

# DAILY NEWS

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## Storefront legal clinic seized by strikers

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Two dozen striking lawyers, paralegals and clerks took over a storefront clinic run by Legal Services for New York yesterday to protest the recruitment of temporary replacement workers and the lack of an agreement in the bitter labor dispute.

The strikers entered with a key to the MFY Legal Services offices on Avenue A in the East Village at 8 a.m. and vowed to stay until cops kicked them out.

They permitted management lawyers who are continuing to work during the strike to continue to use the office.

At noon, 75 other strikers and their supporters assembled in front of the clinic for a rally that featured Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger and City Council members Miriam Friedlander and Stanley Michels.

Union spokeswoman Susan Cohen said the Legal Services Staff Association was trying to send management a message that it wouldn't tolerate the hiring of temporary replacements and "bad-faith" negotiations.

Management began recruiting for temporary replacements with an ad Monday in the New York Law Journal that suggested the jobs could eventually become permanent. Cohen said

there was no indication that any replacements had been hired.

Both sides held a 12-hour bargaining session under a media blackout until 4 a.m. yesterday. They returned to the table 12 hours later. A federal mediator is overseeing talks.

Dale Johnson, executive director of the agency, could not be reached for comment.

About 250 union employees walked off the job April 1 in a dispute over wages and other issues.

Agency lawyers annually represent 35,000 indigent individuals who have problems with landlords and government agencies. During the dispute, no new cases are being accepted.