

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2019 PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS



President's Message

It is fitting that each year on Law Day we present the President's Pro Bono Service Awards to honor the attorneys, law students, law firms and justice programs that in the past year have provided extraordinary pro bono service to those in need.

All the honorees were nominated by their peers, which is a testament to the respect their work has commanded. I am very pleased that we received a number of extraordinary law student nominations this year. We note that this is the 30th anniversary of the President's Committee on Access to Justice's Law Day luncheon to honor those who give so much of their time and knowledge, what Abraham Lincoln referred to as "a lawyer's stock in trade."



No matter what the year's Law Day theme, the public good and public service is always at its heart. As lawyers, we defend the rule of law and fight for universal access to justice. This is the oath we took when we became lawyers; it is our sacred trust. As Martin Luther King, Jr., succinctly stated, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Lawyers take that very seriously.

We are fortunate because, as lawyers, we have the knowledge and the skills to assist our less fortunate fellow citizens in meaningful, sometimes life-altering ways. We can help make our communities and our world just a little bit better. That, in and of itself, is a gift.

So, as we fight for full funding for indigent criminal and civil defense so that all who need a lawyer can get one, regardless of ability to pay, and work to amend unfair laws to ensure that all truly are equal in the eyes of the law, we volunteer.

To this year's honorees, thank you. I am so impressed by your generosity, your sense of justice, the way you actively seek opportunities to serve and look for ways to share your time and talent with those in need.

But make no mistake: no profession does as much to help others as does ours; it is in our DNA. While today's celebration publicly recognizes the contributions of some, we honor every lawyer who steps forward to give back. Thousands of lawyers donate tens of thousands of hours each year in pro bono service. On behalf of the New York State Bar Association, I congratulate you – all of you – and thank you for all you do.

AGENDA

Introductory Remarks

Henry M. Greenberg
President-Elect and
Co-Chair, President's Committee on Access to Justice

Welcome and Introduction of Judge Paul G. Feinman

Michael Miller
President

Keynote

Hon. Paul G. Feinman
Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals,
State of New York

Luncheon

Presentation of Awards

Michael Miller

Closing Remarks

Henry M. Greenberg

May 1, 2019
Albany, New York

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

"Pro Bono in Your PJs"

Log onto
NY.freelegalanswers.org
and sign up to be a
volunteer today!

Questions?

Contact Thomas Richards
Director, Pro Bono Services, NYSBA
trichards@nysba.org | 518.487.5640



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Register as an attorney volunteer or list your
organization at **NYSBAProBono.org** today!

Organizations:

- Does your organization provide legal services to our immigrant communities?
- Do you have projects that could benefit from volunteer attorneys?
- Post your training events on the Events page and list your projects today for volunteer attorney referrals!

Attorneys:

- Want to make a difference in your community, but don't know where to turn or lack immigration legal experience?
- Browse a list of exciting volunteer opportunities, review training resources, mentor others, and see what is happening around New York State on the Events page!

The New York State Bar Association's Pro Bono Immigration Portal is a new and exciting initiative created to address the growing needs of our immigrant communities and public service organizations, inspired by an overwhelming response of New York attorneys wishing to contribute and help out in any way they can. Browse available opportunities and volunteer directly, or use the tailored referral service to get connected with organizations that work closely with immigrants.

Questions? Email
probonoport@nysba.org
or call 518-487-5641.

This project was made possible in part by a grant from The New York Bar Foundation.



A WORD OF THANKS

Nominating Committee members review the nominations submitted in each of the award categories. The Association is deeply grateful to each of them for their thoughtful and careful review of each nominee's pro bono contributions. Members of the Nominating Committee are:

Michael Miller

President

Henry M. Greenberg

President-Elect and
Co-Chair, President's Committee on Access to Justice

Edwina Martin

Co-Chair, President's Committee on Access to Justice

Hon. Sergio Jimenez

Chair, Committee on Legal Aid

CRITERIA

Honorees are selected based on the depth, breadth and scope of the pro bono service rendered during 2018 and in consideration of the following criteria:

- Number of pro bono clients served;
- Number of pro bono hours donated;
- The impact of pro bono service on clients;
- The impact of service on a pro bono program; and
- The influence of their service on others to do pro bono.

A brief profile describes some of the outstanding pro bono service rendered by each award recipient.



Law Student

Kristin Alvarado

Cornell Law School
New York, NY

Nominator

Erin G. Van Vleck, Esq.
Legal Aid Society of Mid-
New York, Inc.
New York, NY

Kristin Alvarado graduated from the University of Notre Dame and is currently a third-year student at Cornell Law School. Through a partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York in Binghamton, Kristin assisted survivors of domestic violence in procuring divorces from their abusers. She also represented tenants in eviction proceedings in numerous town and village courts throughout the Binghamton area. Of the 14 eviction cases Kristin litigated, she successfully delayed or prevented an eviction in each one of them.

Young Lawyer

Michael J. Herberger, Esq.

Law Offices of Michael Herberger
Buffalo, NY

Nominator

Robert M. Elardo, Esq.
Erie County Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.



Michael J. Herberger has maintained his own private practice in Buffalo since 2015. He is a 2012 graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School, where he received a fellowship from the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program. Much of his recent volunteer work has been for the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project, which assists tenants facing eviction. In VLP's Attorney of the Morning Program, he has volunteered over 100 hours, providing representation in nearly 200 cases, and representing many of VLP's most vulnerable clients.

Law School Group

Family Court Legal Program

Pace Women's Justice Center
White Plains, NY

Nominator

Natalie J. Sobchak, Esq.
Pace Women's Justice Center



The Family Court Legal Program (FCLP) of the Pace Women's Justice Center (PWJC), a non-profit organization situated on the campus of the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in White Plains, NY, is honored to receive the 2019 NYSBA President's Pro Bono Service Award, Law School Group Division.

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of FCLP's initial creation in the White Plains Family Court, with the success of the program leading to its rep-

lication in the Yonkers Family Court shortly thereafter. The trailblazing FCLP model includes partnering non-profit organizations, County and State government, and higher education stakeholders to provide free, legal representation, regardless of income level, right in Family Court, with FCLP having office space in each of the courthouses. Thus, the lawyers and law students are exactly where the clients need them to be. The FCLP model was created for two purposes: (1) to address the needs of survivors of intimate partner violence who come to Family Court because their safety is in jeopardy and they need an emergency Order of Protection, and (2) to provide specialized, practical training to law students on Family Court litigation, trauma-informed interview techniques, drafting persuasive legal documents, and effective courtroom advocacy. Law students work under a Student Practice Order, which allows them to argue clients' cases before Family Court Judges under the direct supervision of the attorney staff.

While the success of FCLP is due in large part to the commitment and support of its unique partnership of stakeholders, most significantly this success is due to the highly cohesive and dedicated team of PWJC staff, pro bono attorneys, and law students working together to improve the lives of PWJC clients and their families. The law students are especially eager and open to learning how to screen for legal issues such as family offenses, custody, and child support, and ensuring that each person's legal needs are addressed. Staff and pro bono attorneys mentor each student individually. Moreover the students are trained to "look outside the box" to identify the counseling, safety planning, and social services needs of clients and to refer them to partnering agencies.

By assisting and empowering clients, who have been living in danger and fear of their abusive partners, in securing immediate orders of protection and related relief the same day they walk into the courthouse, the Family Court Legal Program is able to make a meaningful and positive difference in the lives of our neighbors in our local communities.



Senior Attorney

Janice Casey Silverberg, Esq.

Nominator

Natalie J. Sobchak, Esq.
Pace Women's Justice Center

Janice Casey Silverberg is honored to be selected as a recipient of this year's New York State Bar Association President's Pro Bono Service Award, Senior Division. Since her retirement from the New York City Law Department General Litigation Division in 2014, Janice has volunteered at the Pace Women's Justice Center Family Court Legal Program, which has pro bono legal clinics in both the White Plains and Yonkers Family Court sites in Westchester County. At the clinics, clients seeking Temporary Orders of Protection are interviewed, evaluated, and, if appropriate, represented in same day ex parte hearings by staff, volunteer attorneys and law school student interns, who may also prepare custody and support petitions on their behalf.

Janice is currently serving her second term as an elected member of the Irvington New York Board of Trustees; she also was elected to the Irvington Board of Education for three terms, from 1992-2001. She is committed to public service and to using her legal training to assist one of Westchester's most vulnerable populations.

Large Law Firm

Mayer Brown LLP

New York, NY

Nominator

Karen Fisher Gutheil, Esq. Executive Director

The Legal Aid Society

Brooklyn, NY

MAYER | BROWN

Mayer Brown LLP has long been committed to the principle that the Firm and its attorneys have a professional responsibility to contribute their time and skills to improve access to justice. Through our pro bono program, the Firm not only helps individuals to rebuild and restore their lives, it helps to foster the organizations and industries that address the underlying issues. In partnership with The Legal Aid Society, Lawyers Alliance for New York, and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Mayer Brown lawyers have assisted with matters relating to housing discrimination, eviction defense, prisoner's rights, immigration, habeas petitions, social security disability, police accountability, criminal record sealing, Medicaid benefits for low-income seniors, and services to nonprofit organizations in such areas as governance, tax, real estate, and intellectual property, to help improve the quality of life in low-income New York City communities. Mayer Brown lawyers have also provided pro bono assistance to the New York community through such organizations as the Bronx Defenders, Catholic Charities Community Services, KIND, the Immigration Justice Campaign, the New York City Bar Justice Center, Sanctuary for Families, and the New York Lawyers Assistance Group (NYLAG).



Mid-sized Law Firm

*Coughlin & Gerhart,
LLP*

Binghamton, NY

Nominator

Legal Aid Society of
Mid-New York, Inc.
Binghamton, NY

On behalf of *Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP*, I would like to thank the New York State Bar Association for our recognition as this year's Pro Bono Service Award recipient in the Mid-Size Firm category. While our Firm has grown to be fifth largest law firm in Central New York, I am proud to say that we have stayed true to our core values. We continue to place great emphasis upon service to our community, to our profession, and to those in need of pro bono legal services. In her nomination letter, Arlene Sanders of the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, did a wonderful job of listing some of our recent pro bono accomplishments. In addition to those services she mentioned, in 2018 the lawyers at Coughlin & Gerhart provided pro bono legal services to our local business incubator as part of a start-up competition. We also created a new not for profit entity to coordinate assistance for non-profit service groups in the Binghamton area. In addition, much like other lawyers across the State, we are involved as Board members for countless service organizations in our community, providing hundreds of hours of "informal" pro bono advice. We are proud of what we do and we recognize there is still so much more to be done.

Small Law Firm

Copps DiPaola Silverman, PLLC

Albany, NY

Nominator

Susan S. Pattenau, Esq.

The Legal Project

Albany, NY

COPPS DiPAOLA SILVERMAN, PLLC

The mission of *Copps DiPaola Silverman, PLLC* is to provide skilled advocacy and knowledge to our clients in the areas of Adoption, Assisted Reproduction Technology (surrogacy, egg/sperm/embryo donation), Divorce & Family Law, Estate Planning & Probate, Guardianship, Name Changes, Residential Real Estate, Corporate Formation & Operations and Italian/American Dual Citizenship. We work to educate our clients about the law and their options. At Copps DiPaola Silverman, PLLC we believe that clients are best served when they have the knowledge to make informed decisions throughout their cases, are fully engaged in strategy discussions, and participate in cost benefit analysis of potential actions. We care. We are committed. We bring those very same principles to our community, through pro bono advocacy for the underserved populations throughout the Capital District of New York State. Our attorneys assist the community by co-chairing the local Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee, hosting legal clinics and providing direct representation to clients in family law matters (i.e. family offense, custody, child support, divorces, adoption, KinGAP), providing representation and assistance in special immigrant juvenile status proceedings, volunteering at Elder Law Day and Veteran's Law Day, providing limited legal advice multiple times per month at the Albany County Help Center and training volunteer attorneys so they can become volunteers, and providing pro bono representation and technical assistance to not-for-profit organizations in the community.



First Judicial District

Camille J. Mackler, Esq.

Director of Immigration
Legal Policy
New York Immigration Coalition
New York, NY

Nominator

Sarah Rogerson
Clinical Professor of Law
Albany Law School
Albany, NY

1st Judicial District (Manhattan)

Camille J. Mackler, Esq. is the Director of Immigration Legal Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. In that role, she leads advocacy campaigns to improve laws and policies for the benefit of immigrants across New York State. Ms. Mackler has led a number of important campaigns, including, most recently, coordinating legal efforts at JFK airport during the travel ban targeting refugees and citizens of seven countries and at the Albany County Jail after the largest one-time transfer of asylum seekers from the Southern Border to New York State. She has successfully advocated for protections for immigrants seeking legal assistance, including successfully pushing for significant increases in public funding of immigration legal services in both New York City and New York State, helping pass a 2014 New York State law deemed one of the strongest consumer protection laws in the country. Ms. Mackler has a Juris Doctorate from New York Law School and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. She currently serves as the Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Immigration Representation. As the daughter of celebrated journalist Peter Mackler, Ms. Mackler is also committed to supporting training and protections for ethical journalism worldwide. To that end, and in partnership with Agence France-Presse and Reporters Without Borders, she helped establish the Peter Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism, shaping the award program in its early years. She continues to sit on the Board of the Global Media Forum Training Group, which oversees the Award.



Second Judicial District

Jonathan Plasse

New York, NY

Nominator

Joseph Rebella, Esq.

Mobilization for Justice

New York, NY

2nd Judicial District (Brooklyn)

Jonathan Plasse devoted 36 years to prosecuting securities and other class actions at Labaton Sucharow, a Manhattan law firm. He joined the firm in 1978 as an associate, and retired as a senior partner in 2015. While there, Mr. Plasse often prosecuted cases on behalf of classes of purchasers of securities issued by companies such as Countrywide Financial Corp. The cases were usually resolved after intensive discovery and prior to trial.

Mr. Plasse's volunteer work at Mobilization for Justice entails managing the foreclosure clinic at the Brooklyn Supreme Court. The homeowners who visit are threatened with the loss of homes that they or their families have held for years, perhaps decades. They are understandably unnerved by the foreclosure litigation, and have limited financial resources. They need our help. That help may take a variety of forms: helping them apply for a mortgage loan modification; referring them to a housing or other counselor; or providing legal assistance, such as answering or moving to dismiss a foreclosure complaint, or staying the auction sale of their property.

Mr. Plasse finds his volunteer work emotionally rewarding, "offering to help people who are very much in need and grateful for the legal and other assistance I provide. It is personally gratifying in a way that my professional career never was."



Third Judicial District

*Sharon Couch
DeBonis, Esq.*

Troy, NY

Nominators

Myleah Misenhimer, Private
Attorney Involvement Director
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern
New York
Albany, NY

**3rd Judicial District (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer,
Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster counties)**

Sharon Couch DeBonis graduated from Bennington College in 1972 and from Albany Law School of Union University in 1981. She has been a sole practitioner in Troy, NY, since 1989, with a practice concentrated in real estate transactions and construction law. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Albany County Bar Association, and the Northeastern Subcontractors Association. It has been her pleasure and privilege to provide pro bono legal advice and representation to the Albany Damien Center for over twenty years and to participate in the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York's Attorney for the Day program since its inception. She is also gaining experience in obtaining transgender name changes for clients of the Legal Aid Society and thanks the clients who have allowed her to practice on their behalf.

Fourth Judicial District

Amanda L. Rose, Esq.

Mayfield, NY

Nominators

Lillian Moy, Executive Director

Myleah Misenhimer, Private

Attorney Involvement Director

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern

New York

Albany, NY



4th Judicial District (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington counties)

Amanda L. Rose maintains a private practice in Mayfield focusing on matrimonial, family, criminal and real estate matters. Rose does pro bono work with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York in the Pro Se Divorce Program. Additionally, she serves as vice president on the board of the Family Counseling Center in Gloversville.



Fifth Judicial District

Ashley N. Lyon, Esq.

McClusky Law Firm
Adams, NY

Nominator

Paul Lupia, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New
York, Inc.
Syracuse, NY

5th Judicial District (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego counties)

Ashley Lyon is an associate at the McClusky Law Firm in Adams, NY. She primarily represents clients in family, criminal, and matrimonial matters. For years, Ashley has been volunteering through the Volunteer Lawyers Project to provide legal advice regarding family court matters to indigent people in Jefferson County. She also helps draft custody/visitation, paternity, and support petitions on their behalf.

Sixth Judicial District

Carole M. Cassidy, Esq.

Binghamton, NY

Nominator

Erin G. Van Vleck, Esq.
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New
York, Inc.
Utica, NY



6th Judicial District (Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins counties)

Carole M. Cassidy is the Senior Staff Attorney at Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc. where she provides free civil legal services to crime victims in Broome and Chenango Counties. From 2001 to 2009 and 2011 to 2015 she was a prosecutor in the Broome County District Attorney's Office and served as an assistant county attorney in 2016. Cassidy earned her JD from Syracuse University College of Law. She also has an MA in Applied Social Sciences with an emphasis in Counseling and a BS from Binghamton University.

Cassidy was the first volunteer for Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York's pro bono Attorney of the Hour Town & Village Eviction Defense Program in Broome County. She assisted 25 people facing eviction and helped clients remain in their homes in 57% of her cases. Her service, reliability, and commitment to the program were integral to its early success.

Her commitment to assisting and providing legal services to the disadvantaged in her community, especially women and children, is a pervasive theme throughout her career.



Seventh Judicial District

George K. Forsyth, Esq.

Forsyth and Forsyth
Rochester, NY

Nominator

Tina M. Foster, Esq.
Executive Director
Volunteer Legal Services Project
of Monroe County, Inc.
Rochester, NY

7th Judicial District (Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates)

George K. Forsyth, Esq. graduated in 1970 from Phillips Academy Andover and in 1974 from the University of Rochester with a BA in History with honors. He graduated from Albany Law School in 1978. Admitted to NYS Bar in February, 1979, Mr. Forsyth has worked in Rochester, NY his entire career. He is currently a partner with his brother, Scott A. Forsyth, Esq., in the Forsyth & Forsyth law firm. Mr. Forsyth is married to Dottie O'Rourke and they have two children and three step-children. They have 5 wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Forsyth's career has been devoted to family and matrimonial law. Over the years, he has represented many, many clients through the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County and always has two or three pro bono files going at a particular time.

Eighth Judicial District

David S. Whittemore, Esq.

Bennett, DiFilippo &
Kurtzhaltz, LLP
East Aurora, NY

Nominator

Robert M. Elardo, CEO
Erie County Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
Buffalo, NY



**8th Judicial District (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie,
Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming counties)**

David S. Whittemore is an associate with the law office of Bennett, DiFilippo & Kurtzhaltz, LLP in East Aurora, New York. He has been a practicing attorney for over 25 years and primarily practices in the areas of personal injury, criminal defense, and matrimonial/family law.

Mr. Whittemore received his law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1993. He also received a Master's in Business Administration from that institution.

Mr. Whittemore has worked with the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. through the Bar Association of Erie County almost since he was admitted to the practice of law. He has worked in a variety of areas for the Volunteer Lawyers Project over the years, most recently concentrating on matrimonial actions.

Outside of the practice of law, Mr. Whittemore has served on the Board of Directors of Spectrum Health and Human Services of Western New York, Inc. Mr. Whittemore serves as Vice Chairman of that organization.



Ninth Judicial District

*Sheila Sartorius
Miller, Esq.*

Pace Women's Justice Center

Nominator

Natalie J. Sobchak, Esq.

Pace Women's Justice Center
White Plains, NY

9th Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester counties)

In 2006 Sheila moved to Chappaqua, NY, after having spent almost twenty-five years overseas in Turkey, South Korea, the Netherlands and Lebanon. While overseas she worked as a foreign legal consultant at Kim & Chang in Seoul, and as a Grants Officer at the American University of Beirut.

Since 2012, Sheila has been a volunteer attorney at Pace Women's Justice Center where she has worked at the Legal Helpline, at the Walk-In Clinic, and at the Family Court Legal Program, representing victims of domestic violence. Sheila serves on the boards of the League of Women Voters of New Castle, and the League of Women Voters of New York State. In 2016, Sheila was awarded the Kathryn Gurfein Writing Fellowship at the Writing Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, where she continues to study writing. Sheila graduated from Pace Law School (JD), where she was a member of Law Review, and Sarah Lawrence College (BA). She has one son who lives in Denver. She and her husband, John, live in Armonk, NY.

Tenth Judicial District

Eve A. Nowak, Esq.

Uniondale, NY

Nominator

Maria Dosso

Director of Communications
and Volunteer Services

Nassau Suffolk Law Services
Islandia, NY



10th Judicial District (Nassau, Suffolk counties)

Eve Nowak is a Volunteer Attorney for the Pro Bono Project of Nassau Suffolk Law Services (NSLS) in Islandia, New York. She has worked with the Project since 2015 devoting one to two days each week totaling over 250 hours a year to Suffolk County's most vulnerable. Ms. Nowak is also involved in the Project's Child Support Pro Se initiative.

The hundreds of calls that the Project receives involve requests for pro bono attorneys in divorce, bankruptcy, guardianship, and other civil matters. Ms. Nowak works in-house as part of NSLS staff, carefully screening and assessing each individual's legal needs. This requires countless hours on the phone in order to advise, refer or accurately evaluate each person for possible pro bono representation. Additionally, the Pro Bono Project is committed to providing pro se assistance in child support matters.

Ms. Nowak is a graduate of Cardozo School of Law. She spent her early years working as a staff attorney for the Criminal Defense division of the Legal Aid Society in Queens County. She went on to work as Assigned Counsel in Bronx County. Ms. Nowak later took a hiatus to raise her children. She wanted to return to law with the intention of giving back. She is proud to be working alongside the competent and dedicated attorneys and staff of Nassau Suffolk Law Services.



Eleventh Judicial District

Lawrence C. Fox, Esq.

Duane Morris LLP
New York, NY

Nominator

Katharyn I. Christian McGee, Esq.,
Pro Bono Counsel
Duane Morris LLP

11th Judicial District (Queens County)

Lawrence Fox is a partner and a commercial litigator in the New York office of Duane Morris.

In association with the Mount Sinai Medical-Legal Partnership, he founded and leads a pro bono legal clinic in Astoria, Queens that provides free legal services to low-income patients of Mount Sinai Queens Hospital. In the year that the clinic has been operating, Lawrence and the clinic have counseled, assisted and represented more than a hundred low-income clients in matters involving landlord-tenant disputes (including in public housing), public benefits (Social Security disability, SSI, food stamps), immigration, and wills and guardianships. Lawrence has also provided pro bono representation and assistance in support of veterans, survivors of sex trafficking, and reproductive rights.

Attorney Professionalism Award

Peter J. Strauss, Esq.,

Senior Partner
Pierro, Connor & Strauss, LLC

Nominator

Louis W. Pierro, Esq.



Peter J. Strauss is Senior Partner at Pierro, Connor & Strauss, headquartered in its New York office. He has practiced trusts and estate law since 1961 and has special expertise in the legal problems of aging and persons with disabilities, end-of-life issues and the capacity of persons with disabilities to execute legal documents with respect to health care. He is a founding member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, a Fellow of the American Academy of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law at the New York Law School, where he teaches Elder Law and is director of the guardianship clinic. Mr. Strauss has been honored from 2007 to 2019 as one of the New York Metropolitan area's "Best Lawyers," and "Super Lawyer" from 2007 to 2016.

Mr. Strauss is a prolific author and has written articles for various publications including the *New York Law Journal* and *Bottom Line Personal* and has addressed many national professional and consumer organizations. He is the author of the consumer book, *The Complete Retirement Survival Guide: Everything You Need to Know to Safeguard Your Money, Your Health and Your Independence*, (Facts-on-File, Inc. 2003).

Mr. Strauss presently serves on the Executive Committee of the Elder Law & Special Needs Section of the New York State Bar Association, the Board of Directors of End of Life Choices New York and JALBCA (Judges & Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert) and the Steering Committee of the Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine.

Counties in the 13 Judicial Districts

First:	New York
Second:	Kings
Third:	Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster
Fourth:	Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington
Fifth:	Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego
Sixth:	Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins
Seventh:	Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates
Eighth:	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming
Ninth:	Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester
Tenth:	Nassau, Suffolk
Eleventh:	Queens
Twelfth:	Bronx
Thirteenth:	Richmond County at St. George, Staten Island

Previous Recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards

2018

Kevin Sullian – 1st Judicial District

William Pollak – 2nd Judicial District

G. Kimball Williams – 3rd Judicial District

Alexander Dunshee – 4th Judicial District

James B. Fleckenstein – 5th Judicial District

Teresa McNamara – 6th Judicial District

Anita Pelletier – 7th Judicial District

Benjamin R. Dwyer – 8th Judicial District

Kevin Preston – 9th Judicial District

Lewis Silverman – 10th Judicial District

Arnold Drucker – 11th Judicial District

None Selected – 12th Judicial District

None Selected – 13th Judicial District

Shaimaa Hussein – Young Lawyer

Barbara M. Heyne – Senior Lawyer

Patricio Martinez-Llompарт – Law Student

*New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division,
Fourth Department* – Government Office

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP – Large Law Firm

Bousquet Holstein – Small Law Firm

2017

Adam Hunt – 1st Judicial District

Victor N. Piacente – 2nd Judicial District

Byrgen Finkelman – 3rd Judicial District

None Selected – 4th Judicial District

Todd M. Long – 5th Judicial District

Hon. Eugene E. Peckham – 6th Judicial District

Paul B. Watkins – 7th Judicial District

Lawlor F. Quinlan III – 8th Judicial District

Robert J. Nahoum – 9th Judicial District

Henry M. Mascia – 10th Judicial District

Thomas Wojtaszek – 11th Judicial District

None Selected – 12th Judicial District

None Selected – 13th Judicial District

Paul Q. Andrews – Young Lawyer

Barbara Weiner – Senior Lawyer

Lauren Henry – Law Student

*The Immigration Advocacy Project at Fordham Law School –
Law School Group*

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP – Large Law Firm

Barclay Damon LLP – Small/Mid-sized Law Firm

NBC Universal Media – In-House Counsel

2016

Stephen C. Lessard – 1st Judicial District

None Selected – 2nd Judicial District

Denise M. Resta-Tobin – 3rd Judicial District

Charles R. Harding – 4th Judicial District

Michael Palczewski – 5th Judicial District

James G. Cushman – 6th Judicial District

Andrew L. Martin – 7th Judicial District

Raymond N. McCabe – 8th Judicial District

Wendy Marie Weathers – 9th Judicial District

S. Robert Kroll – 10th Judicial District

Daniel A. Costigan – 11th Judicial District

None Selected – 12th Judicial District

None Selected – 13th Judicial District

Osvaldo Garcia – Young Lawyer

Frederick Stephen Marty – Senior Lawyer

Jessica Persaud – Law Student

Touro Law Disaster Relief Center – Law School Group

DLA Piper LLP (US) – Large Law Firm

Phillips Lytle LLP – Small/Mid-sized Law Firm

2015

Marjorie J. Peerce – 1st Judicial District

None Selected – 2nd Judicial District

Lynne A. Papazian – 3rd Judicial District

Natasha B. Hill – 4th Judicial District

Emilee Lawson Hatch – 5th Judicial District

William L. Gibson, Jr. – 6th Judicial District

Sandra M. Williams – 7th Judicial District

John L. Trigilio – 8th Judicial District

Sarah Sulkowski – 9th Judicial District

Harold M. Somer – 10th Judicial District

Brandy A. Beltas – 11th Judicial District

Eric Faragi – 12th Judicial District

Jack Yoskowitz – 13th Judicial District

Josie M. Sheppard – Young Lawyer

Janet Axelrod – Senior Lawyer

Shelby Maroselli – Law Student

Society for Immigrant and Refugees Rights – Law School Group

Shearman & Sterling LLP – Large Law Firm

Hodgson Russ LLP – Mid-Sized Law Firm

The Law Offices of Remy R. Perot LLP – Small Law Firm

2014

David A. Sausen – 1st Judicial District

Sarah Levin & Christopher Strong – 2nd Judicial District

Robert P. Mascali – 3rd Judicial District

Joel P. Peller – 4th Judicial District

Thomas E. Myers – 5th Judicial District

Kevin H. Yeager – 6th Judicial District

Kevin T. Saunders – 7th Judicial District

Joshua E. Dubs – 8th Judicial District

Robert H. Hermann – 9th Judicial District

Evelyn Kalenscher – 10th Judicial District

Bernadette M. Crowley – 11th Judicial District

Eric C. Woglom – 12th Judicial District

Tracy Lynn Sullivan – Young Lawyer

Frank Longo – Senior Lawyer

Joshua Bennett – Law Student

Hofstra University Veterans Legal Assistance Project –
Law School Group

Dechert LLP – Large Law Firm

Ashcraft Franklyn Young and Peters LLP – Small Law Firm

2013

Proskauer Team – 1st Judicial District

James Maleady – 2nd Judicial District

Michelle Wildgrube – 3rd Judicial District

Andrew Moses – 4th Judicial District

Anthony P. Marshall – 5th Judicial District

Mary Jo Long – 6th Judicial District

Michael S. Schnittman – 7th Judicial District

Matthew B. Herdzik – 8th Judicial District

Daniel A. Schlanger – 9th Judicial District

Michael Aronowsky – 10th Judicial District

Julia Maeng – 11th Judicial District

Jeffrey Alfano – 13th Judicial District

Lindsay Moilanen – Young Lawyer

Michael O'Brien – Senior Lawyer

Catherine (Cady) Sinnwell Gerlach – Law Student

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP – Large Law Firm

Morrison & Foerster LLP – Mid-sized Law Firm

Ehrlich & Arcodia PC – Small Law Firm

Theresa K. Mohan – In-House Counsel

Seventh Judicial District Help Center – Government Office

2012

Caroline Heller – 1st Judicial District

Weil Advantage Team – 2nd Judicial District

Alyssa Talanker – 3rd Judicial District

Jessica H. Vinson – 4th Judicial District

Jill O'Sullivan – 4th Judicial District

Susan N. Esce – 5th Judicial District

Carol Ann Malz – 6th Judicial District

Lucien A. Morin, II – 7th Judicial District

Peter C. Obersheimer – 8th Judicial District

Julia M. Santiago – 9th Judicial District

Barry M. Smolowitz – 10th Judicial District

Mohammad Saleem – 11th Judicial District

Noah Liben – 12th Judicial District

Daniel C. Marotta – 13th Judicial District

Natalie Fleming Nolen – Young Lawyer

Benjamin Pomerance – Law Student

Syracuse University College of Law Pro Bono Advisory Board –
Law School Group

Noemi Fernandez – Small Law Firm

Bond Schoeneck & King PLLC Syracuse Office – Mid-sized Firm

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher – Large Law firm

Daniel F. Kolb – Senior Lawyer

Ronnie Abrams – Government Office

Lesley Rosenthal – In-House Counsel

2011

Eric H. Blinderman – 1st Judicial District

Larissa Eustice – 2nd Judicial District

David A. Price – 3rd Judicial District

Bethany Schumann-McGhee – 4th Judicial District

John G. Powers – 5th Judicial District

Kurt D. Schrader – 6th Judicial District

Shaleeya B. McFadden – 7th Judicial District

Michael Anton Sciortino – 8th Judicial District

Elizabeth King – 9th Judicial District

Leah Belfort – 10th Judicial District

Ned Kassman – 11th Judicial District

Sheila T. McGinn – 13th Judicial District

Hon. Hugh C. Humphreys – Senior Attorney

Angela C. Winfield – Young Lawyer

Maria Martinez – Law Student

Brooklyn Law School's CLARO – Law School Group

Lansner Kubitschek Schaffer – Small Law Firm

Phillips Lytle LLP – Mid-sized Law Firm

Davis Polk & Wardell LLP – Large Law Firm

Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division –
Government Office

2010

Anne S. Raish – 1st Judicial District

Christopher Rio – 2nd Judicial District

Daniel J. Hurteau – 3rd Judicial District

Emily Muller – 4th Judicial District

David M. Hayes – 5th Judicial District

Peter A. Orville – 6th Judicial District

David Tennant – 7th Judicial District

Catherine E. Nagel – 8th Judicial District

Guy Fairstein – 9th Judicial District

Stuart P. Gelberg – 10th Judicial District

Hilary Gingold – 11th Judicial District

Michael S. Davi – 12th Judicial District

Serena M. Stonick – 13th Judicial District

Hagit Elul – Young Lawyer

Shirley Adelson Siegel – Senior Lawyer

Levene Gouldin & Thompson LLP – Small/Mid-sized Law Firm

Hiscock & Barclay LLP – Large Law Firm

Gary B. Cohen – In-House Counsel

Ryan Shannon – Law Student

Suspension Representation Project (SRP) –
Law Student Group/Organization



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