

**For Release: Immediate
June 1, 2018**

Contact: Deborah Auspelmyer
Foundation Executive
dauspelmyer@tnybf.org
518-487-5650

THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT AND WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The New York Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the New York State Bar Association, announced today that Lesley Rosenthal and Carla Palumbo have been elected president and vice president, respectively, and that two new members have been elected to the Foundation board of directors.



Lesley Rosenthal, President

Ms. Rosenthal has been a Fellow of the Foundation since 2005, a member of its board since 2008, and its vice president since 2011. She was a vital force in the Foundation's recent adoption of the Rule of Law as the theme of the Foundation's forthcoming three year strategic planning cycle. This follows the successful completion of the Foundation's prior plan under outgoing president John Gross, which dramatically increased the Foundation's visibility and grant-making capacity. "The Rule of Law is a powerful concept that can bring people together in these fractious times," said Rosenthal. "Providing access to affordable civil justice through targeted grant making to innovative legal services programs across New York State is one important way that the Foundation can improve both the reality and the

public's perception of Rule of Law adherence in our communities."

An active member of the New York State Bar Association and many committees, Rosenthal chaired the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, where she launched successful and durable diversity initiatives such as Smooth Moves.

Ms. Rosenthal is completing 13 years of service as EVP General Counsel and Secretary of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in June and will become Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary of The Juilliard School in July. One of the nation's leading experts in nonprofit management, law, and governance, she is the author of the bestselling book, *Good Counsel: Meeting the Legal Needs of Nonprofits*, and a member of the Harvard University Board of Overseers.

She holds degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., Vice President

The incoming vice president of the Foundation and a member of its board for 14 years, Carla Palumbo has focused much of her career on advocating for victims of domestic violence and access to justice for the most vulnerable in our community. She is the president and CEO of the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, where she has been instrumental in its dramatic growth and development over the last several decades. “I am honored to serve on The New York Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

Its mission deeply impacts the lives of those less fortunate, and I am pleased to be part of the great work of the Foundation. I look forward to serving as vice president of the Board and working closely with Lesley on the Rule of Law and other important projects.”

Ms. Palumbo is a long-time member of the New York State Bar Association and former Chair of the Committee on Women in the Law. She has also served as a member and minority leader of the Monroe County Legislature and on the Rochester City Council.

Ms. Palumbo holds degrees from SUNY Albany and Syracuse University College of Law.



Gioia Gensini, Esq., Board Member

Ms. Gensini joins The New York Bar Foundation Board for a three-year term after four years as a Fellow. She has been the Law Clerk to Hon. Andrew T. Baxter, U.S. Magistrate Judge Northern District of New York, Syracuse, New York, since 2010. Her areas of expertise include Civil Rights, Habeas Corpus, and Social Security Disability. “I am honored to have been elected to the Foundation Board, and I am looking forward to taking the next step to assist the Foundation in carrying out its mission to help those in need, whether it be through the grant process or through the Foundation's many other projects, through which attorneys help improve our community and the legal profession.”

A former president of the Onondaga County Bar Association, she has served on its Law Week, Governance and other committees. Ms. Gensini has been member of the New York State Bar Association since 2009.

She graduated from Cornell University College and Syracuse University College of Law.



Ellen Makofsky, Esq., Garden City, Board Member

A Fellow since 2010, Ms. Makofsky joins the Foundation Board for a three-year term. She is principal attorney of Makofsky & Associates, P.C. and a Certified Elder Law Attorney. “Helping others is something I strive to do every day, so I am excited about my appointment to the board of The New York Bar Foundation. As a board member I am looking forward to adding my voice and efforts to expanding the reach of the Foundation’s good works.”

A long-time member of the New York State Bar Association, Ms. Makofsky previously served as its secretary and as a member of its Executive Committee. She was also President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, New York Chapter.

She holds degrees from Brooklyn Law School, Queens College of the City of New York, and Boston University, Boston.

The full slate of officers for 2018-2019 includes: President, Lesley Rosenthal, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York; Vice-President, Carla Palumbo, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Rochester; Secretary, Pamela McDevitt, the New York State Bar Association, Albany; Assistant Secretary, Lucia Whisenand, Syracuse; Treasurer, Martin Minkowitz, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, New York; and Immediate Past President, John H. Gross, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Hauppauge.

The New York Bar Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that is the charitable arm of the New York State Bar Association. It is governed by a Board of Directors that includes distinguished lawyers from across the State of New York. Through its grant program, the Foundation supports the law-related programs of local legal services agencies, nonprofits, bar associations and other organizations throughout New York State.

For more information regarding The New York Bar Foundation, visit www.tnybf.org