Foundation Helps with Housing, Increases Access to Justice and the Rule of Law

By Susan Lindenauer, Chief Publicity Officer

Under the leadership of its President Lesley Rosenthal, the New York Bar Foundation has developed a three-year strategic plan focused on strengthening the rule of law in New York. Access to justice is a foundational element of the rule of law; without it, community members at large lose faith in our shared system of governance and their entitlement to enforceable rights under the social contract. And yet, access to, and affordability of, justice is one area of the rule of law where our nation falls measurably short. The foundation, through its grant making, endeavors to remedy that shortfall.

The New York Bar Foundation funds legal services programs that address the most urgent legal needs of those unable to afford legal representation. Grants to these programs help to secure the essentials of life for their clients, such as housing, benefits, social security, wages, consumer justice and employment-related issues; immigration matters; and family law problems ranging from domestic violence to custody and visitation disputes. Over its nearly 70 years of existence, the New York Bar Foundation has made grants to programs that address the full range of legal problems faced by poor people in New York state. In the last few years, the foundation has increasingly focused on “essentials of life” issues.

One of the most pressing problems is housing. The lack of sufficient, affordable and well-maintained housing in New York state contributes to the growth of homelessness and undermines family stability. In New York City alone, housing-related issues, including

The Connors: A Mortgage Modification Success Story

Excerpted from an article by Megan Harrington, Freelance Writer

Imagine how overwhelming the loss of your home would be. Housing matters, from landlord/tenant issues to mortgage foreclosure, are widespread across New York state. Representation by legal counsel can make a tremendous difference in the outcome of finding a solution or losing your home. The Foundation’s Task Force on the Rule of Law has reported that housing in Albany County is one of the most pressing problems where our grants can make the greatest difference. Read on…

Donna Connors and her husband, Donald, purchased their Columbia County home back in 2004 when Donna says, “Banks were giving away mortgages like hot dogs at a baseball game.” Their modest $225,000 home sits on 5 acres of property, just outside the city of Hudson and at first, their monthly payment was a reasonable $1,300. However, they soon saw their payment spike under an adjustable-rate mortgage. During this same time period, their small business began losing money due to the downturn in the economy and the Connors family found themselves

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Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The New York Bar Foundation (TNYBF) announces that three new members have been elected to the foundation’s board of directors to serve three-year terms.

Over the past several years, the foundation has created a focused fundraising culture, emphasizing that practicing law is an honor and giving is a responsibility of the profession. Through the commitment and concerted efforts of donors, leadership, and staff, great strides have been made in effecting the foundation’s strategic plan, which has the theme of enhancing the rule of law in New York state. Seventy percent of the strategic plan goals have been implemented or completed, which has brought a substantial increase in revenue. This includes a 50 percent increase in new Fellows revenue and income from the new firm challenge giving campaign.

“I welcome the addition of these new members of the board to assist us in meeting the goals of our strategic plan,” states Board President Lesley Rosenthal. “They bring a wealth of experience to the foundation and we look forward to their contributions, participation and their variety of perspectives.”

John P. Christopher, Esq., Glen Head, NY, Board Member

Mr. Christopher is the Head of Commercial at Publicis Health Media. He has been active in the New York State Bar Association as an Executive Committee member, member of the House of Delegates, and past chair of the Young Lawyers Section. He is a member of the Committee on Cannabis Law and a member of the Executive Committee of the Real Property Law Section. Mr. Christopher has been a Fellow of the foundation since 2017.

“I first became involved with the foundation when I was an officer of the Young Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association. During that time, I helped found the Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation Committee. Over the next several years, our committee held annual giving events to provide grants to veterans’ legal services organizations. I was fortunate to be a grant presenter to the veterans’ organizations and learned firsthand from the grantees what the work of the foundation and the grant we provided meant to their organizations. Now, as a member of the board of directors I look forward to being able to use my time and efforts to further the goals of the foundation.”

Mr. Christopher holds degrees from Touro College Jacob D. Fuschtsberg Law Center and Villanova University.
C. Bruce Lawrence, Esq., Rochester, NY, Board Member

Mr. Lawrence has long been active in the organized bar. He is the immediate past chair of the Senior Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association, a past president of the Monroe County Bar Association and the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar, has served as secretary of NYSBA, and has served in NYSBA’s House of Delegates for over 30 years. He is senior counsel at Boylan Code LLP, where he heads the firm’s Creditor’s Rights Practice Group. He is a life Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation, in the Charles Evans Hughes Circle of Giving.

“Having served as president of the Monroe County Bar Foundation and been a leader in creating a Legacy Society to benefit the local legal service providers, I realized the good works that bar foundations can do. Especially true given how many presentations I watched by leaders of the New York Bar Foundation at House of Delegates meetings over the years.”

Mr. Lawrence holds degrees from Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Rochester.

David C. Singer, Esq., New York City, Board Member

Mr. Singer has practiced law for over 38 years – including 28 years as a partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP – specializing in a wide range of business, commercial and employment litigation and counseling. For over 30 years, exclusively since January 1, 2018, he has served as an independent neutral, primarily as arbitrator and mediator of complex commercial, employment and international matters, including as chair and wing of three arbitrator panels, and as sole arbitrator. He is a life Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation.

“Having served on several nonprofit boards, including as chair for many years, I have come to appreciate the critical need of funding for deserving yet under-resourced nonprofits, legal services, bar associations and other organizations. I look forward to participating in raising and allocating some of those needed resources.”

A long-time member of the New York State Bar Association, Mr. Singer served as chair of NYSBA’s Dispute Resolution Section, and as co-chair of the section’s Mediation Committee. He is a member of NYSBA’s House of Delegates and has written extensively in the field of arbitration, mediation and dispute resolution and speaks often on such topics to professional, bar association and other groups.

Mr. Singer holds degrees from New York University School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania.

The full slate of officers for 2019-2020 includes: President, Lesley Rosenthal, The Juilliard School, New York City; Vice President, Carla Palumbo, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Rochester; Treasurer, Martin Minkowitz, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, New York City; Secretary, Pamela McDevitt, the New York State Bar Association, Albany; and Assistant Secretary, Lucia Whisenand, Syracuse. Susan Lindenauer of New York City also serves as the foundation’s chief publicity officer.
The New York Bar Foundation: Practicing Justice and Humanity

By David Schraver, Foundation Board Member and Past President of the NYSBA

As President of the New York State Bar Association (2013-2014), I often spoke about the core values of the legal profession, including access to justice and the rule of law. Access to justice includes helping to provide legal services for those who need, but cannot afford, legal services to secure basic necessities such as childcare and custody, health care, disability and employment benefits, educational benefits, housing, immigration law assistance, veterans benefits and other necessities of life. The rule of law includes promoting public understanding of and respect for the rule of law. Providing access to legal services helps people understand the legal system and promotes respect for the rule of law. It also helps to achieve equal justice under the law. We cannot have an “us” and “them” legal system.

In 2016, I was honored to join the Board of Directors of the New York Bar Foundation to help support the charitable and educational goals of the legal profession throughout New York State. One of the most satisfying parts of my service on the Foundation Board has been presenting grant checks to law-related nonprofit organizations in the Seventh Judicial District. This year I presented grant checks to the CASA of Rochester/Monroe County to assist their advocacy for neglected and abused children in relation to educational needs; Hillside Children’s Center for their Youth Court in Mt. Morris; Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY) for their Education Advocacy Program in Geneva to provide direct legal assistance to students whose rights to an appropriate public education are in jeopardy; and the Legal Aid Society of Rochester to support representation of immigrants facing removal and planning for the legal needs of family members who are left behind. It was clear from my meetings with these agencies how important these grants are to their programs and how much they need and appreciate the foundation’s support. We cannot provide this support without the generosity of lawyers like you.

William Henry Seward of Auburn, New York, who served as New York Governor from 1839-1842, United States Senator from 1849-1861, and U.S. Secretary of State under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson from 1861-1869 said, “As a general truth, communities prosper and flourish, or droop and decline, in just the degree that they practice or neglect to practice the primary duties of justice and humanity.”

I invite you, as a member of the New York legal community, to prosper and flourish by joining with and supporting the New York Bar Foundation in practicing justice and humanity.
Imagine what it would be like to be a mother trying to escape an abusive situation, an elderly man being abused by your caregiver, a couple with a special needs son being evicted from your home. Imagine not having the resources to hire a lawyer to assist you.

For nearly 70 years, the Foundation has provided millions of dollars in grants to hundreds of non-profit organizations across New York state. Through these grants, organizations provide desperately needed legal services to those without means. In keeping with the rule of law theme, the foundation seeks contributions to assist in providing the following essentials of life:

- Child-protective and family law legal services
- Veteran’s access to services
- Elder protection legal services
- Immigration
- Housing Issues

Participate in the “Law Firms Advancing Justice” Firm Challenge and Become Part of the New Donor Wall

In celebration of the foundation’s 70th year of giving, participants in the Firm Challenge will be listed on a new donor wall which will be located in a high visibility area near the Bar Center’s Great Hall in Albany. The donor wall will be unveiled in June 2020 as the Foundation celebrates its 70th anniversary.

Everyone who comes to the Bar Center for a meeting or CLE will see your firm’s name listed on the wall and will know that your firm makes a difference by helping those in need.

100% of the funds raised during the campaign will be allocated to the foundation’s grant program.

To the firms that have signed up thus far:

Patron
Hughes Hubbard & Reed, LLP

Supporter
Farrell Fritz, P.C.
Lamb & Barnosky, LLP

Friend
Harris Beach, PLLC
Franchina Law Group, LLC
Ingerman Smith, LLP
Makofsky & Associates, P.C.
Phillips Nizer, LLP

Thank You

Fill out the commitment form on the other side of this page or contact Foundation Executive, Deborah Auspelmyer, at (518) 487-5650 or dauspelmyer@tnybf.org to sign up your firm.
# “Law Firms Advancing Justice” Firm Challenge

## Challenge Level Commitment Form

The Highest Contributing Firm will be Recognized at the Foundation Annual Meeting and Fellows Dinner in 2020. All participants will be recognized on the virtual and actual donor walls.

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Our Firm is interested in the checked level! Let’s discuss the details!

Please contact me at:

Name: ___________________________ Phone: __________________

Firm: ___________________________ E-mail: __________________

Fax completed form back to: 518-487-5993 or email to: dauspelmyer@tnybf.org

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### Platinum: $50,000 and above

Your firm’s logo and photo will be prominently featured in The Foundation’s annual report, mid-year newsletter, and on Foundation social media pages. Your firm will have a write-up in the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program with a photo and have a full page/full color ad in one of the publications to be prepared for the 2020 Annual Meeting. A certificate will be presented to the firm by a Foundation Board member.

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### Gold: $35,000 – $49,999

Your firm’s logo and photo will be featured in The Foundation’s annual report, mid-year newsletter, and on Foundation social media pages. Your firm will have a write-up in the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program and have a full page black and white ad in one of the publications to be prepared for the 2020 Annual Meeting. A certificate will be presented to the firm by a Foundation Board member.

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### Silver: $20,000 – $34,999

Your firm’s logo and photo will be featured in The Foundation’s annual report, mid-year newsletter, and on Foundation social media pages. Your firm will have a write-up in the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program and have a ½ page color ad in one of the publications to be prepared for the 2020 Annual Meeting. A certificate will be presented to the firm.

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### Bronze: $10,000 - $19,999

Your firm’s logo will be featured in The Foundation’s annual report, mid-year newsletter, and on Foundation social media pages. Your firm will be listed in the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program and have a ½ page black and white ad in one of the publications to be prepared for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

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### Patron: $5,000 - $9,999

Your firm’s logo will be featured in The Foundation’s annual report, mid-year newsletter, and on Foundation social media pages. Your firm will be listed in the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program and in one of the publications to be prepared for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

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### Supporter: $2,500 - $4,999

Your firm will be listed in The Foundation’s annual report, and on Foundation social media pages. Your firm will be listed in the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program and in one of the publications to be prepared for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

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### Friend: $1,000 – $2,499

Your firm will be listed in The Foundation’s annual report and the 2020 Fellows Dinner Program.
The Connors: A Mortgage Modification Success Story

(Continued)

unsustainable to keep up with their mortgage payments. Donna explains, “The most lucrative areas of our business were major kitchen and bath renovations and water treatment. When the economy started heading down the toilet, most of our customers (as well as ourselves) were mainly concerned with keeping their homes and the focus became repairing instead of renovating or upgrading.” She continues, “At the same time, our mortgage payments doubled. It was the perfect storm. Legal aid was the lifeline that saved us, and I am certain, many others too.”

Donna and Donald first contacted a local housing agency where they discussed their options. From there, they were referred to the Legal Aid Society of Northern New York (LASNNY).

Joshi Shruti, staff attorney at LASNNY says, “The Connors family reached out to us in early 2017 because they had fallen behind in payments due to loss of income. They had already been declined for a loan modification, but they were given vague boilerplate reasons for the denial.” Joshi says that fortunately when she got involved, the Connors were still in settlement conferences.

Thanks to Joshi’s diligence, the Connors were granted a loan modification and their new payment is much more affordable. Joshi says, “The bank eventually came back with an offer and now the Connors family has a lower monthly payment and a lower interest rate.” She continues, “Donna and Donald’s life really turned around at this point and things started looking up.”

Donna couldn’t agree more. She says, “After we received the modification, we were able to reconstruct our lives and move forward.” With their load lightened, Donald was able to secure a new job as a fulltime plumber and Donna began running her own home business, a doggie daycare.

By staying in their home/at their property, the Connors family has been able to keep their dogs – something that might not have been possible if they lost their home and had to look for a rental. The pets are a part of the Connors family, but they also benefit the local community – Donna takes the therapy dogs for visits at a nearby assisted care home and youth detention center.

The Connors’ story has a happy ending, thanks in part to Joshi’s hard work and Donna and Donald’s willingness to seek help.

“The New York Bar Foundation seeded our first mortgage foreclosure work,” states Lillian Moy, executive director of the Legal Aid Society of NENY. “This allowed us to build relationships, expertise and the program. The difference that these grants make to our programs and people within our community is invaluable. Providing access to an attorney in a life-changing way is critical to equality under the law.”

Foundation Helps with Housing, Increases Access to Justice and the Rule of Law

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increasing homelessness of families because of a lack of affordable housing, have reached a crisis level. While the media is filled with stories about the crisis in New York City, housing for low-income families is a statewide problem. As the crisis has expanded across the state, the foundation has made more than 30 grants for housing-related legal assistance to programs outside of New York City.

The foundation's grantmaking is made possible by the generosity of individual lawyers who donate to The New York Bar Foundation. But the foundation has also developed additional, innovative sources of funding. One of these avenues has been through receiving distributions of cy pres or residual funds as part of court-ordered class actions or settlements. The federal courts have entrusted the foundation to receive such funds and apply them as grants that support the foundation’s charitable purposes.

In one matter, Charron v. Pinnacle, the Honorable Colleen McMahon, Chief U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, as part of a court settlement order, directed the foundation to provide oversight, monitoring and accountability services to the court. This was in connection with the disbursement of funds to two grantees, The Legal Aid Society of New York City and Legal Services NYC, as part of a court order for furtherance of the provision of tenant assistance and support in Pinnacle Buildings. Over several years, the New York Bar Foundation provided the required monitoring, reporting and oversight of the grantees’ assistance to their clients. After completion of the project, including the preparation of extensive reports to the court, the foundation was permitted to issue a request for proposal to programs in New York City that provide tenant-related legal services, and to select grantees to receive the remaining funds, totaling approximately $60,000. The grantees have been selected by the foundation’s grant review committee and they will shortly be receiving their funds.

Throughout the state, legal problems involving housing – ranging from homelessness to eviction to inadequately maintained housing to mortgage foreclosure – will remain among the most pressing legal issues for which grantees will seek funding from the New York Bar Foundation. With the continued financial support of the lawyers in this state, the foundation hopes to increase funding to help alleviate the housing crisis, ensuring access to justice and fostering the rule of law.
North, South, East, and West—Donors Make an Impact Across New York State

In the New York Bar Foundation’s 2019 giving cycle, more than $730,000 in grants were distributed to 100 programs that provide assistance to those in need of legal services. The programs supported by the foundation help to secure the essentials of life for their clients. Examples of such life-changing matters include housing, benefits, employment-related issues, and family law problems ranging from domestic violence to custody and visitation disputes.

Forty-eight grant checks were presented to grantees organizations across the state by members of the foundation’s Board of Directors and the Fellows. Bringing organizations their grant checks provides us with the opportunity to meet with the staff about their program and to learn directly how your donations are making an impact.

New this year, the Judicial District Chairs of the Fellows were invited to participate in reviewing grants and making presentations. Richard Long, chair of the sixth judicial district noted, “I thoroughly enjoyed the process and more fully appreciate the scope of requests. I hope to educate more organizations within my area of this opportunity.”

The foundation is hoping to receive applications from all 13 judicial districts. The annual deadline for grant applications is September 15. For more information visit www.tnybf.org/applyforgrant/

Foundation board member and Vice-chair of the Grant Review Committee June Castellano (right) presents a grant check to Tina Foster, executive director of Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP) for their Tenant Town and Village Pro Bono Program, which assists unrepresented individuals facing eviction proceedings.

“On any given night in Rochester, one in ten children is homeless. With these funds from the New York Bar Foundation, tenants in Rochester suburbs who cannot afford a lawyer are provided pro bono representation during eviction proceedings, which prevents or delays low-income families from needlessly losing their homes. The foundation’s support of this program has saved hundreds of families from living on the street or in shelters. On behalf of Monroe County’s low-income tenants, we extend our most heartfelt appreciation to the New York Bar Foundation and its donors for their life-changing financial support.”

Foundation board member John Christopher (left) and then-Chair of the Young Lawyers Section Terrence Tarver (center) present a grant check and congratulatory certificate to Lisa Schreibersdorf, executive director of Brooklyn Defender Services. The Young Lawyers Section and Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation spearheaded an annual 24-hour online campaign to raise funds to support grants with a special focus on veterans’ legal services projects. Brooklyn Defender Services was the recipient for its Veterans Assistance Project.

“There is no higher honor than serving our country,” states Tarver. “It was a privilege to represent the New York Bar Foundation and the Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation in presenting this grant to aid Brooklyn Defender Services in their tireless efforts and fantastic work through their Veterans Assistance Project. The project directly helps those who provided us with the freedoms that we love and cherish most as Americans.”
“Through the grant we received from the New York Bar Foundation, Community Legal Advocates has already been able to educate and counsel dozens of Long Islanders facing the prospect of losing their DACA or TPS status, including people from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras. Using direct outreach as well as partnerships with organizations across Nassau and Suffolk counties, we are working to ensure that people facing this imminent loss of status have the knowledge and information they need to plan for a future that is uncertain and understand the steps they can take now to protect themselves and their families.”

“Thank you for the generous support of our work. This grant will aid our efforts to support court-involved youth at a critical junction, propelling them on to a strong path to education and career.”

“The New York Bar Foundation grant has been instrumental in helping us develop and execute our NYCHA Tenant Association Program. The funds allowed us to create a housing law training for law student volunteers and pro bono attorneys who assist NYCHA tenants via LiveHelp. Without this critical funding, we couldn’t have created this training resource. LiveHelp assists over 10,000 people per year, many of whom are facing housing-related issues.”

“The New York Bar Foundation grant helps UTA to prevent homelessness among low-income families in our community. We continue to feel the pressing need for more assistance as the rate at which these cases are filed is mounting. The foundation’s support is instrumental to helping the most vulnerable populations. Thank you.”

“Foundation board member James Barnes (center) presents a grant check to Charlene Bradt (left) and Laura Felts (right). United Tenants of Albany (UTA) received a grant for their Court Advocacy Service to assist those facing imminent evictions.”

“Foundation board member Ellen G. Makofsky (left) presents a grant check and certificate to Ann E. Dible (center) and Keiko Cervantes-Ospina (right) of Community Legal Advocates of New York for legal counseling for at-risk immigrants. The program informs and empowers at-risk immigrants by helping them understand their rights and options, thus enabling them to plan for an uncertain future.”

“Fellows representatives present a grant and certificate to Pro Bono Net for their NYCHA Tenant Association Training and Outreach Project during a Fellows event held at the new offices of Dunnington Bartholow & Miller, LLP. The purpose of their project is to educate and empower residents to access their rights as public housing residents and better equip tenant associations to support the needs of their residents. Pictured, left to right, are: Raymond Dowd and Sylvia Chin, co-chairs of the fellows of the First Judicial District; Quisquella Addison and Mark McGrath from Pro Bono Net; and Emily F. Franchina, chair of the Fellows.”

“Foundation board member Martin Minkowitz (center) presents a grant check to the staff of Exalt Youth for their Equitable Sentencing Project to Reduce Youth Mass Incarceration. The program assists teenagers ages 15–19 involved in the criminal justice system.”

““The New York Bar Foundation grant helps Exalt Youth to support court-involved youth at a critical junction, propelling them on to a strong path to education and career.”

“Foundation board member Martin Minkowitz (center) presents a grant check to the staff of Exalt Youth for their Equitable Sentencing Project to Reduce Youth Mass Incarceration. The program assists teenagers ages 15–19 involved in the criminal justice system.”
Foundation Provides Opportunities for Legal Education Totaling $225,000

For decades, the foundation has provided opportunities to law school students to help them gain insight into the profession of law. In partnership with sections of the New York State Bar Association and through the relationships the foundation has built with New York law schools, law students have experiential learning opportunities in a variety of legal areas including antitrust, commercial and federal litigation, elder and special needs, health law, real property, and trusts and estates law.

Rounding out the programs administered by the foundation is the Catalyst Public Service Fellowship. The Catalyst program was created in 2016 by a donation of unused campaign funds from the Janet DiFiore for District Attorney Committee before she became the chief judge of the Court of Appeals. Fifty-seven first year law students, representing each of New York’s 15 law schools, participated this summer. They gained practical legal experience in public service at organizations across New York state such as the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office, the Housing Unit of Staten Island Legal Services, and Legal Assistance of Western New York.

Through these fellowships, students acquire practical experience and see demonstrations of the high standards of professional ethics that the law demands and the importance of the fundamental right of access to justice.

Scholarship recipients receive financial assistance as well as the chance to explore different areas of the legal profession.

The foundation thanks our educational and legal partners for the opportunity to help provide law students with these experiences. Because of you, this year more than 79 students have received financial support through a scholarship or gained a life-enriching experience through a fellowship.

We share their gratitude as well as some examples of the impact these opportunities have had.

“I am thrilled to have been selected as a New York Bar Foundation Antitrust Section Law Fellow for 2019, as an intern at the Federal Trade Commission. I can’t wait to start doing exactly what antitrust law is designed to do – ensuring consumers receive the best possible product at the lowest possible price through a competitive market.” Frank Piacenti, Fordham University School of Law, Antitrust Fellowship recipient

“As the first in my family to attend law school, I am incredibly indebted to the Catalyst Public Service program for their generous support in funding the opportunity for me to work with the Office of Court Administration this summer in their Labor Relations Office. This summer internship will offer invaluable practical experience for me in labor and employment law, in addition to my coursework next semester and my membership in the Labor Relations and Employment Law Society at St. John’s University School of Law. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to both gain experience in my area of interest and to do so with a focus on serving the public.” Jeleesa Omala, St. John’s University School of Law, Catalyst Fellowship recipient

“I received the Fellowship for the Erie County Surrogate’s Court and have been working under Judge Mosey and her Chief Attorney Joe Shifflett. So far my experience has been exciting and I have learned so much about the court and all types of property related proceedings. I’ve even had the opportunity to conduct research on the importance of digital and virtual assets, a new type of asset the courts are dealing with as this age is becoming more technology-reliant. This position has truly piqued an interest in learning more about property matters and shown me how interesting this field of law is.” Briana Krawczyk, University at Buffalo School of Law, Trusts and Estates Fellowship recipient
**Foundation Provides Opportunities for Legal Education Totaling $225,000**

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“I am very fortunate to be spending the summer with the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York (LASMNY) assisting them with a comprehensive review of their organizational policies and compliance practices. This has been a great opportunity to learn about a wide range of practice areas and issues in the legal profession, from a boots-on-the-ground perspective. I am enjoying a deep dive into the Green Book (Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government) and the COSO 17 principles. Although I am returning to Albany Law School in the fall, I am working with my supervising attorney, a professor at Albany Law and a computer scientist from SUNY Poly Utica on a longer-term project to digitize aspects of outreach and intake processes for civil legal services. I will absolutely be using what I have learned this summer as I move forward. Thank you very much for this opportunity!”  

Kirsten (Kris) Paap, Jana Springer  
Behe Corporate Counsel Section Fellowship Recipient (right)

“Thank you to the Elder Law and Special Needs Section and the New York Bar Foundation. I am truly honored to be the 2019 recipient of the Hon. Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Scholarship. Seeking to work on issues faced by individuals with disabilities and special needs initially inspired me to attend law school, where I had valuable opportunities to work with this population. The scholarship application gave me the chance to truly reflect on my personal experiences as an individual with a disability and find strength in them. Thank you to the section for acknowledging my journey. It’s refreshing to receive this scholarship in a world where many like myself continue to combat the stigma of disability on a daily basis. I hope this scholarship will open more doors for me to remain in service of vulnerable populations.”  

Fatema Jannat,  
CUNY, Hon. Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Scholarship recipient

“The Health Law Fellowship provides a meaningful experience that immerses students interested in pursuing health law careers into the daily practice of a hospital system’s in-house counsel affairs. What I enjoy most about my placement at Catholic Health Services of Long Island (CHSLI) is the collaborative nature among the Legal Affairs staff, the attorney mentorship support and continuous investment in my growth. The assignments I have had the opportunity to work on with the attorneys involve cutting-edge health care issues that are intellectually challenging. Seeing firsthand how the Stark law applies in the context of physician compensation agreements and even medical office leasing has encouraged me to continue exploring this critical area of health law and intern with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Counsel for the Inspector General. I am so grateful for an invaluable professional growth experience.”  

Zoila Sanchez, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University (center)
In Memoriam: The Foundation Remembers Elizabeth “Beth” McDonald

Elizabeth “Beth” was a proud and active member of the foundation board from June 2013 until we reluctantly accepted her resignation for health reasons this past spring. Beth passed away on August 2.

During her six years on the board, Beth served with great distinction as a member of our Governance Committee, Marketing Committee, and Grant Review Committee. She was also a Fellow in the Benjamin N. Cardozo Circle of Giving.

Beth gave selflessly of her time and talents to help others around her. She was a true legal professional who made a positive impact on the foundation. She will be greatly missed.

The New York Bar Foundation Fondly Remembers the Fellows Who Recently Passed

Sigmund R. Balka, Bronx, NY
Abraham Paul Goldblum, Westbrook, CT
Norman Goodman, New York, NY
T. Richard Kennedy, Naples, FL
Charles I. Kingson, New York, NY
Elizabeth McDonald, Rochester, NY
Whitney North Seymour, Jr., Torrington, CT

Beth presenting grant checks and certificates to Empire Justice Center and Volunteer Legal Services Providers of Monroe County.

Beth and Justin Vigdor at the 2014 Fellows Dinner.
Do you know if your employer or your spouse’s employer has a matching gift program?

Many companies will match employee donations to nonprofit organizations including The New York Bar Foundation. The process can be as easy as submitting an electronic or paper form to your employer. Your company will contact The Foundation for further information and determination of eligibility and send us a check directly.

Thank you to the following companies that have matched employee gifts to The New York Bar Foundation:

- The New York Community Trust
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Freddie Mac Foundation
- The GE Foundation
- Goldman Sachs
- Macy’s/Bloomingdale’s
- Mutual of America Foundation
- Qualcomm
- Unilever United States Foundation, Inc.

If you do not see your company listed please let us know if they have a Matching Gift program. We would be happy to add them to the list.

Company employee matches are an easy way for donors to increase the size of their gift. For more information contact The Foundation at (518) 487-5650 or dauspelmyer@tnybf.org

You Are Invited to Join the Legacy Society of The New York Bar Foundation

Legacy donors provide a better tomorrow for generations of New Yorkers in need.

Your gifts help the Foundation fund charitable and educational law-related projects in perpetuity – safeguarding access to justice and the rule of law in New York State.

A Legacy Gift is the greatest honor that a donor can bestow upon the Foundation.

Please join these guardians of justice by making a bequest or establishing a planned gift to the Foundation of $1,000 or more.

Call the Foundation at 518/487-5650 for more information or download the form at www.tnybf.org/legacysociety.
Welcome New Fellows

The Fellows of the New York Bar Foundation are members of the bench and bar who are recognized for outstanding professional achievement, dedication to the legal profession, and commitment to the organized bar. An individual is generally nominated to become a Fellow by a board member, judicial district chair or another Fellow and is elected by the foundation’s board of directors.

Each Fellow makes a commitment to financially support the goals and objectives of the foundation and may also assist in identifying potential grant projects and other causes that may benefit from the foundation’s assistance.

Fellows are instrumental to the success of the foundation and we are grateful for their support.

For information on how to nominate someone for consideration contact the Foundation Executive, Deborah Auspelmyer at dauspelmyer@tnybf.org.

The following Fellows have been elected by The Foundation Board of Directors and have accepted this distinguished honor this year:

**First Judicial District**
Mitchell F. Borger, New York City (Macy’s Inc.) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Hon. Melissa A. Crane, New York City (New York State Supreme Court) — Joined as a Life Fellow
Steven M. Edwards, New York City (Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP) — Joined as a Fellow in the Charles Evans Hughes Circle of Giving
Gerald T. Hathaway, New York City (Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)
Drew Jaglom, New York City (Tannenbaum Helpern Segall & Hirschtritt LLP)
Adrienne Beth Koch, New York City (Katsky Korins LLP) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Ian Maclean, New York City (The Maclean Law Firm, P.C.)
Andrew Mandell, New York City (NYC Human Resources Administration)
Ronald Minkoff, New York City (Frankfurt Kurin Klein & Selz PC) — Joined as a Fellow in the Charles Evans Hughes Circle of Giving
Benjamin R. Naging, New York City (Sidley Austin LLP)
Lynn Neuner, New York City (Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Robert C. Newman, New York (The Legal Aid Society)
Stuart B. Newman, New York City (Offit Kurman, Attorneys at Law) — Joined as a Life Fellow
Barry J. Peek, New York City
Michael C. Rakover, New York City (Rakower Law PLLC)
Michael E. Salzman, New York City (Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP)
Elizabeth J. Shampnoi, Thornwood (Shampnoi Dispute Resolution & Management Services, Inc.)
Paul T. Shoemaker, New York City (Greenfield Stein & Senior LLP)
Asha Saran Smith, New York City (New York Unified Court System)
Jeffrey Udell, New York City (Walden Macht & Haran LLP)
Kaylin L. Whittingham, New York City (Whittingham Law) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Daniel Wig, New York City (Municipal Credit Union)

**Second Judicial District**
Hon. Hilary Gingold, Brooklyn (New York County Civil Court) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Hon. Sylvia Ometa Hinds-Radix, Brooklyn (Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department)
Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, Brooklyn (Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department)
Alena Shautsova, Brooklyn (Law Office of Alena Shautsova)

**Fourth Judicial District**
Lauren E. Sharkey, Schenectady (Cicoff Slezak Wildgrube PC)

**Fifth Judicial District**
Jonathan B. Fellows, Syracuse (Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC)
Paula Mallory Engel, Syracuse (Onondaga County Department of Law) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Hon. James P. Murphy, Skaneateles (Onondaga County Courthouse) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

**Eighth Judicial District**
Nancy M. Thevenin, Jamaica (Thevenin Arbitration & ADR, LLC)

**Ninth Judicial District**
Christopher Palermo, White Plains (Harris Beach PLLC)
Jessica D. Parker, Yonkers (Sayegh & Sayegh, P.C.) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Rona G. Shamoon, Scarsdale (Rona Shamoon ADR) — Joined as a Life Fellow

**Tenth Judicial District**
Rosalia Biaimonte, Garden City (Gassman Biaimonte Gruner, P.C.)
Kathryn C. Cole, Uniondale (Farrell Fritz, PC)
Nathaniel L. Corwin, Garden City (Meyer, Suzozi, English & Klein, P.C.)
Hon. Marilyn Genoa, Glen Head (Genoa & Associates, PC)
Laurel Kretzing, Mineola (Office of the Nassau County Attorney) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Diane Molfet, Melville (Lamb & Barnosky, LLP)
Joseph Ortega, Jericho (Nixon Peabody, LLP) — Joined as a Life Fellow
Ira S. Slavit, New York (Levine & Slavit)

**Eleventh Judicial District**
Leah R. Nowotarski, Warsaw (Wyoming County Public Defender)

**Thirteenth Judicial District**
Toni Ann Barone, Staten Island (Law Firm of Barone & Barone, LLP) — Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Irene V. Villacci, Rockville Centre (Irene V. Villacci, Esq. P.C.)
The Annual Assembly and Dinner of the Fellows

The Fellows meet annually in an enjoyable venue to connect and celebrate their support of the foundation’s work.

The sold-out 2019 dinner at The Century Association included guest speaker Lucian Simmons, Vice Chairman and Worldwide Head of Sotheby’s Restitution Department and Senior Specialist, Impressionist and Modern Art Department, Sotheby’s New York. Mr. Simmons’ engaging presentation focused on art as an investment.

The 2020 Fellows event will be held at The Yale Club. Invitations will be sent in December.

Guests dine and listen to Mr. Simmons at The Century Association. Chair of the Fellows Emily Franchina (Garden City), center, welcomes Winnie Martin (Staten Island), and Sharon Stern Gerstman (Buffalo). Fellows from the Rochester area Carla Palumbo and Tina Foster. Fellows from the New York City area Glenn Lau-Kee, Lesley Rosenthal, and Raymond Dowd.

The New York Bar Foundation Annual Assembly and Dinner of the Fellows.

JANUARY 31, 2020

Mr. Robert L. Haig will be recognized as the Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient.

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From pro bono work to volunteerism to financial generosity, our profession does so much to help so many. Contributing knowledge, time, funding and a passion for justice, together the New York Bar Foundation, the New York State Bar Association, and sharing and caring attorneys and firms have done a lot. Together we can do much more. Supporting the New York Bar Foundation provides an opportunity to have a meaningful impact in our local communities and across the state.

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