

# Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York

*Funding civil legal assistance for low-income New Yorkers since 1984*

## **Christine M. Fecko Named Executive Director of the NYS IOLA Fund**

NEW YORK – April 4, 2024 – The IOLA Fund of the State of New York (IOLA Fund) announced that Christine M. Fecko, Esq. will become its next Executive Director. She takes over from Christopher B. O'Malley, who is retiring as Executive Director after 15 years with the IOLA Fund.

IOLA Fund Board of Trustees President and search committee member Mary Rothwell Davis said, "We are thrilled to bring Christine on board as the IOLA Fund's new leader. It is an exciting time for the organization, as we advance our Justice Infrastructure Project and continue to work toward our mission of advancing civil justice for all. We are confident that Christine is the right leader to move us forward."

The search process included the engagement of a national executive search agency which helped the IOLA Fund engage with Board members, staff, grantees, and other community partners to develop a comprehensive and customized leadership profile. Several IOLA Fund Board members volunteered their time on the search committee and engaged in a robust and extremely thorough process for the new Executive Director. In partnership with the search firm, the Board of Trustees conducted an in-depth evaluation process based upon the competencies identified by IOLA's stakeholders.

From her time on the SUNY Binghamton campus, where she organized students to advocate for keeping SUNY accessible for all with low tuition and increased student and faculty diversity, through a legal career that included serving as General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer of My Sister's Place, President of the National Association of IOLTA Programs, and, for the last twelve years, as the IOLA Fund's General Counsel, Fecko has worked to advance equity and access to justice for all New Yorkers.

Fecko thanked the IOLA Board for allowing her this opportunity to serve. Fecko added, "Access to justice helps to preserve human dignity and is essential to the administration of our legal system. I am excited to work with the entire IOLA team, as well as collaborate with our dedicated grantees, the judiciary, legislators, and the entire legal community to continue and enhance this critical work."

Fecko will assume her new role on June 10. The Board of Trustees expressed its deep appreciation to out-going Executive Director O'Malley for ensuring the organization is in a position of strength and for the plan to work closely with Fecko over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

### **About the IOLA Fund**

Created in 1984, the IOLA Fund supports access to justice for individuals and families living in poverty and improves the justice system by providing crucial funding to civil legal aid organizations, without taxing the public, and at no cost to lawyers or their clients. Every state, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, operates a similar program.



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