



Forum

Fall 2011

Foundation Fellowships: Spotlight on Atlantic City Youth Advocacy Project

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation strives to provide free education for the public about the law and serve the legal profession. The Foundation fulfills its dual mission in two ways: One way is through cosponsorships, whereby it has traditionally awarded funds from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey to help underwrite law-related education programs sponsored by other nonprofit organizations. For fiscal year 2011-2012, that funding amounted to \$491,000.

The other way is through fellowships. The Foundation partners with New Jersey's three law schools and Legal Services of New Jersey to sponsor clinics manned by law students and a supervising Bar Fellow who offer legal aid to the poor in the inner cities. Not only do underserved segments of the public gain vital legal services, but the students learn essential lawyering skills, such as counseling, negotiating, legal research and writing, pre-trial and

trial skills, and professional responsibility. The IOLTA Fund has awarded fellowship grants totaling \$1,027,000 this year.

One such fellowship benefits Covenant House's Atlantic City Youth Advocacy Center, a companion program to a similar project in Newark.



Lennon Moore

Mission and Community

"The number of youth we reach and who come to us demonstrates our impact on the community," said Lennon Moore, the NJSBF-funded Bar Fellow based at Covenant House, Atlantic City. "We are helping reduce the number and severity of legal issues for

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ATTENTION EDUCATORS:

Important Changes to NJSBF Free Teasing and Bullying Training

It's a whole new ballgame for schools. In light of the passage earlier this year of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, one of the toughest state laws regulating student-related bullying. The new law requires—not just recommends—that school districts devise and implement policies that prevent bullying. Although teachers and other school staff may have had anti-bullying training, the law now mandates that each school take it to a higher level by creating a safety team and appointing an anti-bullying specialist.

New Focus

To better meet the growing needs of educators, the Bar Foundation has likewise instituted changes in its award-winning, anti-bullying training. Beginning in January 2012 (see last page for schedule), the newly retitled comprehensive training, An Introduction to Teasing and Bullying Training for School Safety and Climate Teams, replaces the previously separate courses for classroom teachers and

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Forum

A publication of the
New Jersey State Bar Foundation
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New Brunswick, NJ 08901
1-800 FREE LAW
www.njsbf.org

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This publication and all
New Jersey State Bar Foundation
programs and publications are
made possible through funding
from the IOLTA Fund of the
Bar of New Jersey.

NJSBF Newspapers for Kids Explore Thought-Provoking Issues

by Jodi L. Miller

The kids are now well into the school year and the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's *The Legal Eagle* and *Respect* newsletters are there as well.

The Foundation's legal newspaper for kids, *The Legal Eagle*, recently completed its 15th year of publication. *Respect*, its tolerance and diversity newsletter, has reached its 10th year in print. Today, *The Legal Eagle* is distributed free to more than 345,000 elementary, middle and high school students in more than 2,600 schools, while *Respect* is distributed to more than 275,000 middle and high school students in more than 1,500 schools.

Foundation President Stuart M. Lederman points out that both publications provide unique resources for New Jersey educators and students by presenting timely and age-appropriate articles on a variety of legal topics—from bullying to the use of DNA evidence to cyber crimes in *The Legal Eagle*; and using preemptory strikes to exclude particular ethnic, religious or racial groups from a jury to France's banning of burqas and U.S. constitutional protections from such a ban in *Respect*.

"The articles are a jumping off point for classroom discussion and lesson plans," said Lederman. "*The Legal Eagle* and *Respect* are at the core of the Foundation's mission to educate the public about the law. In carrying out that mission the publications also promote civil discourse on current topics by students throughout the state."

Steven M. Richman, who serves as chair of *The Legal Eagle* Editorial Board and is also the Foundation's second vice president, believes that the rule of law sustains us as a society and a nation and civics education is a vital component to its promotion.

"*The Legal Eagle* and *Respect* serve this function by explaining in plain language cutting-edge legal topics in a balanced fashion," said Richman. "It is essential that Americans learn about law from the experts and not simply through fictionalized versions found on television and in the movies."

Over the years, *The Legal Eagle* has produced a few special edition issues, including its most recent one, a 20-page issue that was devoted entirely to the topic of bullying. The anti-bullying issue has generated a great deal of positive feedback and included articles on cyber-bullying, bullycide, New Jersey's new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, prosecuting bullies criminally and the landmark New Jersey case of *L.W. vs. Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education*. In 2009, the Foundation produced a special double issue of *The Legal Eagle* devoted to animal law that contained articles on steroids in horse racing, the use of live mascots, pet hoarding, dog fighting and banning carriage horses in New York City.

In the winter of 2000, a special *Legal Eagle* issue on diversity gave birth to what is now *Respect*. That special issue tackled such complex topics as affirmative action, hatred on the web and controversial eyewitness identifications when identifying those of a different race. In addition, the diversity issue included an essay from a graduate of Westfield High School who recounted her family's struggle during World War II in a Japanese-American internment camp. That essay was also included in *Respect's* premier issue, which was launched a month after 9/11. The essay was preceded by an editorial note likening the discrimination faced by Japanese-

Americans in World War II to that facing Arab-Americans today, reminding us of the perils of pre-judging anyone based on his or her religion or ethnicity.

“*Respect* is intended to raise students’ awareness of significant issues concerning diversity and tolerance that affect their own lives as well as society in general,” said Louis H. Miron, the Foundation’s first vice president who has also served as chair of *Respect’s* Editorial Board for the past 10 years. “The articles explore major incidents involving a wide range of topics, including discrimination based upon race, religion, gender, sexual preference and ethnicity, and challenge the students to recognize and address these injustices.”

Gwendolyn Alexis, the current chair of *Respect’s* Editorial Board, noted that the articles published in the newsletter have “come to serve as a bellwether of the social issues that are destined to claim the attention of legal scholars and policymakers in the immediate future.”

Also serving as a Foundation trustee, Alexis gives as an example the article on Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell that explained why the policy was under fire, published months before President Obama signed the law’s repeal; and the article exploring the constitutionality of Arizona’s immigration law, published several months before the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision.

“Although the target audience for *Respect* is 6th through 12th graders, the goal of readability has not resulted in a sacrifice of thorough, informative and sophisticated coverage of topics,” she said. Alexis believes education is the most effective tool in fighting any kind of discrimination and “the *Respect* newsletter is a valuable weapon in the arsenal.”

Both *The Legal Eagle* and *Respect* are published three times a year and all back issues are available on the Foundation’s website. Topics for the fall issue of *The Legal Eagle* included the controversy over textbooks published in Texas, Puerto Rico possibly becoming our 51st state and Miranda rights for students. *Respect’s* fall issue explored the multi-million dollar settlement for African American and Native American farmers that has still not been distributed, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Snyder v. Phelps*, and an update on a story that appeared in last year’s spring edition about John Demjanjuk, who was convicted of Nazi war crimes.

In addition to *The Legal Eagle* and *Respect*, the Foundation also offers *Bill of Rights Bulletin*, a 24-page newsletter featuring articles explaining the U.S. Constitution’s first 10 Amendments as well as other constitutional issues, and its companion piece, *Constitutionally New Jersey*, a 12-page newsletter dedicated to New Jersey’s Constitution. Both publications contain constitutional trivia and puzzles.

For information about other Foundation programs, or if you would like to subscribe to *The Legal Eagle* or *Respect*, or would like copies of the many publications produced by the Foundation, visit us online at www.njsbf.org. ■

New Jersey State Bar Foundation Upcoming Seminars and Events

All Bar Foundation programs listed below are held at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Please note that only registered participants will be notified if an event is canceled. For more information, visit the Foundation’s website at www.njsbf.org or call 1-800-FREE LAW.

- **Special Education Law**
Thursday, November 3, 2011, 7–9 p.m.
- **Buying and Selling a Home**
Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 7–9 p.m.
- **Wills and Estate Planning**
Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 1–3 p.m.
- **Medicare-Medicaid Maze**
Thursday, February 16, 2012, 1–3 p.m.
- **Estate and Federal Income Tax**
Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7–9 p.m.
- **Starting and Succeeding with a New Business**
Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 7–9 p.m.
- **Landlord-Tenant Issues**
Thursday, March 15, 2012, 7–9 p.m.
- **Law and Disability Conference**
Call 1-800-FREE LAW for registration form
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
(time tentative)
- **Condominium Law**
Thursday, March 29, 2012, 7–9 p.m.

New High School Mock Trial Case Reflects Growing Connection between Hate Blogs and Crime

Some see them as only an annoyance to be brushed aside, like flies buzzing around your head. But make no mistake: blogs by purveyors of hate are decidedly more malevolent and can have long-lasting negative consequences. They often advocate, either openly or by inference, violence or other actions against a particular racial, national or religious group—i.e., bias crimes. The results can range from encouraging intolerance to outright assault and even murder. Unfortunately, impressionable adolescents may be particularly susceptible to their bigoted messages.

That alarming cultural trend is reflected in the fictitious case created for the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's 30th anniversary Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition. Students, their teacher-coaches and lawyer-coaches throughout the state are busy preparing their original presentations of *The State of New Jersey v. Pat Hopper*, which concerns a series of alleged criminal charges related to bias and intimidation. More than 200 high schools will compete against each other in county, regional, semi-finals and finals until one school is named the winner in the spring.

The 2011–2012 High School Mock Trial Workbook, which contains the case as well as rules and procedures, can be downloaded from the Foundation's website, www.njsbf.org.

Today's teens are growing up in a more dangerous, security-conscious, post-9/11 world. They are bombarded by pronouncements from all points along the political spectrum, for good or ill, with messages becoming global in an instant. "Many young people become involved in bias cases, acting together, encouraging each other," said Ronald Appleby, Jr., chair and longtime member of NJSBF's Mock Trial Committee, which chose this year's case carefully. "The committee is always looking to address cutting-edge issues that affect high schoolers."

According to Kathleen Dotoli, an attorney who has served on the Mock Trial Committee for three years, "We look to see what topics are presently trending and what will hold the students' interest." In past years, the committee has selected topics ranging from food safety, performance-enhancing drugs, bullying, distracted driving and road rage.

In the new case, a high school basketball star is an alleged follower of a notorious blogger known for incendiary statements about Davonians (a fictional national group), of which the student's math teacher is a member. The student surreptitiously enters the teacher's home to insert a tardily finished major exam into a pile of completed tests. While

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administrators. While it will directly address the new law, the primary focus is three-fold:

- The importance of changing school culture and climate
- Developing a school-wide approach
- Proactively combating bullying

Under the new law, the anti-bullying program must include lessons taught to students. The Foundation's curriculum-based training provides K-12 lessons educators can use in class. The training examines the many varieties of bullying, points out the differences between everyday conflict and bullying, and dispels long-held myths. (Goodbye, low self-esteem theories.)

Who Should Attend

Schools must send at least two—preferably four—school safety team members per school building to the Foundation's training. Administrators are strongly encouraged to be part of the attending team.

Materials for Attendees

All attendees of An Introduction to Teasing and Bullying Training for School Safety and Climate Teams receive the Foundation's curriculum guide, *Bully-Busting Curriculum: Six Essential Lessons for Grades K-12*, with lessons tailored to elementary, middle and high school grade levels; as well as colorful posters that correspond to the lessons.

Please note: Because of the sensitive subject matter, only those who attend the Foundation's anti-bullying training will be allowed to order the guide and posters that complement the training.

How to Register

Full details on the registration process can be found at www.njsbf.org.

NJSBF funding is provided by the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey ■

Mock Trial *continued from page four*

there the youth may—or may not—have stolen an important Davonian national symbol, which ultimately appears at a rally at which the teacher, there to defend Davonia, is wounded by gunfire. The basketball star is charged with criminal trespass, burglary, theft and bias theft.

Putting the case together was no easy task. “The committee decided on a relatively complex fact pattern,” said Dotoli. “We had to leave enough room in each witness’ affidavit to allow for ambiguity and doubt so as not to steer the outcome in a specific direction. In fact, the committee tries very, very hard each year to make sure there is never a clear-cut verdict.”

They spent months carefully crafting the criminal case, trying to incorporate technology and science via “expert” testimony. “You would be astonished,” said Dotoli, “as to how proficient the students sound in their area of expertise by the time they are ready to compete.” Acting ability also comes into play. “Whether the student is found guilty or not guilty will depend to a great extent on the credibility of the students who portray the witnesses this year,” she said.

The case reflects New Jersey’s status as a highly diverse state that has seen high-profile cases involving race, religion, national origin and sexual orientation. In fact, “New Jersey was a trailblazer in prosecuting and punishing hate crime,” said Appleby, citing how in 1994 the state was able to secure a longer sentence for a Vineland man convicted in a racially motivated shooting. That case eventually reached the United States Supreme Court, making headlines and legal history.

“Prosecuting hate crimes is a challenge,” said Appleby, “because you must prove that the person committed the crime, and did so either with a purpose to intimidate the victim because of their race or creed, or did so with the knowledge that the victim will be intimidated. Mock trial participants will get to experience this challenge first-hand this year.”

In addition to Appleby and Dotoli, the committee members who volunteered their time to prepare the case are Gwendolyn Alexis, Esq., Gina Campanella, Esq., Paul J. Endler, Esq., James J. Gerrow Jr., Esq., W. Thomas McDonough Jr., Esq., Edward Moody, and Ray Politowski.

As in past years, the Hon. Marilyn C. Clark, Presiding Judge, Criminal Division, Passaic County, graciously volunteered her reviewing services to the committee. “I have read the case for this year’s competition,” she said.

“It is a very interesting case. The details in the witnesses’ statements provide much opportunity for both the State and the defense to argue the ultimate issue of whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. I very much look forward to this competition.”

For more information about the competition and the mock trial program, contact Sheila Boro, director of mock trial programs, at 732-937-7519 or email sboro@njsbf.org. ■



(left to right) Karol Corbin Walker, member of the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and past president of the New Jersey State Bar Association, presents the ABA’s Partnership Award to Lynn Fontaine Newsome, secretary of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation; and Susan A. Feeney, president of the New Jersey State Bar Association. The award was given in the summer for the Foundation’s “commitment to diversity” through its Street Law program, which seeks to increase minority representation in the legal profession. Each year, under the guidance of a Foundation-funded fellow, 90 middle and high school youths in the inner cities learn academic skills and are exposed to positive role models at the law schools of Seton Hall University, Rutgers-Newark and Rutgers-Camden. The pipeline program, developed in cooperation with the Association and New Jersey’s three law schools, is “another example of the Bar Foundation’s mission to educate the public about the law and ensure that our children grow up in a society that embraces diversity,” said Foundation president Stuart M. Lederman. More than 600 youngsters have participated so far.

the youth we contact.” (See page 7 for a profile of Lennon Moore.)

It can be a tough time for adolescents transitioning out of foster care or the child welfare system and into adulthood. In fact, Congress passed the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act in 1999 after extensive evidence showed that teens leaving foster care have significant difficulty adjusting to responsible adulthood. That’s where Covenant House New Jersey comes in. Covenant House, the state’s largest youth shelter and multi-service provider for young adults, houses the Youth Advocacy Center (YAC), home to the Youth Advocacy Project. Like its counterpart in Newark, Atlantic City’s YAC works to provide a broad range of legal services to those adolescents, many of whom are at risk and homeless. The clinic, under the supervision of Mr. Moore, offers direct legal representation, assistance and advocacy as well as educational workshops designed to teach essential everyday life skills.

Legal Help Where It’s Needed Most

Through NJSBF’s sponsorship, legal assistance is provided in a wide variety of areas where it is most needed, especially municipal court, DYFS and other family law matters, getting SSI disability, special education, housing law and tenants’ rights and responsibilities. The Bar Fellow and his staff step in to represent their youthful clients and help with public benefits, clearing of bench warrants, communication with other stakeholders in the criminal justice system and credit problems, as well as developing educational and resource materials and coordinating other social services for their clients.

Sample Cases

James, 20, a Covenant House resident, was involved in a motor vehicle accident in which his car hit a deer. Barely conscious, James was taken from his vehicle by a concerned passing motorist and driven to the nearest motel, where an ambulance was called. Although the motorist thought it was better to take James to a less remote area to call an ambulance, doing so caused James to leave the scene of the accident, thereby committing a traffic offense. James turned to the legal services of the Youth Advocacy Center. After James explained exactly what caused him to leave the scene, the Bar Fellow was able

to convince the court that the charge was improper and to dismiss the case. The youth was extremely grateful for the dismissal and the services of YAC and the attorney-fellow.

Christian, 19, was arrested during a questionable motor vehicle stop. He was charged with several offenses which were subsequently dismissed by the County Prosecutor’s Office. However, Christian had been incarcerated for almost two weeks as a result of the arrest. Although the prosecutor had dismissed most of his charges, one disorderly persons charge remained. Told he would have to agree to serve at least two more weeks in jail, Christian asked for a new attorney. The Bar Fellow was able to negotiate a plea wherein the charge would be dismissed if he remained law abiding for the next six months.

Danielle, 21, retained the services of Mr. Moore and the YAC when her landlord attempted to evict her for failure to pay rent. Danielle had been residing in an apartment which was in uninhabitable condition, of which the Code Enforcement Office and Health Department of Atlantic City were aware. The landlord was found to be without a certificate of occupancy. A judge ultimately found that Danielle had made all rent payments and declared the apartment uninhabitable. Danielle was permitted, however, to remain in the apartment for a short period of time until she found a new living arrangement. She recently found a new living arrangement and will be moving shortly.

Plans for the Future

During 2010, 286 young adults were served by the Bar Fellow attorney in Atlantic City.

The YAC is now planning how it can reach more young adults as well as attacking new issues.

Based on the premise that Covenant House exists for young people who have no options for shelter and acknowledging that New Jersey is a crossroads in the human-trafficking networks active in the United States, the Youth Advocacy Project has made human trafficking, with its legal and social ramifications, a new focal point. To that end the Bar Fellow attends monthly meetings of the Anti-Trafficking Taskforce of Atlantic City in an effort to better understand and combat one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the country.

According to Moore, New Jersey’s transportation system, the presence of organized crime, areas of grave poverty

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and extreme wealth as well as numerous and diverse immigrant communities all make the state prime territory for traffickers. Moore has also co-facilitated two trainings

to educate the Covenant House staff about human trafficking so that they may become more adept at spotting potentially trafficked youth, and aware of current law. ■

Q&A with Lennon Moore Foundation Fellow, Covenant House's Youth Advocacy Center, Atlantic City

Coming out of a corporate law department, Mr. Moore brings his unique and compassionate approach to the residents of Covenant House.

Q: What is your association with the Youth Advocacy Project?

A: I joined the project a little over a year ago. I am now referred to as the Attorney Fellow or staff attorney.

Q: What do you do in that capacity?

A: When a youth first comes to Covenant House for services, I immediately begin a conversation so I can get a feel for his or her background and to hear the who, what, when, where and why he or she is in a homeless shelter at this point in life. I probe for any and all legal issues that need attention. My goal is to provide the legal service myself or find an attorney who will represent the youth whatever the adolescent's ability to pay. I act as a liaison between young people and their public defenders to ensure that their voices are heard and they have some input into their outcomes. I handle mostly municipal court (trespassing, shoplifting, fighting, possession), family court (custody, child support restraining orders), and social security and public benefit (appeal of benefit denial) matters.

Q: How did you become involved in the Youth Advocacy Project—what interests led you there?

A: My undergraduate degree is in psychology, and I have always had an interest in counseling and mentoring young people. In the past I have worked as a tutor in the Boys and Girls Club and have also worked with handicapped children. Prior to attending law school, I worked for a nonprofit doing HIV and AIDS education with inmates. Sometime later, my former supervisor told me about the opening in Covenant House for a lawyer. I was doing corporate contract litigation for a small information technology company at the time and was not really enjoying the work. Upon learning exactly what the position entailed, I was excited to interview and, happily, eventually landed the position.

Q: What gives you the most satisfaction in your job?

A: I'd say three aspects give me great satisfaction: first of all, the outcomes. Youths come to us with all types of issues and problems which gradually get resolved. From their legal issues to their attitudes, they begin to make positive changes, and they leave our program better people and in better condition than when they came to us.

Secondly, it's encouraging to see the relationships that are formed. So many of these young people don't have anyone who ever sat them down and had a heart-to-heart talk with them like my mother, father, uncles, aunts, grandparents and friends who cared about me did with me. Some have never received good advice about anything and their lives have been filled with deceitful, predatory or self-serving people who have done nothing to nurture them. It feels good to be a person people trust when they trust no one else or when they let themselves trust someone for the first time.

And finally, I derive tremendous satisfaction from the personal growth I see happening. Watching those young people develop into better human beings who make wise decisions is priceless.

Q: What is your academic background?

A: I earned my B.A. in psychology from New Jersey City University, Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1997. I received my J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law in 2003.

Q: How do you see your future?

A: I feel like I was born to work [at the Youth Advocacy Center]. The counseling aspect, the young people and my tendency to be analytical and argumentative all work to make my job feel like a natural fit. My attitude and goal are always to try to elevate the profession and the lives that I contact; in that way I also elevate the life I was given. I am attracted to politics as a possible extension to my career. I recently moved to Atlantic County and plan to become more closely connected to the people I serve by involving myself in community affairs. ■

Winter-Spring 2012 Training Dates

Conflict Resolution, Peer Mediation and Character Education

All trainings are held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Elementary School Educators (grades K–5 unless otherwise noted)

Conflict Resolution

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Character Education

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Peer Mediation (grades 3–5)

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Middle/High School Educators (grades 6–12)

Conflict Resolution

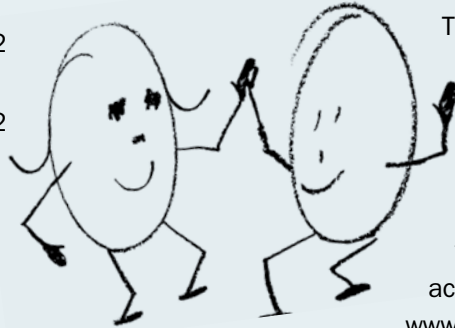
Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Peer Mediation

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Character Education

Wednesday, March 28, 2012



Teasing and Bullying

Important: Registration is by **teams only**. Before registering for Teasing and Bullying training, be sure to read about **changes in the program** on Page 1.

An Introduction to Teasing and Bullying Training for School Safety and Climate Teams

All trainings are held from 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

All trainings are held at the New Jersey Law Center off Ryders Lane in New Brunswick. Space is limited.

To register for any of the trainings, call

732-937-7528 to request a registration form, leaving your email address (preferable) or your fax number.

Please note that although the trainings are free, a refundable \$20 security deposit check for each training is required. Checks should be payable to the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and must accompany each registration. Find full details at

www.njsbf.org.

Engrave Yourself in the History of the New Jersey Law Center: Support the Commemorative Brick Campaign

If you live in New Jersey, chances are your life has been touched by the New Jersey Law Center, the symbol of legal education and the heart of the state's attorney community.

Maybe you are one of the 15,000 members of the public each year who have learned about starting a new business, estate planning or landlord-tenant issues at the newly renovated New Jersey Law Center. Or perhaps you are a teacher whose students have become excited by the law through taking part in mock trial programs at the Law Center. Or are you one of the 25,000 attorneys who annually use the Law Center's numerous resources and services for legal professionals?

Whatever your connection, you can take advantage of a limited-time opportunity to become a part of the Law Center by inscribing your name—or that of someone you wish to honor, such as a family member, a beloved professor or mentor—on a commemorative brick adorning the portico or

driveway of the New Jersey Law Center. Every brick purchased helps fund the technological and structural overhaul of the building aimed at serving the needs of New Jersey's citizens, judges and lawyers for decades to come.

Choose from:

4" x 8" Driveway Brick

4" x 8" Premium Brick (portico)

8" x 8" Premium Brick (portico)

Engraving: three lines per brick; 20 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation.

Your thoughtful gesture will last a lifetime. For full details and pricing, contact Cynthia Pellegrino at 732-937-7507. ■

