Legal Serv

Legal
Services NYC

Tuesday,
May 6, 2008

The Board and Staff of Legal Services NYC

would like to thank

John P. Hooper
John S. Kiernan
Steven Alan Reiss
Amy Schulman
Event Co-Chairs

The Host Committee

Our honorees

Gladys Carrión and Brackett B. Denniston, III

and

Our special jazz performer

Madeleine Peyroux

for creating a wonderful evening
and for supporting Legal Services NYC's mission
to provide the highest quality, free civil legal services to
low-income people throughout New York City.

Jazz for Justice

A Benefit for Legal Services NYC
Tuesday, May 6, 2008

6:30 P.M.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION – Jazz at Lincoln Center, Frederick P. Rose Hall Atrium
SILENT AUCTION OPENS
Featuring music of **DANNY MIXON**

7:30 P.M.

DINNER, PRESENTATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT in The Allen Room

Fern Schair – Chair, Board of Directors

John S. Kiernan – Dinner Co-Chair
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Andrew Scherer – Executive Director & President
Legal Services NYC

Commissioner Gladys Carrión – Honoree
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
• *Visionary Leadership Award* •

Steven Alan Reiss – Dinner Co-Chair
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Brackett B. Denniston, III – Honoree
General Electric Company
• *Corporate Leadership Award* •

John P. Hooper – Dinner Co-Chair
Reed Smith LLP

SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Madeleine Peyroux

Amy Schulman – Dinner Co-Chair
DLA Piper

9:30 P.M.

SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

For information about tonight's event or about the work of Legal Services NYC, please contact Nancy Yanofsky at 646-442-3628 or nyanofsky@LegalServicesNYC.org

A Letter from Board Chair
Fern Schair

On behalf of Legal Services NYC's Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to the second annual Jazz for Justice event.

Tonight we celebrate the extraordinary commitment of all of those who bring the Legal Services NYC mission to life each and every day.

In a City where more than two million people struggle to survive a life of poverty, it is Legal Services NYC that is there on the front-lines, making a real difference — providing free, high-quality, civil legal assistance and advocacy in the areas that matter most: housing, family, benefits, consumer, health, employment, economic development and education law.

Our talented and dedicated staff meet the legal needs of tens of thousands of low-income New Yorkers each year — for families threatened with foreclosure, illegal eviction and homelessness; victims of domestic violence who need help and a safe haven; seniors living in unsafe conditions; and so many others who face equally threatening and consequential problems.

Bolstering our efforts are hundreds of *pro bono* attorneys who generously volunteer their expertise, time and resources to Legal Services NYC. To all of those attorneys, and the firms they represent, we offer our most sincere gratitude for your unparalleled support.

I am delighted to celebrate this evening with Brackett B. Denniston III, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of GE, who will receive the Corporate Leadership Award and Gladys Carrión, Commissioner, New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the recipient of our Visionary Leadership Award. These awards reflect Legal Services NYC's deepest appreciation for the invaluable support and inspiration provided by these individuals and institutions.

Thank you all for coming together to support and celebrate all that makes Legal Services NYC such a vital force in New York City — and a model for legal services programs across the country.

Fern Schair

A Letter from Executive Director and President

Andrew Scherer

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am honored that you have joined us tonight as we celebrate Legal Services NYC's second annual Jazz for Justice event.

It is certainly fitting to be celebrating at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Just as New York City has provided a place for jazz to flourish, so too has Legal Services NYC been a place that has enabled justice to flourish.

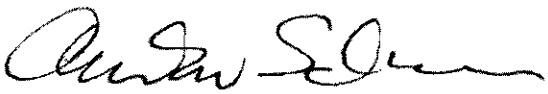
Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Legal Services NYC staff, board members and *pro bono* volunteers, we continue to thrive throughout the City in our mission to ensure access to justice for all by providing free legal representation and advocacy to low-income New Yorkers — improving their lives and the communities where they live.

We have initiatives and resources at work in every borough. We have expertise in every area of civil law that impacts the lives of poor people. And as the communities we serve and the needs of those living in them evolve, we continue to redefine and revise our programs to meet those changes head-on.

You who are here tonight, and the institutions you represent, are an indispensable part of our efffort — and all that makes Legal Services NYC such a vital resource to New York's most vulnerable residents. On behalf of Legal Services NYC, I offer my deepest gratitude to you who have partnered with us over the years. And, of course, it is a tremendous pleasure to welcome the new supporters who are here tonight.

Special thanks go to our honorees, our Event Committee and our development staff for their awesome work in putting this wonderful evening together.

To all of you — thank you for your extraordinary commitment to an extraordinary organization. Together we must continue to work in partnership toward fairness, dignity, and justice for all.



A Letter from the Event Co-Chairs

Welcome to Jazz for Justice! We are delighted to pay tribute to Legal Services NYC and to honor Brackett Denniston III with the Corporate Leadership Award and Gladys Carrión, Commissioner, New York State Office of Children and Family Services, with the Visionary Leadership Award. Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed so generously to this event's success.

Your support of Legal Services NYC changes people's lives. It keeps families in their homes, protects victims of domestic violence, enables neighbors to navigate the thickets of government benefits, provides health support for seniors and children and otherwise provides pivotal civil legal support to New York City's poorest residents.

As we look to the future — providing free, high quality legal assistance to protect low-income New Yorkers in their most difficult emergencies and to support development of their communities — our work has never been more important. Tonight's event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Legal Services NYC, listen to some terrific music and resolve together to redouble our support for civil legal services.

Many thanks and enjoy the evening!

John P. Hooper | John K. Kiernan | Steven Alan Reiss | Amy Schulman

HONOREE

Commissioner Gladys Carrión

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

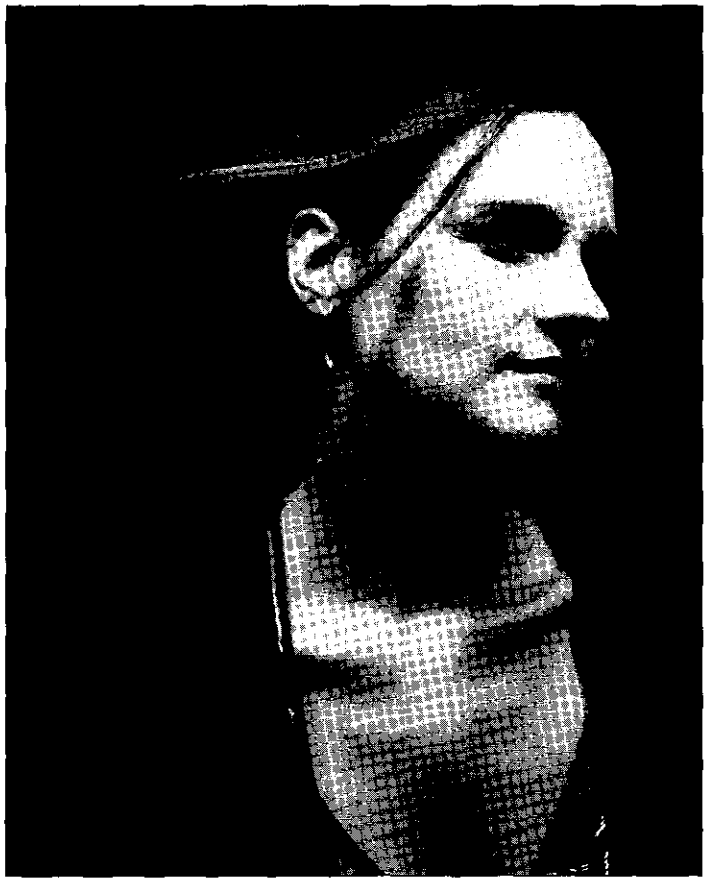
Gladys Carrión, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS), has long been committed to improving the lives of New York's most vulnerable residents and communities. As OCFS Commissioner, Carrión oversees a critical array of programs that directly impact children and families, and manages specialized programs for juvenile delinquents and offenders, as well as residential facilities for youth placed in the custody of OCFS by the family and criminal courts.

Previously, Commissioner Carrión was Senior Vice President for Community Investment with the United Way of New York City. Prior to her role at the United Way, Commissioner Carrión served as Executive Director of Inwood House, one of the oldest youth serving organizations in the city. She was also a program officer at the Ford Foundation, acting Executive Director of ASPIRA, and supervising law judge and general counsel with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board.

Other key roles for Commissioner Carrión have included serving as Commissioner of the New York City Community Development Agency, where she developed citywide policy and programs to address human services needs of low-income New Yorkers and administered the city's Home Energy Assistance, McKinney Homeless and the BEGIN Welfare Reform Programs.

Commissioner Carrión has served as chair of the board of the New York Foundation, the Latino Child Welfare Collaborative, as co-chair of Agenda for Children Tomorrow, and on the advisory board of Child Welfare Watch. She has also served on the boards of Legal Services NYC, the Puerto Rican Policy Institute, and Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice. Her advocacy for the Hispanic community has earned her recognition in the form of prestigious appointments, including chair of the Chancellor's Task Force on Latino Educational Opportunities for the New York City Board of Education.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Commissioner Carrión is a graduate of Fordham University and New York University School of Law. She began her illustrious legal career as an attorney in the Bronx with Legal Services NYC. From her work on behalf of poor Bronx residents in a wide range of issues including housing, welfare, education and family law, she developed an intimate understanding of how to effectively negotiate the state, city and federal government and legal systems.



PERFORMER

Madeleine Peyroux

Madeleine Peyroux doesn't simply interpret songs, she possesses them...and vice versa. Peyroux is either an old soul or was "born with it" (depending on one's theory about the flashpoint of artistry); that became apparent in 1996, with the release of her debut album, *Dreamland*, a remarkably knowing work in which the then-22-year-old singer brought commensurate insightfulness to material associated with Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, and Patsy Cline. Her decision to cover Edith Piaf's "La Vie en Rose" reflected the decade that the Georgia-born Peyroux had spent living in Paris, from ages 13 to 22.

In the twelve years since then, she has brought a wealth of life experience to her natural affinities, first manifested on the long-in-coming sophomore album *Careless Love* and brought to fruition on Peyroux's new album. *Half the Perfect World*, once again impeccably produced by Larry Klein, serves as both complement and counterpoint to its predecessor, 2004's *Careless Love*, which drew raves across the board and sold more than a million copies worldwide. "This record is different from *Careless Love* in the sense that there's a unison of joy on it," Peyroux says of the new album. "It's pushing certain boundaries for me."

Whereas much of her earlier work drew on writers and singers from the first half of the twentieth century, the bulk of *Half the Perfect World* focuses on artists and writers from the lifetime of the 32-year-old artist, including Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits, Fred Neil and Joni Mitchell. Peyroux's knack for choosing the perfect song is again key to the album's emotional impact, but her continued growth as a songwriter is equally important, and the new album's four original tunes more than hold their own, raising the groove quotient in the process.

Half the Perfect World is an album in which time stands still. As Peyroux puts it, "Silence is not just an absence of sound." Klein echoes this sentiment in discussing Peyroux's particular gift: "She gets at this almost indescribable, ineffable kind of poetry. You see it in Picasso's work; you hear it in Miles' playing. I'd say 90 percent of what she does is implied."

Connoisseurs of eloquent, understated delivery now have a core artist in Madeleine Peyroux, and while *Half the Perfect World* provides dramatic evidence of her rarefied power of suggestion, it's also hard to avoid the impression that this album is merely the tip of the iceberg.

HONOREE

BRACKETT B. DENNISTON III

Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel
General Electric Company

Brackett Denniston is Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel for General Electric Company. He was named General Counsel in 2004 and Senior Vice President in December 2005. Mr. Denniston also serves as Chairman of the Company's Policy Compliance Review Board, the governing compliance board of the Company, a position to which he was named in 1999. He is a director of GE Capital Corporation and the GE Foundation, and is a member of GE's Corporate Executive Council.

Mr. Denniston previously served as GE's Vice President and Senior Counsel for Litigation and Legal Policy from 1996-2004.

From 1993 to 1996, he was Chief Legal Counsel to Governor William F. Weld of Massachusetts. From 1986 to 1993 and from 1974 to 1982, Mr. Denniston was a partner, and earlier an associate, at Goodwin, Procter in Boston, where he specialized in complex civil litigation, securities matters and white collar crime cases throughout the United States.

From 1982 to 1986, Mr. Denniston was Chief of the Major Frauds Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office, responsible for white collar crime prosecutions. He was a member of the Attorney General's White Collar Crime Operations Committee. He was awarded the Department of Justice's Director's Award for Superior Performance for his role overseeing numerous successful prosecutions.

He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Herbert Y. Choy of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1973-74. Mr. Denniston is a summa cum laude graduate of Kenyon College and a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

He has been active in a number of civic and charitable pursuits: a Trustee (and Secretary) of Kenyon College; former Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Duxbury, Massachusetts, Chair and Trustee of the New England Legal Foundation and a member of the Board of the American Arbitration Association and the Pro Bono Partnership.

Mr. Denniston is married to the former Kathleen Foley, and they have three children, Alexandra (26), Brackett (24) and Elizabeth (20).

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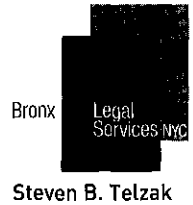

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Legal Services NYC is the largest organization in the nation devoted exclusively to providing free civil legal services to the poor. With 18 community-based offices and numerous outreach sites throughout the five boroughs, Legal Services NYC has one overriding mission: to provide expert legal assistance that improves the lives and communities of low-income New Yorkers.

Today, in New York City, more than two million people — a quarter of the population — live in poverty. Most people understand that addressing basic human needs — food, shelter, clothing, and medical care — is routinely a struggle if you are poor. But what many fail to appreciate is that such human needs often go unmet because of lack of access to competent legal help.

And although the right to free lawyers for indigent defendants in criminal proceedings was established in 1963 by the Supreme Court, no similar legal right exists in civil cases — which is why Legal Services NYC's key role in delivering high quality civil legal services is so crucial.

For over 40 years, our talented staff has been providing critical legal assistance to the most vulnerable people in the City.

Each year, Legal Services NYC advocates:

- Serve more than 25,000 low-income clients throughout New York City, producing tangible benefits for over 70,000 people
- Keep thousands of families in their homes by preventing evictions and foreclosures, securing repairs and recovering rent overcharges — and saving New York City taxpayers millions of dollars by averting homelessness
- Win hundreds of Social Security and federal SSI cases, obtaining millions of dollars in disability benefits for clients and saving more than $4 million in state and local funds
- Represent low-wage workers with employment, tax, consumer and other legal problems to maximize income and help keep them in the workforce
- Protect victims of domestic violence and help reunite families through community-centered holistic family law work
- Handle scores of impact cases that advance and protect the rights of low-income New Yorkers
- Counsel numerous community groups on economic development and other projects to preserve communities and improve lives
- Obtain unemployment insurance, food stamps, medical and other cash and non-cash government benefits to help clients address basic human needs
- Address the legal needs of low-income New Yorkers who do not speak English as their native language to ensure that language barriers do not prevent them from receiving critical services or benefits
- Assist the elderly, children, homeless families, individuals with HIV and others in navigating the complex maze of legal issues they confront in their daily lives
- Empower thousands of low-income individuals by informing them of their legal rights through hotlines and help lines, community legal education classes and pro se clinics, and by developing and distributing information in hard copy and on-line through www.lawhelp/NY.org

Examples of current Legal Services NYC programs include:

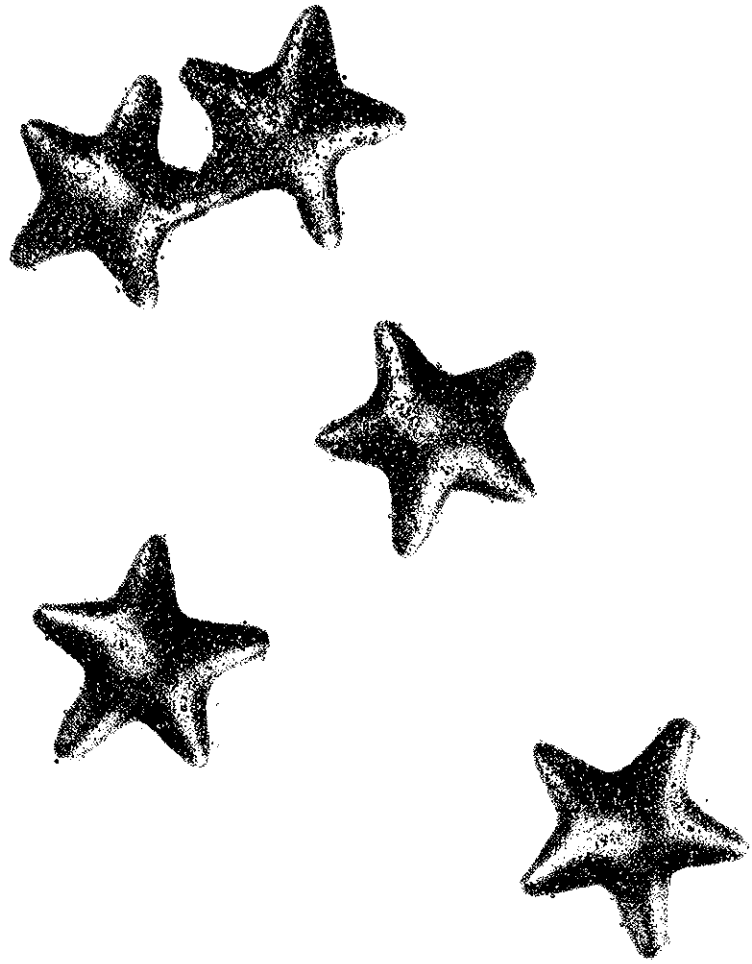
- **FORECLOSURE PREVENTION** has been a priority for Legal Services NYC for more than a decade, and we stand firmly committed to redressing the social, economic and racial inequalities caused by predatory mortgage lending. Our direct service Foreclosure Prevention projects in Brooklyn and Staten Island, and additional work in other parts of the City, offer a collective and strategic combination of expertise – via litigation, advocacy, outreach, and education – to advance the interests of clients and to effect systemic change in the lending and credit industry.

- **BROOKLYN FAMILY DEFENSE PROJECT (BFDP).** After years of advocacy by Legal Services NYC, along with a diverse range of other organizations, the City of New York took the courageous step of funding institutional providers to represent low-income parents in child welfare cases in family court. Legal Services NYC was one of three organizations selected by the City to help establish this initiative. As a result we created the Brooklyn Family Defense Project, an interdisciplinary law office charged with representing 800 respondents a year in Brooklyn Family Court. BFDP's mission is to provide high quality legal representation that protects parents' due process rights while promoting access to the services necessary to build safe and stable families.

- **THE NEW YORK CITY BANKRUPTCY ADVOCACY PROJECT (NYCBAP)** provides pro bono assistance to low-income New Yorkers who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. Currently, more than 150 attorneys from over 40 of the City's leading law firms are involved in this project, as are students from both Harvard and Columbia Law Schools. The Project is funded entirely by donations from private law firms.

- **THE DLA PIPER EDUCATION LAW PROJECT**, through which DLA Piper attorneys, working with Legal Services NYC's education attorneys, represent public school children in disciplinary and special education proceedings before school administrators and Department of Education officials. Given the "zero-tolerance" atmosphere in New York City's public schools, which has resulted in ever-younger children being removed from their schools for months at a time, too many low-income students are not adequately represented, if represented at all. The goal of this project is to change this dynamic.

- **THE BRONX MEDICAL-LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT** is the result of collaboration between Legal Services NYC-Bronx and two of Montefiore Medical Services Family Medicine Clinics: the Family Health Center and Williamsbridge. By establishing a presence in these community health clinics, legal advocates are able to reach out to more families who are in need of our assistance. Since the Project's inception in October 2007, patients have sought our help with housing problems, domestic violence, consumer credit problems, and public assistance benefits. This model is also being launched in Manhattan via a partnership between Manhattan Legal Services and the William F. Ryan Community Health Center on Manhattan's Upper West Side.



GE is proud to congratulate Brackett B. Denniston III, the Legal Services NYC 2008 Corporate Leadership Award recipient, and his fellow honoree, Gladys Carrión, recipient of the 2008 Visionary Leadership Award, for their ongoing commitments to equal access to justice for all.

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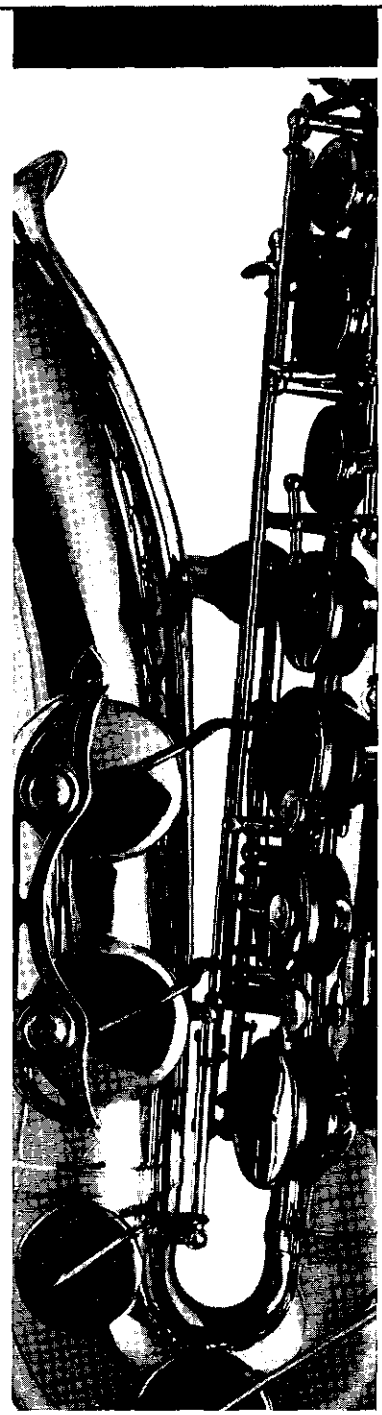

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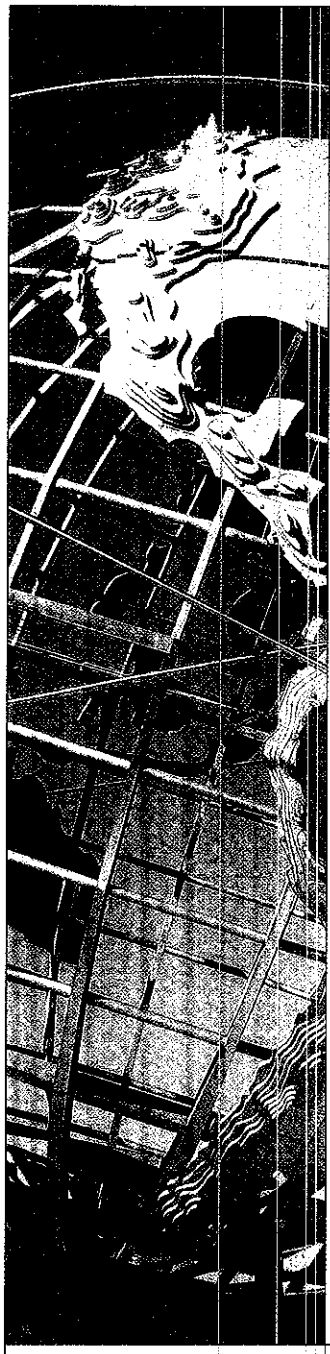

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Justice Matters

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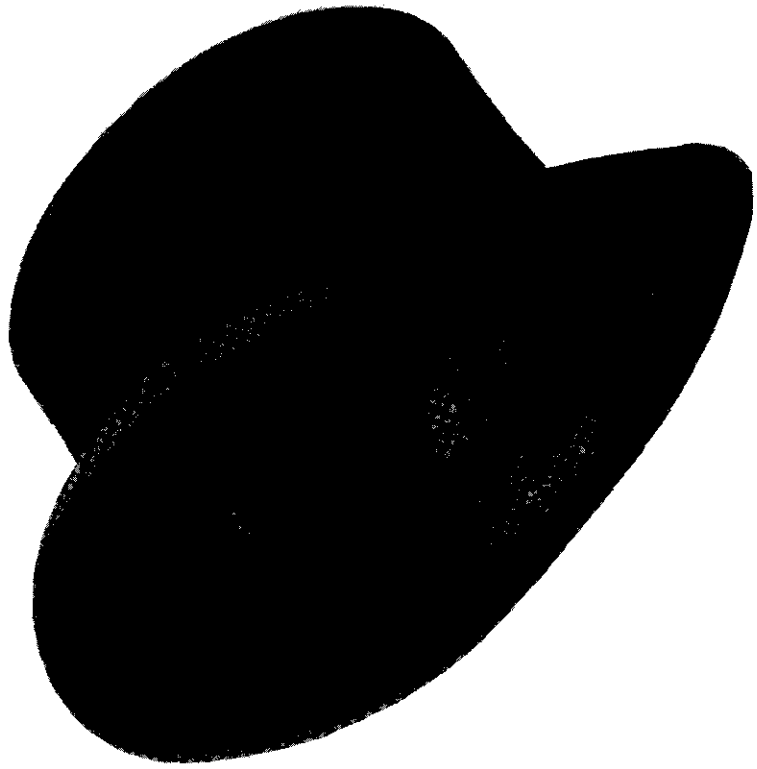

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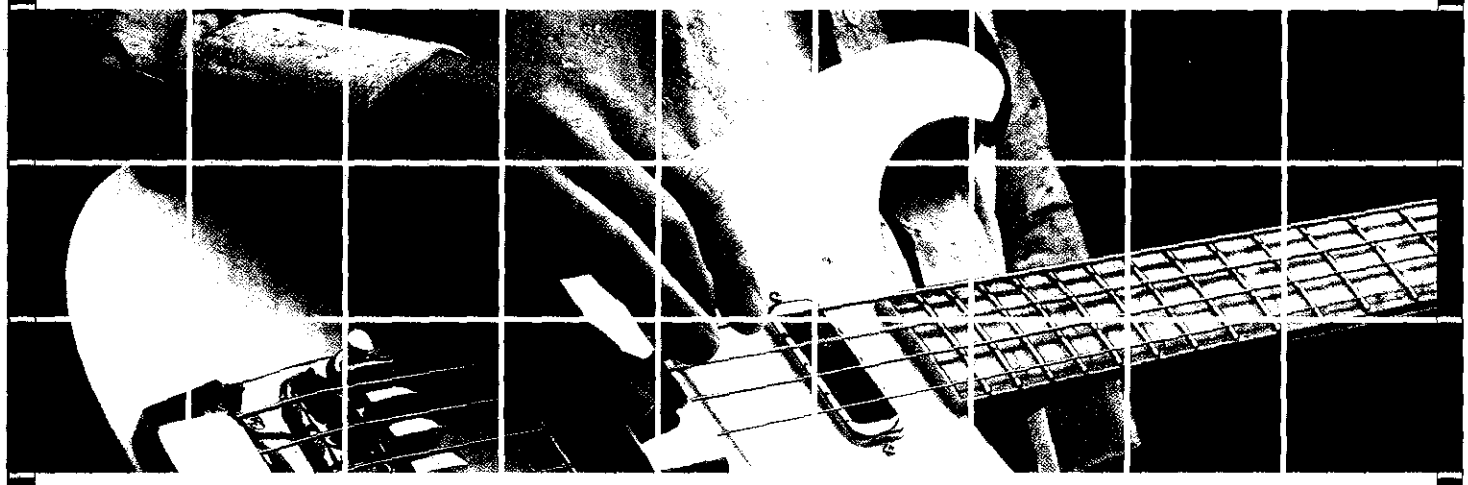

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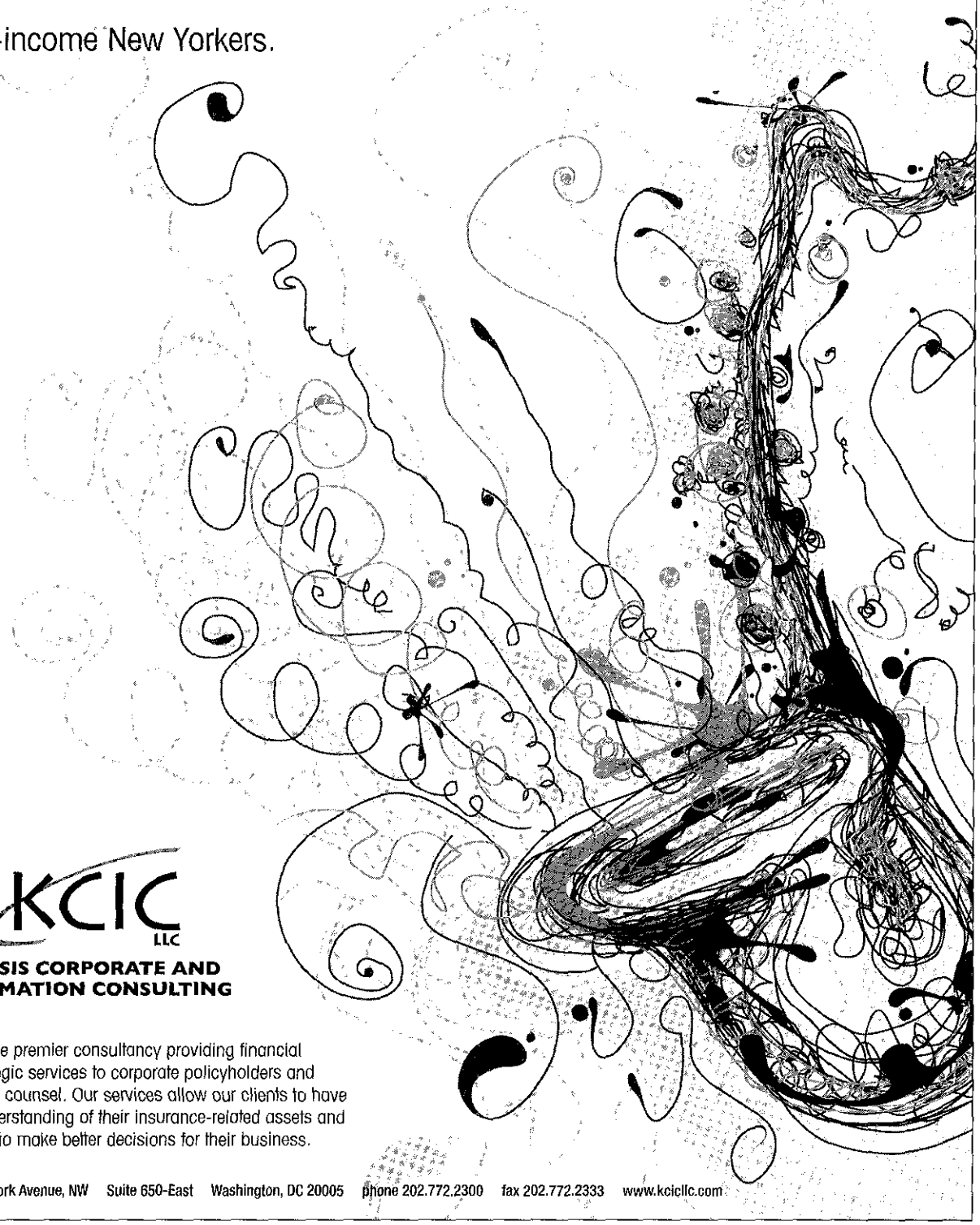

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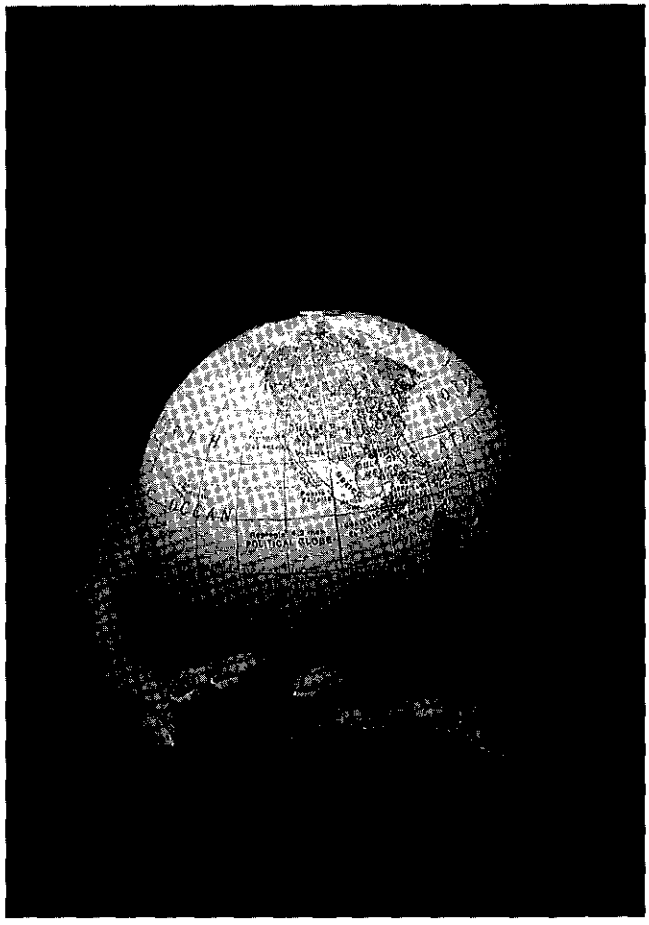

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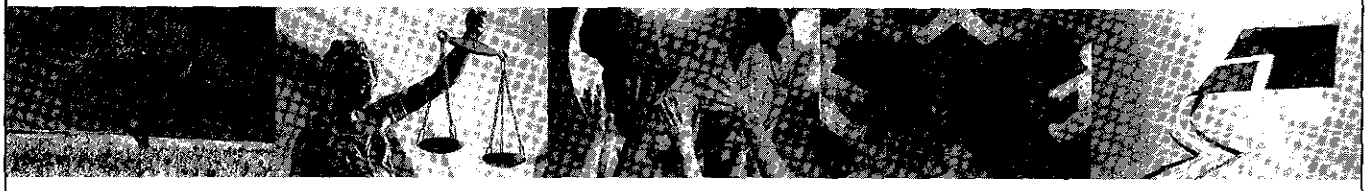

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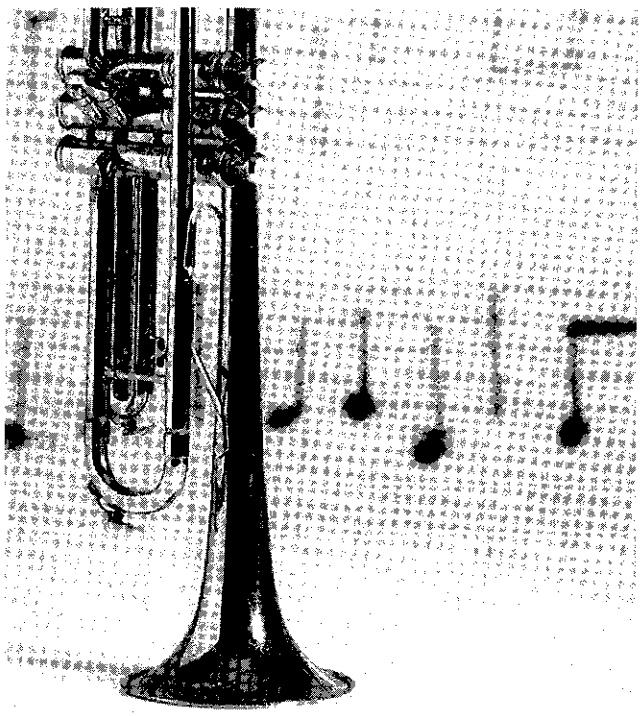

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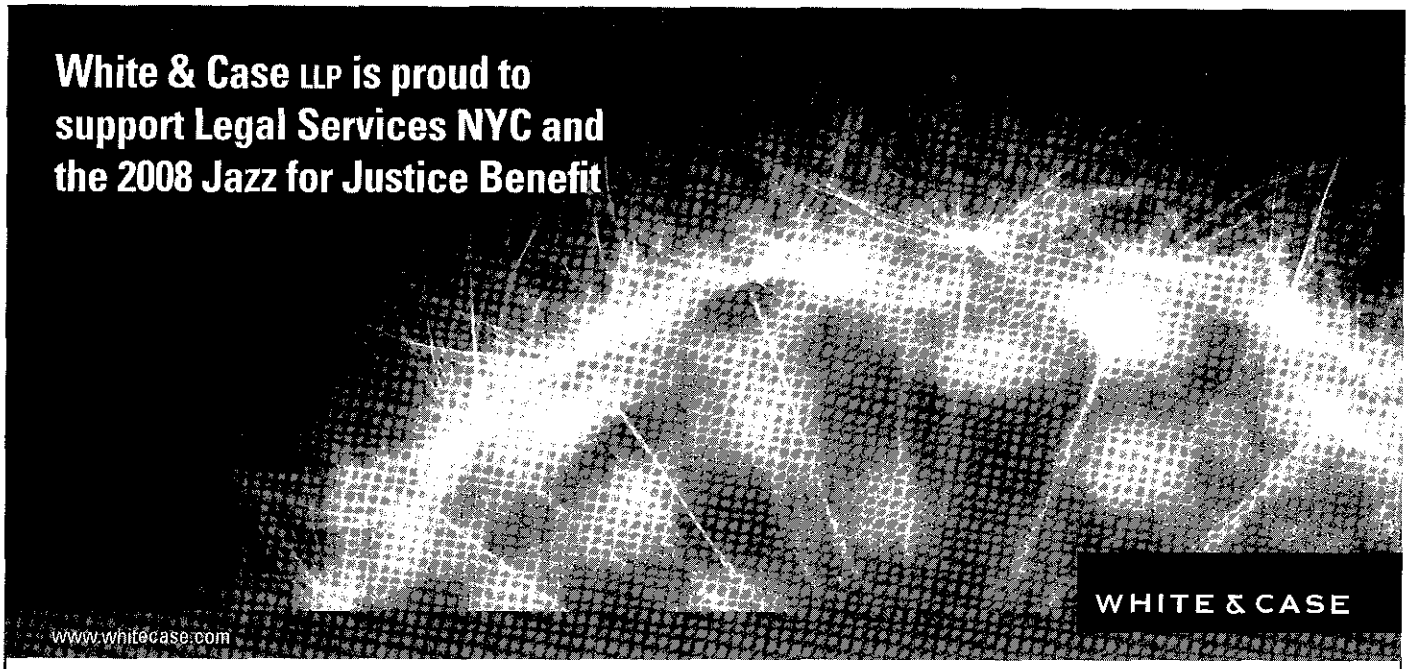

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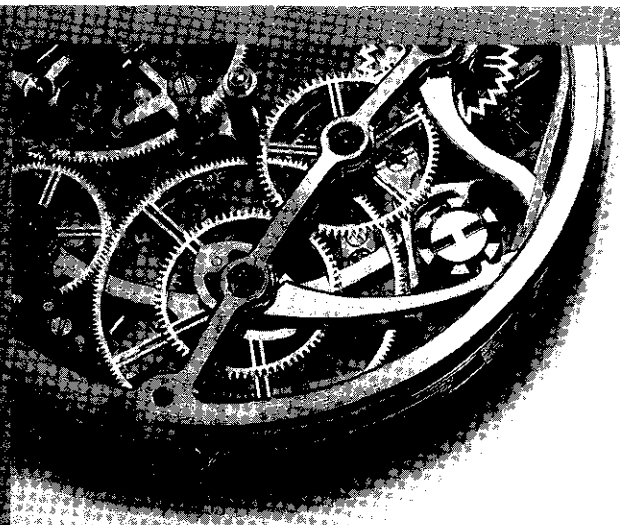

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