



JOSHUA GOLDFEIN
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Project
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**THE
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SOCIETY**

Joshua Goldfein is a Staff Attorney in The Legal Aid Society's Homeless Rights Project, where he represents homeless single adults and families in individual and group actions. He also provides representation to Coalition for the Homeless and Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York in impact litigation and government and policy advocacy. Mr. Goldfein started at the Legal Aid Society in 1993 in its Harlem Neighborhood Office, where he represented clients in landlord-tenant, public benefits and family law matters. He joined the Homeless Rights Project in 1998.

At the Homeless Rights Project, Mr. Goldfein has been counsel of record in the New York "right to shelter" cases, including *Callahan v. Carey*, (right to shelter for homeless adults); *Ebony Boston v. NYC*, (right to shelter for homeless families with children); *McCain v. Bloomberg*, (same); and *Cosentino v. Perales*, (child welfare rights of homeless parents). Mr. Goldfein has also represented clients in cases addressing other rights of homeless New Yorkers including *Butler v. NYC*, (disabled shelter applicants, SDNY); *E.G. v. NYC*, (WiFi for remote-schooling children in shelter, SDNY); *Reynolds v. Giuliani*, 35 F.Supp. 2d 331 (emergency public assistance grants, SDNY); *Sapp v. NYC*, 2013 N.Y. Misc. LEXIS 4365 (Superstorm Sandy evacuee hotel program); *Emile v. NYC*, (shelter for homeless former NYCHA residents, NY Supreme) and *City of Newark v. NYC*, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 171585 (housing subsidies).

Other cases he has litigated include *Freeman v. Scoppetta*, 98 Civ. 5636 (DLC) (foster care benefits), *Escalera v. NYCHA*, 924 F. Supp. 1323 (1996) (due process rights); *Lewis v. Grinker*, 111 F.Supp. 2d 142 (prenatal care for immigrants); *Alston v. Starrett City*, 161 A.D.3d 37 (2018) (source of income discrimination); *Zheng v. NYC*, 19 N.Y.3d 556 (2012) (tenants in City's Advantage housing subsidy program); and *Claudio v. Dowling*, 89 N.Y. 2d 567 (1997) (foster care benefits) and

numerous individual actions in administrative fora, Civil Court, and New York Supreme.

Mr. Goldfein is a member of the Institutional Review Board of the Center for Court Innovation. He is a co-winner of the Thurgood Marshall Award of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York for his work on *DeBruce v. Alabama*, 758 F.3d 1263 (2014), and preceding litigation in federal and Alabama courts, which resulted in vacatur of Mr. DeBruce's death sentence.

He is a 1993 graduate of NYU School of Law, where he was a member of the Family Defense Clinic. He also served on the board of directors of Research, Education and Advocacy to Combat Homelessness (REACH) and the staff of the Review of Law and Social Change.

His writing has appeared in the Village Voice, Chicago Reader, New York Times Magazine, New Jersey Reporter magazine, and others.