BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION A
32ND ANNIVERSARY &

ANNUAL AWARDS BENEFIT

TO SUPPORT BROOKLYN A'S PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

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Mission Statement

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A’s purpose and goal is to provide high quality legal assistance to low-income individuals and groups in the North and East Brooklyn communities of Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick, Oceanhill-Brownsville, East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Cypress Hills, Starrett City, City Line, East Flatbush, Flatlands, and Canarsie.

The Corporation views legal assistance not only as traditional representation but also as a wide range of permissible activities including, but not limited to, group representation and community education. The Board of Directors, management and staff are dedicated to maximizing the Corporation’s effectiveness in serving the community via close and mutually supportive relationships with effective local grass roots organizations that have a demonstrated commitment to our common goal of social and economic justice.
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A 32nd Anniversary &

ANNUAL AWARDS BENEFIT

to Support Brooklyn A’s Partnership for Community & Economic Development

Our Partnership for Community & Economic Development is a public-private collaboration to expand childcare, healthcare, housing, nursing home, educational, and recreational services, and to create neighborhood-based businesses and jobs in Brooklyn.
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Union Carbide Corporation (Ret.)
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A 32nd Anniversary

ANNUAL AWARDS BENEFIT

2000

to Support Brooklyn A's Partnership for Community & Economic Development

honoring

John M. Imperiale
The Chase Manhattan Bank

David D. Pagan
Southside United H.D.F.C. (Los Sures)

Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
Cravath, Swaine & Moore

M.C.—Ruby Dee
The Kit McClure Band

Thursday, October 26, 2000

in the Grand Ballroom of the

NEW YORK
Marriott
BROOKLYN

333 Adams Street

Hosted and underwritten by

HEALTH PLUS and VERIZON
The staff of Brooklyn A inspires us all by its steadfast commitment to the communities it serves:
Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick, Oceanhill-Brownsville, East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Cypress Hills, Starrett City, City Line, East Flatbush, Flatlands, and Canarsie.

Paul J. Acinapura
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Evin M. Asforis
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Safiya A. Bukhari
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32nd Anniversary Benefit Staff

Denis R. Berger
Benefit Coordinator & Director of Development, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Nancy Kordell
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Joanne Romero
Benefit Assistant Coordinator

Special thanks to our friends at The Chase Manhattan Bank for making the film tribute to our honorees

Frederick Wells Hill
Executive Vice President

David S. Nolan
Senior Vice President

Gerrude Houston
Producer-Director
October 26, 2000

Martin S. Needelman, esq.
Project Director and Chief Counsel
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Dear Marty:

Does Justice with a capital letter "J" reign everywhere in our land?

The answer to that question is "NO".

That's why as a lawyer I believe that our government, my government, and your government, and my profession and your profession have a positive, moral and legal duty to make sure that legal services are available to the poor on an accessible, regular, dignified basis, and, if necessary, free of charge!

Yes, I do believe that we the people of the United States must recapture our belief that "National survival and improvement" not just national security, depends on a communal, common, unified effort in which each of us participate with and help others! A community to which we pledge "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor"! National Security without National Community is a dream only of the military mind.

"Legal Services" is essential to solve community problems in our legalistic society, -- homelessness, hunger, teenage pregnancy, dissolute conditions, joblessness. Without lawyers help, we cannot build structures and precedents necessary for success for us all.

For all of you who struggle for justice, especially those of you at "Brooklyn A", please never forsake the work you do! You are the best guardians of liberty and builders of quality life for all Americans.

Without you, our country will never fully achieve "Equal Justice Under Law"; nor will we fill our pledge in the Declaration of Independence to give to each other "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor".

All the best,

Sargent Shriver
October 26, 2000

Brooklyn Legal Services
256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Dear Friends:

On behalf of all Brooklynnites, I salute Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A as you celebrate your annual Partnership Awards Benefit.

Brooklyn Legal Services deserves our highest praise and appreciation for an outstanding record of achievement on behalf of low-income residents. Providing free legal and community organizing services to residents of North and East Brooklyn plays a major role in building strong, diverse neighborhoods.

My congratulations and best wishes also at this time to your distinguished honorees: Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., Cravath, Swaine & Moore; John M. Imperiale, Chase Manhattan Bank; and David D. Pagan, Southside United H.D.F.C.

Best wishes to all for a festive evening and another year filled with extraordinary accomplishment on behalf of the people of Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Howard Golden
October 26, 2000

Martin S. Needelman, Project Director/Chief Counsel
Paul J. Acinapura, General Counsel
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Dear Marty, Paul, Board Members, and Staff:

On behalf of the Legal Services Corporation, I would like to congratulate your program and tonight's honorees for your commitment to community development work. Community development work cannot occur in a vacuum. It takes leadership, courage, and a willingness to reach out to a variety of institutions and groups.

The partnerships, which Brooklyn A has developed among the community it serves, financial institutions, and the private bar, as so ably demonstrated by tonight's honorees, serves as a national model in the pursuit of obtaining long-term community improvements. The work of Brooklyn A and its partners also serves as a prime example of an organization and institutions looking beyond the confines of traditional work for strategies that will directly impact upon the lives of the community.

LSC salutes you and your honorees for this important work, and we wish you the best in all future endeavors on behalf of low-income people.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John McKay
President
October 26, 2000

Martin S. Needelman, Esq.
Project Director & Chief Counsel
Paul J. Acinapura, Esq.
General Counsel
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Dear Friends:

It is an honor for me to extend congratulations and best wishes to our friends at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A on behalf of the New York State Bar Association.

For more than 30 years, Brooklyn A has distinguished itself as a premier source of neighborhood-based legal services. In providing quality free civil legal services to more than 5,000 poor and disadvantaged each year and serving as in-house counsel to a host of Brooklyn community-based organizations you are a beacon of hope to the oppressed and a voice for the voiceless. Your zealous representation and unwavering advocacy on behalf of those all too often marginalized by our society not only serves as a model here in our state, but has won for you well-deserved national recognition.

The Association takes special note of this year's honorees, Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., John M. Imperiale, and David D. Pagan. Their remarkable service is representative of the thousands of lawyers who together donate millions of hours each year to help ensure access to quality legal representation for the poor.

Together, volunteer lawyers, the organized bar, and staff-based legal assistance projects can and have made a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. We must continue to work collectively to raise awareness in the profession and the halls of our legislatures of the crucial need for adequate funding of legal services programs. And, we must continue to make the public aware that the plight of the disenfranchised is truly a societal concern.

Once again, please accept our warm wishes and our gratitude for all that is accomplished, despite often-tremendous obstacles, by the talented and dedicated members of the Brooklyn A family.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul Michael Hassett
September 19, 2000

Martin S. Neideman, Esq.
Project Director and Chief Counsel
and
Paul J. Acinapura, Esq.
General Counsel
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
256-260 Broadway
New York, New York 11211

On behalf of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, I extend to Brooklyn A and to your distinguished honorees, Frederick A. O. Schwarz, John M. Imperiale and David D. Pagan, our congratulations, respect and gratitude on the occasion of your Annual Awards Benefit.

Your three honorees exemplify distinguished commitment to public service and Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A is a national model for the provision of neighborhood-based legal services of the highest quality. The Bar in New York City is extremely proud of the work you do. Your partnership for community and economic development has made, and continues to make, a critical difference to the community development corporations and community-based organizations that you serve. These organizations, supported by your high quality legal advice, in turn foster justice and opportunity for the residents of North and East Brooklyn.

Sincerely yours,

Evan A. Davis
October 26, 2000

Martin S. Needelman, Esq.
Project Director & Chief Counsel
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Dear Martin:

On behalf of the Officers, Trustees and members of the Brooklyn Bar Association, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations and best wishes to Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A as it marks its 32nd Anniversary.

As a partner with you through the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. for the past decade, we have worked side-by-side in helping to ensure access to legal services for all of the people of Brooklyn. We particularly commend Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A’s commitment to neighborhood legal services, and commend you on your selection of Frederick A. O. Schwarz, John M. Imperiale and David D. Pagan as tonight’s honorees.

May we continue to work together for many more years in this most important work.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVID I. DOYAGA
President
October 26, 2000

Martin S. Needelman, Esq.
Project Director and Chief Counsel
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Dear Marty:

On the occasion of your Annual Awards Dinner, your friends at Chase wish to extend our hearty congratulations to Brooklyn A and your distinguished honorees, Frederick A. O. Schwarz, Jr., David D. Pagan and our own John M. Imperiale.

Your honorees have demonstrated exemplary services in supporting our democracy by ensuring that all members of the community have access to legal counsel when it is needed. Serving the citizens of Brooklyn for over thirty years, Brooklyn A has established a fine tradition and we are proud to be one of your partners.

Of course, we are equally proud of the unselfish manner in which John Imperiale has given his time and energy as Chair of your Advisory Committee. His work with Brooklyn A has been in the finest Chase tradition and we wish you and him many years of continued success, together.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
HONOREE

John M. Imperiale
The Chase Manhattan Bank

BY ADELINE BASIL

John Imperiale, Senior Vice-President of Community Relations for The Chase Manhattan Bank, is widely respected as a businessman and community leader. A graduate of Adelphi University, John holds Certificates from the American Institute of Banking and Boston College Center for Corporate Community Relations. With over thirty-two years of banking experience and decades of community leadership, he currently serves as Chairperson of many civic organizations: the New York City Department of Aging's Corporate Advisory Committee, the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Corporate Advisory Board, and Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation As Advisory Committee. He serves on the Boards of Directors of the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, the 14th Street Union Square Local Development Corp., the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, and the Boston College Center for Corporate Community Relations "Standards of Excellence" Steering Committee. With major global contributions to the banking industry and substantial community accomplishments on political, legal and social fronts, John has earned respect and admiration as a man of integrity and commitment.

Born in Brooklyn, the youngest of three children, John enjoyed a happy childhood characterized by strong family ties, lots of love, and deep religious convictions. His devoted parents, Alice and Pasquale, provided an environment rich with many close family experiences for John, his sister Chickie, and brother Eddie. There were vacations in the family's country house in upstate New York, weekly trips to the beaches in the summer, frequent special events at Madison Square Garden for the circus and the rodeo, and to Prospect Park for the zoo. Huge family gatherings were a regular part of life. On his paternal side, there were the Imperiales, and on his maternal side, there were the Rogers, so John grew up enjoying both the Italian and Irish cultures throughout his childhood.

John excelled as a student, consistently earning high academic honors and awards throughout his school career. His enthusiastic approach to life did not stop at the classroom, for John spent his youth as an accomplished athlete and devoted sports fan. Ebbets Field was close by, and the Brooklyn Dodgers were his early heroes. In addition to playing baseball, running track, competing on his swimming team, and playing football, John pursued other interests and activities. He was an altar boy, an avid reader, and an accomplished author at an early age.

As an adult, he translated his love of family into a special role as "Family Event Coordinator." It was always Uncle John who would gather all the kids, and lead them, Pied Piper style, into zany games and romps. Major fun and games do not stop at childhood, in John's view, so friends and family of all ages are included in his agendas, no matter how daring. Whether it is parasailing, water-skiing, or scaling cliffs in jeeps, John is behind it all. He orchestrates huge elaborate family excursions, cruises, and vacations, and includes everyone. At the annual family Christmas gathering, John is emcee, and has elevated the gift distribution session to a "performance" central to family holiday tradition.
When John counts his blessings, his wife Joan tops the list, as she shares many of his passions and supports his endeavors, personal as well as business. Together, they translate their love of art into collections representing the many places they visit. Together, they have raised and trained their champion Great Pyrenees Justin, and the honors, ribbons, trophies, and titles earned by Justin are the direct result of their appreciation of excellence.

With a sincere dedication to humanity at the highest level, John and Joan have both studied Sign Language, and have both earned the highest certification in this area.

Known for his marvelous wit and unparalleled sense of humor, John's hospitality is legendary. He and Joan guarantee that everyone feels at home at the Imperiale Place. They give fabulous parties, always offering guests some special personal touch while in their home.

John's extensive traveling includes frequent trips to other continents and exotic locations in far-reaching areas of the globe. A true student of world culture, he always returns with a deep respect and admiration for the traditions and values of his world neighbors. As an intensely patriotic American, his personal traveling goal is to visit all fifty states, a commitment he and Joan have almost accomplished.

John's two adult children, Jennifer and John, have inherited John's intelligence, talents, zest for life, and his intense sense of humor. Jennifer, a highly respected math teacher, serves as a leader to her faculty. Son John, as a rising star in the banking world in his own right, is earning admiration for innovations and accomplishments. Both present John with many, many opportunities for fatherly pride.

A sense of devotion to community is the signature piece of John's professional life. As Chase's liaison, John has worked with business, the legislature, religious institutions, educational institutions, and social agencies to create a better world for his neighbors. Whether he is sending children to Shea Stadium to experience a professional baseball game, helping to establish a day-care center to provide a safe child-care solution for working parents, promoting the arts, or paving the way for a new business to be born, the same motivation drives John's efforts. Helping people motivates John. Knowing he can make a positive difference in the lives of other people is what he loves about his life. It is why he loves his job.

When we honor John at this time, we are honoring a man of integrity who has truly changed his world. We are honoring a true gentleman.
David D. Pagan
Southside United H.D.F.C. (Los Sures)

BY WILFREDO VARGAS

In 1979, Los Sures (Southside United Housing Development Fund Corporation) was in the throes of rapid and extensive growth amid an ever-shrinking affordable housing base. Dedicated to its community, and understanding the need to establish a better organizational structure to enhance its blossoming programs, Los Sures turned to a relative newcomer in the housing field to be its first Comptroller. Los Sures chose David Pagan, a person whose experience in economic development activities had demonstrated an unabashed enthusiasm for community building and empowerment. David quickly began championing the Southside residents' aspiration to live in affordable, quality housing within a neighborhood providing quality services.

Arriving in New York City from his native Baranquitas, Puerto Rico, David grew up in the Williamsburg/Bushwick section. After a stint in the U.S. Army, that included service in Vietnam as an infantryman in the Air Cavalry, David obtained a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from Queens College and a Master's degree from St. John's University. In 1972 he worked at the National Economic Development Association where he helped to increase opportunities to minority businesses. He moved on to work for the Lower East Side Economic Development Corporation in 1975 where he assisted local groups in their economic development efforts. In 1979, Los Sures beckoned.

David started rapidly, not only to understand the programs, but also the people behind them and the needs of those being served. Meeting with the Board of Directors and its various committees, he demonstrated honest, open and constant accessibility and accountability. He championed staff development programs and spent countless hours learning the bureaucratic requirements of the many regulatory agencies Los Sures was accountable to and in turn passed on that knowledge to the staff. Encouraged by his wife Betsy, who shares his enthusiasm and commitment for empowering the Williamsburg community, David spent many evenings networking with other organizations throughout the city, helping refine their efforts and clarify their vision. David's good nature, calm manner, and genuine interest in sharing information and resolving conflicts has made him a person that is much appreciated in the community housing movement and by all levels of government.

David was the logical choice to assume command as the Administrator/CEO of Los Sures in 1984 when that position became available. Respected by his colleagues in the field, the staff and Board of Los Sures, and the government and private entities that he dealt with, David was in a unique position to quickly lead Los Sures through a remarkable period of community reclamation and revitalization. Adding to Los Sures' housing inventory of City tax foreclosed and Section 8 subsidized housing, David and Los Sures joined the City—and later the State—as a partner to develop new housing for the homeless, joined with the federal government to develop senior citizen housing, and later developed private rental housing and homeownership programs. Los Sures created a Senior Center and worked together with its tenants to purchase City-owned buildings and

Wilfredo Vargas was a co-founder of Los Sures and its Administrator from 1976-1980. He, in fact, recruited David for Los Sures and is grateful to David for continuing the legacy. Willie is now active with the Parkchester Preservation Company in the Bronx lending his special skills to help preserve that community.
convert them into low-income cooperatives. Building on the relationship with Brooklyn A which had given Los Sures its initial guidance and direction when it was founded in 1972, David and Los Sures continued and expanded on a progressive policy of reclaiming distressed buildings for their tenants through the City’s 7A program, providing tenants with funds to make necessary repairs until the buildings were self-sufficient.

David's determination to make every family in the Southside financially independent has led to economic development efforts that focus not only on the neighborhood, but also on the family. Los Sures has been in the forefront of training programs preparing residents, who may be in need of this service, for the world of work. It runs a computer center that offers opportunities for tenants to learn new technology and to use the computers to prepare their resumes or browse through the Internet, either for employment or educational purposes.

David is quick to boast that the secret of his success in spearheading Los Sures' efforts to reclaim and empower the community these past two decades has been the incredible talent and dedication of the staff and Board members of the organization.

"The best thing about Williamsburg is its people and their spirit. We have the same problems as other poor neighborhoods but when you're working with our people you don't feel the problems are insurmountable," he says.

Los Sures has come a long way from the days of volunteer community activists and young lawyers fighting against displacement and engaged in a struggle to provide community stability and affordable housing. It is now a player on a citywide, if not national level. Its record of never abandoning its low-income community and of always striving for a higher level of service is exemplary. Board Chair Monsignor Agustin Ruiz's rock solid stewardship of the organization, from its unsteady beginnings to the new millennium, has produced many professionals who view themselves primarily as community developers, and an organization that is a model for the nation. It would never have been able to achieve this lofty status without the efforts, commitment, vision and perseverance of David Pagan. We thank his wife Betsy, his daughter Vanessa, a recent college graduate doing an internship in Japan, and his son David, who is heading to Polytechnic University, for their generous support of David's efforts on behalf of the Williamsburg community.
Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
Cravath, Swaine & Moore

BY ERIC LANE

Fritz Schwarz is a partner in Cravath, Swaine and Moore, one of the nation's most prestigious law firms. There, after graduating from Harvard Law School, he has represented many of the nation's major business interests. His notion of representation is, in the best sense, old fashioned. It is not simply to charge to a client's command, but to first provide counsel, as an independent advisor who weighs, for a client, that client's concerns against the mandates of the law. Of course, (as Fritz would want me to note) this is not to deny, as his many opponents will testify, the zeal of his advocacy if litigation is ultimately necessary.

For this sense of lawyering alone he deserves to be honored, but that is not the mark of Fritz's career. "A man makes a living by what he gets—he makes a life by what he gives," Will Rogers is reported to have said, and there is no question that observation describes Fritz's guiding principle. It is what Fritz has given that has made his life so rich and truly worthy of note. And Fritz's giving has not been limited to charitable contributions, although his generosity to causes in which he believes is itself honor-worthy. No, Fritz's idea of giving is to engage, to give of oneself. And this he has done in abundance.

After law school and his clerkship with Chief Judge J. Edward Lumbard of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, he spent two years in Nigeria as Assistant Commissioner for Law Revision. In 1975 and 1976 he served as Chief Counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. From 1982 through 1986 he was Corporation Counsel for the City of New York and in 1989 he chaired the New York City Charter Revision Commission, which successfully instituted the largest changes in the City's governance since its formation. He has also served as a director or trustee of many not-for-profit institutions. Presently he is the Chair of the Vera Institute of Justice and the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has also served as Chair of The Fund for the City of New York and as an elected overseer of Harvard University and as a trustee of the Legal Action Center, the Manhattan Bowery Corporation, and too many more to list. In the legal community, Fritz has been an active member of the Association of the Bar of the City New York, presently chairing its Special Committee on State Governance.

Of course, this is just a line drawing of Fritz's career in public service and provides, at best, a glimpse of who he is. Perhaps, this is the most that can be done within the confines of this journal medium, but some color and texture may be added to the drawing by describing one very integral aspect of Fritz's character. Fritz is fiercely fair and devoted to fairness. This palpable devotion to broad opportunity and consequential abhorrence of oppression are part of his life blood. For Fritz, a government that is not constantly striving toward this end is not a legitimate government. And for Fritz, not acting fairly is appalling.

Examples abound. Only recently he authored an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States challenging the representational limitation on publicly-funded lawyers for the poor. And upon his retirement from Cravath, Swaine & Moore, he plans to join the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law to help
pursue its goal of harnessing the law on behalf of the underprivileged and the disadvantaged, fighting attempts to restrict legal services to the poor and engaging students in these efforts. During the NYC charter revision process, Fritz was dogged in his insistence on an open and inclusive process, one that brought the Commission to all parts of the City over and over again in order to learn of the public's charter goals and the public's views of the Commission's proposals. The sense of this effort was made clear by the rich array of support for the proposal ultimately received in the successful campaign for their adoption and their approval by the Justice Department. Its sense was also reflected in the substance of the new charter through which, for example, the long life of the Board of Estimate was ended and the City Council was expanded from 35 to 51 in order to provide more opportunities for more of the City's residents to participate in its political processes.

Fritz's personal efforts during this period matched those he charted for the Commission, meeting privately with hundreds of people in a tireless effort to hear their aspirations and concerns. So persistent was he in hearing people that a colleague at the Commission once observed: "Nobody can listen like Fritz. Listening to him is like a wrestling hold. He can listen a body into submission."

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A is dedicated to equal justice for all Americans. Fritz Schwartz embodies that cause and honoring him tonight not only honors Fritz, but also Brooklyn A and all who share his beliefs.
So Hey, Where Do We Go From Here?

At our Annual Event, which is also Brooklyn A's anniversary celebration, it is appropriate to look back at the great history of this extraordinary program. It is also critically important that we consider the challenges that will confront us.

Significant changes in the neighborhoods we serve require adjustments in what we do and how we do it. Among those changes are rapid gentrification as well as the continuing dramatic growth of the low-income Hasidic population in North Brooklyn; a major in-migration of very low-income, largely undocumented Mexican immigrant workers; ongoing further reduction in the number of families receiving welfare; increasing numbers of marginally employed workers; and extensive environmentally hazardous conditions in the large zones within our service areas that are now or were designated for manufacturing. In addition, a major downturn in the larger economy appears increasingly likely.

Responses to these conditions must include obtaining more resources and focusing more of what we already have in (a) defending low-cost housing for long-term low-income residents, particularly seniors and families not receiving public assistance; (b) increasing staff diversity and language skills; (c) representing clients in eliminating obstacles to employment; (d) working with community organizations to increase job opportunities and build a strong and stable neighborhood-based economic infrastructure; (e) participating in and spurring community action to alleviate environmental problems while ensuring that remedies provide protections for low-income families to remain in these revitalized areas; (f) removing prohibitions against, and increasing our representation of, undocumented workers and their families; and (g) assuring appropriate treatment of the many who continue to require welfare and other forms of public assistance.

As Brooklyn A adjusts to these external changes and challenges, we must ensure that our organizational structure permits us to function well. We must work hard to rebuild our staff support and business operations infrastructure, complete the renovation of our physical facilities and maintain them properly, and consider the creation of additional offices. We also must be open to opportunities provided by potential restructuring of the overall legal services program in the State and City, to reinforce and expand Brooklyn A's capacity to serve the residents of Brooklyn's low-income neighborhoods.

Most of these changes require more resources and more money. It is incumbent upon us all to do what it takes to make these changes happen. Too much is at stake!
At the end of every film, there is a long list of names, titles, and functions. But few who have watched the movie stay to see it. The list is, as we know, The Credits. Actors and actresses, directorial crew, production staff, the many techies, costume and make-up teams, writers, and coaches. It's a lengthy list, sometimes incredibly so. To all of them, however, credit is due—they are the ones responsible for what we have just seen; what it takes to make a movie these days. Too bad so few stay to see their names; to think about the enormous toil; to express a thank you, a cheer of appreciation.

Every event comes about through the efforts of a great number of folks, toiling long hours and many days, individually and collectively, in myriad tasks, to make it all happen. To give them credit, be cognizant of their contribution, to thank them: all are seemingly easy chores, yet often left to the end. "Ladies and gentlemen... and a final word of thanks to...!"

Thinking about Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's Annual Awards Benefit several weeks ago, I was moved to be thankful, first of all, to those being honored tonight. You might say the honorees are the ones to be thankful. But I think of, and, therefore, thank John Imperiale and his dedicated leadership of Brooklyn A's Advisory Committee, and all that he has done to nurture Brooklyn A through building creative relationships with the legal and financial communities of New York City. Similarly, I want to thank David Pagan, a stalwart of the Williamsburg community and Los Sures. All that Los Sures has accomplished, and its plans for the future, reveal much about how community improvement happens. And how can I thank Fritz Schwarz enough for showing us all what public service is all about? These three honorees are the foundation of this year's event.

On this foundation, Denis Berger has artfully constructed, with the support of Health Plus and Verizon, what is a fabulous evening. If there were time and space, we could run The Credits, a list as long as that of any feature film. Thanks.

This Annual Awards Benefit celebrates what is a daily event in the communities of North and East Brooklyn: Brooklyn A.

What is Brooklyn A? It is "the use of law, the knowledge of law, and the role of lawyers" put to the tasks of "helping to articulate and promote the hopes, the dreams, and the real possibility for the impoverished to make the social changes that they feel are needed, through whatever lawful methods are available."

I thank all those who day after day strive to realize this vision, who make Brooklyn A happen! The staff, competent and committed; the leadership of Marty Needelman and Paul Acinapura, devoted public servants par excellence; the Board of Directors, dedicated to the Corporation's Mission of serving the community; the more than 100 community partners who enable Brooklyn A to be collaborative and community-driven in responding to injustice; and the Advisory Committee, effective in expanding our partnerships.

The more I think about Brooklyn A, the more I find to be thankful for! What a fantastic list!
Building Communities

If you ask most members of Brooklyn A's Advisory Committee how they first got involved, they would say it was probably because someone already on the committee asked them to help out, or because Denis Berger twisted their arm. But after being involved for a while, Committee members would agree that their involvement is remarkably rewarding.

Founded in 1994, the Advisory Committee plays an integral role in furthering Brooklyn A's mission to sustain its neighborhood-based commitment to building communities and ensuring equal access to justice for its clients. Today, we are forty-six members strong from many different walks of New York City life.

The Advisory Committee provides a unique opportunity for its volunteer members to help Brooklyn A fulfill its mission. Committee members are an incalculable and invaluable resource for advice, counsel, fund-raising, pro bono activities, networking, and much more. We support the goals and plans of Brooklyn A's board and staff, and always try to be there for them. We are proud that two of the most recently-appointed Brooklyn A board members—Jane Barrett and Ben Tucker—were recruited as a result of their active involvement on the Advisory Committee.

We share a commitment with Brooklyn A to address the vast legal needs of thousands of individual, low-income residents, and to work closely with community-based organizations that are rebuilding Brooklyn.

The decades-long efforts of local neighborhood groups, with Brooklyn A as their in-house counsel, is resulting in new low and moderate-income housing in Williamsburg and Bushwick; primary care health facilities in Greenpoint and Brownsville; commercial revitalization throughout the communities; major expansion of child care and day care facilities and programs; local job creation and training within all of these projects; and new public school programs and new school construction initiatives in Cypress Hills, where school overcrowding is a very serious problem. All of these activities are being developed and directed by local residents and their organizations. Each local group is a vital force in the shaping of its community's future, and in the building of skilled and well-trained community-based organizations that are able to address the serious challenges facing their neighborhoods.

We want to extend special recognition to Brooklyn A's Community and Economic Development legal team of Paul Acinapura, Hilary Exer, Allison Dunlop, and Rafael Martinez.

It is said that one in six Americans have some connection to Brooklyn. Clearly all of the Advisory Committee members, whether native Brooklynites or not, now have a strong connection to Brooklyn. We want to thank each and every Advisory Committee Honorary Co-Chair and Member for their dedication to Brooklyn A and to equal justice.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, we would also like to express our congratulations and best wishes to those being honored, particularly to our Chair John M. Imperiale. All of the honorees have exemplified the true meaning of a partnership for community and economic development.

Fritz Kopeinig is Vice President of Staley/Robeson, a Stamford, Connecticut full-service fundraising firm, providing counsel since 1976 to not-for-profit organizations throughout the nation. He has been a member of the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A Advisory Committee since 1995.

Ellen Spodek is a partner at Spodek & Barrett, LLP. She has been a member of the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A Advisory Committee since 1994.
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