

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

Additional Information:
Michael J. Knight
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Lawyers' Fund Appoints Michael Knight
As Executive Director & Counsel

(Albany, NY - 6/22/18 - Chairman Eric Seiff of the Board of Trustees of the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection announced today the appointment of **Michael J. Knight** as the Executive Director & Counsel for the Lawyers' Fund.

The Lawyers' Fund, a unique law client reimbursement program financed by New York's legal profession, reimburses law clients who suffer financial losses caused by the dishonest conduct of their attorney in the practice of law. The principal source of revenue for the Lawyers' Fund is a \$30 per year contribution from the attorney registration fee paid by New York State lawyers. The Fund does not receive any money from taxpayers or from the State's Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) program.

The legal profession is the only profession to provide such a protection program for its clients.

In 2017, the Lawyers' Fund granted 215 awards totaling \$10.6 million in reimbursement to eligible law clients.

Michael J. Knight, a 1990 graduate of Albany Law School and 1987 graduate of Niagara University, has served with the Lawyers' Fund for 28 years and has been the Fund's Deputy Counsel for the past 18 years. Mr. Knight is the immediate Past President of the National Client Protection Organization.

Mr. Knight is only the third Executive Director & Counsel in the Fund's 35-year history. He succeeds Timothy J. O'Sullivan who retired after 34 years of service to the Fund, including the past 19 years as Executive Director & Counsel.

Examples of law client losses covered by the Lawyers' Fund include the theft of real estate escrow funds, estate or trust assets, litigation settlement proceeds, money embezzled from law clients in investment transactions and unearned legal fees accepted by a lawyer who falsely promised to render legal services. The Fund does not have jurisdiction over claims alleging neglect or malpractice, or in disputes over legal fees.

The New York Lawyers' Fund is located at 119 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210. Telephone: (518) 434-1935 / 800-442-3863. Website: www.nylawfund.org