

WHO WE ARE

The Right to Counsel NYC Coalition is made up of tenant organizing groups, tenant advocates, homeless advocates, senior advocates, disability advocates, academics, legal services organizations and more. We led the campaign that resulted in the passage of Local Law 136, which ensures that low-income tenants are represented in eviction cases by attorneys when they defend their rights and their homes. The Coalition is actively organizing and advocating while this law is being phased in.



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RIGHT TO COUNSEL

NYC COALITION



www.righttocounselnyc.org
www.rtctoolkit.org
www.evictionfreenyc.org
www.worstevictorsnyc.org

OUR WORK

On August 11, 2017, the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition won a 3-year, grassroots campaign, making it a right for tenants to have an attorney when faced with an eviction in housing court. Right to Counsel (RTC) is a tool to build tenant power, challenge landlord intimidation and harassment, and build the movement to fight gentrification and displacement. This is a victory for all of New York and it's a huge step forward towards creating a more equitable and just city. It is also a testament to the power, strength, and beauty of organizing.

RTC will be implemented over the course of the next few years, by zip codes. By 2022, the right will extend to all income-eligible New Yorkers. During the phase in of RTC, we are working hard to ensure a just implementation.

To do that we have 4 main working groups that advance our work and principles:



OUR WORKING GROUPS

COURT BASED IMPLEMENTATION

This working group is focused on ensuring that the roll-out of RTC reflects that a new right has been created and helps create the necessary culture shift in Housing Court and the tenant community. It also works to ensure that the implementation of RTC centers the experiences of tenants and maximizes tenant access to legal representation, including for Limited English Proficient tenants and tenants with disabilities..

TENANT ORGANIZING

This working group supports and coordinates the work of community-based organizing groups to increase tenant education and awareness, develop leaders, evaluate implementation, and combat landlord harassment. This group plans town halls and other city wide mobilizations, such as the Worst Evictors Week of Action and the People's Tribunal on Evictions. Organizing groups are organizing tenants' associations to combat landlord harassment and will continue to conduct broad based outreach.

TENANT ATTORNEY PIPELINE

The focus of the pipeline working group is on building a cohort of highly-qualified and effective advocates and supervisors to implement RTC. To do this, the group has been focusing on promoting greater attention to housing rights advocacy in law school instruction, including promoting more clinical and doctrinal offerings. The group works to change attitudes in law schools so that becoming a housing rights advocate is seen as an exciting, transformative and desirable career choice.

POWER TO ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN

Members of this group are working on passing new legislation that would expand NYC's current RTC law to ensure that nearly all tenants who face eviction have RTC and know about it. Intro 1104 would increase RTC's income eligibility level and expand the types of eviction cases covered by RTC. Intro 1529 would require the city to work with trusted tenant organizing groups to engage and educate tenants about their rights.