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New York State Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

Lawyers' Fund Issues First Awards Under New $450,000 Maximum Reimbursement

(Albany, NY-- 7/2026) Since 2015, the Fund's maximum limit on an award of reimbursement had been $400,000 per client loss. That ceiling was raised to $450,000 effective April 1, 2026.

The Lawyers' Fund is financed by New York's legal profession. A small portion of the biennial registration fee paid by all New York attorneys supports all awards and administrative costs of the Lawyers' Fund. No taxpayer money is used for this client protection program. Of every dollar the Fund receives, over 90 cents goes 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 $277 million to victimized law clients. There are over 360,000 registered lawyers in New York State. Over the 43 years of the Fund's existence, a small number of former lawyers each year have been responsible for the dishonest conduct resulting in awards. The Trustees' awards in 2025 were attributable to dishonest conduct by 21 now suspended, disbarred or deceased lawyers.

Losses covered by the Lawyers' Fund include the theft of estate assets, real estate down payments and litigation settlement proceeds. While ordinarily the Fund does not reimburse for investment losses, when a lawyer embezzles his or her clients' money through the vehicle of a phony investment, the Fund will provide compensation. The Fund cannot compensate for alleged malpractice or resolve fee disputes.

The Board is proud to announce that, at its June 2026 meeting, it reimbursed two claimants the new maximum award to address catastrophic losses caused by the dishonest conduct of two now-disbarred New York attorneys. These reimbursements represent the Trustees' continuing commitment to protect legal consumers, preserve the integrity of the bar, safeguard the good name of lawyers for their honesty in handling client money, and promote public confidence in the administration of justice in the Empire State.

The Lawyers' Fund is located in Albany. Telephone: 800-442-3863 or 518-434-1935. Website: **www.nylawfund.org**