

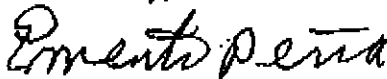
February 26, 2010

Testimony of Emerito Pena in support of funding for legal services:

I feel very grateful for all of the help that I got when I needed it the most. In my housing case, they wanted to evict me and thanks to NHLAA and especially to Susan Nof-Bendici, who intervencd for me. My mother is 83 years old and lives in the same building as me and I take care of her. It was very important for me, as the oldest son, be able to stay there and take care of her. I have to be there to go with her whenever she has to be taken to the hospital. I also have high blood pressure, arthritis and I use a cane. I still have pain from the injury my nephew caused me when he struck me with my cane during the incident that prompted the eviction. Because of my own health problems it would have been very difficult for me to be evicted.

For this reason, I hope that all of the attorneys who work at NHLAA, without exception, they all work well and they all try and help as much as they can for the people that need help and can't afford to pay a lawyer. And they are very nice, very attentive. They listen to the person. In my case, I was innocent. But the judges don't live nearby to see how one lives. I feel very proud to be a person who is speaking in support of legal aid. For me, it was a blessing from heaven.

Sincerely,


Emerito Pena