



Brooklyn Legal Services' 2018 Champion of Justice Awards was held on **Thursday, October 25**. [Click here to see photos from the event.](#)

## Our Honorees



**Kramer Levin**

Since 1998, **Kramer Levin** has staffed a full-time externship at Brooklyn Legal Services, helping meet the vast need of low-income tenants for representation in housing court. More than 30 firm lawyers have rotated through this position, representing hundreds of low-income tenants in court and counseling thousands more through "hotline" and other informal means.

Brooklyn Legal Services is proud to honor our 20-year partnership with Kramer Levin in ensuring access to justice in housing court for low-income Brooklynites.



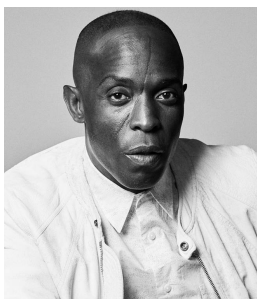
**Roger Juan Maldonado** is the President of the New York City Bar Association and a partner at Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Roger began his legal career as an attorney in the Housing Unit of Brooklyn Legal Services where he worked on various litigations, ranging from eviction proceedings, actions against landlords to remedy housing code violations, administrative proceedings on behalf of public housing residents, appeals in state and federal courts, and class actions on behalf of applicants for and recipients of Section 8 benefits. He also assisted in a class action brought on behalf of students requiring special education services (*Jose P. v. Mills*) and continues to monitor implementation of the judgment in that

case.

Roger is a referee for the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct; a member of the Commercial Division Advisory Council, the Advisory Group of New York State and Federal Judicial Council, and the Board of Directors of the New York Bar Foundation; a former member of the Department Disciplinary Committee, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department; former co-chair of the Committee on Non-Lawyers and the Justice Gap; and has served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary.

Brooklyn Legal Services is proud to honor Roger for his enduring support of our work and unwavering commitment to civil rights and social justice.



**Michael Kenneth Williams** is one of this generation's most respected and acclaimed actors. He is best known for his remarkable work as Omar on *The Wire* and Chalky White on *Boardwalk Empire*. He was most recently seen in HBO's *The Night Of* in the role of Freddy Knight, for which he received his second Emmy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or Movie.

Michael also served as the investigative journalist and Executive Producer for *Black Market*, a documentary that exposes and comments on illegal markets throughout the world with a focus on the people involved and connecting with them on a human level. In 2018 the HBO show *VICE* returned for its sixth season with an extended special season premiere featuring Williams as he embarked on a personal journey to expose the root of the American mass incarceration crisis: the juvenile justice system. *Raised in the System* offered a frank and unflinching look at those caught up the system, exploring why the country's mass incarceration problem cannot be fixed without first addressing the juvenile justice problem.

Brooklyn Legal Services is proud to honor Michael for his steadfast commitment to racial justice.

## Who We Are

Brooklyn Legal Services stops evictions, preserves affordable housing, helps people access essential public benefits, identifies and redresses discrimination in housing and mortgage lending, empowers victims of domestic violence, keeps homeowners in their homes, supports Brooklyn residents who are LGBTQ or HIV+ in gaining access to the services they need, promotes the rights of immigrants, veterans, and the disabled, protects borrowers from abusive and illegal collection tactics, and ensures proper care and housing for elderly Brooklynites.

Our staff of over 145 passionate, skilled, and highly trained lawyers, paralegals, and support staff represents Brooklyn residents who otherwise could not afford high-quality legal services. In the past year alone, we served more than 22,000 low-income Brooklyn residents. Our client work spans from day-to-day representations in court, to civil rights complaints in state and federal agencies, to complex litigation over many years to make sure Brooklyn's voices are heard and the law responds to the needs of low-income Brooklynites.

## Our Sponsors

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