

N E W S
New York State
Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

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Court of Appeals Appoints Two Trustees to Lawyers' Fund

(Albany, NY--1/11/02) The Court of Appeals has made two appointments to the Board of Trustees of the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. The Lawyers' Fund is a state agency financed by New York's legal profession which protects law clients and legal consumers from the misuse of their money in the practice of law.

Eleanor Breitel Alter of New York City has been re-appointed to a three-year term as a Trustee. Mrs. Alter, one of New York's leading matrimonial lawyers, is a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman. She is graduate of the University of Michigan and the Columbia University Law School. Mrs. Alter has served as a Trustee of the Lawyers' Fund since 1983, and as the Fund's Chairman since 1985. Following her re-appointment, the Fund's Trustees re-elected Mrs. Alter as Chairman.

Charlotte Holstein of Syracuse was also appointed by the Court of Appeals to a three-year term as Trustee. Mrs. Holstein replaces Shirley Waters of Rome, Oneida County, whose nine-year tenure as a Trustee ended with the expiration of her term of office.

Mrs. Holstein is the founder and Executive Director of F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, a community interest organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Syracuse area. A civic leader, Mrs. Holstein is active in numerous local, state and national organizations and is a former recipient of Syracuse's City Achievement Award for her dedication to volunteerism.

Mrs. Holstein is one of two non-lawyer members of the seven-member Board of Trustees of the Lawyers' Fund. The Trustees serve without compensation as a public service.

The New York Lawyers' fund is a special trust created by the State Legislature in 1982. The fund is financed by the legal profession through a registration fee required of all practicing attorneys. The fee raises \$8.25 million annually for the Lawyers' Fund, which is used to reimburse losses resulting from dishonest conduct in the practice of law. The fee also finances

the administrative operations of the Fund. No taxpayer money is used for awards or administrative costs.

Typical losses covered by the Lawyers' Fund include the theft of estate assets, down payments in real estate transactions, settlement proceeds in litigation, and money embezzled in investment for clients. The Fund has no jurisdiction over malpractice claims or disputes involving legal fees.

The offices of the New York Lawyers' Fund are located in Albany. Telephone: 800-442-3863. Website: www.nylawfund.org