The Foundation Fondly Remembers Richard J. Bartlett

By Cristine Cioffi

As I write this article, there is a sense of coming full circle. It’s a sense of completion that is greater than the simple conclusion of a 3-year term of office. This feeling of closure comes with the May 6, 2015 passing of Richard J. Bartlett.

I joined The Foundation Board of Trustees in June of 2000 as Dick was beginning his first term as President of The Foundation. It was The Foundation’s 50th anniversary year. While I was frankly intimidated by the pedigrees of many of the Board members, Dick’s leadership style was all-inclusive: he welcomed opinions from me – a rookie board member from a small upstate law firm, as warmly as those of the past NYSBA Presidents who sat alongside me on The Foundation Board.

His commitment to The Foundation was exemplary. At that time, our Albany board meetings were held in the early morning hours, before the House of Delegates meetings. Dick made the trip from Warren County as though it were around the corner from Elk Street: he was there to greet the rest of us as we struggled in. He believed strongly in the mission of The Foundation, and after the Richard J. Bartlett Fund for Legal Services for the Indigent was formed in his honor in 2004, he contributed to it regularly. He monitored the Fund and checked in with Deborah Auspelmyer, The Foundation executive, as recently as March of this year, to talk about his next gift.

As a fledgling board member I was initially unaware of many of Dick’s accomplishments: his service in the Assembly, his appointment to the Chair of the NYS Temporary Commission on Revision of the Penal Law by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and his position as the first Chief Administrative Judge of the Unified Courts System of the State of New York. I knew he had served on the bench, because he was often addressed as “Judge Bartlett”. But that formality would end quickly, when it occurred, as he would assure us all: “It’s Dick.”

New York Bar Foundation Establishes Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation Group

The New York Bar Foundation recently worked with the Young Lawyers Section to develop a new giving group, “Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation.” The group will encompass anyone within the New York State Bar Association in practice ten years or less.

The mission of the Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation is to engage and inspire young lawyers to understand and promote the goals of The New York Bar Foundation. Members will act as ambassadors for The Foundation, promoting it mission, while assisting in raising funds to support legal services through The Foundation’s grant program.

“The vision of the Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation is to advance The Foundation’s commitment in aiding educational, direct legal services, and charitable projects aimed at meeting the law-related needs of the public and the profession throughout New York State,” states Sarah Gold, chair of the Young Lawyers Section. “Friends of the Foundation can do this by increasing their awareness of the needs The Foundation seeks to serve; connecting through the charitable initiatives of the Foundation; assisting in raising funds for The Foundation’s worthy causes; and assuming leadership roles in pursuit of The Foundation’s goals.”

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As I begin my first term as President of The New York Bar Foundation I extend my sincere appreciation to Past-President Cristine Cioffi for her outstanding leadership of The Foundation over the past 3 years.

This past year has been one of growth and success. The Foundation experienced an increase in contributions for 2014 enabling us to provide more grants, an increase in district participation in our grant program, a sold-out successful Fellows Dinner, and the launch of the new Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation giving group. We are also actively considering several new fund-raising initiatives.

The Foundation has achieved an increase in Fellows. Currently there are 1,120 Fellows honored by their selection from among the many outstanding lawyers practicing in New York State.

The generosity of NYSBA Sections has enabled us to offer more fellowships and scholarships this year, in addition to working with the Health Law Section to administer their fellowship program.

Your gift matters. What you contribute to The Foundation makes a difference to those in desperate need of legal services in throughout the State from Watertown to Montauk and Jamestown to the Bronx. Your generosity demonstrates that lawyers care about our neighbors and are committed to the principle of access to justice for all.

Now is the best time to be involved in The New York Bar Foundation! We approach the 2015-2016 year with optimism and excitement and invite you to be a part of it. I look forward to working with you in a joint effort to substantially increase Foundation funding to meet our recognized responsibility to assist those in need of legal assistance.

John H. Gross
The New York Bar Foundation Awards Over $530,000 In Charitable and Educational Grants

Ninety-three programs across New York State received grants totaling over $530,000 from The New York Bar Foundation this year. “Contributions increased in 2014 which enabled us to present more grants,” states Grant Committee Chair, Lucia Whisenand. “We also saw a 25% increase in grant applications which demonstrates that there is still significant need for resources to provide legal representation to the underserved.”

Funding for the grants comes from the generous contributions to The Foundation by lawyers, law firms, corporations and others. One hundred percent of their donations are awarded to beneficiary organizations. “The collective impact of The Foundation’s donors complements local organizational efforts,” explains Whisenand. “The grants make their dollars have a larger impact.”

Grants support a variety of programs that touch on quality of life issues including domestic violence, poverty, legal guardianship, housing, wages, immigration and employment.

Grantees include:

First Judicial District (Manhattan): Advocates for Children of New York Inc.; Advocates for Justice (A4J); Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF); Brennan Center for Justice; Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York; Correctional Association of New York; Feerick Center for Social Justice/Fordham Law School; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS); Housing Conservation Coordinators, Inc. (HCC); Human Rights First; inMotion Inc./Her Justice; International Rescue Committee, Inc.; LatinoJustice PRIDEF; Lawyers for Children; Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT); Lenox Hill Neighborhood House; National Center for Law and Economic Justice; New York Center for Law and Justice, Inc.; New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP); New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation; New York County Lawyers’ Association; New York Foundling Hospital; New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc. (NYLPI); New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG); Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation; Partnership for Children’s Rights; Partnership for the Homeless; Pro Bono Net, Inc.; Safe Horizon, Inc.; Sakhi for South Asian Women; The Door – A Center of Alternatives, Inc.; The Fund for Modern Courts; The Legal Aid Society; The New Media Advocacy Project (N-Map); Urban Justice Center; Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS).

Second Judicial District (Kings County): CAMBA, Inc.; Catholic Migration Services, Inc.; Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York; Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families; The Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.; The Children’s Law Center.

Third Judicial District (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Ulster counties): Bethlehem Youth Court, Inc.; Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY); New York State Defenders Association, Inc.; NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction; NYSBA Committee on Diversity (formerly Committee on Minorities in the Profession); NYSBA Law, Youth & Citizenship Program; Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York.

Fifth Judicial District (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego counties): Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society; legal Services of Central New York, Inc. (LSCNY); Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.

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

Eighth Judicial District ( Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming counties): Allegany County Youth Court; Genesee County CASA for Children; Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc.; Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc.; Mental Health Association of Erie County; Western New York Law Center, Inc.; Wyoming County Youth Bureau.

Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester counties): Legal Services of the Hudson Valley; Mental Health Association of Westchester, Inc.; My Sisters’ Place, Inc.; Pace Women’s Justice Center; Westchester County Bar Foundation; Westchester Hispanic Coalition.

Tenth Judicial District (Nassau, Suffolk counties): Bellport Area Community Action Committee, Inc.; Catholic Charities Community Services; Long Island Advocacy Center, Inc.; Mercy Haven, Inc.; Nassau County Bar Association; Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.; NYSBA Law, Youth & Citizenship Program.

Eleventh Judicial District (Queens County): Catholic Migration Services; Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House; Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

Twelfth Judicial District (Bronx County): BronxWorks, MinKwon Center for Community Action; Part of the Solution; Start Small. Think Big., Inc.; The Bronx Defenders; Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Program, Inc.

Thirteenth Judicial District (Richmond County): Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York; Richmond County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

Your gifts matter. To make a donation to The Foundation visit www.tnybf.org/donation today.

Around the corner. Around the state.
Welcome New Fellows

The following Fellows have been elected by The Foundation Board of Directors for 2015 and have accepted this distinguished honor:

**First District**
Maxine Blake of New York
Lisa Carrie Cohen of New York (Schindler Cohen & Hochman LLP)
Joseph Michael Drayton of New York (Cooley LLP)
Lawrence Mandelker of New York (Kantor Davidoff Wolfe Mandelker & Kass, PC)
Richard M. Maltz of New York (Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC)

**Second District**
Elizabeth McDonald Hecht of White Plains (Mead, Hecht, Conklin & Gallagher, LLP)
Jason R. Pickholz of New York (The Pickholz Law Offices LLC)
Stanley Pierre-Louis of New York (Viacom Inc.)

**Third District**
Catherine M. Hedgeman of Albany (Law Office Of Catherine M. Hedgeman)
Christopher Massaroni of Albany (McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C.)

**Fourth District**

**Fifth District**
Laurence G. Bousquet of Syracuse (Bousquet Halstein PLLC)

**Eighth District**
Thomas Raymond Beecher, Jr. of Buffalo (Phillips Lytle LLP)
Kenneth A. Manning of Buffalo (Phillips Lytle LLP)

**Ninth District**
Anthony J. Enea of White Plains (Enea, Scanlan & Sirignano LLP)
Philip M. Halpern of White Plains (Collier, Halpern, Newberg, Nolletti & Bock, LLP)
Steven R. Harris of New York (American International Group, Inc.)
Jacqueline Hattor of White Plains (Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP)
Hon. Sondra Miller of White Plains
Richard S. Vecchio of White Plains (Worby Groner Edelman LLP)

**Tenth Judicial District**
Kathy A. Ahearn of Latham (Guercio & Guercio, LLP)
John M. Brickman of Great Neck (Ackerman, Levine, Cullen, Brickman & Limmer, LLP)
Sally M. Donahue of Garden City (Jaspan Schlesinger LLP)
Adrienne Flipse Hausch of Mineola
Carol M. Hoffman of Syosset (The Hoffman Law Firm)
Evan H. Knick of Uniondale (Rivkin Radler LLP)
Dean Eric Lane of Hempstead (Hofstra University School Of Law)
William M. Savino of Uniondale (Rivkin Radler LLP)
Kevin Schlosser of Garden City (Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein P.C.)

**Thirteenth Judicial District**
Edwina Frances Martin of New York (Counsel/Legislative and Budget Director, Councilwoman Debi Rose (49th District))

Congratulations and welcome!!

2015 Grant Distribution

- **14%** Increasing public understanding of the law
- **19%** Improving the justice system and the law
- **66%** Facilitating the delivery of legal services
- **1%** Enhancing professional competence and ethics
Dick became my Foundation role model, as I witnessed his humility, his strong value of service to others, his belief that as attorneys we have a higher duty to help the less fortunate in our society. I’m certain his example motivated many of us on The Foundation Board who knew him. The present New York Bar Foundation is an evolved organization from the Bartlett era. We have more defined governance practices, and more accountability to donors and grantees. We have also leveraged technology to expand our reach via our website, FaceBook and Twitter (that just wasn’t available to Dick in 2003!). Donations can now be made online.

In the decade since Dick chaired our board, we have also grown our fiscal capabilities. These years have seen the development of a cy pres/Count-ordered funds program, which allowed The Foundation to distribute $1,185,763 in 2014. We have grown from an organization with revenues of $354,580 to $2,078,909 during some precarious economic times. Each of these achievements has been possible because of the strong groundwork built by the steady leadership of Dick and other past board chairs.

As my Foundation service comes full circle, I offer personal gratitude and the thanks of the Board to Dick and to his family. The Bartlett family has requested that gifts be made to The Foundation’s Richard J. Bartlett Fund in his honor. We will use his Fund as he wished: to provide legal services to those indigent individuals whose lives can be transformed in some meaningful way by the knowledge and skill of an attorney. His steadfast, loyal service to The New York Bar Foundation has helped us become the organization we are today. The Foundation is honored to have been a part of his legendary career.

The Richard J. Bartlett Fund

This fund was established in 2004, in honor of Richard J. Bartlett of Glens Falls, who dedicated a lifetime of service to the bar and the community. The fund provides funding to improve legal services to the indigent. Mr. Bartlett filled the roles of teacher, judge, court administrator, lawmaker and practitioner. He has pursued all of these roles with a steadfast commitment to justice, enriching the law and the life of the various communities he has served.

Some of the numerous organizations impacted by this fund over the years include:

• The Albany County Bar Association, Albany
• Capital District Women’s Bar Association (CDWBA), Albany
• The Center for Family Representation (CFR), New York
• Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Inc. (FLSNY), Rochester
• Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Inc., Rochester
• Mercy Haven, Inc., Islip Terrace
• Rural Law Center of New York, Inc. (RLC), Plattsburgh
• Selfhelp Community Services, Inc., New York
• Western New York Law Center, Inc., Buffalo

Friends of The Foundation…

Continued from page 1

The discussion of establishing the new group began during The Foundation’s strategic planning process. “Engaging new attorneys seemed like the practical next step,” explains James R. Barnes, member of The Foundation’s Board of Directors. “While evaluating The Foundation’s needs and ways to increase our visibility, we recognized that we were missing a connection to young attorneys. This passionate group wants to have a positive impact in their communities and within their profession; but as they begin their careers and often a family, recognize they don’t have the financial means to contribute at a major donor level. Their dedication to the profession and passion parallel that of The Foundations. Starting this group is a way to align both in a meaningful way.”

New York State Bar Association President David P. Miranda notes that the new group ties in with his goal of having the Association work closely with newly admitted attorneys. “Both groups are to be commended for recognizing the need to engage new attorneys. Developing the Friends group offers another way for new attorneys to make meaningful contributions to their profession and their communities.”

Leaders of both groups realized that the opportunity to collaborate was there when the Community Service and Pro Bono Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of State Bar Association organized a cycling event to raise funds for The Foundation. “This was an indication of their desire to make a difference via The Foundation,” explains Gold. “A committee met to outline the mission, vision and footprint of the group which the Section and Foundation Board endorsed.”

A member of the Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation will make an annual financial contribution of $30 or more to The New York Bar Foundation. They will be listed on The Foundation’s website and in the annual report.

“I strongly believe in the mission of The Foundation and the recent night of networking and fundraising was a fun way to contribute,” states Young Lawyer Section representative Michael DiFalco. “Through this fundraiser and the opportunity to provide further support through the Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation, we are investing in our future and ensuring vital legal services are provided to underserved communities.”

See photo on page 15
Foundation Presented Grant Checks, Met With Recipients

Several members of The Foundation’s Board of Directors and Officers met with grantees across New York to present checks from this year’s grant cycle. Presenting the checks in person gives the Board the opportunity to hear how the grants make a difference to the organizations and in the lives of the people they serve.

The Foundation presented a grant to the Bethlehem Youth Court of Delmar, NY. Shown L to R: Devan Baranski, Bethlehem Central High School senior youth court member; Foundation Board Member, James R. Barnes; Katrina Charland, director, Bethlehem Youth Court; and Laura Hooper, Bethlehem Central High School senior youth court member.

The grant will be used to support their court diversion program. Bethlehem Youth Court will use the grant funding to help support organizational expenses related to the daily operations of the youth focused diversion program, which aims to give first time, low-level offenders a second chance at a clean criminal record. Each year, Bethlehem Youth Court diverts low-level, non-violent, youth natured crimes and offenses out of the traditional court system. Participants in the program earn a second chance at a clean criminal record through the completion of community service hours.

Lucia Whisenand, assistant secretary of the New York Bar Foundation (right) presents a grant to Susan R. Horn, president and C.E.O. of Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Syracuse, NY. The grant is being used to support a major IT infrastructure upgrade at The Society.

“The generous grant from the NYBF, together with grants from many local foundations, enabled the Hiscock Legal Aid Society to upgrade its entire computer system,” said Susan R. Horn, President and C.E.O. “We replaced and upgraded outdated desktops and servers, purchased a number of laptops and tablets for attorneys to use in court, and most important, purchased and implemented a fully integrated cloud-based data, document and case management system. All of this translates into better interoffice coordination and collaboration and more efficient legal services to our clients and will ultimately allow us to serve more people in need in our community.”

Foundation Fellow, Justin Vigdor, Esq. presents a grant check to Carla Palumbo, president & CEO of The Legal Aid Society of Rochester (center) and Kathia Casion, Director of their Civil Division.

The Foundation presented two grants totaling $9,400 to The Legal Aid Society of Rochester. The first grant will be used to support their End of Life Planning Program for seniors and homeowners. Funds will support an end of life planning program for seniors and homeowners. The project will provide direct legal services to those in need of small estate and end of life planning. The focus of this program will be to provide direct legal services to low and moderate income seniors (or their family members) and homeowners in need of estate and advanced directives planning.

As the recipient of the Joan L. Ellenbogen Memorial Fellowship, The Legal Aid Society also received a grant for a fellow to provide assistance to low and moderate income individuals seeking representation in matrimonial matters. Funding for the fellow will allow LAS to increase representation in two ways. First, the fellow would directly impact LAS’s ability to meet with and provide service to applicants for representation by increasing the number of initial interviews given to applicants. Secondly, the fellow, with supervision, would increase LAS’s ability to accept applicants and provide full representation in matrimonial matters.
John H. Gross, President of The New York Bar Foundation (right) presents a grant check to Jeffrey A. Seigel, executive director of Nassau Suffolk Law Services, Hempstead, NY. The grant will be used to support their Education and Disability Rights Project. Jeffrey A. Seigel, Executive Director said, “The Project does important work to protect the educational rights of children with disabilities and assist individuals with disabilities on issues related to eligibility for services and programs. We are very grateful for the NYSBA Foundation’s recognition and assistance.”

Foundation Board Member and Co-Chair of The Foundation’s Marketing Committee, Joseph McCarthy (left) presents a grant check from The Foundation to Joseph Kelemen, executive director of the Western New York Law Center, Inc., Buffalo, NY. The grant will be used to support their Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO) and will enable the Western New York Law Center to educate the refugee community about ways to avoid consumer scams, and represent those who have been victims of fraud or deception in consumer transactions.

“Resettlement gives refugees whose lives have been disrupted renewed hope and the opportunity to rebuild their lives,” states Executive Director of the Western New York Law Center, Joseph Kelemen. “Currently, the City of Buffalo and Erie County receive slightly over one third of the total refugee flow into New York State. Unfortunately, many new arrivals to this country are targeted by consumer scams. Without knowledge of the legal system, many of these victims believe they have no recourse for the wrongs they suffer.”

The Foundation presented a grant to the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) at the Urban Justice Center, New York. Left to right: Stephen Poellot, legal director; Mark Doss, Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by AUM; Katie Reisner national policy director; New York Bar Foundation Board Member, Martin Minkowitz; Becca Heller, director and co-founder; Catherine Crooke, operations & communications associate; Kelly Blundin, development manager; and Lara Finkbeiner, deputy legal director, Equal Justice Works Fellow, sponsored by Getnick & Getnick.

The grant will be used to expand IRAP’s legal capacity to pursue several key initiatives: an access to counsel pilot project; a sexual and gender-based violence project to aid women and girl refugees in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon; an influx of new Syrian and Iraqi refugees cases; a growing a LGBTI refugee protection program; and the pursuit of special immigrant visas for Afghan and Iraqi clients who are displaced and persecuted due to their work with US forces in those countries.
Foundation Board Recognized for Governance

Representatives of The Foundation’s leadership were present during the selection of the recipient of the prestigious 2015 Brooke W. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Board Leadership. The Foundation was one of the five finalists for this distinguished award presented by VCG Governance Matters. During the ceremony it was mentioned that there are 43,000 nonprofit organizations in New York City and double that number in New York State which could have applied for the award.

Being recognized for governance demonstrates that The Foundation’s grant making to worthy law-related projects across the state is managed, run, structured and conducts business in an honest, straightforward, efficient and cost-effective way. It recognizes that The Foundation treats donor money carefully and respectfully, and invests and spends it wisely. The leadership works hard at governance and supporting the responsible management of the organization, so that we may do the greatest good with our grants.

Then President of the New York State Bar Association and former board member of The Foundation, Glenn Lau-Kee stated, “Being recognized for the absolute core of what a foundation does—taking care of people’s money efficiently and spending it responsibly—demonstrates that The New York Bar Foundation is a first-rate nonprofit organization. As one of the five finalists for this award, The Foundation is recognized for its integrity and adherence to fiduciary duties.”

The Foundation was the only law-related finalist in 2015 and is proud to have made the final five as it recognizes the commitment of the Board to management and distribution of the funds received by The Foundation. VCG Governance Matters was founded in 1969 by the Harvard Business School Club of Greater New York.
The New York Bar Foundation has elected John H. Gross as President and four new members to its Board of Directors. The Foundation also established the Immediate Past President position. The Immediate Past President shall be the retiring President and shall serve for the first year of the term of office of the next succeeder President. The Immediate Past President for 2015 – 2016 is Cristine Cioffi. Additionally, David R. Watson, Executive Director of The New York State Bar Association, will serve as Secretary.

John H. Gross, of Hauppauge, President

Gross is a partner of Ingerman Smith. He is a graduate of Cornell School of Industrial Labor Relations and Cornell Law School. He has been involved in representing public and private schools and school districts, colleges and municipalities in matters involving education law, public sector labor law, employment law and corporate matters as general and labor counsel for more than 40 years. In addition to an active court litigation and appellate practice, Gross frequently litigates before labor and commercial arbitration panels and the New York State Public Employment Relations Board. He is a former president of the Suffolk County Bar Association and a former vice-president of the New York State Bar Association for the 10th District.

“I welcome the new members of the Board and look forward to working with them in continuing the success of The Foundation,” states Gross. “As president, my number one goal is to generate more revenue for The Foundation’s grant program. Their expertise and commitment to the legal profession and philanthropy is instrumental to the important work of The Foundation and the success of our goals."

Cristine Cioffi, of Niskayuna, Immediate Past President

Cioffi is president and partner of Cioffi • Slezak • Wildgrube, where she practices primarily in the fields of estate planning, administration and elder law. She was president of The Foundation from 2012-2015. She served for 10 years as a Schenectady County legislator, including two years as minority leader. She is a past president of the Schenectady County Bar Association. Cioffi is immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees of Ellis Medicine, where she continues to serve on the board, and is a trustee of the Ellis Hospital Foundation. She is a graduate of Middlebury College and Albany Law School.
Ilene S. Cooper of Uniondale, Board Member

Cooper is a partner at Farrell Fritz concentrating in trusts and estates. She practices litigation in Surrogate’s Courts throughout the metropolitan area. She also has experience in the drafting and execution of wills and trust instruments, powers of attorney, health care proxies and living wills. Cooper also teaches at Touro Law School, where she was named Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2000, 2001 and 2011. She is also a member of the school’s Board of Trustees. Cooper is a graduate of Hofstra University Law School, and received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University.

“The New York Bar Foundation’s charitable mission holds great appeal to me. It matches my personal belief in serving the community. I look forward to the opportunity to give back, and to doing so with distinction as a member of the board of directors.”

Roger Juan Maldonado of New York, Board Member

Maldonado is a litigation partner at Balber Pickard Maldonado & Van Der Tuin. He serves as the New York City Bar Association designated member of the Board of Directors of the New York Community Trust. Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman appointed him co-chair of the Committee on Non-lawyers and the Justice Gap; as a member of the Commercial Division Advisory Council; and as a member of the Advisory Group to the New York State and Federal Judicial Council. Maldonado is a member of the Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, First Department; vice president and member of the Board of Directors of United Neighborhood Houses of New York; and a referee for the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and Yale College.

“I consider it a privilege to serve on The New York Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors. I look forward to the opportunity to work with my fellow board members and The Foundation staff on exploring and implementing opportunities for The Foundation to fund and otherwise support efforts to increase access to justice for all residents of New York State.”

David R. Watson, of Albany, Secretary

Watson is the executive director of the New York State Bar Association. Previously he was the executive director of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA). Immediately prior to joining the CMBA, Watson was a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments in Chesterton, Indiana. He also served as executive vice president of the Chicago-based Commercial Law League of America (whose members include commercial and bankruptcy attorneys) as well as deputy executive director of Defense Research Institute, a civil defense bar association. Watson is a graduate of Kenyon College and earned his law degree from Case Western Reserve University.
Carla Palumbo of Rochester, Board Member
Palumbo is the president and CEO of the Legal Aid Society of Rochester. She is a member of the Rochester City Council, and served on Monroe County Legislature for six years. She previously served on The Foundation’s Board of Directors and its Strategic Planning Task Force. She is a graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law.

“I am honored to be asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the New York Bar Foundation. TNYBF does tremendous work towards ensuring access to justice for all through its support of civil legal services and I am pleased to be a part of that process.”

Lauren J. Wachtler of New York, Board Member
Wachtler is a partner at Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp. She is a commercial and business litigator who represents business clients in state and federal courts, including cases involving the fashion industry, retailers, manufacturers, designers, business torts, and employment-related issues. She is co-chair of her firm’s Fashion Practice Group, a member of the American Bar Association, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Wachtler is a graduate of St. John’s University School of Law and Mount Holyoke College.

“It is a true honor to serve on the Board of The Bar Foundation. I look forward to carrying on the wonderful work of The Bar Foundation in the present, and eager to be a part of its future. As an integral part of our Bar Association, I am looking forward to working with our Foundation president to implement The Foundation’s goals, and to carry out, in the words of Thomas Aquinas the “Secundum Quid”—the greater responsibility placed on the shoulders of those who have the ability to assume and discharge that greater responsibility.”

The New York Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the New York State Bar Association. It supports the law-related programs of local legal services agencies, nonprofits, bar associations and other organizations throughout New York State. It awards grants applying 100 percent of the funds contributed. For more information regarding The New York Bar Foundation, visit www.tnybf.org or call (518) 487-5651.
Every gift matters.

With sincere thanks to those who have contributed to The New York Bar Foundation, January – Mid-May 2015. We recognize and thank our donors for their generosity.

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Law Students to Gain Legal Experience from Summer Fellowships

The Sections of the New York State Bar Association, in partnership with The New York Bar Foundation, presented nearly 20 fellowships and scholarships totaling over $77,000 to provide meaningful opportunities and valuable experience to law students across New York State.

Antitrust

The Antitrust Law Section Fellowship provides law students with a $6,000 fellowship and the opportunity to experience antitrust practice during the summer after their first or second year of law school. Students are provided supervised experience assisting with antitrust matters at the Office of New York State Attorney General, Antitrust Bureau; Federal Trade Commission, Northeast Region; or U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, New York, City office. The recipients are:

Sharaf Islam, Duke University School of Law, will fulfill his fellowship at the New York City office of the Federal Trade Commission. “I am thrilled to have received an Antitrust Law Section Fellowship from The New York Bar Foundation. As someone who cares deeply about fostering fair competition in the marketplace, the opportunity to engage in substantive work at the Federal Trade Commission will be invaluable to me at this early stage of my legal career.”

Marcella Jayne, Fordham Law School, will fulfill her fellowship at the New York City office of the Federal Trade Commission. “Receiving the Antitrust fellowship has offered me an invaluable opportunity to evolve my approach to addressing economic injustice. I am extremely grateful for the rare opportunity to work on consumer protection and antitrust issues with the Federal Trade Commission through this fellowship and learn about how the law can do more than mitigate harm but affirmatively address economic injustice on a macro level.”

Sean Murray, Fordham Law School, will fulfill his fellowship in the U.S. Department of Justice, “I am elated to receive this prestigious fellowship from The New York Bar Foundation and look forward to learning from the experienced antitrust attorneys at the Department of Justice Antitrust Division’s New York Field Office.”

Corporate Counsel

The Corporate Counsel Section fellowship provides one law student with a $6,000 fellowship and the opportunity to gain experience at a New York public interest legal or charitable organization. The student will assist the organization’s general counsel (or other similar individual holding a counsel position) with matters relating to counsel or advice to the organization.

DeClan McPherson, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, will fulfill his fellowship at Urban Justice Center, New York City, where he will assist its Community Development Project director with organizational matters, such as advice on governance to community-based organizations, including entity structure, bylaws, and board governance. “It is an honor to receive the 2015 Corporate Counsel Section Fellowship,” states McPherson. “I would like to thank The New York Bar Foundation for this exciting opportunity. This placement serves as the perfect nexus between my passions for law and community organizing. I look forward to aiding the Urban Justice Center’s Community Development Project in their pursuit of social justice through the law and grassroots activism.”

Trusts and Estates Law

The Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowship program provides students an opportunity to experience trusts and estates law practice. Through the Fellowship, the student will be provided supervised experience in the chambers of Judge Barbara Howe, Erie County Surrogate’s Court; Judge Peter J. Kelley, Queens County Surrogate’s Court; Judge Robert J. Gigante, Richmond County Surrogate’s Court; and Judge Ava Raphael, Onondaga County Surrogate’s Court. Three $5,000 fellowships and one $2,500 part-time fellowship are awarded. The recipients are:

Deanna Cucharale of Albany Law School: the chambers of Judge Ava Raphael. “I am very honored to have received the 2015 Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowship. I look forward to my experience working with Judge Raphael. Thank you!”

Imaan Moughal of Hofstra Law School: the chambers of Judge Peter J. Kelley. “I am looking forward to the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and knowledge at Queens Surrogate’s Court in order to pursue a career in trusts and estates. The combination of my course work and internship experience has provided me with a substantive background in trusts and estates that I hope to build upon and put to use at a firm.”
Michael J. Schroeder of SUNY Buffalo Law School: the chambers of Judge Howe. “I am excited to work with Judge Howe and her staff at Erie County Surrogate’s Court this summer. I am grateful for this opportunity and for the support provided by The New York Bar Foundation and the Trusts and Estates Law Section.”

Marie Villefranche of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law: the chambers of Judge Gigante. “Thank you and the committee so very much for this opportunity! I am extremely excited to join the chambers of the Honorable Robert J. Gigante this summer.”

Vanessa Cavallaro of Touro Law School. “I am very honored and grateful to receive the 2015 Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship. I have heard what a special person Judge Asarch was within the Touro Law Center and greater legal community. I am honored to continue my advocacy work for the aging population in the name of someone so esteemed. Receiving this award is a major highlight of my law school career and one I will remember fondly. This scholarship has enabled me to focus on schoolwork instead of the financial constraints of tuition. I thank The New York Bar Foundation, and Elder Law and Special Needs Section for selecting me to receive their annual scholarship, I look forward to participating in this section of the New York State Bar Association throughout my career.”

Chelsea Breakstone, City University of New York. “The New York Bar Foundation’s Honorable Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship is an essential source of funding to support me in interning this semester with the Legal Aid Society and co-authoring a scholarly article on low-income elderly and aging populations faced with guardianship proceedings. I am very humbled by the award and thankful to all those involved. I am looking forward to continuing the work started as a student intern in CUNY’s Elder Law Clinic by pursuing a career serving the low-income elderly and aging populations of New York.”

Elder Law and Special Needs
The Honorable Joel K. Asarch Scholarship of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section encourages law students, through an elder law clinic experience, to learn about important legislative developments, regulations, and case laws impacting the elderly and to assist with representation to elderly clients struggling with a variety of legal issues and problems related to aging and incapacity. Two $2,500 scholarships were awarded. The recipients are:

Young Lawyers Support Foundation

The Young Lawyers Section recently partnered with the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the NYSBA for a networking event for members in the 9th and 10th districts. Proceeds from the event will be donated to The Foundation’s grant program. Shown l to r are incoming YLS reps for 10th and 9th districts Michael DiFalco and Emily Walsh; with attendees Jamie Lang and Mitch Pitnick.

Around the corner. Around the state.
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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.

Please give today. Call us at 518-487-5651 or give on-line at https://www.tnybf.org/donation

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