



# DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

## New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NYS Court of Appeals Decision Protects NYC Tenants with Disabilities

**Brooklyn, NY – May 14, 2018** – In a recent decision, the Court of Appeals preserved the rights for all New York City tenants with disabilities and ensured that Irene Politis, a senior with a mobility disability, could access her apartment. *Marine Holdings, LLC, et al., v. New York City Commission on Human Rights, et al.*, a case that Disability Rights New York (DRNY) supported with an Amicus Brief, was taken to the highest Court in New York after Ms. Politis' landlord refused to install a wheelchair-accessible entrance and ramp to her apartment. Access to accessible housing is critical for tenants with disabilities and many must seek modifications from the landlord to their apartments to accommodate their needs. DRNY argued that to refuse an accommodation the landlord must prove hardship. Not only does the law explicitly place this burden on landlords, but the negative consequences of imposing such a burden on tenants like Ms. Politis would be dramatic.

*“People are often forced out of their homes because their landlords refuse to make them accessible,” said DRNY Executive Director Timothy A. Clune. “The Court of Appeals has affirmed a well-established responsibility of landlords and protected tenants with disabilities.”*

Read the Court Decision here: <https://www.nycourts.gov/ctapps/Decisions/2018/May18/45mem18-Decision.pdf>

DRNY is the designated independent non-profit Protection & Advocacy System empowered by Congress to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect and provide legal and non-legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in New York State. The Protection & Advocacy System was created by Congress as a direct result of the horrific conditions that were uncovered in the 1970s at New York's Willowbrook State School.

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