

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

Additional Information:
Timothy O'Sullivan
(518) 434-1935
(800) 442-3863

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

(Albany, NY-- 06/07/17) **Eric A. Seiff**, Chairman of the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, is the recipient of the 2017 Isaac Hecht Law Client Protection Award in recognition for his extraordinary 35-year record of public service to the New York Lawyers' Fund.

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. Seiff received this National honor at the NCPO's Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the American Bar Association's 33rd National Forum on Client Protection in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 3, 2017.

Isaac Hecht was a leader of our Nation's client protection movement who served for 36 years as the Treasurer of the Maryland client protection fund and was a co-founder of the NCPO. Mr. Hecht died in 2003 at the age of 89.

Mr. Seiff is a charter member of the New York Fund which was established in 1981. He has served as the Fund's Chairman since 2010. Mr. Seiff has a distinguished 58-year legal career as a public and private practitioner and litigator. He is the former Chairman of the bi-partisan New York State Commission of Investigation, served as a Special Assistant Attorney General investigating the abuses of the Attica prosecution, and participates with the faculties at Cardozo Law School and Fordham Law School in their clinical trial programs."

Presenting the award to Mr. Seiff was the Fund's Executive Director, Timothy O'Sullivan, who stated: **"The Trustees of our Funds are our greatest strength, our greatest asset, and really our greatest treasures. In New York, our Fund has been blessed to have Eric serve as our Trustee since our inception, 36 years ago...Our success in New York is due in great measure to Eric's incredible record of public service and leadership."**

The 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.

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 \$200 million to 8,500 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