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**Contact: Deborah Auspelmyer**  
Foundation Executive  
dauspelmyer@tnybf.org  
518-487-5650

**THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS  
TO INCREASE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS  
AND SUPPORT CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES**  
*Deadline is September 15*

For almost 70 years, the New York Bar Foundation (TNYBF) has helped fund law-related charities across New York state, and its 2020 grant application period is now open.

TNYBF this year is increasing its outreach to rural areas of the state and hopes to receive applications from all 13 judicial districts. The online application form is at [www.tnybf.org/applyforgrant](http://www.tnybf.org/applyforgrant). The deadline is September 15, 2019.

The foundation's board of directors has identified accessibility and affordability of civil justice as its top priority for 2020. In keeping with its theme of 'Fostering the Rule of Law,' the foundation will focus its 2020 grant-making toward funding for civil legal services programs that assist low-income individuals with the essentials of life: housing, including evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness prevention; family matters including domestic violence, child support, and family stability; access to health care; access to education; help with subsistence income including wages, disability and other benefits; and consumer debt.

"Despite laudable progress in recent years, the majority of low-income New Yorkers' civil legal needs remain unserved," said TNYBF President Lesley Rosenthal. "On an individual basis, this lack of access to justice harms those who may feel that without an advocate, the deck is stacked against them in court; moreover, on a larger scale, difficulty accessing or navigating the legal system can erode the public's confidence in the fairness of the justice system overall."

"Using a data-driven approach, our goal is to grant awards to areas of most critical need, focusing and applying foundation resources where they can do the most good, individually and societally as a whole," she added.

TNYBF has identified critical needs in the following areas:

- Albany County: guardianship cases related to parents battling drug addiction; contested divorces; housing including landlord/tenant issues and foreclosure; immigration; access to public assistance; other drug addiction-related legal problems; and elder law.
- Queens County: housing; family law; immigration.

- Suffolk County: family law including divorce cases, post-judgment divorce issues, and child support; immigration, including deportation defense, citizen applications, education, and eviction; and re-entry for veterans/service members and formerly incarcerated individuals.

### **About The New York Bar Foundation**

The New York Bar Foundation is a charitable and philanthropic arm 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 to increase public understanding of the law; improve the justice system and the law; facilitate the delivery of legal services; and enhance professional competence and ethics. More information about the foundation can be found at [www.tnybf.org](http://www.tnybf.org). Donations toward the grant program can be made at [www.tnybf.org/donation](http://www.tnybf.org/donation)

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