

SETON HALL | LAW

Seton Hall Legislative Journal Symposium Ballots and Democracy: A New Scholarly Agenda Friday, February 24, 2023



Renée Steinhagen

Executive Director

New Jersey Appleseed (NJA)

Renée Steinhagen has been executive director of New Jersey Appleseed (NJA) since the mid-1990s. Under her leadership, NJA has made a difference in a variety of areas such as protecting the environment, strengthening voting rights, defeating privatization of public infrastructure, expanding access to health care, standing up for the rights of those who live in common ownership associations, and blocking land use practices that are unsustainable and harmful to the community, among others. On numerous occasions, Steinhagen has partnered with the ACLU-NJ, NAACP-NJ, NJ Citizen Action, Rutgers Constitutional Litigation Clinic, the NJ Sierra Club and Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other environmental and community groups. Steinhagen also currently serves on the Board of the Greater Newark Health Care Coalition, which has established a Medicaid Accountable Care Organization or ACO in downtown Newark, and was a founding member of the Campaign to Protect Community Healthcare, which focused for a period of four years on protecting the public during hospital closings or sales. Steinhagen has received numerous honors for her advocacy including the 2016 Riparian Award for her efforts on behalf of Hoboken's Fund for a Better Waterfront, the Evanoff-Schucter award for Organizing, presented by NJ Citizen Action, and the Mary Philbrook Public Interest Law Award, bestowed by Rutgers Law School in Camden. Prior to NJA, Steinhagen practiced labor law with Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, and later with Ball Livingston in Newark. In addition, she spent two years as a Housing Analyst at the Community Service Society. Steinhagen graduated magna cum laude from Williams College with a B.A. in Politics and obtained her J.D. at the University of Chicago. She also has an M.P.A. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, where she studied on a Rockefeller Public Service Fellowship.