REYER BOYAJIAN LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Congratulations Our Founding Partner William J. Dreyer
Recipient of the New York State Bar Association Attorney Professionalism Award

Left to Right: Bell Hill, Donald G. Boyajian, Lauren Owens, Bill Dreyer, Donald W. Boyajian, Jim Peluso, John Casey, John Dowd

Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary

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Gold Medal Award
Presented by the New York State Bar Association

To recognize distinguished service in the law. The Gold Medal is the New York State Bar Association’s highest honor. The Gold Medal is awarded each year to a lawyer “whose qualifications include outstanding legal accomplishments, an active interest in and positive influence upon the profession, and constructive contributions in civic and community matters.”

Recipient: Roberta A. Kaplan, Esq.

Roberta (Robbie) Kaplan, the founding partner at Kaplan & Company, LLP, the elite women-led litigation boutique, has been described as a “powerhouse corporate litigator” and a “litigation superstar.” A formidable litigator with decades of experience in both commercial and civil rights litigation, Robbie represents a diverse group of clients such as Fitch Ratings, Columbia University, the Sydell Group, the Minnesota Vikings, T-Mobile and Airbnb in complex, high-profile matters. In recognizing Robbie as the “Most Innovative Lawyer of The Year,” the Financial Times noted that “the judges had little trouble picking just one [lawyer] to win the award for most innovative individual – itself an innovation for the report this year. Robbie Kaplan has been involved in some of the most important legal developments of recent years.”

Robbie is best known for representing Edith Windsor in the landmark case of the United States v. Windsor and for successfully arguing that case before the United States Supreme Court. Describing Robbie’s oral argument at the Fifth Circuit, one legal commentator noted that Robbie “deserves special recognition for her argument at the hearing. An accomplished attorney long before she came to represent Edith Windsor, Ms. Kaplan offered concise, smart and well-reasoned responses to the judge’s questions.” The Supreme Court ultimately ruled In Windsor that a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) violated the Constitution by barring legally married same-sex couples from enjoying the wide-ranging benefits of marriage. The consequences of the Windsor decision were both rapid and profound. Professor Laurence Tribe of Harvard Law School has observed that he cannot “think of any Supreme Court decision in history that has ever created so rapid and broad a lower-court groundswell in a single direction as Windsor.” Since Windsor, Robbie successfully tried a case seeking marriage equality in the State of Mississippi, overturned Mississippi’s gay adoption ban, and won a preliminary injunction from the district court overturning Mississippi’s HB 1523, an anti-LGBT “religious freedom” law, on Establishment Clause grounds. A cert petition is now pending at the Supreme Court in that case.
More recently, together with Tina Tchen, Michelle Obama’s former Chief of Staff, Robbie helped to launch #TimesUp, a new non-profit that will provide legal representation to women who have experienced sexual violence, abuse or harassment. Robbie currently represents Melanie Kohler, a woman whom Hollywood producer Brett Ratner sued for defamation. Along with the new non-profit Integrity First for America, Robbie is suing two dozen Neo-Nazis and white supremacists responsible for the violence that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017.

Robbie is the author of the book *Then Comes Marriage: United States v. Windsor and the Defeat of DOMA* (W.W. Norton), which was chosen by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the top 10 books of 2015, by *Ms. Magazine* as one of the top feminist books of 2015, and by Tony Mauro of *The National Law Journal* as one of the top 10 books about the Supreme Court of 2015. In commenting on Robbie’s book, President Bill Clinton noted that “United States v. Windsor was a landmark ruling and the case’s architect, Roberta Kaplan, emerged as a true American hero.” Robbie has also published numerous articles on a variety of legal topics, including “Airbnb: A Case Study in Occupancy Regulation and Taxation,” 82 Univ. of Chicago L. Rev. Dialogue 103 (2015–2016); “It’s All about Edie, Stupid: Lessons from Litigating United States v. Windsor,” 29 Columbia J. of Gender & Law 85 (2015); “Can New York City Govern Itself – The Incongruity of the Court of Appeals’ Recent Cases Regarding Regulation of New York City by New York City,” 78 Albany L. Rev. 105 (2014–2015); “The Dissent that Paved the Way to Equal Dignity: Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye’s Dissent in Hernandez,” 93 NYUL Rev. 56 (2017); and “Proof vs. Prejudice,” 37 New York Univ. Rev. of L. & Social Change 134 (2013). Robbie serves as an adjunct professor of law at Columbia Law School, where she teaches a seminar on Advanced Civil Procedure.

Robbie has received numerous honors and recognitions. In addition to receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the *New York Law Journal*, Robbie has also been selected by *The National Law Journal* as one of “The 100 Most Influential Lawyers” in the United States, as “Litigator of the Year” by *The American Lawyer*, and as “Lawyer of the Year” by *Above the Law*. Robbie has received the Columbia Law School Medal of Excellence; the Stanford Law School National Public Service Award; the National Council of Jewish Women Social Action Award; and the New York County Lawyers’ Association President’s Medal. She has also been awarded honorary degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, among others. Robbie currently serves as the co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC).
Congratulations
to All Award Recipients

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Section Awards

William T. Lifland Award
Presented by the Antitrust Law Section

Presented to antitrust practitioners in recognition of their contributions and accomplishments in the field of antitrust. The Award acknowledges those who throughout their professional careers have distinguished themselves as leading antitrust practitioners as well as serving the broader antitrust community in a leadership role.

Recipient: Professor Edward D. Cavanagh

The Distinguished Public Service Award
Presented by the Antitrust Law Section

The Public Service Award is made periodically and acknowledges those who have distinguished themselves not only as leading antitrust practitioners, but as individuals who have brought distinction to the antitrust bar as a whole by making significant leadership contributions to the public interest through their service to the bar and to society generally. The Award is presented to the recipient by the Antitrust Section at its annual dinner.

Recipient: TBA

Congratulations to our colleague Bruce Baker, recipient of the 2018 David S. Caplan Award, for his exemplary service to the NYSBA Business Law Section and its members.
Caplan Award for Meritorious Service
Presented by the Business Law Section

Given in honor of David S. Caplan, former Section member, Executive Committee member, and Committee Chair, to recognize exemplary and long-term service to the Business Law Section and its constituent members.

Recipient: Bruce J. Baker, Esq.

Bruce Baker has been a member of the New York State Bar Association since 1980, joining while an associate at Milbank Tweed in New York City where he practiced banking and commercial law. In 1983, Bruce became a member of the legal staff of the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation in Washington, D.C., working as a Senior Attorney on the financing of “demonstration projects” involving alternative fuels such as oil shale and gasified coal. In 1985, he returned to his native Upstate New York to join what was then Nixon Hargrave, Devans & Doyle, now Nixon Peabody, LLP. Since 1999, he has been a partner in Nixon Peabody, practicing in the area of banking, commercial and construction law. Mr. Baker has served as chair of the Business Law Section of the Monroe County Bar Association and has been active in NYSBA’s Business Law Section since 1990. He served as chair of the Banking Law Committee, chair of the Business Law Section, a member of the House of Delegates, and a member of the Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law School.

The Business Law Section Congratulates
Bruce J. Baker, Esq.
Recipient of the 2018 David S. Caplan Award for Meritorious Service
Stanley H. Fuld Award
Presented by the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section

Presented to a member of the legal profession who has significantly contributed to the practice of commercial law and litigation in New York. The award was created by the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section in honor of the late Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, Stanley H. Fuld, to recognize outstanding contributions to the development of commercial law and jurisprudence in New York State.

Recipient: Hon. Charles E. Ramos

The Honorable Charles E. Ramos has served on the Commercial Division since 1996; he is presently its Senior Justice and the Assigned Justice for International Arbitration. Justice Ramos earned his law degree at Fordham and practiced as a commercial litigator for 16 years. He entered judicial service as an interim Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, appointed by Mayor Ed Koch in 1983. After his re-appointment in 1984, Judge Ramos was elected to Manhattan’s Civil Court for a full 10-year term commencing in 1985. In 1988, Judge Ramos was administratively appointed to be an Acting Supreme Court Justice and to be the Supervising Judge of the Civil Court in Manhattan. Subsequently, Justice Ramos was twice elected to the Supreme Court in Manhattan where he continues to serve. Justice Ramos has served on numerous bar committees, is a former Presiding Member of the New York State Council of Judicial Associations and was Chair of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association. He is a member of the Chief Judge’s Advisory Council on the Commercial Division and a frequent lecturer on issues involving commercial law and international arbitration. He also actively participates in international forums on commercial courts.
Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Recognizes the professional career of a defense attorney in private practice that embodies the highest ideals of the Criminal Justice Section.

Recipient: Elkan Abramowitz, Esq.

Elkan Abramowitz is a leading white-collar criminal defense lawyer, experienced in handling civil and criminal matters in state and federal court for individual and corporate clients. He is the recipient of the 1999 Milton S. Gould Award for Outstanding Oral Advocacy, presented by the Office of the Appellate Defender and the 2008 New York Council of Defense Lawyers’ Norman S. Ostrow award for the defense of liberty and the preservation of individual rights. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been named a leading lawyer by Chambers USA and other third-party directories. Elkan became a principal at a predecessor firm to Morvillo Abramowitz in 1979. He was appointed Special Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Investigation for the City of New York in 1990 to investigate a stock transfer by Mayor David Dinkins to his son. He served as counsel to the Special Master in the garment center antitrust case in 1992. Elkan has also served as Assistant Deputy Mayor for the City of New York, as a Special Counsel to the Select Committee on Crime for the U.S. House of Representatives, and as the Chief of the Criminal Division in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. Elkan is widely known for his dedication to organizations serving the legal community. He is a former director of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers. He is also a member of the New York State and American Bar Associations, the New York City Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Council. Elkan is a co-author of a chapter in the treatise White Collar Crime: Business and Regulatory Offenses and a column in the New York Law Journal, and regularly speaks at seminars. Elkan received his J.D. (Pomeroy Scholar, Editor, Law Review) from the New York University School of Law, and B.A. from Brown University.
The Vincent E. Doyle, Jr. Award for Outstanding Judicial Contribution in the Criminal Justice System

Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Recognizes outstanding judicial efforts to improve the administration of the criminal justice system.

**Recipient: Hon. Jenny Rivera**

The Honorable Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, was born in New York City. On January 15, 2013, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated her to the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed her appointment on February 11. Judge Rivera has spent her entire professional career in public service. She clerked for the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, at the Southern District of New York, and also clerked in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Se Law Clerk’s Office. She worked for the Legal Aid Society’s Homeless Family Rights Project, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (renamed Latino Justice PRLDEF), and was appointed by the New York State Attorney General as Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights. Judge Rivera has been an Administrative Law Judge for the New York State Division for Human Rights, and served on the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Prior to her appointment, she was a tenured faculty member of the City University of New York School of Law, where she founded and served as Director of the Law School’s Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality. She graduated from Princeton University, and received her J.D. from New York University School of Law and her LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law.
Richard Fries, Esq.

with its Professionalism Award in honor of his long standing dedication to his colleagues in the real estate community.

Congratulations Richard and all of the award recipients for 2018!
The Michele S. Maxian Award for Outstanding Public Defense Practitioner
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Recognizes an outstanding public defense practitioner.

Recipient: Justine (Tina) M. Luongo, Esq.

Justine M. (Tina) Luongo is the Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice of The Legal Aid Society. During her time in this role, The Legal Aid Society opened the first-ever defense-focused Digital Forensic Unit, launched both the Cop Accountability and Decarceration Projects and increased the capacity of every trial office to provide the highest quality representation to clients. She is dedicated to increasing the diversity of the public defense workforce and is integrally involved in The Legal Aid Society’s diversity initiative. After graduating from Brooklyn Law School, Tina began her Legal Aid career as a staff attorney in the New York County trial office of the Criminal Defense Practice. In 2011, Tina was hired as the Deputy Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice. Prior to joining the Legal Aid Society, Tina served as the Vice President of Operations for a national gang intervention and prevention nonprofit organization known as the Council for Unity. Throughout her careers at both organizations, Tina has focused on improving the lives of those marginalized by race, sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic status. She is a Vice President-at-Large of the ABA Criminal Justice Council, the President Elect of the Chief Defender Association of New York, a member of the National Legal Aid & Defenders Association Defender Council and a Steering Committee member of the National Association for Public Defense.
The David S. Michaels Memorial Award  
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section  
Recognizes courageous efforts in promoting integrity, justice, and fairness in the criminal justice system.  
Recipient: Glenn A. Garber, Esq.  
*To be presented in the Spring*

Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Criminal Justice Legislation  
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section  
To recognize outstanding work in proposing or implementing needed reforms, which specifically includes political action and fundamental research into the operation and effectiveness of the entire criminal justice system.  
Recipient: Michael C. Green, Esq.

Governor Cuomo appointed Mr. Green to the position of Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in 2012. From this post Green leads the agency responsible for many key parts of the criminal justice system in New York, including the State’s DNA database, Criminal History Repository and Sex Offender Registry. Green’s duties also include serving as chair of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science, and as a member of the New York State Sentencing Commission and the New York State Justice Task Force. Major initiatives Green is leading at DCJS include GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) working with local law enforcement to address shootings with evidence based strategies and an emphasis on procedural justice, the redesign of ATI funding to incorporate evidenced based principles to the delivery of ATI services funded by the state, expansion of the state’s network of Crime Analysis and Real Time Crime Centers and implementation of Raise the Age legislation. Prior to joining DCJS, Green served for 25 years in the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office, including eight years as the elected District Attorney. In 2007 Governor Spitzer appointed Green to the Sentencing Reform Commission. In 2008, Green was appointed to the New York State Juvenile Justice Task Force by Governor Paterson. Mr. Green was named 2009 Prosecutor of the Year by the New York Prosecutors Training Institute. In 2011 the District Attorney’s Association of the State of New York awarded District Attorney Green their Distinguished Service Award and in 2012 he received the prestigious Hogan award from the association recognizing a “lifetime of distinguished and honorable service.”
Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Criminal Law Education
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Recognizes outstanding work in criminal law education, the promotion of interest in the practice of criminal law, and providing students with the opportunity to gain practicing insight into the operation of the criminal justice system.

Recipient: Hon. William C. Donnino

The Honorable William Donnino sat as a judge in the Supreme Court, Criminal Term for more than 28 years and was Supervising Judge of the Nassau Supreme Court, Criminal Term from 2004 through 2011. In 2007, he received the NYS Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, Outstanding Jurist Award. He is the author of the Practice Commentaries for McKinney’s New York Penal Law and Criminal Procedure Law, and of the book New York Court of Appeals on Criminal Law. He co-chairs the Criminal Jury Instruction and Model Colloquies Committee, which writes guideline jury instructions as well as scripts for conducting various proceedings such as the taking of a plea of guilty and the taking of a defendant’s waiver of various rights. He also co-chairs the Guide to New York Evidence Committee, which is writing a guideline code of evidence for the bench and bar. In addition he serves on the Justice Task Force and the New York Sentencing Commission. Justice Donnino’s 50-year career in criminal justice began in 1966 as an assistant district attorney in New York County; he also represented the district attorney’s office on the Sentencing Commission, which was then drafting the Criminal Procedure Law. He also led the development of the first program in New York State for prosecutorial screening of police arrests before the filing of an accusatory instrument. In 1971, he served as assistant counsel to the governor for criminal justice, where he participated in writing many criminal laws. Subsequently, he was deputy commissioner and counsel for the New York State Department of Corrections and Parole; chief of the appeals bureau in the office of the Nassau County district attorney; and chief assistant district attorney in Kings County. He also worked as a defense attorney and as counsel to the New York State Senate Committee on Crime and Correction.
Congratulations to
Tina Luongo

Recipient of the Michele S. Maxian Award for Outstanding Public Defense Practitioner

Presented by the Criminal Justice Section of the New York State Bar Association

Tina Luongo has led the fight for law and policy reform to stop the discriminatory policing of black and brown people and the need for transparency and accountability between the NYPD and the public.

Tina has been at the vanguard of reforming New York’s antiquated bail, speedy trial and discovery statutes. Her wise counsel on how public defenders can create systemic change, as well as be zealous advocates for their clients has truly inspired us all, as well as her commitment and dedication to protect the rights of the most marginalized and disenfranchised in society. Tina embodies the very best in public defense. We at The Legal Aid Society are extremely proud of our Chief Defender and honored to serve with her.
Outstanding Prosecutor
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Recognizes a prosecutor who has made a special contribution not only to the prosecution community, but to the bar at large, and whose professional conduct evidences a true understanding of a public prosecutor’s duty to advance the fair and ethical administration of criminal justice.

Recipient: Thomas Zugibe, Esq.
*To be presented in the Spring

Outstanding Contribution to the Bar and the Community
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Special recognition for service to the bar and the community.

Recipient: Hon. Craig D. Hannah
*To be presented in the Spring

Elder Law and Special Needs Section Award
Presented by the Elder Law Section

To individuals whose actions are in furtherance of the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities. This year’s recipients enhanced the rights of persons with disabilities by working tirelessly for the passage of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act.

Recipients: Michael J. Amoruso, Esq. and Howard S. Krooks, Esq.
Michael J. Amoruso, Esq. Past Chair of the New York State Bar Association Elder Law Section, is President-Elect of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), a member of the NAELA Council of Advanced Practitioners and a NAELA Fellow. He was the 2014 recipient of the NAELA Theresa Foundation Award for his dedication to those with Special Needs, a recipient of the 2013 NAELA President’s Recognition Award and received the 2010 NAELA Outstanding New York Chapter Member Award. He also served as President of the New York Chapter of NAELA. In 2009, he received a U.S. Congressional Proclamation for his work in Elder Law and Special Needs Law.

Howard S. Krooks, Esq., CELA, CAP, Past Chair of the Elder Law Section, is a partner of Elder Law Associates, PA. Mr. Krooks splits his practice between New York and Florida and is mainly devoted to elder law, trusts and estate matters. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a 10.0 rating from Avvo as well as being named a Florida Super Lawyer and a New York Super Lawyer, 10 years in a row (2007 to 2017).
Elder Law and Special Needs Section Award
Presented by the Elder Law Section

To a member of the judiciary whose positions enhance or have enhanced the practice of Elder Law or the rights of persons with disabilities.

Recipient: Hon. James D. Pagones

The Honorable James D. Pagones is the Surrogate, Dutchess County, 9th Judicial District and is also designated as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court. He was elected Surrogate in 1999 and reelected in 2009. Prior to that he was a Judge of the Family Court, Dutchess County. Judge Pagones has always gone to extra lengths to assist practitioners. One example often cited by Elder Law Section members is his decision in July 2014, in Matter of B.A.M.W. (C.M.W.). Finding that there was no form for the transfer of a guardianship from another state under the new Mental Hygiene Law Article 83 Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act, Judge Pagones provided a form as a guide in his decision “in an effort to ease the burden upon the practitioner in this at times challenging and emerging area of law.”
The Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section’s Phil Cowan Memorial/BMI Award
Presented by the Entertainment, Arts, Sports, and Law Section (EASL)

In partnership with BMI, the world’s largest music performing rights organization established the Phil Cowan Memorial/BMI Scholarship. Created in memory of Cowan, an esteemed entertainment lawyer and a former Chair of EASL, the scholarship funds up to two law students committed to a practice concentrating in one or more areas of entertainment, art or sports law.

Recipient: David C. Manella, Columbia Law School and Sean McGrath, St John’s University School of Law

New York State Bar Association Environmental Law Section Award
Presented by the Environmental Law Section

Recognizes an individual or organization with a record of significant achievement, meaningful contribution, and distinguished service to the environment.

Recipient: Marcia Bystryn

Congratulations to all of the Annual Meeting Awardees. Thank you for your leadership and inspiration!

June Castellano - New York Bar Foundation Board Member
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Legal Services of the Hudson Valley proudly congratulates our Chief Executive Officer

Barbara Finkelstein

and recognizes

The Honorable Sheila Abdus-Salaam

for being named

2018 Diversity Trailblazers

Providing free civil legal services to those who cannot afford an attorney when their basic human needs are at stake.
New York State Bar Association
Environmental Law Section Council’s
Certificate of Merit
Presented by the Environmental Law Section
Recognizes a member(s) of the Environmental Law Section for outstanding contributions to the Section’s work and activities.

Recipient: Alita J. Giuda, Esq. – Albany, NY
James P. Rigano, Esq. – Melville, NY
Robert Alan Stout, Jr., Esq. – Albany, NY

New York State Bar Association Environmental Law Section Certificates of Recognition to State Agency Personnel
Presented by the Environmental Law Section
Recognizes individuals in state agency positions at the close of their careers who have made a significant contribution to the environmental field, have been active in outreach to the regulated community, and have assisted the Section and other environmental-related organizations during their tenure.

Recipients: TBA

New York State Bar Association Family Law Section Awards
Presented by the Family Law Section
The award is presented in grateful recognition of the awardees’ contributions to "the World of Family Law."

Recipients: Hon. Eugene M. Fahey
Jonathan D. Krop

General Practice Section Award
Presented by the General Practice Section
Recognizes a person who has contributed their time and expertise to improve the daily practice for law for general practitioners in New York State, and who has demonstrated a strong dedication to the profession.

Distinction in International Law and Affairs  
Presented by the International Section  
Honors outstanding efforts in the area of international law and affairs. The award recognizes those who have made a major contribution to international peace, understanding and democracy.  
**Recipient: Judge Iris Yassmin Barrios Aguilar**

Pergam Writing Competition  
Presented by the International Section  
To foster legal scholarships among law students in the field of international law. The competition is intended to encourage students of law to write on areas of public or private international law. The Section believes that by providing a forum for students to disseminate their ideas and articles, the professional and academic communities are enriched. Furthermore, the competition presents an opportunity for students to submit law review quality articles to the Section for possible publication in one of its publications.  
**Recipient: Caroline Fish**

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The Foundation and the Business Law Section  
**Partnering to Make a Difference**

Congratulations to the Business Law Section for establishing the **Business Law Section Small Business Support Fund**

Through The Foundation’s Grant Program, you will be supporting organizations that provide legal advice and assistance to underserved New York residents seeking to establish their own small business in New York State.

Entrepreneurship helps increase personal financial security and stimulates local economic activity.

*Thank you for helping to make a difference!*  
To donate to this fund visit [www.tnybf.org/donation](http://www.tnybf.org/donation) and note your gift is in Honor of the Business Law Section Small Business Support Fund.

Or send a check to: The New York Bar Foundation, 1 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207
Award for Advancement of Judicial Diversity
Presented by the Judicial Section

The NYSBA Award for Advancement of Judicial Diversity serves to recognize individuals for their efforts to promote diversity on the bench throughout New York State. Recipients will embody the New York State Bar Association’s commitment to diversity and inclusion at all levels of the judiciary.

Recipient: Hon. George Silver

The Honorable George Silver, a Bronx native, attended public schools and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School. After graduation, Justice Silver attended New York University where he received a M.S. in Accounting and Management. He attended Hofstra University School of Law where he received a J.D. in 1983. Justice Silver also earned an M.B.A. in Finance from New York University Stern Graduate School of Business in 1992. After several years with Fields & Rosen, a firm specializing in maritime law, commercial and real estate matters and personal injury actions, Justice Silver became an equity partner. The firm name was changed to Fields, Silver & Santo, L.L.P., and ultimately Silver & Santo, L.L.P. In 2004, Justice Silver was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York. Initially assigned to Civil Court, Kings County, he was re-assigned in 2009 to Family Court, Bronx County where he presided over juvenile delinquency matters. In 2010, Judge Silver was appointed a Supreme Court Judge by designation and assigned to Supreme Court, New York County where he presided over the approximately 2,000 motor vehicle cases pending in the county. From 2011 until 2015, Justice Silver presided over the Trial Assignment Part in Supreme Court, New York County. In 2012, he was asked to handle potential early settlement of Medical Malpractice Cases as part of a specialized grant program. Also in 2012, Justice Silver was elected to the Supreme Court of the State of New York. In 2015, in addition to his other assignments, Justice Silver was asked to preside over a newly created Mediation Part called J-Med — the Medical Malpractice Early Settlement Part and an IAS Part handling general matters. In 2016, Justice Silver was assigned a limited Matrimonial caseload. As of July 2017, Justice Silver was appointed by Chief Judge DiFiore to the new position of Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Court. In addition, Justice Silver is the Acting Administrative Judge for New York County Supreme and Civil Courts. Justice Silver is involved in many community based and bar associations including the NAACP, the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Judges and the Jewish Lawyers Guild. He is currently co-chair of the Ethics and Professional Committee of The Torts, Insurance Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Justice Silver is also a new member of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion of the New York State Bar Association.
Distinguished Jurist Award
Presented by the Judicial Section

To honor a jurist who embodies the highest ideals of the Judicial Section and recognize judicial excellence and extraordinary commitment to the rule of law.

Recipient: Hon. Paul Feinman

The Honorable Paul Feinman, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, was born in Hempstead, New York, the third of five children. He was raised in Merrick, where he attended public schools. Judge Feinman graduated from Columbia College, Columbia University (A.B. 1981) and the University of Minnesota Law School (J.D. 1985), attending both on scholarship. He also studied at the Université de Paris VII (Jussieu), the Université de Paris II (Assas) and the Université de Lyon III. He began his legal career as a Staff Attorney for the Appeals Bureau of the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County and then worked for the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division in Manhattan. From 1989 to 1996, he clerked for Justice Angela M. Mazzarelli in Supreme Court, Criminal and Civil Branches, and in the Appellate Division, First Department. In November 1996, Judge Feinman was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York; he was re-elected in 2006. From 1997–2001, he was assigned to the Criminal Court. He was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in Manhattan in 2004 and elected a Justice of the Supreme Court in 2007. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo appointed him to the Appellate Division, First Department in October 2012, and to the Court of Appeals on June 16, 2017. The State Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination on June 21, 2017. He served as President of the Association of Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York, Inc. (2013), President of the International Association of LGBT Judges (2008–2011), Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association (2012 -2013), and President of LeGaL, the LGBT Bar of Greater New York (1996). He resides in New York City with his husband, Robert Ostergaard.
Dr. Emanuel Stein and Kenneth Stein Memorial Law Student Writing Competition
Presented by the Labor and Employment Law Section

Recognizes excellence among law school students writing in the area of labor and employment law; and to cultivate the relationship between the Section and future labor and employment practitioners.

Recipients: Courtney Sokol, St John’s University School of Law

Samuel M. Kaynard Memorial Student Service Awards
Presented by the Labor and Employment Law Section

The Award is intended to encourage scholarship and exemplary service in the field of Labor and Employment Law. The Award is made by the law school to the student(s) in recognition of an extraordinary accomplishment in the field.

Recipients: First Place: Audrey-Marie Winn, NYU Law
Second Place: Mason Pesek, NYU Law

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna congratulates William Dreyer, the recipient of the NYSBA Attorney Professionalism Award.

OUR AREAS OF PRACTICE:
/ BUSINESS, CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL / EDUCATION
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Real Property Law Section Professionalism Award
Presented by the Real Property Law Section

The award identifies a person possessing an outstanding level of competence, legal ability and achievement; a continuing civility and appreciation for others in his/her practice; a person who has engaged in mentoring of younger attorneys and who has been involved in Bar activities both on a state and local level.

**Recipient: Richard Fries, Esq.**

Richard Fries practices law in New York City and is a co-leader of the real estate group at Sidley Austin. He is well-known throughout the New York and national legal, real estate and finance communities. Richard focuses his practice on a wide array of complex real estate financing transactions, in which he represents leading national and global institutional lenders, investment banks and private equity firms. Richard is particularly well-known for his work in high-profile distressed commercial loan workouts spanning all real estate asset classes. A member of the Executive Committee of the Real Property Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, he is co-chair of the Section’s Real Estate Finance Sub-Committee; and has co-chaired the Workouts and Bankruptcy Committee, the Legislation Committee and the Membership Committee. Each year since 2007, Richard has lectured on a variety of important and timely topics at the Real Property Law Section’s prominent Advanced Real Estate Practice Program. He has also lectured on several occasions at the Section’s Annual Meetings, chaired statewide and Finance Committee programs and lectured at the Practising Law Institute, Mortgage Bankers Association and industry group programs on real estate finance, real estate workouts and remedies over the past several years. Richard is a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Attorneys and the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. Richard has written extensively; his articles have been published regularly in the *New York Law Journal* (most recently in November 2017). He has provided primers and road maps on loan workouts; he has analyzed New York’s “Rocket Docket” accelerated adjudication techniques; he has commented on controversial appellate decisions. For *Thomson Reuters’ Inside the Minds* treatise on Distressed Real Estate, published in 2012, he wrote a chapter covering “Distressed Real Estate Loan Dispute Resolution.” Over the past year, he co-authored two articles on changes in real estate finance.
Jonathan Lippman Pro Bono Award
Presented by the Senior Lawyers Section

The award is presented to a member of the New York State Bar Association age 55 or older who has provided outstanding pro bono legal service to a low income New Yorker in need or to a New York organization serving the legal needs of low income New Yorkers.

Recipients: Joan Lia Levy, Esq. and Anthony Szczygiel, Esq.
Joan Lia Levy has served as a Volunteer Staff Attorney with Pro Bono Partnership, Inc., in its White Plains, NY office since 2011. During her tenure, Joan has served Pro Bono’s nonprofit clients and the Pro Bono staff in a wide range of practice areas, including, but not limited to: governance, nonprofit operation, intellectual property, employing and serving those with disabilities, fundraising, operation of childcare centers, sponsorships, nonprofit liquor licensing, lobbying, unrelated business income, fiscal sponsorship arrangements, providing services to animals and their owners and vendor contracts. Since 2010, Joan has served as a Director of Kids’ Club of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, Inc. a 501(c)(3) dedicated to improve the lives of underserved youth and their families residing in the Villages of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow. She is presently chair of its Governance Committee and a member of its “Outreach” (“Grants”) Committee. After a career of over thirty years as a member of the Legal Department of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and its predecessors, Joan retired as a Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, where she supported a number of areas including serving as the Assistant Secretary of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. Joan has also served as a Trustee of the Warner Library in Tarrytown, NY and a Director of the Foundation for the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns.

Tony Szczygiel recently retired as a Professor at SUNY Buffalo School of Law, where he taught Elder and Health Law since 1982. Tony also supervised the Elder Law Clinic, which he started in 1983. The Clinic handled Medicare and Medicaid appeals for elderly or disabled clients and worked closely with Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged, now named the Center for Elder Law and Justice (CELJ). Tony continues to volunteer weekly at CELJ with the Ombudsman and Healthcare Units. In addition, Tony was co-counsel on a 21-year long complex class-action case, whose outcome impacted 16,000 nursing home residents. Tony also founded the Coalition of Medicaid Advocates and serves on the Executive Committee of the NYSBA Elder Law Section. Tony has made over 300 presentations for the New York State and local County Bar Associations, as well to other advocates and consumers. He is a certified volunteer with the Region 15 Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. He has served as a Board member for various local not-for-profit organizations, including Canopy of Neighbors, the Community Health Center and Neighborhood Legal Services.
Special Commendation: Blaine (Fin) Fogg, Esq.

Blaine “Fin” Fogg has served without compensation as President of The Legal Aid Society (LAS) for more than eight years. LAS is the nation’s oldest and largest provider of free legal services to those who cannot afford to pay for much needed legal representation. LAS operates Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Rights Practices in the five boroughs of New York City. Each year its dedicated staff represents the most vulnerable New Yorkers in some 300,000 individual legal matters. LAS also seeks to make systemic improvements in the law through high impact litigation and legislative and administrative advocacy. He also has been honored for his long-time service to Mount Sinai Medical Center, including as a member of its board of trustees, and he received the Judge Simon H. Rifkind Award from the Jewish Theological Seminary for “an exemplary life marked by professional preeminence, distinguished public service and unstinting devotion to the community.” Fin joined Skadden in 1966 and helped build the firm’s world-renowned M&A practice. He has been selected repeatedly for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Corporate and M&A Law. A frequent speaker at many forums on mergers and acquisitions, Fin has authored numerous articles in addition to co-authoring a major treatise on the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act.

Kaplan & Company, LLP

Kaplan & Company, LLP congratulates all of the honorees and is proud to support the work of the New York State Bar Association
John E. Leach Memorial Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL)

Recognizes outstanding service and distinguished contributions to the legal profession as a member of the TICL Section.

Recipient: Jonathan A. Dachs, Esq.

Jonathan A. Dachs, a member of the firm of Shayne, Dachs, Sauer & Dachs, LLP, in Mineola, New York, is a graduate of Columbia College and NYU Law School. After spending the initial three years of his legal career at Chadbourne & Parke, Jonathan joined Shayne, Dachs in 1987, where he worked closely with his father and mentor Norman H. Dachs, for 27 years, until Norman’s passing in 2014. Jonathan received the NYSBA’s TICL Section’s Young Lawyer Award in 1995 in recognition of “his outstanding contribution to the practice of law in the field of insurance.” A prolific writer, Jonathan is the author of a regular column in the New York Law Journal on Insurance Law, and has published 180 articles in that publication to date. In addition he has published annual reviews of SUM case law, regulations and legislation in the New York State Bar Journal for the past 23 years, and has published numerous additional articles that have appeared in the such publications as New York Negligence Reporter, Trial Lawyers Quarterly, Nassau Lawyer, and Trial Lawyers Section Digest. In August 2016, Jonathan published a 500+ page treatise, entitled New York Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Law and Practice (Lexis Nexis/ Matthew Bender). The second edition of this well-reviewed and well-received book was released in August 2017, and the next edition is expected to be published in August 2018. In addition to all of his published writings, Jonathan has served the legal profession and TICL Committee members by his participation as a lecturer at numerous CLE programs throughout the State, given by many bar groups, including NYSBA. To date, he has given over 140 lectures on various insurance and negligence topics. He has been designated a New York Metro “Super Lawyer” (Appellate Practice) and one of “Long Island’s Top Legal (Personal Injury) Eagles” since 2010.

Sheldon Hurwitz Young Lawyer Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL)

This award is given in recognition of outstanding contribution to the practice of law in the field of insurance.

Recipient: Matthew Bremner, Esq.
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Mary M. Russo – John Sciortino Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL)

This award is given to a lawyer in recognition of outstanding contribution to the practice of law in the field of Workers’ Compensation.

Recipient: Susan R. Duffy, Esq.
Susan R. Duffy is a partner in the Buffalo, NY office of Hamberger & Weiss, the New York State member of The National Workers’ Compensation Defense Network. Ms. Duffy graduated cum laude in with a B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1980. She graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Faculty of Law and Jurisprudence with a J.D. degree in 1984. Ms. Duffy has been actively involved with the Bar Association of Erie County and the New York State Bar Association since 1985, serving as Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Division of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the NYSBA from 2002 to 2004 and as past Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Committee of the Bar Association of Erie County. Ms. Duffy is listed in The Best Lawyers in America in the field of Workers’ Compensation Law and was inducted as a Fellow in the College of Workers’ Compensation Lawyers in 2012. With a keen interest in legislation and policy issues affecting workers’ compensation, she has been a participant in numerous projects, including as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Recodification of the New York State Workers’ Compensation Law and as a team member for the Business Council of New York on the Governor’s Task Force which worked to establish procedures and guidelines to effectuate the 2007 reform legislation on loss of wage earning capacity and permanent partial disability benefit caps. Ms. Duffy is a member of the New York State and Erie County Bar Associations and a past member of the attorney focus group and Advisory Council.

Committee Chair of the Year
Presented by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL)

This award recognizes an outstanding TICL Section Committee Chair.

Recipient: Joanna M. Roberto, Esq.
Joanna M. Roberto is a Partner at Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady focusing on litigating insurance defense matters including insurance disputes and products liability. Year after year, she has consistently met the stringent Super Lawyers selection criteria. Joanna is also an active and leading member of DRI’s Insurance Law and DRI For Life Committees.
Skadden congratulates Fin Fogg on his special commendation by the New York State Bar Association Senior Lawyers Section.

For more than 50 years, Fin has provided dedicated service to clients and the profession. We congratulate Fin and all the honorees.
District Representatives of the Year
Presented by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL)

This award recognizes an outstanding TICL Section Executive Committee District Representative.

Recipients: Darian A. Bryan, Esq. and J.P. Delaney, Esq.

Darian A. Bryan is a graduate of SUNY Old Westbury with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics, Economics and Law, and Hofstra University where he obtained his Juris Doctor in 2016. Darian was admitted to the New York State Bar in February 2017. While in law school, Darian was a junior staff member for the Journal of International Business and Law. Darian is a member of the New York State Bar Association where he serves as a Second District representative for the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Executive Committee.

J.P Delaney joined O’Dwyer & Bernstein as a Law Clerk in 1990 and became an Attorney with the firm in 1996, specializing in Personal Injury Law. Mr. Delaney has reported numerous million dollar settlements for his clients. Mr. Delaney is deeply experienced in Alternative Dispute Resolution, as well as Labor Law, Automobile and Transportation and Premises Liability Law. Mr. Delaney is a member of the Brehon Law Society, an Irish-American Bar Association of attorneys whose objective is to achieve peace and unity in Northern Ireland through the legal process. He is a long time member of the New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Executive Committee and holds membership in the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Delaney is on the Board of Directors of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and the Aisling Irish Community Center, both of which assist immigrants, the elderly, and the impoverished of New York City. He is an officer and former President of the Emerald Association of Long Island which has helped orphans for over 100 years in New York State.
Torts Insurance & Compensation Law Section and Trial Lawyers Section Outstanding Contributions to the Profession Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law and Trial Lawyers Sections

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to Civil Practice and Evidence.

Recipient: Professor Vincent Alexander

As a law student at St. John’s, Professor Alexander was the Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. Before joining the St. John’s faculty in 1977, he practiced law in the litigation department of Mudge Rose Guthrie & Alexander in New York. He was the former Charles Sparacio Professor of Law and taught Evidence and New York Civil Practice. He was co-author of the treatise Evidence in New York State and Federal Courts (Thomson/West), the second edition of which was published in 2011. In addition to annual updates for the Evidence treatise, other publications include the Practice Commentaries on the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules (“CPLR”) in seventeen volumes of McKinney’s Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated, also with annual updates. His writings have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court on two occasions (Swidler & Berlin v. United States (1998); and Shady Grove Orthopedic Associates, P.A. v. Allstate Insurance Co. (2010)). Professor Alexander was a member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Practice to the Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York. He has also served as a member of the New York City Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and the Continuing Legal Education Board of the State of New York. He served as Interim Dean of the School of Law during the 1999-2000 academic year. The students of the Law School have named him “Professor of the Year” on nine occasions, most recently in 2016. For over 25 years, Professor Alexander has been a national lecturer on Evidence for BAR BRI Bar Review.
The New York Bar Foundation

Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law
Section & Trial Lawyers Section Honoree
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law and Trial Lawyers Sections

Presented in recognition of devoted and accomplished efforts for the benefit of the bench and bar, and for inspiring administration of justice for the people of the State of New York.

**Recipient: Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**

The Honorable Rowan D. Wilson, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, was born in Pomona, California, and grew up in Berkeley, California. He received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1981, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984. He was admitted to the bar of the State of California in 1985, and the bar of the State of New York in 1987. From 1984 to 1986, he served as a judicial law clerk to Hon. James R. Browning, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, based in San Francisco, California. In 1986, he joined the firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City as an associate, and was elected to partnership there in 1991, in which position he continued until February 2017. On January 15, 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated Judge Wilson to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on February 6, 2017. While in private practice, Judge Wilson served on the boards of several charitable and not-for-profit organizations and handled numerous pro bono matters.

Recognizing the Contribution to Promoting Diversity in the Profession
Presented by the Trial Lawyers Section

**Recipient: Betty Lugo, Esq.**

Betty Lugo is a highly regarded member of the New York State Bar Association and the Trial Lawyers Section. She has devoted her career to advancing diversity and inclusion in our profession and our Section. Ms. Lugo is a graduate of Albany Law School and a past member of the Board of Trustees of Albany Law. She is a founding member of Pacheco & Lugo, PLLC, the first Hispanic women-owned law firm in New York, established in 1992. She is a past president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association. Among her many awards and accolades, Ms. Lugo received the Kate Stoneman Award from Albany Law School, recognizing her for her efforts in expanding opportunities for women in the profession. More recently, Ms. Lugo volunteered to chair the upcoming diversity/CLE event being sponsored by the Trial Lawyers Section, Albany Law School, and numerous local bar associations in upstate New York in March 2018.
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The 2018 Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award Recipient

Congratulations to all other award recipients.

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Recognizing the Commitment and Guidance to the Section
Presented by the Trial Lawyers Section

Recipient: Brian Hedges, CPA, CFE, CVA
Brian Hedges is being honored for volunteering to act as a financial adviser to our section, which was unchartered territory as our section has never before had a financial adviser. Mr. Hedges is eminently qualified to fill this role as he provides forensic accounting services at Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. in Rochester, New York, and is a CPA, CFA, and CVA. Mr. Hedges is a graduate of Notre Dame where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for Quad A for Kids, whose mission is to promote the personal and social development of the young people in the City of Rochester.

Recognizing the Dedication and Commitment to the Trial Lawyers Section and Their Journal
Presented by the Trial Lawyers Section

Recipient: T. Andrew Brown, Esq.
T. Andrew Brown is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. He is a founder and has been the Managing Partner of Brown Hutchinson LLP since 1994. Mr. Brown has been an active member of the New York State Bar Association for 30 years, and has served in numerous leadership roles in our bar association over that period of time. Besides being a former Chair of the Trial Lawyers Section, he has also co-chaired the Task Force on the Future of the Legal Profession from 2010–2011. He is a past President of the Monroe County Bar Association, a past President of the Rochester Black Bar Association and served as a Vice President of the New York State Bar Association. Over the course of his career, Mr. Brown has published many scholarly articles. He has deservedly received numerous accolades for his contributions to our profession. This year Mr. Brown volunteered to edit the Trial Lawyers Section’s Journal, published by NYSBA. His first edition was recently issued and it clearly demonstrated his talent for encouraging contributions from authors who have never been published before, yet who have valuable insights into trial tactics and the profession in general. Mr. Brown’s willingness to take on this new role is representative of his professional leadership.
Recognizing the Outstanding Dedication and Commitment to the Advancement of Trial Lawyers

Presented by the Trial Lawyers Section

Recipient: Harold Schwab, Esq.

Harold Schwab is a graduate of Harvard University and Boston College Law School. He is a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Past Chair of the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association, and Past President of the New York Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Mr. Schwab has been listed in the peer-reviewed “The Best Lawyers in America” since 1983 and The International Who’s Who of Product Liability Lawyers since 1997. He has served as a Member of the Character and Fitness Committee of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department. Mr. Schwab has for many years been actively engaged on the executive committee of our Section. His insight into the challenges confronting trial attorneys in our state has been invaluable. An accomplished trial attorney, he has tried hundreds of cases to verdict and mentored many attorneys in the art of trial tactics. Over the course of his career, Mr. Schwab has authored numerous scholarly articles and he has received many awards recognizing his professional contributions. He is a highly valued member of our profession and our section.

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Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Presented by the Young Lawyers Section

The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recognizes an attorney who has actively practiced less than ten years and has a distinguished record of commitment to the finest traditions of the bar through public service and professional activities.

Recipient: Lanessa L. Chaplin, Esq.

Lanessa L. Chaplin, Esq., a native of Syracuse, is a staff attorney for the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, in charge of coordinating the reentry/new start program. Lanessa is also the founder and executive director of the William Herbert Johnson Bar Association of Central New York. Lanessa has a passion for giving back and began her legal career in 2012 as a volunteer law associate at Hiscock Legal Aid Society’s Appellate Division. In the same spirit of advocacy, her focus became transforming policy initiatives. Lanessa was legal counsel and chief of staff to the New York Assembly member Samuel D. Roberts, where she focused primarily on drafting and/or amending laws to improve the lives of Central New York residents. Immediately prior to joining the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Lanessa was the Deputy Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, working closely on anti-poverty initiatives, criminal justice reform, and Central New York’s budgetary needs. Lanessa also ran her own law firm for a short stint, focusing on criminal defense and business formation. Lanessa received her J.D. from St. Thomas School of Law in 2012, and her bachelor’s degree in Politics and Economics from SUNY Old Westbury in 2007. She is an Onondaga Community College alum, and a proud Henninger Black Knight.
Committee Awards

New York State Bar Association Award for Attorney Professionalism
Presented by the Committee on Attorney Professionalism

Honors an attorney for outstanding professionalism, which is defined as dedication to service to clients and a commitment to promoting respect for the legal system in pursuit of justice and the public good, characterized by exemplary ethical conduct, competence, good judgment, integrity and civility.

Recipient: William J. Dreyer, Esq.

William J. Dreyer has been practicing law for 45 years. A graduate of Bowdoin College and New York Law School, Mr. Dreyer served as a Captain, JAGC, in the United States Army, where he defended and then prosecuted court-martial cases. He later became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York and also served as Chief Assistant from 1976 to 1980. During his tenure as a federal prosecutor, Mr. Dreyer never lost a case and was regarded for his judicious temperament and judgment in the prosecution of his cases. Mr. Dreyer left the United States Attorney’s Office in 1980 and entered private practice with the law firm of Harvey & Harvey where he tried complex criminal and civil cases. In 1987, he founded the Albany-based law firm of Dreyer Boyajian LLP where he concentrates his practice in the areas of white collar crimes and public corruption cases. Mr. Dreyer is a charter member of the Albany Law School American Inns of Court and has served on various merit selection panels for the appointment of United States magistrates and bankruptcy judges. He is also a founding member and past President of the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association and is a frequent lecturer at seminars and CLE programs for the New York State Bar Association and other organizations in the area of federal and state civil and criminal practice and ethics and civility. Mr. Dreyer has been a member of the CJA Committee since 2000 and served on various panels, including the CJA Committee’s Advisory Group for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Justice Breyer Committee. He is also a member of the Federal Bar Council and in 2006, was invited by the American Bar Association to address the Judiciary of Thailand in Bangkok on Public Corruption and White Collar Prosecutions in the United States. He is a past winner of the Judge Duane Award issued by the Northern District of New York Federal Bar Association as well as the Lifetime Advocate Award given by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.
Bar Leaders Innovation Award
Presented by the Committee for Bar Leaders of New York State

Recognizing how bar associations adapt to the needs of their members and the community at large by introducing new programs, ideas and methodologies that benefit everyone involved.

Large Bar – New York County Lawyers Association for its Pro Bono Program
Small Bar – Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys for its creation of the Lawyers Coalition on Racial Justice

Diversity Trailblazer Award
Presented by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

Created to honor an individual who demonstrates a strong commitment to enhance diversity in the legal profession.

Recipients: Barbara Finkelstein, Esq., CEO, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam (posthumous)

Barbara Finkelstein oversees every aspect of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), the largest provider of free civil legal services available to 545,000 poor and low-income individuals in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. Since Ms. Finkelstein became Executive Director in 1995 and later CEO, LSHV has increased its budget from $2 million to $16 million with a staff of 138 in nine offices. She is the first woman to lead the organization and is a national leader on the topic of civil legal services in areas of unmet need. Ms. Finkelstein’s accomplishments on behalf of LSHV are many. Under her leadership the agency has made great strides in securing funding from public and private sources to increase services to low-income residents of the Hudson Valley facing civil legal problems affecting the basic necessities of life. Motivated by a desire to make justice a promise for every member of society, Ms. Finkelstein created partnerships with governments, community-based organizations, and law schools to ensure solutions to the problems facing the low-income population. Since assuming leadership, Ms. Finkelstein has started several programs at LSHV to meet the growing need for free civil legal services: Domestic Violence Unit (1996); Children’s Advocacy Unit (1999); Family Law Unit (2002); Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project (2012); LGBTQ Legal Project (2015); and, also in 2015, implementation of the NYS Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) at LSHV. Before joining LSHV, Ms. Finkelstein was the Assistant Project Director at Queens Legal Services, where she directed services to clients and assisted with overall program operations. Ms. Finkelstein is a member of the Permanent Commission on Access Justice in
New York, the New York State Bar Association’s President’s Committee on Access to Justice and the Board of Directors for Nonprofit Westchester. Ms. Finkelstein received her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law – Newark, and her B.A. from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

**The Honorable Sheila Abdus-Salaam** was born in Washington, D.C., and educated in its public schools. She graduated from Barnard College in 1974 and received her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1977. Upon graduation, she began her legal career as a staff attorney at East Brooklyn Legal Services, Corporation A (1977–1980); served as an Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Department of Law, Civil Rights and Real Estate Financing Bureaus (1980–1988); and served as General Counsel for the New York City Office of Labor Services (1988–1991). She began her judicial career in 1992, having been elected in 1991 to the Civil Court of the City of New York. In 1993, she was elected to the Supreme Court, New York County, and was re-elected in 2007. She was appointed an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department in March 2009 by Governor David A. Paterson. Her appointment to the Court of Appeals by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo was confirmed by the State Senate on May 6, 2013.

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**Congratulations to Tony Szczygiel, recipient of the Jonathan Lippman Pro Bono Award!**

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Pro Bono changes lives. The Empire State Counsel® Program recognizes the pro bono contributions made by Association Pro Bono changes lives. The Empire State Counsel® Program recognizes the pro bono contributions made by Association Members who complete over 50 hours of pro bono work over the course of the year. By generously donating their time and talent our members help low-income and vulnerable persons, who otherwise could not afford an attorney, gain access to the civil justice system. During Annual Meeting, the Association recognizes up to six law firms based on the number of NYSBA members they enroll as Empire State Counsel® during the preceding year. Two individual NYSBA members also are honored for the extraordinary nature of their pro bono contributions.

Recipients:

Empire State Counsel Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteers:
Caroline Heller
Benjamin Ostrer

Empire State Counsel Law Firm Honorees:
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Since its launch, hundreds of civil legal questions submitted by low-income New Yorkers ranging from family law and wills and estates to consumer debt and property issues have been answered by Free Legal Answers™ volunteer attorneys. From this year forward, NYSBA will honor on annual basis the attorney who has had the largest impact on Free Legal Answers™ clients in the previous year and the law firm which has had the most associates and partners participating in Free Legal Answers™.

Free Legal Answers™ Volunteer Attorney Award:
Phillip R. Hurwitz, Esq.

Free Legal Answers™ Outstanding Firm Contribution:
Barclay Damon LLP
Kay Crawford Murray Award  
Presented by the Committee on Women in the Law

To honor women in the profession who recognize the value of diversity in the legal profession and have dedicated their time to advancing the professional development of women attorneys.

Recipient: Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith
The Honorable Lisa Margaret Smith is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York, and sits in the Charles L. Brieant Federal Building and United States Courthouse in White Plains. She was originally appointed in 1995 and is currently serving her third term as a Magistrate Judge. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Smith was an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York (1987–1995). Before becoming an AUSA she served as a Kings County Assistant District Attorney (1980–1985), rising to Supervising Senior ADA in the Appeals Bureau. From 1985 until 1986 Judge Smith was an Assistant Attorney General in the Appeals and Opinions Division of the New York State Department of Law. In 1986 Judge Smith re-joined the Kings County District Attorney’s Office as a Supervising Senior ADA. She remained there until 1987, when she became an AUSA for the Southern District of New York. Judge Smith earned her B.A. degree, with honors in political science, from Earlham College, and her J.D. degree from Duke University School of Law. She is a member of the Boards of Editors of the Federal Courts Law Review, an on-line and print journal of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, and of the Federal Bar Council Quarterly. Judge Smith has served in various positions on the Board of the Westchester Women’s Bar Association, and currently serves as a Vice President and member of the Executive Committee, as well as co-chair of the Community Outreach Committee. She is active in the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, the Federal Bar Council, the Federal Bar Association, and Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA). In 2014, Judge Smith was honored to receive the Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award from the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York. Judge Smith has been an Adjunct Professor at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University (formerly Pace Law School) since 2006, where she has taught Evidence and Federal Courts, and has co-taught Civil Procedure.
Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award
Presented by the Committee on Women in the Law

To honor a male or female member of the Association who has made a noteworthy contribution to the concerns of women through pro bono services, writing, service to bar associations or community organizations or other such endeavors.

Recipient: Bernice K. Leber, Esq.

Born in Albany, New York, Bernice is a first generation American who attended Mount Holyoke College and Columbia University School of Law. As President of the State Bar in 2008, Bernice created a Special Committee to study and advocate changes in criminal laws and policy to reduce the number of wrongful convictions. Several of the proposed reforms have since become law. As Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Human Trafficking, she reviewed the treatment of human trafficking victims under federal and state laws throughout the U.S. relating to the prosecution, remedies, care, provision of legal services and coordination of resources for victims. Ms. Leber has continued to work with the State Bar and ABA to assist those trafficked. Among her many actions to advance gender equality, Bernice lobbied the New York Legislature and Governor’s Office on marriage equality for same sex couples and their children and currently chairs a Committee of the ABA Committee of the Representative and Observers to the UN on Emergency Medical Funding for Victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Armed Conflict, championing the adoption of methodologies to measure and track the prevalence of and medical care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Africa. In 2017, the ABA Fund for Justice and Education awarded the UN Committee that she chairs a grant to develop a phone application to record data on victims in remote areas of armed conflict and thereby facilitate emergency medical care and funding such aid. In 2017, together with six women who are former chairs of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section of the State Bar, Ms. Leber prepared a ground breaking report concerning women litigators and trial counsel appearing in the Federal and State Courthouses and arbitral fora in New York. Widely reported in the press and adopted by judges, they propose specific ways to ensure that women and minority lawyers get the opportunity argue and try cases. Due to her commitment to raising the quality of the judiciary, she also serves on U.S. Senator Charles Schumer’s Judicial Selection Committee and the Governor’s First Department Screening Committee. Ms. Leber has been a litigation partner at Arent Fox LLP for 22 years where she handles securities, antitrust, intellectual property, real estate and business disputes. She resides in Manhattan with her husband David Rosenberg when they are not visiting their son Aaron, who currently works in London.
The NYSBA Leadership Congratulates all of the 2018 Award Recipients!!

Your dedication to the legal profession is to be commended and congratulated!

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Claire P. Gutekunst, Immediate Past President
Monday, January 22

**Distinction in International Law and Affairs**  
*Presented by the International Section*

- **Recipient:** TBA
- **Time:** 1:00 p.m.
- **Event:** International Section Luncheon

**Pergam Writing Competition**  
*Presented by the International Section*

- **Recipient:** TBA
- **Time:** 1:00 p.m.
- **Event:** Luncheon/Reception

**Diversity Trailblazer Award**  
*Presented by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion*

- **Recipients:** Barbara Finkelstein, Esq., CEO, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam (posthumous)
- **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
- **Event:** Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception

Tuesday, January 23

**General Practice Section Award**  
*Presented by the General Practice Section*

- **Recipient:** Paul J. O’Neill, Jr., Esq.
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Event:** General Practice Section Annual Meeting

**The Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section’s Phil Cowan Memorial/BMI Award**  
*Presented by the Entertainment, Arts, Sports, and Law Section (EASL)*

- **Recipient:** TBA
- **Time:** 1:00 p.m.
- **Event:** Section Annual Meeting
The Senior Lawyers Section Congratulates

Joan Lia Levy, Esq.  Anthony Szczygiel, Esq.
On receiving the 2018 Senior Lawyers Section’s Jonathan Lippman Pro Bono Award

With Special Commendation
Blaine V. Fogg, Esq.

The Senior Lawyers Section congratulates all of the award recipients for 2018!
Kay Crawford Murray Award  
*Presented by the Committee on Women in the Law*  
**Recipient:** Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith  
**Time:** 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.  
**Event:** Kay Crawford Murray Luncheon

Elder Law and Special Needs Section Awards  
*Presented by the Elder Law Section*  
**Recipients:** Michael J. Amoruso, Esq., Howard S. Krooks, Esq., and Hon. James D. Pagones  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Event:** The Elder Law & Special Needs Section Meeting

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**Hamberger & Weiss**  
*Attorneys at Law*

**Congratulates our Partner**  
*Susan R. Duffy*

**2018 Recipient of the NYSBA Mary M. Russo-John Sciortino Award**
Wednesday, January 24

Stanley H. Fuld Award
*Presented by the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section*

**Recipient:** Hon. Charles E. Ramos  
**Time:** 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Event:** Reception/Luncheon

Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award
*Presented by the Criminal Justice Section*

**Recipient:** Elkan Abramowitz, Esq.  
**Time:** 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Event:** Reception & CJS Awards Luncheon

The Vincent E. Doyle, Jr. Award for Outstanding Judicial Contribution in the Criminal Justice System
*Presented by the Criminal Justice Section*

**Recipient:** Hon. Jenny Rivera  
**Time:** 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Event:** Reception & CJS Awards Luncheon

The Michele S. Maxian Award for Outstanding Public Defense Practitioner
*Presented by the Criminal Justice Section*

**Recipient:** Justine (Tina) M. Luongo, Esq.  
**Time:** 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Event:** Reception & CJS Awards Luncheon

Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Criminal Justice Legislation
*Presented by the Criminal Justice Section*

**Recipient:** Michael C. Green, Esq.  
**Time:** 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Event:** Reception & CJS Awards Luncheon
Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Criminal Law Education
Presented by the Criminal Justice Section

Recipient: Hon. William C. Donnino
Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Event: Reception & CJS Awards Luncheon

The David S. Caplan Award for Meritorious Service
Presented by the Business Law Section

Recipient: Bruce J. Baker, Esq.
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Event: Business Law and Corporate Counsel Sections’ Luncheon

Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Presented by the Young Lawyers Section

Recipient: Lanessa L. Chaplin, Esq.
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Event: Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee Meeting

John E. Leach Memorial Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section

Recipient: Jonathan A. Dachs, Esq.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Event: TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner

Sheldon Hurwitz Young Lawyer Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section

Recipient: Matthew Bremner, Esq.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Event: TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner

Mary M. Russo–John Sciortino Award
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section

Recipient: Susan R. Duffy, Esq.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Event: TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner
Congratulations to our Founding Partner Honoree Betty Lugo, Esq. for her contributions in promoting and advancing diversity in the legal profession.
Committee Chair of the Year
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section

**Recipient:** Joanna M. Roberto, Esq.
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.
**Event:** TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner

District Representatives of the Year
Presented by the Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section

**Recipients:** Darian A. Bryan, Esq. and J.P. Delaney, Esq.
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.
**Event:** TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner

Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section & Trial Lawyers Section Honoree
Presented by Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section/Trial Section

**Recipient:** Hon. Rowan D. Wilson
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.
**Event:** TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner

Outstanding Contributions to the Profession Award
Presented by Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section/Trial Section

**Recipient:** Prof. Vincent Alexander
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.
**Event:** TICL/Trial Reception and Dinner
Thursday, January 25

Jonathan Lippman Pro Bono Award

*Presented by the Senior Lawyers Section*

**Recipients:** Joan Lia Levy, Esq. and Anthony Szczygiel, Esq.
Special Commendation: Blaine (Fin) Fogg, Esq.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.
**Event:** Senior Lawyers Section Meeting

Family Law Section Award

*Presented by the Family Law Section*

**Recipient:** TBA

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.
**Event:** Family Law Section Luncheon

*Congratulations Joanna M. Roberto, Esq., recipient of the 2017 NYSBA’s Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Outstanding Committee Chair Award.*

Value means efficient process, creative approaches to reducing legal risk, enhanced cost certainty and **RESULTS**.

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Empire State Counsel & Free Legal Answers™ Awards

**Recipients:** Empire State Counsel Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteers:
- Caroline Heller
- Benjamin Ostrer

Empire State Counsel Law Firm Honorees:
- Barclay Damon LLP
- Phillips Lytle LLP
- Proskauer Rose LLP
- Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
- Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
- Nixon Peabody LLP

Free Legal Answers™ Volunteer Attorney Award:
- Phillip R. Hurwitz, Esq.

Free Legal Answers™ Outstanding Firm Contribution:
- Barclay Damon LLP

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Event:** Justice for All Luncheon

Real Property Law Section Professionalism Award

*Presented by the Real Property Law Section*

**Recipient:** Richard Fries, Esq.

**Time:** 12:45 p.m.

**Event:** Real Property Law Section Luncheon

William T. Lifland Award

*Presented by the Antitrust Law Section*

**Recipient:** TBA

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Event:** Antitrust and Young Lawyers Cocktail Reception

The Distinguished Public Service Award

*Presented by the Antitrust Law Section*

**Recipient:** TBA

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Event:** Antitrust and Young Lawyers Cocktail Reception
New York State Bar Association Award for Attorney Professionalism
Presented by the Committee on Attorney Professionalism

Recipient: William J. Dreyer, Esq.
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Event: House of Delegates Dinner

Friday, January 26

Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award
Presented by the Committee on Women in the Law

Recipient: Bernice K. Leber, Esq.
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Event: House of Delegates Meeting

Distinguished Jurist Award
Presented by the Judicial Section

Recipient: Hon. Paul Feinman
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Event: Judicial Section Reception and Luncheon

Award for Advancement of Judicial Diversity
Presented by the Judicial Section

Recipient: Hon. George Silver
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Event: Judicial Section Annual Meeting Luncheon

Dr. Emanuel Stein and Kenneth Stein Memorial Law Student Writing Competition Award
Presented by the Labor and Employment Law Section

Recipients: TBA
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Event: Labor and Employment Section’s Luncheon

Samuel M. Kaynard Memorial Student Service Awards
Presented by the Labor and Employment Law Section

Recipients: TBA
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Event: Labor and Employment Section’s Luncheon
Saturday, January 27
The Gold Medal Award
Presented by the New York State Bar Association

Recipient: Roberta A. Kaplan, Esq.
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Event: President’s Dinner (invitation only)

Maroney O'Connor LLP
recognize and honor

Darian Bryan, Esq.

Maroney O'Connor LLP

&

J.P. Delaney, Esq.

O'Dwyer & Bernstein, LLP

Recipients of the NYSBA
Torts, Insurance and Compensation
Law Section

District Representative of the
Year Awards

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Congratulations on this well
deserved honor!

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Tom Maroney & Jim O'Connor

Maroney O'Connor LLP

11 Broadway, Suite 831
New York, NY 10004
212.509.2009
The Puerto Rican Bar Association
Congratulates
Betty Lugo, Esq.
for her contributions in promoting and building diversity in the legal profession and
Congratulates the other honorees
The Elder Law & Special Needs Section

congratulates all of the award recipients for 2018!

The New York State Bar Association

Elder Law & Special Needs Section Awards

2018 Recipients

Michael Amoruso, Esq. and Howard S. Krooks, Esq.

Michael Amoruso and Howard S. Krooks enhanced the rights of person with disabilities by working tirelessly for the passage of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act. For Michael, this was a 23 year effort to have the Congress recognize that persons with disabilities should have the right to establish their own first party SNTs without having to rely on a parent or a court order to be afforded the protections of OBRA 93.

For Howie, this was a matter of legal principal, that persons with disabilities should not be presumed incapacitated and unable to make their own decisions. Together they mobilized the Elder Law Bar, members of Congress and our New York State Legislature and Department of Health to enact and implement a law that had discriminated against persons with disabilities.

The SNT Fairness Act was signed into law by President Obama in December, 2016. This legislation has had a significant impact on the lives of persons with disabilities with capacity who no longer have to ask their parents’ nor the courts’ permission to establish a trust.

2018 Judiciary Awardee Hon. James D. Pagones

Presented to a member of the judiciary whose positions enhance or have enhanced the practice of Elder Law or the rights of persons with disabilities

Presented to Hon. James D. Pagones, Dutchess County Surrogate and Acting Supreme Court Justice for his compassionate and innovative work in the area of adult guardianship. Judge Pagones is the Surrogate, Dutchess County, 9th Judicial District and is also designated as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court. He was elected Surrogate in 1999 and reelected in 2009. Prior to that he was a Judge of the Family Court, Dutchess County. Judge Pagones has always gone to extra lengths to assist practitioners. One example often cited by our members is his decision in July 2014, in Matter of B.A.M.W. (C.M.W.). Finding that there was no form for the transfer of a guardianship from another state under the new Mental Hygiene Law Article 83 Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act, Judge Pagones provided a form as a guide in his decision “in an effort to ease the burden upon the practitioner in this at times challenging and emerging area of law.”

The Elder Law & Special Needs Section congratulates all of the award recipients for 2018!
The Foundation Board of Directors Congratulates All Recipients of The 2018 NYSBA Annual Meeting Awards

Thank you for your dedication to the legal profession!

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Funds raised between January 21 - 28 will be allocated to the Foundation’s grant program designated for legal immigration programs.

20% of the applications received for 2018 involve immigration matters. Many programs assist asylum seekers that are fleeing their country out of fear, and unaccompanied children sent to America for safety and a better life.

They are afraid, have language barriers, and are in need of legal representation. **Every gift matters!**

A special link has been set up during annual meeting week so YOU can HELP!

**Go to [http://givetrybf.swellgives.com](http://givetrybf.swellgives.com) today or visit The Foundation booth on the 2nd floor to make your donation!**

Your gift will be applied to the grant program, helping immigrants in need of legal services across New York State.

For an updated listing visit [www.tnybf.org/awardbooklet](http://www.tnybf.org/awardbooklet)