

Anya Irons

Candidate Statement

I believe strongly in cooperatives as a solution to the affordable housing shortage. When tenants own and control their own housing as a collective, they take pride in their buildings and are more actively engaged in their communities. During my many years serving as General Counsel and Director of Operations for an organization in large part responsible for the affordable housing co-op movement in New York City, the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB), my experience has touched on most issues facing the industry, and yet there is so much more to learn as the need for development makes way for the growing need to preserve existing housing stock.

My work has allowed me to interface with residents, agencies, the New York State Attorney General's Office, attorneys, politicians, developers, not-for-profits and other community stakeholders. I also have the very good fortune of working with, and learning from, several of the founding members of UHAB for so many years. As a result, I possess a unique perspective on the issues facing limited-equity housing cooperatives today and can bring valuable knowledge and insight to NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors.

My interest is in finding innovative solutions to create—and, more importantly, preserve—affordable housing options in perpetuity as the supply dwindles and more and more affordable apartments are lost to the market.