

# SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT



2011 - 2012 Annual Report

**The mission of SRLP** is to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP is a collective organization founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably intertwined with racial, social and economic justice. Therefore, we seek to increase the political voice and visibility of low-income people and people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming. SRLP works to improve access to respectful and affirming social, health, and legal services for our communities. We believe that in order to create meaningful political participation and leadership, we must have access to basic means of survival and safety from violence.

### **SRLP Collective Members 2011-2012**

Vivienne Anthony, Gabriel Arkles, Naomi Clark, Katherine Cross, Gabriel Foster, Pooja Gehi, Reina Gossett, Jorge Irizarry, Roo Khan, Mik Kinkead, Daniel McGee, Ola Osaze, Elana Redfield, Dean Spade, Helen Stillman, Chase Strangio, Stefanie Rivera, and Alisha Williams.

Annual Report editors, contributors and producers: Avi Cummings, Reina Gossett, Daniel McGee, Ola Osaze, and Dean Spade.

FY 2012 Annual Report (July 2011-June 2012)  
Published in April 2013

**SRLP**  
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SYLVIA RIVERA  LAW PROJECT

Dear SRLP Community,

2012 was an exciting year for all of us involved in SRLP! We provided free, respectful and affirming legal services, advice, and referrals to over 350 community members. We reduced discrimination and violence by reaching over 1,500 service providers, attorneys, judges, students, and activists at 26 trainings and speaking engagements across the country. We also offered 10 community building events that empowered over 200 community members to self-advocate and share knowledge and skills. Working in collaboration with community members and allied organizations, we achieved two victories protecting the rights of trans prisoners.

While we worked toward these achievements, we also celebrated our 10 year anniversary! This milestone gave us an opportunity to look back at SRLP's decade of work and celebrate its impact. Participating in SRLP for the last ten years has been transformative for all of us. Focusing on anti-oppression, operating through consensus, and prioritizing trans people of color leadership, we built an innovative and truly unique organization. We have changed the conversation about what trans politics is by putting racism and poverty at the center.

Standing at this 10 year mark, we look forward to SRLP's continuing work to address the many challenges facing trans, intersex, and gender non-conforming people. While national LGBT organizations increasingly turn their attention to trans people's "rights" to serve in the military, our communities consistently find that our biggest priorities relate to welfare, police, shelters, schools and Medicaid. We are fighting to survive *and* to build trans resistance and an LGBT movement that centers the issues that disproportionately affect low-income trans people and trans people of color. In our 10th year, we continue to bring energy and resources to our work of transforming the conditions facing trans communities and to building our strength, leadership and resilience.

In Solidarity,

SRLP Collective





**10  
YEARS  
OF  
SRLP  
HISTORY**

**2002**

SRLP begins as a one-person fellowship project hosted at the Urban Justice Center.

**2003**

SRLP wins victory in *DOE v. BELL*, establishing that transgender youth in New York State foster care cannot be forced to wear clothing associated with their birth-assigned sex.

SRLP wins victory for trans parental rights in *MORRILL v. MORRILL*, establishing a transgender parent's right to visit her children.

Tara Mateik and SRLP produce the documentary "Toilet Training," an education tool to address discrimination and harassment against trans people in public bathrooms.

SRLP understands that the voices of the people who experience state violence and oppression the most must be centralized within all of our dialogue. As we address the immediate survival needs of low-income TGNCI people of color, we also build their ability to participate in larger discussions of abolition and self determination. The honesty, pain, and creativity that our members bring to the table help us all envision and move toward liberation.

-Alisha, SRLP Staff Member

SRLP wins a victory in precedent-setting case *IN RE GUIDO*, establishing that evidence of genital surgery and divorce cannot be required of a transgender name change applicant.

**2004**

**SRLP establishes the Medicaid Equality Initiative** to challenge Medicaid's denial of coverage for transition-related health care.

**SRLP transitions to a community-based collective.** At the first collective retreat, our mission statement and organizational goals are finalized.

SRLP helps develop the New York City Commission on Human Rights Guidelines Regarding Gender Identity Discrimination to educate the public about the the Human Rights Law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations, including city agencies.

SRLP is growing! Through fellowship support, we begin our organizing support work and hire a new attorney. We also hire our first Grassroots Fundraising Coordinator!

SRLP has really taken home everything that Sylvia Rivera was about, everything that she embodied, everything that she lived for.

-Stefanie, SRLP Community Member

2005

SRLP collectively recommit to **prioritizing racial justice work** and begins a year-long partnership with Dismantling Racism Works to bring anti-racist practices to the center of our work.

SRLP convened a coalition of 13 organizations to demand that the New York State Department of Health revise their unfair, surgery-based policy regarding changing sex designation on birth certificates.


SRLP continues to grow! Our **Prisoner Justice Project** begins through a fellowship.

SRLP hosts our first benefit art auction, **Small Works for Big Change**, featuring over 40 artists and raising \$9,500.

2006

SRLP helps make New York City's homeless shelter system safer for transgender people with the passage of a **new Department of Homeless Services Policy**, which guarantees that transgender people will be placed in shelters according to their gender identities.

SRLP joins the Gender Action Coalition to take on discrimination at the Human Resources Administration and to ensure that trans people receive safe, affirming and non-discriminatory services.



40 Years of Street  
for Trans Liberation!  
an End to Poverty!  
... fo' Revolution!

**SRLP wins a victory for trans youth in juvenile justice!** A settlement reached in *RODRIGUEZ V. JOHNSON* requires the Office of Children and Family Services--the agency that cut our client off hormones, placed her in boys' detention facilities, and disciplined her for expressions of femininity--to meet with SRLP and Lambda Legal over the next five years to improve its policies regarding transgender youth.

2007

SRLP, with the New York Legal Assistance group and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, files the **first lawsuit to challenge New York's exclusion of Medicaid coverage** for transition-related health care.

SRLP attends the first US Social Forum, playing an important role in the Queer Visibility Committee, organizing "Trans 101" trainings for the USSF National Planning Committee, volunteers, and security teams, and co-facilitating a day-long pre-conference gathering called Building a Queer Left with Queers for Economic Justice and Southerners on New Ground.



**SRLP organizes Transforming Justice,** a first-of-its-kind national gathering for formerly incarcerated trans people and activists, attorneys, and advocates to address issues facing trans people in prison.

SRLP successfully fights the Board of Correction's attempt to drastically lower minimum standards governing the treatment of prisoners in NYC jails.

**SRLP publishes "It's War in Here: A Report of Transgender and Intersex People in New York State Men's Prisons,"** documenting the daily realities of our incarcerated community members.

**SRLP launches the Prisoner Advisory Committee (PAC),** a forum for trans and gender non-conforming prisoners to build community and participate in policy work that affects their lives. PAC members work closely with SRLP staff to develop comments to the proposed regulations of the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

**2008**



SRLP seeks to change our very understanding of what justice can and should mean by embodying the aspirations and spirit of those least considered when laws are written; SRLP goes where few others will, takes the cases others won't. I volunteer for SRLP because 'Justice for all' means something real here.

- Katherine, SRLP Collective Member

SRLP achieves a **victory for youth in juvenile justice!** The New York State Office of Children and Family Services releases a groundbreaking policy that prohibits discrimination against youth on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity.

SRLP achieves **victory for youth in New York City foster care.** The Administration for Children's Services approves a new non-discrimination policy that prohibits its staff and contract agencies from discriminating on the basis of gender identity.

SRLP wins the first New York appellate case addressing **transgender name changes.** In **MATTER OF GOLDEN**, the State Supreme Court's Appellate Division, Third Department, upholds transgender people's right to change their names without requiring medical evidence.

SRLP publishes the first issue of **IN SOLIDARITY**, the collaborative newsletter created by PAC members, SRLP staff and volunteers!

I like SRLP for the good service it provides to the Spanish trans community.

-Lorena, SRLP Community Member

2009

SRLP produces a new publication, **TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH TRANS CLIENTS IN PRISONERS' RIGHTS CASES**, with input from our Prisoner Advisory Committee and allied organizations. This publication is used as a tool to train attorneys at private firms on trans issues.

SRLP completes our first Strategic Plan!

SRLP provides free and affirming direct legal services to our 1,000th client!

SRLP successfully pushes the National Commission on Correctional Health Care to adopt an official position statement supporting the **provision of transition-related health care to transgender prisoners.**

2010

SRLP, along with TransJustice of the Audre Lorde Project, Queers for Economic Justice, and Housing Works, achieves a hard-won victory for trans and gender non-conforming people when the Human Resources Administration passes a **new procedure to end discrimination and harassment in New York City's welfare system.**



**SRLP launches the new Movement Building Team** to develop the skills, leadership and political power of low-income transgender people and transgender people of color to participate in SRLP's work and in our larger movements for social justice.

**SRLP moves into a new office!** We now share a building with our close organizational allies the Audre Lorde Project, FIERCE!, Queers for Economic Justice, and Streetwise and Safe.

SRLP's work with the Administration of Children's Services results in a policy to review all requests for healthcare not covered by Medicaid, which almost all youth in foster care receive. This policy supports the **right of transgender youth to receive gender-affirming healthcare.**

**2011**

SRLP and the National Center for Lesbian Rights publish **A PLACE OF RESPECT: A GUIDE FOR GROUP CARE FACILITIES SERVING TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING YOUTH**, to provide comprehensive guidance about the treatment of trans and gender non-conforming youth in group care facilities.



SRLP creates more accessible pathways for gender marker change by challenging a New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene policy requiring burdensome documentation in order to change sex designation on birth certificates.

Working with a coalition of juvenile justice advocates, **SRLP successfully pushes the Division of Youth and Family Justice to create and adopt a new gender identity and expression non-discrimination policy**, including transition-related medical coverage for youth and individualized assessments for placement, instead of placing youth based on their assigned birth sex.

**SRLP provides accessible and useful information for trans prisoners who are trying to bring law suits on their own behalf** in a section of *THE JAILHOUSE LAWYER'S HANDBOOK: HOW TO BRING A FEDERAL LAWSUIT TO CHALLENGE VIOLATIONS OF YOUR RIGHTS IN PRISON*, published by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild.

SRLP wins a successful outcome for our client in *LEWIS V. FISCHER*, a case challenging NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision policy that provides for the provision of hormone treatment only for prisoners who have a valid prescription of hormones at the time of their arrest but not for the initiation of hormone treatment for those who did not choose or were unable to access treatment prior to incarceration.

It's important to me to support my community.  
That's why I donate to SRLP.

-Calvin, SRLP Community Member

2012

At Occupy Wall Street, SRLP organizes delegations for marches and hosts teach-ins to share trans organizing history and develop strategies to create a more trans-inclusive movement.

SRLP publishes **PARTICIPATING IN DIRECT ACTION: A GUIDE FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE** in coalition with the National Center for Transgender Equality, Streetwise and Safe, and other activists.

In **MATTER OF POWELL**, **SRLP wins the first appellate case in New York State affirming the right of trans prisoners to obtain name changes without providing medical evidence.** This decision helps to ensure that trans people in prison will have access to the courts to assume names consistent with their gender identities and that the law applies equally to incarcerated and non-incarcerated transgender petitioners.

SRLP successfully pushes the Department of Justice to include meaningful protections for incarcerated transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex people within the final rule implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

**SRLP's first Membership orientation!**  
SRLP launches a new membership structure to allow even more of our community members to get involved in the fight for gender justice!

**SRLP  
CELEBRATES  
10 YEARS!**

# FY 2012 FINANCIAL REPORTING

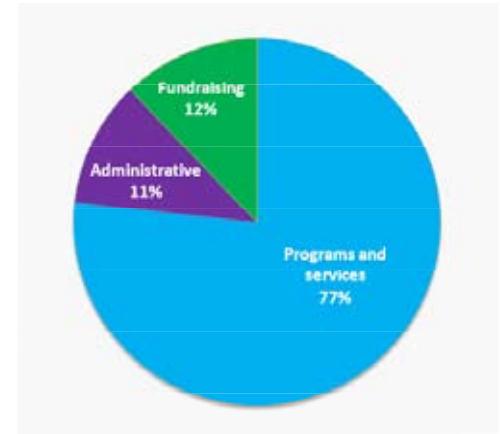
<b>Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
Individuals	\$ 56,165		\$ 56,165
Corporations	\$ 1,250		\$ 1,250
Events	\$ 39,238		\$ 39,238
Family Foundations	\$ 31,000		\$ 31,000
Foundation grants	\$ 53,850	\$ 411,478	\$ 465,328
Program revenue	\$ 4,505		\$ 4,505
Honoraria	\$ 10,434		\$ 10,434
Interest income	\$ 1,529		\$ 1,529
In-kind contributions	\$ 2,350		\$ 2,350
Other Income	\$ 268		\$ 268
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 380,019	\$ (380,019)	\$ -
<b>Total Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 580,608</b>	<b>\$ 31,459</b>	<b>\$ 612,067</b>

## **Expenses**

Program services	\$ 450,725		\$ 450,725
Administrative	\$ 65,034		\$ 64,034
Fundraising	\$ 71,325		\$ 71,325
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 587,084</b>		<b>\$ 587,084</b>

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (6,476)</b>	<b>\$ 31,459</b>	<b>\$ 24,983</b>
<b>Net Assets as of June 30, 2011</b>	<b>\$ 437,193</b>	<b>\$ 326,211</b>	<b>\$ 763,404</b>
<b>Net Assets as of June 30, 2012</b>	<b>\$ 430,717</b>	<b>\$ 357,760</b>	<b>\$ 788,387</b>

## 2012 EXPENSES



From July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012,  
77% of our expenses went to  
programs and services.



**In 2012, over 500 individuals donated to SRLP to support our work building a movement for gender liberation centered in racial and economic justice.**

# Thank you to our generous donors!

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**Our work is made possible by your support!**

## SPECIAL GIFTS

**In memory of Chloe Dzubilo**  
Kelly McGowan

**In memory of Isaac Kwock**  
Susan Kwock  
John Won

**In memory of Jalal Mikaniki**  
Maryam Mikaniki

**In honor of Flor Bermudez &  
Kristin Kimmel**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
**In honor of Karl Bryan & Mark Schuller**  
Katherine C. Sarno

**In honor of William Fortini &  
R. Newbanks**  
Debra Roselli

**In honor of Allan Galenzoga**  
Ian Hinonangan & Julius Torres

**In honor of Kevin Haaga**  
Dave Haaga

**In honor of Randall Ehrbar & Shawn  
MacDonald**

Josephine Hoge  
Jeanne MacKenzie  
Jorge Montalvo

**In honor of Julia Bryan Wilson &  
Mel Chen's Queen Merry**

Allison Smith  
**In honor of Emil Rudicell**  
Judy Roberts  
Joe Kiefer

**In honor of Jase Schwartz**  
Jeremy Schwartz

**In honor of Dean Spade**  
Nilda Brooklyn  
Leslie Batz

**In honor of Chloe Wardropper**  
Ian Wardropper

**In the name of Jennifer Kates &  
Dan Urevick-Acklesberg**

Emi Kane

**In the name of Ragni Kidvai, SRLP Intern**  
Yolanda Padilla

**In the name of Emily Landry**  
Russell Garofalo

**In the name of Sharon Wasko &  
Michael Erwin**

Anonymous (2)  
Dan Berger  
Shira EtShalom  
April Rosenblum

**In the name of Kathy Williams**  
Adrien Tower

**For Holly Victoria Blume**  
Garry Blume

**For Karl & Mark**  
Mette Christiansen & Frank Mulhern

## SRLP thanks our generous in-kind donors

ARTFORUM, 14 Street Framing Gallery, Alicia O Yoga, Arrojo Studio, Asahi Beer USA Inc/Nishimoto Trading Co, Attorney Pride Reception, Berlin Reed, Bierkraft, Brooklyn Open Acupuncture, Browning Frames, Carmichael Monaco, Collect Pond Creative, Gotham Wine and Liquor, Hey Queen, Izze Sparkling Juice, Jack Studio, Means of Production Apparel, Morty Diamond, New York University Press, Riot Grrl Ink, Tekserve, The Feminist Press at CUNY, Tristan Taormino, Vic's Bagel Bar, and Visual AIDS.

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT FY 2012

**Thank you to the foundations that support our work:** Anonymous, Arcus Foundation, ARIA Foundation, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Calamus Foundation, Equal Justice Works, Foundation to Promote Open Society, Gill Foundation, Kicking Assets Fund of Tides Foundation, Miller-Wehrle Family Foundation, New Prospect Foundation, New York City AIDS Fund in the New York Community Trust and the Council of Fashion Designers of America, New York Women's Foundation, Paul Rapoport Foundation, Third Wave Foundation, and the Union Square Awards, a project of the Tides Center.

# What keeps our movement growing? **YOU!**

Our work is made possible with support from donors like you! To make a tax-deductible donation, please use the envelope attached to this annual report to send a check made payable to the Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

You can also donate online at <http://srlp.org/get-involved/donate/>

For other ways to support SRLP, go to:

<http://srlp.org/get-involved/>

- Join our **mailing/email list**
- Learn about **becoming a member**
- Join our **Allied Attorney Network**
- Find out more about making a **donation of stock**

You can purchase our **Toilet Training** documentary DVD at

<http://srlp.org/resources/toilettraining/>

For more information, write to [donate@srlp.org](mailto:donate@srlp.org)



## SAVE THE DATE!

SRLP's 8th Annual  
Small Works for Big Change!

Saturday, May 18  
5-9 PM  
Bidding ends at 8 pm sharp!

Judson Memorial Church  
55 Washington Square South  
NYC

