

CJP COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

CJP HIGHLIGHTS

July 2019

The Community Justice Project has offices in Harrisburg, Hazleton, Pittsburgh, Reading, and Scranton. Below are some recent highlights from across our program:

CJP Harrisburg Summer Interns Begin Work

Two legal interns started summer work at the CJP office in Harrisburg. David Giannaula is a rising 2L from the University of Texas School of Law. He served in Teach for America and in the Peace Corps prior to law school and also speaks Spanish. Samantha Jacques is a rising 2L from Penn State-Dickinson Law. She served in AmeriCorps before law school and also speaks Haitian Creole.



Interns David Giannaula, left, and Samantha Jacques, right

CJP Secures Commitments from Potential Buyer for Mobile Home Park in Disrepair

CJP, representing the residents' association at the Cherry Lane Mobile Home Park in Somerset County, secured commitments from the new buyer of the park to improve conditions in the park upon completing its purchase of the park. The new buyer will have to meet deadlines for repairs and provide the association with updates. CJP also secured commitments to keep the rent frozen at \$350 per month for the next three years and to forgive any back rent owed by the residents. The residents have been withholding rent due to poor conditions in the park since June of last year. Read about the case in the news: [Door opens for Cherry Lane Estates sale](#) (*The Daily American*, 06/20/19), and [Arson-plagued Somerset mobile home park cleared for sale](#) (*Tribune-Democrat*, 06/25/19).

CJP Gets Final Approval in Settlement of Delivery Driver Misclassification Wage Payment and Collection Law Class Action Lawsuit

CJP, as co-counsel with Margaret Fried, Esq., brought a class action lawsuit on behalf of delivery drivers for a major package delivery company. The lawsuit settled, and the court granted

final approval of the settlement on April 2. Over \$1 million dollars was distributed in May to a class of over 2,000 drivers.

CJP Settles Complaint Against Emunah Manor Apartment Complex in Wilkes-Barre

CJP filed administrative complaints with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development against the owner and manager of the Emunah Manor apartment complex, a Project Based Section 8 subsidized housing provider, alleging that Emunah Manor was failing to provide adequate language services to limited English proficient (“LEP”) tenants and applicants, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act. CJP recently reached a conciliation agreement with Emunah Manor, requiring Emunah Manor to make major changes to its language access policies and practices. The settlement requires, in part, for Emunah Manor to provide interpretation to all LEP tenants and applicants, to translate vital documents, and to provide notice of language access rights. Under the settlement, Emunah Manor must also provide monetary compensation to our client.

CJP Wins Injunction Against City of Scranton

CJP successfully prevented the unlawful eviction from a multi-unit apartment in Scranton, PA. The landlord of the building had failed to comply with the City of Scranton’s rental registry ordinance, and the City announced it would take the unlawful step of evicting all the residents of building as a result of the landlord’s violation. Our clients are a family of three, including a disabled adult, who would have been homeless had the City succeeded in its plan. CJP’s Scranton, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh staff, including law student interns, worked together to interview the clients, gather evidence, and draft a complaint and petition for preliminary injunction in the span of one week. The petition was presented by an attorney with North Penn Legal Services and was granted. As a result, the City agreed to refrain from evicting any tenant of the building, not just our clients. A hearing to make the injunction permanent is scheduled for July 11.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

A gift to CJP goes a long way in providing effective legal assistance to protect the basic needs of and rights of Pennsylvania’s poor families and low-wage workers.

Please consider making a gift to:

Community Justice Project, 118 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Also consider naming the Community Justice Project for *cy pres* awards/class action residuals.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about CJP, contact Marielle Macher at mmacher@cjplaw.org or 717-236-9486, ext. 214.