

Sharon Stapel

Sharon Stapel is the Executive Director of Legal Hand, Inc. which furthers the contribution that non-lawyers can make to expand access to justice. Legal Hand's trained community volunteers, who are not lawyers, provide warm, welcoming, zero-barrier assistance to help resolve issues in areas like consumer, employment, housing, family, immigration, domestic violence, and public benefits to prevent problems from turning into legal cases.

Prior to Legal Hand, Sharon was President and Executive Director of the Nonprofit New York, where she worked with thousands of nonprofits in New York City to ensure strong, transparent, and informed management and to advocate for fair and reasonable nonprofit public policy, including a campaign to decouple tax law, saving nonprofits \$645M a year. Sharon was the Executive Director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, where she worked on national and local LGBTQ policy issues and was named a White House Champion of Change.

Sharon began her legal career at the Legal Aid Society, where she created the Domestic Violence Project, and directed a Family/Domestic Violence Unit at Legal Services NYC. She is a former Adjunct Professor at CUNY Law School, and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Hunter College. Sharon sits on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and the Board of CUNY Law School's Main Street Legal Services. She has been recognized by President Obama, President Biden, the American Bar Association, the New York City Council, and others, and was named one of the most powerful nonprofit leaders by City & State. Sharon is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and CUNY Law School. She lives in Brooklyn with her wife and children where they participate in the community garden's mutual aid/food security work.