with women who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer, giving them a real chance to obtain the legal protections they need to overcome abuse and poverty. In that way, Her Justice brings the power of the legal profession to those who need it most.

Her Justice provides free legal services in family, matrimonial and immigration law that address the needs of low-income women, especially those who have suffered domestic violence and immigrants isolated by language and culture. Her Justice offers a full range of direct legal services—information, advice and counsel, brief services and full representation. Daily, our experienced staff attorneys provide women with information about the legal remedies available to them and advise and strategize with clients to help them weigh their options and decide the course that is right for them and their children.

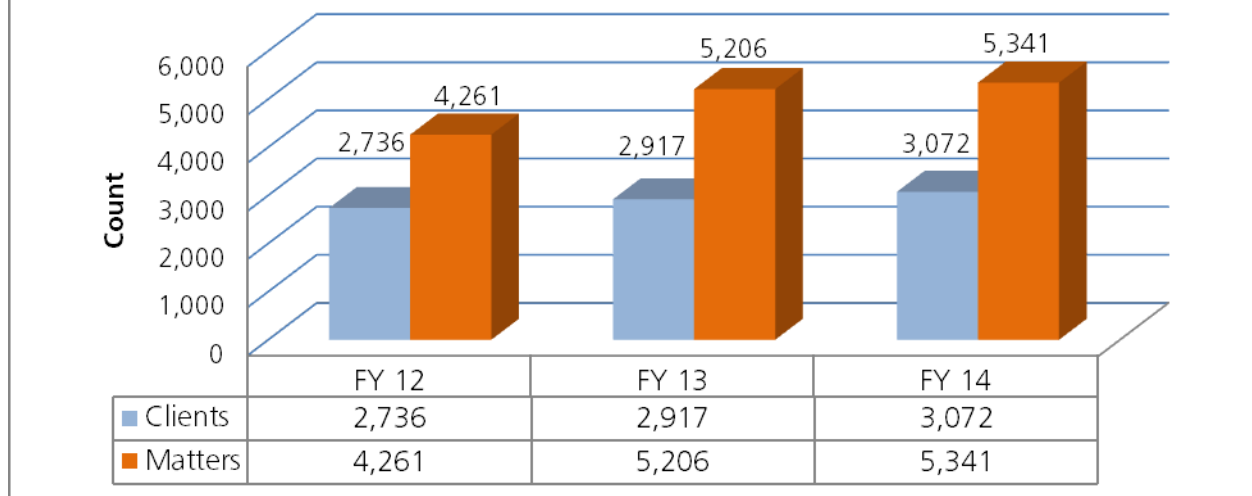
In New York City, more than 1.7 million people—1 in 5 residents and 1 in 3 children—live in poverty (below the federal guideline of \$24,250 for a family of four). If the net is expanded to include the "near poor," those earning up to 200% of the federal poverty guideline, over 40% of New Yorkers live near the edge.

The severe shortage of free, civil legal services in the City and the resulting "justice gap" have been well documented. At least 80% of petitioners in the City's Family Courts are unrepresented and there is no right to counsel in Immigration Court. The shortage of free legal services takes a particularly hard toll on women and children. Most poor, single-parent families are headed by women and the poverty rate for single mothers is 43%—more than twice the City's overall poverty rate. For low-income women struggling to pay for basic necessities, hiring a lawyer is not an option. With alarming frequency, these women forfeit their legal rights due to lack of representation, rather than on the merits of their petitions. Rates of intimate partner abuse are higher for women living in low-income communities. In 2014, City police received 282,648 reports—an average of over 770 per day. Given that domestic violence is vastly underreported, especially in immigrant and insular ethnic communities, this statistic certainly represents an undercount. The need for free legal services to assist these vulnerable members of our community is indisputable and urgent.

### **OVERVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS**

The demand for legal representation continued to grow during the fiscal year. **Her Justice served 3,072 clients (with a combined 4,277 children) and had 5,341 open legal matters throughout the year.**

## Matters and clients by fiscal year 2012-2014



A “matter” is any service provided to a client, including but not limited to full representation, advice and counsel, brief services, and/or referrals. A “client” is a unique individual who had any matter open at any time in the fiscal year.

In FY 2013, Her Justice instituted a new manner of counting immigration matters to match the standard in the industry and more accurately reflect our work.

The number of clients receiving pro se assistance—information, know-your-rights clinics, advice and counsel and brief assistance—also grew substantially. **Last year, Her Justice staff attorneys provided advice and/or brief assistance on 2,515 matters to pro se clients, an increase of 68% over the prior year.**

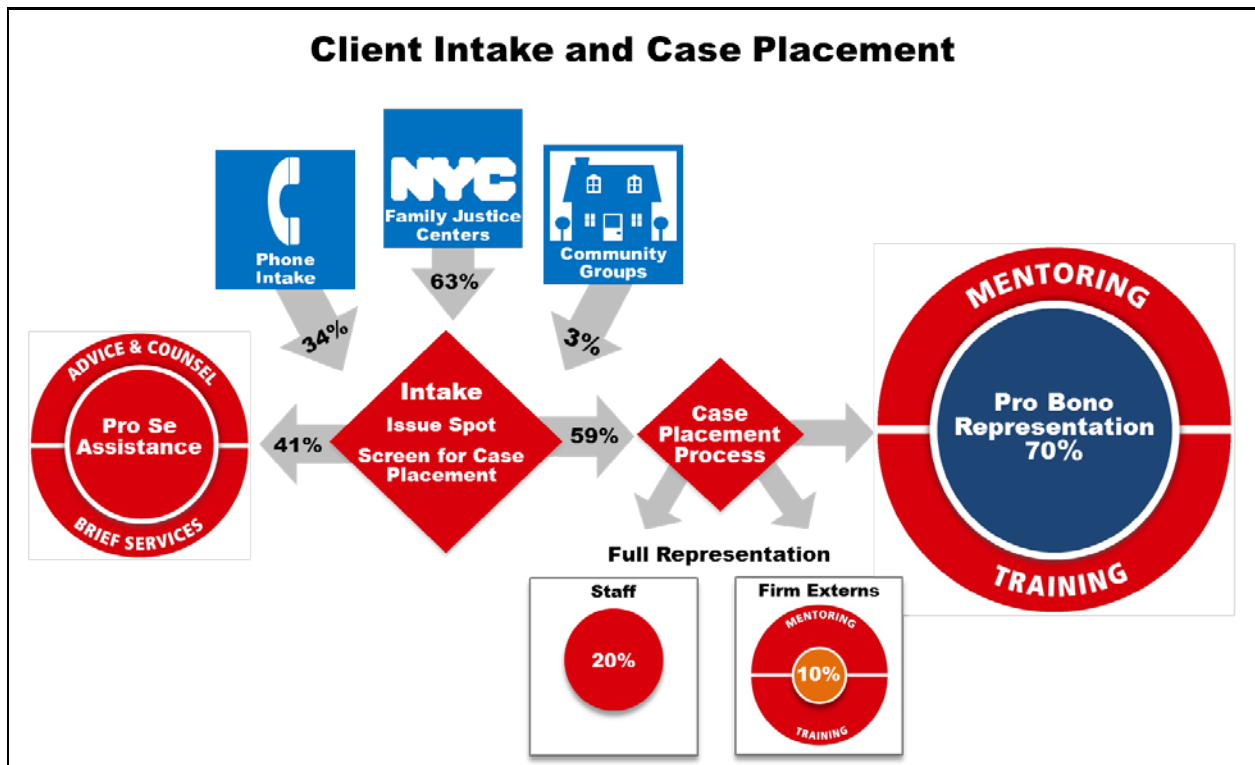
Approximately 42% of our clients receive the help they need through pro se assistance. The other 58% benefit from full representation by either pro bono attorneys to whom we refer cases (80%) or staff attorneys (20%). Our experienced staff attorneys provide intensive training and mentoring to volunteer attorneys so that they can address the safety and financial concerns of families in crisis. Her Justice conducts live trainings year-round—also available via video streaming—providing detailed manuals of case law and sample documents and is accredited to provide CLE credit for trainings and pro bono hours worked.

Volunteer lawyers are assigned a mentor to strategize, answer substantive and procedural questions, review documents before they are filed and provide referrals for social and other services. Staff attorneys also conduct tailored question and answer sessions at firms. Non-attorney volunteers interpret for non-English-speaking clients, and volunteer accountants and investigators compile and analyze the documentation necessary to obtain fair divisions of marital assets and support orders for our clients. By focusing the efforts of our legal staff primarily on training and mentoring pro bono attorneys working on referred matters, rather than representing clients themselves, Her Justice greatly increases the quantity of legal services it delivers and the number of women who receive legal assistance. Our 12 attorneys have nearly 130 years’ collective experience providing direct legal services to low-income clients and maintain a small caseload of matters to stay up-to-date on changes in the law and novel issues arising in the cases they mentor. Many staff members also serve in leadership roles on bar committees and other groups, working on policy-

making on issues affecting our clients, such as divorce reform, Family Court reform, domestic violence and immigration.

### **THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT—OUR LEVERAGE MODEL**

By leveraging the talent and resources of private firms, Her Justice increases exponentially the number of women who go to court with their own lawyers and obtain the legal protections that they and their children need and deserve. Demonstrating the effectiveness of our leverage model, last year, our 18-member legal staff **trained and mentored 2,400 volunteer lawyers, paralegals and law students** who provided **78,000 hours of service—valued at more than \$34 million**. Every dollar donated to Her Justice delivers \$6 worth of legal services.



### **THE WOMEN WE SERVE**

The women and children we serve reside in all five boroughs of New York City:

- 31% live in the Bronx, the City’s poorest borough and the poorest urban county in the U.S.
- 30% live in Queens, the borough with the highest concentration of immigrants
- 21% live in Brooklyn, the City’s most populous borough, with the highest concentration of people living in poverty in New York State
- 52% are Latina, 25% are African-American and 14% are Asian or from another minority group
- 85% are survivors of domestic violence
- 69% are mothers
- 71% are foreign born and 1 out of every 4 women cannot access the legal system without an interpreter

## **OUR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER PARTNERSHIPS**

The Manhattan Family Justice Center (FJC) opened on March 12, 2014 and Her Justice began meeting with clients there by the end of that month. Her Justice is now an on-site partner at all four of the City's FJCs—in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens—serving victims of domestic violence. At each of the FJCs, a Her Justice staff attorney and paralegal conduct intake and follow-up appointments and we provide a full range of information, advice and counsel, brief services and representation in the areas of family, matrimonial and immigration law. As a result of our staffing rotation model, all legal staff members are engaged in serving women who reside in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. Our in-person intakes at the FJCs enable us to more quickly and completely assess a client's needs, gather the necessary background documents and information and gauge her ability to cooperate with, and benefit from, pro bono representation.

**In fiscal year 2014, two-thirds of the cases we handled came from one of the FJCs.**

Her Justice staff participated in, and took a leadership role in, the extensive planning and training that preceded the MFJC's opening. Margie Bechara, a Her Justice supervising attorney who has supervised our work at the Bronx FJC since it opened in 2010, served as co-chair of the working group that coordinated efforts among the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) and the various service providers in advance of the Center's opening. She continues to coordinate our services at the Manhattan FJC with the OCDV and the other FJC providers and to oversee and coordinate the other Her Justice staff attorneys who provide legal services to clients and mentor the pro bono attorneys assigned to represent Manhattan FJC clients. In preparation for the opening of the Center, other staff members participated in planning sessions with representatives of the OCDV and the other Manhattan FJC service providers and Her Justice legal staff conducted and participated in numerous training sessions.

Consistent with our experience at the other FJCs, we expect our presence at the Manhattan FJC to result in substantial increases in legal matters and women and children served from New York County.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW**

We concluded an extensive review of our communications work and rebranding the first several months of the fiscal year, culminating in the change of our name from inMotion to Her Justice on November 12, 2013 and the launch of our rebranded print and digital communication pieces, including a new website.

As part of the communications review, we produced a new client brochure which provides an easy reference for women seeking our services. The brochure summarizes who is eligible for our services, the types of services we provide, the hours and phone number for our telephone intake, the in-person intake process at the FJCs, general contact information and the address of, and directions by public transportation to, our four FJC offices. Copies in English and Spanish are available in each of our offices.

Our annual Photography Auction and Benefit in April 2014 was attended by more than 1,000 guests and raised over \$2.2 million. In October 2013, we held our fourth annual stair climb event, **Story by Story**<sup>®</sup>. Over 1,100 people registered to climb the stairs of a Manhattan skyscraper at 245 Park Avenue, helping to build awareness of the needs of abuse victims and support for Her Justice. This event raised over \$665,000.

We actively seek additional institutions to support our work as Corporate Partners, providing important, sustaining, non-event-related funding for Her Justice. In fiscal year 2014, our Corporate

Partners donated 27% of the operating income of Her Justice and assisted Her Justice clients in over three-quarters of our legal matters. We are also working to expand our donor base among law firms, corporations, foundations and individuals.

Her Justice is one of only 12% of charities rated by Charity Navigator to receive its highest rating—4 stars—for at least three consecutive years. In addition, the Better Business Bureau of New York has determined that Her Justice meets all the Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability.

### **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Her Justice Board spent the end of the fiscal year engaged in succession planning in response to our founding director's decision to retire. They conducted a broad search, and in September 2014, Amy Barasch became the second Executive Director of Her Justice, succeeding Catherine Douglass, the organization's Founder. Prior to joining Her Justice, Amy served as the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and was the director of the first of the FJCs in Brooklyn. Amy has extensive experience working with low-income women and assisting abuse victims at the City and State levels. She is a passionate, committed leader who will continue and advance the important work of Her Justice. In a recent article published by Slate, Amy discussed some of the reasons why civil legal assistance is so important for victims of domestic violence. A copy of the article is available at [http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2015/02/domestic\\_violence\\_protection\\_victims\\_need\\_civil\\_courts\\_and\\_lawyers.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2015/02/domestic_violence_protection_victims_need_civil_courts_and_lawyers.html).

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Her Justice engages the talent and resources of New York City's law firms and corporations, bringing together committed lawyers and determined women to secure life-changing results.

**Amy Barasch, Executive Director**  
**Her Justice**  
**100 Broadway, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**New York, NY 10005**  
**212-695-3800**  
**212-695-9519 (fax)**  
[www.herjustice.org](http://www.herjustice.org)

*Her Justice is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Affiliation/Occupation</b>
Amy Barasch, Esq. <i>(President)</i>	Executive Director, Her Justice
Peter V. Pantaleo, Esq. <i>(Chair)</i>	Of Counsel, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Matthew A. Feldman, Esq. <i>(Vice Chair)</i>	Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Ivan R. Lehon CFA, CFE <i>(Treasurer)</i>	Partner, Transaction Advisory Services  US Restructuring – NE/FSO Leader, Ernst & Young Capital Advisors, LLC
Nancy Gardner, Esq. <i>(Secretary)</i>	
Jeffrey A. Brodsky	Managing Director, Quest Turnaround Advisors, LLC
Patricia Ferrari	Managing Director, Head of Restructuring and Remediation, MBIA
Drew S. Fine, Esq.	Partner, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP
Sonia Gardner	President, Managing Partner and Co-Founder, Avenue Capital Group
Marcia L. Goldstein, Esq.	Partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Edward J. Goldthorpe	Senior Portfolio Manager, US Opportunistic Credit, Apollo Global Management
Erin E. Hill, Esq.	Chief Administrative Officer – Consumer Banking, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Cathy M. Kaplan, Esq.	Partner, Sidley Austin LLP
Kim Koopersmith, Esq.	Partner and Chairperson, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
David N. Koschik, Esq.	Partner, White & Case LLP
Kevin J. Lavin	
Elizabeth F. Maringer, Esq.	Managing Director, Stroz Friedberg
Darin P. McAtee, Esq.	Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Bruce H. Mendelsohn	Partner, Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Sharon L. Nelles, Esq.	Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
John J. Rapisardi, Esq.	Partner, O’Melveny & Myers LLP
Craig L. Reicher	Vice Chairman, Tri-State Region, CBRE, Inc.
Eric M. Rosof, Esq.	Partner, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Robert C. Schwenkel, Esq.	Partner, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Roopesh K. Shah	Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Mary Singh	
Steven M. Zelin	Senior Managing Director, Blackstone
Kenneth S. Ziman, Esq.	Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

## Financial Overview - Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014)

### Operating Revenues

Individuals	\$	1,454,664
Law Firms	\$	1,495,989
Corporations	\$	1,038,265
Foundations	\$	441,239
Government	\$	304,853
Interest/Other Income	\$	41,540

**Total Operating Revenues** \$ 4,776,550

Donated Legal Services \$ 34,642,994

**TOTAL Revenue** **\$ 39,419,544**

### Operating Expenses

Legal/Program Services	\$	3,681,354
Fundraising/ Communications	\$	567,045
Management/General	\$	297,467

**Total Operating Expenses** \$ 4,545,866

Donated Legal Services \$ 34,642,994

Event Expenses \$ 610,401

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$ 39,799,261**

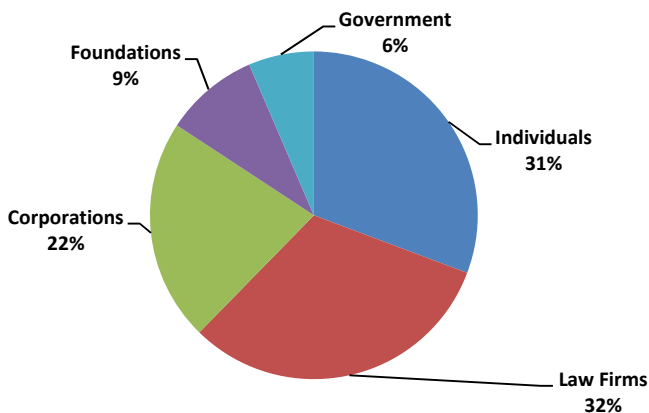
**Net Income** **\$ (379,717)**

**Total Assets** \$ 4,534,604

**Total Liabilities** \$ 370,364

**Total Net Assets** \$ 4,164,240

**Operating Revenues**



**Operating Expenses**

