

IOLLA FUND

# Board of Trustees

11 East 44 Street  
Suite 1406  
New York, NY 10017

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March 12, **2025**

**NOTICE:**

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**In compliance with Executive Order 3, *Promotion of Public Access to Government Decision-Making* (January 1, 2007), the Board of Trustees meeting will be videotaped for public internet viewing.**

# Meeting Agenda

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Location: IOLA Fund Offices (New York, NY)

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Davis will call the meeting to order.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Davis will entertain motions to approve the minutes, included at **Tab 2**, for the following meeting: **Board of Trustees on December 17, 2024**

## **3. EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Ms. Fecko will provide her Executive Report. Please see **Tab 3** for materials.

- a. FY26 Executive Budget**
- b. FY26-FY30 Procurement**
- c. IOLA Operations**
- d. Justice Infrastructure Project**
- e. Announcements**

**RESOLUTION – Authorizing Staff to Pursue Lease for Office Space**

**RESOLUTION – Approving Justice Infrastructure Project Readiness Grants**

## **4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Agard will provide her Administrative and Financial Report. Please see **Tab 4** for materials.

- a. Financial Statement – January 2025**
- b. Consolidated Bank & Revenue Report**
- c. Budget and Administrative Spending Reports**

**RESOLUTION – Approving IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025-26**

**5. GENERAL COUNSEL**

Ms. Nyiendo will provide her report. Please see **Tab 5** for materials.

- a. Grantee Matters**
- b. Attorney and Bar Associations**
- c. Banking Compliance**
- d. Legal Matters / State Budget Matters**
- e. Ethics Matters**

**RESOLUTION – Thanking Bar Associations & Pro Bono Counsel**

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Please see **Tab 6** for Motion and materials.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Lowe Center for Justice, 221 S. Warren Street, Syracuse.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**IOLA Fund of the State of New York**  
**Meeting of the Board of Trustees – New York, NY**  
**December 17, 2024**  
**DRAFT**

**Present:** Chair Davis, Trustees Dunham, Galowitz, Madigan and Lindenauer

**Public**

**Videoconference:** Trustees Ross, Lopez-Soto and Villaverde

**Staff:** Fecko, Nyiendo, Agard and Fehringer

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Davis at approximately 4:24 p.m. Remarks by Chair Davis welcoming the Board to the meeting.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 27, 2024 and the meeting of the Grants Committee of the Board of Trustees on December 10, 2024.**

The minutes of the above meetings were reviewed.

Trustee Galowitz moved to approve the September 27, 2024 minutes of the Board, seconded by Trustee Lindenauer, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Trustee Ross moved to approve the December 11, 2024 minutes of the Grants Committee of the Board, seconded by Trustee Lopez-Soto, and the members of the Grants Committee (Chair Davis, Trustees Dunham, Galowitz, Lopez-Soto, and Villaverde) approved the motion unanimously.

**3. Executive Report**

Ms. Fecko advised that for the first time, IOLA will award five-year grants. These grants offer stability to the non-profit community and an opportunity to support increased immigration legal services, which the Board has recognized as an area of high need. The RFP was announced on September 18, 2024 to grant up to \$562,500,000. We received 108 applications. Final awards will be constrained by the applicant's monetary request and, further, Civil Legal Services (CLS) awards are additionally constrained by the funds available in each geographic unit based on the poverty population.

Ms. Fecko reported that the Grants Committee of the Board met on December 10. Prior to the meeting, Trustees disclosed their affiliations, to the extent any exist, with the applicants and a summary of the conflicts was circulated to the Board. Ms. Fecko thanked Ms. Nyiendo for overseeing the conflict disclosures. Ms. Fecko also thanked the Grants Team for developing the online portal that allowed Board members to have ease of access to the applications.

Ms. Fecko noted that grant awards are subject to IOLA's budget appropriations. IOLA submitted its formal response to DOB's FY 2026 call letter and has advocated for grant appropriations over the next five fiscal years in the total amount of \$600 million, which is in line with the Board's grantmaking plan. IOLA is also advocating for a modest increase to its administrative budget.

Ms. Fecko advised that the Office of Court Administration (OCA) also submitted its budget proposal. In their proposal, they are seeking \$150 million for civil legal services, which is an increase of \$45.5 million. Moreover, their budget did not include a transfer to IOLA of any funds, as it had done for over ten years. However, OCA included a statement of strong support for IOLA's proposed plan for a phased-in growth in grant awards.

Regarding the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, Helaine Barnett has stepped down as the founding chair. She will remain on the Commission as Chair Emerita and continue to contribute to the extraordinary work. She will be replaced by three co-chairs.

Ms. Fecko advised that the lease for the IOLA Office ends November 30, 2025 and IOLA staff have begun renegotiating the terms, including renovations. Michele Agard will be managing this project.

Regarding the agency classification of IOLA, the NY State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation issued a report a few weeks ago reclassifying certain agencies. DOB recently confirmed that IOLA has been reclassified from Tier D to a Tier C agency. Ms. Fecko advised that a resolution reflecting such reclassification and corresponding compensation structure has been prepared for the Board.

Trustee Lindenauer moved to approve the resolution reflecting DOB's reclassification of IOLA to a Tier C agency and compensation structure, which motion was seconded by Trustee Lopez-Soto, and approved unanimously.

#### **4. Administrative and Financial Report**

Ms. Agard provided an overview of the Administrative Report. Ms. Agard reported that the cash balance on October 1 was approximately \$523 million with interest earnings in the month of October of approximately \$18 million, and STIP revenue of approximately \$2.2 million. Minus administrative and grant expenses, the November 1 opening cash balance was approximately \$536 million.

Turning to the interest data, Ms. Agard reported that 129 banks reported in October with a net yield of 2.52%. The year-to-date interest revenue is approximately \$141.5 million. This is an increase of 4.52% in revenue from last year.

With respect to the Administrative Budget, Ms. Agard noted that the year-to-date expenditures were approximately \$1.1 million, which is less than half of the yearly budget allowance.

Ms. Agard gave an overview of the Delta Consulting banking report, noting that the collective average daily balance of IOLA accounts in the participating banks was just under \$8.6 billion, which is slightly below the twelve month average of \$8.8 billion. Ms. Agard noted that the Federal Reserve is scheduled to meet tomorrow, where it is expected that they will reduce interest rates by 25 basis points.

Ms. Fecko noted that the October interest revenue reflects some, but not all, of the recent reduction in the interest rate by the Federal Reserve as there is a lag between the announcement of a drop in rates and when the interest income will begin to drop. The revenue figures for next month and thereafter are more likely to reflect the recent drop in interest rates.

Ms. Agard advised that the net interest yield has remained fairly stable overall over the last year. Ms. Agard noted that the Board had been provided with charts in the Administrative Report detailing the collective average daily balances and interest revenue generated from the IOLA accounts in each of the participating banks.

## **5. General Counsel's Report**

Ms. Nyiengo advised that she participated in the review of the grant applications that were submitted by applicants in response to the recent RFP. She also solicited and received updates from Board members of their conflicts and circulated a summary list to the Board prior to the December 10 meeting of the Grants Committee and again prior to the December 17 Board meeting.

With respect to bar association matters, Ms. Nyiengo advised that she attended the ABA Forum on Building Access to Justice from October 23-25 with Ms. Fecko in California. During the conference, Ms. Nyiengo attended multiple panel discussions, and participated in an informal discussion led by Ms. Fecko on IOLA's Justice Infrastructure Project.

With respect to attorney engagement, Ms. Nyiengo advised that she continues to field numerous calls and emails on a near daily basis from bankers, attorneys and other interested parties regarding the administration of IOLA accounts.

Regarding banking compliance, Ms. Nyiengo advised that since the last Board meeting, the Compliance Team has identified two participating banks who reduced their rates without first seeking approval. Ms. Nyiengo sent a letter to those banks reminding them of the pre-approval process and requested that they correct the bank's remittances accordingly. Ms. Nyiengo also advised that she has sent letters to ten banks since the last Board meeting authorizing their

requests for a rate change. Moreover, two additional banks have been added to the IOLA program.

Regarding ethics matters, Ms. Nyiengo advised that anti-discrimination training for the staff will be conducted by the Office for Employee Relations (OER), and that the staff have each signed up to take the training on set dates between now and the end of the calendar year. Further, the staff is on track to complete the mandatory ethics training available over the SLMS platform by December 31. Ms. Nyiengo reminded the Board to complete the ethics training, as well.

Ms. Nyiengo advised that IOLA has received two requests for reimbursement of interest income from attorneys. Ms. Nyiengo advised that the relevant laws governing reimbursement requests are found in State Finance Law § 97-v, Judiciary Law § 497 and the NYCRR Part 7000. Ms. Nyiengo advised that she prepared a detailed recommendation for the Board regarding the two requests, which will be discussed in Executive Session.

## **6. Justice Infrastructure Project**

Ms. Fecko provided an update on the Justice Infrastructure Project. She advised that the Vision document was recently updated. The changes essentially consist of making it more explicit that the goal of the Project is to improve legal services; and adding aspects of the creation, maintenance, and use of a Service Directory to both objectives. Moreover, a new document was created describing Phase II activities conducted to date. This document describes feedback received from stakeholders, namely strong support for a statewide support function and cautious optimism as well as many questions about the coordinated information and referral function.

Ms. Fecko advised that LS-NYC hosted a statewide intake conference recently, thanks to financial support from IOLA. Ms. Fecko and Mr. Steinkamp attended and gave a short presentation about the Justice Infrastructure Project and overview of intake improvements seen in other jurisdictions. This conference had approximately 140 participants both in-person and over video conference, and included many front line staff employees. This was encouraging as it reflects a clear appetite for improvement of intake and coordination among service providers.

Ms. Fecko advised that the remainder of Phase 2 of JIP will include convenings on both objectives. A convening on the state support function is set for January 16. A convening on information and referral is planned for either late March or early April. Ms. Fecko noted that she expects advisory committees to form thereafter. One or more RFPs for FY 2026 to advance the JIP objectives are anticipated thereafter. Lastly, Ms. Fecko briefly described the several reports that have been made available to the Board from Just Tech, which is leading the tech support efforts for our grantees.



**7. Next Meeting**

The Board discussed and confirmed its schedule for meetings in 2025. The next Board meeting is March 12, 2025 at 1pm to be held in the IOLA Fund offices. The Board will further meet on June 4, 2025 in Syracuse at 1pm at a location to be determined. The Board will meet again on September 17, 2025 at 1pm and December 3, 2025 at 1pm in the IOLA offices.

**8. Executive Session**

Chair Davis made a motion to enter into Executive Session to consider matters relating to the financial history and appointment of particular corporations, specifically IOLA grant applicants and grantees; the financial history of two individuals seeking reimbursement of interest; and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Madigan and unanimously approved.

**9. Vote on Resolutions**

Upon reconvening in public session, Trustee Villaverde made a motion to adopt the recommendations of IOLA staff regarding grant recipients and awards for the RFP in the FY 26-30 cycle. The motion was seconded by Trustee Galowitz and unanimously approved. Trustee Villaverde requested that the list of grant recipients and award amounts be appended to the meeting minutes.

Chair Davis made a motion to grant the reimbursement request of attorney Daniel Weisz. The motion was seconded by Trustee Soto-Lopez and unanimously approved.

Chair Davis made a motion to deny the reimbursement request of the Hon. Anthony Marano (Ret.), acting in the capacity of court appointed Temporary Receiver of an Incapacitated Person. The motion was seconded by Trustee Galowitz and unanimously approved.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Licha Nyiendo  
General Counsel

# 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, Esq.  
Executive Director

**DATE:** March 5, 2025

**TO:** IOLA Board of Trustees

**RE:** March 12, 2025, Board Meeting, Executive Report

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## 1. FY26 Executive Budget

The Governor's FY26 Budget contains several favorable items for IOLA.

- The Executive Budget recognizes IOLA as a fiduciary fund, which is expected to safeguard IOLA revenue for its statutory purpose of supporting civil legal services under the direction of the IOLA Board.
- The Governor's Budget Briefing Book references the IOLA Fund, endorsing our five-year grant cycle and the vision of the Justice Infrastructure Project.
- The Executive Budget includes the modest increase IOLA requested for its administrative budget.

**However, the FY26 Executive Budget included only \$77.5M of the \$80M that IOLA requested for its FY26 grant appropriation.**

IOLA contends that the full \$80M appropriation is warranted, based on the following:

- (a) the Executive Chamber recognized IOLA as a fiduciary fund in the recently executed agreement and characterized IOLA as a fiduciary fund in the Executive Budget,
- (b) IOLA's current revenue balance is more than sufficient and is approximately \$11M higher than IOLA had forecasted when it submitted its budget request in October 2024, and
- (c) declining IOLA's full appropriation would *not* augment the State's general fund or other government programs because IOLA revenue is from attorney escrow accounts (not tax dollars) and the Executive Chamber has agreed not to sweep or suballocate IOLA revenue to other programs.

IOLA's FY26 \$80M grant request is integrated into the IOLA Board's five year, \$600M grantmaking plan that it passed in June 2024 (2024 IOLA Grant Plan). Across the five years, the 2024 IOLA Grant Plan contains an overall balance of 75% of IOLA's grantmaking for CLS grantees and 25% for AOJ grantees, which it accomplishes through three grantmaking initiatives: (1) \$562.5M for five year operating grants (which were announced in December 2024), (2) \$17.5M for supplemental AOJ grantmaking (e.g., for new grantees, capacity building grants, or other project-based initiatives), and (3) \$20M for systemic improvements through the Justice Infrastructure Project.

Subject to an increase in its grant appropriation in the final enacted FY26 Budget, the IOLA Fund will need to pause development of the FY26 grant opportunities contemplated in the 2024 IOLA Grant Plan.

## 2. FY26-FY30 Procurement

The procurement record for the FY26-FY30 RFP has been submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller for approval.

Of the 88 grantees that received an IOLA grant award for FY26-FY30, 60 organizations have submitted all required contract documents, 24 organizations have completed their contract goals and budgets, and one organization has declined the IOLA grant (which will be discussed in Executive Session). Once the procurement record is approved, IOLA will be poised to move quickly to execute the contracts and make timely payments.

Attached are a few grantees' press releases relating to their IOLA award that were shared with our office.

## 3. IOLA Operations

**IOLA Staff.** The FY26 Executive Budget appropriation for IOLA included authority to add two new staff positions: a government affairs coordinator and a program examiner. Upon enactment of the final FY26 Budget, IOLA intends to recruit for the vacant administrative assistant position plus the two new positions.

**Lease update.** IOLA's office lease expires November 30, 2025. To assist with the decision of whether to obtain new office space or extend our current lease and to aid with the lease negotiations on the selected property, the IOLA Fund has engaged a broker (at no cost to IOLA). Upon review of the IOLA Fund's space needs, the anticipated addition of three full-time employees, and current lease terms as well as inspecting approximately 12 alternative office spaces in the same neighborhood, IOLA staff have identified four options that would provide a greater value to the IOLA Fund in terms of price, space, and amenities than the current office space. In Executive Session, we can discuss the particulars of the potential lease options.

Following my report, I offer a resolution for the Board's consideration authorizing the IOLA staff to negotiate and execute a new lease as well as arrange for our relocation on or before November 30, 2025.

**AES Project.** The IOLA Fund is working to improve its IOLA account data, including contact information for the attorney account holders. Although IOLA regulations require attorneys to notify the IOLA Fund within thirty days of establishing a new IOLA account, many attorneys fail to do so. The IOLA Fund will seek to improve its attorney data through an online Attorney Enrollment System (AES) website, the information from which will integrate with our primary database. Ultimately, we envision that this tool

would be available to both attorneys and law firm administrators associated with NY IOLA accounts. Our goal is to complete this data project, including attorney outreach, by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

#### 4. Justice Infrastructure Project

**Statewide Support Function.** IOLA hosted a hybrid convening on January 16, 2025 (with 70 people from 63 grantees) to brainstorm around the Justice Infrastructure Project's Statewide Support Function. The group conversation coalesced around three primary goals: reducing duplication, enhancing quality, and amplifying impact of the existing functions and services of the grantee community.

Following the convening, IOLA organized Consulting Groups to develop recommendations on four topics: (1) Services, (2) Governance & Structure, (3) Funding & Sustainability, and (4) Collective Participation & Implementation. Altogether, the Consulting Groups include 39 people from 35 grantee organizations.

**Training.** Regarding the Cybersecurity Improvement and Technical Assistance Project (CyTAP), IOLA's technical consultant, Just-Tech, has:

1. Supported a cohort of 5 grantee organizations to implement Multi-Factor Authentication.
2. Started work on a cohort of select grantees to implement Single Sign On.
3. Hosting an on-going **AI University**, an AI training program for IOLA grantees, which combines content presentation from leading experts, provision of free licenses to AI tools, and convening of small groups of grantee staff to work on projects to practice with the tools. To date, over 260 individual participants from grantee organizations have participated. (See [attached report](#) for details.)

**Justice Infrastructure Project Readiness Grants.** A preliminary reconciliation of FY25 grant funds and spending indicates that at least \$2M remains available. Before the grant appropriation lapses, and to maximize the use of these funds, we recommend issuing small Justice Infrastructure Project Readiness Grants to the 87 organizations that were recently awarded IOLA operating grants, in the amount of \$30,000 for CLS grantees and \$20,000 for AOJ grantees, to facilitate their preparation and alignment with the goals of the Justice Infrastructure Project.

Following my report, I offer a [resolution](#) for the Board's consideration to authorize these discretionary awards.

## 5. Announcements

**IOLA Meet & Greet Receptions.** IOLA has scheduled a series of four informal receptions throughout New York State, welcoming grantees to meet IOLA leadership. IOLA Board members are invited to attend. Please note that the Syracuse reception will take place in the same space and immediately follow the regular scheduled IOLA Board meeting. (See [attached flyer](#) for location and RSVP details.)

**Equal Justice Conference & NAIP Pre-Conference Meeting.** The IOLA Fund's Executive Director and General Counsel plan to attend the Equal Justice Conference sponsored by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, along with a pre-conference meeting hosted by the National Association of IOLTA Programs, which will be held in San Francisco, CA from May 14-17, 2025.

**Permanent Commission on Access to Justice 2024 Report.** The Permanent Commission released its 2024 Report. The co-chairs' cover letter to the Report offers an executive summary and is [attached](#). The full report and appendices are available here: <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/accesstojusticecommission/annual.shtml>

## 6. Goals for the Next Board Meeting

By the next Board meeting, we have identified the following goals:

- Work with OSC to obtain approval of the FY26-FY30 grant procurement.
- Work with our grantees to revise goals and budgets and otherwise ensure the prompt execution of the FY26-FY30 grant contracts.
- Distribute Justice Infrastructure Project Readiness Grants.
- Advance the Justice Infrastructure Project, including support of the (a) Consulting Groups' work on the statewide support function, (b) planning for a convening relating to the legal information and referral function, and (c) continued efforts of the cybersecurity and technical assistance project.
- Advance plans for securing office space.
- Advance the development and integration of attorney data into our banking database through the AES Project.
- Conduct the IOLA Meet & Greet receptions.
- Subject to enactment of the final FY26 State Budget, recruit for open IOLA staff positions.

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK**

**March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, since 2000, the IOLA Fund has leased its office space at 11 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1405, New York, NY.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the terms of the office lease, the lease will expire November 30, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the IOLA Fund anticipates expanding its staff by at least three full-time employees.

**WHEREAS**, available office space in the same neighborhood may offer a greater value in terms of price, space, and amenities than the current office space.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(e), the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund has the power to “allocate funds for the actual and necessary nonpersonnel administrative costs of the [IOLA] program” and pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board may “perform all other acts necessary or proper for the fulfillment of the purpose of the fund and its effective administration” and “assign[] or delegate[]” duties to the Executive Director.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(h), “[a]ll payments from the IOLA fund shall be made by the state comptroller upon certification and authorization of the board of trustees of the fund.”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff to hire a real estate agent and counsel to assist the IOLA Fund in renegotiation of its current lease or engage in lease negotiations for new office space; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff to take all actions consistent with this Resolution, including but not limited to signing a lease renewal of its current office space or signing a lease for new office space, and arranging for an office move on or before November 30, 2025, all so as to fulfill the purpose of the Fund and its effective administration.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK  
March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, in light of the IOLA Fund’s articulated goal to invest in the Justice Infrastructure Project, the vision of which is to enhance the delivery system of civil legal aid in New York, IOLA’s available revenue currently on hand, and the directive in IOLA’s enabling statute to “insure that grants and contracts are made with not-for-profit providers of civil legal services ... to provide stable, economical, and high-quality delivery of civil legal services to the poor throughout the state.” SFL §97-v(3)(f).

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(a), the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund has the power to, *inter alia*, “distribute funds as grants and contracts to not-for-profit tax-exempt entities[.]”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(h), “[a]ll payments from the IOLA fund shall be made by the state comptroller upon certification and authorization of the board of trustees of the fund.”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board may “perform all other acts necessary or proper for the fulfillment of the purpose of the fund and its effective administration” and “assign[] or delegate[]” duties to the Executive Director.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund of New York allocates a total of \$2,000,000 for Justice Infrastructure Project Readiness grants, to be allocated to grantees in the distribution amounts outlined in the attached grantee certification list, which shall be expended by the end of FY2025, including the lapsing period;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to the Board’s powers and duties under State Finance Law § 97-v and 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11), as detailed above, the Board certifies and authorizes the payment of such funds;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff, to take all



actions consistent with this Resolution so as to fulfill the purpose of the Fund and its effective administration.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

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

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

## GRANT CERTIFICATION FOR BUSINESS UNIT IOL01

The Chair and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York do hereby affirm that all grants to the organizations listed herein were awarded by the Trustees at a duly convened meeting on Wednesday, March 12, and further, do certify that all organizations were selected pursuant to the requirements of Section 97-v of the State Finance Law, the regulations of the Trustees and the Fund's published grant guidelines and procedures.

CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS		
1	Bronx Defenders, The	\$ 30,000
2	Brooklyn Defender Services	\$ 30,000
3	Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A	\$ 30,000
4	CAMBA, Inc.	\$ 30,000
5	Community Development Project, Inc. (D/B/A TakeRoot Justice)	\$ 30,000
6	Empire Justice Center	\$ 30,000
7	Frank H Hiscock Legal Aid Society	\$ 30,000
8	Hudson Valley Justice Center	\$ 30,000
9	Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo	\$ 30,000
10	Legal Aid Society (NYC), The	\$ 30,000
11	Legal Aid Society of Mid NY	\$ 30,000
12	Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY	\$ 30,000
13	Legal Aid Society of Rochester NY	\$ 30,000
14	Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.	\$ 30,000
15	Legal Services NYC	\$ 30,000
16	Legal Services of Central New York, Inc.	\$ 30,000
17	Legal Services of Long Island	\$ 30,000
18	Legal Services of the Hudson Valley	\$ 30,000
19	Mobilization for Justice, Inc.	\$ 30,000
20	Neighborhood Defender Services	\$ 30,000
21	Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.	\$ 30,000
22	New York Legal Assistance Group	\$ 30,000
23	Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation	\$ 30,000
24	Rural Law Center	\$ 30,000
25	Urban Justice Center	\$ 30,000
26	Western New York Law Center	\$ 30,000
<b>Total for CLS</b>		<b>\$ 780,000</b>

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS		
1	Access Justice Brooklyn (F/K/A Brooklyn Bar Association VLP)	\$ 20,000
2	Advocates for Children of New York	\$ 20,000
3	African Communities Together	\$ 20,000
4	African Services Committee	\$ 20,000
5	Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund (D/B/A City Bar Justice Center)	\$ 20,000
6	Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project	\$ 20,000
7	Catholic Charities Community Services	\$ 20,000
8	Catholic Migration Services	\$ 20,000
9	Center for Community Justice	\$ 20,000
10	Center for Elder Law and Justice	\$ 20,000
11	Center for Family Representation	\$ 20,000
12	Central American Legal Assistance	\$ 20,000
13	Central American Refugee Center	\$ 20,000
14	Child and Family Services of Erie County	\$ 20,000
15	Children's Law Center	\$ 20,000

16	Community Service Society of New York	\$	20,000
17	Day One	\$	20,000
18	Disability Advocates Inc	\$	20,000
19	Door-A Center for Alternatives, The	\$	20,000
20	Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project	\$	20,000
21	Family Center	\$	20,000
22	Family Legal Care (F/K/A LIFT)	\$	20,000
23	Gay Mens Health Crisis	\$	20,000
24	Goddard Riverside Community Center	\$	20,000
25	Her Justice	\$	20,000
26	Hope's Door	\$	20,000
27	Housing Conservation Coordinators	\$	20,000
28	Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative, Inc.	\$	20,000
29	Immigration Equality Inc	\$	20,000
30	Jewish Association for Services for the Aged	\$	20,000
31	Journey's End Refugee Services	\$	20,000
32	Just Cause (Volunteer Legal Services of Monroe County)	\$	20,000
33	KIND Inc	\$	20,000
34	LatinoJustice PRLDEF	\$	20,000
35	Lawyers Alliance for New York	\$	20,000
36	Legal Action Center	\$	20,000
37	Long Island Advocacy Center	\$	20,000
38	Make the Road	\$	20,000
39	My Sisters Place	\$	20,000
40	National Center for Law & Economic Justice	\$	20,000
41	Neighbors Link Corporation	\$	20,000
42	New Economy Project	\$	20,000
43	New York County Lawyers Association	\$	20,000
44	New York Immigration Coalition, The	\$	20,000
45	New York Justice for Our Neighbors	\$	20,000
46	New York Lawyers for the Public Interest	\$	20,000
47	New York State Dispute Resolution Association	\$	20,000
48	Part of the Solution	\$	20,000
49	Pro Bono Net	\$	20,000
50	Pro Bono Partnership	\$	20,000
51	RiseBoro Community Partnership Inc.	\$	20,000
52	Safe Horizon	\$	20,000
53	Safe Passage Project	\$	20,000
54	Sanctuary for Families	\$	20,000
55	Unity House of Troy	\$	20,000
56	UnLocal, Inc.	\$	20,000
57	Urban Resource Institute	\$	20,000
58	Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc.	\$	20,000
59	Volunteers of Legal Services	\$	20,000
60	Worker Justice Center	\$	20,000
61	Youth Represent	\$	20,000
<b>Total for AOJ</b>			<b>\$ 1,220,000</b>

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Mary Rothwell Davis, Esq. - Board Chair

Date

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Paula Galowitz, Esq. - Treasurer

Date

# IOLA MEET & GREETINGS

# 2025

**MARCH  
19**

**NEW YORK CITY**

9:30 AM

**HOST:** CITY BAR JUSTICE CENTER  
42 WEST 44TH STREET, NEW YORK  
2ND FLOOR RECEPTION

**APRIL  
14**

**BUFFALO**

11 AM

**HOST:** ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
438 MAIN STREET, BUFFALO  
SUN ROOM AUDITORIUM (1ST FL CHECK-IN)

**MAY  
6**

**ALBANY**

11 AM

**HOST:** LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN NY  
95 CENTRAL AVENUE, ALBANY  
CONFERENCE ROOM

**JUNE  
4**

**SYRACUSE**

3 PM

**HOST:** VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT OF CNY  
221 SOUTH WARREN STREET, SYRACUSE  
1ST FLOOR EDUCATION ROOM

RSVP TO [IOLAGRANTS@IOLA.ORG](mailto:IOLAGRANTS@IOLA.ORG)



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

## Exciting News About Our Latest IOLA Award!

- January 23, 2025 / [Brooklyn A News](#)

Dear friends,

I am delighted to share an exciting announcement to kick off the new year: Brooklyn A has been awarded our highest allocation ever from the Interest on Lawyers Account (IOLA) Fund of the State of New York! **Our next contract is for \$6.3 million over five years.\*** This is a significant increase of our past award by IOLA, dramatically broadening the horizons for our work and helping to ensure our strength and stability for the next half-decade.

The IOLA fund is a pool of money accumulated through interest earned on certain attorney escrow accounts which are impacted by the real estate market—it's independent of tax revenue and a unique resource for civil legal service providers.

This award represents an incredible affirmation of the organization that we are today. When we were awarded our first IOLA grant after we disassociated from LSNYC, it was amidst the fallout of the real estate market crash of 2008 and we were tremendously happy to become a new grantee in that difficult real estate and fiscal environment. I am so deeply proud of Brooklyn A's tremendous growth in the ensuing years. We have met challenges and also had amazing victories. For example, we helped to launch and develop the City's Right to Counsel program, which guarantees representation for low-income and senior tenants in housing court—we now represent tenants in both Brooklyn and Queens. We also launched and have been the lead legal service provider for the City's Department of Small Business Services Commercial Lease Assistance Program for almost 10 years—providing game changing transactional legal assistance to small businesses across the city, helping them to survive and grow and continue to be a vital piece of the fabric of our neighborhoods. Our team weathered the pandemic and we have only blossomed in the years since—further expanding our staff, adding new programs (such as our Domestic Violence program), and opening new offices. This IOLA funding will allow Brooklyn A to continue setting our sights on new goals, reach new heights, and ensure that our staff are well supported and can sustain careers at Brooklyn A.

It's important to note that the grant funding is still subject to IOLA's budget appropriation, which Brooklyn A has been vocal in defending along with our peers. Last year, Gov. Kathy

Hochul initiated a “sweep” of \$55 million from the IOLA fund despite objections from countless service provider organizations and the private bar. We applaud the \$77,500,000 in appropriation authority to IOLA, including clarification of IOLA as a Fiduciary Fund, in the executive budget for SFY 2026 released by Governor Hochul this week. Brooklyn A together with its peer providers across the state will continue to be a voice to ensure that the fund, which enables vitally important services across the city and state, is protected.

While there is much work to be done, today we celebrate. With tremendous gratitude to the IOLA Fund and its Board of Trustees, to our staff, Board, and the broader Brooklyn A community.

Jessica Rose, Esq.

Executive Director

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

\* Awards are subject to available IOLA funding, the State of New York Contract for Grants, and the IOLA Fund’s appropriation under the NYS Budget.

# Hope's Door Receives \$800,000 Grant to Expand Legal Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

The Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) Fund has awarded Hope'sDoor an \$800,000 grant to expand its legal services program for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Westchester County. The 5-year grant will fund the placement of an attorney at Family Courts throughout the County, providing critical legal assistance that will benefit an estimated 5000 individuals impacted by intimate partner violence (IPV).

Hope's Door, which has over 40 years of experience supporting victims of domestic violence, launched its legal services program in 2018. The agency specializes in offering free, trauma informed and culturally competent legal services. Its legal staff is adept at navigating the judicial system and understanding its effect on IPV survivors.

"This funding enables us to place a dedicated attorney directly in Family Courts, ensuring survivors receive immediate and comprehensive legal support," stated Stacey Neumann, Chief of Legal Services and Human Resources.

Survivors often turn to Family Court following an incident of violence, facing an array of challenges, including fear of retaliation, lack of legal knowledge, and uncertainty about available protections. The presence of an attorney in the courthouse at the outset of a case can provide crucial support, ensuring access to justice and enhancing victim safety.

Neumann added "This vital addition ensures that survivors of intimate partner violence receive immediate, trauma-informed legal support during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives."

The IOLA funded attorney will assist with drafting family offense petitions, representing petitioners at

their first court appearance, and offering ongoing representation throughout the family offense case.

This continuity of care mitigates the need for survivors to repeat their traumatic experiences to multiple

providers, ensuring seamless and compassionate legal support.

The Hope's Door legal team, including attorneys and advocates, will work together to support clients

through the entire legal process. If you or someone you know is in need of domestic violence services,

text "Help" or call the Hope's Door 24/7/365 Hotline at 888.438.8700.

Hope's Door is a non-profit, 501 (c ) (3) charity that seeks to end domestic violence and to empower victims to achieve safety,

independence, and healing from the trauma of abuse. For more information, go to

[www.HopesDoorNY.org](http://www.HopesDoorNY.org) or call our offices at

914-747-0828. For free and confidential help, text "Help" or call our 24/7/365 bilingual Hotline at 888-438-8700.



February 5, 2025

Author: The BCW

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Leave a Comment

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# Stabilized IOLA Fund Increases Grant to the City Bar Justice Center

## CONTACT

Anthony Johnson  
City Bar Justice Center  
[anthonyjohnson@nycbar.org](mailto:anthonyjohnson@nycbar.org)

**New York, February 6, 2025** – The [City Bar Justice Center](#), a pro bono civil legal aid affiliate of the New York City Bar Association, is excited to announce that the New York State [Interest on Lawyers Account Fund \(IOLA\)](#) has increased its support to our organization as part of a historic, five-year grant plan intended to boost support for those in greatest need of civil legal assistance across New York State. The Justice Center provides high-quality, free civil legal services benefiting over 25,000 New Yorkers in need each year throughout New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley, helping individuals and families vindicate rights and achieve social and economic stability.

Previously, IOLA supported the Justice Center and dozens of other providers with two-year grants. Following the [unprecedented raid on IOLA funds by](#) New York State in 2024, however, and a [recent settlement agreement among IOLA, New York State, and several bar associations – including the Justice Center’s affiliated New York City Bar Association](#) – IOLA’s new five-year grant program helps to ensure that IOLA grantees have more secure, longer-term support. This extended grant period and overall increase in funding offers legal aid organizations and their volunteers added peace of mind that revenue is more likely to remain available no matter what political or economic turmoil occurs.

Between FY 2026 and 2030, IOLA will support the City Bar Justice Center with \$6M for the Justice Center’s Legal Hotline, Consumer Bankruptcy Project, Elder Law Project, Immigrant Justice Project, Shelter Advocacy Project ([formerly the Legal Clinic for the Homeless](#)), and pro bono and strategic initiatives, as well as a social work support program first launched in part by IOLA’s 2023-25 grant to the Justice Center. In addition, through a sub-grant, IOLA’s award to the City Bar Justice Center will support the [Housing Justice Leadership Institute](#) at New York Law School, which trains supervising attorneys who support New York’s expanding housing court right to counsel initiative.

The City Bar Justice Center’s Executive Director, Kurt M. Denk, said, “We are thrilled that IOLA recognized the vital need for expanded and more secure legal aid funding, and that so many fought to protect these funds from improper seizure by New York State. The need for civil legal aid is perhaps greater than ever, and our organization knows from experience that pro bono-supported legal services translate into a family or individual securing or remaining in stable housing; accessing medical care or other vital life essentials; the life-or-death outcome of asylum-seekers starting a new life away from the threat of persecution; and more.”

The City Bar Justice Center is deeply grateful to everyone involved in the grantmaking—and grant saving—process at IOLA.

### **About the City Bar Justice Center**

*The City Bar Justice Center furthers access to justice by addressing unmet civil legal needs of New Yorkers struggling with poverty and other systemic socioeconomic barriers. The Justice Center's dozen civil justice projects are led by a staff of dedicated attorneys and support professionals who provide high-quality civil legal services through brief advice and information, referrals, and both limited scope and extended representation that benefit more than 25,000 New Yorkers each year who cannot afford to hire counsel. [www.citybarjusticecenter.org](http://www.citybarjusticecenter.org)*



## New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice

Co-Chairs: Hon. Christina Ryba • Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally • Janet Sabel, Esq.  
Chair Emerita: Helaine M. Barnett, Esq.

November 30, 2024

Hon. Rowan D. Wilson  
Chief Judge of the State of New York  
230 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10169

Dear Chief Judge Wilson:

As Co-Chairs, we are pleased to forward the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and we are honored to carry on the legacy of Helaine M. Barnett, the founding Chair (now Chair Emerita).

Helaine productively led the Permanent Commission for approximately fifteen years, and we take this opportunity to commend her work and thank her for her vision and leadership. We plan to build on her legacy by emulating her tireless focus and dedication to improving access to justice throughout New York State. We also acknowledge the upcoming retirement of our dedicated and irreplaceable Staff Counsel, Barbara Mulé. While we congratulate Barbara on her decades of public service and contributions to the Permanent Commission, we will miss the institutional knowledge and passion she brings.

Throughout the year, the Permanent Commission continued to conduct research, including the collection and analysis of data, to assess unmet civil legal needs. In August, the Pay Parity Survey was administered, the results of which demonstrated the recruitment and retention crisis that legal services providers are facing due to their inability to pay competitive salaries. In September, we were privileged to assist you in planning the civil legal services public hearing, where you presided. The presentations from individuals and legal services providers from across the State further demonstrated the nature and significant extent of the current unmet civil legal needs of low-income earners.

To help meet those significant civil legal needs and close the justice gap, the Permanent Commission recommends a significant increase in funding for civil legal services and fully supports the Judiciary's FY 2026 Budget Request that includes a \$45.5 million increase to the Civil Legal Services program for a total of \$150 million. The additional funding will support staff retention and recruitment efforts by civil legal services providers that are critical to maintain existing services, address infrastructure needs and technology shortfalls, as well as expand access to legal services in the most critical areas of need.

Also this year, the Permanent Commission's five Working Groups studied issues of critical importance to the delivery of legal services. Three of the Working Groups are long-standing (Housing, Technology and Law School Involvement) and two were established this year (Expanding Legal Roles and Rural Justice). Key findings and recommendations include:

- Significant barriers to justice exist for litigants whose housing matters are heard in the Town and Village Courts outside New York City. To promote the fair and consistent adjudication of eviction cases, the Permanent Commission recommends increasing judicial training requirements; collecting and reporting eviction data; implementing streamlined and standardized processes and procedures; and expanding consolidated housing parts and diversion programs.
- Legal deserts exist across the rural regions of the State impeding access to legal services. The Permanent Commission recommends the formulation of programs to increase the number of rural practitioners, including through collaboration with law schools.
- The Permanent Commission found that the justice gap in New York cannot be solved solely through an increase in the availability of legal services lawyers and recommends the consideration of options to create new categories of non-lawyer legal professionals to best complement and supplement the essential work of the civil legal services community in substantive areas of highest demand.

Finally, the Permanent Commission hosted the annual law school conference, which included a robust discussion on Artificial Intelligence and its potential to enhance the provision of civil legal services. We also held our annual virtual Statewide Stakeholders meeting, which featured the five recipients of the OCA Access to Justice Grant Initiative, addressed the role of social media in broadening stakeholder involvement in local initiatives, and considered how expanding legal role efforts nationally are critical to closing the justice gap.

As newly appointed Co-Chairs, we are grateful to have been provided the opportunity to lead the Permanent Commission and to continue collaborating with its members, who represent diverse perspectives and present creative solutions to challenging access to justice issues. We are pleased that the members of the Permanent Commission unanimously support the findings and recommendations in this Report.

We thank you for your support and look forward to our continued work together in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Hon. Christina L. Ryba*  
*Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally*  
*Janet Sabel, Esq.*

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Prepared by: Michele D. Agard  
Director of Administration

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**A. Financial Statement January 2025**

**IOLA Fund of the State of New York  
Financial Statement January 2025**

**NYS IOLA Cash Balance: December 31, 2024** **\$ 568,471,775.00**

**Adjustments:**

Deposit Revenue: January 2025 \$ 16,541,654.00

Deposit STIP Revenue: January 2025 2,262,168.00

IOLA Admin Expense: January 2025 **\$ (186,629.00)**

IOLA Grant Expense - January **\$ (6,597,895.00)**

**SUB-TOTAL** **\$ 12,019,298.00**

**Opening  
February 1, 2025  
Cash Balance:** **\$ 580,491,073.00**



## **B. Consolidated Bank & Revenue Report**

## Monthly Bank Overview

### Summary

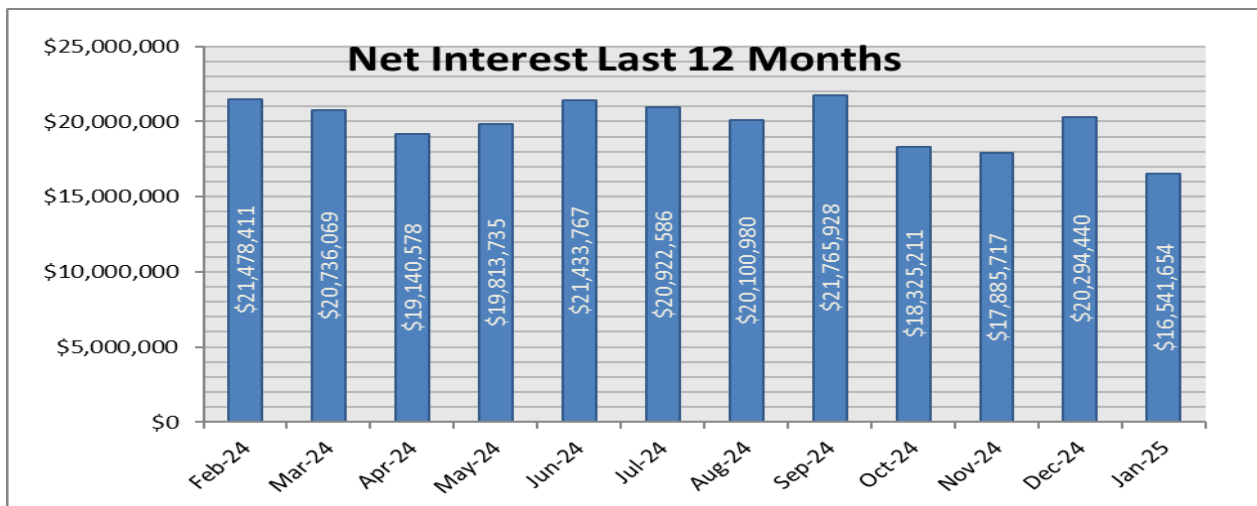
For the January, 2025 earnings period as shown below, 125 banks reported gross interest of over \$16.54M. Service fees were at \$119,106 which were typical for January. For the month, 43,617 accounts maintained average daily balances just under \$8.7B (which is below the twelve month average of \$8.9B). The gross yield on these accounts, meaning the effective interest rate before fees, was 2.26% for the period, and 2.24% net yield, meaning the return to the Fund after service charges were deducted, which is very good and indicates service fees that are well under control. **Exhibit 1a** displays a chart of the top 30 banks sorted by the amount of balances held at each (as those banks holding the largest balances have the greatest impact on revenue).

# of Banks Reporting*	Gross Interest	Service Charges	Net Interest	Avg. Daily Balance	Num Accts.	Gross Yield %	Net Yield %
125	16,660,761.50	119,105.62	16,541,654.13	8,683,418,240	43,617	2.26%	2.24%

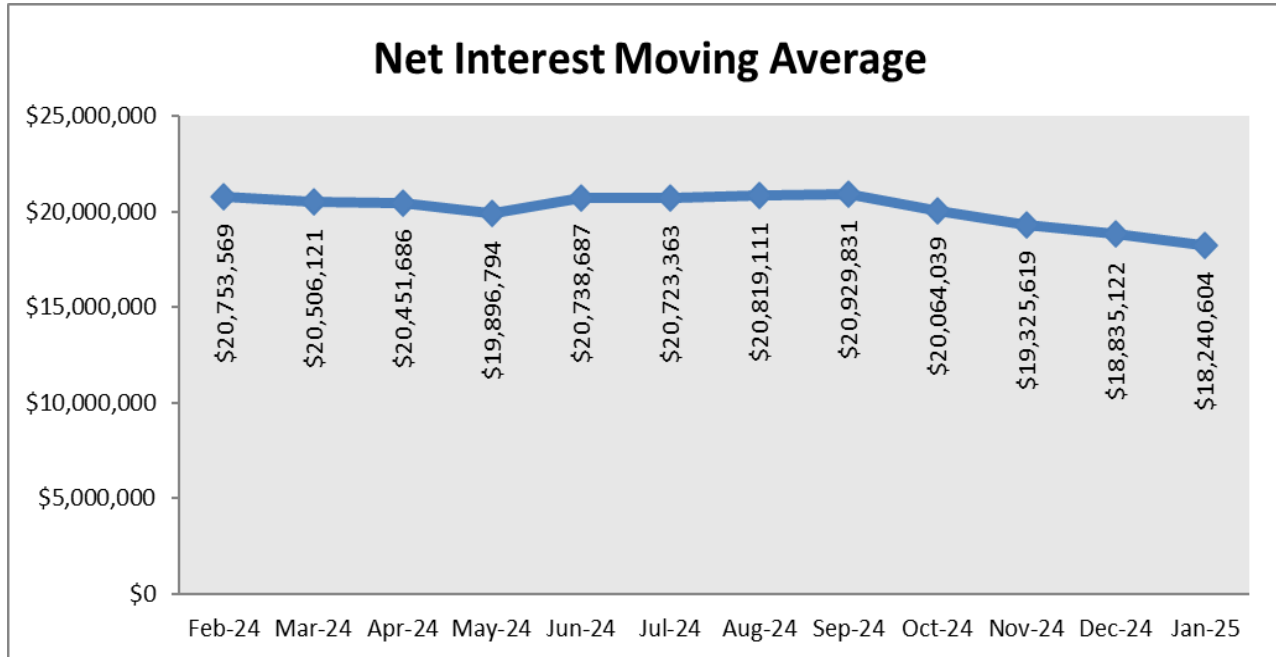
Key Index Rates as of January 1, 2025	
Fed Funds Target Rate (upper range)	4.50%
NY IOLA Benchmark Rate	2.70%
Platinum Partner Rate	2.70%
Gold Partner Rate	2.25%

### Key Metrics-Historical

Looking at several key metrics for IOLA over the past twelve months, we note that net interest (gross interest after service fees) has generally ranged from a low of \$16.5M in January 2025 to a high of nearly \$21.5M in February 2024. January’s earnings are the lowest in the past 12 months and are below the 12 month average of \$19.87M.

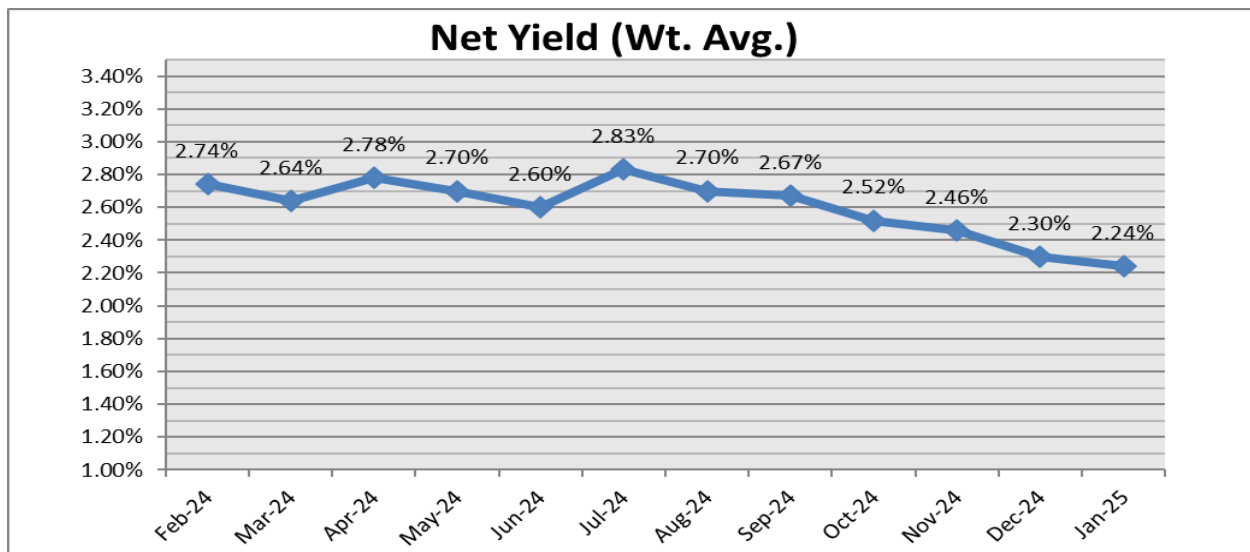


The chart below uses a three month moving average to smooth out the quarterly payments. As can be seen, the net interest moving average as of January is \$18.24M, down from its peak in September. Balances have dropped somewhat from their high in June 2022 of \$10.7B to \$8.68B in January 2025.

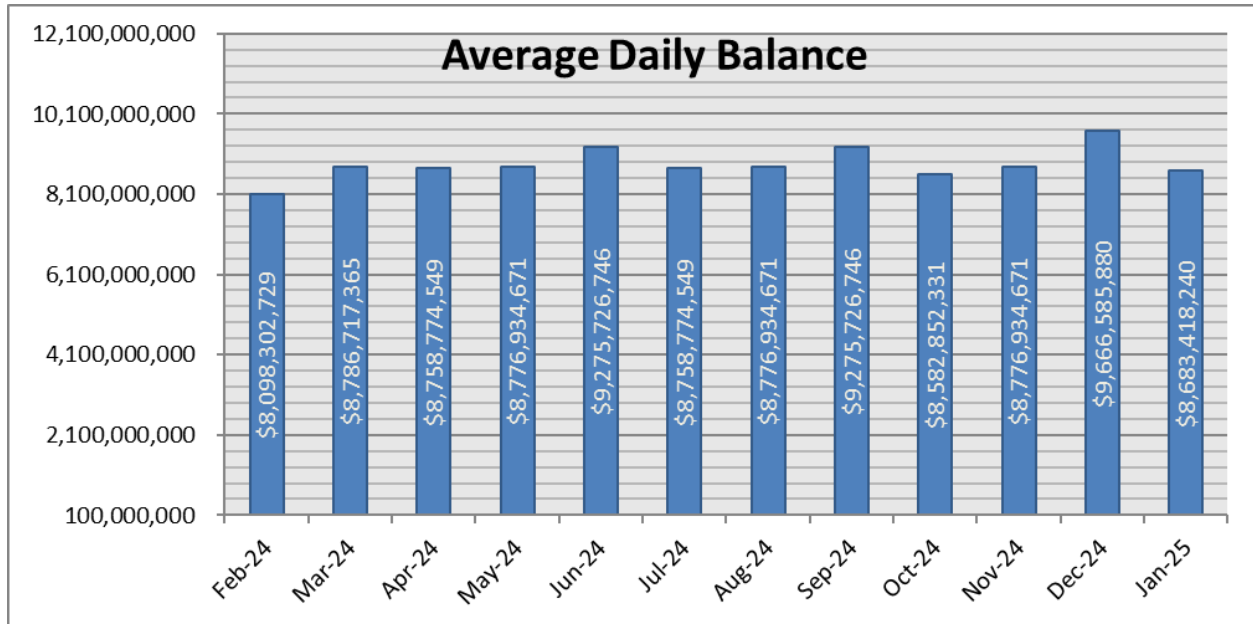


Moving to the factors that influence IOLA revenue, the first is the interest rates earned on all IOLA's and second is the balances maintained in those accounts.

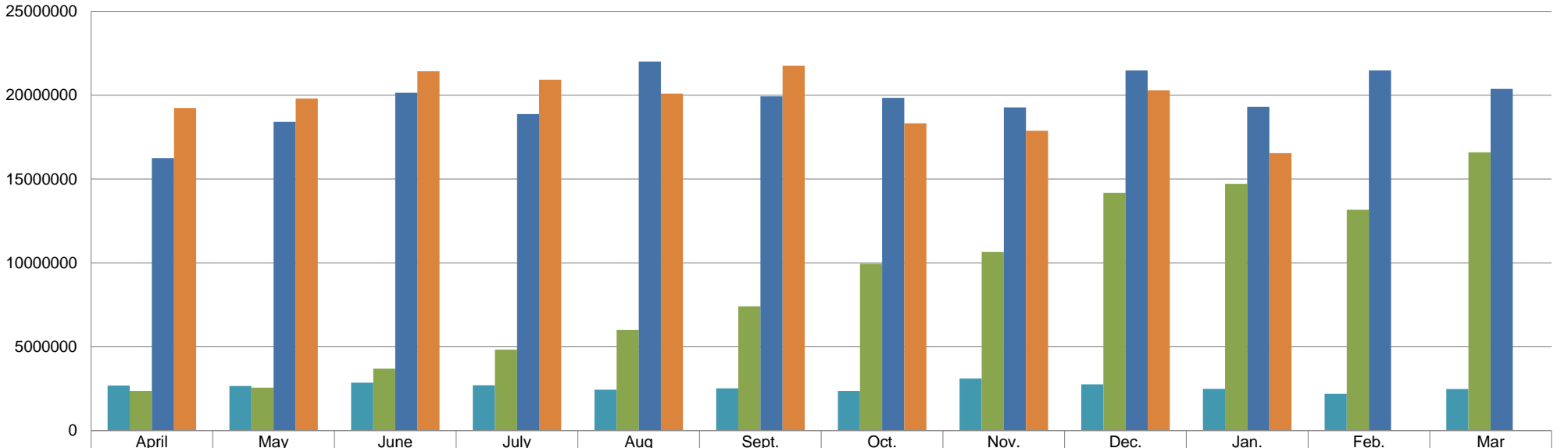
Rates prior to October have been relatively flat over the last 12 months fluctuating between 2.60% and 2.83% since 2023. January's net yield comes in at 2.24%. This is in line with the Fed Funds Target Rate decrease of 50 basis points in September and the two 25bp cuts in November and December. Yields should remain fairly steady over the next few months given the Fed's temporary pause on rate cuts.



The second of the two factors that determines IOLA revenue is the amount of average balances being held in IOLA depositories. Again, looking at the past twelve months, we see balances generally ranging from \$8.10B to \$9.67B. January's number comes in at \$8.68B down from \$9.66B in December. However, December, and all calendar quarter months, are generally higher than average due to quarterly reporting banks.



IOLA Monthly Revenue Comparison FY'22 - FY'25



	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar
fy 22	2680051	2662913	2857667	2703240	2437269	2520539	2365175	3106185	2757457	2487618	2193419	2478393
fy 23	2363276	2563224	3695642	4823739	6010338	7413331	9942949	10661811	14169654	14716254	13175426	16590627
fy 24	16247620	18417161	20147020	18871413	22006092	19931433	19846313	19271018	21478411	19303883	21478411	20376069
fy 25	19239187	19800437	21429625	20922586	20100980	21765928	18325210	17885717	20294440	16541654		

fy 22 fy 23 fy 24 fy 25

# EXHIBIT 1a

## Monthly Banks Summary - Top 30 Banks by ADB

For Earnings Period of January, 2025

Bank Name	Bank No.	Gross	SVC	Net	Bank ADB	Num Accts.	Gross Yld per Bank ADB	Net Yld per Bank ADB	Avg Acct. Net	Avg Acct. ADB
J.P. Morgan Chase	62	5,218,925.74	50,773.85	5,168,151.89	2,786,270,371	13,968	2.21	2.18	370.00	375,775
Citibank	171	2,523,725.26	0.00	2,523,725.26	1,119,391,337	8,100	2.65	2.65	311.57	231,088
M&T Bank	152	1,404,906.42	0.00	1,404,906.42	612,588,562	2,449	2.70	2.70	573.67	250,165
Webster Bank	46	1,202,278.95	11,518.24	1,190,760.71	524,368,741	1,343	2.7	2.67	886.64	390,388
flagstar	125	1,053,333.87	12,558.64	1,040,775.23	450,604,986	1,319	2.75	2.72	789.06	348,248
Bank of America	153	870,746.57	0.00	870,746.57	379,835,141	2,210	2.70	2.70	394.00	171,817
TD Bank, NA	118	739,380.56	0.00	739,380.56	362,733,771	2,583	2.40	2.40	286.25	140,431
Dime Community Bank	149	43,350.18	3,240.00	40,110.18	272,016,556	440	0.19	0.17	91.16	580,015
Key Bank Services Corp.	21	473,100.45	12,890.24	460,210.21	203,224,056	1,467	2.74	2.67	313.71	138,474
Capital One	173	256,452.53	5,542.64	250,909.89	180,188,149	1,451	1.68	1.64	172.92	122,411
Orange Bank & Trust Company	41	28,546.28	0.00	28,546.28	147,639,033	382	0.23	0.23	74.73	459,591
Valley National Bank	148	331,585.76	3,727.39	327,858.37	145,650,193	324	2.68	2.65	1,011.91	446,291
Citizens Bank, N.A.	90	278,264.02	0.00	278,264.02	123,892,200	840	2.64	2.64	331.27	145,436
NBT Bank N.A.	135	227,672.99	0.00	227,672.99	99,283,790	377	2.70	2.70	603.91	263,353
Bank United	77	191,468.14	0.00	191,468.14	86,965,620	104	2.59	2.59	1,841.04	836,941
Wells Fargo	141	201,721.55	-	201,721.55	83,545,716	463	2.84	2.84	435.68	179,994
City National Bank/California	185	267,057.76	459.63	266,598.13	83,502,684	92	3.89	3.88	2,897.81	934,030
Community Bank, N.A.	175	153,651.72	3,223.70	150,428.02	68,110,688	543	2.66	2.60	277.03	123,397
Northfield Bank	48	67,801.66	1,976.30	65,825.36	61,955,651	529	1.29	1.25	124.43	116,084
First National Bank of Long Island	55	41,663.82	2,937.95	38,724.16	61,395,655	283	0.80	0.74	136.83	216,678
Northwest Savings Bank	40	123,977.07	0.00	123,977.07	54,063,953	274	2.70	2.70	452.47	197,314
ConnectOne Bank	200	44,149.79	-	44,149.79	47,647,838	63	1.09	1.09	700.79	756,995
Genesee Regional Bank	193	2,027.89	0.00	2,027.89	44,961,959	78	0.05	0.05	26.00	612,225
Tompkins Community Bank	224	36,824.62	0.00	36,824.62	44,138,959	235	0.98	0.98	156.70	182,731
East West Bank	161	99,505.66	0.00	99,505.66	43,813,303	91	2.67	2.67	1,093.47	483,358
Canandaigua National Bank & Trust Co.	22	15,720.20	2,039.98	13,680.22	42,184,187	289	0.44	0.38	47.34	223,349
Five Star Bank	39	85,630.26	3,010.66	82,619.60	37,360,563	155	2.70	2.60	533.03	240,915
Santander Bank	121	30,993.91	-	30,993.91	36,876,459	213	0.99	0.99	145.51	171327.83
New York Community Bank	66	64,084.58	1,951.64	62,132.94	27,989,265	308	2.70	2.61	201.73	90,734
Empire State Bank	151	8,440.99	344.08	8,096.91	22,238,810	51	0.45	0.43	158.76	437,589
	<b>30</b>	<b>16,086,989.20</b>	<b>116,194.94</b>	<b>15,970,792.55</b>	<b>8,254,438,196.00</b>	<b>41,024</b>	<b>2.30%</b>	<b>2.28%</b>		

## **C. Administrative Budget**

**NYS IOLA Fund**  
**Budget Appropriation Overview: FY2025-26**

	Prior Year Appropriation (FY25)	IOLA Request (FY26)	IOLA Request Change over Prior Year	Executive Budget (FY26)	Executive Budget Change over Prior Year
<b>STATE OPERATIONS</b>					
Personal Service	\$ 1,065,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 150,000
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,065,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
Supplies and Materials	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Travel	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Contractual Services	\$ 1,085,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 200,000
Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ 702,000	\$ 702,000	\$ -	\$ 792,000	\$ 90,000
Indirect Costs	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ -	\$ 38,000	\$ 4,000
<b>TOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,112,003</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,145,000</b>	<b>\$ 294,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 2,916,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,327,003</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,360,000</b>	<b>\$ 444,000</b>
<b>AID TO LOCALITIES</b>					
Grants	\$ 62,000,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 77,500,000	\$ 15,500,000
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 62,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,500,000</b>



## NYS IOLA Fund Functional Budget: FY2025-26

	Final Appropriation (FY26)	IOLA Budget (Functional) (FY26)	YTD (Functional) (Month ending: )
<b>STATE OPERATIONS</b>			
<b>PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ -
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -
<b>TRAVEL</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 22,000	\$ -
NYS (Board Mtg, Site Visits, Conferences, Govt Meetings)		\$ 9,000	
National (IOLTA, EJC, & ITC Conferences)		\$ 12,000	
Other		\$ 1,000	
<b>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 1,280,000	\$ -
Rental property		\$ 360,000	
Delta Boston (Banking)		\$ 100,000	
Delta Boston (Website Support)		\$ 10,000	
InfoLogistics (Banking database license and maintenance)		\$ 28,000	
Netsurit (IT Support)		\$ 22,000	
IT hardware/software		\$ 10,000	
Justice Infrastructure Project			
Stout		\$ 250,000	
Just Tech		\$ 275,000	
JIP - Other		\$ 175,000	
Other		\$ 50,000	
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	\$ 792,000	\$ 792,000	\$ -
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000	\$ -
<b>TOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 2,145,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,145,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 3,360,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,360,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>AID TO LOCALITIES</b>			
<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$ 77,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,750,000</b>
FY 26-30 Contracts	\$ 77,750,000	\$ 77,750,000	\$ 77,750,000
Justice Infrastructure Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL AID TO LOCALITIES</b>	<b>\$ 77,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,750,000</b>

**NYS IOLA Fund**  
**Variance Report**  
*As of January 31, 2025*

	Current Month	YTD	Cash Allocation
<b>STATE OPERATIONS</b>			
<b>PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 66,779</b>	<b>\$ 703,208</b>	<b>\$ 990,000</b>
50101 Regular Employee - Base Salary	\$ 64,693	\$ 652,207	
50107 Regular Employee - Lump Sum		\$ 25,141	
50108 Reg Employee-Additional Comp	\$ 2,086	\$ 25,860	
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 66,779</b>	<b>\$ 703,208</b>	<b>\$ 990,000</b>
<b>SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,985</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
57010 Food & Related Consum SupMat		\$ 1,061	
57032 Office Supplies		\$ 4,856	
57035 Reference Book/Mag/Map/Subscrip SM	\$ -	\$ 68	
<b>TRAVEL</b>	<b>\$ (3,832)</b>	<b>\$ 12,348</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
54010 Travel-Airplane	\$ -	\$ 3,790	
54011 Travel Card Unclassified	\$ (3,832)		
54013 Travel-Lodging	\$ -	\$ 3,451	
54014 Travel-Meals	\$ -	\$ 1,451	
54015 Travel-Mileage	\$ -	\$ 653	
54017 Travel-Parkg, Tolls, IncdnTls	\$ -	\$ 330	
54019 Travel-Public	\$ -	\$ 1,794	
54020 Travel-Rental	\$ -	\$ 494	
54021 Travel-Supplies	\$ -	\$ 7	
54022 Travel-Train	\$ -	\$ 298	
54023 Employee Travel- Per Diem	\$ -	\$ 80	
<b>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 78,490</b>	<b>\$ 516,310</b>	<b>\$ 1,120,000</b>
51010 Telephones		\$ 4,802	
51076 Security/Protection Software	\$ -	\$ -	
51090 Data Management Services	\$ 5,345	\$ 123,472	
51091 Internet Services	\$ -	\$ 2,849	
51092 IT Equipment M&S	\$ -	\$ 47	
51093 Software Maint & Support		\$ 4,232	
51104 Enhanced Telecommcnctn Services		\$ 2,278	
55010 Newspaper/Billboards (ADV/PubNot)		\$ 3,897	
55047 Client Services (Unclssfd)	\$ 15,589	\$ 70,956	
55050 In-state Conference, Workshops, Meeting &	\$ -	\$ 1,320	
55051 Out-of-state Conference, Workshops, Meeting &	\$ -	\$ 980	
55181 Custodial	\$ -	\$ 150	
55220 Shipping (Postage)	\$ -	\$ 420	
55205 Record Management Services	\$ -	\$ 18,436	
58201 RE - Rental	\$ 55,683	\$ 270,666	
58204 Tax escalation	\$ -		
58401 Prompt Payment Interest	\$ -		
58501 Memberships		\$ 2,429	
58971 Procurement Card Unclassified	\$ 1,873	\$ 9,376	
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,120</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
56009 Office Equipment R&M (include telephone)	\$ -	\$ 2,020	
56020 Equipment Lease	\$ -	\$ 100	
56040 Office Furniture	\$ -		
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 43,405</b>	<b>\$ 424,018</b>	<b>\$ 652,000</b>
60020 Fringe Benefits	\$ 43,405	\$ 424,018	\$ 652,000
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,787</b>	<b>\$ 17,460</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>
58801 Indirect Costs	\$ 1,787	\$ 17,460	\$ 28,000
<b>TOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 76,445</b>	<b>\$ 554,223</b>	<b>\$ 1,188,000</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 186,629</b>	<b>\$ 1,681,449</b>	<b>\$ 2,830,000</b>
<b>AID TO LOCALITIES</b>			
<b>Grants</b>			<b>\$ 62,000,000</b>
	FY 24 & FY 25 Contracts		\$ 60,000,000
	Justice Infrastructure Project		\$ -
	Other		\$ -
<b>TOTAL AID TO LOCALITIES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 62,000,000</b>

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK**

**March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s office released its Executive Budget for state expenditures on January 21, 2025 for FY 2025 – 2026, providing the IOLA Fund with a \$77.5 million appropriation for Aid to Localities and \$3.36 million appropriation for State Operations.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(a) and (e), the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund has the power to, *inter alia*, “distribute funds as grants and contracts to not-for-profit entities,” “employ . . . such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation[.]” and “allocate funds for the actual and necessary nonpersonnel administrative costs of the program[.]”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(h), “[a]ll payments from the IOLA fund shall be made by the state comptroller upon certification and authorization of the board of trustees of the fund.”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board may “perform all other acts necessary or proper for the fulfillment of the purpose of the fund and its effective administration” and “assign[] or delegate[]” duties to the Executive Director.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund of New York APPROVES the allocation of funds as set forth in the IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025 - 2026, attached herein to this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to the Board’s powers and duties under State Finance Law § 97-v and 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11), as detailed above, the Board certifies and authorizes the payment of funds consistent with the IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025 – 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff, to take all actions consistent with this Resolution, including but not limited to directing the payment of funds consistent with the IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025 – 2026 for the actual and necessary nonpersonnel administrative costs of the program so as to fulfill the purpose of the Fund and its effective administration.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

**NYS IOLA Fund**  
**Budget Appropriation Overview: FY2025-26**

	Prior Year Appropriation (FY25)	IOLA Request (FY26)	IOLA Request Change over Prior Year	Executive Budget (FY26)	Executive Budget Change over Prior Year
<b>STATE OPERATIONS</b>					
Personal Service	\$ 1,065,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 150,000
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,065,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
Supplies and Materials	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Travel	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Contractual Services	\$ 1,085,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 200,000
Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ 702,000	\$ 702,000	\$ -	\$ 792,000	\$ 90,000
Indirect Costs	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ -	\$ 38,000	\$ 4,000
<b>TOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,112,003</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,145,000</b>	<b>\$ 294,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 2,916,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,327,003</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,360,000</b>	<b>\$ 444,000</b>
<b>AID TO LOCALITIES</b>					
Grants	\$ 62,000,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 77,500,000	\$ 15,500,000
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 62,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,500,000</b>

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

Meeting of Trustees  
New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

### **Report of General Counsel**

Activities since the last meeting of the Trustees on December 17, 2024:

#### **Grantee Matters**

Relevant to the RFP for FY 26-30:

- 1) With Christine Fecko, attended 9 grant applicant debriefing meetings and drafted summary reports. (Dec 2024 and Jan 2025).
- 2) With Christine Fecko and Colleen Fehringer, attended Grantee webinar to advise grant recipients of the requirements to finalize contracts. (Jan 7).
- 3) Reviewed and evaluated grantee sub-contracts for compliance with state-specific requirements. (Ongoing).
- 4) Reviewed and signed Vendor Responsibility Forms for grantees. (Ongoing).
- 5) With Christine Fecko and Colleen Fehringer, attended 7 grantee meetings regarding IOLA's special conditions for certain grant recipient's contracts (Feb 2025).
- 6) With Christine Fecko and Colleen Fehringer, attended meeting with grantees regarding the Executive's proposed budget for IOLA for FY '26. (Jan 30).
- 7) Planned and coordinated meet-and-greet events around the State as well as 9 grantee site visits for Spring 2025. (Ongoing).

#### **Attorney and Bar Association Matters**

- 1) Attended meetings of NYC Bar Association's Pro Bono and Legal Services Committee. (Feb 4, Feb 6).
- 2) Attended Immigration Rights Funder Working Group Meetings. (Feb 5, Feb 26).
- 3) Responded to numerous phone calls and emails from attorneys, bank officials and other interested parties regarding administration of IOLA accounts. (Ongoing).

#### **Banking Compliance**

- 1) Sent approval letters to 4 banks authorizing their request for a rate change. (Dec 2024 and Jan 2025).

#### **Legal Matters/ State Budget Matters**

- 1) Engaged in meetings over multiple months with Christine Fecko and *pro bono*

counsel regarding the terms of an agreement, executed on January 29, 2025, between IOLA, the Executive Chamber and the State Comptroller.

- 2) With Christine Fecko, participated in a meeting with DOB representatives regarding the Executive's proposed budget for IOLA for FY '26. (Feb 3).

### **Ethics Matters**

- 1) Oversaw completion of mandatory annual ethics training for staff and Board members and reported the same to COELIG. (Dec 2024).
- 2) Oversaw completion of mandatory annual anti-discrimination training for staff. (Dec 2024).
- 3) Reviewed opinion from the New York Court of Appeals in Cuomo v. COELIG, (Feb 19, 2025), where the court in a 4-3 decision upheld the constitutionality of COELIG's structure, thereby affirming COELIG's viability as the regulator for state lobbying activity and ethics oversight.

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK  
March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the IOLA Fund is a fiduciary fund, comprised of interest income from attorney trust accounts, and not taxpayer funds, and which by the terms of its enabling statute, its monies are intended to support civil legal services for low income individuals in New York state.

**WHEREAS**, in the FY '25 Executive Budget released in January 2024, the Governor proposed a \$100 million transfer of monies from the IOLA Fund to the General Fund.

**WHEREAS**, significant opposition to this proposed improper use of IOLA's money arose not only from the IOLA Fund itself, but also from bar associations, corporate legal departments, leaders of large law firms, individual attorneys, and the non-profit community, resulting in the Governor withdrawing her proposal in her 30-day amendments.

**WHEREAS**, in April 2024, the FY '25 enacted state budget resurrected the unlawful taking, by proposing a \$55 million sweep of funds from the IOLA Fund to other state initiatives, which the Governor ultimately signed into law, over the strenuous and united objection of the IOLA Fund, bar associations, and other advocates in the legal and non-profit community,

**WHEREAS**, the transfer of \$55 million was not permissible under the law due to the fiduciary nature of the IOLA Fund, and threatened to destabilize a system that has successfully funded civil legal services for 40 years in New York State.

**WHEREAS**, four bar associations, namely the New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers Association, and the Monroe County Bar Association, all collectively representing tens of thousands of attorneys in New York, as well as Charles E. Binder, Esq., an attorney in his individual capacity, engaged with the IOLA Fund and advocated their opposition to the State of this taking and any other future takings of IOLA's monies.

**WHEREAS**, the law firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP, of which Partner Hank Greenberg, a former president of the New York State Bar Association, represented *pro bono* the IOLA Fund, the afore-mentioned bar associations and Mr. Binder in negotiations with the Governor's Office and the State Comptroller's Office, to craft an agreement to resolve this matter.

**WHEREAS**, after lengthy negotiations by said counsel with the Governor's Office and the State Comptroller's Office, a resolution was reached on January 29, 2025, providing for certain



protections of the IOLA Fund during the current Governor's tenure from any future sweep of its funds.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the IOLA Board of Trustees extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the four bar associations and Mr. Binder for their strong leadership and steadfast persistence in advocating to protect IOLA's assets from impermissible intrusion by the State, of which their collective voices were a powerful and compelling ally.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the IOLA Board of Trustees expresses its immense gratitude and thanks for the legal expertise and wise counsel of Hank Greenberg and the entire Greenberg Traurig team in their unwavering commitment in representing the IOLA Fund, the four bar associations and Mr. Binder in resolving this matter; moreover, this Board deeply appreciates that counsel and his firm provided these services *pro bono*, and in so doing, exemplified the best of the legal profession in ensuring that low-income individuals continue to have access to justice.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

PRESS RELEASES

# Four Bar Associations Prevent Illegal Seizure Of Millions Of Dollars From Civil Legal Services Fund

**Date**

January 31, 2025



Four bar associations reached a historic settlement with New York State to help ensure that needy New Yorkers have lawyers when facing civil court battles – such as a parent’s fight for custody of a child or a plea to save the family home.

“When the state created a fund in 1983 to help everyday New Yorkers afford legal services during the most consequential moments of their lives, the state promised that the fund would own its own assets, and for four decades, the state never took a penny of it. But last year for the first time, the state usurped \$55 million of the fund for its own purposes,” the New York State Bar

Association, the New York City Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers Association and the Monroe County Bar Association said.

Under the threat of a lawsuit from the four bar associations and the fund itself, Gov. Kathy Hochul and Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli agreed this week to put the fund off limits from the normal politics of budget making. By agreeing to characterize the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York, known as IOLA, as a 'fiduciary fund,' it guarantees that this vital lifeline to legal services remains intact. The fund has distributed almost a billion dollars in grants.

The state's raid of the fund last year could not have come at a worse time; the access to justice gap between those who can afford a lawyer and those who cannot is now a canyon widening into an abyss, into which an untold number of New Yorkers are now falling.

"The harsh truth is that justice is growing increasingly out of reach for all but the well-to-do," the bar associations said. "Most of the poor simply cannot afford a lawyer to help them with civil legal problems of central importance to their lives, such as child custody, debt collection, eviction, foreclosure, and guardianship."

Greenberg Traurig is the pro bono counsel for the bar associations and IOLA in this matter. The Greenberg team is led by Henry M. Greenberg, a litigation shareholder at the firm and former president of the New York State Bar Association, and includes shareholders Elizabeth Garvey, Stephen Saxl and Caroline J. Heller, chair of the firm's pro bono practice, and litigation associate Ben Wood.

The vast bulk of the money in the IOLA fund comes from pooled interest paid on lawyers' trust accounts – interest generated without taxing the public and at no cost to lawyers or their clients.

Read what the bar associations are saying about the settlement:

"We thank the governor for recognizing how vital providing justice to everyday New Yorkers actually is. This fund was set aside to assist our most vulnerable neighbors during some of the most traumatic moments in their lives – the removal of a child from a home, eviction, foreclosure," said Domenick

Napoletano, president of the New York State Bar Association. "Today the state's legal profession proved that it is willing to stand up for what it believes in no matter how uncomfortable."

"When New York's lawmakers created the IOLA Fund to help millions of low-income New Yorkers in desperate need of legal services, it was well understood that the state would keep its hands off of it," said Muhammad U. Faridi, president of the New York City Bar Association. "This decision is a win for the most disadvantaged among us."

"The state's actions contravened the explicitly stated purpose of the IOLA Fund's creation, and were inconsistent with its mission and legislative history," said New York County Lawyers Association President Adrienne Koch. "This settlement is a testament to our core policy to support civil legal service funding and improve access to justice."

"The governor, comptroller, budget director and the state's collective leadership now understand the importance and mission of the IOLA fund," said Sareer A. Fazili, president and chairman of the Monroe County Bar Association. "We are here to ensure that access to civil legal services remains accessible at all times and for all time."

### **The New York State Bar Association**

*The New York State Bar Association is the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. Since 1876, NYSBA has helped shape the development of law, educated and informed the legal profession and the public, and championed the rights of New Yorkers through advocacy and guidance in our communities.*

### **The New York City Bar Association**

*The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has 23,000 members, is to equip and mobilize a diverse legal profession to practice with excellence, promote reform of the law, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice in support of a fair society and the public interest in our community, our nation, and throughout the world.*

### **The New York County Lawyers Association**

*The New York County Lawyers Association was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar associations in the country that admitted members without*

*regard to race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence and has continuously played an active role in legal developments and public policy.*

## **The Monroe County Bar Association**

*The Monroe County Bar Association, originally formed as the Rochester Bar Association, was organized in 1892. The MCBA is committed to improving the quality and accessibility of justice; promoting respect for and understanding of the law; enhancing professional growth, fulfillment, excellence, collegiality, and diversity among its members; and serving as the voice of the law profession. The MCBA is actively involved with both the New York State Bar and the American Bar Association and is considered one of the premier local bar associations in the country. Throughout its more than 120 years of existence, the Monroe County Bar has earned statewide and national recognition as an innovative leader among local voluntary bars.*

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**JUST**  **TECH**

The logo icon for JUST TECH is a stylized graphic composed of several vertical bars of varying heights and colors (teal, orange, and grey) arranged in a grid-like pattern.

**Cybersecurity Improvement  
and Technical Assistance Project**

**INTERIM REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2025**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Cybersecurity and Technology Advancement Project (CyTAP) represents a strategic initiative designed to strengthen the technological infrastructure and security practices of legal services providers across New York State. Through a carefully structured cohort-based approach, the project addresses critical needs in cybersecurity implementation, artificial intelligence adoption, and technical capacity building.

This report details the progress and achievements of CyTAP's preliminary three main cohorts. Cohort 1 focused on the successful implementation of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) across five IOLA grantees, establishing fundamental security practices. Cohort 2, currently in progress, centers on "AI University" - an innovative program delivering comprehensive artificial intelligence education and practical training to over 260 participants from 72 IOLA grantee organizations. The upcoming Cohort 3 will advance these efforts through the implementation of Single Sign-On (SSO) solutions, building upon the security foundation established in earlier phases.

The project's success is evidenced by significant improvements in participants' technical preparedness, knowledge, and resource utilization. Through structured group sessions, individualized consultations, and hands-on labs, CyTAP has created a collaborative learning environment that addresses the unique challenges faced by legal service providers. This report outlines the project's structure, completed activities, ongoing initiatives, and future plans, demonstrating its vital role in modernizing and securing legal services delivery across New York State.

## PROJECT PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

CyTAP is designed to support legal services providers by improving their cybersecurity posture and technical capabilities. The primary purpose of the project is to equip these organizations with the tools, knowledge, and technical capacity to protect sensitive client and organizational data. Currently, the project is addressing the need for enhanced security through MFA and broader adoption of AI-powered tools in legal services and operations through AI University.

By improving these critical areas, grantees will be better positioned to maintain data integrity, comply with security standards, and operate more efficiently in delivering legal services to their clients. CyTAP's aim is to educate grantees so they can better serve their communities with enhanced security, technological readiness, innovation, and effectiveness by introducing new technologies and offering long-term support.

## COHORT STRUCTURE

The cohort-based structure has been a cornerstone of the project's success, allowing for focused, organized engagement with grantees while addressing their diverse needs in a scalable manner. The design of the cohorts, which groups grantees based on their readiness and specific technical needs, ensures that each group receives tailored support and moves through the implementation process at a sustainable pace. This approach minimizes the risk of overwhelming grantees who may be less familiar with technology while also allowing more advanced organizations to explore cutting-edge tools like AI and enhanced cybersecurity practices.

## COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

### COHORT 1: MFA

In Cohort 1, the emphasis on MFA implementation has provided an excellent foundation for grantees to improve their security postures. Smaller group sizes have allowed for more individualized attention, which has been particularly important in addressing the unique challenges grantees face, such as integrating MFA for organizations with limited internal IT resources. Regular group meetings, combined with one-on-one consultations, allowed grantees to troubleshoot in real time, fostering an environment of collaboration and shared learning. At the conclusion of Cohort 1, five IOLA grantees successfully implemented MFA for their critical technology systems, strengthening their security posture while establishing collaborative relationships that enabled them to share best practices and troubleshoot common challenges.

### Group Meetings & Feedback Survey Collection

Cohort 1 participants engaged in comprehensive discussions about their security needs and experiences. These meetings provided valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by each grantee, fostering a collaborative environment where participants could share best practices and troubleshoot common issues.

A pre-survey was conducted at the first cohort meeting to measure the impact of these efforts. After the completion of the project, a post-survey was conducted to measure the changes in confidence, competence, understanding, and security posture.

- **Current Knowledge Level vs. Knowledge Improvement:** Examined self-rated knowledge levels on the training topic before and after the training to identify perceived learning progress.
- **Interest in Topic vs. Engagement Level:** Compared participants' interest in the training topic before the cohort with their reported engagement during training and implementation.

### **Survey Results**

The MFA training program showed several statistically significant improvements:

- **Preparedness** increased from 22% to 100% of respondents feeling "well prepared" or "very well prepared"
- **Knowledge** improved from 22% to 88% of respondents rating their knowledge as "high" or "very high"
- **Resource sufficiency** increased from 33% to 88% of respondents feeling resources were "sufficient" or "very sufficient"
- **Relevance** increased from 44% to 88% of respondents finding the training "very relevant"

The program also received **high satisfaction ratings**:

- 75% were "very satisfied" and 25% were "satisfied"
- 63% rated it as "very effective" and 25% as "effective"

Areas identified for improvement included:

- Confidence in skills (improvement was not statistically significant)
- Engagement levels (remained static)

## 1-1 Consultations & MFA Implementation

Cohort 1 also involved tailored one-on-one consultations, during which grantees received personalized technical support. These consultations addressed specific challenges, such as dealing with limited internal IT resources and user resistance.

The success of these individualized sessions highlights the need for continued, customized support in future cohorts. By the conclusion of Cohort 1, all participating grantees had taken important steps toward securing their operations, and the lessons learned during this phase will lay the groundwork for future cohorts to build upon.

## Pre-Post-Cohort Survey & Feedback Loop

At the beginning of each small-group cohort<sup>1</sup>, participants complete a baseline survey to assess their confidence and knowledge levels before starting activities. At the conclusion of each cohort, the same questions, along with additional feedback on the effectiveness of the training and workshops, are asked in a post-cohort survey. This feedback loop allows the project team to make necessary adjustments for future cohorts, ensuring the program remains responsive to grantee needs. By incorporating participant input, the project can continue to evolve and improve, ultimately enhancing the impact of the technology solutions being implemented.

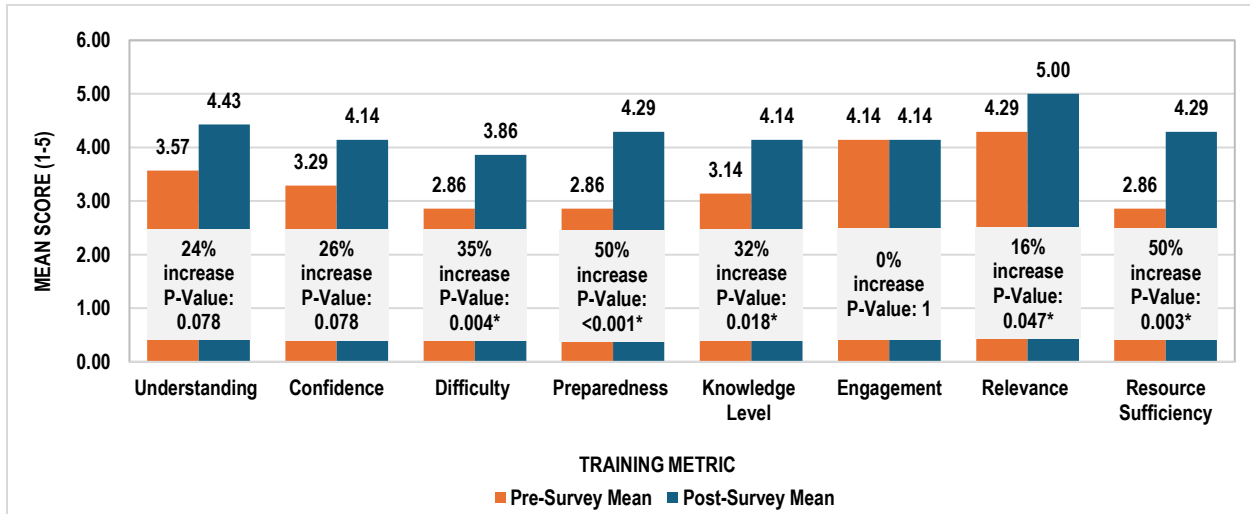
The following areas were measured to assess change from pre-to-post cohort participation:

- **Understanding of the Topic:** Measured participants' self-assessed understanding of the training topic before and after the cohort to evaluate knowledge gains.
- **Confidence in Skills:** Assessed participants' confidence in their ability to apply skills related to the training topic both before and after the training.
- **Anticipated vs. Perceived Difficulty:** Evaluated how difficult participants expected the training topic to be compared to how difficult they found it after completing the training.
- **Preparedness Pre- and Post-Training:** Determined participants' feelings of preparedness before the training and their readiness to apply the knowledge afterward.

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<sup>1</sup> Excluding AI University (see footnote 2 below).

## Prep-Post Comparison of Training Metrics for MFA Cohort



Note: Pairs marked with an asterisk denote a statistically significant improvement where  $p < 0.05$ .

## COHORT 2: AI UNIVERSITY

### Program Overview

Cohort 2<sup>2</sup>, a workshop series on artificial intelligence called AI University, is designed to engage all interested grantees over the course of six to nine months. Through AI University, we have made significant strides towards demystifying artificial intelligence and equipping participants with the knowledge and practical skills needed to engage with AI responsibly and effectively. Over the past several months, we have launched a series of discussions with office hours and hands-on labs designed to foster understanding across the spectrum of stakeholders within New York State’s IOLA community.

Labs are held on the 1st and 4th Friday of each month, with a maximum of 30 participants per lab. The labs focus on creating, testing, and refining AI projects using professional-grade AI resources. Participants are granted access to premium AI tools and platforms from leading providers to fully experiment with building AI solutions. This allows hands-on experience with various AI capabilities, including large language models, document processing, and automated workflows.

<sup>2</sup> The CyTAP project was initially designed to support four small-group cohorts over the course of a year. However, AI University emerged as a distinct initiative that required more resources than originally anticipated for individual cohorts. To account for this, the project team sought and received IOLA’s approval to merge the originally planned cohorts 2 and 3 into a larger, consolidated cohort 2 to better support AI University’s needs.

## Discussion Series

Our first two major discussion sessions—“Don’t Be AfrAId” and “Gen AI for Gen X, Gen Z, and Boomers”—focused on AI literacy, addressing both the anxieties and opportunities associated with artificial intelligence. These events set the stage for deeper exploration, culminating in our first hands-on lab, “Building AI for Everyone,” where participants engaged in the practical development of AI applications using ChatGPT Plus licenses provided by IOLA.

The “Don’t Be AfrAId” session on November 22, 2024, had 255 registrants and 183 attendees. The session provided an essential introduction to AI’s impact on society, dispelling common fears and emphasizing its potential for ethical and beneficial applications. This broad interest indicates that there is a strong demand for foundational AI knowledge, particularly in addressing concerns about automation, bias, and the ethical implications of AI adoption.

Following this, the “Gen AI for Gen X, Gen Z, and Boomers” session, on January 17, 2025, drew 82 registrants and 62 attendees, reflecting a targeted interest in how different generations interact with and perceive AI. This session highlighted intergenerational differences in AI adoption, with discussions on digital literacy, workplace applications, and AI’s role in shaping the future of communication and professional environments. It featured national AI legal expert Damien Riehl, who has led similar sessions for major corporate law firms, law schools, and court systems across the country.

A further valuable part of Cohort 2 has been the creation of a learning community among the IOLA NY grantees in which they feel safe to share their challenges and successes and can continue to rely on each other in the future as technology inevitably changes. We have enabled this learning and community building by creating extra help “office hours” in which smaller groups of attendees can review basic concepts and help each other answer questions with the assistance of expert moderators.

## Labs

Participants also benefit from the “labs,” during which they can build their own AI tools in areas unrelated to legal work so that they can become familiar with the workings and variables of AI models. Starting with areas unrelated to legal work in labs was an intentional decision to foster a low-pressure, exploratory environment where participants could build confidence and technical fluency. For many people, AI can seem complex and intimidating,

especially when directly tied to their professional responsibilities. By focusing first on creative, non-legal projects, participants can gain hands-on experience without the added concern of potential compliance, ethical risks, or fear of making mistakes that could impact legal services. This approach lowers the barrier to entry, encourages experimentation, and provides a safe space for learning. Once participants understand AI fundamentals, they can better envision using AI in their legal work. Ultimately, this phased strategy ensures that when legal-focused AI solutions are introduced, participants are not only ready but also empowered to engage critically and creatively with the technology, maximizing the long-term return on investment for IOLA and its grantees.

We offered a hands-on experience with “Building AI for Everyone” on February 7, 2025, which was capped at 30 registrants to ensure an interactive learning environment, with 22 attendees participating.<sup>3</sup> Each participant was granted access to a paid ChatGPT Plus account. This lab provided participants with a guided introduction to AI development, allowing them to explore the fundamentals of machine learning and algorithm design in a structured, supportive setting. Participants built bots that served as “reading buddies” for a book of their choice from Project Gutenberg, a repository of books in the public domain. Participants successfully directed their bots to write poetry, compose songs, translate books into other languages, and even generate alternate endings. With these skills under their belts, participants will be able to build AI bots to address challenges within their legal work, which will be the topic for a future lab. In response to significant interest from grantees, this laboratory session will be conducted again for new participants on February 28, 2025.

## Past Sessions

Past discussion sessions of AI University include:

- November 22, 2024: *Don't be AfrAid*
- January 17, 2025: *Gen AI for Gen X, Gen Z, and Boomers*

Past labs include:

- February 7, 2025: AI for Everyone!

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<sup>3</sup> Despite full registration, some who registered did not attend the first lab. For future sessions, in order to maximize participation, we have instituted a waitlist and improved our registration process.



## Upcoming Sessions

Future discussion sessions of AI University are scheduled for:

- February 21, 2025: *Navigating the Ethical Maze*
- March 21, 2025: *AI Policy Playbook for Legal Services Organizations*
- April 18, 2025: *Change Management*
- May 16, 2025: *Client-Facing AI Tools*

Upcoming labs are scheduled for:

- February 28, 2025: *AI for Everyone - Group 2*
- March 7, 2025: *AI for Admin – Group 1*
- March 28, 2025: *AI for Admin – Group 2*
- April 4, 2025: *AI-powered legal research (tentative)*
- May 2, 2025: *AI Agents (tentative)*

Additional labs may be scheduled on the fourth Fridays of April and May – the 25<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, respectively – contingent upon expert and audience participation.

We have engaged leading experts on AI, legal technology, legal ethics, and legal practice to lead these sessions, such as:

- **Damien Riehl** of vLex for Session 1: “Gen AI for Gen X, Gen X, and Boomers”
- **Professor Ray Brescia** of Albany Law School for Session 3: “Navigating the Ethical Maze”
- **Conor Malloy**, Founder of Rentervention for Session 4: “AI Policy Playbook for Legal Services Organizations”
- **Ransom Wydner** of SixFifty for Session 4: “AI Policy Playbook for Legal Services Organizations”
- **Tom Martin** of LawDroid for Session 5: “Change Management”
- **Alexander Horwitz**, COO of LSNYC for Session 5: “Change Management”
- **Scheree Gilchrist** of North Carolina Legal Aid for Session 6: “Client-Facing AI Tools”
- **Adrian Palma** of Microsoft for Lab 4: “AI Agents”

The strong turnout and engagement suggest that there is not only interest in theoretical AI discussions but also a growing demand for practical, skills-based learning experiences. As AI University continues to expand its programming, these initial sessions provide valuable

insights into audience interest, engagement patterns, and areas for future development, ensuring that our initiative remains accessible, inclusive, and impactful.

## Key Takeaways

- **Over 72 (90%) IOLA grantee organizations have participated to date, with over 260 individual participants.** This extensive involvement highlights the widespread interest and commitment within the legal services community towards advancing their skills and knowledge through this program.
- **AI University is designed specifically for legal services and nonprofit workers.** It aims to equip these professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to leverage artificial intelligence in their respective fields, enhancing efficiency and service delivery.
- **Leading AI legal experts from across the country will present to participants.** These presentations will cover a broad range of topics, including the latest advancements in AI technology, ethical considerations, and practical applications in legal and nonprofit work.
- **Feedback and engagement have been generally positive.** Participants have praised the program's comprehensive curriculum, the expertise of the presenters, and the opportunities for networking and collaboration with peers. A full statistical analysis of participant engagement and feedback will be provided with the final CyTAP report.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES<sup>4</sup>

### COHORT 3: SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO)

Planned to begin in early March 2025, Cohort 3 will focus on SSO implementation. This cohort will build on the achievements of the MFA rollout by offering an integrated authentication solution for organizations that need secure access across multiple applications. The focus will be on combining SSO with MFA to create a more streamlined yet secure login experience - allowing users to use one set of credentials for multiple applications while maintaining the extra security layer of MFA. Specifically, the SSO implementation will secure sign-on access for grantees' existing applications, potentially including their case management, human resources, and accounting systems.

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<sup>4</sup> Through the end of the grant term, which expires at the end of May 2025.

This rollout represents the project's progression from basic security measures to more advanced, integrated technology solutions. Additionally, integrating SSO with MFA will simplify user provisioning and deprovisioning processes, which is critical for legal service organizations that manage sensitive data and often experience staff transitions. This strategic focus on advanced authentication will further strengthen grantees' cybersecurity posture while improving operational efficiency.

## **SHIELD ACT PRESENTATION**

At IOLA's request, we are currently working with Lawyers Alliance to schedule a presentation on New York's Stop Hacks and Improve Electronic Data Security Act (SHIELD Act) for IOLA grantees. The presentation will review the basics of the SHIELD Act, why legal professionals need to be concerned about the Act, and suggestions on how to stay compliant with the law.

## **RELATION TO THE JUSTICE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (JIP) – STATE SUPPORT FUNCTION**

The Justice Infrastructure Project's vision for statewide support functions aligns closely with and builds upon the technological foundation established by CyTAP. While CyTAP has focused on implementing critical cybersecurity measures like MFA and developing AI capabilities through initiatives like AI University, the JIP envisions a more comprehensive support infrastructure that would expand these technological innovations across the entire legal services ecosystem in New York. The JIP's proposed statewide support function, which aims to create consistency and efficiency through coordinated knowledge management, training resources, and technology support, would provide a natural framework to scale successful CyTAP initiatives more broadly.

For example, CyTAP's work in helping grantees implement cybersecurity best practices and explore AI applications could be systematized through JIP's proposed centralized technology support function, while the lessons learned from CyTAP's cohort-based training model could inform the development of the JIP's statewide training materials and knowledge management systems. This alignment suggests that CyTAP has effectively served as a pilot program for key elements of the broader statewide support infrastructure envisioned by the JIP.

## SUMMARY

The CyTAP initiative has substantially enhanced the technological infrastructure of New York's legal services providers by focusing on cybersecurity and AI capabilities. Through targeted training and support, it has achieved significant improvements. The program has effectively implemented essential cybersecurity measures, increasing readiness from 22% to 100% among Cohort 1 participants, thus enhancing the protection of client data. Additionally, CyTAP's AI University has trained over 260 participants from more than 70 organizations, with participants informally reporting high satisfaction and increased knowledge levels. At the end of the program, participants will be surveyed to offer more detailed feedback.

Momentum remains robust, evidenced by scheduled AI University sessions through May 2025 and plans for Single Sign-On implementation. CyTAP's cohort model maximizes impact and cost-efficiency, creating sustainable long-term value through reusable training materials and shared resources. The Justice Infrastructure Project (JIP) aims to expand these successes statewide, providing a coordinated support function that builds on CyTAP's foundation. By continuing to invest in CyTAP, IOLA can ensure sustained progress in legal technology, ultimately enhancing the efficiency and security of New York State's legal services ecosystem.

# 2025 SCHEDULE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

### *1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025*

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March 12, 2025

1:00 PM

IOLA Fund, NYC

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025*

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June 4, 2025

1:00 PM

Syracuse, NY

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025*

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September 17, 2025

1:00PM

IOLA Fund, NYC

### *4<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025*

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December 3, 2025

1:00 PM

IOLA Fund, NYC

# 2025

## Holidays & Observances

### January

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### February

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

### March

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### April

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### June

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### July

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### August

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### September

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### October

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### November

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### December

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Jan 01** New Year's Day
- Jan 20** Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 29** Chinese New Year
- Feb 14** Valentine's Day
- Feb 17** President's Day
- Mar 01** Ramadan, 1st day
- Mar 05** Ash Wednesday
- Mar 17** St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20** March equinox (GMT)
- Apr 01** April Fool's Day
- Apr 13** Passover
- Apr 20** Easter
- Apr 22** Earth Day
- Apr 23** Admin Assistants Day
- May 05** Cinco de Mayo
- May 11** Mother's Day
- May 26** Memorial Day
- Jun 08** Pentecost
- Jun 14** Flag Day
- Jun 15** Father's Day
- Jun 19** Juneteenth
- Jun 21** June Solstice (GMT)
- Jul 04** Independence Day
- Sep 01** Labor Day
- Sep 22** September equinox (GMT)
- Sep 23** Rosh Hashanah
- Oct 13** Federal Holiday
- Oct 31** Halloween
- Nov 11** Veterans Day
- Nov 27** Thanksgiving
- Dec 14** Hanukkah begins
- Dec 21** December Solstice (GMT)
- Dec 25** Christmas Day
- Dec 26** Kwanzaa begins
- Dec 31** New Year's Eve

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK  
March 12, 2025**

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby move, pursuant to the New York Open Meetings Law, Section 105, including subparagraphs (f), that this meeting of the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund of New York shall now enter into Executive Session for the purposes of considering matters relating to (1) the financial history and appointment of a particular corporation, specifically an IOLA grant applicant; (2) proposed litigation; and (3) the proposed lease of real property.

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote:

Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

# **RESOLUTIONS**



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK**

**March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s office released its Executive Budget for state expenditures on January 21, 2025 for FY 2025 – 2026, providing the IOLA Fund with a \$77.5 million appropriation for Aid to Localities and \$3.36 million appropriation for State Operations.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(a) and (e), the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund has the power to, *inter alia*, “distribute funds as grants and contracts to not-for-profit entities,” “employ . . . such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation[.]” and “allocate funds for the actual and necessary nonpersonnel administrative costs of the program[.]”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(h), “[a]ll payments from the IOLA fund shall be made by the state comptroller upon certification and authorization of the board of trustees of the fund.”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board may “perform all other acts necessary or proper for the fulfillment of the purpose of the fund and its effective administration” and “assign[] or delegate[]” duties to the Executive Director.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund of New York APPROVES the allocation of funds as set forth in the IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025 - 2026, attached herein to this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to the Board’s powers and duties under State Finance Law § 97-v and 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11), as detailed above, the Board certifies and authorizes the payment of funds consistent with the IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025 – 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff, to take all actions consistent with this Resolution, including but not limited to directing the payment of funds consistent with the IOLA Fund Budget Appropriation Overview for FY 2025 – 2026 for the actual and necessary nonpersonnel administrative costs of the program so as to fulfill the purpose of the Fund and its effective administration.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

**NYS IOLA Fund**  
**Budget Appropriation Overview: FY2025-26**

	Prior Year Appropriation (FY25)	IOLA Request (FY26)	IOLA Request Change over Prior Year	Executive Budget (FY26)	Executive Budget Change over Prior Year
<b>STATE OPERATIONS</b>					
Personal Service	\$ 1,065,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 150,000
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,065,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
Supplies and Materials	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Travel	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Contractual Services	\$ 1,085,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 200,000
Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ 702,000	\$ 702,000	\$ -	\$ 792,000	\$ 90,000
Indirect Costs	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ -	\$ 38,000	\$ 4,000
<b>TOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,112,003</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,145,000</b>	<b>\$ 294,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 2,916,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,327,003</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,360,000</b>	<b>\$ 444,000</b>
<b>AID TO LOCALITIES</b>					
Grants	\$ 62,000,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 77,500,000	\$ 15,500,000
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE</b>	<b>\$ 62,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,500,000</b>

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK  
March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, in light of the IOLA Fund’s articulated goal to invest in the Justice Infrastructure Project, the vision of which is to enhance the delivery system of civil legal aid in New York, IOLA’s available revenue currently on hand, and the directive in IOLA’s enabling statute to “insure that grants and contracts are made with not-for-profit providers of civil legal services ... to provide stable, economical, and high-quality delivery of civil legal services to the poor throughout the state.” SFL §97-v(3)(f).

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(a), the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund has the power to, *inter alia*, “distribute funds as grants and contracts to not-for-profit tax-exempt entities[.]”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(h), “[a]ll payments from the IOLA fund shall be made by the state comptroller upon certification and authorization of the board of trustees of the fund.”

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board may “perform all other acts necessary or proper for the fulfillment of the purpose of the fund and its effective administration” and “assign[] or delegate[]” duties to the Executive Director.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund of New York allocates a total of \$2,000,000 for Justice Infrastructure Project Readiness grants, to be allocated to grantees in the distribution amounts outlined in the attached grantee certification list, which shall be expended by the end of FY2025, including the lapsing period;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to the Board’s powers and duties under State Finance Law § 97-v and 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11), as detailed above, the Board certifies and authorizes the payment of such funds;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff, to take all

actions consistent with this Resolution so as to fulfill the purpose of the Fund and its effective administration.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

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

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

## GRANT CERTIFICATION FOR BUSINESS UNIT IOL01

The Chair and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York do hereby affirm that all grants to the organizations listed herein were awarded by the Trustees at a duly convened meeting on Wednesday, March 12, and further, do certify that all organizations were selected pursuant to the requirements of Section 97-v of the State Finance Law, the regulations of the Trustees and the Fund's published grant guidelines and procedures.

CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS		
1	Bronx Defenders, The	\$ 30,000
2	Brooklyn Defender Services	\$ 30,000
3	Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A	\$ 30,000
4	CAMBA, Inc.	\$ 30,000
5	Community Development Project, Inc. (D/B/A TakeRoot Justice)	\$ 30,000
6	Empire Justice Center	\$ 30,000
7	Frank H Hiscock Legal Aid Society	\$ 30,000
8	Hudson Valley Justice Center	\$ 30,000
9	Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo	\$ 30,000
10	Legal Aid Society (NYC), The	\$ 30,000
11	Legal Aid Society of Mid NY	\$ 30,000
12	Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY	\$ 30,000
13	Legal Aid Society of Rochester NY	\$ 30,000
14	Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.	\$ 30,000
15	Legal Services NYC	\$ 30,000
16	Legal Services of Central New York, Inc.	\$ 30,000
17	Legal Services of Long Island	\$ 30,000
18	Legal Services of the Hudson Valley	\$ 30,000
19	Mobilization for Justice, Inc.	\$ 30,000
20	Neighborhood Defender Services	\$ 30,000
21	Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.	\$ 30,000
22	New York Legal Assistance Group	\$ 30,000
23	Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation	\$ 30,000
24	Rural Law Center	\$ 30,000
25	Urban Justice Center	\$ 30,000
26	Western New York Law Center	\$ 30,000
<b>Total for CLS</b>		<b>\$ 780,000</b>

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS		
1	Access Justice Brooklyn (F/K/A Brooklyn Bar Association VLP)	\$ 20,000
2	Advocates for Children of New York	\$ 20,000
3	African Communities Together	\$ 20,000
4	African Services Committee	\$ 20,000
5	Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund (D/B/A City Bar Justice Center)	\$ 20,000
6	Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project	\$ 20,000
7	Catholic Charities Community Services	\$ 20,000
8	Catholic Migration Services	\$ 20,000
9	Center for Community Justice	\$ 20,000
10	Center for Elder Law and Justice	\$ 20,000
11	Center for Family Representation	\$ 20,000
12	Central American Legal Assistance	\$ 20,000
13	Central American Refugee Center	\$ 20,000
14	Child and Family Services of Erie County	\$ 20,000
15	Children's Law Center	\$ 20,000

16	Community Service Society of New York	\$	20,000
17	Day One	\$	20,000
18	Disability Advocates Inc	\$	20,000
19	Door-A Center for Alternatives, The	\$	20,000
20	Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project	\$	20,000
21	Family Center	\$	20,000
22	Family Legal Care (F/K/A LIFT)	\$	20,000
23	Gay Mens Health Crisis	\$	20,000
24	Goddard Riverside Community Center	\$	20,000
25	Her Justice	\$	20,000
26	Hope's Door	\$	20,000
27	Housing Conservation Coordinators	\$	20,000
28	Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative, Inc.	\$	20,000
29	Immigration Equality Inc	\$	20,000
30	Jewish Association for Services for the Aged	\$	20,000
31	Journey's End Refugee Services	\$	20,000
32	Just Cause (Volunteer Legal Services of Monroe County)	\$	20,000
33	KIND Inc	\$	20,000
34	LatinoJustice PRLDEF	\$	20,000
35	Lawyers Alliance for New York	\$	20,000
36	Legal Action Center	\$	20,000
37	Long Island Advocacy Center	\$	20,000
38	Make the Road	\$	20,000
39	My Sisters Place	\$	20,000
40	National Center for Law & Economic Justice	\$	20,000
41	Neighbors Link Corporation	\$	20,000
42	New Economy Project	\$	20,000
43	New York County Lawyers Association	\$	20,000
44	New York Immigration Coalition, The	\$	20,000
45	New York Justice for Our Neighbors	\$	20,000
46	New York Lawyers for the Public Interest	\$	20,000
47	New York State Dispute Resolution Association	\$	20,000
48	Part of the Solution	\$	20,000
49	Pro Bono Net	\$	20,000
50	Pro Bono Partnership	\$	20,000
51	RiseBoro Community Partnership Inc.	\$	20,000
52	Safe Horizon	\$	20,000
53	Safe Passage Project	\$	20,000
54	Sanctuary for Families	\$	20,000
55	Unity House of Troy	\$	20,000
56	UnLocal, Inc.	\$	20,000
57	Urban Resource Institute	\$	20,000
58	Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc.	\$	20,000
59	Volunteers of Legal Services	\$	20,000
60	Worker Justice Center	\$	20,000
61	Youth Represent	\$	20,000
<b>Total for AOJ</b>			<b>\$ 1,220,000</b>

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Mary Rothwell Davis, Esq. - Board Chair

Date

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Paula Galowitz, Esq. - Treasurer

Date

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK**

**March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, since 2000, the IOLA Fund has leased its office space at 11 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1405, New York, NY.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the terms of the office lease, the lease will expire November 30, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the IOLA Fund anticipates expanding its staff by at least three full-time employees.

**WHEREAS**, available office space in the same neighborhood may offer a greater value in terms of price, space, and amenities than the current office space.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(e), the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund has the power to “allocate funds for the actual and necessary nonpersonnel administrative costs of the [IOLA] program” and pursuant to 21 NYCRR Part 7000.5(a)(11) and (b)(4), the Board may “perform all other acts necessary or proper for the fulfillment of the purpose of the fund and its effective administration” and “assign[] or delegate[]” duties to the Executive Director.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State Finance Law § 97-v 3(h), “[a]ll payments from the IOLA fund shall be made by the state comptroller upon certification and authorization of the board of trustees of the fund.”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff to hire a real estate agent and counsel to assist the IOLA Fund in renegotiation of its current lease or engage in lease negotiations for new office space; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board delegates to the Executive Director and otherwise authorizes the IOLA Staff to take all actions consistent with this Resolution, including but not limited to signing a lease renewal of its current office space or signing a lease for new office space, and arranging for an office move on or before November 30, 2025, all so as to fulfill the purpose of the Fund and its effective administration.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK  
March 12, 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the IOLA Fund is a fiduciary fund, comprised of interest income from attorney trust accounts, and not taxpayer funds, and which by the terms of its enabling statute, its monies are intended to support civil legal services for low income individuals in New York state.

**WHEREAS**, in the FY '25 Executive Budget released in January 2024, the Governor proposed a \$100 million transfer of monies from the IOLA Fund to the General Fund.

**WHEREAS**, significant opposition to this proposed improper use of IOLA's money arose not only from the IOLA Fund itself, but also from bar associations, corporate legal departments, leaders of large law firms, individual attorneys, and the non-profit community, resulting in the Governor withdrawing her proposal in her 30-day amendments.

**WHEREAS**, in April 2024, the FY '25 enacted state budget resurrected the unlawful taking, by proposing a \$55 million sweep of funds from the IOLA Fund to other state initiatives, which the Governor ultimately signed into law, over the strenuous and united objection of the IOLA Fund, bar associations, and other advocates in the legal and non-profit community,

**WHEREAS**, the transfer of \$55 million was not permissible under the law due to the fiduciary nature of the IOLA Fund, and threatened to destabilize a system that has successfully funded civil legal services for 40 years in New York State.

**WHEREAS**, four bar associations, namely the New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers Association, and the Monroe County Bar Association, all collectively representing tens of thousands of attorneys in New York, as well as Charles E. Binder, Esq., an attorney in his individual capacity, engaged with the IOLA Fund and advocated their opposition to the State of this taking and any other future takings of IOLA's monies.

**WHEREAS**, the law firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP, of which Partner Hank Greenberg, a former president of the New York State Bar Association, represented *pro bono* the IOLA Fund, the afore-mentioned bar associations and Mr. Binder in negotiations with the Governor's Office and the State Comptroller's Office, to craft an agreement to resolve this matter.

**WHEREAS**, after lengthy negotiations by said counsel with the Governor's Office and the State Comptroller's Office, a resolution was reached on January 29, 2025, providing for certain

protections of the IOLA Fund during the current Governor's tenure from any future sweep of its funds.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the IOLA Board of Trustees extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the four bar associations and Mr. Binder for their strong leadership and steadfast persistence in advocating to protect IOLA's assets from impermissible intrusion by the State, of which their collective voices were a powerful and compelling ally.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the IOLA Board of Trustees expresses its immense gratitude and thanks for the legal expertise and wise counsel of Hank Greenberg and the entire Greenberg Traurig team in their unwavering commitment in representing the IOLA Fund, the four bar associations and Mr. Binder in resolving this matter; moreover, this Board deeply appreciates that counsel and his firm provided these services *pro bono*, and in so doing, exemplified the best of the legal profession in ensuring that low-income individuals continue to have access to justice.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Licha M. Nyiendo  
General Counsel

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE IOLA FUND OF NEW YORK  
March 12, 2025**

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby move, pursuant to the New York Open Meetings Law, Section 105, including subparagraphs (f), that this meeting of the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund of New York shall now enter into Executive Session for the purposes of considering matters relating to (1) the financial history and appointment of a particular corporation, specifically an IOLA grant applicant; (2) proposed litigation; and (3) the proposed lease of real property.

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote:

Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_

Vote Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

New York, New York  
March 12, 2025