The New York Bar Foundation has made the third and final grant disbursement of $300,000 to two programs: one that helps disabled veterans start businesses and another that advances legal research about technology, innovation and competition law.

During a three-year period, grants totaling $850,000 in funding were disbursed to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities at Syracuse University and the Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

The grants were made possible by a 2010 order signed by Chief Judge Loretta A. Preska of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in the Matter of City of Detroit v. Grinnell Corp. (68-cv-4026, 4027, 4028 LAP). The order authorized a cy pres distribution to the New York Bar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the New York State Bar Association.

Cy pres is a legal term used to describe an alternate appropriate use for unclaimed funds that remain after the proceeds from a legal settlement are distributed among the members of the class.

The Grinnell litigation, which involved several national class action lawsuits consolidated in the Southern District of New York, alleged that defendant companies engaged in price fixing in selling central station alarm services. The defendants used telephone voice technology to monitor burglar, fire and residential alarm systems from a remote central location. The cases settled for $10 million in 1971.

“"The programs funded by this grant make an enormous difference by assisting veterans to start a business, and helping to promote a vibrant, competitive tech sector in our nation,” said Lesley Friedman, then President.
What a productive year it has been thus far at The New York Bar Foundation. Because of you and the collective efforts of our Board of Directors, The Fellows, our Committees, our staff, and partnerships with The New York Bar Association, NYSBA sections, legal organizations, bar associations, and educational institutions, we have been able to demonstrate our collective ability to positively impact the lives of many in New York.

Because of you, we make a difference. Through the caring and sharing of members of the legal profession, The Foundation has been able to continue to support the law-related programs and efforts of local legal services agencies, nonprofits, bar associations and other organizations in communities across New York State. Highlights include:

✦ Our Board of Directors, through the diligent work of the Grant Review Committee, awarded 66 grants to law-related nonprofits, agencies and bar associations throughout New York State totaling over $385,000.

✦ In lieu of an Annual Appeal, The Foundation partnered with the New York Bar Association to assist our neighbors in the New York City area impacted by Superstorm Sandy that were in need of legal assistance by providing over $50,000 in grants. This money was received by The Foundation from individuals throughout the country and pledges from several sections of The New York State Bar Association.

✦ Through Association section and individual attorney support, The Foundation is able to provide meaningful opportunities to law students throughout New York in the form of fellowships and scholarships.

These are just some of the ways that the legal profession gives so much to so many through The Foundation. I encourage you to read through the newsletter to see how you make a difference.

Your gift matters. The dollars you contribute make a difference in the lives of many in our communities across New York. The collective impact of The Foundation’s donors complements the efforts of local organizations by providing representation for under-served, vulnerable people and support for legal education that might not otherwise be available: pro bono legal services for the indigent, children in foster care, domestic violence survivors, elderly, disabled veterans, and so many more people who desperately need legal services to assist them in making a better way of life.

Thank you for caring. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, support, and financial resources so that collaboratively, we can make a difference.

Cristine Cioffi
President
THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION AWARDS $385,000 IN CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Sixty-six organizations across New York State have received grants totaling $385,000 from The New York Bar Foundation this year.

“We are pleased to provide financial support that will benefit children and adults throughout our communities in New York State,” said Bar Foundation President Cristine Cioffi (Cioffi•Slezak•Wildgrube). “The generosity of The Foundation’s donors helps local organizations provide legal representation to the underserved, and supports legal education. Lawyers do care and do share.”

Several grants will support programs that provide access to justice to domestic violence victims, low-income immigrants, and older individuals who are neglected or abused. Portions of grant funding also will help those seeking legal assistance with bankruptcy, foreclosures, debt collection, consumer debt and legal guardianships for disabled children.

Funding for the projects comes from contributions to The Foundation by lawyers, law firms, corporations and others. Lucia B. Whisenand, who chairs The Foundation’s Grants Committee, noted that during the past three years, the Foundation awarded $3 million in grants to not-for-profit organizations. One-hundred percent of the funds contributed are awarded to beneficiary organizations. “While with your help The New York Bar Foundation grants program continues to grow,” she said, “so also do the unanticipated and unmet legal needs of numerous people throughout the state. A listing of this year’s grantees demonstrates the scope of our grants program.”

Grantees include:

- First Judicial District (Manhattan): Brennan Center for Justice; Center for Court Innovation; Center for Family Representation; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families; Goddard Riverside Community Center; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; LatinoJustice PRIDE; Lawyers for Children; Legal Action Center; Legal Information for Families Today; Lenox Hill Neighborhood House; National Center for Law & Economic Justice; New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation; New York County Lawyers’ Association; New York Legal Assistance Group; Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation; Partnership for the Homeless; Pro Bono Net; Safe Horizon; Selfhelp Community Services; The Door – A Center of Alternatives; The Legal Aid Society; Urban Justice Center; Volunteers of Legal Service.

- Second Judicial District (Kings County): Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project; Center for Court Innovation; South Brooklyn Legal Services; Children Law’s Center; George Walker Jr. Community Coalition.

- Third Judicial District (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Albany counties): Albany County Bar Association; Bethlehem Youth Court; Capital District Women’s Bar Association; Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York; New York State Bar Association Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction; New York State Bar Association, Committee on Diversity; New York State Bar Association, Law, Youth & Citizenship Program (PATCH); New York State Bar Association, Law, Youth & Citizenship Program Mock Trial; New York State Bar Association, Law, Youth & Citizenship Program Mock Trial Summer Institute; New York State Defenders Association; Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York; Worker Justice Center of New York.


- Seventh Judicial District (Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates counties): CASA of the Southern Tier; Center for Youth Services; Empire Justice Center; Hillside Children’s Foundation; Legal Assistance of Western New York; Legal Aid Society of Rochester; Lifespan of Greater Rochester; Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County.

- Eighth Judicial District (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming counties): Genesee County CASA For Children; Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo; Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York; National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York; Partnership for Ontario County; Police Athletic League of Niagara Falls; Wyoming County Youth Bureau.

- Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester counties): Mental Health Association of Westchester.

- Tenth Judicial District (Nassau, Suffolk counties): Bellport Area Community Action Committee; Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee; Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation.

- Eleventh Judicial District (Queens County): MinKwon Center for Community Action.

- Twelfth Judicial District (Bronx County): Bronx Defenders; Center for Court Innovation; Smart Small, Think Big.

The New York Bar Foundation is dedicated to aiding charitable and educational projects to meet the law-related needs of the public and the legal profession. To learn more about The New York Bar Foundation and how you can support its charitable programs, or submit a grant application go to www.tnybf.org, call 518/487-5651 or email nybarfoundation@tnybf.org.
FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT GRANT CHECKS, HEAR ABOUT THEIR IMPACT

New York Bar Foundation Board Member, **Stephen D. Hoffman, Esq.** of Wilk Auslander, LLP New York, presents a grant check to The Partnership for the Homeless. The Board of Directors of The New York Bar Foundation recently awarded grants that will fund several law-related projects providing a variety of legal service needs. The programs will be conducted by legal services organizations, bar associations and other nonprofits throughout New York.

L to r are: Arnold Cohen, President and CEO of The Partnership; Mr. Hoffman, David Woll, Partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP and Board Member of Partnership for the Homeless, and Daniel Stujenske, Associate at Simpson Thacher.

“This grant helps fill the critical gaps in service through referrals, client workshops and pro bono client representation as needed. It will enable our clients to find and maintain stable housing through advice on issues related to housing, public benefit programs and even basic tenant’s rights,” stated Kris Dasgupta, VP of Development & Communications at The Partnership for The Homeless.

New York Bar Foundation Board Member, **Sharon Stern Gerstman** (right), Magavern Magavern Grimm LLP Buffalo, presents grant check to Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc. L to r: Randall Hoak, Interim Director Erie County Senior Service, and Karen Nicolson, Executive Director of LSED.

“The Foundation is a wonderful vehicle for giving to worthy organizations around the state. I am always so pleased to see the difference a Foundation grant can make to one of our local organizations or for large scale relief, like the kind needed in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy,” stated Ms. Stern Gerstman.

Board Member of The New York Bar Foundation and Chair of The Fellows, **James B. Ayers** (center) presents a grant check to John Cutro, Project Director of the Public Defense Investigation Support Project of the New York State Defenders Association. Joining them, L to r are: President of the NYSDA Board, Edward Nowak; NYSBA’s then-President, Seymour W. James; and NYSDA Executive Director, Jonathan Gradess.

Mr. Gradess stated, “Our Public Defense Investigation Support Project, now supported so generously by The New York Bar Foundation, helps us bring client representation to a higher level of performance, train investigators, share resources, build relationships and enhance capacity in defender offices to find more facts, vigorously defend more cases, and more competently represent clients.”

Foundation Board Member, **John Horan** (center) of Fox Horan & Camerini LLP, presents grant check and certificate to The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. With him, L to r are: Ariela Lovett, Emily Kan, Damaris Delgado, Helen Ruan, Lauren Sismondo, Sirrah Harris and Carolyn Silver, Esq. Director, Legal Advocacy & Organizing for Lenox Hill Neighborhood House.

“Grant funds will help financially support Lenox Hill Neighborhood House’s Workers’ Rights Project,” stated Silver. “The project provides legal services and community education to low-wage workers with regard to employment-related issues such as Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Unlawful Discrimination and Wage and Hour Laws, as well with regard to other issues affecting low-income workers such as access to health care, retirement and pension benefits, and retaining affordable housing.”

New York Bar Foundation Board Member, **Karen Nicolson** (right), Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc.
Albany attorney James B. Ayers is the new chair of The Fellows of The New York Bar Foundation, which provides funding for law-related charitable and educational projects. Garden City attorney Emily F. Franchina was elected vice-chair of The Fellows. A Fellow of The New York Bar Foundation is a member of the Bar of New York State or of the New York State Bar Association who has been recognized for outstanding professional achievement, for dedication to the legal profession, and for commitment to the organized bar.

Ayers is a partner of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna and chair of its estate planning and administration practice group. He is a past treasurer of the State Bar Association and a past chair of the Trusts and Estates Law Section. He resides in Guilderland.

“I am immensely honored to chair the Fellows of the New York Bar Foundation. Our past chair Susan B. Lindenauer did an outstanding job. It is a great privilege to continue and build upon her excellent work,” said Ayers.

Franchina is a partner of Franchina & Giordano. She concentrates her practice in elder law and trusts and estates law. She is a former member of the State Bar Association’s Executive Committee and a past chair of the Young Lawyers Section. She resides in Huntington Bay.

“For almost 40 years, the Fellows have been making a financial commitment toward the goals of the New York Bar Foundation. I am delighted to work in a leadership position to continue that mission,” said Franchina.

Each Fellow makes a financial commitment to The New York Bar Foundation to help achieve its goals and objectives in serving the public and profession in matters relating to the law. A Fellow of The New York Bar Foundation is defined as follows:

✦ A member of The Fellows understands that the law is a learned occupation and is inescapably a public calling. A Fellow appreciates that the combined professional effort of all lawyers nurtures and sustains the rule of law and American democracy. A Fellow strives to develop, uphold and maintain these core values of the profession.

✦ A member of The Fellows embraces lawyer independence, ethical behavior, self-renewal, competence, responsibility, an appreciation for the historical continuity and tradition of the profession, and respect for clients, adversaries and the courts.

An individual is nominated to become a Fellow by a Director on the Board of The Foundation and is elected by the full Board. The number of Fellows is limited under the Bylaws of The Fellows to one percent of the New York State Bar Association’s membership in each of the state’s 13 judicial districts plus 100 at-large members.

In addition, Fellows assist the Board in identifying potential grant projects and other causes that may benefit from The Foundation’s assistance.

A member of The Fellows acknowledges that the practice of law is a helping profession and that attorneys, as custodians of the legal system, have enhanced obligations of service to the community, to the profession, and to promote justice through the rule of law.

The deadline to submit a grant proposal to The Foundation is October 1, 2013. The New York Bar Foundation grant program assists organizations with law related projects that: (1) facilitate the delivery of legal services to those in need; (2) improve the justice system and the law; (3) enhance professional competence and ethics; and (4) increase public understanding of the law.

Guidelines and applications are available on our website at www.tnybf.org
**LAW STUDENTS TO GAIN LEGAL EXPERIENCE FROM SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS**

The fellowship and scholarship programs are one of the many ways that the legal profession gives so much to so many through The Foundation. Association Sections and individual attorney support enable The Foundation to provide meaningful opportunities, valuable experience, and significant contacts to law students throughout New York. Throughout the year The Foundation assists students in pursuing experiences in a variety of legal fields.

**RUTGERS LAW STUDENT RECEIVES THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION’S INAUGURAL ANTITRUST SECTION LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIP**

Christopher T. Napier, a second-year law student at Rutgers School of Law, Camden, is the recipient of the Antitrust Section Law Student Fellowship. As the recipient of the $6,000 fellowship, Napier will work this summer in the Antitrust Bureau of the New York State Attorney General’s Office in New York City.

“The Antitrust Section is very pleased to sponsor the Antitrust Summer Fellowship, which helps a law student gain valuable experience in antitrust law while providing additional resources to an enforcement agency. We are proud to continue The New York Bar Foundation’s tradition of giving back to our community,” said Eric J. Stock of Manhattan (Hogan Lovells), chair of the State Bar Association’s Antitrust Section. “We are especially thrilled that Christopher Napier will serve as our inaugural summer fellow. He has demonstrated a strong interest in antitrust law and practicing law in New York.”

Napier graduated from Rutgers University School of Business with honors and also was recognized by Mu Kappa Tau Marketing Honor Society and Athenaeum Honor Society. He expects to graduate from Rutgers Law School in May 2015. He resides in Maple Shade, NJ.

“I am honored to receive this fellowship and I know it will be an invaluable experience. I hope to contribute in a meaningful way to both the state of New York and the practice of antitrust law through this fellowship and beyond,” said Napier.

**FORDHAM LAW STUDENT RECEIVES THE COMMERCIAL AND FEDERAL LITIGATION SECTION MINORITY FELLOWSHIP**

Catalina Ford, a first-year student at Fordham University School of Law, is the recipient of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Minority Fellowship. As the recipient of the $6,000 fellowship, Ford will work this summer in the chambers of New York State Supreme Court Commercial Division Justice Jeffrey Oing.

A graduate of Agnes Scott College, Ford expects to graduate from law school in May 2015. She is a member of the Latin American Law Students Association and the recipient of the Patricia M. Hynes Scholarship for Women. She also is a hotline volunteer with WomensLaw.org and a volunteer research assistant at the Moving Minds Forward Foundation.

“We received several commendable applications for the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Minority Law Student Summer Fellowship. We are delighted to present the 2013 fellowship to Ms. Ford, a remarkable and bright young woman,” said Tracee E. Davis (Zeichner Ellman & Krause), chair of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section. “Our goal is to increase the representation of lawyers and students from a diverse range of backgrounds in commercial litigation and to provide fellows with an opportunity to gain practical experience by clerking in the Commercial Division. We are pleased to join with The New York Bar Foundation to offer this opportunity.”

“I am extremely honored to be chosen as this year’s Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Fellow. I look forward to working with Justice Oing and hope to take full advantage of the opportunities this summer presents,” said Catalina Ford.
ALBANY AND BROOKLYN LAW STUDENTS RECEIVE TRUSTS AND ESTATES LAW FELLOWSHIPS

David Kober of Brooklyn Law School and Kaivan Mangouri of Albany Law School are the recipients of The New York Bar Foundation’s Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowships. As the recipients of $5,000 fellowships, Kober this summer will work in the chambers of Richmond County Surrogate Judge Robert J. Gigante in Staten Island and Mangouri will work in the chambers of Schenectady County Surrogate Judge Vincent W. Versaci in Schenectady.

“The committee was very impressed with the quality and interest of the law school applicants this year, making the committee’s decision very difficult,” said Carl Baker of Glens Falls, chair of the State Bar Association’s Trusts and Estates Law Section (FitzGerald Morris Baker Firth). “We are pleased with the success of this program which seeks to provide a valuable experience in the practice of trusts and estates law to future New York practitioners.”

Kober, a graduate of New York University, recently interned at the New York City Surrogate’s Court. He previously interned at the Kings County Supreme Law Department, Office of the New York State Attorney General and Rosensteel Law. He expects to graduate in June 2014. “I look forward to working in Surrogate Gigante’s Chambers and to forging connections amongst my esteemed future colleagues, members of the State Bar Association’s Trusts and Estates Law Section,” said Kober. “I am optimistic that by familiarizing myself with the inner workings of the Trusts and Estates community by working with the judicial system, as well as a well-established network of professionals, I will start off my career in the best way possible.”

A graduate of Arizona State University, Mangouri previously was a law intern with the City of Albany Law Department, as well as Albany Law School’s Civil Rights and Disabilities Law and Health Law clinics. He also was a faculty research assistant to Prof. Robert Heverly, interim director of the Government Law Center. He is a member of the State Bar Association’s Business Law and Health Law sections. He expects to graduate in May 2014. “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Judge Versaci this summer and grateful for the networking opportunities provided by The New York Bar Foundation,” said Mangouri. “I hope to build on my current skill set and deepen my understanding of trusts and estates law.”

The Foundation congratulates all of the recipients and wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A Night To Shine: The Fellows Annual Dinner

The Fellows of The New York Bar Foundation celebrated their Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Cosmopolitan Club in New York City. Attendees enjoyed a night of socializing with business mixed in, as they also thanked Susan B. Lindenauer, who concluded her tenure as Chair of The Fellows. Susan’s tenure as Chair of The Fellows from 2008-2013 was marked by renewed warmth and collegiality among Fellows. The dinner is a wonderful opportunity for Fellows to meet with colleagues.

The Foundation thanks Susan B. Lindenauer, Immediate Past Chair of The Fellows for her dedication, service and vision for this noteworthy group of professionals.
VIGDOR TO RECEIVE FOUNDATION’S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Board of Directors of The New York Bar Foundation recently voted to honor former Board President, Justin L. Vigdor (Boylan Code LLP) with its Lifetime Achievement Award. The award ceremony will take place during the Fellows Annual Dinner Meeting on Friday, January 31, 2014 in New York City.


Mr. Vigdor served as President of the Monroe County Bar Association, was Chairman of its Corporation, Banking and Business Law Section and President of its Foundation. He has served as President of the New York State Bar from 1985-1986, and has served as a member of its House of Delegates since 1977. He is a Founder of the Senior Lawyers Section of the NYSBA, serving as Chair from 2009-2011. Mr. Vigdor was a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association from and a Trustee of the National Conference of the Bar Foundations. He is a Life Fellow of both the New York Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation.

For five years from its inception, he chaired the Board of the New York IOLA Fund. He is a member of the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals, an Official Referee of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct and a Director of the Committee for Modern Courts. He is a member of the Estate Planning Council of Monroe County. He was a director of IEC Electronics Corp. and was the President of the U.S. Arbitration and Mediation Service of Upstate New York. He is a Certified Federal Court Mediator. He is a Trustee of the Ames-Amzalak Charitable Trust. As one of four New York State Uniform Law Commissioners, Mr. Vigdor has served on the Executive Committee of the National Conferences of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and has chaired several Uniform Law Drafting Committees. He was elected a Life Member of the Uniform Law Conference in 2008.

The Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award was been established to honor former Officers or Directors of The Foundation who, due to term limits, are no longer able to serve in that capacity, or who, prior to the establishment of term limits, served a minimum of ten years as an Officer or Director of The Foundation. The honoree’s service and leadership (as Officer or Director) must have significantly advanced the purposes of The Foundation. In addition, the honoree’s service as an Officer or Director and reputation as a lawyer and bar leader must have brought significant recognition and acclaim to The Foundation.

We hope you will join us at The Fellows Dinner and congratulate Justin Vigdor on January 31.

Grants For Entrepreneur Programs For Disabled Veterans And Technology Innovation, Continued from Page 1

Rosenthal, chair of the cy pres committee and vice president of The Foundation, “The Foundation is proud to play a role in locating, monitoring and distributing these and other cy pres funds, demonstrating that lawyers and the legal profession can and do make a difference.”

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) at Syracuse University provides training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with service-related disabilities. Since 2007, more than 650 veterans have completed the EBV program.

“The New York Bar Foundation has played a key role in empowering our EBV veterans to receive the training and support they need to realize the American dream of business ownership,” said Mike Haynie, Ph.D., executive director and founder of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University. “The Foundation’s support and commitment to the EBV program — and by extension to our wounded warriors — represents a legacy that will endure through the accomplishments and success of our veterans, for many years to come.”

The University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition (CTIC) promotes research that helps legislators, regulatory authorities and scholars think about technology policy.

“The generosity of the New York Bar Foundation has made possible a wide range of faculty and student initiatives, including novel faculty research and collaboration with researchers from around the world and funding for students interested in technology-related public-in-
Every gift matters.

In Appreciation of Your Gifts of Distinction to The New York Bar Foundation, January - April 2013

We recognize and thank our donors for their generosity.

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Washington Lodge, No. 21, F. & A.M.
Foundation And NYSBA Assist Storm Victims, Continued from Page 1

...they were able to help thousands of dislocated victims find food, water, housing and other basic necessities.

♦ The New York LawHelp Consortium offered – and continues to offer – on-line information to victims who needed help with FEMA grants and appeals, housing reconstruction issues, food stamp applications and rent abatement.

♦ The Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project set up a huge tent and collaborated with government agencies, social service providers and other lawyers to help victims apply for government benefits, file insurance claims, and process appeals. The “under one tent” metaphor was apt, as volunteer attorneys from GE, IBM, and Skadden Arps worked side-by-side with law students and solo practitioners, in this instantaneous effort to help people in need.

The creative ways these legal providers stepped up to this challenge, and the sincerity of their mission, was truly inspiring. Learning the stories behind these grants made me very proud to be a member of such a giving profession.

Please continue to support the New York Bar Foundation. With your contribution we can continue to make a difference for people in need.

The Nassau County Bar Association also continues to deliver the relief services begun after Superstorm Sandy, providing free legal consultations at its headquarters and within damaged communities; updating residents on the latest deadlines, news, and funding sources; and providing CLE to volunteer attorneys who assist in the project.

Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center continues to coordinate multiple organizations involved in the relief effort. With their grant they are funding two law students who assist the Director of Touro’s Disaster Law Clinic and the TIC HEART Hotline. The students staff the hotline, research issues and help represent clients in more complex matters.

At each stop we heard the same story: the suffering was vast and horrific, and it continues; as many individuals remain housed in hotels; members of the bar pulled together as one, abandoning their personal employment to help fellow citizens in need; the issues were very specific and required unique expertise – how many of us knew how to appeal a FEMA claim before Sandy?

Christine Cioffi, President of the New York Bar Foundation and a partner at Cioffi, Slezak & Wildgrube presents a check and certificate to Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice of The Legal Aid Society; and Seymour James, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Practice, Legal Aid Society and then-President of the NY State Bar Association.

"The New York State Bar Association and President Seymour James made it possible for us to quickly communicate with all downstate bar associations to better coordinate our efforts and to obtain the information our attorneys needed to get up to speed on the many emergency issues confronted by our residents. We couldn’t have helped as many people as we did without this leadership. We thank the New York State Bar Association and the New York Bar Foundation for its assistance," stated Marian Rice, President, Nassau County Bar Association.

"We have been able to assist more than 900 residents at 21 free legal consultation clinics so far. Our clinics continue to be booked solid. This grant will truly help," adds Martha Krisel, Treasurer, Nassau County Bar Association, who oversees NCBA’s legal consultation clinics.

A check and certificate is presented by then-President Seymour W. James, Jr. and Christine Cioffi to (left to right) Arthur Terranova, Executive Director, Queens County Bar Association, Mark Weliky, Executive Director, Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (QVLP) and Charles Giudice, Staff Attorney, QVLP. Charlie was the lead staff member for Sandy relief.
Meet The Staff

Deborah Auspelmyer

The Foundation has undergone staffing transitions throughout the past year as a new Administrator and Administrative Assistant have joined the team. Deborah Auspelmyer is the new Foundation Administrator bringing over 10 years of management and public relations knowledge to the Foundation. Deb is experienced in operational management, fundraising, organizational promotion, event planning, and program development through prior management of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit business membership organization. Her non-profit background included working as Public Relations Coordinator and Physician Recruiter/Liaison at St. Mary’s Hospital (Amsterdam), Public Relations Coordinator for Nathan Littauer Hospital, and working in the Communications Department at the New York State Health Facilities Association.

Deb is completing her Bachelor’s in Business, Management and Economics through SUNY Empire State, where she has maintained a 3.96 average. She received her Institute of Organizational Management (I.O.M.) certification at Villanova University and has been very active professionally and personally within the county in which she resides including prior involvement in the Amsterdam Rotary Club and participation in various organizations with her children.

Melissa O’Clair

The Foundation’s new Administrative Assistant is Melissa O’Clair. Melissa has an A.S. in Science from Hudson Valley Community College and an A.A.S. in Business from Schenectady County Community College. Her work experience includes several years of professional administrative support at St. Clare’s Hospital in Schenectady, NY. Most recently Melissa served as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Corporate Compliance and Internal Audit and Vice President of Operations/Physician Services at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady. She is a Notary Public for the State of New York.

The Foundation’s staffing team looks forward to working with you and assisting you on Foundation matters.

Please do not hesitate to contact them at 518-487-5651
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