

In Tribute to the Hon. Leonard B. Sand

Thirty-nine years ago, on May 19, 1978, the Hon. Leonard B. Sand was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Judge Sand served on that court until a few years before his death in December 2016, and he presided over a wide range of cases—including a housing and school desegregation suit in Yonkers that lasted nearly as long as his tenure on the bench. At the time of his passing, Judge Sand’s personal courage and commitment to justice were widely noted and universally admired.

We who were fortunate enough to serve as Judge Sand’s law clerks hope that his legacy and example will live on for many years to come. To that end, in a month that includes both the 39th anniversary of Judge Sand’s appointment and what would have been Judge Sand’s 89th birthday, more than 60 of his law clerks are donating in his memory to New York Appleseed. Several of us were already familiar with the work of New York Appleseed, and all of us have come to conclude that the organization’s goal of furthering equality of access to public education resources makes it an excellent choice for donations in honor of Judge Sand’s life and work.

Judge Sand held an unwavering commitment to the principles of fairness and equality embodied in our Constitution, and his work to uphold those principles came more than once at substantial personal cost. Judge Sand was a hero to all of us, as well as a much-loved mentor in our professional and personal lives. We are proud to further the principles that Judge Sand personified by donating to New York Appleseed in his memory.