

duboff award

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR INMOTION'S NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

The Fund for Modern Courts honored inMotion with the prestigious **Samuel J. Duboff Memorial Award** on December 8th at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. This award recognizes non-attorneys who have made extraordinary contributions toward improving the equality of justice in New York State. Each year, hundreds of individuals who are not lawyers volunteer at inMotion, providing critical legal assistance to low-income women throughout New York City who seek help with a wide array of family, matrimonial and immigration matters.

RITE Workshop—Legal Assistants and Former Clients Since 1995, 325 women have secured their own divorce judgments through the RITE Workshop—*Realizing Independence Through Empowerment*. InMotion partners each woman participating in the Workshop with two volunteer legal assistants from the City's major law firms. To date, over 600 of these dedicated non-attorney volunteers have assisted our clients in navigating a complex court system, imparting to them along the way a sense of empowerment and a "can do" attitude.

Summer Associate Program—Law Students During summer 2004, 183 students represented 98 women. InMotion offers intensive training to summer associates and the attorneys at their firms who supervise their work. The program gives law students a unique opportunity to appear, under attorney supervision, in Supreme or Family Court to advocate on behalf of their clients, providing them with their first litigation and courtroom experiences.

Law School Interns, Graduate Students and Legal Assistants Many non-lawyer volunteers work regularly from our offices on a part-time basis. Most are law students or legal assistants but we also recruit college or graduate students from other disciplines. During the last year, 46 students regularly reported to work one or more days a week at inMotion. Guided by inMotion's attorneys, they worked on 75 pro bono cases and drafted pleadings and motions for 47 additional women to file pro se in their on-going cases—helping these women state their claims, protect their rights and prevent default judgments.

We congratulate each and every one of our non-attorney volunteers for this highly deserved recognition and the tremendous work they do to make the courts and justice system accessible to the women who need it most.



Fern Schair, board chair, Fund for Modern Courts, presents the Samuel J. Duboff Memorial Award to Cathy Douglass, inMotion executive director, and Shelley Chapman, inMotion board chair.

Rick Kopstein, New York Law Journal