



TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT NJ APPLESEED PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER

1. Our mission is to bring about systemic change through use of the law or effecting changes to the law.
2. Founded in the late 1990's, we have been at it for almost a quarter of a century.
3. We are part of a multi-state network of 17 public interest justice centers that respond to local needs and opportunities for positive change and sometimes join forces within the network on collaborative projects.
4. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader was the driving force behind creation of the national group. A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, he believed that those who are fortunate enough to attend such elite institutions have the ability, expertise and the obligation to give back.
5. Famed civil rights lawyer Arthur Kinoy, who represented the Chicago 7, was involved in the Mississippi Challenge and helped found the Center for Constitutional Rights, was also instrumental in founding NJ Appleseed.
6. The name "Appleseed" reflects the founders' concept "to plant a seed from which a public service activity involving lawyers, young and old, can grow and develop across the country."
7. We have been based in Newark since our inception. PLANewark, a network of architects, planners, and other professionals committed to building a vibrant and reinvigorated Newark through equitable and sustainable environment, land-use, and transportation planning practices, originated as a project of NJ Appleseed and we continue to work with them.
8. Created and run by attorneys, we view issues from a lawyer's perspective and focus on law-based solutions and approaches which can involve litigation but also legislation, public outreach, research, publication of manuals and guidelines, and hosting conferences and forums.
9. Our chief areas of advocacy are Empowering Voters, Health Care, Government & Corporate Accountability and Community and Environmental Health.
10. We are small but effective, in part because we partner with like-minded groups such as NJ Citizen Action, League of Women Voters, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Fair Share Housing Center, and participate in coalitions such as the NJ for Health Care Coalition, Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition, Fair Districts NJ Coalition and NJ Financial Justice Table.