



## Board Member in the Spotlight: Kate Mahan

Eager to greet new challenges, Kate Mahan of Cook, Little, Rosenblatt & Manson, is planning on 2019 being a year for her to make an impact.

Mahan was appointed to the NH Bar Foundation Board last year after serving as the ABA Association Young Lawyer Delegate. Recently made a partner at her law firm after 10 years in practice, Mahan says she hopes to become more involved in community leadership this year. Let's get to know her better:

**Question:** What interests you about the mission of the NH Bar Foundation?

**Answer:** As I have learned about the Foundation, I realize that it is more of a facilitator to help organizations and the legal community address the most pressing needs of the community. I like that it is not directly involved in just one thing, and it can be flexible about directing resources where they need to go.

**Q:** What do you like most about being a lawyer?

**A:** "I like the fact that every case brings new challenges. It's rare that I have a case where I can say, "I've seen this before."

**Q:** What's been most surprising to you about the practice of law?

**A:** "It has been much more congenial than media portrayals of the law. Much of the time, law practice, even as a litigator, is about solving problems, and there is less acrimony than I expected."

**Q:** What do you look forward to most in 2019?

**A:** "I am hoping I can branch out more this year. As lawyers, we can really make a difference in people's lives, sometimes by contributing only a few hours of our time. I hope to do more volunteering like that this year."

Mahan, a graduate of Suffolk University Law School and Saint Anselm College, was a law clerk for the NH Supreme Court and the Superior Court before entering private practice.



## Bar Foundation Announces 2019-2020 IOLTA Grants

The Board of Directors has unanimously voted to allocate \$950,000 for FY2019-2020 IOLTA Grants. This is a \$50,000 increase from the current year. This increase is due to the ongoing awareness campaign of the Bar Foundation and the efforts of the IOLTA Enhancement Committee.

The Bar Foundation reaches out to the Bar membership at events such as Practical Skills and Midyear Meeting, to promote the NH IOLTA program, the organizations it supports, and the financial institutions that support it. The Foundation also participates in Trust Accounting CLEs and co-hosts special receptions with local banks to help law firms and offices navigate the complexities of IOLTA.

The IOLTA Enhancement Committee, chaired by attorney Susan Manchester, reaches out to banks and credit unions reminding them of the importance of the IOLTA Program and that the interest earned on pooled trust accounts directly assists low income citizens in their communities.

In 2018, eight banks raised their rates considerably, five of which were raised to 1 percent or more, joining the Partner Level. The Leadership Circle welcomes SIS Bank, which will be raising its IOLTA rates to 2 percent as of March 1 and St. Mary's Bank, which joined the IOLTA Program this past June.

Thanks to the generosity of our financial institutions, New Hampshire can now boast that 24 out of 52 banks and credit unions pay between 1 percent and 2 percent APR on pooled trust accounts, leading the nation with the highest average interest rate of 0.88 percent.

Applications for IOLTA Grants will be available in March with a due date of March 22. The IOLTA Grants Committee, consisting of five attorneys, will review Grant applications in April and then make their recommendations to the Board of Directors at the May 7 Board meeting. As with prior years, the applicants — NH Legal Aid, Legal Advice & Referral Center, Disability Rights Center-NH, and NH Pro Bono Referral Program — are expected to make a collaborative ask.

### Herbert Steps Down from IOLTA Committee

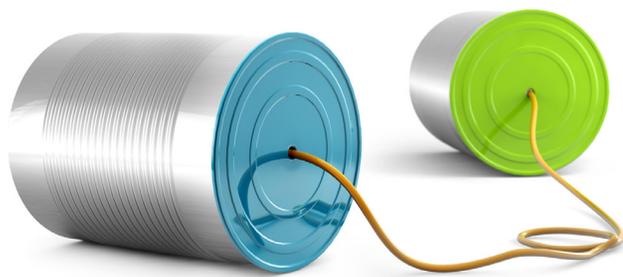
Longtime IOLTA Grants Committee member attorney Donald Hebert will be vacating his seat after 10 years. Per the Foundation By-Laws, members of the Committee can serve up to two consecutive five-year terms.

"It has been an honor to serve on the IOLTA Grants Committee," Hebert said. "I have very much enjoyed getting to know all of the committee members and hearing about the wonderful work being done by our legal assistance organizations."

A call for nominations to fill his seat will be placed in May 2019. A member of the IOLTA Grants Committee must be an active attorney in New Hampshire and a participant in the IOLTA program either as an individual or through their firm.



## Can we talk?



Do you know how much interest your IOLTA account is earning?

If your financial institution does not offer a preferred rate of 0.50 % or higher, we urge you to talk to them. Ask them to help you support the NH IOLTA program by raising their interest rates.

The IOLTA program succeeds when attorneys and financial institutions work together.

For more information click on the IOLTA page at [www.NHBarFoundation.org](http://www.NHBarFoundation.org) or contact us at [info@NHBarFoundation.org](mailto:info@NHBarFoundation.org) / 603.715.3210

## Fostering Legal Independence (FLI)



On January 30, attorneys Cathy Baumann and Omer Ahern Jr. met with about 25 foster youth at the Becket House in Campton. The evening's topics included landlord/tenant law, consumer debt and employment law. The FLI program provides volunteer attorneys to meet with teens to discuss legal issues they will be dealing with as they age out of the system all over the state. Thanks to a donation from the McLane Middleton Community Service Committee, FLI was also able to provide pizza for the teens after the Q&A session with Baumann and Ahern.