



Media Snapshot - 2015

The New York Times

Victims of Debt Collection Scheme in New York Win \$59 Million in Settlement

November 13, 2015

“There’s wealth being systematically extracted which will be restored through this settlement,” said **Sarah Ludwig, the founder and a co-director of the advocacy group the New Economy Project**, which filed the lawsuit along with MFY Legal Services and the law firm of Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady.

She said that a vast majority of the judgments were entered against people living in minority neighborhoods. “They end up on people’s credit reports,” she said. “This has a spiraling effect.”

The settlement, which advocates say is unprecedented in its scale, curtails the activity of companies along the whole debt collection chain, from the debt-buying companies to the law firm hired to collect the debt and the process-serving firm that is supposed to notify debtors.

DAILY NEWS

Lessons from the RushCard Fiasco: New York Needs Stronger Protections on Prepaid Debit Cards, Which Routinely Punish the Poor

November 12, 2015

Op-Ed by Deyanira Del Rio, New Economy Project

...Let’s hope that the scale and severity of the RushCard fiasco serve as a wake-up call to the prepaid card industry and regulators alike. Until meaningful rules are in place to rein in deceptive and abusive practices, prepaid cards will remain inferior financial tools and reinforce our segregated banking system. It’s time to end financial exploitation of the working poor and ensure real economic access and inclusion...



Councilman, Expert Discuss Legislation to Ban Employment Credit Checks

“They’ve figured out a way to boost profits by marketing this credit information as something that employers need, even though they know full well that there’s no actual connection between information on your credit report and your ability to do a job or your likelihood to commit theft or any kind of fraud.” **says Sarah Ludwig** on new legislation that will make it illegal for employers to run credit checks on job seekers.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

City Acts to Limit Credit Checks

April 16, 2015

A handful of states have banned credit checks by employers, but the laws include broad exemptions, said **Josh Zinner, co-director of the New Economy Project**, which helped draft the New York City bill and has been trying to get it passed for three years.

“This practice blocks qualified workers from desperately-needed jobs, including people whose credit was damaged because of medical debt, layoffs, divorce” and other life events, he said.

theguardian

Credit scores in America perpetuate racial injustice. Here's how:

October 13, 2015

Op-Ed by Sarah Ludwig, New Economy Project
 ...For decades, banks have systematically redlined black and Latino neighborhoods, refusing to make conventional loans or locate branches in non-white and lower-income areas....Thanks to financial services deregulation and the advent of asset-backed securitization, a multi-billion dollar "fringe" financial system has filled the void, characterized by high-cost, destabilizing products and services, from payday loans to check-cashers – which banks typically also own or finance...

NEW YORK OBSERVER

Minority Groups Rally Outside Fed Against Interest Rate Hike

March 5, 2015

"The banks, while the Fed...was not doing its job supervising them, they went around snapping up subprime lenders and fueling all of that toxic subprime lending that happened," said **Alexis Iwanisziw of the New Economy Project**, noting many major financiers have since paid out massive settlements to the Department of Justice for their activities.

DAILY NEWS

Redlining and Predatory Lending Persist in NY's Communities of Color

May 12, 2015

"There's a serious lack of brick-and-mortar branches in communities of color. That means people are once again denied access to banking services. The same problems with redlining are persisting," says **Josh Zinner, co-director of New Economy Project**, a leading advocacy group.

2015 Highlights

Thanks to our supporters, 2015 was another year of great accomplishments at New Economy Project. This year, we:

Won passage of strongest employment credit checks ban in the country.

Played key role in launch of IDNYC, country's largest municipal ID program.

Won groundbreaking \$59 million settlement in class action lawsuit against debt collection network, which will benefit hundreds of thousands of low-income New Yorkers.

Launched the New Economy Loan Fund, which supports worker co-ops and other community-led economic development.



New Yorkers Speak Out on:

Community Land Trusts



Belen

Belen, Manhattan

Employment Credit Checks



Ramón, Manhattan

Sham For-Profit Schools



Rita, Bronx

Find these videos and others at neweconomyproject.org

NYC Credit Checks Ban



Andy Morrison

THE AWL

The Ungentrifiers

July 20, 2015

The New York City Community Land Initiative (NYCCLI) is an alliance of organizations, led primarily by the **New Economy Project** and **Picture the Homeless**, that is working to establish community land trusts and mutual housing associations throughout the city, beginning in East Harlem — a desirable neighborhood for developers that also has a relatively high proportion of vacant plots and residential buildings that the city has acquired by tax lien. "Some of these buildings have a lot of untapped resources. We think that if they were given the support that they need from a community land trust and a mutual housing association...they could be brought up to be in much better shape." **Monica Garcia, of the New Economy Project**, told me.

EL DIARIO

Polémica: Negocios del 'Check Casher' Quieren dar Préstamos

March 3, 2015

"Los dueños de estos negocios quieren cambiar las leyes, sentenció **Deyanira del Río, codirectora del Proyecto Nueva Economía**, un grupo crítico de la propuesta de reforma de los check casher. "Es cierto que los bancos no están sirviendo eficazmente a las comunidades de color, pero la respuesta no es dejar la vía libre a un plan de préstamos inescrupuloso."



New Yorkers for Responsible Lending Coalition in Albany

March 3, 2015

"We see the harmful impact that so many practices engaged in by the banks...have had on lower-income people, on people of color throughout New York State, and that's why we've worked on such problems as debt collection abuses. NYRL members have been instrumental in fighting against debt collection abuses in NYS," said **Susan Shin, Senior Staff Attorney for New Economy Project**.