The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

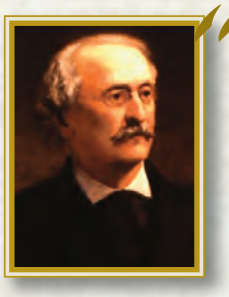
2012 GALA DINNER

WE HONOR THE RICH LEGACY OF THE

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

and SALUTE ITS PRESIDENTS

1876 – 2012



"Is it not our duty to add to the effective forces of the State in all the agencies of human progress and improvement? Is it not in our power to exercise a healthful influence upon each other?...The influence of our profession in the next generation depends on a large degree on the manner in which we fulfill our duty…the obligations of that trust reach far beyond the present generation." –November 1877

HON. JOHN K. PORTER, NEW YORK COURT OF APPEALS (1865-1867), NYSBA FIRST PRESIDENT

April 2, 2012

The New York Public Library • Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street • New York City

The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

The Society was launched in 2002 as a not-for-profit organization with the mission of preserving the legal and judicial history of the State of New York. It seeks to foster scholarly understanding and public appreciation of the rich legacy of the New York courts and the legal profession.

Annual Series & Occasional Lectures

The Society holds lectures each year at the New York City Bar as well as other forums across the State. The programs feature guest lecturers who are prominent lawyers, jurists and scholars, experts in their fields.

2003
- The Framing of the Constitution: New York's Role

2004
- Chancellor James Kent and the Origins of Law Reporting and Legal Education

2005
- David Dudley Field and the Code Concept
- An Empire of Reason — The History of Federalism in America

2006
- The Scales of Justice: A Reargument of Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R. Co.
- Frontier Justice: Western New York Blazes a Trail on the Underground Railroad and Down the Erie Canal. (Buffalo, New York)
- Encore Presentation of The Scales of Justice: A Reargument of Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R. Co. (White Plains, New York)

2007
- The New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical, Pictorial, Jurisprudential History with Dramatic Readings
- Encore Presentation of The Scales of Justice: A Reargument of Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R. Co. (Nassau County Bar Association)
- Inaugural Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program *Alexander Hamilton: The Anchoring of American Law*

2008
- Courtrooms and Courthouses: What do they say? How do they say it?
- Inaugural Society Gala: 80th Anniversary of the New York County Courthouse & 40th Anniversary of the Hon. Norman Goodman, County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court
- Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program 2008 *The Founding of the Republic: Has History Given New York its Due?*
- Ladies of Legend: The First Generation of American Women Attorneys, a joint program with the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society

2009
- 2009 Society Gala: Honoring the Legacy of Judith S. Kaye
- Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program 2009 *Before New York There Was New Netherland: Our Dutch Heritage 1609 - 2009*

2010
- 2010 Society Gala: Honoring Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman
- Law, Justice & the Holocaust: Lessons for the Courts Today
- Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program 2010 *Robert H. Jackson: Lawyer, Justice, Nuremberger...New Yorker*

2011
- 2011 Society Gala: Honoring Roy L. Reardon
- Nominated From New York: The Empire State's Contribution to the Supreme Court Bench *John Jay: A Family Affair*
- Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program 2011 *Lincoln, the Civil War, and Freedom of the Press: New York Divided*

2012
- Nominated From New York The Empire State's Contribution to the Supreme Court Bench *Thurgood Marshall: "Mr. Civil Rights"*

Website

The Society designed and launched its website in 2003. It contains an extensive library, including portraits and photographs of judges and other notable legal figures accompanied by biographies; documents of important note in the State's legal history; Society publications; and webcasts of our programs, including the Court of Appeals lecture series. The website will soon be ready to launch a complete update so that its access and tools are cutting edge and user friendly. Through the revamped site, which will now feature a virtual library of information, education resources, images, and links to our social networking sites, we hope to reach an expanded audience of all ages and levels of education through the internet.

New York Court of Appeals Lecture Series

The Society co-sponsors the New York Court of Appeals lecture series held in Albany. This represents the first time this important building has been open to the public as well as Society members for an educational lecture series.

2006
- NY Times v. Sullivan and its Times: The Press and the Community
- Dreiser's "An American Tragedy:" The Law and the Arts
- The Shape of Justice: Law and Architecture

2007
- Democracy: A lecture by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer
- Geoffrey Canada: The Courts and Children
- Jeffrey Toobin: The Courts and the Media

2008
- David J. Stern: On Courts and Sports
- Owen Pell & Monica Dugot: Stolen Art
- Woodstock: The Music of the First Amendment

2010
- The Hudson: Yesterday & Today

2011
- The Hellhounds of Wall Street

Scholarly Publication

The Society publishes twice yearly ***Judicial Notice***, a literary publication of articles of historical substance and scholarship, including writings by distinguished historians, attorneys and other presenters.

Book Publications

The Society has published the following:

- **The Judges of the New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical History** edited by Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt with foreword by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, providing a comprehensive, authoritative guide to 160 years of the important legal legacy of the New York Court of Appeals. Published by Fordham University Press.
- **Historic Courthouses of the State of New York: A Study in Postcards** by Julia and Albert Rosenblatt., featuring rare postcard images of county courthouses throughout New York State with accompanying text.
- **2006 Court of Appeals Lecture Series:** Compendium of three lectures comprising the 2006 Court of Appeals Lecture Series

Oral History

The Society is recording the oral histories of prominent retired judges and other legal luminaries of New York State to preserve the living record of their experiences. Our Oral History project has made great strides. We have captured most of the oral histories of the living retired Judges of the New York Court of Appeals, including those of New York's two living Former Chief Judges, Judith S. Kaye and Sol Wachtler. We are also developing a video library of the histories of members of the New York Bar who stand as legal luminaries.

David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest

The annual David A. Garfield Essay Contest invites CUNY & SUNY community college students from across the State to write an original essay on specified topics of legal history. Cash prizes are awarded to the winners.

2008 - The Courts and Human Rights in NY: The Legacy of the Lemmon Slave Case

2009 - The New Netherland Legal System and the Law of 21st Century New York

2010 - The Evolution of Justice Along the Erie Canal

2011 - The Legal Legacy of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

2012 - The Blue and the Gray: New York During the Civil War

Education Initiatives

The Society has provided grants to Bard High School Early College, a public school with campuses in Manhattan and Queens, to develop classroom curriculum and to teach its students about the role of the courts in a civil society...how to administer justice and preserve the rule of law. It is designed to reach a diverse population of New York City public students in middle and high schools. ■

The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

Hon. Judith S. Kaye
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2012 GALA DINNER

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1876 – 2012

Program

WELCOME

Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt

President, The Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York

Hon. Jonathan Lippman

Chief Judge of the State of New York

INTRODUCTION

Stephen P. Younger

Founding Trustee, The Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York

President, NYSBA (2010-11)

REMARKS

The State Bar And Its Presidents—Remarks From The President

Vincent E. Doyle III

President, New York State Bar Association

WITH DESSERT

The State Bar: What They Don't Write About...

and

The Real Truth About The Past Presidents!

Henry G. Miller

NYSBA TIMELINE
1876 – 2012

1876 New York State Bar Association is established, immediately begins pushing for court and civil procedure reforms.

1886 As part of the suffrage movement, legislation removes restrictions on admitting women into the practice of law. Kate Stoneman becomes first female member of New York State Bar Association and later first female graduate of Albany Law School.

1896 NYSBA proposal becomes what is now the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, the first global means for settling disputes among nations.

World War I Association promotes lawyers serving military members in draft board appointments, counseling dependents of servicemen, advising on the letting of contracts for war-related procurement, and finding positions in law offices for returning vets.

1920 NYSBA adopts Canons of Ethics, known today as Code of Professional Responsibility. Leads to adoption of ethics standards in courts and in law school education.

1924 In response to influx of immigrants, State Bar's new Committee on American Citizenship devotes itself to promoting the education of immigrants in the English language and the workings of U.S. government.

1932 Association approves, in principle, the concept of public defenders as "an inherent right."

1934 State Bar establishes Judicial Council to bring about necessary reform of administrative procedures in the court system.

1941 In response to rise in automobile accidents, governor signs NYSBA-initiated Motor Vehicle Safety-Responsibility Act, which establishes provisions for public safety, responsibility at motor vehicle accidents and record-keeping.

World War II NYSBA recommends lawyers serve as Government Appeal Agents for Selective Service boards and organizes corps of lawyers to provide legal assistance to members of the military.

1958 Association supports and participates in first national Law Day celebration to promote the United States' reliance on the rule of law over the Soviet Union's rule of force.

1966 Association successfully works to liberalize state's archaic divorce laws resulting in the creation of additional grounds for divorce, changes in alimony rules, and a complex conciliation program.

"MOMENTUM," HE SAID.

"The legacies of the enthusiasm of previous administrations carry over."

As State Bar marks 135 years, 'momentum' still building for key issues

by MARK MAHONEY

That was what C. Addison Keeler said most impressed him about the New York State Bar Association, as he delivered his president's address on Jan. 29, 1960.

Momentum is what has characterized the goals and achievements of the New York State Bar Association ever since its organizational meeting convened in the Assembly Chamber of the old state capitol at precisely "3-1/2 o'-clock, P.M." Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1876.

It was momentum fueled by the integrity of the corruption-busting New York City Bar Association that led to the formation of the statewide organization that day. A year later, at the first annual meeting in 1877, the State Bar's first president, John K. Porter, a former Court of Appeals judge, set the tone for the organization.

"The influence of our profession in the next generation depends in a large degree on the manner in which we fulfill our duty … the obligations of that trust reach far beyond the present generation," said Porter back then. That mission remains unchanged today.

"The hallmark of our profession is service to others. At our best, we are

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imbued with a selfless devotion to the interests of those we serve—our clients," current State Bar President Vincent E. Doyle III said in his first President's Message in June 2011. "The rewards of our profession are many, but chief among them is the satisfaction of helping someone who reaches out to us with legal needs."

Values Never Change

The momentum in seeking a fair, just and efficient court system was one of the State Bar's original tenets in 1876 and it continues to this day with efforts to reform the court process and make it more efficient and fair. Among the State Bar's initiatives in its first year were to push the State Legislature to refine the Code of Civil Procedure and to take action to investigate abuses in the court and propose remedies in order to ensure the fair administration of justice.

The momentum in seeking equality for citizens continued to build over time.

The New York State Bar Association, for instance, was among the first bar associations in the nation to admit women and African-Americans. That effort continued during the labor and civil rights movements, up through today with efforts to ensure equality of marriage rights for same-sex couples.

The momentum in seeking justice for those who lack the financial ability or understanding of the legal process has built from the organization's beginnings, through world wars, and into the present day. In the mid-1940s, the State Bar encouraged its members to provide legal assistance to members of the military. In 1989, the association commissioned a landmark study that investigated the legal needs of indigent citizens. That momentum continues today with efforts to expand pro bono representation to veterans, immigrants and others of limited means.

The momentum in ensuring that lawyers receive up-to-date training and education continues with the growth of Continuing Legal Education programs. The State Bar offers more than 200 New York-specific courses that take place live, online, and via CD, audio and video. In addition, the State Bar provides its members with ethics education, access to reference books, free legal research, and updated information on codes and regulations —all to ensure that residents can obtain the best legal representation available.

A Prestigious Membership

Since that inaugural meeting in 1876, membership in the nation's largest voluntary state bar association has grown from 356 to more than 77,000, with attorneys representing all aspects of legal practice.

Noted members and leaders over the past 135 years have included U.S. presidents Grover Cleveland and Chester A. Arthur, Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, several New York governors and many prominent judges and attorneys from around the state.

Throughout its history, the State Bar has served the public by educating member attorneys, fighting for a fair and just court system and standing up for the people. ■

Mark Mahoney is NYSBA's Associate Director of Media Services

1968 After years of debate within the State Bar over how to reform courts and ease congestion, largely in civil cases, state Legislature creates 125 new judgeships.

1969 NYSBA takes lead in Fair Trial Free Press Conference that sought to balance First and Sixth Amendment rights and foster better relationship between press, courts, lawyers, judges and law enforcement authorities.

1970-1973 Association fights proposed Rockefeller Drug laws that imposed harsh sentences for minor and victimless drug crimes, on grounds they would overwhelm criminal justice system. NYSBA also fights for drug treatment programs for addicts.

1973 Association launches Action Unit to focus public attention on need for far-reach court reforms.

1989 Association commissions study and presents plan to increase voluntary pro bono representation by lawyers.

1997 NYSBA successfully fights law that made it illegal to advise elderly citizens about how to lawfully transfer assets in order to qualify for Medicaid.

2001 Association study and recommendations leads to adoption of Code of Professional Responsibility to address issues of interdisciplinary practice.

2001 Association joins with other organizations to provide assistance, pro bono legal services and other support to families of victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

2007 Association advocates for long-overdue pay raises for state judiciary, pushes for reform of village and town courts to ensure fair administration of justice, and pushes for federal legislation to protect attorney-client privilege.

2008 NYSBA expands on efforts to improve civics education by creating new website designed to help instill civic values and participation of younger children.The New York State Consortium for Civic Learning website provides civics-education resources, activities and information to educators for grades preK-12.

2009 With longtime support from the State Bar, Rockefeller drug laws are modified to remove mandatory minimum sentences and allow judges more flexibility in sentencing offenders to shorter jail terms and counseling.

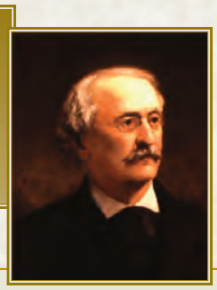
2010 New York becomes the last state to adopt no-fault divorce, a position long supported by NYSBA, which will reduce litigation over ending marriage and allow parties to focus on issues of children's welfare and distribution of marital assets.

2011 With strong support from NYSBA, New York passes law allowing members of same sex to be legally married. U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee votes to override 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which denies equal federal rights to same-sex couples nationwide. Association also expands successful pilot program to provide pro bono legal assistance in civil appeals.

Prepared by NYSBA

New York State Bar Presidents on the Bench

New York Court of Appeals Judges



John K. Porter
New York State Bar President: 1877 & 1878
Court of Appeals: 1865-1867

Samuel Hand
New York State Bar President: 1879 & 1880
Court of Appeals: 1878

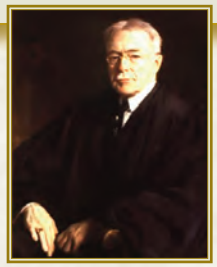
Past Presidents of the New York State Bar Association

1877-78	**John K. Porter** *(New York City)*
1879-80	**Samuel Hand** *(Albany)*
1881-82	**Sherman S. Rogers** *(Buffalo)*
1883	**William C. Ruger** *(Syracuse)*
1884	**Elliott F. Shepard** *(New York City)*
1885-86	**David B. Hill** *(Elmira)*
1887-88	**Martin W. Cooke** *(Rochester)*
1889	**William H. Arnoux** *(New York City)*
1890	**Matthew Hale** *(Albany)*
1891	**George M. Diven** *(Elmira)*
1892-93	**J. Newton Fiero** *(Albany)*
1894	**Tracy C. Becker** *(Buffalo)*
1895	**William H. Robertson** *(Katonah)*
1896-97	**Edward G. Whitaker** *(New York City)*
1898	**Simon W. Rosendale** *(Albany)*
1899	**Walter S. Logan** *(New York City)*
1900	**Francis M. Finch** *(Ithaca)*
1901	**William B. Hornblower** *(New York City)*
1902-03	**John G. Milburn** *(New York City)*
1904-05	**Richard L. Hand** *(Elizabethtown)*
1906-07	**Joseph H. Choate** *(New York City)*
1908	**Francis Lynde Stetson** *(New York City)*
1909	**Adelbert Moot** *(Buffalo)*
1910-11	**Elihu Root** *(New York City)*
1912	**William Nottingham** *(Syracuse)*
1913-14	**Alton B. Parker** *(New York City)*
1915	**Alphonso T. Clearwater** *(Kingston)*
1916	**Morgan J. O'Brien** *(New York City)*
1917-18	**Charles E. Hughes** *(New York City)*
1919	**Henry W. Taft** *(New York City)*
1920	**Nathan L. Miller** *(Syracuse)*
1921-22	**William D. Guthrie** *(New York City)*
1923-24	**William N. Dykman** *(Brooklyn)*
1925	**Walter P. Cooke** *(Buffalo)*
1926-27	**Arthur E. Sutherland** *(Rochester)*
1928	**William C. Breed** *(New York City)*
1929-31	**Frank H. Hiscock** *(Syracuse)*
1932-33	**Samuel Seabury** *(New York City)*
1934	**Daniel J. Kenefick** *(Buffalo)*
1935-36	**John Godfrey Saxe** *(New York City)*
1937	**George H. Bond** *(Syracuse)*
1938	**Joseph Rosch** *(Albany)*
1939	**Fred L. Gross** *(Brooklyn)*
1940	**Warnick J. Kernan** *(Utica)*
1941-42	**John G. Jackson** *(New York City)*
1943	**James McC. Mitchell** *(Buffalo)*
1944	**Jackson A. Dykman** *(Brooklyn)*
1945-46	**Lewis C. Ryan** *(Syracuse)*
1947	**Robert E. Lee** *(New York City)*
1948	**Mason H. Bigelow** (*New York City*)
1949	**Neil G. Harrison** *(Binghamton)*
1950	**Otis T. Bradley** *(New York City)*
*1950-51**	**M. William Bray** *(Utica)*
1951	**Arthur VD. Chamberlain** *(Rochester)*
1952	**Weston Vernon, Jr.** *(New York City)*
1953	**Franklin R. Brown** *(Buffalo)*
1954	**Hunter L. Delatour** *(Brooklyn)*

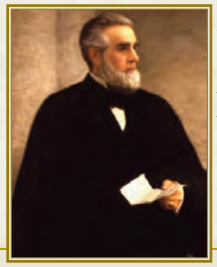
* Served December 1, 1950-January 27, 1951 after Mr. Bradley died in office

Alton B. Parker
New York State Bar President: 1913 & 1914
Court of Appeals (2nd Division): 1889-1892
Chief Judge: 1898-1904

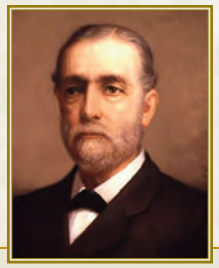
Nathan L. Miller
New York State Bar President: 1920
Court of Appeals: 1913-1915



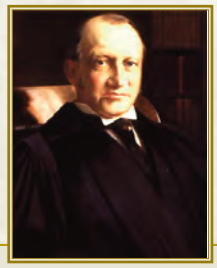
Frank H. Hiscock
New York State Bar President: 1929, 1930, 1931
Ex Officio: 1906-1913
Court of Appeals: 1914-1926
Chief Judge: 1917-1926



William C. Ruger
New York State Bar President: 1883
Chief Judge Court of Appeals: 1883-1892



Francis M. Finch
New York State Bar President: 1900
Court of Appeals: 1880-1895

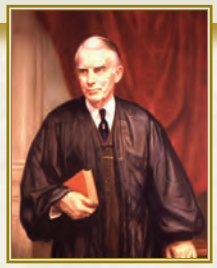


William B. Hornblower
New York State Bar President: 1901
Court of Appeals: 1914

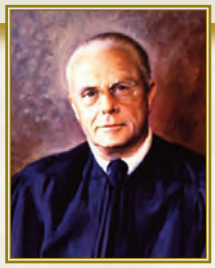
1955	**Edmund H. Lewis** *(Syracuse)*
1956	**Cloyd Laporte** *(New York City)*
1957	**Clarence R. Runals** *(Niagara Falls)*
1958	**S. Hazard Gillespie, Jr.** *(New York City)*
1959	**C. Addison Keeler** *(Binghamton)*
1960	**Chauncey Belknap** *(New York City)*
1961	**J. Boyd Mullan** *(Rochester)*
1962	**David W. Peck** *(New York City)*
1963	**Williarn F. FitzPatrick** *(Syracuse)*
1964	**Orison S. Marden** *(New York City)*
1965	**Sidney B. Pfeifer** *(Buffalo)*
1966	**Lawrence E. Walsh** *(New York City)*
1967-68	**J. Henry Neale** *(Scarsdale)*
1968-69	**Lyman M. Tondel, Jr.** *(New York City)*
1969-70	**George G. Coughlin** *(Binghamton)*
1970-71	**Stuart N. Scott** *(New York City)*
1971-72	**Hugh R. Jones** *(Utica)*
1972-73	**Robert MacCrate** *(New York City)*
1973-74	**Ellsworth VanGraafeiland** *(Rochester)*
1974-75	**Whitney North Seymour, Jr.** *(New York City)*
1975-76	**Joseph H. Murphy** *(Syracuse)*
1976-77	**Edwin F. Russell** *(Brooklyn)*
1977-78	**Henry J. Smith** *(White Plains)*
1978-79	**Robert P. Patterson, Jr.** *(New York City)*
1979-80	**Anthony R. Palermo** *(Rochester)*
1980-81	**Alexander D. Forger** *(New York City)*
1981-82	**David S. Williams** *(Albany)*
1982-83	**Bernard J. Reilly** *(Babylon)*
1983-84	**Haliburton Fales, 2d** *(New York City)*
1984-85	**Henry G. Miller** *(White Plains)*
1985-86	**Justin L. Vigdor** *(Rochester)*
1986-87	**Charles E. Heming** *(New York City)*
1987-88	**Maryann Saccomando Freedman** *(Buffalo)*
1988-89	**Henry L. King** *(New York City)*
1989-90	**John J. Yanas** *(Albany)*
1990-91	**Angelo T. Cometa** *(New York City)*
1991-92	**Robert L. Ostertag** *(Poughkeepsie)*
1992-93	**John P. Bracken** *(Islandia)*
1993-94	**Archibald R. Murray** *(New York City)*
1994-95	**G. Robert Witmer, Jr.** *(Rochester)*
1995-96	**Maxwell S. Pfeifer** *(Bronx)*
1996-97	**M. Catherine Richardson** *(Syracuse)*
1997-98	**Joshua M. Pruzansky** *(Smithtown)*
1998-99	**James C. Moore** *(Rochester)*
1999-00	**Thomas O. Rice** *(Brooklyn)*
2000-01	**Paul Michael Hassett** *(Buffalo)*
2001-02	**Steven C. Krane** *(New York City)*
2002-03	**Lorraine Power Tharp** *(Albany)*
2003-04	**A. Thomas Levin** *(Mineola)*
2004-05	**Kenneth G. Standard** *(Chappaqua)*
2005-06	**A. Vincent Buzard** *(Rochester)*
2006-07	**Mark H. Alcott** *(New York City)*
2007-08	**Kathryn Grant Madigan** *(Binghamton)*
2008-09	**Bernice K. Leber** *(New York City)*
2009-10	**Michael E. Getnick** *(Utica)*
2010-11	**Stephen P. Younger** *(New York City)*

Samuel Seabury
New York State Bar President: 1932 & 1933
Court of Appeals: 1914-1916

Edmund H. Lewis
New York State Bar President: 1955
Court of Appeals: 1940-1954
Chief Judge: 1953-1954



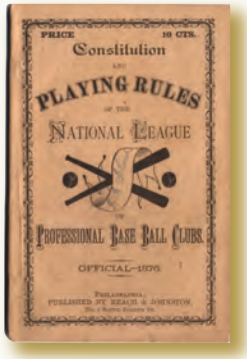
Hugh R. Jones
New York State Bar President: 1971-1972
Court of Appeals: 1973-1984



What's Happening in 1876?

The year the NYSBA was Established...

Chief Judge Sanford E. Church was on the bench and future **Chief Judge Irving Lehman** was born



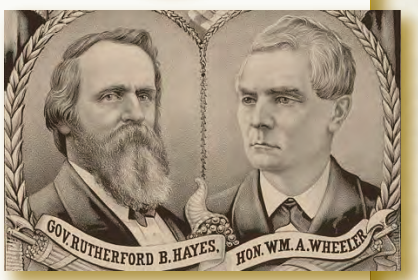
National League of Professional **Baseball** Clubs formed

Alexander Graham Bell receives patent for the **telephone**

Colorado became the **38th state**

Harvard, Princeton and Columbia form **Intercollegiate Football Association**

Rutherford B. Hayes elected the 19th President



Heinz Ketchup is introduced

Leopold Eidlitz hired to complete the **Tweed Courthouse** (and **Boss Tweed** captured in Spain and returned to New York City)

State Bar Past-Presidents Consider Their Significant Accomplishments While in Office

Lawrence E. Walsh *(1966-1967)*

During his presidency, he vowed to make the Rule of Law a reality for the oppressed, sought to eliminate political partisanship in the re-election of sitting judges, and urged planning major new courthouses as a reminder of the importance of liberty and justice. ABA President: 1975-1976 and independent counsel to the Iran-Contra investigation.*

Robert MacCrate *(1972-1973)*

His presidency was marked by his concerns for the entire legal profession. He influenced many of today's state and nation professional tenets, including opposing allowing lawyers to partner with non-lawyers in multidisciplinary practices and spearheading the ABA's landmark, eponymous, "MacCrate Report." He was the 1999 recipient of the State Bar's Gold Medal and the 2001 winner of the ABA Medal.*

Whitney North Seymour, Jr. *(1974-1975)*

Initiated NYSBA program to preserve historic courthouses; co-founded NYBF Fellows; established House of Delegates Annual Dinner; created NYSBA public service awards; coordinated James Polshek's design for State Bar Center and Norman Laliberte's banners for Great Hall; founded State Bar News; led opposition to NYSBA PAC; pushed merit selection of judges.

Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Jr. *(1978-1979)*

He championed more legal services for the public good; endorsed the first "Bridge the Gap" CLEs for young lawyers, the first State Conference of Bar Leaders, certification of attorney specialties and court reorganization; and gave individual members a voice in the Association's administration.*

Anthony R. Palermo *(1979-1980)*

Proud to promote public confidence in the legal profession by supporting establishment of statewide lawyer registration and creation of Clients' Security Fund (now Lawyers Fund for Client Protection) governed by Trustees, appointed by and accountable to all NY Court of Appeals Judges, and service as Charter Chair of Fund.

Alexander D. Forger *(1980-1981)*

We Presidents – momentary custodians of the Association – implement initiatives earlier begun, address issues arising during our moment and bequeath to successors for implementation our own brilliant initiatives. In my day: a permanent client security fund, resisting FTC jurisdiction and engaging the perennial challenge of access to justice.

Haliburton Fales, II *(1983-1984)*

Haliburton Fales, II (1983-84)Strongly supported the creation of state Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) Fund; expanded the Bar's legislative program; created the Action Unit, "Improvement of Process of Civil Litigation"; advocated for court funding and greater time for review of Court of Appeals nominees.

Henry G. Miller *(1984-1985)*

As President, I tried to reach those not always heard, by starting a Committee on Diversity for minority attorneys, a Committee on Volunteers to serve the community (Phoenix House, et al.), creating our first Town Hall and an Institute of Public Affairs – hopefully permanent forums for community leaders.

Justin L. Vigdor *(1985-1986)*

During my tenure the issues demanding attention were court merger, court facilities improvement, professionalism, judicial vacancies and tort reform, many in one form or another still engage the House of Delegates today. As the French say, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." Other issues were a liability insurance crisis and the unsuccessful struggle to replace the Code of Professional Responsibility with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Maryann Saccomando Freedman *(1987-1988)*

Becoming the first woman President of our Association and completing a full and successful term that included initiatives to reform election laws, administrative adjudications and workers' compensation procedures, and improved diversity in the Association, was a large and dramatic step in demonstrating conclusively to everyone that women lawyers are fully as capable, as creative, and as able to lead as our male colleagues.

Henry L. King *(1988-1989)*

My significant accomplishment was the adoption of mandatory CLE for all lawyers. Thirty six states had CLE and I argued that it would be a mistake if New York were not included. Issues such as self certification of lawyers listening to tapes were discussed and adopted. CLE has been great for N.Y. lawyers.

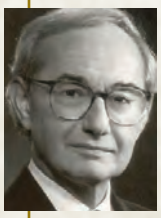
John J. Yanas *(1989-1990)*

During my presidency, the House of Delegates, after considering a report from a Committee appointed by Chief Judge Wachtler recommending a Mandatory Pro Bono Plan to satisfy the unmet needs of the poor for legal services, approved a report from a Special Committee

* Prepared by NYSBA staff

continued

of our Association recommending an enhanced voluntary plan rather than a mandatory plan.



Angelo T. Cometa *(1990-1991)*

He advocated for increased judicial compensation and proper funding for the Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) Fund. He led the Bar's successful effort to oppose a proposed sales tax on legal services. The Bar created the Lawyer Assistance Program and the Departments of Law Practice Management and Pro Bono Affairs.*

Robert L. Ostertag *(1991-1992)*

He conceived the Statewide Conference on the Solo and Small Firm Practitioner in New York, which developed 100 recommendations to help solo and small firm practitioners; established citizens panel on court operations; and issued numerous op-eds across the state opposing mandatory pro bono service.*

John P. Bracken *(1992-1993)*

We persuaded the governor and legislature to increase judicial salaries. We raised members' participation in pro bono activities to 49%. And we launched a successful counter-attack to Vice President Quayle's claims that the United States had too many lawyers who were a drag on the economy. The Association's forthright defense of lawyers, during a political campaign that scapegoated them, demonstrated NYSBA's courage and independence.

G. Robert Witmer, Jr. *(1994-1995)*

During a year of significant political change resulting in the first Republican Governor in decades and the Contract With America at the federal level, the State Bar continued to support state tort reform, a unified court system and the merit selection of judges. We articulated our basic goals in a major Strategic Planning initiative which identified future leaders and provided guidance for several years.

Maxwell S. Pfeifer *(1995-1996)*

Worked diligently to improve the public perception of lawyers; unveiled www.nysba.org; created the Committee on Judicial Independence; legislative successes included eliminating mandatory sequestration, increasing jurors' compensation and amending the Code of Professional Responsibility to permit the sale of a law practice.*

M. Catherine Richardson *(1996-1997)*

Led the Bar's response to the TWA Flight 800 disaster and received a plaque from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani; highlighted the good lawyers do in a response letter to BMW's "Hang Up on a Lawyer" mention on their list of "20 Things To Do in Your Lifetime;" created the Task Force to Consider Tort Reform Proposals; received the American Bar Association's Harrison Tweed Award for pro bono legal services.*

Joshua M. Pruzansky *(1997-1998)*

Created a four-point plan to continue the Bar's ongoing tort reform efforts; created the Committee on Mass Disaster Response and led the Bar's groundbreaking federal lawsuit to declare Section 4734 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 unconstitutional. The law, declared unconstitutional in September 1998, criminalized advising elderly people about the lawful transfers of assets to qualify for Medicaid.*

James C. Moore *(1998-1999)*

The 20th century's final NYSBA presidency was filled with new challenges to professional obligations and societal needs: governments seeking ways to reduce funding for the legal needs of the poor; pressures from multiple sources to restrict the independence of the individual lawyer; competition for business from within and without the profession; the increasing impact of law school debt; and, the perception that civility within the profession was a quaint notion and no longer important.*

Thomas O. Rice *(1999-2000)*

Whether lawyers and other professionals should be allowed to join in various practice arrangements requires study of Bob MacCrate's authoritative Preserving the Core Values of the American Legal Profession. To have appointed Bob chair of the committee that produced his report was the singular achievement of my tenure in office

Paul Michael Hassett *(2000-2001)*

During my term as president-elect, I quickly became aware that NYSBA stands as the major representative of the New York practicing lawyer to the judiciary and the court system in general. This opportunity to participate in accomplishing significant improvement in the justice system is a truly satisfactory accomplishment.

A. Thomas Levin *(2003-2004)*

Created and implemented NYSBA diversity program and Quality of Mandated Representation Committee, each winning ABA awards; conceived Cy Pres program, enhanced Law, Youth & Citizenship program; improved state-wide profile of NYSBA; organized five International Section Cuba trips; promoted the Rule of Law; defended attorneys from unfair criticism and advocated for professionalism.

Kenneth G. Standard *(2004-2005)*

Implemented Special Governance Committee's diversity recommendations for House of Delegates and Executive Committee; led efforts against raising bar exam passing score; led effort opposing foster care aging out

* Prepared by NYSBA staff

at 18; created NYSBA Youth Law Days (ongoing); initiated first "balanced lives in law" study; initiated study of collateral consequences of criminal justice system involvement; honored surviving NY lawyers responsible for *Brown v. Board of Education* victory.

A. Vincent Buzard *(2005-2006)*

Established task forces on lawyer advertising, attorney-client privilege, the Kelo decision and the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act which issued recommendations that year; established statewide "Ask A Lawyer" newspaper columns, People's Law School, established first Katrina fund for justice system; used member e-mails to override Governor's veto of funding for legal services; started Friday night House dinners, House directory, President's June 1 reception and held President's receptions around state.

Mark H. Alcott *(2006-2007)*

He was a national spokesman for the profession, leading the fight for independence and diversity of the bench and bar. He initiated proposals to reform judicial selection procedures, develop a new civil rights program, and end mandatory retirement in the profession. He created the highly successful Empire State Counsel program that promotes pro bono legal services, and he advocated an extensive reform agenda.

Kathryn Grant Madigan *(2007-2008)*

Launched successful 3-year Membership Challenge and first Presidential Blog. Championed Civil Gideon; Cy Pres awards; increased state support for IOLA and interest rate comparability; ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; Compact for Long Term Care; Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples; Judicial Salary Reform; and lawyer satisfaction and work/life balance.

Bernice K. Leber *(2008-2009)*

Task Force reports: Wrongful Convictions (1st U.S. bar association to study all causes); Climate Change; Privacy; State of our Courthouses and Small Practice/Solo Lawyers; adoption of Model Rules of Professional Conduct; NYS Sen. Judiciary Comm. testimony for Chief Judge Lippman; established Federal Legislative Priorities Committee; proposed reforms for trials of Guantanamo Bay detainees, adopted by ABA.

Michael E. Getnick *(2009-2010)*

With the teamwork of my two predecessors and two successors, we helped turn two resolutions of the House of Delegates into legislation addressing wrongful convictions and the right to same sex marriage. I consistently met with members of the State Legislature and Governor's Office to discuss and promote such legislation, part of which was passed during my term and part passed during my successors' terms.

Stephen P. Younger *(2010-2011)*

Launched a highly publicized study of the future of the legal profession; Achieved several important legislative successes, including passage of a government ethics bill, same-sex marriage, no-fault divorce and the judicial compensation bill; Initiated recommendations to promote use of New York law in international transactions and the formation of an international arbitration center in New York.

Vincent E. Doyle III *(2011-2012)*

With the theme "Justice for All," we have been addressing top priorities such as immigration representation and veterans' issues with special committees that will report soon. We released a comprehensive report on the impact of court funding cuts in New York State, and we have advocated for appropriate funding for civil legal services and legislative measures that would reduce wrongful convictions. We have also continued the State Bar's emphasis on diversity and will soon announce the results of the President's Diversity Challenge. ■

In Memoriam

State Bar Past Presidents

During the period of the living past presidents from 1966.

J. Henry Neale *(1967-1968)*

Lyman M. Tondel, Jr. *(1968-1969)*

George G. Coughlin *(1969-1970)*

Stuart N. Scott *(1970-1971)*

Hugh R. Jones *(1971-1972)*

Ellsworth Van Graafeiland *(1973-1974)*

Joseph H. Murphy *(1975-1976)*

Edwin F. Russell *(1976-1977)*

Henry J. Smith *(1977-1978)*

David S. Williams *(1981-1982)*

Bernard J. Reilly *(1982-1983)*

Charles E. Heming *(1986-1987)*

Archibald R. Murray *(1993-1994)*

Steven C. Krane *(2001-2002)*

Lorraine Power Tharp *(2002-2003)*

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