

# The PUTNAM COUNTY NEWS and RECORDER

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## **Nonprofit Legal Advocacy Group in Contention for NY Times Excellence Award**

*Exec. director is Cold Spring resident*

Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) was recognized by the New York Times Company, the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York and the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers as a semifinalist for the 2009 New York Times Company Nonprofit Excellence Award. LIFT is competing against ten other organizations for a cash grant and a scholarship to be applied toward Social Enterprise Programs at Columbia Business School Executive Education.

The New York Times Company Nonprofit Excellence Awards are presented annually to nonprofits in the New York City area for excellence in organizational management. The Awards include an extensive three-step judging process, including two stages of written applications and site visits where each organization is judged on its management and laser-like focus on its mission.

"LIFT is honored to be a semifinalist for such a prestigious award," said Melissa M. Beck, LIFT's Executive Director, who

is a resident of Cold Spring.

"The families we serve deserve nothing less than excellence in organizational management; thanks to our stellar management team and exceptional Board of Directors, LIFT's programs are consistently high-quality, mission-driven, and responsive."

In the initial round of applications, each organization was asked to explain how they accomplished their goals while addressing multiple challenges. The winners will be announced on June 18 at TheTimeCenter during a Best Practices Workshop and Awards Ceremony.

For more than a decade, LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today) has empowered vulnerable families to advocate for themselves in Family Court, ensuring that all families – no matter what their income level or ability to hire a lawyer – have the ability to access justice in the complex Family Court system and are able to regain their stability, decreasing the likelihood that they will return to the Courts. Last year, LIFT served nearly 55,000 families.