

5th SERVANT OF JUSTICE AWARDS

Janet Sabel



Janet Sabel began her decades-long commitment to The Legal Aid Society as a staff attorney, first in the Civil Practice's Brooklyn Neighborhood Office and then in the Civil Appeals and Law Reform Unit, where she worked on federal and class action litigation on disability and health issues. She later served as managing attorney of the Lower Manhattan Neighborhood Office, Attorney-in-Charge of the citywide Immigration Law Unit, and General Counsel.

After 25 years with Legal Aid, Janet left in 2011 to join the New York State Attorney General's Office where she served initially as the Executive Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice and finally as a Chief Deputy Attorney General. Janet oversaw a number of high-profile actions, including a landmark antitrust case involving the sale of Alzheimer's drugs, the state's first enforcement of mental health parity laws, and a resolution of a redlining investigation of a Buffalo bank. She also played a key role in the AG's challenges to the Trump administration's policies on immigration, sanctuary cities, and the travel ban. She oversaw successful litigation efforts to restore federal health care funding for tens of thousands of low-income New Yorkers, as well fraud litigation against Trump University.

In 2019, Janet returned to lead The Legal Aid Society through a transitional phase as Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer. Her expertise and institutional knowledge have steered the Society through an inflection point of organizational growth and development coinciding with the pandemic, one of the City's biggest challenges in recent decades.