

KATHERINE E. WALZ

Senior Attorney

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law



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A 1996 graduate of DePaul College of Law and a 1993 graduate of Miami University in Oxford Ohio, Kate began her legal career at the Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing, where she spearheaded a pilot project demonstrating the benefits of providing legal representation to tenants in eviction court. Kate was then in private practice on civil rights and criminal defense cases. She returned to legal aid, as Executive Director of First Defense Legal Aid (FDLA). Kate was also an adjunct clinical professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. With the Shriver Center since 2001, Kate advocates on behalf of low-income individuals living in or in need of public, subsidized, or affordable housing. Kate is class counsel in *Wallace v. CHA*, a case that challenges the Chicago Housing Authority's discriminatory relocation practices of residents, *Concerned Residents of ABLA v. CHA*, a suit involving public housing demolition and relocation, and *Chicago ACORN v. HUD*, a case challenging HUD's termination of the project-based Section 8 contract of one of the biggest developments in the country. Kate spearheads the housing policy work, serving a lead role on the Source of Income Working Group, the Tenants Rights Working Group, and the Safe Homes Initiative. In 2006, Kate was awarded a Housing Justice Award by the National Housing Law Project for her work on affordable housing and low-income housing rights.

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