

NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS A GRANT TO PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW YORK



Names and Titles (Left to Right)

TOP ROW: Matthew McGowan (Staff Attorney), Sophia Heller (Staff Attorney),
Samantha Howell (Dir. Of Pro Bono and Outreach), Lisa Weinstein (Pro Bono Coordinator)

MIDDLE ROW: James Bogin (Managing Attorney), Patricia Kane (Exe. Admin. Asst.),
Rosa Cohen-Cruz (Senior Immigration Attorney), Mary Cipriano-Walter (Staff Attorney),

FRONT ROW: Kathleen Anderson (Legal Secretary), Karen Murtagh (Executive Director),
Kelly Anderson (Immigration Staff Attorney)

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York (PLS) would like to thank the New York Bar Foundation for its recently grant of \$10,100 to support PLS' Immigration Fellowship Project. The project will fund New York Bar Foundation Immigration Fellowships for two law students to work at PLS to provide representation to detained immigrants in removal proceedings. These fellowships will provide students with on-the-job training in analyzing the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and representing immigrants in removal proceedings.

This fellowship will also help attract law students throughout New York State interested in pursuing immigration or public defense work and allow them to spend either the summer of their 2L year (full-time) or an entire academic year (part-time) immersed in immigration work. This experience will ensure that each participating fellow will become well-versed in this very technical and developing field of law.

In December 2011, Cardozo Law School issued a report entitled: *Accessing Justice – The Availability and Adequacy of Counsel in Immigration Proceedings*. The report found that 67% of detainees facing removal

go through their removal proceedings without counsel and, of those, only three percent prevail. Those who receive representation, however, are 10 times more likely to obtain a successful outcome.

Deportation is one of the most egregious and permanent dispositions an immigrant can face. The number of individuals facing deportation, including detainees, continues to grow. Our justice system demands that all individuals, including the most vulnerable, are provided due process. This fellowship project will help begin to fill the immense unmet need of our immigrant population and to ensure that the rights of immigrants are observed and protected. By sponsoring fellowships to train students to provide this much-needed representation, the NYBF will be instrumental in helping to reduce the unmet need while training future lawyers to provide competent representation in the immigration field.