2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Stronger Together

THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION

[Image: Scales with a heart on one side]

Stronger Together
We began 2021 optimistic for a new year of philanthropy and success in advancing access to justice across New York State. We celebrated with our first virtual Fellows dinner, which was a tremendous success. More than 100 Fellows and guests joined us to celebrate the accomplishments of the Foundation and to congratulate the Honorable Sol Wachtler as the recipient of the inaugural President’s Award.

Leadership transitioned in June as President Lesley Rosenthal completed her term and was succeeded by Vice-President Carla Palumbo. It has been an inspiration and pleasure working with Lesley throughout her three-year Presidency. Her leadership, passion for the Foundation, and forward thinking have left a long-lasting marker on our historic timeline.

**Pivoting, shifting, growing — in addition to learning to adapt to constant change, 2021 taught us that we are much stronger together.** We learned that when we come together in collaboration, we cannot only attain our goals but surpass them. Together, we can have a greater positive impact on the profession and those we serve.

There is still much more to do and we are ready to take on the challenges ahead. We will achieve our goals because of YOU; you make the difference. As lawyers, you make a difference every day giving a voice to your clients and helping to ensure they have justice. As Fellows, you are ambassadors of the Foundation and help shine a spotlight on the good work of the profession and the Foundation.

**This annual report is full of successes that could not have been achieved without you.** From the record-breaking Veterans campaign, to supporting us as we work through the building transition, to distributing more than $1 million in funds for grants, fellowships, and scholarships — these successes are yours to celebrate!

**As Donors you make our work possible.**
Because of you, our grant program impacted 5,314,790 people across New York State this year.

**Together, we gave a voice and hope to people in need of legal services so that they and their families can have a better life.**

Thank you,
In looking back at the past year, I once again see great accomplishments in very uncertain times. In my message one year ago, I used the words “reflection and gratitude,” and those sentiments continue to form the basis of the appreciation I want to express to the Fellows. Bearing witness to the workings of our cherished Foundation, I wanted to dig a little deeper to unpack why we have been successful in advancing its mission. After some thought, the answer seems somewhat self-evident, and a global theme emerges. Specifically, our Foundation is the embodiment of collaboration, and would not be the significant charitable organization that it is today without all of its diverse parts.

The origin of our very existence is rooted in a strategic partnership with the New York State Bar Association. We are, after all, the “charitable arm of the Association.” Our goals of “advancing service to the public,” “improving the administration of justice,” and “supporting legal research and education” are unequivocally aligned with the important work our Association is carrying out each day on behalf of its members and the legal community.

The Foundation’s staunchest support comes from you, our Fellows, who are the past, present, and future leaders of the Association. In evaluating how well the Foundation is doing in furthering its mission and goals, I believe an important measure of this success lies within the degree to which the two organizations are partnering together. This past year, we have seen both organizations renew their commitment to each other, and there are many exciting initiatives being worked on collaboratively as this news reaches each of you.

Collaboration is needed in times when an organization is required to pivot and adapt. Each year during the Association’s Annual Meeting, the Foundation hosts a Dinner of the Fellows at a unique site in New York City. Those who regularly attend appreciate the opportunity to spend an evening with old and new friends alike. The Dinner also serves to forge the Fellows’ connection with the Foundation in the year ahead. It was clear that we could not hold the 2021 Dinner in any way that would resemble our typical event. With that said, we knew that it was important to bring us all together, and the feedback from the Fellows was incredibly positive. The 2021 Dinner was a collaboration of entertainment, news, and a celebration of the inaugural President’s Award. We cannot thank you enough for your willingness to support our virtual event. It was a memorable evening!

One final partnership to consider is the relationship the Foundation has with legal services organizations throughout and across New York State. These organizations, and the diverse programs they coordinate, provide fertile ground for the Fellows to support, whether through annual giving or special events like the June COVID-19 challenge or the November Veterans Challenge (each of which were incredibly successful again this past year). The need for funding grants seemingly grows each year, and we are fortunate to see first-hand the incredible work these legal providers are undertaking in our communities.

The Foundation, including its staff and board, are extremely thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with a world-class bar association, dedicated legal services organizations, and our generous Fellows who consistently embody the best of what the legal profession has to offer.

We look forward to the work in the year to come, and wish each of you good fortune and health in 2022!

James R. Barnes
Chair of the Fellows
Through a Foundation grant to CASA of Rochester/Monroe County (Rochester) you helped address the issue of Disproportional Minority Representation and Advocacy in Neglect and Abuse cases.

For many families, disproportionate minority representation (DMR) is simply part of their life in systems including healthcare, education, CPS, and more. For one particular child assigned to CASA the trauma was clear: sexual abuse; general neglect of food, medical care, and unsafe shelter; physical abuse; domestic violence; substance use; disabilities and other mental deficits in at least one caregiver; significant delays with education; and a near lifetime of previous CPS investigations going back eight years that had not resolved these issues. In short, this family was represented in many systems but without receiving the help those systems were designed to provide.

As the CASA advocate “MS” would describe, “Z couldn’t win for losing, everything went wrong for him” if it could. He was multiple grade levels behind in school, needed special education services that hadn’t started, had vision issues that required additional specialty care that hadn’t happened, and eventually would need an alternative safe and permanent home when his parents’ rights were terminated by the courts.

Understanding that Z could easily fall through the cracks, staff were relentless in connecting with each school and teacher as Z transitioned through multiple schools, advocating for better services and classroom settings, and following through to make sure the services happened. This carried over into vision care, including going above and beyond with a porch pick-up and drop-off during the coronavirus pandemic when Z broke his glasses. And even though Z disrupted multiple foster placements, MS kept the common thread going. MS even revisited a previous foster parent to secure an adoptive resource for Z after his parents’ rights were terminated and it looked like Z would languish as a “freed for adoption” child with limited prospects.

“It was never easy, but without this advocacy, Z may still be in the system today, another DMR statistic. Instead, he’s been successfully adopted and has made huge strides. We thank the Foundation for your support in these important endeavors.”
Together, we assisted a terminally ill client through Center for Elder Law & Justice

Through a Foundation grant to the Center for Elder Law & Justice (Buffalo) for their Silver Pride Partnership program you helped “Jean.”

Jean had end-stage small cell lung cancer, which had begun to spread throughout her body, when the grantee organization received a call from Jean’s domestic partner, “Mindy,” asking for guidance regarding their affairs. Though they had spent the better part of 35 years together, Jean and Mindy were not legally married. To further complicate matters, they did not have Last Will and Testaments in place and there was an issue relating to their real property.

The Center for Elder Law & Justice diligently worked to get documents in place to ensure that Jean provided for Mindy. Thankfully, the documents were finalized less than a week before Jean’s untimely death. Jean passed on with peace of mind, knowing that she provided for her lifelong partner.

“One of the major motivating factors to starting this program had been the fact that many LGBT Older Adults have domestic partners and are not necessarily legally married. This was a case that brought this reality to the forefront, and highlighted the benefit of having culturally competent legal representation, sensitive to the unique issues of LGBT Older Adults. Thanks to funding from The New York Bar Foundation, we were able to assist in this case. In addition, the generous grant allowed us to work with other clients to ensure that Last Will and Testament, Power of Attorney, and Health Care Proxy documents were put in place well before they faced acute medical crises.”
Together, we helped a worker end sexual harassment with the Gender Equality Law Center

The mission of Gender Equality Law (Brooklyn) is rooted in a foundational effort to ensure and improve adherence to the Rule of Law—specifically anti-discrimination laws—and to ensure such laws are accessible and used by low income and non-English speaking victims like “JP.”

At the height of the pandemic and the sharp reduction in restaurant server jobs “JP,” an undocumented immigrant, applied for a job at a restaurant chain.

At the time she was interviewed she wore a mask as was mandated by NYS law. The manager who interviewed her insisted that in order to apply for the job she remove her mask so that he could “check out how beautiful she was.” Understandably humiliated, she was also desperate to obtain employment and so she did. JP was hired.

For the next few months, JP endured sexual harassment and an unsafe workplace as a condition of her employment. JP tried to push back on the harassment she was experiencing at the hands of her manager, rejecting his advances without offending him and avoiding him when possible. As time went on, JP asserted herself more against her male manager and that is when the retaliation began. Her shifts were cut, she was criticized and yelled at, and finally the male manager ultimately retaliated against JP by firing her.

Gender Equality Law Center filed a complaint and is currently in negotiations with the employer’s counsel for a possible settlement that will mandate enacting policies and practices in the corporation for preventing sexual harassment and best practices when employees report as well as sensitivity trainings of management.

“For a variety of reasons, too often than not, low-wage workers fall through the cracks in accessing legal services in the face of experiencing egregious and heartbreakingly inhumane acts of discrimination or harassment. Our project’s mission is to ensure safe workplaces so that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to thrive, advance, and have economic security in order to financially support themselves and their families. Thank you to the Foundation for helping to support this work.”
Through a Foundation grant to the Center for Family Representation (CFR) (New York) you helped their interdisciplinary civil teams for housing and public benefits.

“Jessica”, a young mother of one, had a neglect case alleging she had failed to protect her son after a domestic violence incident with his father. Since she left the father and immediately engaged in services, Jessica was able to keep her son in her care during the case. Unfortunately, the father found the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) house where Jessica and her son were living and damaged it. He was arrested and Jessica requested a safety transfer from NYCHA after which she was referred to the Civil Defense Team. CFR’s Housing attorney quickly found a DV shelter for the family, but the shelter claimed Jessica needed to use her NYCHA funding to stay there. The CFR attorney and social worker provided administrative guidance and legal support rectifying the financial situation at the shelter and continuously working to process her emergency safety transfer. Jessica is now happily residing in her new apartment, safe from domestic violence, and with no court involvement.

“As CFR expands the scope of our work, we keep faithful to our core mission of keeping families together because we believe every family matters. Research shows that youth who experience long-term stays in foster care or incarceration fare poorly, with poor educational and mental health outcomes and greater risk of homelessness and criminal justice involvement as adults. Families and youth are better served with supportive services in their communities and legal and social work advocacy designed to keep families together and stable. Your Foundation grant is an important part of this process.”
Meet the Fellows

The Fellows of The New York Bar Foundation are instrumental in the success and growth of the organization. Each Fellow is elected by the Board of Directors. Fellows are nominated for their 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 programming and acts as an ambassador for the Foundation.

DISTRICT CHAIRS

The following Fellows serve as Chair or Co-Chair of The Fellows in the Judicial Districts of the State of New York:

First
Sylvia Fung Chin
New York City

Second
Mark A. Longo
Brooklyn

Third
Sarah Gold
Albany

Fourth
Peter V. Coffey
Schenectady

Fifth
Donald C. Doerr
Syracuse

Sixth
Richard B. Long
Binghamton

Seventh
C. Bruce Lawrence
Rochester

Eighth
Vincent E. Doyle III
Buffalo

Ninth
Tamara Mitchell
White Plains

Tenth
Gary Fishberg
Garden City

Eleventh
David L. Cohen
Kew Gardens

Twelfth
Steven Millon
East Meadow

Thirteenth
Claire Miller
Staten Island
Welcome New Fellows

Congratulations and welcome to the New Fellows of 2021. You have made a difference to people in need of legal services throughout New York State.

The Following Fellows have been elected by The Foundation Board of Directors for 2021 and have accepted this distinguished honor. The Foundation is pleased to welcome you!

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Vincent Ted Chang, New York City (Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch, LLP)

Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, New York City (NYS Appellate Division, 1st Dept.)

Andrew J. Levander, New York City (Dechert LLP) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow

Albert L. Lingelbach, New York City (Dunnington Bartholow & Miller LLP)

Hon. Leo Elias Milonas, New York City (Pillsbury Winthrop LLP)

Thomas M. Pitegoff, New York City (Offit Kurman, PA)

William O. Reckler, New York City (Latham & Watkins, LLP) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow

**SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Hon. Sergio Jimenez, Brooklyn (Housing Court – Queens County) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Kelly M. Curro, Albany (Ianiello Anderson PC)

Lorraine R. Silverman, Albany (Copps DiPaola Silverman PLLC) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

**FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Amy J. Knussman, Ballston Spa (Law Office of Amy J. Knussman)

**FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Hon. Danielle Mikalajunas Fogel, Syracuse (Onondaga County Supreme Court)

Hon. Jerome A. Mirabito, Fulton (Fulton Savings Bank)

**SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Feyi O. Gaji, Esq., Binghamton (Law Offices of Feyi Gaji)

Peter G. Grossman, Ithaca (Barney Grossman Dubrow LLP)

**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Timothy P. Donaher, Rochester, (Monroe County Public Defender Office) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow

Hon. Frank P. Geraci, Jr., Rochester (Monroe County Court)

Bradley P. Kammholz, Victor (Kammholz Messina LLP) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving

Michael S. Schnittman, Rochester (Lacy Katzen, LLP)

**NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Hernan Caceres, New City (Law Offices of Hernan Caceres, PLLC)

Jennifer Lupo, Staatsburg (Lupo Law, Arbitration & Mediation PLLC)

Lydia A. Milone, White Plains (BodnarMilone LLP)

**TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

David J. Abeshouse, East Meadow (Law Office of David J. Abeshouse)

Michelle E. Espey, Smithtown (Farrell Fritz, P.C.)

Jennifer F. Hillman, Uniondale (Rivkin Radler LLP)

**OUT OF STATE**

Steven Certilman, Stamford, CT (Steven A. Certilman, PLLC) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow

Visit our website at https://www.tnybf.org/fellows/ to view the on-line Fellows directory.

Please send your photo to dauspelmyer@tnybf.org to be included.
The year began with a pivot of the Annual Meeting and Assembly of the Fellows from an in-person soiree to our first virtual event. More than 100 Fellows and guests donned their headbands and fedoras and joined us virtually as we celebrated the new roaring ‘20s and the successes of the Foundation and the Fellows. The Honorable Sol Wachtler was feted with the inaugural President’s Award in recognition of his indelible impact on the law as a guiding light in New York jurisprudence and the legal community. The evening concluded with a special performance by members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the efforts of the Fellows didn’t slow down. The Foundation reached out to this esteemed group of professionals throughout the year to assist in giving to much needed COVID19 legal relief, veterans initiatives, and district challenges. Fellows came together once again raising more than $27,000 for the COVID19 Legal Relief Fund. Many districts were close in bumping each other down the leaderboard in this friendly but important competition.

Congratulations to the top three districts on the fundraising leaderboard
JD1 $7,800
JD9 $6,375
JD5 $2,875

Most Social on the Leaderboard
JD1
JD7
JD5

Time and again this remarkable group of people opened their hearts and gave generously, investing in advancing access to justice and equity through the Foundation.

The year concluded with the Foundation welcoming 26 new Fellows, congratulating 15 Fellows as they moved into higher Circles of Giving, and our hope that we will be seeing each other in person soon.
Foundation Welcomes New Leadership and Board Members

The leadership of the Foundation’s Board of Directors transitioned in June as Carla M. Palumbo and Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers were elected as president and vice president, respectively. Vincent E. Doyle, III and Lauren Sharkey also came on board as new directors beginning their first term June 1.

Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., The Legal Aid Society, Rochester, President

Ms. Palumbo has served on the board for 15 years and has been active on the Foundation’s grants review, nominating, and personnel committees, while also serving as vice president since 2018. Palumbo has been a Fellow of the Foundation since 2004 and is currently in the Cardozo Circle of Giving.

Palumbo is a long-time member of the New York State Bar Association and former chair of the Committee on Women in the Law, which has since been elevated to the Women in Law Section. She has also served as a member and minority leader of the Monroe County Legislature and on the Rochester City Council.

Palumbo has served as President and CEO of the Legal Aid Society of Rochester since 2014 and celebrated her 37th anniversary with the organization, where she began as a staff attorney in 1984. Palumbo has been recognized by the Rochester business community, including being listed on the Rochester Business Journal’s Power 30 Law list, and has received the Rochester Business Journal Icon Award and the Monroe County Bar Associations’ Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award.

Palumbo earned her undergraduate degree from SUNY Albany and her law degree from Syracuse University College of Law.

“My first year as President of the Foundation has been remarkable. The great work of the Foundation is more critical than ever as we look to provide support to those who are struggling. In the year to come we will look to focus on attorney well-being, and continue our focus to provide access to justice to the most vulnerable. The Foundation plays an important role in bringing the legal community together to make a difference. As the charitable arm of the NYSBA I look forward to working with NYSBA leadership and members to continue our important mission and spotlight the good work of attorneys.”

Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, Brooklyn, Vice President

Justice Chambers has served on the Foundation’s Board of Directors for seven years, where she chairs the bylaws and governance committee and serves on the nominating and personnel committees. She is a Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation and is in the Charles Evans Hughes Circle of Giving.

Chambers is an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, with a long and distinguished career in public service. She was first appointed to the Appellate Division by then-Governor Eliot Spitzer in 2008. Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed her to a senior seat on the Appellate Division in November 2016. She is just the second African American woman to serve on the Appellate Division and the first to serve in a senior seat.

In the decade prior to her judicial service, Chambers served in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, where she was chief of the domestic violence bureau, after serving as a deputy chief in the trial division and as an assistant district attorney in the trial and appeals bureaus.

Chambers has held leadership positions in several professional associations. She has served as chair of NYSBA’s judicial section and the bylaw’s committee, while also serving on the diversity and inclusion committee since 2014. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Association and serves as a director of the Judicial Friends and the Association of Supreme Court Justices of the City of New York in addition to formerly serving as chair of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

In 2021, Chambers received the inaugural NYSBA Ruth Bader Ginsburg Trailblazer Award. She is also the recipient of the Brooklyn Bar Association Vivian Agress Trailblazer Award, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association Jurist of the Year Award and the Jewish Lawyer’s Guild Golda Meir Award.

Justice Chambers earned her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, her law degree from Boston University School of Law and a postgraduate degree from Rutgers Graduate School of Management.

“I am thrilled to be Vice President of the New York Bar Foundation at such a pivotal moment, when the Foundation will maximize its philanthropy and grantmaking to support organizations that drive access to justice and tackle the greatest inequities in New York State. I am delighted to be working with the dedicated and visionary leadership of the Foundation and the New York State Bar Association to continue the work that benefits both organizations and our community.”
Vincent E. Doyle, III Esq., Connors LLP, Buffalo, Board Member

Vincent Doyle joins The New York Bar Foundation Board for a three-year term. He has been a Fellow of the Foundation since 1999 and a Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving member.

Doyle is a recognized leader in the New York legal community, having served as the 114th president of the NYSBA.

He is a widely respected commercial litigator whose practice includes serving as an arbitrator and mediator in commercial matters. His practice focuses on complex commercial disputes, as well as internal and governmental investigations. He regularly handles trials, appeals, arbitrations and mediations for corporate clients and individuals. He also regularly represents attorneys and law firms in litigation, disciplinary and ethical matters.

Doyle has held several leadership positions with state and local bar associations and has served on numerous government and independent panels seeking to improve the legal system. He served on the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of Erie County, and is a past president of the Erie County Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and serves on the panel that screens applicants for judicial appointment by the Governor of the State of New York and served on the Transition Committee for New York State Attorney General Letitia A. James. He received the 2012 Lawyer of the Year Award from the Bar Association of Erie County, and a Distinguished Alumni Award from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.

Doyle earned his undergraduate degree from Canisius College and his law degree the University at Buffalo School of Law.

“The Foundation is a manifestation of the generous spirit of the legal community. Through donations to the Foundation, lawyers are able to fund a host of civil legal aid programs across the state. As a result, countless people who cannot afford counsel receive the legal services they need. I am proud to support and serve the Foundation in my new role on the Board.”

Lauren Sharkey, Esq., Cioffi · Slezak · Wildgrube, Schenectady, Board Member

Lauren Sharkey, a Foundation Fellow since 2018, also joins the board for a three-year term.

Sharkey is Partner at Cioffi, Slezak, Wildgrube, where she practices in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration, guardianships, elder law, business law and real estate law.

An active member of NYSBA, Sharkey chaired the Young Lawyers Section and was the section’s delegate to NYSBA's House of Delegates, the section liaison to the elder law section and Executive Committee of the elder law section. She co-chairs the Schenectady County Bar Association Young Lawyers Committee and the Trusts, Estates, and Elder Law Committee. She is a member of the Capital District Women’s Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Pace University and her law degree from Albany Law School.

“I look forward to learning more about how the Foundation supports the legal community, especially in the wake of the pandemic. I welcome the opportunity to work with the Foundation’s leadership in contributing to the mission of advancing service to the public, supporting legal research and education, and improving the administration of justice.”

The full slate of officers for 2021-2022 includes: President, Carla M. Palumbo, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Rochester; Vice-President, Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department; Secretary, Pamela McDevitt, the New York State Bar Association, Albany; Assistant Secretary, Lucia Whisenand, Syracuse; Treasurer, Martin Minkowitz, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, New York; Chief Publicity Officer, Susan Lindenauer; and Immediate Past President, Lesley F. Rosenthal, The Juilliard School, New York City.
Leadership and Governance

Board of Directors
Foundation Connects Law Students to Meaningful Experiences

Through partnerships with several NYSBA Sections and support of our donors, the Foundation offered $228,500 in scholarship and fellowship opportunities, helping 87 students and law-related organizations. These fellowships provide valuable summer experiences that help students when they interview for permanent legal positions while assisting in building a network of mentors they can call upon in the future.

Fellowships were offered to law students in a variety of legal areas including antitrust, elder and special needs law, health law, real property, and trusts and estates. Students acquired practical experience and saw 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 received financial assistance as well as the chance to explore different areas of the legal profession.

Under the Hon. Judith S. Kaye Children and the Law Scholarship, the Foundation helped bridge the gap to a successful future for young adults aging out of foster care. Seventeen young adults were assisted by this program to attain life and educational essentials such as books, laptops, and food.

The Foundation is proud to steward these important opportunities, inspiring the future of New York’s legal profession.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

- The Hon. Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship
  Lili Caparosa, Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law

- The Real Property Law Section Melvyn Mitzner Scholarship
  Connor Blancato, Brooklyn Law School

- The Real Property Law Section Lorraine Power Tharp Scholarship
  Federica Marini, St. John’s University School of Law

- The Carol Van Scyoc Local and State Government Law Section Scholarship
  Catherine Larabee, New York University School of Law

- The Judge Bernard S. Meyer Scholarship
  Renee Toney, University at Buffalo School of Law

- Antitrust Section Law Student Fellowships
  Vivian Lee, Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law
  Yilin Shao, Cornell Law School

- Jana Springer Behe Corporate Counsel Fellowship
  Tianjie (Shaun) Wang, Columbia Law School

- Diversity Summer Fellowship in Health Law
  Michael O. Fraser, St. John’s University School of Law

- Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowships
  Samantha Knice, The Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University
  James Miller, Albany Law School
  Lucy Pannes, University at Buffalo School of Law

“The New York Bar Foundation Corporate Counsel Fellowship allowed me to work at an organization whose mission and values align with my own, and obtain invaluable experience in corporate law which will provide a foundation for my future career. As a first-generation law student from a multicultural background, the fellowship lowered the barriers of entry and provided me with institutional resources and networks in the legal field that I could never have dreamed of.”

Shaun Wang, Corporate Counsel Fellowship Recipient, Columbia Law School

“I’m so grateful to receive the Carol Van Scyoc Scholarship. This opportunity is helping me achieve my post-graduate goal of practicing affirmative litigation in local or state government. In addition to funding that will help support my studies at NYU Law, being welcomed into the Section for the year has allowed me to meet attorneys who are serving the public and the New York legal community. After I graduate, I hope to count myself among them and the other lawyers using their skills to benefit the common good.”

Catherine Larabee, Carol Van Scyoc Local and State Government Law Section Scholarship Recipient, New York University School of Law
The Catalyst Public Service Program

Included in this year’s summary was the administration of 58 Catalyst Public Service fellowships. The program, inspired by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and seeded by unused campaign funds before she was appointed Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, provides invaluable opportunities for students to train to become public interest lawyers. Funding from this program, matched by participating law schools, offers students wonderful experiences to intern in a public service office.

The program concluded with a virtual reception with Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, members of New York’s judiciary, Catalyst students, members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, law school representatives, and lawyers from sponsoring firms in celebration of a successful program for 2021.

Previous Catalyst Fellowship recipients currently in practice in the public service area also attended and spoke about how the program helped with their career path.

Since inception, 285 fellowships across all 15 New York law schools have been awarded fellowships totaling more than $1.3 million. With the commitment of the Foundation, partnership law schools, and donors, the program has grown significantly over its six-year history.
Together We Help Veterans

For the sixth consecutive year, The Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation partnered with the NYSBA's Young Lawyers Section to lead the online giving campaign to raise funds to help veterans in need of legal services through the Foundation’s grant program. “Partnering with the Foundation on this campaign is a good fit for the Young Lawyer’s Section,” states Chair of the NYSBA Young Lawyers Section, Anne LaBarbera. “The needs of our veterans are important and this campaign gives young professionals the opportunity to participate by giving and helping in promoting the event through our social media networks about an issue that we can all rally around.”

Lawyers, families, and friends from across New York State and parts of California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia came together online to give to the Foundation to help make a difference in the lives of veterans.

The campaign raised nearly $26,000, beating the goal and raising the most money to date during this weeklong event. Since inception, more than $86,000 has been raised specifically for legal assistance for veterans. Organizations receiving grants through the years include Brooklyn Defender Services, Disability Rights NY, Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc., Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Nassau Suffolk Law Services, Syracuse University, The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo Inc., and Volunteers of Legal Services. “Attorneys John Lang (Marine Corps) and Philip Nostrand (Air Force) are proud of the New York Bar Foundation Veteran Campaign’s support of our fellow vets. It is our pleasure to support this initiative. Keep up the good work!” Law Offices of John F. Lang, PLLC

The 2021 campaign also had a record-breaking year of firms from across New York State participating as sponsors of the campaign. “We are grateful for the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and thankful for the efforts of the New York Bar Foundation in assisting those who have given so much with their legal needs. It is our pleasure to support such a worthy endeavor.” Gary B. Freidman, Greenfield Stein & Senior, LLP.

Special Thanks to

CAMPAIGN FIRM PARTNERS
Burke & Casserly, P.C.
Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube P.C.
Criscione Ravala, LLP
Greenfield Stein & Senior, LLP
Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.
Law Firm of Alex Dell PLLC
Law Offices of John F. Lang PLLC
Offit Kurman, Tarver Law Firm, P.C.
Turley Redmond & Rosasco, L.L.P.

TOP LEADERBOARD FUNDRAISERS
Donald Doerr/5th District Fellows
and James Barnes tied for first place
Team Army
Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube P.C.

MOST SOCIAL ON THE LEADERBOARD
Donald Doerr/5th District Fellows
Jim Kobak Jr.
Deborah Auspelmyer
Thank you to everyone that participated in this important campaign by donating and sharing your wonderful stories, memories and photos.

Anonymous, in honor of Louis K. Robbins
Anonymous, in honor of Henry Lewis Hood III
Anonymous, in honor of Donald C. DeSilva
Janice Bahr, in honor of Robert Vitrikas
Marie Bailey, in honor of Ted Albers
Cheri Bardin, in honor of my son in law
James Barnes
Sarah Barnes-Ryan
Mary Bassett, in honor of Walter R. Smith
Michele Bauer, in honor of Kenneth Ackerman
Maria Beaudette
Nancy Bellin
Laurence Bousquet
Jean Boyle, in honor of Francis Taylor, World War II Marine, Recipient of Purple Heart
Andrea Brodie, in honor of Manuel Fredgant
Mark Bunim
Janet Callahan
Christa Carrington, in honor of Dr. William Loftus
Michelle Casserly
June Castellano, in honor of Carmine Castellano
Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers
Kathy Chin
John Christopher, in honor of Paul Christopher
Jeanne and Paul Christopher, in honor of Paul L. Christopher
Nicole Clouthier
Orin Cohen
Dan Corleto
Susanne Corrigan

Jaya Dasgupta
Alex Dell
Wilbur Diaz
Donald Doerr
Daniel Doeschner
Tiffany Donaldson
Raymond Dowd, in honor of John D. Feerick
Vincent Doyle, in honor of Joseph Morath
Lorraine Duthe
Tim Fennell, in honor of Ryan Wilcox
Fern Finkel
Emily Franchina
Gioia Gensini
Lois Gimpel Shaukat, in honor of Elder Jesse Martin
Svetlana Grigoryeva
John Gross
Kristin and Peter Grossman, in honor of Ron and Rita Vickroy
Claire Gutekunst, in honor of Gurney O. Gutekunst, Jr., US Army Tech 3 in WWII
Karen Halaco
Robert Harper

Tina Hartwell
David M. Hayes
Andy Heck
Richard Heffner
Carol M. Hoffman, in honor of Clifford W. Hoffman
Richard Inz
Shawn Jacquard
Deborah Johnson
Frederick Johs, in honor of Kenneth Andreski
Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy
Michael T. Kiesel, in honor of Edward A. Kiesel
Mishell Kneeland, in honor of Alpha L. Morehouse
James Kobak, Jr., in honor of James Kobak
Thomas Kobak
Donna-Marie Korth, in honor of Jay F. Korth, Proud WWII Veteran
Lorraine Korth, in honor of Jay Francis Korth, Esq.
Laurel Kretzing, in honor of Henry Row and Jack Kretzing
Meredith Lammens-Mahmood
John Lang
Bruce Lawrence, in honor of Louis Buckman
Cisco Lindsey
Gary Lindsley, in honor of Norman H. Lindsley
Richard Long, in honor of Paul Sweeney
Karin Lopez, in honor of Major Kevin Kolz
Kathryn Grant Madigan

Paul Sweeney
Ryan Wilcox
Thank you to everyone that participated in this important campaign by donating and sharing your wonderful stories, memories and photos.

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Joseph McCarthy
Theresa McSweeney
Alexis Meister
Edward Menkin
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Martin Minkowitz, in honor of Lionel Lewis and Eli Ziegler
Ellis Mirsky, in honor of Sgts Jacob and Lucille Mirsky, USMC Ret.
Anna Molina
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Martha Mulroy
Bradley Murray
Tara Murray
Christopher Murray, in honor of John E. Murray and Claud Austin

Jaimie Ninan, in honor of Ajus K. Ninan
Judith Nolfo, in honor of Jake Nolfo
Kathleen Notaro
Steven Orlowski, in honor of Stanley Orlowski
Joanne Pallotta
Carla Palumbo
Frances Pantaleo
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Courtney Radick
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Gordon Ryan, in honor of Tom Decker, USMC
Michael Salzman
Mirna Santiago, in honor of Arles Martinez, USMC
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Rona Shamoon
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Deborah Slezak
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Jill Spooner
Tamara Stephen
Terrence Tarver, in honor of Van T. Tarver, Jr. and Cary D. Tarver
Ronald Thomas
William Turley, in honor of Sgt. Janet Santeramo, USMC Veteran
Irene Villacci
Lauren Wachtler, in honor of the Honorable Sol Wachtler
Robert Webber, in honor of Matthew McManus and Nicholas Webber
Daniel Weiner, in honor of Harry Weiner and Myron Fuerstman
Brent Weitzberg, in honor of Sgt. Bennett Gordon
Jean Marie Westlake,
in honor of Kenneth Gilbert
Lucia Whisenand
Michelle Wildgrube
Kathleen Wright

in honor of are italicized
Circle of Giving Members

The Circle of Giving categories recognize individual Fellows who have made a major commitment to the Foundation by contributing or pledging to contribute gifts ranging from $3,000 to $75,000.

All Fellows are invited to enhance their pledge by becoming a member of a Circle of Giving or moving to a higher circle. Each Fellow becomes a Life Member of a Circle upon fulfillment of the pledge.

The Foundation thanks all of our esteemed Fellows for their support.
### First District

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*Life Fellow
+Sustaining Fellow
+Life Sustaining Fellow
B Benjamin N. Cardozo Circle
B* Benjamin N. Cardozo Circle, Life Member
C Charles Evans Hughes Circle
C* Charles Evans Hughes Circle, Life Member
J John Jay Circle Circle
J* John Jay Circle, Life Member
K Kay Crawford Murry Circle
K* Kay Crawford Murray Circle, Life Member
L Learned Hand Circle
L* Learned Hand Circle, Life Member
M Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle
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The New York Bar Foundation 2020 Annual Report

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**Second District**

* Block, Frederic
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* Chambers, Cheryl E.
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* Demarest, Carolyn E.
* D’Emic Sr., Matthew J.
* DiGiovanna, Lawrence
* Doyaga Sr., David J.

**Third District**

M* Ahearn, Kathy A.
B* Ayers, James B.
* Bakner, Terresa
B Barnes, James R.
Fifth District

* Arterian, Hannah R.
* Baldwin Jr., Robert F.
* Bottar, Anthony
M Bousquet, Laurence
* Burns, Leighton
* Cherundolo, John C.
M Cirando, John
* Critelli, Steven
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M* Doerr, Donald C.
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J* Whisenand, Lucia B.

Sixth District

Barreiro, Alyssa M.
Connerton, Mary Rita
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Seventh District

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**Eighth District**
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* Fox, Mark D.
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* Geoghegan, John
* Giannini, Angela Morcone

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Legacy Members Provide For New Yorkers In Need Forever

Legacy donors provide a better tomorrow for generations of New Yorkers in need. Legacy 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. Your planned gift or bequest enables the Foundation to secure a better future for generations to come. Please join these guardians of justice by making a bequest or establishing a planned gift to the Foundation of $1,000 or more. Contact Deborah Auspelmyer at (518) 487-5650 or email dauspelmyer@tnybf.org

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*Deceased
†Former President of the New York State Bar Association or The New York Bar Foundation
Gratitude in Action

Your Investment in the Foundation Creates Life-Changing Grant Opportunities

More than $700,000 was allocated in grants throughout the year helping to support numerous unmet legal needs across New York State. The program’s importance is stronger than ever with the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on individuals as well as the negative economic effect on the agencies which serve them.

Your investment in the Foundation helped support 106 grant programs—assisting more than 160,700 people and impacting more than 5.3 million of our neighbors in need of legal services throughout New York State.

Lucia Whisenand, who has chaired the Foundation’s Grants Review Committee for the last eight years, reflects on the program.

For many years I have been a member of the Foundation’s Grants Review Committee and for the last eight years I have been its chair. Thanks to our generous Fellows and other contributors our resources have grown so that we have been able to give out grants in almost every Judicial District in New York throughout the last several years. It has been personally fulfilling to see how the Foundation’s financial support positively impacts the organizations that we assist and the people whose lives we impact in many positive ways.

A highlight in serving on our Grants Review Committee is the opportunity for members to visit the grantee organizations and present them with their grant checks. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we have not been able to have these in-person visits, but in 2021 we pivoted and met with numerous grantee recipients by ZOOM. I was fortunate to be on nearly each virtual meeting to hear directly how much these grants help these organizations and people within our communities. These are our neighbors, the people we pass on the street, members of the communities in which we live.

Each year we receive more than $1 million in grant requests. Although the grant amounts distributed aren’t large, they are impactful and are important to the organizations we assist in implementing their programming and serving as a tool to leverage for more funding. Grants usually range from $5,000 to $15,000. What I found most exciting in this review cycle was the number of grants we provided to organizations in the priority areas designated by the Foundation including housing, family matters, racial equity, and access to education, to name a few. Our grants enabled agencies to try new and different ways of meeting the needs of their constituents. The grantees were enthusiastic about what they had been able to accomplish with a modest amount of money. More than one was heard to say that they never thought that lawyers cared about the people their agency served but that what they had been able to do with a Foundation grant made them change that perception. As you examine the grants set forth in this report be assured that your contribution to the Foundation really reaches numerous people in need of assistance, people who truly appreciate the attention directed their way.

As the Grants Review Committee reviews applications for 2022 it is evident that the impacts of the pandemic on our communities will continue long into the future. We invite you to continue to support the grant program throughout the year by giving at www.tnybf.org.
2021 Grantees by Judicial District

**Judicial District 1**
(Manhattan)
- Advocates for Children of New York
- Advocates for Justice
- Boys and Girls Republic
- Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York
- Center for Family Representation
- Day One New York, Inc.
- Emerald Isle Immigration Center
- FamilyKind, Ltd.
- Goddard Riverside Community Center
- Her Justice Inc.
- Immigrant Justice Corps
- HIAS
- International Refugee Assistance Project
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- Lawyers For Children
- Legal Action Center
- Legal Momentum
- Legal Services NYC
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
- LGBT Bar Association and Foundation of Greater New York
- Mobilization for Justice, Inc.
- National Center for Law and Economic Justice, Inc.
- New York Asian Women’s Center
- New York County Lawyers’ Association
- New York Foundling Hospital DBA The New York Foundling
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- NMIC
- Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
- Open Hands Legal Services
- Pro Bono Net
- Safe Horizon, Inc.
- Start Small Think Big
- The Door – A Center Of Alternatives, Inc.
- The Legal Aid Society
- The Liberty Fund
- The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault
- The Open Door NJNY
- The Petey Greene Program
- UnLocal, Inc.
- Volunteers of Legal Service
- Youth Represent

**Judicial District 2**
(Kings County)
- Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- CAMBA, Inc.
- Disability Rights New York
- Exalt Youth (exalt)
- Gender Equality Law Center
- Immigration Equality
- JustFix, Inc.
- Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)
- Make the Road New York

**Judicial District 3**
(Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Sullivan, Ulster counties)
- Joseph’s House & Shelter
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- New York Newspapers Foundation
- New York State Defenders Association, Inc.
- New York State Bar Association Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- New York State Bar Association Law, Youth and Citizenship Program
- New York State Bar Association Lawyer Assistance Program
- Prisoners’ Legal Services
- The Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood
- United Tenants of Albany, Inc.
- Worker Justice Center of New York

**Judicial District 4**
(Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington counties)
- The Center for Community Justice

**Judicial District 5**
(Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, Onondaga counties)
- Catholic Charities of Onondaga County
- Center for Community Alternatives
- Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society
- Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties, Inc.
- Syracuse University College of Law
- The Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.

**Judicial District 6**
(Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins counties)
- Horseheads Family Resource Center
- Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network
- Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital, Inc.
- The American Civic Association

**Judicial District 7**
(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.
- Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc.

**Judicial District 8**
(Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego, Wyoming counties)
- Center for Elder Law & Justice
- Family Justice Center of Erie County
- New York State Bar Association Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction
- The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc.
- Western New York Law Center, Inc.

**Judicial District 9**
(Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester counties)
- Dutchess County Bar Association
- Legal Aid Society of Rockland County Inc.
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- My Sisters’ Place, Inc.
- Pace Women’s Justice Center

**Judicial District 10**
(Nassau, Suffolk counties)
- Association for Mental Health and Wellness
- Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
- Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Development Research Institute, Inc.
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.
- The Long Island Alzheimer’s and Dementia Center
- The Safe Center LI

**Judicial District 11**
(Queens County)
- Center for the Integration and Advancement of New Americans
- Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
- Legal Outreach, Inc.
- Queens Defenders

**Judicial District 12**
(Bronx County)
- Bronx Legal Services
- BronxWorks
- Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs, Inc.
- The Family Center, Inc.
In Appreciation of Your Gifts of Distinction
to The New York Bar Foundation in 2021

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In Memory of John R. Dunne to the John R. Dunne Fund
Heather Diddel
Helen Freedman
The Jewish Communal Fund
Lauree Hickok
Sally Laing
Jane Magee and Paul Bernstein
Pamela Strousse
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In Memory of Joel K. Asarch
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Tara Anne Pleat

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In Honor of Richard Blewett
Rocco Lucente II

In Honor of Vincent Buzard
Michael Harren

In Honor of the Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers Receiving the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Beacon Award
Lesley Rosenthal

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John D. Feerick

In Honor of Cristine Cioffi
Normal L. Greene

In Honor of Michael Cooper and William Dean
Anonymous

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In Honor of Mary Lou Crowley
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In Honor of John D. Feerick
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James Reiman

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In Honor of Hon. Paula L. Feroledo
Hon. Michael M. Mohun

In Honor of Emily F. Franchina
Raymond Dowd
In Honor of Sharon Stern Gerstman’s Love of Tennis
Emily F. Franchina

In Honor of John H. Gross
Steven Ingerman

In Honor of Arthur and Susan Lindenauer’s 60th Wedding Anniversary
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Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers
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Ellis Mirsky
Carla M. Palumbo

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Lesley Rosenthal

In Honor of Juanita Lugo Martinez
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In Honor of Paul Montclare
Lauren Wachtler

In Honor of Mary Lou Crowley
Stephen P. Younger

In Honor of Matthew J. Nolfo and Tara Ann Pleat
James R. Barnes
In Honor of NYSBA’s MRC Department
Robert Glennon

In Honor of Carla M. Palumbo
Ellen Makofsky

In Honor of Carla Palumbo, Lesley Rosenthal, and David Schraver for their important work
Ellis Mirsky

In Honor of Lesley Rosenthal
Deborah Auspelmyer
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Earamichia Brown
June Castellano
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In Honor of
T. David Stapleton on Posthumously Being Awarded the Elder Law and Special Needs Section Lifetime Achievement Award
James R. Barnes

In Honor of Vic Urba, M.C.
V. Jonas Urba

In Honor of Lauren Wachtler
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Hon. Sol Wachtler

In Honor of the Hon. Sol Wachtler
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The Foundation is proud to be one of the Denim Day fundraising recipients of Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube P.C. Each month the firm selects a designated charity, and attorneys and staff are encouraged to wear denim to work on Fridays in exchange for a donation to the selected charity. The New York Bar Foundation was a recipient of one of the monthly efforts. The firm noted, “We applaud your efforts, and those of your organization, in providing much needed compassion, support, and resources.”
The New York Bar Foundation fondly remembers the Fellows who passed in 2021

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2021 at a Glance

2021 Grant Program Impact

- 160,727 New Yorkers Served
- 5,314,790 New Yorkers Affected

- 69% Facilitating the delivery of legal services
- 16% Improving the justice system and the law
- 13% Increasing public understanding of the law
- 2% Enhancing professional competence and ethics