

# PsychRights®

Law Project for  
Psychiatric Rights, Inc.

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2008

### CONTACTS:

Dan Hazen  
(315) 528-3385  
[dan@psychrights.org](mailto:dan@psychrights.org)

Jim Gottstein  
(907) 274-7686  
[jim.gottstein@psychrights.org](mailto:jim.gottstein@psychrights.org)

### **PsychRights' Launches *Pro Bono* Recruitment Effort with MindFreedom's Ann L Human Rights Alert**

As part of their [Joint Task Force on Mental Legal Advocacy & Activism](#), and in connection with last week's MindFreedom [Alert: Say "No" to NY Forced Psychiatric Drugging of "Ann L"](#), the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights) today announced the launch of its effort to recruit *pro bono* attorneys to help defend New York citizens facing the horror of forced psychiatric drugging in the community. PsychRights' President, Jim Gottstein, said, "people think forced drugging makes the community safer, but the opposite is true. It is well established that psychiatric drugs forced on people increase rather than decrease violence." "The idea that forced community psychiatric drugging makes people safer is a fraud perpetrated on the public by organizations like the Treatment Advocacy Center," continued Mr. Gottstein.

The scientific evidence on this, the ineffectiveness of these drugs for most and extreme harm to all caused by these drugs, along with a legal analysis, has been put together for attorneys in [Memorandum \(Preliminary\) Forced Psychiatric Drugging in the Community --Pro Bono Opportunity of Great Significance](#). Dan Hazen, PsychRights' Northeast Coordinator said, "We hope members of the New York bar will read the [memorandum](#) and decide this is an issue deserving of *pro bono* services." Attorneys interested in signing on or desiring more information may contact either Mr. Hazen or Mr. Gottstein at the contacts above or below.

David Oaks, MindFreedom's Director, said, "We are very pleased to collaborate with PsychRights, combining legal advocacy and grass roots activism." In closing, Mr. Gottstein stated, "If nothing else, attorneys should be offended by the sham nature of the legal proceedings in which New York citizens are ordered by the courts to take these very debilitating, largely ineffective, and extremely harmful drugs."

The Law Project for Psychiatric Rights is a public interest law firm devoted to the defense of people facing the horrors of unwarranted forced psychiatric drugging and electroshock. PsychRights is further dedicated to exposing the truth about psychiatric interventions and the courts being misled into ordering people subjected to these brain and body damaging drugs against their will. Extensive information about these dangers, and about the tragic damage caused by electroshock, is available on the PsychRights web site: <http://psychrights.org/>.

# # #