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**PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW YORK
THANKS FOUNDATION FOR GRANT**



Photo Caption: Representatives from Prisoners' Legal Services of New York gather to thank The New York Bar Foundation for their recent grant. Pictured (Left to Right): TOP ROW: Matthew McGowan (Staff Attorney), Sophia Heller (Staff Attorney), Samantha Howell (Dir. Of Pro Bono and Outreach), Lisa Weinstein (Pro Bono Coordinator). MIDDLE ROW: James Bogin (Managing Attorney), Patricia Kane (Exe. Admin. Asst.), Rosa Cohen-Cruz (Senior Immigration Attorney), Mary Cipriano-Walter (Staff Attorney). FRONT ROW: Kathleen Anderson (Legal Secretary), Karen Murtagh (Executive Director), and Kelly Anderson (Immigration Staff Attorney).

The New York Bar Foundation recently presented a grant to Prisoners' Legal Services of New York, Albany, NY.

"Prisoners' Legal Services of New York (PLS) thanks The New York Bar Foundation for its grant of \$10,100 to support our Immigration Fellowship Project," states Executive Director Karen Murtagh.

"The project will fund Immigration Fellowships for three law students to work at PLS to assist with representation of detained immigrants in removal proceedings. These fellowships will provide students with practical training in analyzing the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and representing immigrants in removal proceedings."

The fellowship also will help attract law students throughout New York State interested in pursuing immigration or public defense work. It will allow them to spend either the summer of their 2L year (full-time) or an entire academic year (part-time) immersed in immigration work. This experience will ensure that each participating fellow will become well in this very technical and developing field of law.

In December 2011, Cardozo Law School issued a report entitled, "Accessing Justice –The Availability and Adequacy of Counsel in Immigration Proceedings." It found that 67% of detainees facing removal go through their removal proceedings without counsel and, of those, only three percent prevail. Those who receive representation, however, are 10 times more likely to obtain a successful outcome.

John Kiernan, PLS Board Chair and partner at Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP., states, "Deportation is one of the most extreme and permanent dispositions an immigrant can face. The number of individuals facing deportation, including detainees, continues to grow. Our justice system demands that all individuals, including the most vulnerable, are provided due process."

"This fellowship project will help fill the immense unmet need of our immigrant population and to ensure that the rights of immigrants are observed and protected," continues Murtagh. "By sponsoring fellowships to train students to provide this much-needed representation, The New York Bar Foundation will be instrumental in helping to reduce the unmet need while training future lawyers to provide competent representation in the immigration field."

In early 2016, The New York Bar Foundation allocated over \$580,000 in grants to 99 programs in across New York State. At least one grant was presented to each of the thirteen Judicial Districts.

Grants assist programs that work to:

- Increase the public understanding of the law
- Improve the justice system and the law
- Facilitate the delivery of legal services
- Enhance professional competence and ethics

The New York Bar Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the New York State Bar Association. To learn more about The Foundation and how you can support its charitable programs, visit www.tnybf.org or email nybarfoundation@tnybf.org