

Two Foundation Funds Renamed to Honor Former New York State Bar Leaders

The Foundation has renamed its Student Loan Assistance for the Public Interest Fund (SLAPI) in memory of former New York State Bar President, Steven C. Krane, and the Intellectual Property Law Section Fellowship to honor Miriam "Mimi" Netter.



Steven C. Krane

Realizing the hardship faced by lawyers employed by public service organizations to pay back student loans, Steven Krane was instrumental in spearheading the initiative to establish the SLAPI Fund within the Foundation in 2004. A former member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, he unexpectedly passed away in June at the age of 53.

Having served as the 104th President of the State Bar Association from 2001-2002, Steve led the State Bar's efforts to assist victims of the September 11th attacks. Additionally, he created the Special Committee on SLAPI that created the SLAPI Program which was designed to help alleviate the significant debt burden of young attorneys who opt to dedicate their legal talents to public service.

At the time of his death, Steve was a partner at Proskauer Rose LLP, concentrating his practice in representing lawyers and law firms in legal ethics and professional liability matters. He co-chaired the firm's Law Firm Practice Group and served as general counsel for the 700-lawyer firm. He previously served as a law clerk to Hon. Judith S. Kaye, retired Chief Judge of the State of New York, from 1984 to 1985.

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Miriam "Mimi" Netter

The Intellectual Property Law Section Fellowship was renamed in August to honor distinguished attorney and section leader, Mimi Netter. She passed away in September after a lengthy illness. The program goals for the 'Miriam Maccoby Netter Fellowship, created and funded by the Intellectual Property Law Section' are to increase the representation of lawyers in intellectual property law (IPL) and to provide students with an opportunity to experience IPL practice.

At the time the Fund was renamed, the New York State Bar Association's IPL Section Chair, Paul Matthew Fakler, said, "The Intellectual Property Law Section owes a great debt to Mimi Netter for her singular and extraordinary contributions that have helped to advance the Section's success and growth. She has been an inspirational leader in the area of Intellectual Property Law and the Section's executive committee voted unanimously to recognize her accomplishments by renaming this Fellowship in her honor."

Mimi Netter's continuing overriding interests in law had been influenced by her dedication to education for all, keeping current with emerging areas of the law, and mentoring of attorneys. She had placed an

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...dedicated to aiding charitable and educational projects to meet the law-related needs of the public and the legal profession.

Message from the President

During this time of year when we focus on giving thanks for family and the people who are important in our lives, I want to thank you for being a part of this Foundation's family of generous donors. Your contributions for the outstanding law-related projects the Foundation supports encourages us to keep forging ahead to help make a difference in our communities and in the lives of people we care about.



M. Catherine Richardson

As indicated on page one, we are mourning the loss of our friends and colleagues, Steven C. Krane and Mimi Netter. Both Steve and Mimi devoted their lives to the law and enhancing the legal profession and to helping others through their charitable work. They were both generous financial supporters and Fellows of our Foundation and we are pleased to have renamed two Restricted Funds in memory of them.

Over the next few weeks, the Foundation's Grants Committee will be reviewing grant applications for 89 law-related programs. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of organizations that are seeking funding from our Foundation this year. However, you can trust the Committee members and the entire Board of Directors to scrutinize each application to make sure we are giving your contributions to the most worthy projects and ensuring the grant funds will be used prudently.

Each year, approximately 2 million people appear in New York's courts without legal representation. The Foundation strives to level the playing field to bring **access to justice to ALL who seek it**—but as you can see, our goal is lofty and our work is far from done. As you prepare to make your year-end charitable contributions, please continue to be generous to the Foundation so that, together, we can truly make a difference in the lives of people in our New York State communities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine".

M. Catherine Richardson

Foundation Grant Helps Get *Pro Se* Newsletter to Prisoners

A grant from the Foundation to Prisoners' Legal Services of New York (PLS) is providing financial support to produce and distribute, *Pro Se*, an educational newsletter that is assisting inmates in all 69 prisons in New York State. The purpose of the newsletter is to educate prisoners about their legal rights and teach them how to advocate both administratively and through the state and federal court systems.

The newsletter's objective is to explain the law and civil procedure in laymen's terms to facilitate the speedy resolution of legal claims and discourage the filing of frivolous ones. PLS helps to ensure that the constitutional mandate of access to the courts is fulfilled by providing *Pro Se* at no cost to any inmate requesting it. This is especially helpful to those inmates in solitary confinement, hospitals or other restricted areas where their access to prison law libraries is limited.

Pro Se is also distributed to members of the bench and bar and to advocates who are interested in prisoners' rights issues. The newsletter continues to educate the public and the private bar about issues associated with prisoners' rights.

This grant was made possible because you and others made generous gifts to the Foundation.



Foundation Board Director Cristine Cioffi, front left, with PLS staff: Karen Murtagh-Monks, Executive Director; Joel Landau, Staff Attorney and writer of *Pro Se*; Gavin Cook, Staff Attorney; Patricia Kane, Executive Administrative Assistant; Dianna Goodwin, Staff Attorney; Maggie Mulcrone, Staff Attorney and Jim Bogin, Managing Attorney.

Lorraine Power Tharp Scholarship to Help Pay Law School Students' Tuition



The New York State Bar Association's Real Property Law Section has made a gift of \$10,000 to the Foundation to establish **The Real Property Law Section Lorraine Power Tharp Scholarship**. The scholarship will be available to second- and third-year students attending law schools in New York State.

The scholarship has been created to honor the memory of former community leader and attorney, Lorraine Power Tharp, who previously served as president of the New York State Bar Association (2002-03) and as chair of the Real Property Law Section.

An annual scholarship, valued at \$1,500, will be awarded to a second- or third-year law student who best exemplifies the core values important to Lorraine—academic excellence, a demonstrated interest in public service, high integrity and, if possible, an interest in real property law. This year's scholarship will be applied to the student's 2010/2011 academic year tuition.

Efforts will be made to honor Lorraine's commitment to gender equality and diversity in the profession. To ensure geographic diversity, the Foundation will strive to select students attending New York law schools in different counties each year so that students from all areas of the state will be able to benefit from the scholarship. A preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need.

Elected in 1994 to membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, Lorraine was a fellow, director and treasurer of The New York Bar Foundation and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She also was a member of the American Bar Association, where she served as a delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, and a member of the Albany County and Saratoga County bar associations. At the time of her death, she was a partner in the firm of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP, in Albany, and was the chair of the firm's real estate practice group.

"The Real Property Law Section is pleased to establish this scholarship in memory of our dear friend and colleague, Lorraine Power Tharp, who passed away in 2008. Through the scholarship, the section's members aspire to provide financial support to students attending law school today while at the same time honoring Lorraine's extraordinary commitment to her profession and, in particular, to her practice of real property law."

*Anne Reynolds Copps, Chair
Real Property Law Section
New York State Bar Association*

Rural NY Grandparents Keep Grandkids Out Of Foster Care



With financial support from a Foundation grant, the Rural Law Center of New York (RLC) in Plattsburgh is providing support and advocacy for grandparents who are seeking custody of grandchildren at risk of being placed in foster care. Direct client services are concentrated in four of the most remote and underserved counties in New York—St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex.

Informational materials developed for the program, titled "Rural Kinship: Stepping Up for Grandparents," are available statewide to human service agencies, to individuals at RLC's offices, and on its website at www.rurallawcenter.org. Since July, 11 families seeking grandparent custody have been assisted with counsel and petition completion and 23 Permanency mediations have taken place.

State Bar's Family Law Section Donates \$10,000 for Youth Courts

The Foundation has gratefully accepted a gift of \$10,000 from the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association which will be used to support Youth Courts in cities, towns and villages throughout the State of New York. The Section's Executive Committee voted to direct the gift to *The Judith S. Kaye Youth Court Fund*, named in honor of the retired Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York.

Bruce J. Wagner (McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C., Albany), Family Law Section Chair said, "The significance of Youth Court Programs can not be underestimated for helping the most vulnerable in our society—our children—to know, understand and obey our laws. The members of the Family Law Section are pleased to make a contribution to The New York Bar Foundation to support Youth Courts through its grant making program."

The Youth Court Fund was created in 2008 and renamed for Judge Kaye the following year. The Fund was established by the Foundation's Board of Directors when it determined that New York's Youth Courts were struggling to survive because of limited financial support and that the Foundation would begin a campaign to raise funds to provide assistance for Youth Court activities. The purpose of each Youth Court is to seek to improve juvenile justice outcomes through an alternative to the criminal justice system for community youth.



Foundation Board Director James B. Ayers gives special thanks to Bruce J. Wagner for the Family Law Section's gift for The Judith S. Kaye Fund.

Youth Courts have been emerging as the fastest growing juvenile intervention programs in the country and are patterned after the Family Court process. Cases are referred by local criminal courts, the police and probation officers seeking to divert low-level offenders.

Please join the Family Law Section in your support for Youth Courts by making a contribution to The New York Bar Foundation for The Judith S. Kaye Youth Court Fund. Please mail your check, made payable to The New York Bar Foundation, in the envelope included with this newsletter. Or you can make your donation online at www.tnybf.org or by calling 518.487.5651.

STEVEN C. KRANE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

To be eligible for the SLAPI program, candidates must have been admitted to the bar within the past five years and be employed to work at least 35 hours per week in New York State at an organization providing civil, criminal or child welfare/juvenile justice legal services to low-income people; a federal, state or local government agency; or similar organization.

To support the SLAPI Program, please send your check, made payable to 'The New York Bar Foundation', in the envelope included with this newsletter.

MIRIAM NETTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

emphasis on women because of their difficulty in gaining access to many areas of legal practice. She became an early member of the New York State Bar Association's IPL section in order to share her early knowledge of IPL and to learn from others in similar situations.

Mimi served as Vice President from the Third Judicial District on the State Bar's Executive Committee and as chair of its Membership and Bylaws Committees and the Special Committee on Committees, as well as many other committees and initiatives. As a member of the Committee on Attorney Professionalism, she initiated the prestigious annually-conferred Award for Attorney Professionalism. She had been a constant promoter of diversity in the profession and its leadership. Additionally, she served as a member of the IPL Section's Executive Committee and as Co-Chair of its Copyright Committee.

6 Fellowships Used as Stepping-Stones to Career Success

The Foundation is working to help students attending New York law schools and recent law school graduates to achieve their dream of a successful legal career. Through fellowships awarded by the Foundation, they are gaining experience and skills while working in real-world situations. Included in the growing list of those benefiting from Foundation fellowships are:



Alet A. Brown, a second-year student at St. John's University Law School, pursued the \$5,000 Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Minority Fellowship this summer by working in the Chambers of the Hon. Bernard J. Fried, Justice of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of New York, New York County. Her principal responsibility was to complete draft decisions for the Judge which included reviewing briefs submitted by parties of the case, extensive legal research, and cite checking for the party briefs. Additionally, she observed court proceedings, particularly those that related to the case on which she was working.



Law student, **Bradley Reiss** of Highland Mills, pursued the \$5,000 Intellectual Property Law Section Fellowship this summer at Legal Assistance of Western New York, Geneva. While conducting the fellowship, he developed new content licensing strategies to exploit underutilized informational resources, explored the vast potential of cloud computing for use within the legal services world, and developed proprietary software to automate plain language editing and improve client communication. A summary of his work experience is on the following page.



April Perez is currently pursuing the Joan L. Ellenbogen Memorial Fellowship at the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families in New York. A June graduate of Brooklyn Law School, she is working with a number of clients who are victims of domestic violence on divorce and post-judgment cases as part of the Matrimonial and Economic Justice Project. She is assisting in the supervision and coordination of the project's uncontested divorce clinic in which law students are paired with clients to help them prepare paperwork for an uncontested divorce.



Cynthia Chagolla, a third-year student at St. John's University Law School, pursued the Real Property Law Section Minority Fellowship this summer while working for the Urban Justice Center's Community Development Project in New York. During her fellowship, she tackled such matters as eviction prevention of low-income tenants in housing court, foreclosure prevention for homeowners, and helping a nonprofit building owner in New York City seeking legal assistance with leasing and refinancing its property.



Fordham Law School student, **Andrew Owen**, was selected by Hon. Loretta A. Preska, Chief United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York, to pursue the \$5,000 Hon. Charles L. Brieant, Jr. Fellowship, serving as a judicial intern in the court during the past summer months. Under the mentorship of both Chief Judge Preska and Judge Paul A. Crotty, his diverse assignments ranged from memo and opinion drafting to assisting a Judge's Subcommittee in its efforts to more efficiently address

Section 1983 cases, researching and writing on photography in the courthouse environs, as well as supporting a new *pro se* initiative for the district. These projects exposed Mr. Owen to a wide cross-section of the court as he surveyed numerous judges, attended committee meetings and coordinated with the Clerk of Court and the District Executive's and *Pro Se* Offices.



Stephanie Dahan joined the staff of inMotion, New York, in September to pursue the Joan L. Ellenbogen Memorial Fellowship. She is gathering information from clients and working on matrimonial cases involving both uncontested divorce actions and litigated cases, and conducting legal research and writing. She was awarded a J.D., magna cum laude, from the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in May.

Law Student uses Intellectual Property Law as Catalyst for Innovation and Access to Justice

Bradley P. Reiss, a second-year law student at St. John's University School of Law had an opportunity to pursue the Intellectual Property Law Section Fellowship at Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY) in Geneva during the past summer months. The Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant for the fellowship to LawNY and the organization selected the student. Mr. Reiss describes his experience in the following paragraphs:

For every client assisted by a legal aid organization, four eligible individuals are turned away simply due to lack of resources. My goal this summer has been to use intellectual property law as a catalyst for innovation, in hopes of allowing a greater number of individuals access to justice.

The fellowship has allowed me to develop new content licensing strategies to exploit underutilized informational resources, explore the vast potential of cloud computing [the use of software-as-a-service model; example: online banking] for use within the legal services world, and develop proprietary software to automate plain language editing and improve client communication. The Internet will play an increasingly important role in the way legal services are delivered in the future, and legal aid organizations will be at the forefront of the legal profession's adjustment to the new digital ecosystem. Thanks to the generosity of The New York Bar Foundation, I have been able to help this adjustment.

Permissive copyright licensing

Legal aid organizations produce an enormous quantity of valuable educational resources, including packets, forms, pamphlets, training materials, and documents to assist *pro se* litigants. LawNY hopes to encourage cross-program sharing of these resources. Permissive copyright licenses, particularly the Creative Commons [a nonprofit working to increase the amount of creativity in cultural, educational and scientific content available to the public for free and legal sharing, use, repurposing, and remixing] are an elegant way to accomplish this goal, since they facilitate the beneficial dissemination of resources while still restricting unwanted, exploitative uses. My research into permissive copyright licensing entailed the production of an internal memorandum, and culminated with a presentation to the National Technology Assistance Project [lsntap.org], many of whose members see a bright future for the Creative Commons within the legal services realm.

Cloud computing

The utilization of cloud computing technology within the legal profession is becoming more common as firms realize the cost-saving benefits of outsourcing their technological infrastructure. Legal aid organizations are often staffed by a healthy contingent of young,

tech-savvy individuals, and thus are in a unique position to become testing grounds for new technological innovations. LawNY has embraced Google Apps as a way to cut costs and increase operational efficiency. Unfortunately, cloud computing raises many novel legal and ethical issues, concerning everything from client confidentiality to international e-discovery. In my final weeks, I completed written guidance for legal aid organizations looking to adopt cloud computing services.

New accessibility technology

Much of the writing produced by legal aid organizations is intended for client consumption. Unfortunately, this writing is often saturated with legal jargon and complex sentence structures, making it utterly incomprehensible to its intended recipients. This can have disastrous consequences, as clients must often make important decisions based on the information they receive. This fellowship has allowed me to develop Write Clearly, a Google Gadget that automates the tedious process of checking a document for plain language/readability issues. This tool, the first of its kind, has received positive feedback from across the national network of legal aid providers and was included in the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation's Next Generation Legal Services Project. The Write Clearly tool will have a positive effect on the way information is delivered to clients of legal aid offices. It exemplifies how technological innovation can help organizations use scarce resources more effectively.

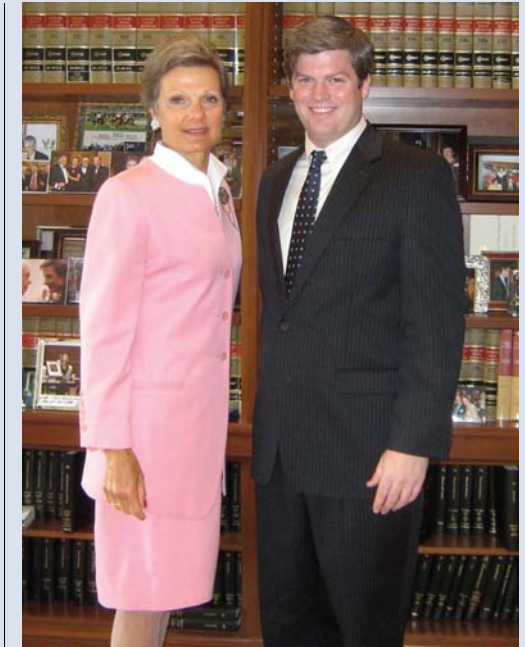




Thanks to your generous gifts, the Foundation again provided funding for the **2010 New York Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament Finals**. This year's winning team is from *James Madison High School in Brooklyn*. New York State Court of Appeals Associate Judge Victoria A. Graffeo selected the winning team. She joins the team in the photo above that includes Student Members: Brian Ganley, Gina Gerone, Angelica Gioia, Vincent Graffeo, Alla Gutnik, Jason Hyatt, Emily Malara, Madeline Mallo, Taylor Mendez, Jessica Nieberg, Simisola Ojo, Reid Packer, Steven Pereira, Joseph Salem, Thaddeus Talbot, Brianna Torkel; Attorney Advisors: Stephanie Gase, William Natbony, Amber Neal, Aliza Pescovitz; and Teacher Coach: Olga Perakis.

Right: Children and adults with severe disabilities are served by the Guardianship Training Project at **New York Lawyers for the Public Interest** in New York. A Foundation grant for the project is helping their parents and caregivers obtain legal guardianship to ensure they are cared for into adulthood.

Foundation Board Director, Lesley F. Rosenthal, left, presented the grant to New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Executive Director, Michael A. Rothenberg, and Board Chair, Shelley J. Dropkin



Hon. Loretta A. Preska, Chief United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York and the **2010 Hon. Charles L. Briant, Jr. Fellow**, Andrew Owen. Mr. Owen stated, "From the beginning, I knew that I had been given a unique opportunity to observe, learn and grow from the judicial community. I am extremely fortunate to have worked with Judge Preska and Judge Paul Crotty and would like to thank them, and The New York Bar Foundation, for giving me this wonderful experience."

Herman and Margaret Gottfried Name Foundation in Charitable Trusts

Carrying on a long tradition of generosity and philanthropy, attorney Herman Gottfried and his wife, Margaret, have designated the Foundation a beneficiary of their Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts. Longtime Margaretville, NY residents, Mr. Gottfried passed away in April at the age of 99 and his wife died in 2002. Among several charities named in the trusts, the Foundation has been designated to receive, in perpetuity, the annual income from a portion of the trust which is to be used for general purposes as determined by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

In his practice, Mr. Gottfried represented property owners, merchants and workers who were losing land, business and jobs to New York City's reservoirs, state highway construction

and other public works projects. In 1998, he and his wife donated to the Village of Margaretville the brick building they built on Main Street to house the Gottfried law practice.

Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT) offer many tax and financial advantages and can be helpful in achieving your planning goals. For more information on how you can benefit from establishing a CRT and support the Foundation, please contact Rosanne Van Heertum at 518/487-5650.

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Essay contest judges Andrew J. Turro, a partner at Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C., Garden City, left, Hempstead District Court Judge Michael A. Ciaffa and Foundation Board Director Emily F. Franchina recently attended a reception to honor Michelle Lesser of Bayside, Queens (second from right), the winner of this year's **Judge Bernard S. Meyer Scholarship**. The \$5,000 award, funded by the law firm Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. and administered by the Foundation, is presented annually to a law student who exhibits excellence in legal writing and advocacy skills. The essays are judged through a blind process. The scholarship has been applied to Ms. Lesser's 2010/2011 academic year tuition at St. John's University School of Law. The reception took place at the firm's Garden City office.

Access the winning essay at <http://www.tnybf.org/stories.htm>

The New York Bar Foundation
One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207
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