President’s Message

A Foundation of Innovation in a Year of Crisis

2020 ended far differently than it began. We kicked off the year with a high-spirited Fellows Dinner, hugs and handshakes all around for our Lifetime Achievement Award winner Bob Haig, enjoyable conversations with Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, and Chinese New Year fortunes traded amongst ourselves. We ended it on a much more somber note, having lost several Fellows to illness, conducting our business entirely remotely, and planning the “virtual” 2021 dinner.

With the arrival of a global pandemic that would send millions to hospitals and millions more to the unemployment lines, the Foundation acted quickly, raising nearly $100,000 for a COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief Fund. Sparked by the energy and humanitarian concern of our board, propelled by the round-the-clock efforts of our extraordinary staff, and fueled by the generous support of Sections and individual donors, the Foundation has funded 27 grants for essential programs all around the state, including:

• seniors, medically fragile individuals, and first responders seeking advanced planning, such as wills, living wills, health care proxies and powers of attorney;
• small businesses working to preserve employment critical to the fabric of neighborhoods by renegotiating commercial lease and rent modifications;
• HIV-positive and LGBTQ immigrants seeking release from detention because of the virus;
• laid-off Latinx workers compromised by limited access to relief programs;
• renters with pandemic-related housing issues, trying to avoid homelessness;
• consumers facing unmanageable debt collection issues;
• emergency legal assistance for victims of domestic violence sheltering in place with their abusers; and
• those seeking sustenance income, health care, and food stamps.

The Foundation also awarded NYSBA support for its pathbreaking Unemployment Insurance Pro Bono Assistance Network project.

Also in 2020, the Foundation added its voice to the national reckoning with racial injustice and set forth an action plan. With pro bono research assistance by Cahill Gordon & Reindel, our Racial Justice Working Group’s report affirmed that racial justice is a core element of a rule-of-law society. The report, unanimously adopted by the board, detailed egregious structural inequities and identified eight areas in which the Foundation may make productive investments to advance racial equality, including through education, healthcare, and housing and homelessness initiatives.

Our strong bond of trust with Chief Judge DiFiore inspires us to continue to administer and grow the Catalyst program, this year alone providing 60 funded summer fellowships to students from every law school in the state to learn the ropes of public interest law. This year we also administered 15 Section fellowships and scholarships.

2020 also marked the centenary of women’s suffrage. At the invitation of the Chief Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, I presented a summary of Foundation’s work to the Circuit Judicial Conference, detailing how our grants enhance women’s access to justice in our state, through assistance with domestic violence, family, and immigration matters and more.

The Foundation’s spirit of nimbleness and innovation matches that of our grantees. Annually we provide close to three-quarters-of-a-million dollars in seed monies to pathbreaking legal services programs addressing the most urgent legal needs of our times. Our online giving campaigns assist victims of natural disasters, migrant children separated at the border, and veterans in need. This year we also revitalized our website, making our case for support ever more compelling, illustrative, and easy to navigate.

Our founders 70 years ago and our leadership since then have bequeathed to us a solid economic base from which to do the public good. Our partners at the NYSBA, the Sections, the House of Delegate members, and Fellows provide additional support upon which to build
our efforts. Our endowment provides a permanent source of funding for new programs and initiatives. Our recent re-launching of the Legacy Society provides bequests and planned gifts that build upon that nest egg. Prudent investment of our endowment has generated healthy returns in 2020, helping enlarge the corpus after our 4% spend rate for future years of grantmaking. This year, we have added 38 new Fellows. We celebrated many Circle moves and welcomed inaugural members of our new Presidential Circle at the $75,000 level.

We have also built upon our award-winning good governance practices, improving our compact and annual self-evaluation measurements and enhancing our bylaws to include term limits and seats at the table for younger lawyers. We have introduced a matrix for assessing existing capabilities, demographics, and geography of our board, for our Nominating Committee to continue to diversify our directorate.

The Fellows of the New York Bar Foundation continued to step up in exemplary ways. With a new leadership team of Chair James Barnes and Vice Chairs Lauren Wachtler and Don Doerr, the Fellows have revitalized district leadership and engaged Fellows across the state.

With this, my final Annual Report message as President, I look back upon my three years as President and 12 years of service on the board with gratitude and pride. Please join me in thanking my immediate predecessors Cris Cioffi and John Gross; in sharing my supreme confidence in my successors Carla Palumbo and Hon. Cheryl Chambers; in expressing utter astonishment at the hard work of our peerless executive team of Deborah Auspelmyer and Leigh Dorr; and in saluting our world-class corps of officers and directors. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve with such great and visionary leaders in this period of challenge and progress.

Warmly,

Lesley F. Rosenthal
President
A Message to The Fellows

Sending along my best to all of the Fellows for a happy and healthy 2021! In light of the hardship endured in 2020 across the globe, I believe the right place to begin this message is with reflection and gratitude. Through challenging and difficult times, we often see stronger bonds forged through fire.

As Chair of the Fellows, I have personally witnessed the outpouring of support offered by you, the champions of our Foundation, during this pandemic, and it has been immense. Each time the Foundation asked for help to assist others, the Fellows time and again stood resolute, answering the call and then some. Looking back at the spring of 2020, we were all facing a great unknown, including incredibly uncertain financial times. That being said, the Foundation’s call for a special grant cycle for COVID-19 legal services relief funding was met with overwhelming support by the Fellows. Your donations for those truly in need during a time of likely personal challenge, speaks volumes to the generosity of the best our profession has to offer.

We reached out to you again during the early summer, when we realized that we would not be able to gather in Cooperstown and hold our annual basket auction. Flexibility and adaptability became requirements in the past year, so we pivoted by issuing a challenge to the judicial districts across the state for a special fundraising campaign that would support our ongoing COVID-19 fund. As the months progressed, it became ever apparent that our friends at legal services organizations across the state were seeing unique legal challenges arise in their communities due to the pandemic. Once again, the Fellows in every judicial district responded to our challenge, again exceeding expectations.

The Foundation has engaged a group of young donors known as the Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation for several years now each November to raise funds for legal services projects specifically designed for Veterans. Over time, the Foundation has seen Fellows, young attorneys, and even non-attorneys steadfastly support this campaign to provide help for those who have served our beloved country. Uncertain of the impact of the pandemic, we set our goals modestly, but were not surprised when the 2020 campaign netted by far the highest total in its history.

Reflection and gratitude. We are thankful for our amazing health care professionals who stood on the front lines since day 1. We are grateful for the incredible work of scientists to guide our communities and discover a vaccine.

As I conclude my first year as Fellows Chair, I sincerely appreciate each of you, for the sacrifices you have made this year, and your willingness to meet the challenges faced by those in need of legal services.

Thank you!

James R. Barnes
Chair of the Fellows
Thank You for Changing Lives

As I reflect on this year, these words of President John F. Kennedy come to mind: “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.”

In a year of trepidation, unrest, and need, members of the legal community opened their hearts, wallets, and hands to live by their words. Donors, Fellows, volunteers, and legal services providers across the state provided thousands of hours of pro bono service, hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations, and a reassuring, permanent presence amidst the uncertainty. Once again, there was a crisis; once again, the Bar Foundation was there to respond.

2020 brought challenges unlike any we’ve ever faced. It was also an opportunity to refocus and realign. As a Foundation, we became nimble, implementing new technology, successfully pivoting to remote work, and readjusting our focus and fundraising efforts. As a community we kept our ears open to the needs of legal services providers and our neighbors, and we responded. As people we became more aware of the challenges our friends and colleagues were facing and took the time to ask how they were, wish them well, and offer a virtual hug and ear to listen when they were suffering. Together, we encountered some of the hardest challenges and highest obstacles and overcame them in a remarkable way.

Donors were generous and creative, presenting a first-ever virtual jazz performance for the Foundation’s benefit via Facebook (thank you Ted Rosenthal Trio!) and sending in photos in honor of veterans during the veteran’s campaign.

We rallied for a friendly competition of the Fellows to support an important cause, the COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief Fund (congratulations again JD1) and stumbled through our first Zoom meetings together.

The Foundation supports the good work of lawyers, spotlighting the compassion that permeates the profession but is often overlooked. As one donor noted, “The work that the Foundation does is tremendous, and it makes me proud to be a member of the New York State Bar even though I am retired.”

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Thank you to our donors, to the lawyers in the trenches offering the lifeline to that person in need, to the people who stepped up many times throughout the year.

Gratitude is so much more than a word. You live by your actions when you support the Foundation. You help us live by our mission and change lives. For that we are grateful.

Wishing you good health and looking forward to seeing you in person,

Deborah Auspelmyer
Foundation Executive

www.tnybf.org | 5
You helped Ms. B. Continue Living in Her Apartment

Through a Foundation grant to Helping At-Risk Communities (HARC), a program of Bronx Legal Services, you helped Ms. B. obtain benefits and avoid homelessness for herself and her grandson. Ms. B. is a 61-year-old, Spanish speaking, disabled woman who is the primary caregiver for her young grandson. With limited income, she faced eviction due to rental arrears. Before coming to HARC for assistance the family had never applied for public benefits, although they struggled financially. For Ms. B., going through the application process for public benefits was a daunting task—her disability prohibited her travel to fill out the necessary paperwork. As a result of legal advocacy and intervention, Ms. B. was able to obtain food stamps, retain health insurance, and continue living in her apartment. HARC also obtained an accommodation for Ms. B. to ensure her ongoing access to public benefits without compromising her health. Ms. B. is one of over 400 people assisted by the Foundation’s grant.

“We are so grateful for TNYBF’s grant and support. It is such a difficult time for the communities we serve, and public benefits issues will continue to be a lifeline for so many people. Thank you for being an exceptional partner and allowing us to meet the essentials of life for our clients.”
You Helped a Child Get A Healthy and Safe Home

Through a Foundation grant to Center for Elder Law & Justice for their Kinship Care Legal Services Program, you helped represent caregivers in kinship matters (including custody, guardianship, adoption, child support, family offense and administration matters). 1,000 people were affected by this grant and 246 people were served.

Auntie M. came to the Kinship Care Legal Services program, seeking custody of her grandnephew, who entered the foster care system when his parents were unable to care for him due to drug addiction. M. received legal representation and counseling services from Kinship Care throughout the process of becoming a foster parent. Throughout the process they also worked together to maintain the health and safety of her grandnephew. Her adoption of the child was recently finalized.

“CELJ’s Kinship unit works to keep families together and provide children a safe environment to grow up in. This vital work would not be possible without the support of organizations like The New York Bar Foundation. We are extremely grateful for your support!”
You Helped a Veteran Support His Family

Through a grant to Legal Services of the Hudson Valley you helped veterans through their Veterans and Military Services, Seven-County Service Region program. 895 people were affected by this grant, including Mr. D.

Mr. D. is a disabled veteran with PTSD who supports his adult daughter and grandchildren who live with him. Last year, Mr. D received notice of overpayment for his veteran’s benefits; his benefits were reduced by over two-thirds and subjected to garnishment. With legal assistance from the Veterans and Military Services program of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Mr. D. succeeded in stopping the garnishment of his veteran’s benefits. He was able to continue paying rent and supporting his family.

“On behalf of all of us at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, thank you for your continued support of our programming. We’re very grateful to have received private funding from The New York Bar Foundation, which supplemented other sources and enabled us to help an increased number of veterans and their families who were facing crisis with housing, family and consumer issues, among others.”
You Helped an Autistic Boy Receive an Education

Through a Foundation grant to the School Advocacy Project of The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, you helped students and families in need of Education Law services. This grant affected 157 people, including “A.”

A. is a 13-year-old boy who is severely autistic, mostly non-verbal, and intellectually disabled. Within one month of moving to Buffalo and starting at a new school without needed accommodations, A. was suspended for over one month. Lawyers from the School Advocacy Project coordinated meetings to discuss A.’s needs and enabled his return to school, with the transportation and technology accommodations he needed to help him succeed. During a follow-up, the family expressed happiness and gratitude for getting their son back in school and helping to mold his educational plan to one more suited to his needs.

“We are very grateful for the Foundation’s support of the School Advocacy Project at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. We could not continue to expand our advocacy in this area without the help of organizations such as The New York Bar Foundation.”
Gratitude in Action

The Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation Celebrates a 5 Year Partnership With NYSBA’s Young Lawyers Section to Assist Veterans in Need of Legal Services

For the fifth 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.

Raising the most money since its inception, in a year fraught with uncertainty, the campaign raised nearly $20,000 almost doubling its goal of $11,000.

“The Foundation developed this campaign as a virtual opportunity for giving five years ago,” explains Foundation Board member John P. Christopher. “It’s driven by personal social media outreach which resonates with young professionals. We were ahead of the virtual curve in its development which I think helped drive its success this year.”

117 donors gave this year, growing steadily from 78 when the campaign first began in 2016. Foundation Executive Deborah Auspelmyer has made the campaign into a case study for emulation by the National Conference of Bar Foundations. “This is a high energy campaign that young attorneys enjoy participating in,” states Auspelmyer. “It’s a meaningful way to come together and make a difference in the lives of veterans in need of legal services.”

The 2020 campaign also had a record-breaking year of firms participating as sponsors of the campaign. “I participate in the Veterans Day giving campaign because our veterans deserve to receive as much support here at home as they receive on the battlefield. By supporting the Foundation’s grant program, we are helping our veterans obtain legal advocacy and much-needed services,” stated Bradley C. Murray, Esq., Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube P.C. and Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation donor. NYSBA members that have been practicing less than 10 years are invited to become a member of this giving group by giving a minimum of $30 to the Foundation on an annual basis.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Campaign Firm Partners
Aiello & DiFalco LLP
Burke & Casserly, P.C.
Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube P.C.
Greenfield Stein & Senior LLP
Locke Lord LLP
The Tarver Law Firm

Top Leaderboard Fundraisers
James R. Barnes
John P. Christopher
Michael DiFalco

Most Social on the Leaderboard
Deborah Auspelmyer
James R. Barnes
John P. Christopher
“This year added more challenges for our most vulnerable New Yorkers. Veterans, in particular, are one of the most exposed groups suffering from the health and economic symptoms of this pandemic,” states Michael DiFalco, Aiello & DiFalco LLP, Chair of the NYSBA Young Lawyers Section. “I’m proud that the Young Lawyers Section was able to raise more than we did in 2019 towards charitable causes benefiting veterans, despite the financial pressures on so many of the Bar as well.”

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

Anonymous, in memory of James Benedict Kobak
Andrea Agresta, in honor of Edward E. Ryczek, US Navy Veteran
Laura Aiello, in honor of Edward Aiello
Deborah Auspelmyer, in honor of Gene Ryczek, US Navy World War II Veteran
Janice Bahr, in honor of Robert Vitrikas
Marie Bailey
James Barnes
Sarah Barnes-Ryan
Mary Bassett, in honor of Walter R. Smith
Michele Bauer, in honor of Kenneth G. Ackerman
Andrea Bernardo, in honor of Manuel Fredgant
Judi Bloomingdale, in honor of Michael Sagliocca
Laurence Bousquet
JoBeth Brudner
Allyson Burger
June Castellano
Julia Cella
Hon. Cheryl Chambers, in memory of James Benedict Kobak
Amanda Chesterfield
John Christopher, in honor of Paul Christopher
Nicole Clouthier, in honor of my grandfathers, Hon. Thomas J. Manton and Bob Laurent
David Cohen
Lynn Coles, in honor of Gerard Zaklukiewicz
Ilene Cooper
Mary Jo Davies
Michael DiFalco, in honor of Edward Aiello
Mark DiFalco, in honor of Edward Aiello
Bettina Dill
Donald Doerr
Giovanna D’Orazio
Lorraine Duthe
Peter Farna, in honor of Nicholas Galeazza
Timothy Fennell
Emily Franchina, in honor of Zach Hinsch
William Friedlander, in honor of Alan J. Friedlander
Gioia Gensini
Nancy E. Gianakos, in honor of Joseph Biancanello, William J. Pomfret, and Anthony D’Amico
Mike Gionesi
Bruce Gitlin, in honor of Liz Gitlin
Sarah Gold
David Governo, in honor of Edward Aiello
Patricia Grant, in honor of Edward Aiello
Claire Gutekunst, in honor of Gurney O. Gutekunst
Karen Halaco
Thomas Haley, in honor of Thomas Larson, USMCR
David M. Hayes
Andrew Heck
Netanel Hershtik
Denise Hofbauer
David Hutter
Candyce Ingwersen
Deborah Johnson
James Kobak Jr. and family, in memory of James Benedict Kobak
Laurel Kretzing, in honor of Henry Row & Jack Kretzing
Deborah and Michael Lammens, in honor of Edward Aiello

Eugene Ryczek

Michael and Taylor Parker

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Andrea Bernardo, in honor of Manuel Fredgant
Judi Bloomingdale, in honor of Michael Sagliocca
Meredith Lammens-Mahmood, in honor of Edward Aiello
C. Bruce Lawrence
Gary Lindsley, in honor of my Dad, Norman Lindsley and uncles: Bill(s), Ronny, Jack, Ken, Donald and Bob; Dan Fitzgerald, Anthony Wilbur, and Bobby and Kenny Lessig
Richard Long
Alicia Longobardo
Karin Lopez, in honor of Kevin Alvin Kolz
Michael Marinaccio
Edwina Martin
Maureen McCarthy
Colan McGeehan, in honor of Robert McGeehan
Alexis Meister
Claire Miller
Ronald Minkoff
Ellis Mirsky, in honor of Sgts. Jacob J. Mirsky (Dad) and Lucille A. Mirsky (Mom), USMC ret.
Cory Morris
Martha Mulroy
Bradley Murray, in honor Claude N. Austin, U.S. Army and John E. Murray, U.S. Navy
Kathleen Notaro, in honor of John Notaro
Rose Nunez, in honor of Antonio Alvarez, our grandfather who fought in WW2
Philip O’Hay, in honor of Lieut. Dr. Jacques C. Saphier Guadalcanal, 8/21/1942 Silver Star
Christina Olbrych
Marne Onderdonk
Joanna Palumbo
Carla Palumbo
Jessica Parker, in honor of Jeffrey Parker
Brennen Parker, in honor of Michael & Taylor Parker
Nilesh Patel
Joseph Portela
Patrick Radel
Courtney Radick
Brianne Rahn
Adam Reynolds
M. Catherine Richardson
William Russell, in memory of James Benedict Kobak
Michael Sahn
Elaine Santiago, in honor of Ismael Santiago Jiménez
Debbie Satas
Parsh Shah
Tapan Shah
Lauren Sharkey
Liz Sharpe
Deborah Slezak
Graeme Spicer
Jill Spooner
Darren Stack
Ken and Nancy Stein
Tamara Stephen
Terrence Tarver, in honor of Cary Tarver and in memory of Van Tarver, Jr.
Ronald Thomas
Lauren Wachtler, in memory of James Kobak Sr.
Hon. Sol Wachtler, in honor of Lauren Wachtler
Michelle Wildgrube
Sandra Rivera
Jennifer Rosenkrantz
Lesley Rosenthal, in honor of Black veterans of the US armed forces
Susan Ross
The Foundation welcomed new elected officers of the Fellows of the Foundation. James R. Barnes, Esq., Burke & Casserly, P.C., Albany was elected as Chair of the Fellows; and Donald C. Doerr and Lauren J. Wachtler were elected Vice Chairs of the Fellows. Additionally, new leadership was appointed as Judicial District Fellows Chairs and Co-Chairs including Sarah Gold, Chair of the third judicial district; Claire Miller, Chair of the thirteenth judicial district; Steven Millon, Chair of the twelfth judicial district, and Tara Anne Pleat, Co-Chair of the fourth judicial district.

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

Election to the Fellows is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an attorney licensed to practice in New York State.

Barnes is a shareholder of Burke & Casserly, P.C., which he first joined in 2005. He focuses his practice on elder law, trusts and estates, guardianship, special needs planning, business formation and succession planning, and real estate. Barnes has been an innovator on the board of The New York Bar Foundation. He pioneered the Foundation’s annual Veterans Day fundraising campaign, which meets the legal needs of veterans. Barnes also spearheaded the creation of the Young Lawyer Friends of The Foundation, a group that now includes more than 700 attorneys fewer than 10 years out of law school who annually contribute to the Foundation.

Barnes serves on the board of directors of The New York Bar Foundation. He has been a Fellow since 2012 and is in the Benjamin N. Cardozo Circle of Giving. He has degrees from Wake Forest University School of Law and the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Barnes states, “I originally wanted to become a Fellow to join the exemplary attorneys in our state who are passionately committed to the ideals of access to justice and the rule of law. Once I received this special honor, I had the privilege of joining these individuals in advancing the work of the Foundation. I have purposefully remained active having time and again witnessed the significant contributions our Foundation makes to individuals, families, and communities in need by supporting worthy legal services organizations throughout New York State. I look forward to working with the Vice Chairs, Judicial District chairs, co-chairs and Fellows in continuing the good works of the Foundation.”

Donald C. Doerr is the District Executive of the Fifth Judicial District, where he assists the Administrative Judge carrying out responsibilities for supervising the day-to-day operations of the State’s trial courts (Supreme, County, Family, Surrogate’s, City, Town and Village and all specialty courts).

Doerr serves on the Foundation’s Board of Directors and its Audit Committee. He is the Chair of the Fellows of the fifth judicial district and is in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving. Doerr has degrees from Syracuse University College of Law and Syracuse University.

Doerr states, “I’m very much looking forward to my position as Vice Chair of the Fellows in order to raise the awareness of all the Fellows in the 13 judicial districts around the state and thereby strengthen the New York Bar Foundation as a whole.”

Lauren J. Wachtler is a partner at Barclay Damon LLP, where she primarily focuses on commercial and business litigation.

Ms. Wachtler has been an active
member of the Board of Directors of The Foundation and previously served as the Co-Chair of its Development Committee. She has been a Fellow of the Foundation since 2003 and is a member of the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving. Wachtler holds degrees from St. John’s University School of Law and Mt. Holyoke College.

Wachtler states, “Being a Fellow has been and continues to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my career. The number of individuals and organizations who have been touched by the grants the Foundation has made, empowers not only our grantees, but every one of us, and makes us proud every day.”

The Fellows also appointed new Judicial District Chairs and Co-Chairs.

Sarah Gold is the new Chair of the Fellows of the third judicial district, which includes Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

Gold is the proprietor of Gold Law Firm in Albany, NY, where she focuses on company formation, non-profits, employment contracts, and business law. Gold has been a Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation since 2016 and is in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving.

Gold holds degrees from Albany Law School, University of Albany, and Schenectady County Community College.

Steven E. Millon is the new Chair of the Fellows of the twelfth judicial district, which includes Bronx County.

Millon has been practicing law for 35 years, exclusively in the area of plaintiffs’ personal injury-currently as a partner in the firm of Shapiro-Millon, Esqs. Mr. Millon has been a Life Fellow of the Foundation since 1997.

Millon holds degrees from Cardozo School of Law and SUNY Stony Brook. He states, “My involvement with the Foundation as District Chair will allow me to continue to fulfill the lofty goal of NYSBA of ‘Doing the Public Good’, albeit on a different platform. The call for providing financial resources for under-funded legal services and thereby affording those in need of Access to Justice, cannot be overstated.”

Claire Miller is the new Judicial District Chair of the thirteenth judicial district, which covers Richmond County (Staten Island).

She established her own law firm in 1990, practicing in matrimonial and family law. She also serves as a Special Master in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program of the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division 2nd Department. She has been a Fellow since 2015.

Pleat co-owns the law firm Wilcenski & Pleat PLLC. She practices in the areas of special needs estate planning and administration, traditional estate planning and administration, long-term care planning, and elder law. She has been a Fellow since 2015.

Pleat holds degrees from Albany Law School where she graduated with honors in the Estate Planning concentration, and the State University of New York at Albany.

Congratulations and welcome to these new Fellows leaders.
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 programing 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
(Vacant)

Tenth
Gary Fishberg
Garden City

Ilene Cooper
Uniondale

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 2020. You have made a difference in helping those in need of legal services throughout New York State.

The following Fellows have been elected by The Foundation Board of Directors for 2020 and have accepted this distinguished honor. The Foundation is pleased to welcome new Fellows from each judicial district:

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Reid Ashinoff, New York City (Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
Hon. Ariel Belen, New York City (JAMS) ~ Joined as a Fellow in the Maryann Saccomando Freedman Circle of Giving
Vivian Berger, New York City (Columbia Law School)
Mark J. Bunim, New York City (Case Closure)
William H. Crosby, New York City (The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
Robert B. Davidson, New York City (JAMS) Below William H. Crosby
Richard Edlin, New York City (Greenberg Traurig) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
Sheryl Giugliano, New York City
Hon. Shirley Werner Kornreich, New York City (JAMS)
Jill Miller, New York City (Jill Miller & Associates, PC)
Abigail J. Pessen, New York City (Dispute Resolution Services)
Jill Pilgrim, New York City (Pilgrim & Associates Arbitration, Law & Mediation LLC)

M. Salman Ravala, New York City (Criscione Ravala, LLP) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
William R. Samuels, New York City (Warshaw Burstein LLP) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
Dani Schwartz, New York City (Wachtel Missry LLP)
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Armerna Gayle, Brooklyn

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Molly Casey, Albany (Maguire Cardona PC)
Amanda Kuryluk, Albany (Maguire Cardona PC)

**FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Richard A. Fuerst, Niskayuna (R. A. Fuerst Law Group, P.C.)

**FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Donald Gerace, Utica (Law Offices of Donald R. Gerace)
Courtney Radick, Oswego (Amdursky, Pelky, Fennell and Wallen, PC)

**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Kevin Ryan, Rochester (Monroe County Bar Association)

**NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Jeffrey S. Battistoni, Poughkeepsie (Van DeWater & Van DeWater LLP)
Timothy McNamara, Hawthorne (Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewberry LLP)
Deepankar Mukerji, White Plains (Deepankar Mukerji PLLC)

**TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Andrew T. Garbarino, Uniondale (Ruskin Moscou & Faltischek PC)
Alyson Mathews, Melville (Lamb & Barnosky, LLP) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow
Hon. Sol Wachtler, Central Islip (Touro Law Center) ~ Joined as a Life Fellow

**TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Mirna Santiago, Pawling (Girls Rule the Law)

**OUT OF STATE**
Thank you to the Fellows
YOU Make Our Work Possible

2020 began with the gathering of more than 170 Fellows for the Annual Meeting and dinner held at the Yale Club. Special guest speaker Willow Hai, Director of the Chinese Institute, spoke on the Chinese New Year and guests were given a hand drawn calligraphy with the Chinese character for happiness.

Attendees also had the opportunity to congratulate Robert L. Haig on receiving the Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award. “Through extraordinary personal outreach efforts, Bob connected hundreds of individuals and law firms to the Foundation, inspiring them through shared values of access to justice, devotion to the state of New York, and love of the law,” stated Foundation President Lesley Rosenthal. “Bob’s vision and his efforts have fueled the Foundation’s good works, for decades and in perpetuity.”

Guests welcomed the new leadership of officers James Barnes, Donald Doerr and Lauren Wachtler as well as new Judicial District leadership of Sarah Gold, Claire Miller, Steven Millon, and Tara Pleat.

Despite being virtual for most of 2020, the Fellows were instrumental in moving the Foundation forward this year. Your efforts in helping us fundraise for COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief, nominating colleagues within your districts to become Fellows, and participating in the on-line Veteran’s Campaign helped drive our success.

Until we can gather in person again, following are some images from the 2020 Annual Meeting and Assembly of the Fellows. Visit www.tnybf.org for more photos from this event.
Sharon Gerstman presents Emily Franchina with a shawl made in her honor for her service as Chair of the Fellows

New Fellows Chair James Barnes with his wife, Monica

Foundation Board members Edwina Martin and Mirna Santiago

Fellows Vice Chair Don Doerr with Catherine Richardson, John Gross, Charyle Clark, and Emily Franchina

Hon. Debra James and Mitchell Katz

Jayme Feldman and Justin Vigdor

Thank you for your support. We hope to see you soon!

Seymour James, Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers, and Chief Judge Janet DiFiore
Thank you for your support.
We hope to see you soon!

New Website Launched

In the midst of a pandemic and working remotely, the Foundation continued to move forward creating new ways to highlight the good work of attorneys.

The new website went live in December and features a new on-line directory of Fellows. Visit www.tnybf.org and save it in your favorites to check back for news updates, events, and deadlines. Review your Fellows listing and send your photo to dauspeelmaner@tnybf.org to be included.
The Foundation welcomed two new members in 2020 after the Nominating Committee followed a rigorous process of consideration, including for the first time establishing a matrix to help pinpoint gaps and round out representation on the board. “The Foundation is delighted to have identified such eminently qualified candidates to further enhance our award-winning board,” said President Lesley Rosenthal. “These highly respected bar leaders each bring salient commercial and nonprofit experiences that will further empower the Foundation to address extraordinary needs in these difficult and complex times.”

**Joining the Foundation’s board are:**

**William T. Russell, Jr., Esq., New York, NY**

Mr. Russell is a Partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in the firm’s Litigation Department. He maintains an active pro bono practice and served as Co-Chair of the firm’s Pro Bono Committee for almost 10 years. He has been active in the New York State Bar Association as an Executive Committee member, Co-Chair of the Task Force on the Parole System; former Co-Chair of the President’s Committee on Access to Justice; and former member of the New York State Bar Association and New York Bar Foundation Joint Pro Bono Task Force. He chairs the board of Legal Services NYC. He has been a Fellow of the Foundation since 2011 and is in the Benjamin N. Cardozo Circle of Giving.

“I have always admired the tremendous work The New York Bar Foundation does supporting access to justice, the legal profession and public understanding of the law. I am excited to be joining the Board, particularly in these difficult times when our community needs the Bar Foundation’s support more than ever.”

Mr. Russell holds degrees from New York University School of Law and Princeton University.

**Mirna Martinez Santiago, Esq., New York, NY**

Ms. Santiago is President and CEO of Girls Rule the Law, which she founded to introduce underrepresented middle and high school girls to the law and to provide them the opportunity to interact with mentors in the legal, judiciary and legislative fields. She is also a member of the Insurance Coverage department at Hurwitz & Fine PC. She has been active in the New York State Bar Association as Chair of the Diversity Committee and member of the House of Delegates. She has been a Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation since 2020.

“Having been a member of the New York State Bar Association since 2008, I’ve seen firsthand the good work that the Bar Foundation does. Whether it is providing scholarships and fellowships to deserving law students or enhancing diversity in the legal profession through grants to organizations providing access to justice and opportunities for the underprivileged and underrepresented, the Bar Foundation makes a profound impact. I am honored be a member of this incredible Board.”

Ms. Santiago holds degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law and New York University in addition to a Certificate in Publishing from Columbia School of Journalism.

**The full slate of Foundation officers for 2020-2021 includes:**

President, Lesley Rosenthal, The Juilliard School, New York City;
Vice-President, Carla Palumbo, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Rochester;
Treasurer, Martin Minkowitz, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, New York City;
Secretary, Pamela McDevitt, the New York State Bar Association, Albany;
Assistant Secretary, Lucia Whisenand, Syracuse; and
Chief Publicity Officer, Susan Lindenauer, New York City.
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
Foundation Rallied For Frontline Workers, the Unemployed, and Others Afflicted by the Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic wrought a path of devastation across New York State, the Foundation rallied.

We knew the legal needs would be urgent: consumer debt due to unmanageable medical and funeral bills; domestic violence against victims forced to shelter with abusers; unemployed and low-wage workers who need help navigating a complex system to obtain basic sustenance benefits; small businesses and law firms requiring help to access federal loans and other relief.

And the state’s legal services sector would be hard hit as well – rounds of layoffs, inadequate technology to pivot to virtual operations, the loss of key funding sources.

Within weeks of the shutdown, in April 2020, the board established the COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief Fund. Board members established matching funds; we launched the campaign and individual donors from across the state and many others rallied to the cause. Seven sections of the NYSBA partnered with the Foundation to round out the funding needed to respond: The 50+ Section, Business Law Section, Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, Dispute Resolution Section, Elder Law and Special Needs Section, Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section, and the Trusts and Estates Section.

Simultaneously, we reached out to trusted legal services providers across the state to better understand the types of emergency legal needs we could help address.

Eventually we raised and disbursed close to $100,000 for this important cause. Our grants committee rapidly reviewed applications from providers and disbursed the funds to where they could do their greatest good.

The Foundation has now distributed 27 grants to assist with legal needs occasioned by the pandemic. The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Brooklyn Bar Association received funding for its Frontline Workers Initiative, to provide free legal assistance to healthcare workers with wills preparation, health care proxies, powers of attorney, and parental designation forms. They said:

While heartbreaking to know the need for these services is so great, the VLP is proud to help provide a critical and immediate level of support for our essential frontline heroes and their families.

In Albany, Foundation funding assisted the United Tenants of Albany to provide legal assistance to tenants facing a housing crisis. They noted:

Eviction immediately leads to overcrowding, doubling up, homelessness, and housing instability. Increased contact with others hinders compliance with the strategies necessary to contain COVID-19, including social distancing, self-quarantining, and hand hygiene. Housing displacement and eviction prevention is a key component of a comprehensive strategy to control the pandemic by reducing COVID-19 infection, transmission, illness,
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief fund:

Anonymous
Anonymous in honor of Tim Reynolds
Anonymous in honor of Lauren Wachtler
Kristin Guttenberger and Peter Grossman
Barbara Aher
Deborah Auspelmyer, in honor of Sheila Cotaio
Dennis Baldwin
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Emae Bard, in honor of Suzanne Bartels-Kueger MD
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Robert Brown, in honor of Stuart B. Meisenzahl
Eileen Buholtz, in honor of Bob Witmer
Philip Burke
Diane Caselli
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Alfred Cavallaro
Thomas J. Cerio
Hon. Cheryl Chambers, in honor of Justice Johnny Bayne, Justice Noach Dear, and Justice Steven Milligram
John Christopher
Nicole Clouthier
Peter Coffey
David Cohen
David Cohn
Ilene Cooper, in honor of Hudson Cooper and the doctors and nurses on the front lines
Nathaniel Corwin
Sophie Dagenais, in memory of James F. Dwyer
John Delehanty, in honor of Sheldon Ellen Esq.
Elizabeth Derrico, in honor of Henry G. Miller
Frances DeThomas
Donald Doerr, in memory of James (Jim) Dwyer
Sally Donahue
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Dara Lamb, in memory of Hon. Judith S. Kaye
Charles Lapp, in honor of Charles E. Lapp, Jr.
Bruce Lawrence
Robert Lesser
Sherry Levin Wallach
Robin Levine
Susan Lindenciner, in honor of those who have suffered through COVID-19
Richard B. Long, in honor of Justin Vigdor
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Peter Mastaglio
Maureen W. McCarthy
Gerald McDonald
Theresa McSweeney
Norma Meacham
Erik Mikkelsen
Steven Millan
Ronald Minkoff
Ellis Mirsky, in honor of the medical community which has risen to the challenge
James C. Moore
Lillian Moy
James Murphy
Patricia Naughton
Paul V. Nuccio, in honor of the late Hon. Gerald H. Rosenberg, JSC (ret.)
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NYSBA Business Law Section
NYSBA Commercial and Federal Litigation Section
NYSBA Dispute Resolution Section
NYSBA Elder Law and Special Needs Section
NYSBA Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section
NYSBA Trusts and Estates Section
Michael E. O’Connor, in honor of the 5th judicial district
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Carla Palumbo
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Catherine Richardson, in honor of Hank Greenberg’s Presidency; and in memory of Henry Miller and Stephen Whisenand
Edwina Richardson-Mendelson
Nathan J. Roblfolgel, in honor of Justin L. Vigdor
Mario Romine
Lesley Rosenthal, in honor of David Lat, Scott Karson, incoming NYSBA President, and Edwina “Winnie” Martin
Ira Rubitchinsky
Betsy Ruslander
William Russell
Christopher Sargente, in honor of Louise Zarrilli
Robert Schefield
David Schrave
Lauren Scott
Kathleen Scott
Samanta Seagal
Barry Seidel, in honor of Rita Seidel
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Rona Shamoone, in honor of Alexander Sussman
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W. Alan Shaw
Stanley Silverstone
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Ted Sonnenschein and Tami Smith, in honor of Judge Jonathan Lippman
Derek Tarson
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Ronald Thomas
Bruce Trauner
Randolph Treece
Karen Uplinger, in honor of Lucia Whisenand
Irene Villacci, in memory of those we lost in the legal community to the COVID
Lauren Wachtler, in honor of my father, Sol Wachtler, who turned 90 in April
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Thank you to everyone who contributed to the COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief fund:

Day One, a domestic violence legal assistance organization, said:

The New York Bar Foundation’s generous COVID-19 emergency relief grant allowed us to provide young survivors of domestic violence with virtual legal information, advice, and representation during the pandemic. The clients we serve are predominantly low-income, women of color, often immigrants and young mothers.

The Foundation also provided funding for the NYSBA’s innovative pro bono partnership with the state court system, which helped jobless New Yorkers secure unemployment benefits.

The Fellows of the Foundation rallied their members across all 13 judicial districts, establishing the Judicial District Challenge in lieu of the basket auction typically held during our June meeting in Cooperstown. Fellows launched a friendly competition to raise money for the COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief Fund. Congratulations to the Fellows of the First Judicial District who raised $8,450, followed by the Fifth Judicial District in raising $3,050 and the Tenth Judicial District in raising $2,950. On the leaderboard for the social media engagement were the Fifth Judicial District with 245 posts, the First Judicial District with 191 posts and the Seventh Judicial District with 129 posts. More than $21,000 was raised through this effort, double the amount of the most successful basket auction.

hospitalizations and death and to address health inequity.

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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 our esteemed fellows for their support.

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* Benedict, James
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* + Bernstein, Michael
* Berry, Charles

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* Blawi, Lester
Bloom, Allan

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* + Boston, Sheila
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DiStefano, Carl
* Dolan, Richard
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C Charles Evans Hughes Circle
C* Charles Evans Hughes Circle, Life Member
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P* Presidents Circle, Life Member
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- John Jay Circle Circle
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- Presidents Circle, Life Member
- Thurgood Marshall Circle
- Thurgood Marshall Circle, Life Member
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* Murray, Cornelius
* Onderdonk, Marne
M Pettit, Stacy
C* Pioette, Susan
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* Sweeney, Robert
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* Teff, Justin
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* Williams, Glen
* Yanas, John

Fourth District
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* Carroll, David
B Cioffi, Cristine
* Cullum, James
* DeCoursey, Eleanor
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* Fuerst, Richard
* Gillis, Margaret
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* Rosner, Seth
* Schumann-McGhee, Bethany
* Sharkey, Lauren
* Sise, Richard
* Snyder, Harry
* Stanclift, Tucker
* Suprunowicz, Michael
* Tepper, Eric
+ Tharp, Russell
* Tishler, Nicholas
* Trombley, Edward
M Verrighi, Alexandra
M Versaci, Vincent
* Wildgrube, Michelle

Fifth District
* Arterian, Hannah
* Baldwin, Robert
* Barclay, H.
* Bottar, Anthony
M Bousquet, Laurence
* Burns, Leighton
* Cherundolo, John
M Cirando, John
* Critelli, Steven
* Dagenais, Sophie
* Del Buono, Carl
M Doer, Donald
* Eisenhauer, Roscoe
M Engel, Paula Mallory
* Fellows, Jonathan
* Fennell, Timothy
* Fetter, Jeffrey
C Fish, Marion Hancock
* Foley, Timothy
* Gale, Catherine
* Gensini, Gia
* Gerace, Donald
M* Getnick, Michael
* Gingold, Harlan
* Gingold, Neil
* Grow, John
* Hartnett, Elizabeth
M* Hayes, David
* Hershdorfer, Victor
B* Hurd, David
* Hurlbut, Robert
* Julian, Robert
* Kahler, Camille
* Katz, Mitchell
* Longstreet, Amy
* Lowe, George
* Lupia, Paul
* Lynn-Ford, Patricia
* Martusewicz, Kim
M* Marty, Frederick
* McArdle, Kevin
* McDonald, Gerald
* Menkin, Edward
* Midey, Nicholas
M Murphy, James
* Myers, Thomas
M* Obold, Taylor
* O’Connor, Michael
C* Pellow, David
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T Richardson, M. Catherine
* Scullin, Frederick
* Seiter, Norman

Sixth District
Barreiro, Alyssa
Conerton, Mary
* Cummings, Patricia
* Denton, Christopher
* Drinkwater, Clover
Gary, Elizabeth
* Gouldin, David
* Gozigian, Edward
* Gutenberger Grossman, Kristin
* Lee, James
* Lewis, Richard
* Long, Richard
C Madigan, Kathryn Grant
* McCafferty, Keith
* McCann, John
* Mugglin, Carl
* Peckham, Eugene
* Rumsey, Phillip
* Smith, Richard
M* Tyler, David
* Zuckerman, Michael

Seventh District
* Andolina, Lawrence
* Aronson, Stephen
* Bergin, Robert
* Blauvelt, Peter
B* Brown, Robert
* Buholtz, Eileen
C* Burke, Philip
C Buzzard, A.
C Castellano, June
* Chesler, Lawrence
* Crimi, Charles
* Davidson, Saul
* Doran, Craig
* Doyle, John
* Dwyer, Michael
* Ferrero, Vincent

* Shafer, Robert
* Siegel, Norman
C* Simmons, Doreen
M* Simons, Richard
* Strickland, Carter
* Ubelhoer, Gail
* Uplinger, Karen
* Westlake, Jean Marie

J Whisenand, Lucia

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Adams, Joan
* Ange, Grace Marie
Attea, Frederick
Beecher, Thomas
* Boniello, Ralph
* Bosse, Diane
Brevorka, Peter
* Brick, Daniel
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* Church, Sanford
* Civilette, David
* Connors, Terrence
* Convissar, Robert
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* Effman, Norman
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* Fine, Robert
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* Foschio, Leslie
* Freedman, Jeffrey
* Freedman, Bernard
B Freedman, Maryann Saccomando
C Gerstman, Sharon
* Graber, Garry
M Griffin, Richard
* Halpern, Ralph
* Hanna, Joseph
Heim, David
* Howe, Barbara
* Lamantia, Stephen
M* Lucente, Rocco
Manning, Kenneth
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* McCoy, Dennis
* Mikoll, Ann
C* Mohun, Michael
* Mosey, Acea
Nowotarski, Leah
M* O’Donnell, John
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Ogden, E. Jeannette
M Oliver, Mary Ann
* Palmer, Thomas
M* Peradotto, Erin
* Pfalzgraf, David
M* Porcellio, Sharon
M* Riedel, George
Saleh, David
M Semmelhack, Tricia
* Sharkey, Edward
M Shaw, James
* Spitzmiller, John
* Sweet, Kathleen
* Vilardo, Lawrence
Walsh, Kevin
Wick, Sharon
M* Young, Oliver

Ninth District
M Barson, Alan
* Bashian, Gary
* Battistoni, Jeffrey
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Bavoso, William
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* Bowler, Richard
Brown, Susan
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C Carlisle, Jay
* Cashman, Richard
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Enea, Anthony
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Fox, Michael
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* Geoghegan, John
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Goldberg, Evan
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C Gutekunst, Claire
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Harrington, Joseph
Harris, Steven
Hattar, Jacqueline
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Mukerji, Deepanka
* Newton, Juanita
C* Nonna, John
* O’Keeffe, Richard
* O’Rourke, Richard
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Palermo, Christopher
* Pantaleo, Frances
M Parker, Jessica
* Paul, Gerald
* Planell, Raymond
* Plunkett, Kevin
Rakower, Michael
* Redis, Robert
B* Roberts, George
* Rosenblatt, Albert
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* Rudolph, Nancy
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Santiago, Mirna
M Sayegh, Emile

Tenth District
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Addressing racial inequality is pivotal to the success of the Foundation’s Rule of Law efforts. Spurred by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and far too many others, in 2020 the Foundation explicitly embraced anti-racism work as a part of its agenda.

The Foundation’s Racial Justice Working Group has detailed specific ways in which the Foundation can work to disrupt the forces of racial injustice and heal our national divide, through productive investments in: (i) the criminal justice system; (ii) bankruptcy protection; (iii) Black-owned banks/access to capital; (iv) voting rights; (v) education; (vi) healthcare; and (vii) housing and homelessness. By raising and expending restricted funds for work in these areas, the Foundation can help in the fight against racism and for equality.

In relaunching the Foundation’s Firm Challenge to empower New York’s law firms to join in this fight, our Development Committee co-chair James Kobak observed, “Recent events demonstrate all too clearly how structural racism persists and undermines the Rule of Law in our state and country….The Firm Challenge Against Racial Injustice will enable us to fund grantees with a special expertise in police and educational reform, restorative justice and reduction of incarceration, voting rights and community and youth education.”

The Foundation is also undertaking a new strand of legacy fundraising, appealing to donors to make a gift of perpetual duration to the fight for racial justice. As stated by Ilene Cooper, co-chair of the Foundation’s Development Committee, “The tragic death of George Floyd has indeed highlighted the deep racial divide that still exists in this country and how essential it is for us as a nation, a state, and an organization to foster the ends of racial justice and social equality.”

Additionally, the Foundation has added to its grant application for the 2021 grant cycle a question about whether the project helps promote racial justice, directly or indirectly, to better to measure our impact.

Heeding the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” By investing in organizations tackling racism in a systematic and sustained way, the Foundation will help our state and our nation achieve greater racial equity, and our Rule of Law standing overall. The full report can be read on the Foundation’s website at https://www.tnybf.org/foundation-adopts-report-racial-justice-and-the-rule-of-law-a-call-to-action/
Foundation Salvaged Meaningful Experiences for Students in a Pandemic Summer

While the pandemic ravaged the summer plans of so many students across the state, the Foundation followed through with $236,000 of funded scholarships and fellowships, benefitting 82 students and law-related organizations.

The Foundation administered 60 Catalyst Public Service fellowships, 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. Funding from this program, matched by every law school in the state, provided invaluable opportunities for students to train to become public interest lawyers.

In partnership with Sections of the New York State Bar Association, the Foundation also administered 13 Section fellowships and scholarships for law students to learn by doing 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.

Updating an honorable tradition to the virtual new world, the Foundation helped ten young adults aging out of foster care to cross the “digital divide.” Under the Hon. Judith S. Kaye Children and the Law Scholarship, these students were assisted by this program to attain life and educational essentials such as books, laptops, and food.

The Foundation takes great pleasure in stewarding these important opportunities, kindling a bright future for New York’s legal profession.

“`My experience with the Department of Environmental Conservation would not have been possible if not for the Catalyst Fellowship. Since I come from a low-income background, money concerns are always at the forefront of my mind when I make any decision. The Catalyst Fellowship allowed me to have an internship that strongly relates to my future goal of working as an environmental lawyer while still having a way to contribute to my household and academic needs. I am so grateful that I received the Catalyst Fellowship and was able to have a fulfilling summer, even during a global pandemic.” Shazell Archer, Catalyst Summer Fellow, Department of Environmental Conservation

“My supervisors at New York Legal Assistance Group entrusted me with substantial legal work and client interactions involving sensitive (and sometimes emotionally-charged) matters. Due to this, I grew much more than I thought I could this summer. Thanks to the Catalyst Fellowship, I was afforded the opportunity to have one of the most fulfilling and growth-filled summers of my life. Thank you so much! I am so, so grateful to everyone at the New York Bar Foundation and in the greater New York legal community that helps make public interest internships more accessible to law students.” Anna Chen, Catalyst Summer Fellow, New York Legal Assistance Group
“Antitrust law has intrigued me from the moment I learned that it existed. Every day since, this area of the law has continued to reignite my passion for learning the law. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to participate in this Fellowship, which provides the chance to gain meaningful experience in an area of the law that genuinely impacts the daily lives of so many individuals. This program, and the New York Bar Foundation, promotes all of the values that I advocate for in my individual capacity: strong work ethic, inclusivity, equality, and professionalism. As an ambassador for the New York State Bar, I intend to advance all of the values promoted by this program and devote my time and efforts to vigorously representing the interests of the community. I am humbled by the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives.” Ryan Joseph Dorsett, Antitrust Section Summer Fellow

“I am very grateful that I was able to have my fellowship throughout the Coronavirus pandemic and provide value to the New York County Surrogate’s Court of Judge Rita Mella in such a turbulent time. With the increase in deaths due to the pandemic, the threat of health issues, and the limited staff on site, our court most certainly underwent a challenge. Throughout this period, we had to shut down the court, which quickly had us changing gears to remote communications. During my fellowship, I definitely learned the importance of being dynamic, and how quickly you can be invaluable when you are willing to contribute where the contribution is most needed.” Tara Mahon, Brooklyn Law School, Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowship Recipient

Congratulations to the following recipients:

The Hon. Joel K. Asarch Elder Law and Special Needs Section Scholarship
Jessie Sennett, Columbia Law School

Real Property Law Section Lorraine Power Tharp Scholarship
Jessie Sennett, Columbia Law School

Real Property Law Section Melvyn Mitzner Scholarship
Steven Cecere, St. John’s University School of Law

Carol Van Scyoc Local and State Government Law Section Scholarship
Victoria Craft, Albany Law School

Antitrust Section Law Student Fellowships
Ryan Dorsett, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Arpan Patel, Brooklyn Law School
RaCia Poston, Howard University School of Law
Laura Song, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Jana Springer Behe Corporate Counsel Fellowship
Patrice Oseni, City University of New York

Diversity Summer Fellowship in Health Law
Myra Hyder, Brooklyn Law School

Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowships
Tara Mahon, Brooklyn Law School
Jessica Senske, University at Buffalo
Zachary Zayas, St. John’s University School of Law
Due to COVID-19 the annual Catalyst reception was held virtually. Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and several members of New York’s judiciary joined the law student fellows, members of the Foundation’s board of directors, law school representatives, and lawyers from sponsoring firms in celebration of a successful program for 2020.

Congratulations 2020 Catalyst Public Service Program Recipients

**Albany Law School**
Tori L. Deyo
Jay A. Gilani
Ryan C. Hayes
Natalie M. Weaver

**Brooklyn Law School**
Benedict See
Cameron Molyneaux
Rachel Marc
Matthew Boyd

**SUNY Buffalo Law School**
Ryan Falk
Rachel Farr
Austin Thomas Mann
Daniel Piersa

**Cardozo School of Law**
Alexandria Becker
Anna Chen
Leah Scholnick
Sara Lerner

**Columbia Law School**
Helen Zhou
Kate Kobriger
Nia Goodman
Ekaterina Botchkareva

**Cornell Law School**
Valentin Van de Walle
Yue Yang
Jason Petropoulos
Thomas Shannan

**CUNY School of Law**
Samantha Estepa
Gillian Rowland-Kain
Gabriella McDonald
Latoya Johnson

**Fordham University School of Law**
Dissara Alves
Shazell Archer
Daniel Levin
Samuel Tureff

**Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University**
Nicole Adler
Bryanna Corbett
Kimberley Manzi
Elisabeth Palmieri

**New York Law School**
McKenzie Griffith Potter
Sherene Mostaghimi
Katherine Toll
Sivan Zak

**NYU School of Law**
Anna Daniszewski
Shirley LaVarco
Edward Ye
Jamie Hin Hon Wong

**Pace University School of Law**
Alexandra Feliz
Juan Rodriguez

**St. John’s University School of Law**
Jared Brady
Colin McKillop
Bailey Waltman
Stefanie Williams
William Turnbull
Olivia Piluso

**Syracuse University College of Law**
Gabriella Kielbasinski
Mariah Almonte
Hannah Bennink
Kristine Bialy-Viau

**Touro Law School**
Conor Byrnes
Cindy Chau
Ramon Cabrera
Daniel Parise
Gratitude in Action
Your Investment in the Foundation Creates Life Changing Grant Opportunities

More than $755,000 was allocated in grants throughout the year, including our annual grant program and the special-purpose COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief fund. Chair of the Foundation’s Grants Review Committee Lucia Whisenand stated, “Even in the best of times The New York Bar Foundation supports numerous unmet legal needs across New York State. Our grant program is more important 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 138 grant programs-assisting more than 100,000 people and impacting over 5 million of our neighbors in need of legal services throughout New York State.

“The generosity of state bar members and all of our donors made it possible to provide critical support to the organizations that received a 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief grant,” said June Castellano, Vice-Chair of the Grants Review Committee and also co-chair of the NYSBA COVID-19 Task Force to Assist Solo Practitioners and Small Firms. “Lawyers throughout the state selflessly responded to the Foundation’s call to fund the legal emergencies created by COVID-19. We thank all of you for your support.”

Organizations that received COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief grants included:

- Bronx Legal Services
- BronxWorks
- Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York
- Catholic Migration Services, Inc.
- Center for Elder Law and Justice
- Day One New York, Inc.
- Family Justice Center of Erie County
- Gender Equality Law Center
- Immigration Equality
- JustFix, Inc.
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Inc.
- Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
- My Sisters’ Place, Inc.
- Nassau County Bar Association Fund, Inc.
- Start Small Think Big
- The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.
- The Family Center, Inc.
- The New York State Bar Association
- The Legal Aid Society
- The Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.
- United Tenants of Albany, Inc.
- Volunteers of Legal Service
- Worker Justice Center of New York
- Youth Represent

As the Grants Review Committee reviews applications for 2021 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 2021 by giving at www.tnybf.org
2020 Grantees by Judicial District

Judicial District 1 [Manhattan]
- Advocates for Justice
- Boys and Girls Republic
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York
- Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York
- Center for Family Representation (CFR)
- Community Service Society of New York
- Day One New York, Inc.
- Her Justice Inc.
- Immigrant Justice Corps
- Immigration Equality
- LatinJustice PRLDEF
- Lawyers For Children
- Legal Action Center
- Legal Momentum
- Mental Health Advocates of Western New York
- New York Foundling Hospital DBA The New York Foundling
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
- Pro Bono Net
- Safe Horizon, Inc.
- Sakhi for South Asian Women
- Start Small Think Big
- Suffolk Academy of Law
- TakeRoot Justice
- The Door - A Center Of Alternatives, Inc.
- The GO Project
- The Legal Aid Society
- The Liberty Fund
- The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault
- The Open Door NJNY
- UnLocal, Inc.
- Volunteers of Legal Service
- Youth Represent

Judicial District 2 [Kings County]
- Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Brooklyn Defender Services
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- CAMBA, Inc.
- Catholic Migration Services, Inc.
- Disability Rights New York
- Exalt Youth (exalt)
- Gender Equality Law Center
- JustFix, Inc.
- Legal Information for Families
- Mental Health Advocates of Western New York
- Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.
- 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 3 [Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Sullivan, Ulster counties]
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- New York Newspapers Foundation
- New York State Defenders Association, Inc.
- NYLSA
- Prisoners’ Legal Services
- United Tenants of Albany, Inc.
- Worker Justice Center of New York

Judicial District 4 [Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, Onondaga counties]
- Catholic Charities of Onondaga County
- Center for Community Alternatives
- Empowered Pathways
- Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society
- Legal Services of Central New York
- Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties, Inc.
- The Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.

Judicial District 5 [Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates counties]
- CASA of Rochester/Monroe County
- Hillside Children’s Foundation
- Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Inc.
- Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.
- Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.
- Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.
- Monroe County Bar Center for Education
- Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc.

Judicial District 6 [Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester counties]
- Girls Rule the Law, Inc.
- Legal Aid Society of Rockland County Inc
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- Mental Health Association of Westchester, Inc.
- My Sisters’ Place, Inc.
- Neighbors Link
- Pace Women’s Justice Center

Judicial District 7 [Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates counties]
- The GO Project
- The Legal Aid Society
- The Liberty Fund
- The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault
- The Open Door NJNY
- UnLocal, Inc.
- Volunteers of Legal Service
- Youth Represent

Judicial District 8 [Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming counties]
- Center for Elder Law & Justice
- Child & Family Services of Erie County
- Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc
- Family Justice Center of Erie County
- Mental Health Advocates of Western New York
- Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.
- 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 [Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Sullivan, Ulster counties]
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- New York Newspapers Foundation
- New York State Defenders Association, Inc.
- NYLSA
- Prisoners’ Legal Services
- United Tenants of Albany, Inc.
- Worker Justice Center of New York

Judicial District 10 [Nassau, Suffolk counties]
- Child Abuse Prevention Services
- Community Legal Advocates Of New York Inc.
- Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Bureau Youth Development Research Institute, Inc.
- Legal Outreach, Inc.
- Long Island Advocacy Center, Inc.
- Mercy Haven, Inc.
- Nassau County Bar Association Fund, Inc.
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.
- Port Washington Parent Resource Center
- Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville
- 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

Judicial District 12 [Bronx County]
- Bronx Legal Services
- BronxWorks
- South Bronx United
- Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Program
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2020 at a Glance

2020 Grant Program Impact

86,970
New Yorkers Served

5,592,628
New Yorkers Affected

Grant Program Breakdown

74%
Facilitating the delivery of legal services

13%
Increasing public understanding of the law

12%
Improving the justice system and the law

1%
Enhancing professional competence and ethics

Program Recap *

- Grants Appropriated $664,600
- Fellowships/Scholarships $243,500
- Admin Expenses $274,339
- COVID-19 Emergency Legal Relief Grants $91,000

*as of 11/30/2020