

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

Additional Information:
Michael J. Knight
(518) 434-1935
(800) 442-3863

**New York Lawyers' Fund Director
Receives National Honor for
Excellence in Law Client Protection**

(Albany, NY-- 09/23/22) **Michael J. Knight, Sr.**, the Executive Director and Counsel of the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, is the recipient of the 2022 Isaac Hecht Law Client Protection Award in recognition for his 32-year service to the New York Lawyers' Fund and the National Client Protection Organization, Inc.

The Hecht Award is awarded annually by the National Client Protection Organization (NCPO) to recognize an individual, law client protection fund, or other organization that has demonstrated excellence in the field of law client protection. Mr. Knight received this National honor at the NCPO's Regional Workshop in Lexington, Kentucky on September 19, 2022.

Following his graduation from Albany Law School in 1990, Mr. Knight began his legal career with the New York Lawyers' Fund as Assistant Counsel. In 2000, Mr. Knight was appointed as Deputy Counsel and in 2018, the Board of Trustees appointed Mr. Knight to the dual positions of Executive Director and Counsel, a role in which he currently serves.

A charter member of the NCPO, Mr. Knight served as its Counsel (2008-2012), President-Elect (2012-2014) and President (2014-2016). He currently serves on NCPO's Outreach Committee and Speakers' Bureau. In 2021, Mr. Knight was appointed to a 3-year term on the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Protection of the Public in the Provision of Legal Services.

The New York Lawyers' Fund is a unique client reimbursement program financed by attorneys in New York State which reimburses law clients for financial losses caused by their attorney's dishonest conduct in the practice of law. No other profession provides such protection to its clients. Three others associated with the New York Lawyers' Fund have also been recognized by the NCPO for excellence in client protection: Frederick Miller (2005); Eric A. Seiff (2017) and Timothy O'Sullivan (2019).

The Lawyers' Fund receives a portion of the registration fees paid by New York's attorneys. **No taxpayer money is used for this client protection program.** Of every dollar received by the Lawyers' Fund, over 92 cents go directly to client reimbursement.

The Lawyers' Fund is administered by a seven-member Board of Trustees appointed by the State Court of Appeals, New York's high court. The Trustees serve without compensation. Since 1982, the Fund has restored more than \$242 million to over 9,100 eligible law clients.

Types of losses covered by the Lawyers' Fund include a lawyer's theft of estate assets, real estate down payments, litigation settlement proceeds, and law client money embezzled in investments within an attorney-client relationship. The Fund has no authority to compensate for alleged malpractice or assist in resolving disputes over legal fees.

The Lawyers' Fund is located in Albany. Telephone: 800-442-3863. Website: www.nylawfund.org