

The
David B. Bryson
&
Sylvia M. Brennan
Memorial Funds



Whatever your hand finds to do,
Do it with all your heart.

(ECCLESIASTES 9:10)

NATIONAL HOUSING LAW PROJECT



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Memorial Funds

Fostering new generations of housing justice advocates

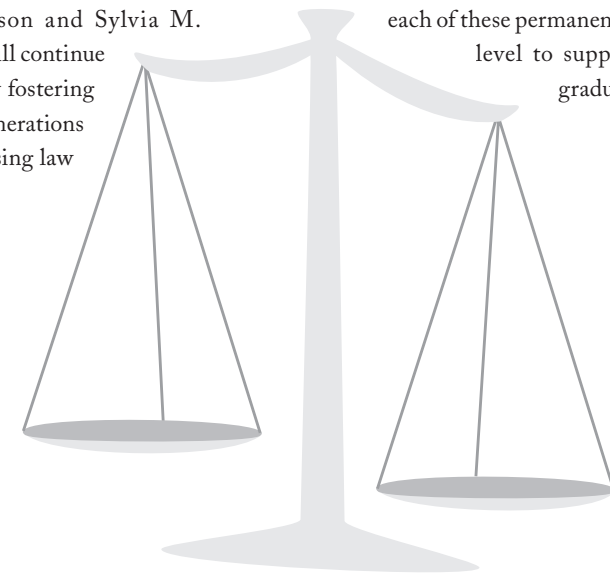
The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) established the David B. Bryson & Sylvia M. Brennan Memorial Funds in 2006 to honor our two former colleagues who were highly respected and well loved by the staff at NHLP and their colleagues in the larger world of housing justice.

Both David and Sylvia found their meaningful life's work in using the power of law to advance the right of the each person to a decent, safe, and affordable home. In committing their passion and talents to housing justice for the underserved, each left legacies that are reflections of their individual characters and lessons for all of us.

NHLP's David B. Bryson and Sylvia M. Brennan Memorial Funds will continue David's and Sylvia's work by fostering the development of new generations of attorneys engaged in housing law

to benefit our country's most vulnerable—the poor, the elderly, and the disabled.

Initially, the memorial funds will provide an opportunity for summer law student interns to learn and work with our staff attorneys in NHLP's Oakland, California and Washington, DC offices. Our long term goal is to build each of these permanent memorial funds to a sufficient level to support full-time fellowships for graduate law students.



David Brady Bryson

David Bryson distinguished himself as a tireless defender of the housing rights of the poor and as a brilliant legal professional. His work with NHLP spanned nearly 30 years and advanced his core belief in the ethical duty of the federal government to make decent and affordable housing available to all, regardless of income, race or disability.



His legendary contributions to the world of housing litigation include many landmark cases that advanced tenants' fundamental rights. Attorneys, scholars, and activists sought his sage counsel as did policymakers who found his expertise indispensable in developing critical protections that endure to this day.

In his varied roles as an attorney, teacher, writer, or advisor, David's innate decency was a hallmark of his tireless efforts and set a high standard for others to follow. In 1999, when the California State Bar awarded the Loren Miller Legal Services award to David, NHLP's former executive director David Madway expressed the admiration so widely shared by colleagues: "David is the best of us. I have never encountered anyone with a greater or more determined sense of integrity."

David's historic contributions to housing justice provide an enduring legacy for all of us who continue to pursue his dream of affordable housing for all.

Sylvia Mary Brennan

A spirited defender of housing justice, Sylvia Brennan served as NHLP's Director of Government Relations in Washington D.C. from 2003-2006. Her engaging personality and energetic readiness to move on to the next fight drove her extraordinary success as an advocate. Her work earned the deep respect of colleagues and adversaries alike.



Following ten years as leader and advocate for the Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Sylvia joined NHLP in 2003 to head the D.C. Public Housing Resident Empowerment Project. Her efforts made important inroads in challenging unjust community service and trespass policies, and promoting asset building and leadership opportunities for public housing residents. Sylvia's expertise and passion made her an effective trainer of both resident leaders and legal advocates.

Beyond her tenacious efforts on behalf of the poor and underserved, everyone privileged to have known her misses her generous spirit, her good-hearted nature, and the joy she spread. Housing advocate Wayne Sherwood fondly noted, "To honor Sylvia, please keep the Spirit of Truth, Justice and Hope alive. Respond to temporary setbacks with raucous, irreverent laughter, a twinkle in your eyes, and a determination to keep on, as she always did."

Thank you—

For your support of the David B. Bryson & Sylvia M. Brennan Memorial Funds
And for helping us to honor their memories through the work of this program.

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About Your Gift

Your gift in support of this program will benefit the memorial fund of your choice. If you do not specify a fund, the gift will benefit both funds.

Gifts made to the Bryson & Brennan Memorial Funds are considered restricted for use in conjunction with the intent of the funds. All gifts are tax-deductible.

NHLP welcomes multi-year pledges of support to the memorial fund program. If you have questions regarding the funds, pledges or other giving options including planned gifts, bequests, gifts of stock or equities, please contact Susan Stern at the National Housing Law Project at 510-251-9400, ext 110.