



THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION 2026

The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship

The New York Bar Foundation is pleased to announce the **2026 The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship** which has been established by The Foundation through a gift from the Elder Law and Special Needs Section of The New York State Bar Association. The \$3,500 scholarship will be awarded to a second year (2L) or third year (3L) law student who is enrolled in a law school in the State of New York during the 2025-2026 academic year and is actively participating in an Elder Law Clinic at the school during the 2025-2026 academic year or performs other substantial efforts which demonstrate interest in the legal rights of the elderly or expresses an interest in helping the disabled.

Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates financial need.

The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship Program Goals

The Elder Law and Special Needs Section encourages law students, through an elder law clinic experience, to learn about important legislative developments, regulations, and case laws impacting the elderly and disabled and to provide representation to those clients struggling with a variety of legal issues and problems related to aging and incapacity.

The ultimate goal of the scholarship is to create a network and cultivate relationships among lawyers whose practice focuses on elder law and special needs planning and law students planning to practice in these areas to encourage the practice of elder law and special needs planning among lawyers throughout the State of New York.

The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship

The scholarship, valued at \$3,500, will be awarded to one (1) student enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis during the 2025-2026 academic year in a law school in the State of New York.

1. The Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholar will be a guest member of the NYSBA Elder Law and Special Needs Section during 2026.
2. The Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholar and a guest will be invited to attend The Elder Law and Special Needs Section's Annual Meeting in January 2026, to receive the award.
3. The scholarship recipient will be announced in December 2025.
4. The Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholar will be selected by a committee comprised of representatives from The New York Bar Foundation and the NYSBA Elder Law and Special Needs Section. The selection committee will be comprised of no less than three members of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section.

Eligibility

1. The scholarship is open to all second-year (2L) and third-year (3L) students who are enrolled in a law school in the State of New York during the 2025-2026 academic year.
2. The student must have elder law experience through coursework, participation in an elder law/ special needs clinic, or work experience.
3. The student must have attained a 2.5 or equivalent GPA in law school.
4. Preference will be given to a student who can demonstrate financial need.

Payment of Scholarship

The scholarship will be applied to the student's 2025-2026 academic year tuition. A check, made payable to the law school and the student, will be sent to the school no later than the end of February 2026.

Scholarship Application Requirements

The applicant **must** submit the following as a single PDF file:

1. A completed application (application form below)
2. Cover letter of interest
3. Unofficial law school transcript
4. Current Résumé
5. A letter of recommendation from the student's Elder Law Clinic advisor or, if not participating in an Elder Law Clinic, from an individual who can substantiate the student's efforts which demonstrate interest in the legal rights of the elderly, or disabled, or the practice of elder law
6. A two to three-page double-spaced essay by the student demonstrating why he or she would like to practice in the areas of Elder Law or Special Needs Planning. Please include any relevant information, experience/ life circumstances you wish the Committee to consider regarding a personal disability or a disability of a close important person in your life which may have influenced your decision to practice in the Elder Law and Special Needs field.

Deadline

Completed application must be submitted by email on or before **Monday, November 10, 2025.**

Judging

Criteria for judging applications will be:

1. Content and quality of application materials
2. Demonstrated interest in Elder Law Elder Law and Special Needs Planning
3. Academic record
4. Recommendation from Elder Law Clinic advisor or other relevant individual
5. Quality of written expression
6. Maturity, integrity and professionalism
7. Any other relevant factors

Submission

Only single PDF files will be accepted.

Completed application must be submitted by email on or before **Monday, November 10, 2025.**

Email submissions should be sent to [**Ldorr@tnybf.org**](mailto:Ldorr@tnybf.org)

Please include 'Asarch Scholarship' on the subject line.

About the **ELDER LAW and SPECIAL NEEDS SECTION**
of the NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

The Elder Law and Special Needs Section provides services and opportunities for involvement on issues relating to Elder Law and Special Needs for members of the New York State Bar Association. Among its activities, the Section presents educational programs and publishes materials on practice, procedure and developments to enhance the competence and skill of lawyers who practice in this field and improve their ability to deliver the most efficient and highest quality of services to their clients; prepare studies, analyses and recommendations to seek improvement in the law and procedure relating to elder law and the special needs population; and undertake projects to increase the understanding of senior citizens, their families and the general public concerning legal issues affecting the elderly and disabled.

About **THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION**

Founded in 1950, The New York Bar Foundation is dedicated to aiding educational, direct legal services, and charitable projects aimed at meeting the law-related needs of the public and the profession. The Foundation solicits charitable contributions and provides funding for the following purposes:

- Increasing public understanding of the law
- Improving the justice system and the law
- Facilitating the delivery of civil legal services
- Enhancing professional competence and ethics

For more information about The New York Bar Foundation, go to

www.tnybf.org



2026

The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship

*Provided by The New York Bar Foundation through a gift from the Elder Law and Special Needs
Section of the New York State Bar Association*

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

School Address: _____
(if different)

Phone #: _____ email: _____

Law School attending: _____

___ Day student ___ Evening student

Year of Law School Study as of September 1, 2025: _____

Date of anticipated graduation from law school: _____

Are you participating in an Elder Law Clinic in the 2025 fall semester?

___ Yes ___ No If yes, please describe your responsibilities:

If not, are you registered to participate in an Elder Law Clinic in the 2026 spring semester?

___ Yes ___ No If yes, please describe your responsibilities (if known):

Will you receive credit for completing all work and assignments in the Elder Law Clinic?

___ Yes ___ No If yes, how many credits will you receive? _____

If you are not participating in an Elder Law Clinic during the 2025-2026 academic year, please describe in detail your efforts which demonstrate an interest in the legal rights of the elderly, or disabled, or the practice of elder law. (You may submit a separate page describing your efforts.)

Are you receiving financial aid? ___Yes ___No If yes, please describe:

Have you previously received any scholarships? ___Yes ___No If yes, please describe:

Are you working to pay for your law school expenses? ___Yes ___No If yes, please explain:

What are your career goals?

Prior Education

<u>College Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Dates Attended</u>	<u>Degree</u>
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Attach the following materials to this application as a single PDF file:

1. A cover letter which indicates your interest in the practice of elder law and special needs planning and the receipt of The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship.
2. A law school transcript. (Transcripts need not be official; finalists may be asked to provide official transcripts.)
3. Current Résumé.
4. A letter of recommendation from your Elder Law Clinic advisor, or if not participating in an Elder Law Clinic, from an individual who can substantiate your efforts that demonstrate interest in the legal rights of the elderly and disabled.
5. One two to three-page double-spaced essay demonstrating why you would like to practice elder law and special needs planning. (Must be three double-spaced typewritten pages.) Please include any relevant information, experience/ life circumstances you wish the Committee to consider regarding a personal disability or a disability of a close important person in your life which may have influenced your decision to practice in the Elder Law and Special Needs field.

Application Deadline:

Completed application must be submitted by email on or before **Monday, November 11, 2025.**
Only single PDF files will be accepted

Email submissions should be sent to Ldorr@tnybf.org
Please include 'Asarch Scholarship' on the subject line.

Certification

I hereby certify that all of the statements contained, and information provided in this application, and in the attachments hereto, are truthful, to the best of my knowledge, and that I meet the eligibility requirements for the 2026 The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Where did you hear of TNYBF Scholarship Opportunity? _____