

Appleseed This Week

Appleseed Honors Advocates

May 29, 2008 - Earlier this month, **South Carolina Appleseed** held its third annual Advocate of the Year reception, honoring **I.S. Leevy Johnson**. The award is given annually to a member of the South Carolina legal community who exemplifies the Center's role as a voice for low- income children and families.

Johnson is a founding partner of **Johnson, Toal, and Battiste**, where he practices personal injury and bankruptcy law. His distinguished career as a trial lawyer, legislator, bar leader, business owner and lecturer has enabled him to advocate for equal access to justice for all South Carolinians.

In 1970, Johnson became the first African-American since Reconstruction to be elected to the general assembly. He served with distinction in the South Carolina House of Representatives for nine years, working to fulfill the constitutional promise of equal protection under the law. He also served as the first African- American president of the South Carolina Bar. In 1999, Johnson received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian award, from Gov. Jim Hodges. He has also received awards from the South Carolina Bar Foundation, University of South Carolina School of Law, the Richland Bar Association and the Columbia Lawyers Association.



I.S. Leevy Johnson (L) and South Carolina Appleseed board member Palmer Freeman (R)

"15 Years: Celebrating Appleseed's Past, Present and Future"

On Thursday, June 19, Appleseed will host its annual New York fundraising dinner at Gotham Hall.

The event will commemorate Appleseed's 15th anniversary by remembering the accomplishments of Appleseed's first 15 years, honoring the present leadership, and presenting goals and new leaders for the future. This year Appleseed will honor **Robert L. Mallett** for his pro bono support, visionary leadership and commitment to Appleseed. Mallett is co-chair of Appleseed's board of directors, senior vice president for Worldwide and Public Affairs for **Pfizer Inc**, and president of the Pfizer Foundation.

Special guests include **Jimmy Breslin**, Pulitzer Prize- winning columnist and author, and keynote speaker **David A. Andelman**, editor of World Policy Journal, the 25-year-old foreign policy magazine published by the World Policy Institute. He previously served as executive editor of Forbes.com after serving as business editor of the *New York Daily News*.

[Click here](#) for full event information.

For more information on Appleseed, visit www.appleseednetwork.org. To support the work of Appleseed, donate [here](#).

Appleseed, a non-partisan and non-profit organization, is a network of public interest law Centers working to identify and address injustices in their communities. Appleseed works to build a just society through education, legal advocacy, community activism and policy expertise, addressing root causes and producing practical solutions. As one of the nation's largest legal pro bono networks, Appleseed Centers work both independently and collectively, bringing their own experiences to create local solutions that are nationally relevant. We connect the top private practice lawyers, corporate counsel, law schools, civic leaders, and other professionals to tackle problems locally, at their root cause.