NYSBA Sections Impact Grant Program

Foundation Receives New Gifts from Business Law and Family Law Sections

Gifts to The Foundation can have an impact across New York State while aligning with the missions of the Section and the Foundation.

Both the Business Law and Family Law Section gave gifts to the Foundation to provide funding for grant awards that encompassed their areas of legal practice.

**The Business Law Section gift** assists military veterans, minorities and other underserved New York residents seeking to establish their own small business in New York on such matters as form of organization, basic commercial agreements, shareholder, partnership or operating agreements, and intellectual property.

“Stuart Newman has been a long-time member of and advisor to the Business Law Section, and he saw a need for a grant like this to provide legal advice to small business owners, and in particular targeting veterans establishing small businesses. When Stuart proposed setting up such a grant through The Bar Foundation, the Executive Committee immediately and enthusiastically endorsed it,” said Kathleen Scott, immediate past section chair. “I see this program as a triple win—for veterans, for the New York economy, and for the Bar Association,” Newman added.

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My First Year on the Foundation’s Grant Committee

A Full-Service Law Office, a Small Shop Protecting Immigrant Workers’ Rights, an Organization Fighting Domestic Violence and two Youth Courts

By Ellis R. Mirsky, Board Member, Co-Chair of the Development Committee

Early April in the southern Hudson Valley can be quintessentially spring. This year it was chilly, windy and overcast. The weather was dreary. But there was sunshine every place I went to meet Foundation grantees and see, first-hand, who they are, what they’re doing, and whom they’re helping.

Some Background

I’ve been a Fellow of The New York Bar Foundation since Kevin Plunkett invited me to join 20 years ago. Kevin impressed me with his professionalism and character, and I thought if Kevin was representative of the Fellows, then I would certainly accept his invitation. The Fellows whom I’ve met are very much like Kevin — accomplished, understated, confident, qualified and benevolent. I was and am delighted to associate with those people.

For years after joining, I was a Foundation wall flower. I supported the Foundation but perennially stood at the sidelines until last year when Deborah Auspelmyer, our extraordinary Foundation Executive, shared a request to join the Foundation’s board. I had been invited to the dance.

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Message from the President

I am privileged to lead this beloved Foundation, following in the footsteps of our great past presidents, most immediately, John Gross. In his three-year tenure, John has left our Foundation immeasurably strengthened and focused, with a broader base of Fellows and other funders and a higher profile than ever before.

With great urgency, we now recommit ourselves to the tasks at hand:

- **funding worthy legal assistance initiatives** for our underserved neighbors all across the state—immigrants, veterans, the working poor, and others;
- **providing scholarships** to diverse law students and those interested in public interest law; and
- **sponsoring public education programs** that increase understanding of, and investment in, our justice system.

All of these elements are underpinned by the Rule of Law, the principle that a fair and just society depends on making our democracy work for all. The Foundation’s Board of Directors has adopted the Rule of Law in New York as its theme for the forthcoming three-year strategic planning period.

To that end, our expanded grants program will provide seed grants to innovative legal projects that pilot new ways of helping those in need. Those of us who are privileged to practice law in New York are aware firsthand of the vast extent of unmet legal needs, from consumers and tenants to children, senior citizens, and victims of domestic violence. The needs are geographically dispersed and may present themselves differently in our rural, suburban and urban communities. The uniquely knowledgeable and seasoned attorneys on our Foundation’s grant-making committee select the most promising and worthy programs addressing urgent needs.

The Foundation’s scholarship awards focus on increasing diversity and representation in New York’s legal profession and providing a robust and well-trained pipeline of public interest attorneys.

Our public education programs, many undertaken in partnership with NYSBA, detail and drive New York’s progress toward a just and fair legal system.

Our work is as joyful and it is meaningful, nimble as it is principled. Our most active members range in years of practice from under 10 to over 60. Our all-volunteer Board has been recognized time and again for the high quality of governance, rigor, and integrity. Even as we are pursuing our annual fundraising activities, in the space of just fifteen days over the summer we raised close to $20,000 in emergency funds to aid migrant children separated from their parents and now located in New York.

Donors to The Foundation include judges, lawyers, and the general public, from within and outside New York State: those who seek to perfect the promise of liberty and justice for all. Do join us.

Warmly,

Lesley Rosenthal
President
Nearly $700,000 distributed across New York State

One-hundred and five nonprofit programs across New York have received grants totaling nearly $700,000 from The New York Bar Foundation this year.

“This is the largest number of grants presented to anyone’s recollection,” notes Lucia Whisenand, chair of the Grant Review Committee. “Increased contributions from donors and successful fundraising initiatives have enabled us to provide more grants over the last several years. This is the first time we have allocated grants to more than 100 programs.”

Foundation grants complement local organizational efforts to provide essential legal services to low-income individuals. These grants impact quality-of-life issues, such as homelessness prevention, immigration, access to veteran benefits, re-entry and domestic violence.

Foundation grants have:

- Helped a disabled veteran in Syracuse launch a new small business.
- Resettled a Syrian refugee family in the Buffalo area.
- Assisted a teenager from Geneva, NY with school attendance problems related to mental illness get the EAP she needed to continue her education.
- Aided a Brooklyn grandmother in restructuring her mortgage to avoid foreclosure and homelessness for herself and the grandkids she’s raising.
- Funding for the grants comes from the generous contributions to The Foundation by lawyers, law firms, corporations and others.
- Organizations receiving grants from The Foundation include:

First Judicial District (Manhattan):

Second Judicial District (Kings County):

Third Judicial District (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster counties):
- Bethlehem Youth Court, Inc., Capital District Women’s Bar Association, Center for Law and Justice, Inc., Disability Rights New York, Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, New York State Defenders Association, Inc., NYSBA Committee on Diversity (formerly Committee on Minorities in the Profession), NYSBA Law, Youth & Citizenship Program, Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York, and United Tenants of Albany, Inc.

Fourth Judicial District (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington counties):
- Association of New York State Youth Courts, Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Rural Law Center of New York, Inc., and The Center for Community Justice, Inc.

Fifth Judicial District (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego counties):
- Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Legal Aid Society of Mid-Hemp, Inc., Onondaga CASA, Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc., and Youth Court Jefferson County.

Sixth Judicial District (Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins counties):
- Horseheads Family Resource Center.

Seventh Judicial District (Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates counties):
- CASA of Rochester/Monroe County, 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.

Continued on page 4
Foundation Awards Record-Breaking Number of Grants

(Continued)

County, and Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.

Eight Judicial District (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming counties): Center for Elder Law and Justice, Genesee County CASA for Children, Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., Mental Health Association of Erie County, NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, and Western New York Law Center, Inc.

Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester counties): Alliance for Safe Kids, Inc., Friends of the White Plains Youth Bureau, Hudson Valley Justice Center, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, and My Sisters’ Place, Inc.


Nassau County Bar Foundation, Inc., Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc., and NYSBA Law, Youth & Citizenship Program.

Eleventh Judicial District (Queens County): Center for Court Innovation/ Fund for the City of New York, Center for Integration and Advancement of New Americans, Inc., Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House, and Legal Outreach.


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 list of 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
Grants were allocated to Volunteers of Legal Services (VOLS) and Start Small. Think Big., Inc. VOLS received support for its Microenterprise Project whereby pro bono attorneys help low-income micro-entrepreneurs and small business overcome legal obstacles so that they can launch and grow their businesses. This creates jobs and increases incomes in struggling areas of New York City. Thousands of low-income entrepreneurs try to launch their own businesses in New York City each year but many lack access to lawyers who can help them through the process of starting a business. Clients of VOLS’ Microenterprise Project need legal assistance in a wide variety of areas of business law, including: business formation (incorporation); intellectual property; contracts; commercial real estate; and licensing and permitting.

Start Small. Think Big., Inc. received support for its Small Business Legal Project. The Small Business Legal Project is based on the idea that starting a business is a principal way for low-income people to accumulate assets and achieve personal financial stability. Successful self-employment can help people exit poverty and build wealth, and small businesses help to anchor communities by providing diverse goods and services responsive to local needs. Building a sustainable business requires legal assistance, but legal counsel is costly, so low-income entrepreneurs frequently go without. Businesses lacking a sound legal infrastructure are more vulnerable to business-related liabilities and less likely to profit from business relationships or to obtain loans, investments, and/or large contracts.

“The Family Law Section is committed to assisting organizations that help victims of domestic violence, persons unable to afford legal services and children caught within the web of family law litigation,” said Section Chair Eric A. Tepper, Esq. “We are proud to support the efforts of The New York Bar Foundation, which helps to identify worthwhile organizations that advance the cause of family law matters in our state.”

Funds from the Family Law Section were allocated to a range of programs including:

Legal Information for Families of Today (LIFT) to expand services for unrepresented Family Court litigants. Its pilot project aims to ensure that pro se litigants with Family Court matters in rural areas of New York State receive legal advice.

inMotion, Inc., for its Supporting Children Project, which assists mothers in obtaining child support from fathers with the ability to pay. The program’s goals are to reduce the number of mothers and children living in poverty in New York City, provide mothers who are victims of domestic violence with a means of escaping abuse without becoming destitute and homeless by giving them access to child support to which they are entitled, empower mothers to become self-sufficient by helping them obtain the financial means to provide for their children, and make the processing of support matters in the courts more efficient and accessible.

The Center for Family Representation (CFR) for its Enhanced Interdisciplinary Advocacy Teams program. Team members provide parents with legal and social work services to help them achieve better outcomes in their family court cases. CFR aims to keep their clients’ children out of foster care entirely, and achieve shorter lengths of stay for children who enter care.

The General Practice Law Section has also contributed the grant program since 2013 via the General Practice Pro Bono Fund. “Section gifts demonstrate the on-going collaborative efforts between The Foundation and the New York State Bar Association and our ability to work together to make a difference for those in need of legal services,” explains Foundation Executive Deborah Auspelmyer. “We are grateful for their support.”
The Foundation Congratulates James R. Barnes, Esq., Elected as Vice-Chair of the Fellows

The Fellows of the New York Bar Foundation are distinguished members of the bench and bar who are recognized for outstanding professional achievement, dedication to the legal profession, and commitment to the organized bar.

Election to the Fellows is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a member of the New York State Bar Association.

James R. Barnes is a shareholder of Burke & Casserly, P.C., Albany, which he first joined in 2005. He focuses his practice in elder law, trusts and estates, guardianship, special needs planning, business formation and succession planning, and real estate. Barnes is admitted to practice law in New York State and is also a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court.

Barnes is an active member of The New York State Bar Association, where he serves on the Executive Committee of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section. In addition, he is currently the chair of the association’s Committee on Continuing Legal Education. He is a past chair of the association’s Young Lawyers Section. He has also served on the association’s Executive Committee and House of Delegates, and on several special committees and task forces.

He also serves on the board of directors of The New York Bar Foundation.

Barnes will work with Fellows Chair Emily F. Franchina, Esq., (Franchina Law Group, LLC, Garden City) and the Fellows Judicial District Chairs from across New York State to increase the number of Fellows and support fundraising efforts for the Foundation grant program.

For more information about the Fellows visit the Foundation website at www.tnybf.org

Welcome New Fellows

The following Fellows have been elected by The Foundation Board of Directors for 2018 to date and have accepted this distinguished honor.

Fellows 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.

Every Fellow makes a financial commitment to The Foundation to support its grant making program which provides funding for law-related programs throughout the state of New York.

Congratulations!!

First Judicial District
- Paul H. Aloe of New York (Kudman Trachten Aloe LLP)
- Taa Grays of New York (MetLife Inc.)
- Justice Edwina G. Mendelson of New York (New York State Supreme Court) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

Second Judicial District
- Norman J. Resnicow of New York (Fox Horan & Camerini LLP) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

Third Judicial District
- Robert T. Schofield of Albany (Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

Seventh Judicial District
- Vincent M. Ferrero of Rochester (Davidson Fink LLP)
- Gregory A. Franklin of Rochester (Ashcraft Franklin & Young, LLP)

Eighth Judicial District
- Hon. Acea M. Mosey of Buffalo (Erie County Surrogate Court) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
- Sharon L. Wick of Buffalo (Phillips Lytle LLP)

Ninth Judicial District
- Tamara A. Mitchel of White Plains (Bodnar & Milone LLP)

Tenth Judicial District
- John R. Calcagni of Islandia (Haley Weinblatt & Calcagni, LLP) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
- Martin F. Scheinman of Port Washington (Scheinman Arbitration and Mediation Services) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Benjamin N. Cardozo Circle of Giving

Thirteenth Judicial District
- Allyn J. Crawford of Staten Island (Crawford Bringslid Vander Neut, LLP) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Fashionable
to Give

Foundation Fellow Betsy Ruslander and Lulu Frost partner and make a difference via Foundation

Lisa Salzer-Wiles is a jewelry designer in NYC, whose company, Lulu Frost, is known for blending antique and modern elements, creating a vintage vibe with a new twist. Shortly after she graduated from Dartmouth College, she purchased the numbers and letters from the Plaza Hotel when it underwent renovation and turned them into necklaces. It was then that Betsy Ruslander read about this in Vogue magazine and she immediately became a Lulu Frost fan. For the past 14 years, Betsy has been Lisa’s customer and friend.

When Lisa asked Betsy to host a trunk show at her house, she also offered to donate a share of the proceeds to a charity of Betsy’s choice. Without hesitation, Betsy, a Fellow of the Foundation and member of the Committee on Children and the Law, and past Chair, suggested the Hon. Judith S. Kaye Scholarship for college students who are in or aged out of foster care.

“I was so thrilled to partner with my long-time friend and customer Betsy to donate proceeds from our Lulu Frost trunk show to the Hon. Judith S. Kaye Scholarship. Making a positive impact, even on a small scale, is what Lulu Frost is all about. Each piece of jewelry has a deeper meaning, so it was only natural to give to the scholarship that does so much good to further the education of young people in need. The honor was all mine,” states Salzer-Wiles.

What a win-win event! Just goes to show you how fashionable it is to give.

Giving Makes A Difference

Your gifts helped Legal Assistance of Western New York Inc., provide legal guidance to low-income and under-served families with educational advocacy issues, focusing on at-risk students and students with disabilities.

Your gifts helped Sakhi for South Asian Women provide legal services to women that are survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Your gifts helped Safe Horizon conduct legal clinics that assist indigent individuals, children, and families in knowing their rights and gaining economic empowerment.
Catalyst Public Service Fellows, law students from across New York State, came to Albany for Court of Appeals Day in June. The students had the opportunity to tour the Court of Appeals, meet with Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, and hear from the Court of Appeals Judges on how they began their career in public service.

54 students from 14 New York law schools were selected to participate in this program administered by The New York Bar Foundation. Catalyst 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. The program is coordinated with law schools that match stipends so that each student receives a $5,000 Fellowship. Through the Foundation, the program presented more than $130,000 in fellowships in 2018.

Meet Some of the Students

“Aurelys Alers, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

“Meet Some of the Students

“Meet Some of the Students

We are privileged to be law students. It is our responsibility to share the power of our knowledge to build a more just society. In these troubled times, studying law has given me strength and hope in a better future for all. Service to build a more equal humanity should be our call. Thank you for this opportunity.”

“Aurelys Alers, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

“I am very grateful to be a 2018 Catalyst fellow. These funds have enabled me to accept a position with the Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program. This summer I will gain exposure to judicial proceedings and sharpen my legal writing, research, and public speaking skills. I know that this fellowship will help to define my career path going forward.”

Ashley Baxter, University at Buffalo School of Law

“I feel incredibly grateful to be a recipient of this fellowship as it will help me pursue an internship with the New York City Commission on Human Rights this summer. As a future member of the legal community, I am always struck by the unique ability lawyers have to greatly affect the lives of others in a way that few other professions can claim to do. The Catalyst Fellowship has provided me with the opportunity to engage in work that is dedicated to protecting and furthering...”
human rights and I hope that this summer will commence the beginning of a legal career committed to this area of the law. Thank you to the Catalyst Fellowship for making this possibility a reality.” **Alexandra Coyle, Fordham University School of Law**

“Ever since I decided that I wanted to be a lawyer, I knew I wanted to work in the District Attorney’s Office. Without the help of the New York Bar Foundation and the Catalyst Fellowship, I couldn’t have dreamed of beginning to attain my dream job so soon. Now I can spend the summer of my 1L year working real hours, real cases, gaining real experience.” **Victoria Craft, Albany Law School**

“I am thrilled and honored to be selected as a Catalyst Fellow for the summer of 2018. The stipend will allow me to commit fully to an unpaid internship with Housing Conservation Coordinators and summer classes on New York Landlord-Tenant Law. Both of these experiences will further my goal of becoming a public interest attorney fighting to maintain our city’s dwindling supply of affordable housing, and both would be impossible without the Catalyst Fellowship.” **Bryan Daly, CUNY School of Law**

“I was inspired to come to law school after working with individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses living in group homes. I am looking forward to using my professional experiences in addition to the legal skills I developed this past year in advocating for the mentally ill.” **Matthew Reichert, New York Law School**
The board’s interest in me came after I expressed my concerns about the enormous gap between many New York lawyers’ financial success and their level of support to the Foundation.

In my view, lawyers are charged with awesome responsibilities. We are important actors in our justice system. We are key players in protecting clients’ rights and, in so doing, assuring effective implementation of the rule of law for all persons protected by the United States Constitution. And we are privileged. When we earn our license to practice law, we are effectively given a key to life’s executive dining room. When we set about practicing our profession, we do so with other similarly qualified practitioners in often comfortable settings, with many amenities and perks. We are blessed.

But are we also freeloaders on a comfortably appointed train to the future, enjoying the ride without concern for others less fortunate? What do we give back in return for the privileged existences we enjoy? Sure, we work hard and sure, our profession takes a toll on us. But, by and large, lawyers as a group do well, very well.

Doing well is good, but my question is, “How well do lawyers do good?” It’s good to do well. It’s better to do well and also to do good. That’s what the Foundation does, in so many ways. The Foundation does good, and it does it well.

What’s It Like to Need Legal Help?

As I write, it is Independence Day. Our town fireworks display is underway, and my house is under heavy bombardment. Each boom shakes the walls and rocks my desktop computer monitor. The assault causes me to realize that this is nothing compared to the dread and foreboding felt by many people in our country trying to protect their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness which our Declaration of Independence recognizes have been given to all human beings by their Creator, and which governments are created to protect. Those people must navigate the judicial system, many without legal counsel to guide the way. They are under bombardment every day of their lives.

So, that is one of the needs that the Foundation fills. And that is a reason your support is essential. The Foundation is efficient in stewarding your gifts because 100% of all donations made to the grant program are used for grants to deserving organizations and projects. The grant applications of those organizations undergo a rigorous review process that includes interviews by members of our Grant Committee, and committee conferences that last hours doing deep dives into the organizations requesting funding, the projects for which they plan to use grant money, and the populations they serve.

During my first year on the Foundation’s board, I was assigned to the Grant Review Committee. I learned a great deal about the Foundation by acting as a grant reviewer, personally interviewing every applicant organization assigned to me for review, reporting my findings to the Committee, and then having the privilege of presenting some of the grants we made, face-to-face, to grantees. Because none of the presentations that I made were to organizations whose grant applicants I had reviewed personally, I was introduced to a dozen organizations providing legal services meeting the Foundation’s rigorous grant approval criteria and fulfilling its mission.

Here’s some of what I found this year based on personal observation and information provided orally and in grant applications:
A Full-Service Law Office: I am no stranger to Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ("LSHV" https://www.lshv.org/). LSHV provides free, high-quality counsel in civil matters for individuals and families whose basic human needs are at stake, but who cannot afford to pay an attorney. LSHV is the only provider of comprehensive civil legal services to all seven counties of the Hudson Valley: Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan. LSHV works to protect individuals from domestic violence, defend seniors against abuse, serve veterans on the home front, support the rights of the disabled, and so much more.

A Small Shop Protecting Immigrant Workers’ Rights: At Hudson Valley Justice Center’s ("HVJC" https://hvjc.org/) White Plains office, I met Executive Director Robert McCreanor, a Harvard Law School graduate with 16 years of litigation experience, including three years with the Manhattan DA’s office. Robert could be a litigation partner at a prestigious law firm earning an order of magnitude more than he does now. Instead, I found Robert and his team providing critical legal assistance to individuals and groups of low-wage immigrant workers throughout the lower and mid-Hudson Valley in a sparsely-appointed law office above a pizzeria. They handle a range of employment matters including wage theft, illegal retaliation, labor trafficking and discrimination. It was very inspiring to meet people like him and his staff who put others before self and work to protect persons at the lower end of the income and standard-of-living spectrum from predatory labor practices. They truly bolster the rule of law.

An Organization Fighting Domestic Violence: At My Sister’s Place, Inc. ("MSP" http://mspny.org), also in White Plains, I met a staff of attorneys working in MSP’s Center for Legal Services ("CLS") who are taking a proactive role in preventing domestic violence-related homicides. Domestic violence ("DV") impacts 1 in 3 women worldwide and is one of the leading causes of death for women aged 44 and younger (per the CDC). I found MSP to be highly organized and staffed by experienced practitioners dedicated to their clients’ well-being. They provide legal advice, advocacy and direct representation to victims of DV in Westchester County.

MSP’s CLS attorneys work on criminal justice, family law and immigration law matters. They deliver prompt, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive legal services tailored to meet clients’ individual needs. This is another impressive organization staffed by dedicated professionals meeting a desperate need.

Two Youth Courts: The Alliance for Safe Kids ("ASK" http://allianceforsafekids.org/) Youth Court program in Yorktown Heights is based on a national program developed by the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Youth courts across New York State are voluntary alternatives to criminal court for teens arrested for non-violent crimes. Teenage members of the youth court are provided with comprehensive training before being assigned to roles where they act as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors, clerks, and bailiffs, handling actual cases involving youthful offenders. The program is designed to reduce costs per case, as well as recidivism rates — sentences for offenders are designed to be constructive. And offenders, as well as the other Youth Court participants, receive first-hand exposure to the rule of law in practice.

ASK’s Executive Director, Liz Talbert, was very grateful to receive the Foundation’s monetary grant and to receive a personal visit from a Fellow representing the Foundation. ASK’s office is in a converted school building alongside other non-profit organizations. It is spartan, like the offices of most applicants I visited. The staff of these organizations make efficient use of their limited resources. They are dedicated people working to do good for others.

I also visited the White Plains Youth Bureau (https://whiteplainyouthbureau.org), where Mayor Thomas Roach came out to meet me. The Bureau, which is housed in a former public school building, runs the White Plains Community Youth Court in consultation with the County’s Department of Probation and the Family Courts.
The New York Bar Foundation Announces New President And Welcomes New Board Members

The Foundation announces Lesley Rosenthal and Carla Palumbo have been elected president and vice president, respectively, and that two new members have been elected to the Foundation board of directors.

Lesley Rosenthal, President

Ms. Rosenthal has been a Fellow of the Foundation since 2005, a member of its board since 2008, and its vice president since 2011. She was a vital force in the Foundation’s recent adoption of the Rule of Law as the theme of the Foundation’s forthcoming three year strategic planning cycle. This follows the successful completion of the Foundation’s prior plan under outgoing president John Gross, which dramatically increased the Foundation’s visibility and grant-making capacity.

“The Rule of Law is a powerful concept that can bring people together in these fractious times,” said Rosenthal. “Providing access to affordable civil justice through targeted grant making to innovative legal services programs across New York State is one important way that the Foundation can improve both the reality and the public’s perception of Rule of Law adherence in our communities.”

An active member of the New York State Bar Association and many committees, Rosenthal chaired the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, where she launched successful and durable diversity initiatives such as Smooth Moves.

Ms. Rosenthal is Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary of The Juilliard School. One of the nation’s leading experts in nonprofit management, law, and governance, she is the author of the bestselling book, Good Counsel: Meeting the Legal Needs of Nonprofits, and a member of the Harvard University Board of Overseers.

She holds degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., Vice President

The incoming vice president of the Foundation and a member of its board for 14 years, Carla Palumbo has focused much of her career on advocating for victims of domestic violence and access to justice for the most vulnerable in our community. She is the president and CEO of the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, where she has been instrumental in its dramatic growth and development over the last several decades.

“I am honored to serve on The New York Bar Foundation Board of Directors. Its mission deeply impacts the lives of those less fortunate, and I am pleased to be part of the great work of the Foundation. I look forward to serving as vice president of the Board and working closely with Lesley on the Rule of Law and other important projects.”

Ms. Palumbo is a long-time member of the New York State Bar Association and former Chair of the Committee on Women in the Law. She has also served as a member and minority leader of the Monroe County Legislature and on the Rochester City Council.

Ms. Palumbo holds degrees from SUNY Albany and Syracuse University College of Law.
Gioia Gensini, Esq., Board Member

Ms. Gensini joins The New York Bar Foundation Board for a three-year term after four years as a Fellow. She has been the Law Clerk to Hon. Andrew T. Baxter, U.S. Magistrate Judge Northern District of New York, Syracuse, New York, since 2010. Her areas of expertise include Civil Rights, Habeas Corpus, and Social Security Disability.

“I am honored to have been elected to the Foundation Board, and I am looking forward to taking the next step to assist the Foundation in carrying out its mission to help those in need, whether it be through the grant process or through the Foundation’s many other projects, through which attorneys help improve our community and the legal profession.”

A former president of the Onondaga County Bar Association, she has served on its Law Week, Governance and other committees. Ms. Gensini has been member of the New York State Bar Association since 2009.

She graduated from Cornell University College and Syracuse University College of Law.

Ellen Makofsky, Esq., Garden City, Board Member

A Fellow since 2010, Ms. Makofsky joins the Foundation Board for a three-year term. She is principal attorney of Makofsky & Associates, P.C. and a Certified Elder Law Attorney.

“Helping others is something I strive to do every day, so I am excited about my appointment to the board of The New York Bar Foundation. As a board member I am looking forward to adding my voice and efforts to expanding the reach of the Foundation’s good works.”

A long-time member of the New York State Bar Association, Ms. Makofsky previously served as its secretary and as a member of its Executive Committee. She was also President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, New York Chapter.

She holds degrees from Brooklyn Law School, Queens College of the City of New York, and Boston University, Boston.

The full slate of officers for 2018-2019 includes: President, Lesley Rosenthal, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York; Vice-President, Carla Palumbo, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Rochester; Secretary, Pamela McDervitt, the New York State Bar Association, Albany; Assistant Secretary, Lucia Whisenand, Syracuse; Treasurer, Martin Minkowitz, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, New York; and Immediate Past President, John H. Gross, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Hauppauge.

Congratulations!
President’s Challenge Generates more than $100,000 in Pledged Revenue

Even before stepping in as President of the Foundation, Lesley Rosenthal was rolling up her sleeves and getting to work on increasing revenue.

An invitation was sent to Foundation Board members and Past Presidents of the NYSBA inviting them to join her in moving into the next Circle of Giving or become a member of the Foundation’s Legacy Society.

The challenge was met by all eligible Foundation board members and several past presidents of NYSBA generating additional pledged revenue that will go toward the grant program over the next few years.

Circles of Giving recognize Fellows of the Foundation as they increase their financial commitment to the Foundation. As a Fellow fulfills one pledge they are eligible to move up to the next Circle of Giving. Prior pledges are counted toward fulfilling their new obligation.

Members of the Legacy Society help in making a difference in The Foundation’s future. By making contributions for future charitable and educational law-related projects for people who will be impacted for generations to come, Legacy Society members recognize the importance of being able to make a difference for those in need tomorrow.

“I am delighted that we have so much support from past NYSBA presidents and Foundation board members whom have been such an inspiration to me,” stated Lesley Rosenthal, president of the Foundation. “Their leadership has taught me so much and together we can continue to have an impact across New York State.”

To become a member of the Legacy Society simply designate a minimum $1,000 bequest to The Foundation in your will or establish a planned gift. Forms can be downloaded at https://tnybf.giftplans.org/pdf/Legacy_Society_form.pdf and returned to The Foundation.

Thank you and congratulations to the following participants of the President’s Challenge.

You make a difference!

Mark H. Alcott
James R. Barnes
June Castellano
Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers
Ilene S. Cooper
Hermes Fernandez
Marion Hancock Fish
Alexander D. Forger
Emily F. Franchina
Claire P. Gutekunst
James B. Kobak, Jr.
Glenn Lau-Kee

Kathryn Grant Madigan
Ellen G. Makofsky
Elizabeth J. McDonald
David P. Miranda
Carla M. Palumbo
Lesley Rosenthal
David Schraver
Justin L. Vigdor
Lauren Wachtler
Lucia Whisenand
Stephen Younger
Grantees from Judicial District 5 Recognized During Law Day Event

The New York Bar Foundation participated in the Onondaga County Bar Association Law Day program acknowledging the grant recipients from the 5th Judicial District. More than $28,000 was distributed in grants throughout the district to assist those in need of legal services.

Organizations receiving grants included:

Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Syracuse Received a grant to assist in leveraging technology to more efficiently serve their clients.

Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. (LASMNY), Utica Received a grant for their Central New York Veterans Outreach Clinic which provides intake services to veterans who reside anywhere in LASMNY’s 13 county service area. The project provides qualified veterans with counsel and advice legal services in civil matters.

Onondaga CASA, Syracuse Received a grant for the CASA Grows Project to employ a part-time advocate supervisor to supervise additional volunteer advocates and allow family court judges to assign the program more families to serve.

Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc., Syracuse Received a grant for the CNY Online Triage Project, which will increase the ease of accessing free legal services and assist community members in identifying the best resources for legal assistance on their particular issues in the community. The portal will create one centralized location online where community members can enter to receive a direct referral to the appropriate local legal services provider.

Youth Court Jefferson County, Watertown Received a grant for the Youth Court PLUS program, which enables the youth court to increase services to children 7-18 years old. This diversion program is necessary in this rural community. Combined with restorative justice, this program works to break the cycle of the family criminal pattern and the school-to-prison pipeline.

“Thank you to Onondaga County Bar Association and Syracuse University College of Law for welcoming The Foundation as part of this program,” said Foundation President Lesley Rosenthal. “Through the efforts of Board members Don Doerr, Marion Hancock Fish, and Lucia Whisenand, it was a wonderful collaborative opportunity to recognize these wonderful organizations for all they do within the community to help those in need of legal services.”
Your foundation.

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