

# New York County Lawyers Association

## 2026 ANNUAL REPORT Members in Action



# New York County Lawyers Association

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# NYCLA



## Letter from the President Richard P. Swanson

To my friends and colleagues, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your president this past year. It has truly been a pleasure. I want to begin by thanking our loyal members. Your continued support sustains NYCLA, as it has since 1908.

I am especially proud of our work this year to defend the rule of law during challenging times. We issued nearly three dozen public statements, stood up for judges against unfair attacks, and joined an amicus brief supporting law firms facing threats to their independence. I want to recognize our Task Force on the Rule of Law, chaired by Arthur Aufses, with special thanks to Albert Feuer, who helped draft many of its statements. Their work deserves the recognition they will receive at our annual meeting.

Congratulations as well to our Law & Technology Committee, chaired by Joe Bambara, and our Professional Ethics Committee, chaired by Pierre Ciric and Joseph Vogel. They will receive the Association's Kobak and Eppler Prizes, respectively, in recognition of their outstanding contributions. James Kobak, a past NYCLA president, energized our Charles Evans Hughes lecture series with a tour de force talk by Chief Judge Rowan Wilson, and I want to acknowledge Jim's efforts here, too.

I also want to thank our many dedicated committee chairs. The Supreme Court Committee, co-chaired by Russell Morris and Hon. Onya Brinson continues to host our annual reception for new judges and our Law Day Luncheon, with valued support from former committee co-chair Craig Kesch, who currently co-chairs this event. Our Federal Courts Committee, co-chaired by Scott Klugman and Michael Eisenkraft, hosts the annual Weinfeld Luncheon. To all our committees, thank you. Your work is the backbone of this Association.

I am particularly proud of our pro bono programs, led by General Counsel Sharon Sash and Assistant General Counsel Jessica Breuer. These programs assisted countless individuals last year, most of whom could not otherwise access legal services. I want to recognize Barbara Zahler-Gringer, who has volunteered weekly for more than two years. Her commitment is truly exemplary.

While we have been active in defending the rule of law nationally, we have also remained engaged at the state level. We submitted testimony on the judiciary budget, highlighting the economic contributions of the courts. Our testimony pointed out that by following the rule of law, the State's judiciary, particularly the Commercial Division, encourages economic activity, and associated tax revenue, in New York.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to Robert Haig for his leadership as Editor-in-Chief of the forthcoming sixth edition of Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts, a definitive resource originally published in 1995 and a highly successful joint venture between NYCLA and Thomson Reuters, which continues to generate substantial annual royalties for NYCLA. A stalwart supporter, Bob also chairs our Annual Gala.

We also supported important state initiatives, including constitutional amendments to establish a clear line of succession for the Governor and to allocate judicial resources based on need. We advocated for continued IOLA funding and participated in efforts to improve indigent criminal defense.

This year, we also worked with Bennett-Midland to develop a strategic plan. As we implement their recommendations, you will see continued evolution in our programming.

To our staff, I offer my deepest thanks. Executive Director Sophia Gianacoplos continues to be the lifeblood of this Association. Sharon Sash has made an outstanding impact in her first year, while Toni Valenti, Diana Kosanovich and Azelia Cutts continue to lead our membership and communications efforts with excellence. I also want to recognize the many dedicated professionals across NYCLA's CLE, Pro Bono, Membership, Library, Fee Dispute, Finance, and administrative teams whose daily work sustains the Association and supports our members, programs, and mission throughout the year. Special thanks as well to Emilia Berezinsky, Daler Radjabov, Stephanie Yue, Irina Chopinova, Ruthbernick Bastien, Victor Babanazarov, Christina Andujar, Rinku Kapoor, and Kelsey Shelofsky for their contributions and commitment.

I wish the very best to our incoming president, Ron Minkoff, along with President-Elect Hank Greenberg and Vice-President Hon. Rolando Acosta. NYCLA will be in excellent hands, and I stand ready to assist.

Finally, I want to thank Bari Chase, our CLE Director, as she prepares to retire. Over the years, she built and sustained an extraordinary CLE program, guiding us through the challenges of COVID and beyond. We are deeply grateful for her service and wish her great joy in this next chapter. We also warmly welcome Tom Mulvaney, who will carry this work forward. While we already value Tom's contributions, Bari will be greatly missed.

With sincere gratitude,



Richard P. Swanson  
President, New York County Lawyers Association

# ABOUT NYCLA

Founded in 1908, the New York County Lawyers Association has long supported the legal profession through education, public service, professional development, and member engagement.

Through its committees, programs, publications, and events, NYCLA continues to serve attorneys, judges, and the broader legal community throughout New York and globally.

NYCLA's work is shaped through the ongoing participation of its members and the broader legal community.



## EDUCATION & CLE

- CLE Programs
- CLE On-Demand
- Library
- Membership
- Webinars
- Special Institutes



## COMMITTEES & SECTIONS

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Art Law
- Civil Rights & Liberties
- Criminal Justice
- Immigration & Nationality
- Solo & Small Firm Practice
- Supreme Court
- Civil Court Practice
- And Many More



## PUBLIC SERVICE & COMMUNITY

- Pro Bono Programs
- Access to Justice Programs
- Ethics Hotline
- Immigration & Mass Deportation
- Resource Center
- Part 137 Fee Dispute
- Special Masters
- Community Outreach
- Legal Clinics



## MEMBER RESOURCES

- Member Directory
- Legal Job Board
- Library and Digital Research
- Practice Management Resources
- Conference Rooms
- Member Benefits



## EVENTS & NETWORKING

- NYCLA Annual Dinner
- Reception Honoring the Judiciary
- Law Day Luncheon
- Internship Receptions
- Committee Networking Events



## PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

- Amicus Curiae Podcast
- Enews
- Attorneys' Guide to Civil Practice
- Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts
- New York City Youth Law Manual
- Court News & Updates



## ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP

- Amicus Briefs
- Coalitions & Collaborations
- NYCLA Justice Center
- Legal Community Partnerships
- Public Programming
- Rule of Law Task Force



## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Boris Kostelanetz President's Medal
- Charles Evans Hughes Lecture
- Justice Louis J. Capozzoli Gavel Award
- Edward Weinfeld Award
- Klaus Eppler Award
- Kobak Prize
- Celebrate Pro Bono Awards
- Public Sector Awards
- William Nelson Cromwell Award

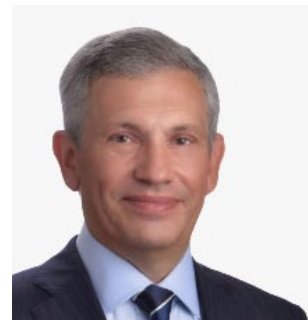
# NYCLA OFFICERS



**Richard P. Swanson**  
President



**Ronald C. Minkoff**  
President-Elect



**Henry M. Greenberg**  
Vice President



**Jai K. Chandrasekhar**  
Secretary



**Asha Smith**  
Treasurer



**Adrienne B. Koch**  
Immediate Past  
President

# EXECUTIVE STAFF



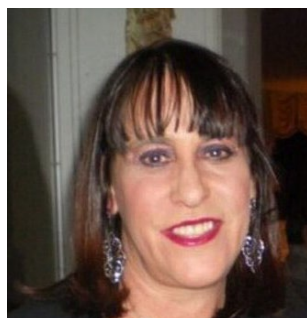
**Sophia J Gianacoplos**  
Executive Director



**Sharon Sash**  
General Counsel & Director  
of Pro Bono Programs



**Jessica Breuer**  
Assistant General Counsel &  
Supervising Pro Bono Attorney



**Bari Chase**  
Director of CLE institute &  
Programming



**Toni Valenti**  
Director of Marketing &  
Membership

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTHUR AUFSES

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HON. DANA M. CATANZARO

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ELLIOT DOLBY SHIELDS

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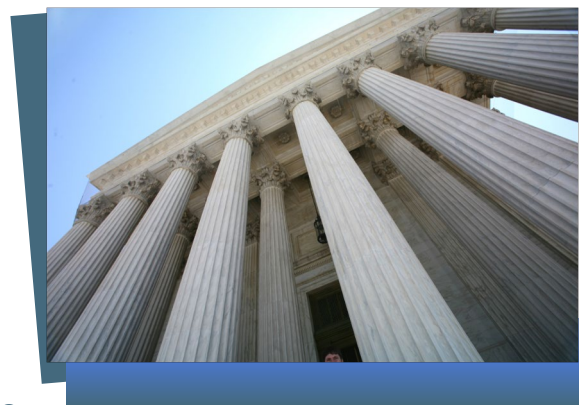
MARTHA COHEN STINE

JOSHUA D. KELNER

PAULINE YEUNG-HA

THOMAS P. KURLAND

# PUBLIC POLICY & LEGAL INITIATIVES



SELECTED INITIATIVES, STATEMENTS, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FROM JUNE 2025 – MAY 2026.

Throughout the year, NYCLA contributed to discussions affecting the legal profession the courts, and the administration of justice through public statements, policy initiatives, educational programming, and media engagement.



## DEFENDING THE JUDICIARY

[The Importance of Responsible Journalism About the Judiciary](#)

[NYCLA Defends Judicial Independence in Light of Attacks on Chief Judge Srinivasan and Chief Judge Boasberg](#)

[The President's Unprecedented Supreme Court Attacks Must Be Rejected](#)



## LEGAL ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

[NYCLA Professional Ethics Committee Submits Comments to OCA re: Proposal to Amend Rule 1.16 of the Rules of Professional Conduct](#)

[NYCLA Professional Ethics Committee responds to the OCA with Comments on Attorney Advertising and Solicitation](#)

[Rule of Law Task Force Submits Comment on Proposed DOJ Attorney Discipline Rule](#)



## TECHNOLOGY & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

[Artificial Intelligence and Access to Justice Conference](#)

[An Open Letter to Our Members and Friends about NYCLA & AI](#)

[CLE: Rainmaking in the Age of AI: The Most Human Lawyer Wins](#)



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

[Interim Report of the Joint Bar Association Task Force on the New York City Assigned Counsel Plan](#)

[NYCLA Submits Historic, Unprecedented, and Potentially Transformative Testimony to the Legislature](#)

[NYCLA Rule of Law Task Force Recommends Legal Services Corp be Adequately Funded](#)



## SUPPORTING THE RULE OF LAW

[NYCLA Signs Amicus Brief Appealing Executive Orders Aimed at Law Firms](#)

[NYCLA Rule of Law Task Force on Free Speech and Free Press Defense](#)

[Constitutional Norms and the Rule of Law: NYCLA President Discusses the Legal Process on Spectrum News](#)



## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS, MEDIA, & PRESS RELEASES

NYCLA issued numerous other statements, letters, and press releases addressing a wide range of legal and public policy matters. A complete list is available on [our website](#).

- Support for Court Funding
- Support for Pro Bono Work
- Support for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

# DRIVEN BY OUR COMMITTEES.

NYCLA's Committees are the lifeblood of our association. Each committee contributes annually in advancing legal education through various CLE programs, events, and initiatives; building a strong legal community through the power of networking and mentorship; and promoting public interests by presenting timely forums.

Below are just a few of the many events and initiatives led by our committees throughout 2026.



**75+**

COMMITTEE EVENTS & CLE PROGRAMS  
June 2025 through May 2026



**2,600+**

TOTAL ATTENDEES  
In person and virtual



**180+**

SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS  
In person and virtual

## HIGHLIGHTS: SELECT COMMITTEE PROGRAMS



JUNE 2, 2025

### LAW-RELATED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Hon. Richard L. Price NY High School Essay Contest



NOVEMBER 5, 2025

### ART LAW COMMITTEE

The Artist's Contract: Legacy, Impact and the Future of Artists' Rights



APRIL 30, 2026

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Privacy, Privilege, and Security

With the adoption of AI and other technological advances by the legal communities we conducted numerous programs on their proper use and ethical considerations, including The AI Revolution in Law, Using AI in Your Practice, AI and the Practice of Law, Finding and Dividing the Digital Dollar and Technology and Privacy Issues. Special thanks to NYCLA's Law and Technology Committee for spearheading this effort.

Other NYCLA Committees presented topical programs such as Career in the Courts, co-sponsored by NYCLA's Foreign and International Law Committee, three Part 137 Fee Dispute Arbitration trainings co-sponsored by NYCLA's ADR Committee and the Office of Court Administration, Legal Careers in Real Estate, co-sponsored by NYCLA's Real Property and Asian Practice Committees, Certified Guardian, Court Evaluator and Counsel for Alleged Incapacitated Person Training co-sponsored by NYCLA's Elder Law Committee, US Immigration Status Tips, co-sponsored by NYCLA's Inclusion of international Lawyers in the U.S. Legal Profession.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY ACROSS NYCLA

### ADR Committee

ADR Committee Meet and Greet the ADR Coordinators  
Member Appreciation Networking Event & Reception

### Art Law In Committee

The Artist's Contract: Legacy, Impact and the Future of Artists' Rights  
17th Art Law Institute

### Asian Practice Committee

6th Annual Hong Yen Chang Awards Program and Reception

### Criminal Justice Committee

Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Privacy, Privilege and Security

### Ethics Committee

Ethics Hotline

### Family Law Committee and Women in the Law Committee

Networking: Connecting with Purpose

### Federal Courts Committee

Edward Weinfeld Luncheon

### Foreign & International Law Committee & Civil Court Practice Section

Protecting the Record from Start to Finish at Jury Trials:  
Perspectives from Appellate Counsel  
So You're Interested in a Career in the Courts

**Committee on Inclusion of International Lawyers in the U.S. Legal Profession U.S.**

Immigration Status Tips & Tricks for International Lawyers

**Justice Center**

Artificial Intelligence and Access to Justice Conference

**Law and Technology Committee**

AI and the Practice of the Law

**Law Related Education Committee**

Hon. Richard L. Price NY High School Essay Contest Award

**Real Property Law Section**

Uncovering Real Estate Fraud: Navigating Title Insurance Claims

**Real Property Law Section & Asian Practice Committee**

Legal Careers In Real Estate: Learning from Experience

Title Insurance Claims and Real Estate, Wire and Mortgage Fraud – Are We Covered?

**Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee**

Networking Happy Hour

**Committee on the Supreme Court**

NYCLA Reception Honoring the Judiciary

Committee on the Supreme Court

2026 Annual Law Day Luncheon

Attorneys' Guide to Civil Practice in New York State



Many committees also issue statements, submit comments, and engage with the media on issues important to the legal profession and the administration of justice.

Visit: <https://www.nycla.org/resources/committee-report/> to access Committee Reports & Statements.



# CONNECTING. EDUCATING. STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY.

NYCLA signature events bring the bench and bar together to build professional relationships, exchange ideas, engage in conversations shaping the legal profession, and recognize those who exemplify the highest standards of leadership and service within the legal community.



## RECEPTION HONORING THE JUDICIARY

On April 15, the New York legal community gathered at *One if by Land, Two if by Sea*, for a reception hosted by the Committee on the Supreme Court of the New York County Lawyers Association honoring newly elected, newly appointed, re-elected, and re-appointed judges.

The evening recognized members of the bench across multiple courts and divisions, reflecting the depth of judicial leadership throughout New York. Remarks from Reception Chairs Craig S. Kesch and Russell D. Morris, followed by NYCLA President Richard Swanson, set the tone for the program. Hon. Edwina G. Richardson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, highlighted the importance of judicial service and professional leadership.

## 2026 ANNUAL LAW DAY LUNCHEON

Members of the bench and bar gathered on May 20, 2026, for NYCLA's Annual Law Day Luncheon hosted by the Committee on the Supreme Court.



During the program, Hon. Joel M. Cohen, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Commercial Division, New York County, received the Justice Louis J. Capozzoli Gavel Award, presented by Hon. Andrea Masley. Hon. Gerald Lebovits was also recognized for 25 years of distinguished judicial service.



## 2026 ANNUAL GALA

The New York County Lawyers Association held its Annual Gala at The Pierre Hotel on Wednesday, March 4th. The sold-out event welcomed more than 400 distinguished guests, including 120 judges. This year's Gala honored the Judiciary.

The evening featured remarks by Hon. Margo K. Brodie, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York; Hon. Debra Ann Livingston, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Hon. Laura Taylor Swain, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York; and Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the State of New York. The Gala concluded with the presentation of NYCLA's highest honor, the William Nelson Cromwell Award, to Hon. Joseph A. Zayas, Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Unified Court System.



# A TRADITION OF LEGAL LEADERSHIP.

Honoring the voices, scholarship, and service that continue to shape the legal profession.



## EDWARD WEINFELD LUNCHEON

Members of the New York legal community gathered on October 28, 2025, for the NYCLA Federal Courts Committee Edward Weinfeld Luncheon.

Chief Judge Debra Ann Livingston of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit received the Edward Weinfeld Award in recognition of her contributions to the law and the administration of justice. Judge Raymond J. Lohier, Jr., presented the award and offered reflections on Judge Livingston’s leadership and service. NYCLA extends special thanks to Event Chair Scott Klugman, Partner, Levine Lee LLP, for his leadership in organizing the event.

## 58TH CHARLES EVANS HUGHES MEMORIAL LECTURE

New York’s legal community gathered at Hughes Hubbard & Reed on October 22, 2025, for the 58th Charles Evans Hughes Lecture presented by Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York Court of Appeals.

Introduced by former Cravath partner Evan Chesler, Chief Judge Wilson reflected on the historic tensions between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes during the New Deal era, drawing lessons on judicial independence, democratic reform, and the continuing responsibilities of the legal profession. The evening also included remarks from former NYCLA President James Kobak Jr. and NYCLA President Richard Swanson.



Thank you to all the members, speakers, sponsors and volunteers who made our events possible.

# HONORING LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. IMPACT.

Each year, NYCLA recognizes members of the legal community whose dedication, leadership, service, and impact elevate both the profession of the law and the broader community.

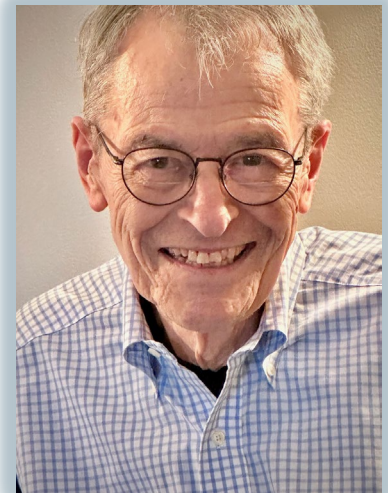


HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

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The Boris Kostelanetz President’s Medal is being presented to Arthur Norman Field.

The Boris Kostelanetz President’s Medal was established in honor of Boris Kostelanetz (1911-2006), the 33rd president of the New York County Lawyers Association and a founding partner of Kostelanetz & Fink, LLP. The Medal is conferred upon a NYCLA member whose record of dedication and service to the Association and legal profession comport with the highest standards.



The William Nelson Cromwell Award was presented to Hon. Joseph A. Zayas, Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Unified Court System.

The William Nelson Cromwell Award was established in 1964 under NYCLA President Leo Gottlieb, partner at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. This award is conferred in honor of William Nelson Cromwell, one of NYCLA’s earliest and most esteemed leaders, for “unselfish service to the profession and the community.” Mr. Cromwell’s dedication to public service was renowned.

# THE KLAUS EPPLER AWARD

The Klaus Eppler Award is being given to NYCLA'S PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE, for their responses to Requests for Public Comment from the Office of Court Administration:



*NYCLA Professional Ethics Committee Submits Comments to OCA re: Proposal to Amend Rule 1.16 of the Rules of Professional Conduct*



*NYCLA Professional Ethics Committee responds to the OCA with Comments on Attorney Advertising and Solicitation*

The Klaus Eppler Award is conferred upon a committee or section that has written a report that has had or may have the greatest impact in effecting improvements in the law or in our judicial system.

# THE KOBAK PRIZE

The Kobak Prize is being given to NYCLA'S LAW & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, for their series of programs on AI and the adoption of other technological advances throughout the legal community. The programs included:



*The AI Revolution in Law*



*Using AI in Your Practice*



*AI and the Practice of Law*



*Finding and Dividing the Digital Dollar*

*Technology and Privacy Issues*

Our Law & Technology Chair, Joseph Bambara to accept on behalf of committee at NYCLA's Annual Meeting.

The Kobak Prize, which is selected by the President-Elect, and awarded to a NYCLA Regular or Special Committee, Section, or Task Force which has developed programs or projects which have been innovative, of high quality, and have had, or are likely to have, an impact on the betterment of the law, our judicial system, or the Association itself.



PODCAST

# CANDID CONVERSATIONS. INSIGHTS THAT MATTER.

The NYCLA Amicus Curiae Podcast, hosted by Daniel K. Wiig, brings timely topical legal discussions and practical perspectives to members and the wider legal community.



## FEATURED EPISODES



June 30, 2025  
**Constitutional Dialogues: Critically Examining the Narratives, Debates, and the Structure of Power** with Constitutional Expert Ilya Shapiro and the professional leadership.



December 16, 2025  
**Judicial Ethics, Public Trust, and the Federal Courts: A Candid Conversation** with Gabe Roth



January 23, 2026  
**Justice, Politics, and Lawfare: History's Role in Today's Legal Battles** with Dennis A. Brennan



March 31, 2026  
**The Nexus of Global Business Litigation: The New York Commercial Division**



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DOWNLOADS  
Across all episodes



**99+**  
EPISODES PUBLISHED  
Covering timely legal topics and trends



**76**  
COUNTRIES  
Where our podcast is being heard



Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and everywhere you listen to podcasts.



# ADVOCATING. SERVING. CHANGING LIVES.

Through our pro bono programs, NYCLA connects individuals with critical legal support and advances justice for all.



3,929

PEOPLE BENEFITED



1,832

CASES  
CLOSED



815+

REFERRALS  
MADE



323

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH  
COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION



## FEATURED PROGRAM SUCCESS

### Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program

Our Volunteer Lawyer for the Day ("VLFD") Program assists pro se litigants with alleviating their financial burdens due to consumer debt issues.

This past year, the VLFD Program helped reduce debt for our clients by a collective

**\$756,733.42**

We achieved this through limited scope representations that focus on settling, dismissing, or discontinuing lawsuits, or by vacating judgments, including through accompanying clients on the dates of their court appearances.



## CASE HIGHLIGHT: A SECOND CHANCE

Our State Central Registry ("SCR") Project had a highly successful year.

Ms. B had been indicated on the SCR after the agency concluded that she "placed her children at risk of harm and was unable to provide a minimum standard of care at the time." The Administrative Law Judge assigned to the case further found that although Ms. B was later diagnosed with bipolar disorder, she had not been diagnosed at the time of the incident, and did not have a complete understanding of her symptoms then. At the time of the incident, she had been diagnosed with and medicated for post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, and anxiety. NYCLA believed that the evidence was insufficient to establish that Ms. B knew she would experience a manic episode if she briefly ran out of medication, or that she was able at that time to even effectively communicate how she was feeling.

Based on the totality of the evidence, we successfully argued on appeal that Ms. B exercised at least a minimum degree of care and that her children were not in danger despite her manic episode. NYCLA obtained a determination that the report was unfounded, and we were able to have it sealed following a fair hearing.

# STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS. EXPANDING ACCESS.

NYCLA’s pro bono work is provided by dedicated member volunteers, strategic partnerships, and the collective belief that access to justice changes lives.



## GRANTS IN ACTION

In 2025, NYCLA received a five-year, \$1 million grant from the IOLA Fund to support and expand Pro Bono programming and legal services initiatives across New York.



## BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION

NYCLA’s Pro Bono Scholars, interns, externs, and fellows contribute meaningfully across the Association’s pro bono initiatives while gaining hands-on legal experience and strengthening their commitment to public service.



## CHANGING LIVES THROUGH SERVICE

Our Pro Bono programs provide free legal assistance, limited scope representation, legal counseling, and referral services to New Yorkers facing a wide range of civil legal challenges.



## PART 137 ATTORNEY- CLIENT FEE DISPUTE PROGRAM

NYCLA continues to administer the Part 137 Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program for New York and Bronx Counties, under the auspices of the Office of Court Administration ("OCA"). The Part 137 Fee Dispute Program provides an informal and expeditious resolution of fee disputes between attorneys and clients through arbitration or mediation. NYCLA facilitates the training of both attorney and non-attorney neutrals in partnership with the OCA and conducts all hearings virtually.

This past year, NYCLA revamped its local Program Rules to make them more user friendly and less confusing. NYCLA also submitted a strong comment letter in response to an OCA Request for Public Comment on various proposed substantive rule changes, drawing on its expertise as one of the most active local programs in the state.



## OUR PRO BONO PROGRAMS

- Legal Counseling Project
- Social Security SDNY Project
- Volunteer Lawyer for the Day (VLFD)
- Reentry Initiatives
- State Central Registry Project
- Civil Appeals Pilot Project
- Veterans Discharge Project



## LEARN MORE

Learn more about our pro bono programs, including how to apply for assistance and how to get involved. Information about the Part 137 Fee Dispute Program is also below.



[Pro Bono Opportunities for Lawyers](#)

[Pro Bono for the Public](#)

[Part 137 Fee Dispute](#)

# INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY. STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE.

The NYCLA Foundation supports educational and professional development opportunities for students and emerging legal professionals through funding for judicial internships, and academics initiatives. Each donation advances the association's mission through its many programs.



## 2025 Hon. Richard L. Price NY High School Essay Contest

In 2025, New York public school students submitted essays examining disinformation and the meaning of the rule of law in American society.

Following review by NYCLA's Committee on Law-Related Education, 10 students were selected to receive monetary awards in recognition of their winning submissions.

### First Place

Salina Mohammad, James Madison High School

### Second Place

Sara Czarniawski, Tottenville High School

### Third Place

Juliette Willie, Eleanor Roosevelt High

### Fourth Place

Yulan Yang, Benjamin N. Cardozo High School

### Fifth Place

Oliver Wadowiec - Tottenville High School

### Sixth Place

Shannon Neon - Bronx High School for Law and Community Service

### Seventh Place

Alice Cao - James Madison High School

### Eighth Place

Juliana Dominguez - Tottenville High School

### Ninth Place

Barbare Okroshidze - Tottenville High School

### Tenth Place

Michael Yakobovich – James Madison High School

## 2026 Hon. Harold Baer Jr. & Dr. Suzanne Baer Equity and Inclusion in the Judiciary Internship

Established in 1989 by Hon. Harold Baer Jr. and Dr. Suzanne Baer, the program provides paid summer internships that introduce law students to the judicial system through placements in state and federal courts.

### 2026 Interns & Judicial Placements

#### **Britney Liriano**

City University of New York School of Law

Hon. Barbara Moses, U.S. Magistrate Judge, SDNY

Mentor: Rita Fang

#### **Hibah Hammad**

City University of New York School of Law

Hon. Stewart D. Aaron, U.S. Magistrate Judge, SDNY

Mentor: Robert Davis

#### **Yanis Park**

St. John's University School of Law

Hon. Andrea Masley, New York County Commercial Division

Mentor: Catherine Christian

# OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

NYCLA and the NYCLA Foundation would like to extend a sincere thanks to all the donors who make our programs possible.



STRONGER  
TOGETHER,  
GREATER IMPACT

## DOUBLING THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

In 2025, NYCLA’s senior officers pledged to match increased Foundation contributions exceeding 2024 giving levels, helping expand support for judicial internships, educational programs, student initiatives.

**Your support. Our Commitment. Twice the impact.**



## FOUNDATION & LAW FIRMS SUPPORTERS

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- Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
- Independent Drivers Guild Legal/Member Resources
- IOLA Fund
- Judiciary Civil Legal Services Fund
- Kelner Family Fund
- Office of Court Administration
- Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP
- Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- The New York Bar Foundation



## 2025 – 2026 NYCLA FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

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- |                       |                   |                             |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hon. Stewart D. Aaron | Hon. Nancy Bannon | Andrew Cali-Vazquez         |
| Judith C. Aarons      | Joseph Barnes     | Joseph Calluori             |
| Martha Adams          | Renee Baruch      | Liberato Carbone            |
| Jill Altmark          | Raymond Barzey    | Cynthia Carlson             |
| Anthony Auciello      | Ned Bassen        | Hon. Prudence Carter Beatty |
| Arthur H. Aufses, III | Timothy Beeken    | Jai K. Chandrasekhar        |
| Nelson Aviles         | Scott M. Berman   | Vincent T. Chang            |
| Carol Bahan           | Michael Bosso     | Elizabeth Chen              |
| Robert A. Banner      | Nicole Brenecki   | Kathy Hirata Chin           |

 **2025 – 2026 NYCLA FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS**

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Catherine A. Christian	Hon. Bernard Fried	Hiroko Kikuchi
Stephen Chu	Pamela L. Gallagher	Scott B. Klugman
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