

**Legal Aid Society  
& Pro Bono Partner  
Willkie Farr Gallagher LLP  
Honored by Sylvia Rivera  
Law Project for Suit on  
Behalf of  
Transgender Medicaid  
Recipients**



(from the left) Rebecca Novick, Judith Goldiner, Belkys Garcia, and Kimberly Forte from The Legal Aid Society with Willkie Partner Mary Eaton and Associate Megan Hogan (formerly with the firm).

**The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP)** recognized The Legal Aid Society and **Willkie Farr Gallagher LLP** with their “Attorneys and Advocates” Award on November 18, 2014. SRLP, along with the Society’s Health Law Unit, Civil Law Reform Unit, LGBT Law and Policy Initiative and Willkie Farr are co-counsel on *Cruz v Zucker*, 14 Civ. 4456 (JSR), a federal class action lawsuit filed on June 19, 2014. The suit, brought on behalf of two transgender women who have been denied medically necessary healthcare coverage by New York State’s public health insurance program because of a discriminatory Medicaid regulation. The lawsuit charges that the New York State Department of Health’s current regulation, banning transgender healthcare coverage by Medicaid, is unconstitutional and in violation of the anti-discrimination clause of the Affordable Care Act. The Medicaid regulation, enacted in 1998 and never revisited, provides: “Payment is not available for care, services, drugs, or supplies rendered for the purpose of gender reassignment (also known as transsexual surgery) or any care, services, drugs, or supplies intended to promote such treatment.” 18 NYCRR 505.2(l).

Honorees included Willkie Partner **Mary Eaton** and Associate **Megan Hogan** (formerly with the firm) and **Kimberly Forte, Belkys Garcia, Judith Goldiner, Sumani Lanka** and **Rebecca Novick** from The Legal Aid Society.