

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025 BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC (BAM)



#### HONORING OUR CLIENTS & PRO BONO PARTNER



DEBORAH LITTLE SEEDLINGS MANHATTAN



DOMINIQUE BROOKLYN



LUIS QUEENS



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### **Davis Polk**





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#### **Davis Polk**

We join in celebration of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, its clients and McDermott Will & Emery.



### **About Us**

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (Brooklyn A) is committed to ensuring that every New Yorker has equal access to legal services to seek justice, amplify their voices, and confront systemic racism and oppression. Founded in 1968 during the War on Poverty, Brooklyn A recognizes the pivotal role attorneys play in combating poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

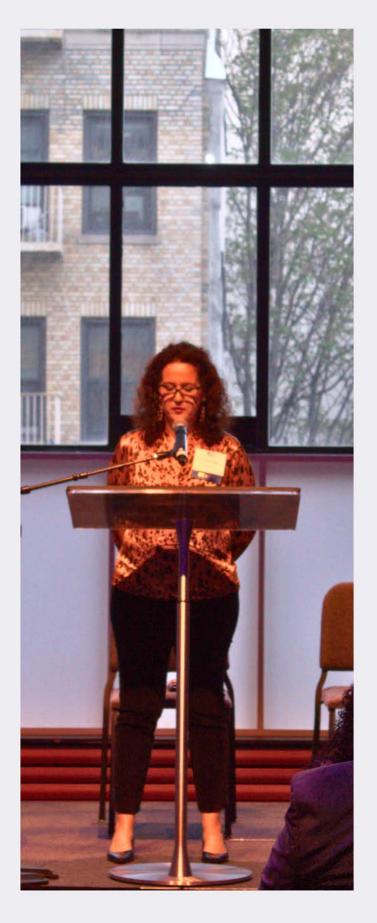
Through a combination of civil legal services, organizing efforts, and educational resources, we **partner** with individuals and communities to **assert** their rights and **stand** against harassment, displacement, and gentrification. Our work helps create **stronger**, more **equitable** neighborhoods.

# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It was truly heartwarming to gather with so many of you at Brooklyn A's annual Together for Justice event. Seeing a room full of longtime allies and new supporters reminded us just how strong and far-reaching our community truly is.

This event is always a highlight of our year—not only because we get to come together, but because we hear directly from our inspiring clients. Their stories are powerful reminders of the life-changing impact of access to civil legal services. This work can be difficult, but moments like this one renew our motivation and give us cause to celebrate the strength and dedication of the Brooklyn A team. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the entire staff.



We are deeply grateful to our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to our mission. Special thanks to our Board Chair, Tom McC. Souther, and to our Board Development Committee members, Joseph Lipofsky and Tiffanye Threadcraft, for their leadership and support. We were also thrilled to be joined by many of our partners—from community-based organizations, law firms, and law schools, to consultants, vendors, and supporters in elected office. For some of you, this was a rare opportunity to connect with us in person, and your presence meant so much.

We know that this event took place during a time of great uncertainty and challenge. Many have asked how Brooklyn A is responding to shifts in federal priorities and the resulting threats to our clients and our work. While we've had to adjust policies to safeguard our staff and the people we serve, we remain firmly committed to our mission. We are preparing for potential funding cuts at all levels of government, and we are redoubling our efforts to expand support and strengthen partnerships—like the ones we share with you.

We are living through a defining moment in our nation's history—one that demands clarity, courage, and collective action. Brooklyn A has spent nearly 60 years fighting injustice and defending the rights of marginalized communities. We believe in New Yorkers and in the power of legal advocacy to protect homes, preserve neighborhoods, and sustain lives. When people have attorneys by their side, they win—and those victories ripple outward, improving entire communities.

Thank you for standing Together for Justice with us. With your continued support, we will face these challenges head-on and build a more just and equitable city for all.

With deep appreciation,

**Executive Director** 

# City-Wide Impact



5,1/2 Cases Handled



8,166
People Impacted



2,975

Tenant Cases Handled



1,386

Small Business Matters



Foreclosure Cases Handled



Tax Clients Served



52

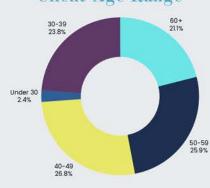
Tenant
Associations
Supported



55

Domestic Violence Cases Handled

#### Client Age Range



#### Client Gender



#### Languages Spoken by Clients



<sup>\*</sup>Above reflects FY24 data

Congratulations to this year's honorees. Debevoise & Plimpton proudly support Together for Justice and Brooklyn A. Here's to many more years of delivering high-quality civil legal services!

Debevoise Plimpton



Skadden is proud to support Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's Together for Justice Gala.

Congratulations to all the honorees!



Visit us at Skadden.com We are honored to support Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's Together for Justice Gala.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the honorees!





### DRIVING CHANGE TOGETHER.

McDermott is proud to support the Together for Justice event and efforts by Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A to provide legal services to low-income individuals, families, and community-based organizations in New York City. We share your passion for creating meaningful outcomes and are excited to be a part of your great work!

VISIT US AT MWE.COM



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# Honoring Domingue

Inspiring Strength and Resilience



Facing eviction and desperate to keep her sons with autism safely housed, Dominique turned to Brooklyn A for help. Our team fought alongside her to make sure her family could stay in the home they've known for years.

# Preserving Affordable Housing

**Brooklyn** 



Dominique - East New York 2025 Honoree

It became difficult for Dominique to pay her rent after she lost one of her two jobs last year. She'd been in her East New York apartment with her two sons since 2013, and though she was paying what she could the arrears were piling up. Dominique feared she'd be evicted, which would have been particularly challenging for her sons who suffer from autism and would have struggled with sudden displacement.

"I can hack it, but my kids need stability," Dominique said.

She started applying for One Shot Deals grants from NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) to clear the debt, trying more than a dozen times with no luck. Navigating the city agencies proved difficult and she often found people unhelpful.



When she connected with Brooklyn A, Shani and Kameal from our Preserving Affordable Housing team jumped to work. They helped Dominique apply again and discovered logistical problems at HRA prevented checks from going out.

With just one day left before the Stipulation payment deadline, the checks came through. Dominique had roughly \$10,000 of back rent cleared, the housing court action resolved, and she was able to stay in her apartment with her two boys.

The Preserving Affordable Housing (PAH) serves tenants facing eviction, harassment from landlords, unaddressed repairs, and more.

Through legal representation in housing court, brief advice services, and regular legal education, the PAH team empowers renters so they can maintain livable, secure housing in New York City.

PAH also works with tenant associations, helping them organize and mobilize to assert their rights and leverage their collective power.

Patterson Belknap is
proud to support
Brooklyn Legal
Services Corporation A's
Together for Justice
2025 Gala

Brooklyn, New York April 30, 2025

1133 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 www.pbwt.com



#### Simpson Thacher



We Proudly Support

# Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A and the 2025 Together for Justice Gala

and Congratulate This Year's Pro Bono Honoree

#### McDermott Will & Emery

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP



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JUST # TECH





STRONGER TOGETHER





Moronke & Jason



# Honoring

# Inspiring Strength and Resilience



When Luis faced losing the first home he bought for his family, Brooklyn A stepped in to fight for them. Our team helped clear the path to relief, resolve the foreclosure case, and make sure Luis could keep the promise he made to his kids: "We're not going anywhere."

# Consumer & Economic Advocacy

**Foreclosure Prevention** 



Luis - Ozone Park 2025 Honoree

Luis is the first homeowner in his family. He bought his current home in Ozone Park to share with his wife and kids—this would be his "last stop."

Luis hasn't been able to work for more than a decade after a bad work accident forced him to retire. Things were stable for him and his family until he missed an appointment with Social Security during the pandemic and his SSI payments were cut off for a year.

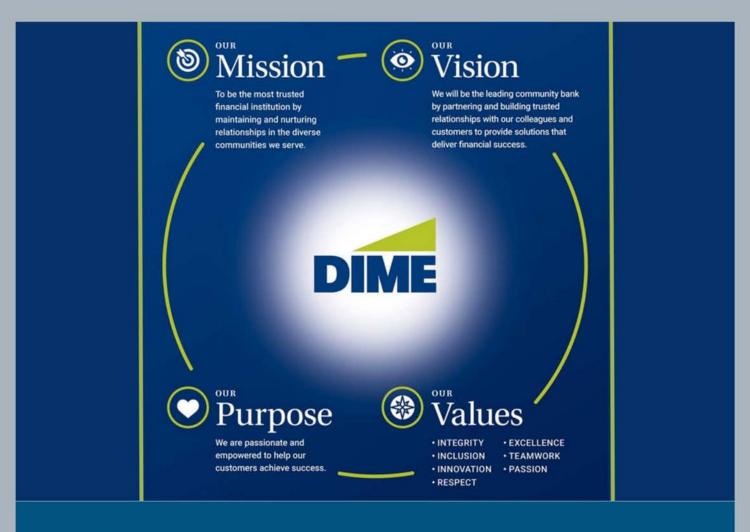
Meanwhile, his wife was diagnosed with a serious illness around the same time as the lender started a foreclosure case, compounding the already scary, stressful moment for the family. Luis applied for NYS Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) relief to help pay the mortgage arrears but wasn't able to make any progress.



When he connected with Brooklyn A, our team was able to expedite a solution. Alex from our Foreclosure team connected with HAF after Luis' application was denied; he explained his situation and got the application restored. With time, we were able to reinstate his mortgage and resolve the foreclosure action in settlement conferences.

Luis and his family continue to live comfortably in their Ozone Park home with no fear of needing to leave. The Consumer & Economic Advocacy (CEA) Program's Foreclosure
Prevention work serves low-tomoderate income New Yorkers so they
can continue to build wealth for
generations to come.

The team uses civil legal remedies, bankruptcy and debt relief, and educational outreach to help prevent homeowners from losing their greatest financial asset. We work to get out ahead of issues, offering robust education on deed theft scams and predatory lending.





We Are continually inspired by Brooklyn A's unwavering commitment to justice, equity, and community empowerment.

Tonight's Together for Justice Gala is a celebration of the tireless advocates, partners, and clients who remind us why this work matters so deeply. Congratulations to all the honorees—you are the heart of their mission.



### Milbank

Pro bono service isn't just something we do, it's part of who we are.

We proudly support Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's Together for Justice Gala.

milbank.com

# PITTA BISHOP & DEL GIORNO LLC Government Relations / Consulting **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOREES!** Anonymous



Inspiring Strength and Resilience



When the pandemic and building issues threatened her daycare's future, Deborah turned to Brooklyn A for help. Together, she and our team secured a fair lease, saved Little Seedlings, and kept high-quality childcare accessible for working families in her community.

# Community & Economic Development

Commercial Lease Assistance



Deborah, Little Seedlings -Washington Heights 2025 Honoree

Deborah started her daycare, Little Seedlings, as a new mother talking with other parents at her local park in Washington Heights. Realizing there were no good, educational childcare options for low-income families in the neighborhood, she started one herself.

Little Seedling had spent about a decade at its Washington Heights location—the same building she grew up in—when the pandemic hit. The daycare lost clients quickly, and the loud ongoing construction next door that started last year, coupled with backed-up sewage that damaged many of their supplies, deterred new families even when the virus had subsided.

Little Seedlings was due for a new lease but was behind on rent and the landlord was not being cooperative.



child age groups and is working on adding another—each of them prioritizing working families in Manhattan.

"All families deserve highquality childcare education," Deborah said. "That's my guiding light."

Deborah connected with Brooklyn A for help, but the landlord was not happy about talking to an attorney. So, Deborah took on a big part of the job. She would work closely with our attorney, Alex, on the case and prepare what to say, acting as the gobetween in the negotiations.

Through Alex's guidance and Deborah's fearless navigating, the pair were able to find a resolution: they negotiated three years with no rent increase, starting with six months at a significantly reduced rate to help get out of the hole.

Little Seedlings continues to thrive in its long-held location and Deborah's business is booming! She has six daycares running that serve different Small businesses and local nonprofits are New York City's main employer, the heart of any neighborhood, and the focus of our Community & Economic Development (CED) Program. The team administers the NYC Department of Small Business Services City's Commercial Lease Assistance (CLA) Program of the NYC Department of Small Business Services, offering free legal services to qualifying business owners across the entire city.

Our nonprofit, worker co-op, and advocacy group support keeps vital organizations in healthy operating order through transactional services and assistance forming internal structures.





# McDermott Will & Emery

Honoring

# McDermott Will & Emery Pro Bono Partner



## Mcdermott will & Emery 2025 Pro Bono Honoree



Last year, McDermott Will & Emery generously provided nearly 200 hours of probono legal support to Brooklyn A clients. Their dedicated attorneys played a vital role in advancing our mission by helping grassroots organizations and worker cooperatives overcome legal hurdles that would otherwise be out of reach.

McDermott's team assisted a Brooklyn-based arts organization dedicated to fostering community engagement through accessible arts, crafts, and education. The firm guided the group through the process of securing tax-exempt status and drafted bylaws to ensure long-term compliance and sustainability.

They also supported the formation of an Islamic art institute committed to celebrating Islamic cultural heritage through inclusive artistic expression and education.



With McDermott's help, the organization successfully incorporated and laid the legal groundwork for its work in the community.

Most recently, McDermott took on its first litigation matter for Brooklyn A—successfully filing a motion to vacate a default judgment in a breach of contract case involving services that were never provided. The client, a worker-owned cooperative, lacked the resources to engage private counsel and turned to Brooklyn A for help.

McDermott stepped in and defended their rights, achieving a critical victory. Thanks to McDermott's commitment, individuals and families who may have otherwise gone unrepresented were empowered with the legal support they needed.

The talent and dedication from the McDermott team exemplify the values we strive to uphold at Brooklyn A. We are proud to recognize their outstanding work and grateful for their continued partnership.



### We Thank Our Pro Bono Partners

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To learn more about becoming a pro bono partner, contact Ndukwe Agwu at nagwu@bka.org.

We are proud to sponsor Brooklyn A's 2025 Together for Justice event!

Congratulations to all the honorees!

Moronke & Jason Martin



SUPPORTING THOSE
WHO DEFEND RIGHTS
AND BUILD
COMMUNITIES.

MCD ADVISORS LLC

Dedicated to the non-profit community.

Honored to support

Together for Justice 2025

and the work of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.

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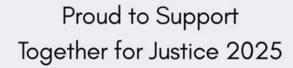
just-tech.com/



Congratulations to the entire **Brooklyn A** team for all your work and efforts helping New Yorkers every day!

Proud supporter of Together for Justice 2025

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STRONGER TOGETHER

Working together for a more just future.

Justice. Equity. Community.



Honored to stand with Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.



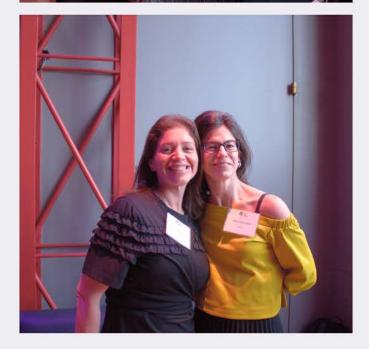












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