



**THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION**  
**2026 LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION**  
**CAROL VAN SCOYOC MUNICIPAL LAW SCHOLARSHIP**

The New York Bar Foundation is pleased to announce the *2026 Local and State Government Law Section Carol Van Scoyoc Municipal Law Scholarship*. The scholarship has been established by the Foundation through a gift from the Local and State Government Law Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) to honor the memory of Carol Van Scoyoc, Esq., a former chair of the Section and recipient of the Association's Award for Excellence in Public Service, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the legal profession and the public good.

Each year, a \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a law student who best exemplifies the core values important to Carol: academic excellence, a demonstrated interest in public service and an interest in the civil practice of municipal law.

**The Local and State Government Law Section Carol Van Scoyoc (CVS) Municipal Law Scholarship**

1. The scholarship will be awarded to a second- or third-year law student, enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis in a New York State law school.
2. The 2026 scholarship recipient will be notified in November 2025 and will be invited to attend the Section's Annual Meeting in January 2026.
3. The 2026 CVS Scholar will be a member of the Local and State Government Law Section during the 2026 calendar year. Registration fees will be covered for the Section's 2026 Annual, Spring Forum, and Fall Meetings.
4. The 2026 CVS Scholar will be invited to attend Executive Committee meetings of the NYSBA Local and State Government Law Section during the 2026 calendar year.
5. The 2026 CVS Scholar will be required to submit a scholarly article for publication in the Section's "Municipal Lawyer" and participate in the Section's Publication Committee in editing and cite-checking articles for publication in the Municipal Lawyer.
6. The Section's Executive Committee will assign a mentor to provide mentorship and guidance to the 2026 CVS Scholar during the 2026 calendar year.

**Eligibility**

1. The scholarship is open to second and third year full-time and part-time law students, enrolled in a law school in New York State.
2. Students must have maintained a minimum 3.0 or equivalent GPA in law school and a ranking in the top quarter of their class as of July 1 preceding their application.
3. Students must document their interest in public service and the pursuit of a career in the civil practice of municipal law.
4. While an applicant's financial need will be considered, it is not required for selection.

### **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 by The Foundation 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. Completed application (form below).
2. Cover letter of interest in public service and the pursuit of a career in the civil practice of municipal law.
3. A resume describing prior employment and other relevant qualifications and activities.
4. Law school transcript.
5. Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a law school professor unrelated to the applicant by blood or marriage.
6. A writing sample with footnotes, preferably addressing a current issue in municipal law.

### **Deadline**

Completed application must be submitted by email on or before **Friday, October 17, 2025.**

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

Please include 'Local & State CVS Scholarship' in the subject line

### **Format**

Applications are to be submitted as a single PDF file.

### **Selection**

Criteria for selection will include, but not be limited to:

1. Content and quality of application materials.
2. Demonstrated interest in public service and pursuit of a career in the civil practice of municipal law.
3. Record of academic excellence.
4. Maturity, integrity, professionalism.
5. Leadership and other experience.
6. Quality of written expression.
7. Financial need.
8. Any other factors deemed relevant by the selection committee.

## ABOUT CAROL VAN SCOYOC

Carol Van Scoyoc was an extraordinarily gifted lawyer who dedicated her career to public service. An icon of the profession, Ms. Van Scoyoc represented the highest standards for excellence in the practice of law, ethical conduct, and dedication to the public good that all lawyers aspire to. Ms. Van Scoyoc passed away in 2017 at the age of 56 after a long, courageous battle with cancer.



Born in 1960, Ms. Van Scoyoc was a summa cum laude graduate of Manhattan College, where she served as the first woman president of the St. Thomas More Law Society and received a JD from Pace University Law School. She began her legal career in the Westchester County Attorney's Office, rising to the position of Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney. During her ten-year tenure, she served as counsel in over 150 reported cases, including *In the Matter of Westchester County Medical Center* (Mary O'Connor) 72 N.Y. 2d 517 (1988), a landmark Court of Appeals decision that resulted in major changes to New York's health care proxy forms in order to protect the mentally incapacitated. In another highly significant matter, *U.S. v. O'Rourke*, 943 F.2d 180 (2d. Cir. 1991), Ms. Van Scoyoc saved Westchester County taxpayers \$5,000,000 when she successfully argued that the County had complied with its agreement to close the Croton Landfill because of pollution to the Hudson River. Beginning in 1995, for 22 years until her death, Ms. Van Scoyoc served as the Chief Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of White Plains where her consummate research, drafting and litigation skills helped mold and shape the landscape of the city during a construction boom.

A leader and role model to the bar, in 2011 Ms. Van Scoyoc was elected as only the third woman President of the Westchester County Bar Association in its 115-year history. She also served as Chair of the Municipal Law Section of the Westchester County Bar Association and was the Editor in Chief of the Westchester County Bar Journal. At the time of her passing, Ms. Van Scoyoc was serving as Chair of the Local and State Government Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, having previously served for many years on the Section's Executive Committee. In 2012, Ms. Van Scoyoc received the Award for Excellence in Public Service presented by the New York State Bar Association Committee on Attorneys in Public Service.

Committed to training the next generation of public officials, for 15 years Ms. Van Scoyoc served as an Adjunct Professor at the Pace Graduate School of Public Administration. Hundreds of graduate students benefitted from Ms. Van Scoyoc's knowledge, passion, and unwavering commitment to public service.

Ms. Van Scoyoc's passion for the law was matched only by her love of family. Her professional acumen and excellence were only surpassed by her dedication to loved ones and friends and her kindness to all people. A devoted daughter, sister, sister-in-law, and aunt, she lovingly cared for her parents and delighted in spending time with her extended family.

Blessed with a brilliant mind and beautiful spirit, Ms. Van Scoyoc touched, inspired, and enriched the lives of all who knew her. Her wisdom, integrity and perspective left an indelible mark on the governments and the people she served.

## **ABOUT THE LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Local and State Government Law Section serves, educates, and provides a common meeting ground and impartial forum for those attorneys, whether in the public or private sector, engaged in dealing in any capacity, with issues in local or state government law. The Section carries forward the work of the New York State Bar Association by:

- (a) Providing a common meeting ground and impartial forum for those members of the Bar who are engaged in dealing with issues in local and state government law in any capacity.
- (b) Furthering a better understanding of local and state government law through the holding of meetings and seminars, the making of studies, surveys and analyses and the dissemination of current information concerning judicial decisions, legislation, and other matters of interest to attorneys practicing local and state government law.
- (c) Formulating and submitting to the members of the Section and the Association, such reports and recommendations as may be deemed useful to the profession and advisable in the public interest.
- (d) Reviewing pending legislation and promoting or opposing the same in the name of the Section (or one of its committees) and, whenever in its judgment necessary or appropriate, initiating legislation.
- (e) Furthering the public interest through the practice of local and state government law; and
- (f) Furthering access to justice through the promotion of voluntary participation in regional and local pro bono programs.

## **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 through its grant making program 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](http://www.tnybf.org).



**Local and State Government Law Section  
Carol Van Scoyoc Municipal Law Scholarship  
2026**

*Provided by The New York Bar Foundation through a gift from the Local and State  
Government Law Section of the New York State Bar Association*

**Application Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Law School Study as of September 1, 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of anticipated graduation from Law School: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Education:

| College Name | Address | Major | Degree |
|--------------|---------|-------|--------|
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Have you previously received Scholarships?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No      If yes, please describe:

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What are your career goals?

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What is your GPA and class ranking in law school as of July 1, 2025?

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**Attach the following materials to this application as a single PDF file:**

1. A cover letter indicating interest in public service and the pursuit of a career in the civil practice of municipal law.
2. A law school transcript (transcripts need not be official; finalists may be asked to provide official transcripts).
3. A resume describing prior employment and other relevant qualifications and activities.
4. Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a law school professor unrelated by blood or marriage to the applicant.
5. A writing sample with footnotes, preferably addressing a current issue in municipal law.

**Application Deadline:**

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**Certification:**

**I hereby certify that all of the statements contained, and information provided in this application, including attachments, are truthful to the best of my knowledge, and that I meet the eligibility requirements for the NYSBA Local and State Government Law Section Carol Van Scoyoc Municipal Law Scholarship.**

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Applicant’s Signature

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Date

Where did you hear of this Scholarship Opportunity?

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