

**For Release: Immediate
September 3, 2019**

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THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION PROGRESSES ON RULE OF LAW GOALS AND FUNDRAISING, WELCOMES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



The New York Bar Foundation, the charitable and philanthropic arm of the New York State Bar Association, has announced significant progress on its strategic plan and its fundraising goals. It also announced the election of three new members to its board.

“The foundation is proud to have made great strides in enhancing attention to the rule of law in New York,” said President Lesley Rosenthal. It has focused its fundraising efforts toward those ends. Through concerted efforts by donors, leadership, and staff, the foundation has boosted new Fellows revenue by 50% and launched a firm challenge giving campaign. Seventy percent of the strategic plan goals it adopted in 2018 have been implemented or completed. As part of the foundation’s data-centric approach, it plans to re-visit rule of law perceptions and adherence at the end of the three-year plan period.

The foundation also announced the election of three new board members. “I welcome the addition of these highly respected bar leaders to the board of The New York Bar Foundation,” continued Ms. Rosenthal. “They bring a variety of experience to the foundation. They personify our conviction that practicing law is an honor and that giving is a responsibility of the profession. We look forward to their contributions and participation.”



John Christopher, Esq., Glen Head, NY, Board Member

Mr. Christopher is the Head of Commercial at Publicis Health Media. He has been active in the New York State Bar Association as an Executive Committee member, member of the House of Delegates, and past chair of the Young Lawyers Section, a member of the Committee on Cannabis Law and Executive Committee member of the Real Property Law Section. He has been a Fellow of the foundation since 2017.

“I first became involved with the foundation when I was an officer of the Young Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association. During that time, I was

one of the founding members of the Young Lawyer Friends of the Foundation Committee. Over the next several years, our committee held annual giving events to provide grants to veterans' legal services organizations. I was fortunate to be a grant presenter for each year of our event hearing first-hand from the grantees what the work of the foundation and the grant we provided meant to their respective organizations. Now, as a member of the board of directors I look forward to being able to use my time and efforts to further the goals of the foundation."

Mr. Christopher holds degrees from Touro College Jacob D. Fuschsberg Law Center and Villanova University.



C. Bruce Lawrence, Esq., Rochester, NY, Board Member

Mr. Lawrence has long been active in the organized bar. He is the chair of the Senior Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association, a past president of the Monroe County Bar Association and the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar, has served as secretary of the New York State Bar Association, and has served in NYSBA's House of Delegates for over 30 years. Now as a senior counsel he heads Boylan Code's creditor's rights practice group. He is a life fellow of the Bar Foundation in the Charles Evans Hughes Circle of Giving.

"Having served as president of the Monroe County Bar Foundation and been a leader in creating a Legacy Society to benefit the local legal service providers, I realized the good works that bar foundations can do. Especially true given how many presentations I watched by leaders of the New York Bar Foundation at House of Delegates meetings over the years."

Mr. Lawrence holds degrees from Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Rochester.



David C. Singer, Esq., New York City, Board Member

Mr. Singer has practiced law for over 38 years – including 28 years as a partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP -- specializing in a wide range of business, commercial and employment litigation and counseling. For over 30 years – and exclusively since January 2018 – he has served as an independent neutral, primarily as arbitrator and mediator of complex commercial, employment and international matters, including as chair and wing of three arbitrator panels and as sole arbitrator. He is a life fellow of the New York Bar Foundation.

"Having served on several non-profit boards, including as chair for many years, I have come to appreciate the critical need of funding for deserving yet under-resourced non-profits, legal services, bar associations and other organizations. I look forward to participating in raising and allocating some of those needed resources."

A long-time member of the New York State Bar Association, Mr. Singer served as chair of the Dispute Resolution Section of the New York State Bar Association, and previously co-chaired the

NYSBA Mediation Committee. He serves as a member of the NYSBA House of Delegates and has written extensively in the field of arbitration, mediation and dispute resolution and speaks often on such topics to professional, bar association and other groups.

Mr. Singer holds degrees from New York University School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania.

The full slate of TNYBF officers for 2019-2020 includes:

- President, Lesley Rosenthal, The Julliard School, New York;
- Vice-President, Carla Palumbo, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Rochester;
- Treasurer, Martin Minkowitz, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, New York;
- Secretary, Pamela McDevitt, the New York State Bar Association, Albany; and
- Assistant Secretary, Lucia Whisenand, Syracuse.
- Susan Lindenauer of New York serves as the foundation's Chief Publicity Officer.

The New York Bar Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that is the charitable arm of the New York State Bar Association. It is governed by a board of directors that includes distinguished lawyers from across the New York state. Through its grant program, the foundation supports the law-related programs of local legal services agencies, nonprofits, bar associations and other organizations throughout New York State.

For more information regarding The New York Bar Foundation, visit www.tnybf.org