



THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008
Vol.3 No.1

Intellectual Property Law Section gives \$15,000 for law student fellowships



Foundation Board member, Cristine Cioffi, left, extended The Foundation's appreciation to Debra Resnick and the Intellectual Property Law Section.

THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW SECTION of the New York State Bar Association has contributed a gift of \$15,000 to establish a restricted fund within The New York Bar Foundation for three Intellectual Property Law Fellowships for law students. The fellowships, valued at \$5,000 each, will take place in public interest intellectual property organizations or charities with the need for an intellectual property law fellow. The fellowship program

goals are to increase the representation of lawyers in intellectual property law and to provide students with an opportunity to experience intellectual property law practice.

The fellowships will take place in fall 2008 and spring and summer 2009. Provided through a Foundation grant award to qualifying organizations,

the fellowships will be presented to students attending a law school in New York State to assist with the organizations' intellectual property matters. The fellow will also be invited to become a guest member of the section and to attend the section's executive committee meetings during the term of the fellowship.

Debra I. Resnick, section chair, said, "The officers and members of the Intellectual Property Law Section are very pleased to provide funding for fellowships to encourage law school students to pursue a career in intellectual property law. It is our hope that this work experience will provide a significant and lasting benefit to the students as they pursue their professional legal career. The section is pleased to establish a restricted fund with The New York Bar Foundation and is grateful for the assistance that it has provided in the implementation of the fellowships."

The section introduces members of the New York State Bar Association to the interesting and growing areas of law which make up intellectual property law, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, licensing and internet intellectual property law issues.

Robert MacCrate Honored for Lifetime Achievement

FORMER FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, ROBERT MACCRATE, was recently honored with The Foundation's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award during the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Fellows. Bob and his wife, Connie, were in attendance at the dinner which was held at the landmark Metropolitan Club in New York City.

The Lifetime Achievement Award has been established to honor former officers or directors of The Foundation who, due to term limits, are no longer able to serve in that capacity, or who, prior to the establishment of term limits, served a minimum of ten years as an officer or director of The Foundation. The honoree's service and leadership (as officer or director) must have significantly advanced the purposes of The Foundation. In addition, the honoree's service as an officer or director and reputation as a lawyer and bar leader must have brought significant recognition and acclaim to The Foundation.



Bob MacCrate thanked The Foundation for conferring its Lifetime Achievement Award on him.

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

Message from the President

Thanks to your generous gifts, The Foundation has already awarded 35 grants this year (detailed on page 3) to organizations that help meet the legal needs of individuals and families in New York State. These grants have a cumulative value of \$283,000. To give you a better idea of the communities throughout the state that are impacted by our funding, you will find a listing of 2007 and 2008 grantees by county on page 5.



John R. Horan

In April, we were pleased to award the 2008 Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Minority Fellowship to Ji Zhang. Mr. Zhang is an eminently qualified candidate for this fellowship and his academic record and work experience demonstrate his commitment to scholarly excellence.

As noted on the cover page of this newsletter, the Intellectual Property Law Section recently contributed a gift of \$15,000 to The Foundation for law student fellowships. And on page 4, you will find details about the \$50,000 commitment made by USI/Bertholon-Rowland to establish a memorial fund that will provide funding for legal services for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

At the end of June, The Foundation's Board of Directors will award additional grants for pressing issues relating to the law. We ask for your financial support to our Foundation as the statewide appeals for legal assistance continue to escalate and we strive to provide funding to help meet these needs.



John R. Horan

Ji Zhang wins Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Fellowship

FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL STUDENT, JI ZHANG, was chosen as the 2008 recipient of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Minority Fellowship. The fellowship is administered by The Foundation. The \$5,000 award was available to first-year students attending a law school in the State of New York who demonstrated an interest in commercial and federal litigation. Mr. Zhang will intern this summer in the Chambers of the Honorable Herman Cahn, New York Supreme Court, New York County, Commercial Division.



Ji Zhang, right, winner of the 2008 Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Minority Fellowship was congratulated at an awards ceremony by John R. Horan, president of The New York Bar Foundation, former Court of Appeals Associate Judge George Bundy Smith and Dr. Aileen Smith.

A resident of Forest Hills, Queens, Mr. Zhang is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware, OH) where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting. While at Ohio Wesleyan, Mr. Zhang was the recipient of the Trustee Scholarship for four consecutive years and the Charter One Bank Scholarship in 2004.

He placed second in competition for the Mathematics Florence Leas Prize. He also spearheaded a student housing clinic where students offered housing related legal advice and mediated between students and landlords. Additionally, he was a member of the Ironman USA Triathlon team. Mr. Zhang is a native Mandarin Chinese speaker and anticipates receiving his CPA certification from the Ohio Board of Accountancy this year.

Mr. Zhang was recently recognized by the Section and The Foundation during an awards ceremony at Lincoln Center, New York City. Section chair, Carrie H. Cohen said, "The Commercial and Federal Litigation Section established this fellowship with The New York Bar Foundation to help create a network and forge relationships that will foster greater diversity among commercial and federal litigators throughout the State of New York. It is our pleasure to confer this year's fellowship on Mr. Zhang and we are confident he will have a wonderful experience working for the Honorable Herman Cahn."

Candidates were required to submit an application along with other supporting documentation for consideration.

2008 Foundation grants...making a difference in the lives of many

Al Sigl Center, Rochester...to fund the Future Care Planning Services Project

Brennan Center for Justice, New York...for its Access to Justice project

The Bronx Defenders, Bronx...for Reentry Net, an online resource that provides advocates with training and resources needed to help families through the reentry process. *Partial funding was directed from The John R. Dunne Fund.*

Brooklyn Bar Association, Brooklyn...for its Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO), a weekly advice-only clinic in Kings County Civil Court to assist low-income unrepresented consumers attempting to respond to suits brought by creditors

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Ulster County, Kingston...to recruit, train and supervise 20 additional CASA volunteers to become advocates for children in Family Court proceedings

Jamestown Bar Association, Jamestown...to promote and produce materials for The People's Law School

Legal Aid Society of New York City, New York...for the Section 8 Affordable Housing Project which will ensure that recipients of Section 8 vouchers are able to use them to stay in their current apartments. *Partial funding was directed from The Richard J. Bartlett Fund.*

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Albany...to fund the cost of a part-time attorney to work in Schenectady County for the Children's Law Project. *Partial funding was directed from The Richard J. Bartlett Fund.*

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Albany...to fund a summer fellowship for a minority law student who will assist the organization in representing clients in local landlord-tenant courts. *Funding was directed from The Real Property Law Section Fund.*



Foundation Board member, John J. Kenney, presented a 2008 grant award to the Women's Prison Association. Accepting the grant on behalf of the WPA are, left to right, Georgia Lerner, executive director; Jill Zuccary, program director of the WPA Law Project; and Paula Sarro, director of programs. The portrait in the background is of Abigail Hopper Gibbons who founded WPA in 1844.

Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Inc., Rochester...for the Immigration Program, providing legal representation in immigration matters to low-income persons residing in a 14-county area of upstate New York. *Partial funding was directed from The Richard J. Bartlett Fund.*

Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc., Geneva...to support the Law Students in Action Project, an Equal Justice Works Americorps Program dedicated to

facilitating the delivery of legal services by recruiting law student volunteers to work for legal services providers

Legal Services for New York City, New York...to continue the content development and management of the LawHelp.org/NY project. *Partial funding was directed from The Richard J. Bartlett Fund.*

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Inc., New York...to fund free legal services to low-wage workers and to assist them with job-related rights

Mercy Haven, Inc., Islip Terrace...for the Mercy Advocacy Program to provide free legal representation to the poor

National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New York...to assist social service providers statewide to become compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc., New York...to support the Special Education Program, advocating for and providing representation to children with disabilities who seek appropriate educational placements from the Department of Education

New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, New York...for continued support of the Child Permanency Mediation Program for children in foster care

New York State Bar Center, Albany...for its law library

NYSARC, Inc., Buffalo...for its Corporate Guardianship Program

NYSBA Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, Albany...to continue the Legal Ethics Awards program, which honors law school students for exemplary writing or projects on issues on professional ethics

NYSBA Law, Youth & Citizenship Program, Albany...to provide funding for its Constitution Day mini-conference for teachers; for the New York Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament Finals Program and Mock Trial Summer Camp; and for its law-related education summer institute for up to 200 K-12th grade teachers

NYSBA Student Loan Assistance for the Public Interest Program (SLAPI), Albany...to provide funding for loan assistance to new public interest attorneys, to offset their law school loan debt which enables them to continue in their public interest careers. *Partial funding was directed from The SLAPI Fund.*

Pace Women's Justice Center, White Plains...to expand the services of its Elder Law Unit through a pilot project, "Keeping Seniors Safe"

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Fellows in Fifth Judicial District learn about Family Advocacy Program

DAVID M. HAYES, CHAIR OF THE FELLOWS IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, held a meeting of the Fellows in the Fifth that included an excellent presentation about the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) at Syracuse University College of Law. The FAP received a recent grant from The Foundation to provide comprehensive advocacy to resolve the health-related legal needs of low-income children in the Syracuse community.

In addition to law students, participants in the FAP presentation included:

Steven Blatt, M.D., co-director of the FAP and director of general pediatrics and director of ENHANCE service for children in foster care at University Pediatric and Adolescent Center at SUNY Upstate Medical University;

Heidi White McCormick, executive director of the Family Law and Social Policy Center, Syracuse University College of Law;

Mary Helen McNeal, director of the Office of Clinical Legal Education and professor of law at Syracuse University College of Law;

Suzette M. Melendez, director of the Children's Rights and Family Law Clinic and assistant professor of law at Syracuse University College of Law; and

Sarah H. Ramsey, director of the Family Law and Social Policy Center and professor of law at Syracuse University College of Law.



A few of those attending the reception held after the meeting included, left to right, Heidi White McCormick, David M. Hayes (Bond Schoeneck and King, PLLC), and law college students, Hanna Kinne, Isabelle Lemkhen and Joleen Tu. Hannah R. Arterian, dean of the law college, also attended.

\$50,000 pledged for Anne B. Keenan Fund

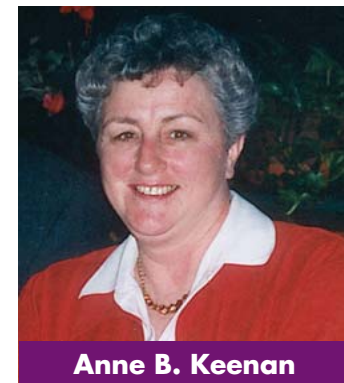
Endowment fund to provide legal services for women and children who are victims of domestic violence

By Lucia B. Whisenand

THE ANNE B. KEENAN MEMORIAL FUND has been established with The New York Bar Foundation with a \$50,000 pledge from USI/Bertholon-Rowland, New York. Distributions from the endowment fund will be awarded to public service or other nonprofit agencies that have programs providing legal services for women and children who are the victims of domestic violence.

At the time of her death, Anne Keenan was employed by Bertholon-Rowland as Senior Vice President of Client and Program Management. She was tragically killed in an automobile accident in New Jersey in 2004.

Her responsibilities with Bertholon-Rowland included client relations, product development and marketing, and professional liability, life and health insurance underwriting. For fifteen years she was the key liaison and account manager for the New York State Bar Association insurance programs. Ms. Keenan lived in Cranford, NJ with her husband of thirty-one years and their children, Katharine and Christopher, who survive her.



Anne B. Keenan

The president and chief operating officer at USI/Bertholon-Rowland, Arnol B. Kaplan, in speaking about the establishment of The Anne B. Keenan Memorial Fund with The Foundation stated: "We are pleased and proud to remember Anne through this memorial fund with The New York Bar Foundation. It is a fitting tribute to her that grant awards directed from the fund will help women and children who are harmed by domestic violence. Anne was an outstanding employee and dear friend and is sadly missed by her former colleagues."

Contributions to The Anne B. Keenan Memorial Fund, made payable to The New York Bar Foundation, should be sent to The New York Bar Foundation, One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207 or you may contribute online at www.tnybf.org.

Lucia B. Whisenand is an attorney practicing family law in Syracuse and serves on the Board of Directors of The New York Bar Foundation and several of its committees.

Your Gift Helped to Fund Important Programs

Your gift to The Foundation helped to provide funding for law-related programs through grant awards to organizations in the following counties in New York State:

2008 Grants

Albany County

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc.
 New York State Bar Association
 Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar
 Student Loan Assistance for the Public Interest Program
 Law, Youth and Citizenship Program
 New York State Bar Center Library

Bronx County

The Bronx Defenders

Chautauqua County

Jamestown Bar Association
 Robert H. Jackson Center, Inc.

Erie County

NYSARC, Inc.

Kings County

The Brooklyn Bar Association – Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
 Red Hook Community Justice Center
 South Brooklyn Legal Services, Inc.
 WomensLaw.org

Monroe County

Al Sigl Center
 Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Inc.
 Rural Opportunities, Inc.

New York County

Brennan Center for Justice
 Legal Aid Society
 Legal Services for New York City
 Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
 National Center for Law and Economic Justice
 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
 The Family Center
 The New York Society for the Prevention
 of Cruelty to Children
 Urban Justice Center
 Women's Prison Association

Ontario County

Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.

Queens County

Queens County Bar Association

Suffolk County

Mercy Haven, Inc.

Ulster County

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Ulster County

Westchester County

Pace Women's Justice Center

2007 Grants

Albany County

Capital District Women's Bar Association/The Legal Project
 Center for Law and Justice, Inc.
 Community Caregivers, Inc.
 Court Appointed Special Advocates
 for Children of New York State
 Homeless and Travelers Aid Society of the Capital District, Inc.
 New York State Bar Association
 Committee on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities
 Committee on Legal Education & Admission to the Bar
 Law, Youth and Citizenship Program
 Special Committee to Ensure Quality
 of Mandated Representation
 Student Loan Assistance for the Public Interest Program
 New York State Bar Center Library
 Prison Families of New York

Bronx County

The Bronx Defenders
 Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Program

Chautauqua County

Robert H. Jackson Center, Inc.

Clinton County

Rural Law Center of New York

Kings County

Make the Road by Walking, Inc.

Monroe County

Lifespan of Greater Rochester
 Monroe County Bar Center for Education
 Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc.

Nassau County

Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.

New York County

Boys and Girls Republic
 Brennan Center for Justice
 Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York
 City Bar Justice Center of the Association of the
 Bar of the City of New York
 Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. – New York City
 Human Rights First
 Legal Services for New York City
 Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
 New York Legal Assistance Group
 Partnership for Children's Rights
 Pro Bono Net, Inc.
 Urban Justice Center
 Volunteers of Legal Service

Onondaga County

Syracuse University College of Law
 (Family Law and Social Policy Center)

Ontario County

Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes
 Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.

Rensselaer County

Unity House of Troy

Richmond County

New York Center for Interpersonal Development

Steuben County

Southern Tier Legal Services

Suffolk County

Town of Babylon Youth Development Research Institute

Westchester County

Legal Services of Hudson Valley
 My Sister's Place



3 New Grants Fund Programs Related to Law

By Carla M. Palumbo

Each year, in two separate grant cycles, The New York Bar Foundation provides grants to several programs that foster the purposes of The Foundation. Those purposes include:

- increasing public understanding of the law;
- enhancing professional competence and ethics;
- facilitating the delivery of legal services; and
- improving New York's justice system and its law.

It is important to keep in mind that your support of The Foundation directly impacts on the ability of individual programs to deliver services that continue our mission and directly impacts many of the underserved in New York State.

The following highlights three programs that received funding from The Foundation this year:

The Family Center

The purpose of The Family Center's program is to facilitate the delivery of legal services by providing on-site legal services workshops for children and families impacted by the loss, absence or terminal illness of a parent or primary caregiver.

Many adults with terminal illnesses lack access to legal services or the ability to get to legal service offices in order to make the proper plans for the care

of their children after their death. One study showed that 25% of HIV Latina women could not identify anyone to care for their children and although 80% had thought of making a permanency plan, only 13% had done so.

The Family Center's Program will add an on-site workshop component to its existing legal services program. It will conduct 20 workshops at various community based organizations in New York City, where it will address issues including representation and advocacy in custody planning; guardianship; adoption; healthcare proxies; wills; powers of attorney and other permanency planning mechanisms.

This program will bring needed legal services to the ill client; at a place where they already receive services and where they are likely to have a trusted network of advocates and care-givers.

The Legal Aid Society of Rochester: Immigration Program

The Foundation also funded, for a third and final year, the Immigration Program at the Legal Aid Society of Rochester. This funding also falls under

the objective of "facilitating the delivery of legal services". Services are provided in collaboration with Hiscock Legal Aid in Syracuse and Legal Aid of Northeastern New York in Albany as part of the Upstate New York Immigration Law Program (UNYILP) in which the Legal Aid Society is the lead agency. The UNYILP provides direct



legal services to low-income immigrants in a 14-county area of Upstate New York.

The need for this project is great. The program provides direct legal representation in cases involving asylum, battered spouse applications, family-based permanent residency applications, special immigrant juvenile petitions, removal defense and work permits. There is a special focus on

farm worker services. Of the 80,000 farm workers in New York, 75% are undocumented and a majority reside in the program area. The numbers of immigrants being detained in this area is increasing as evidenced by the 24% increase in the numbers of deportation cases handled in the Buffalo District Office of Homeland Security.

The major objectives of UNYILP are to assist persons seeking reunification with family, safe haven in the United States from persecution, refuge for battered immigrants from their abusive spouses, and work permits to allow them to work legally and with dignity. In addition to direct legal representation, the program

runs legal clinics for migrant farm workers during the growing season and conducts training and public awareness.

The program anticipates it will open 1500 cases during this funding year.

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3 NEW GRANTS FUND PROGRAMS RELATED TO LAW, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

NYSBA Law, Youth and Citizenship Program

The purpose of the grant awarded to the NYSBA Law, Youth and Citizenship (LYC) Program is to increase the Public's Understanding of the Law. The LYC Program received funding to provide a Constitution Day mini-conference designed to work with teachers to raise awareness of how to teach the Constitution.

Constitution Day is a federally mandated teaching criteria and this program is designed to provide ideas and materials to assist teachers in bringing the Constitution to life for our youth. The need for teaching about our Constitution, Bill of Rights and American Rule of Law is clear: A recent study showed that Americans knew more about a prime

time TV cartoon program than they did about the Bill of Rights. This professional development program offers teachers the opportunity to interact with legal and constitutional scholars and master teachers. Funding by The Foundation enables the program to offer both education and high quality materials at no cost to teachers and school districts in Western NY.

Carla M. Palumbo is Director of the Civil Division of The Legal Aid Society of Rochester and serves on the Board of Directors of The New York Bar Foundation and several of its committees.

2008 FOUNDATION GRANTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Queens County Bar Association/Queens Volunteer Lawyer Project, Jamaica...for the Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO), a free walk-in clinic that provides legal advice and information to *pro se* debtor litigants

Red Hook Community Justice Center, Brooklyn...for continued support of the Red Hook Youth Court

Robert H. Jackson Center, Inc., Jamestown...to assist the statewide initiative to educate students in 5th through 8th grades about the topics of tolerance, hatred and war; the plight of millions of Jewish children in World War II; and to advance the legacy of Robert H. Jackson

Rural Opportunities, Inc., Rochester...to provide reimbursement for expenses of the *Pro Bono* Panel of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. *Funding was directed from The Tax Section Fund.*

South Brooklyn Legal Services, Brooklyn...for its Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic which advises and represents about 200 low-income taxpayers from throughout Brooklyn in matters relating to tax audit, appeals and collection issues. *Funding was directed from The Tax Section Fund.*

The Family Center, New York...to fund legal services workshops for children and families impacted by the loss, absence or terminal illness of a parent or primary caregiver

Urban Justice Center, New York...for the Community Development Project which matches New York City grassroots organizations in need of legal assistance with *pro bono* attorneys and 30 participating law firms that are able to assist in meeting their law-related needs

WomensLaw.org, New York...to develop a Training and Supervision Program for *pro bono* lawyers who assist with its Email Legal Hotline. The Hotline provides free and easy access to legal information, empowering victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with knowledge to change their lives

Women's Prison Association, New York...for the Law Project, which assists women who are or have been involved in the criminal justice system with issues concerning child custody, domestic violence, housing, benefits and employment. *Partial funding was directed from The John R. Dunne Fund.*

New Board Members Named

Newly elected to board will begin to serve on June 1st:

- **Sharon Stern Gerstman**
Principal Law Clerk & Matrimonial Referee
New York State Supreme Court
Eighth Judicial District
Buffalo
- **Gregory J. Guercio**
Managing Partner
Guercio & Guercio, LLP
Farmingdale, L.I.
- **Lesley Friedman Rosenthal**
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
New York



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Lucia B. Whisenand, *Chair*
Carla M. Palumbo
Sanford J. Schlesinger

Unless indicated otherwise,
Newsletter articles are authored by
Rosanne M. Van Heertum, Foundation
director of development

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Find out how a Charitable Gift Annuity may work for you by contacting:

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