

State of New York

Court of Appeals

Gary Spencer
Public Information Officer
20 Eagle Street
Albany, New York 12207-1095
(518) 455-7711

For immediate release
February 26, 2002

Client Protection Fund Trustees

The Court of Appeals has appointed Charlotte Holstein and reappointed Eleanor Breitel Alter to the Board of Trustees of the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, a government trust fund financed by New York's legal profession to protect law clients from misuse of their money by dishonest attorneys.

Ms. Holstein, of Syracuse, was appointed to a three-year term as Trustee. She is a founder and current Executive Director of F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, a community group formed to improve the quality of life in the Central New York area.

She replaces Shirley B. Walters, of Rome, who had served on the board since 1992. Ms. Holstein is active in a number of local and national organizations and serves as Honorary Vice President of the American Jewish Committee and as a board member of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights. She received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from LeMoyne College in 1998.

Ms. Alter, of New York City, was reappointed by the Court to a three-year term as Trustee and was re-elected by the board to serve as Chairman of the Lawyers' Fund. She has served on the board since 1983 and served as chair since 1985.

Ms. Alter is a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman, where she specializes in family law and litigation. She is a member of the American Law Institute, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York State Bar Association, New York County Lawyers Association and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

The Lawyers' Fund, created in 1981, is administered by seven trustees appointed by the Court of Appeals. In 2001, the fund awarded \$5.3 million to reimburse 160 law clients for thefts committed by their attorneys. It has paid out 5,241 awards since 1981. The fund's offices are located in Albany. Telephone: 800-442-3863. Website: www.nylawfund.org