



The Norman P. Effman Scholarship 2026

Established in 2024 by The Honorable Michael M. Mohun

The New York Bar Foundation is pleased to announce **The Norman Effman Scholarship 2026**, which has been established by The Foundation through a gift from The Honorable Michael M. Mohun. The scholarship, valued at \$5,000, is open to all second year (2L) or third year (3L) law students who are enrolled in a law school in the State of New York who have demonstrated an interest and intent to work in a rural locale representing indigent individuals who are litigants in Family court, criminal court, or other courts where the individual may be facing civil legal issues.

Eligibility

The scholarship is open to all second- and third-year full time students enrolled in a law school in the State of New York during the fall 2026 semester. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need.

Payment of Scholarship

The scholarship will be applied to the student's 2026-2027 academic year tuition. A check made payable to the law school will be sent by the Foundation to the appropriate office at the school.

Scholarship Application Requirements

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

- Cover letter indicating an interest in practicing criminal law or family law representing the indigent in rural areas.
- Unofficial undergraduate and law school transcripts.
- A resume describing prior employment and other relevant qualifications.
- Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a law school professor unrelated by blood or marriage to the applicant.
- A 500-750 word essay written by the applicant on the importance of having lawyers in rural areas of New York State.

Deadline

Completed application must be submitted by email on or before **Monday, May 18, 2026**.

Selection

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

1. Content and quality of application materials.
2. Demonstrated interest in public service in a rural area.
3. Record of academic excellence.
4. Maturity, integrity, professionalism.
5. Quality of written expression.
6. Any other relevant factors.

Submission

Completed application must be submitted by email on or before **Monday, May 18, 2026**.

Email submissions should be sent to Ldorr@tnybf.org

Please include **'Effman Scholarship'** in the subject line.

Only single PDF files will be accepted.

About Norman Effman, Esq.

Norman Effman received his J.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law in 1968. While a law student, he "clerked" at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. He began his professional legal career as a staff attorney in the Appeals Bureau of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. He founded Attica Legal Aid, a not for profit that represents State Prison inmates in matters regarding their incarceration. In 1981, Mr. Effman became the first Executive Director of the Wyoming County-Attica Legal Aid Bureau focusing on prisoner rights litigation. On January 1, 1990, Mr. Effman was appointed as the Public Defender of Wyoming County and merged the county Public Defender's Office with the Legal Aid Office, thus providing for the first time a full-time indigent defense provider office for Wyoming County.



Mr. Effman has been a member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section since 1982, and he currently is Co-Chair of the Correctional Systems Committee of that Section and Chairman of the Awards Committee. He is the past chair of the NYSBA Committee to Ensure Quality Mandated Representation.

Mr. Effman has lectured on post-trial criminal practice for the New York State Bar Association and has taught pre-law and law courses at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Mr. Effman is a Vice President of the Board of Directors of the New York State Defenders Association. In 1984, Mr. Effman was the recipient of the New York State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section Award for Outstanding Contribution to Defense Service.

Mr. Effman is also the 1996 recipient of the New York State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section Award for Outstanding Contribution to Correctional Services. From 1992-1998, Mr. Effman served on the Attorney Grievance Commission of the Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department, Eighth Judicial District, and is a member of the New York State Bar Association's House of Delegates from 1996-1997.

Mr. Effman is the elected Vice President of the 8th Judicial District and serves on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association. He also represents NYSBA on the New York State Justice Task Force and also serves as an advising member of the Task Force.

Mr. Effman has spent his almost 60 years of his career advocating for those in society who are the least advantaged. For much of his career he has been the Public Defender of Wyoming County, a rural area near Buffalo, New York, whose economy is based on agriculture and the two State prisons located within its borders. He has transformed the Public Defender's office from an afterthought to a highly effective and professional organization that competently and diligently represents indigent clients in Wyoming County's Criminal and Family Courts. Mr. Effman maintains an active caseload, primarily representing criminal defendants. He is an effective and skilled advocate, his ability to relate to juries is legendary. On each matter he is able to individualize and humanize the client and to focus on the legal or factual issues unique to the matter. Every client of Norm's is afforded his full measure of devotion. It is often said, "That to have Norm as your attorney is to have the very best."

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

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Application Form

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

School Address (if different): _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Law School Attending: _____

Year of Law School Study as of September 1, 2026: _____

Date of anticipated graduation from law school: _____

Prior Education:

College Name	Address	Major	Degree
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Have you previously received Scholarships? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe:

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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 Norman Effman Scholarship 2026.

Applicant’s Signature

Date

Where did you hear of TNYBF Scholarship Opportunity? _____