

# Have An Impact!



## Impact Campaign 2016

*Increasing our funding for legal services programs across New York State--  
helping those in need one ripple at a time!*



THE NEW YORK  
BAR FOUNDATION

One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207

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## Case for Support

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The New York Bar Foundation is a charitable and philanthropic entity of the New York State Bar Association. Founded in 1950, *The Foundation* is dedicated to aiding educational, direct legal services, and charitable projects aimed at meeting the law-related needs of the public and the profession.

***The Foundation* solicits charitable contributions and provides funding for the following purposes:**

- Increasing public understanding of the law
- Improving the justice system and the law
- Facilitating the delivery of legal services
- Enhancing professional competence and ethics

### **The Foundation raises funds to assist in giving legal voices to those that feel they have none**

Since its inception *The Foundation* has worked to fulfill our mission through our grant and fellowship/scholarship programs. We strive to provide access to justice to as many people across New York State as possible.

*The Foundation* has provided millions of dollars in grants to hundreds of non-profit organizations across New York that provide desperately needed legal services to those who are without means themselves to obtain the services of counsel. We assist organizations with programming that increases the public understanding of the law and how to access legal services.

**Throughout 2016 *The Foundation* shall, in addition to its traditional grant program, particularly seek contributions in the following six areas (among others) for legal services initiatives of our grantees:**

- Human Trafficking
- Immigration
- Domestic Violence
- Homelessness Prevention
- Veterans Access to Services
- Reentry/Post-incarceration



### **Vision**

There remains a substantial gap in access to justice. Over 1 million litigants in civil matters in courts in New York remain unrepresented. We lead the way for the legal profession itself to assist in closing the gap on access to justice.

In 2015, *The New York Bar Foundation* saw a 25% increase in grant applications. Based on our experience, as federal and public funding continues to diminish and the need grows, we anticipate that the number of applications for help will continue to rise.

Application trends show that most grant requests can be characterized as falling under the umbrella of “access to justice”. However, the underlying needs sought to be fulfilled by access to justice are elemental – freedom from modern day slavery, a roof to live under, unjust deportation, escape from childhood or domestic abuse.

Every member of the legal profession is sworn to uphold the Constitution – it best expresses these needs simply as the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. *The Foundation* is committed to this very American principle.

We now recommit our efforts in 2015-2016 to provide justice to those less fortunate who are in need of legal services to overcome their inability to obtain the right to be free from the oppression of human trafficking, the denial of immigration rights under law, domestic and childhood abuse, loss of home, and the loss of dignity arising from the denial of rights for those who served to protect us – our veterans.

The New York Bar Foundation's Board of Directors worked to develop a strategic plan to increase revenue 30% each year over the next 3 years to double our grant making capabilities to help make a bigger impact in meeting the increasing need for services.

In 2016 *The Foundation* will launch our first Impact campaign to increase our grant making program capabilities by 50%. Our goal is to reach \$500,000 in donations and pledged contributions to be applied to the targeted goals described above.

### **Your gift matters**

Legal Assistance profoundly improves the chances of a person to conquer life challenging legal problems. Legal representation gives voice to those without legal recourse to effect life changing outcomes.

As a legal professional you are committed to the principle of access to justice for everyone. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as guaranteed by our national Constitution. The dollars you give go directly to provide legal services in pursuit of this goal.

- We seek to participate in the fight to free those in New York who have been subjected to modern day forms of slavery as identified in our own Associations Task Force Report in 2013.
- We seek to protect the abused wife and mother subjected to emotional and physical violence day in and day out with no means to free herself or her children.
- We seek to assist those subjected to unwarranted and illegal loss of their homes who have no other alternative than homelessness on the streets of New York State.
- And most importantly we must provide legal assistance to those in need who have served to protect us in the Armed Forces of this great country – our veterans.

### **You make our work possible**

*The Foundation* Board, staff and organizations that are profoundly impacted by our grants ask that you contribute to this campaign so that we can increase the amounts and numbers of our grants in the areas of top legal importance.

## Why give to The Foundation

- At a time when non-profit organizations are in the headlines for misusing funds, *The Foundation* has been recognized for our efforts in Governance.
- We operate lean, fulfill our mission, provide good stewardship of your gift and continually provide a positive impact on legal service access across New York.
- *The Foundation* is immersed in the legal profession, able to gauge the areas of need based on the subject matter of grant requests and follow-up reports and results from previous grantees.
- *The Foundation* has been active since 1950 and has a dedicated and experienced team of legal professionals who volunteer hundreds of hours to sit on the Grant Review Committee to review and evaluate each grant request that is received by *The Foundation*.

## When you give to The Foundation your gift has a ripple effect

- Your donation is added to other gifts making a larger financial impact to those we collectively assist through our grant program
- Grants are presented to organizations in big cities and rural areas across New York State
- Our neighbors that are helped often has an impact on their family and children, creating change for future generations

**HOW FAR WILL YOUR RIPPLE GO?  
\$100, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000...**



**Any Help Is Greatly Needed And Appreciated!**