



**Association Address / Phone:** 132 Nassau St, Ste 200, New York, NY 10038; 212-349-5890

**Web site:** [www.nystla.org](http://www.nystla.org)

**Founded:** 1953

**Number of Members:** More than 3,500

**Brief Association Vision:** Our mission is to promote a safer and healthier society, to assure access to the civil justice system for those who are wrongfully injured, and to advance representation of the public by ethical, well-trained lawyers.

**Brief History:** More than 60 years ago, 20 trial lawyers who were concerned that New York had no forum for plaintiffs' lawyers founded the New York Association of Plaintiff's Trial Lawyers in 1953. Originally meeting in each other's homes, the group opened a one-room office and hired a single staff member in the early 1960s.

Since then, the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA) has become a 3,500-member professional association. It is a respected and effective voice on legislative issues affecting the rights of negligence victims and is consistently ranked the leading continuing legal education (CLE) provider in the state.

**What is your association's most popular outing / social event?** Our Law Day celebration is one of the biggest events of the year in our industry, as well as NYSTLA's signature social event. More than 1,000 plaintiff attorneys, defense attorneys and members of the judiciary come together to celebrate the rule of law.

**What is your association's most pressing concern regarding the legal profession?** Over the last 20 years, there have been an alarming number of legal initiatives that threaten to unfairly limit the legal rights of injured New Yorkers at the city, state, and federal levels. We are committed to fighting those initiatives, protecting and increasing access to the civil justice system and ensuring New York's victims have their right to a day in court.

**What are your association's most important current project / initiative?** NYSTLA defends the rights of consumers and victims across the state, with a focus on protecting patients who have suffered preventable medical errors, ensuring accident victims have access to the care they need after a crash, and keeping the laws that protect workers on the job strong and comprehensive. Every year, NYSTLA works to make



**Association partners**—The New York State Trial Lawyers Association held its "Partnership for Justice Gala" on November 19. Left to right: NYSTLA Executive Director Lawrence Park, President Michael Levine, President-Elect Evan Goldberg, who also is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Executive Committee.

sure the voices of victims from across New York are heard in the public debate.

NYSTLA values its ongoing relationship with the New York State Bar Association, which provides real opportunity for collaborative efforts on issues of mutual importance. For example, in the *Auqui* decision, both organizations filed briefs with the Court of Appeals to prevent decisions as to causation and permanency of

injury at the workers' compensation level from prohibiting a third-party action.

Personal injury practitioners are encouraged to join NYSTLA and get involved in our campaigns to defend victims' rights.

*The Bar Around The Corner is a project of the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders, [www.nyscbl.org](http://www.nyscbl.org).* ♦