

Chicago Council of Lawyers and Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice



This year, we are honoring the ground-breaking Access to Community Treatment (ACT) Court with remarks from a graduate from the first year of this drug treatment court program. The ACT Court identifies heavily drug-dependent individuals charged with non-violent crimes, who would have otherwise been sentenced to prison, and, while leveraging the Affordable Care Act, diverts them into community-based treatment and support services. Judge Mary Colleen Roberts will accept the award on behalf of the program and discuss its impact. Chicago Appleseed currently serves as project manager of the ACT Court and was the lead advisor to stakeholders as they created and implemented this evidence-based problem-solving court. The model, a specialized form of probation, is demonstrating ways to address substance abuse, unstable housing, lack of prosocial relationships, and other risk factors that are known to drive crime.

Of Chicago Appleseed's role in the ACT Court, Judge Roberts says, "The program management, policy development, and research provided by Chicago Appleseed are invaluable to the ACT Court. These resources have helped the ACT Court grow and develop into what I hope can become a model for future Problem Solving Courts."



We will be honoring Miner, Barnhill & Galland for the firm's dedication to civil rights work and protecting the public interest. Founded in 1971, Miner, Barnhill & Galland stands out for the individual commitment of its attorneys to public service, as well as the firm's litigation work in support of subsidized housing, in opposition to racially-gerrymandering in voting districts, and against predatory lending practices. The firm today known as Miner, Barnhill & Galland started in 1971 when Judson Miner and Allison Davis, neither of them long out of law school, decided to create a firm that would specialize in civil rights and community development law. Charles Barnhill joined the firm the following year, and George Galland in 1973. From the start, the firm found itself participating in some of the most exciting legal developments of the 1970s. At the start of the 1980s, the firm became heavily involved in litigation under the Voting Rights Act, leading among other victories to a 1986 court decree that threw out the racially-gerrymandered Chicago aldermanic map and led to Mayor Harold Washington obtaining a working majority in the Chicago City Council. Beginning in the late 1990s, the firm developed a predatory lending practice that led to some of the most significant consumer rights settlements in the nation's history. Various partners and associates of the firm have held public office or contributed to public service in bar associations and other activities. In the mid-1980s, Judson Miner served for nearly four years as Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago under Mayor Washington and his successor, while George Galland served as General Attorney of the Chicago Park District. President Barack Obama began his legal career as an associate at the firm in 1993 and remained affiliated with the firm until his election to the United States Senate in 2004. Three of the firm's partners have served as past presidents of the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice Board

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