

[REDACTED]

Polish Illegal Nationalization of Property

[REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] respectfully requests a grant of \$ [REDACTED] to initiate approximately 15 lawsuits to be brought before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg seeking restitution and compensation from the Polish government for Holocaust survivors. The requested funding will be utilized to pay for the services of international law firms, who have agreed to represent the claimants in the ECHR, and to support a full-time staff attorney to serve as project leader and coordinate both international and domestic efforts.

For years, Polish Holocaust survivors and their descendants have tried to work with the Polish government for the restitution or compensation of property that was wrongly confiscated in the aftermath of the Holocaust. As their claims have been systematically denied, bringing their case before the ECHR is the last chance for compensation and closure for many of the survivors and their heirs.

Background

Founded in 1990, [REDACTED] is a necessary alternative to government-funded legal organizations. Focused on assisting as many at-risk, impoverished clients as possible, [REDACTED] provides free legal services to low-income individuals whose income levels are too high to qualify for government-funded legal services, but who are still too poor to afford an attorney.

For more than a decade, [REDACTED] has helped tens of thousands of low-income New Yorkers receive benefits to which they were legally entitled, secured citizenship and naturalization for immigrants, and provided necessary legal assistance and representation to Holocaust survivors and their families.

Since its inception in May 2000, [REDACTED]'s Holocaust Compensation Assistance Project has helped more than 36,000 survivors and their families obtain information on the various international compensation programs. The Holocaust Compensation Assistance Project offers a number of services including an informational hotline staffed by trained volunteers and [REDACTED] staff, educational seminars for professionals and volunteers who work with survivors, direct legal representation for survivors, clinical education opportunities for law students, survivor referrals to social service agencies and community education and outreach.

On a daily basis, Project staff attorneys and volunteers assist with requests for and completion of applications and offer advice on various Holocaust compensation plans. After publicizing the pending deadline for the German Pension for Work in the Ghettos throughout the U.S. and Canada, the Project was literally inundated with calls. [REDACTED] has assisted countless survivors in determining eligibility, requesting claims applications from Germany and completing the time-intensive pension applications. In addition, the project assists survivors appealing denials of various applications.

In addition, the Project provides direct legal assistance and social service referrals to survivors on non-compensation issues, including securing government-funded benefits. ██████ has established itself as a comprehensive legal resource for Holocaust survivors seeking assistance and representation.

Project Goals

Through the Holocaust Compensation Assistance Project hotline and community outreach efforts, ██████ has learned of the difficulties experienced by survivors and their heirs in their efforts to obtain restitution and compensation from the Polish government. Although other European countries have admitted their role in the Holocaust and taken responsibility for returning seized property or providing compensation for some victims, Polish survivors have not been as fortunate. This project will assist the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust whose property was wrongly confiscated, but who have been systematically and repeatedly denied compensation or restitution by the Polish government.

██████ has already undertaken preliminary research and obtained the assistance of Kaye Scholer, a prominent New York law firm. In addition, ██████ has finalized negotiations with Cabinet HINCKER, a Strasbourg law firm, which will provide advice on matters of ECHR substantive law and procedure and will present the claims before the court. Kaye Scholer will provide legal oversight on a pro bono basis.

An experienced ██████ staff attorney, ██████, will work as the Project leader coordinating legal efforts in Poland, France and the US. ██████ will assist with identifying claimants, reviewing documentation and providing legal research and administrative support.

The goals of the project are as follows:

- i) Heighten awareness of the difficulties experienced by Holocaust survivors who have been unable to obtain either restitution or compensation from the Polish government;
- ii) Initiate up to 15 representative cases before the ECHR, which will serve to establish precedent for other similarly situated Holocaust survivors;
- iii) In the event of an unsuccessful outcome, to explore the possibility of initiating other actions, including before the European Court in Luxembourg; and
- iv) Through the above actions, to bring political and moral pressure on the government of Poland to accept its responsibilities to respect and enforce the fundamental human rights recognized by those countries with a common heritage of political traditions, ideals, freedom and the rule of law.

Amount Requested

██████ is seeking a grant of \$██████. Of this amount, approximately \$██████ will be reserved for Cabinet HINCKER's fees and case preparation costs including filing fees, translations and other expenses associated with the cases, including presenting the cases before the ECHR and

other courts. The remaining amount will be used by ██████ to pay for one full-time staff attorney and related administrative expenses.

Timeline

██████ expects to bring approximately 15 lawsuits before the ECHR during the next eight to twelve months.

Evaluation

As always, ██████ believes in the importance of evaluation as a tool for improvement and growth. ██████ will evaluate its work with the ECHR through the number of claims that are successfully resolved and in the continuation of a successful working relationship with the other firms involved in the cases. ██████ hopes that claims not resolved in court will generate publicity and public pressure for resolution; hence the level of publicity generated will also be evaluated. Additionally, ██████ will also request all claimants and partnering firms to complete an evaluation form allowing for ample discussion of their view of the process and suggestions for future improvements.

Conclusion

With the assistance of the ██████, ██████ will be able to help Polish Holocaust survivors in their efforts to receive compensation or restitution for the illegal nationalization of their property. For many of these survivors, bringing their cases before the ECHR is a last chance for resolution and closure. Only with the assistance of the ██████ will these survivors be able to resolve their claims against the Polish government and receive much deserved compensation.

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] **Budget**

Personnel

Fulltime Supervising Attorney	\$ [REDACTED]
Volunteer Attorneys	\$ [REDACTED]
Benefits and Taxes	\$ [REDACTED]
Total Personnel	\$ [REDACTED]

Other Than Personnel Services

International Travel (four roundtrips to Strasbourg)	\$ [REDACTED]
International Lodging (12 nights)	\$ [REDACTED]
Contract with Cabinet HINCKER	\$ [REDACTED]
ECHR/ Polish Court Fees	\$ [REDACTED]
Space	\$ [REDACTED]
Outreach/Advertising	\$ [REDACTED]
Local Travel	\$ [REDACTED]
Telephone	\$ [REDACTED]
Liability Insurance	\$ [REDACTED]
Computer Support	\$ [REDACTED]
Supplies/Postage	\$ [REDACTED]
Office Supplies/Support Services	\$ [REDACTED]
Total OTPS	\$ [REDACTED]

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ [REDACTED]

Anticipated Income

[REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Board Member Contributions	\$ [REDACTED]

TOTAL INCOME: \$ [REDACTED]