

Michele Levy



Managing Attorney

Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP)

Michele Levy (Shelly) is Managing Attorney at the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), a free legal services program for homeless and unstably housed individuals and families in Philadelphia. She has been with HAP since December, 1999, and has been Managing Attorney since 2003. Shelly oversees HAP's legal operations and provides direct legal representation to homeless individuals and families. She supervises the HAP legal staff as well as volunteer attorneys, legal assistants, and law students. Shelly is instrumental in the ongoing expansion of HAP's nationally celebrated Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefit application project, SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR). In collaboration with HAP's Advocacy Director, she conducts broader advocacy on systemic issues that impact the homeless population in Philadelphia. These issues include accessing emergency shelter, overcoming barriers to housing, securing identification documents, and establishing eligibility for an array of benefits. Benefits include food stamps, federal disability benefits, medical assistance, and veteran benefits. As part of her voter rights advocacy, Shelly provided expert testimony in the 2012 civil action challenging the Pennsylvania voter photo identification requirement.

Before joining HAP, Shelly practiced with a small firm in Delaware County focusing primarily on civil rights litigation and criminal defense. She also spent four years as a staff attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services Program, a free legal services program in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she represented indigent individuals in a wide range of civil legal matters. Shelly graduated from Temple University School of Law in 1986.