NY Bar Foundation Honors LaSalle, Zauderer for Contributions to Legal Profession

BY LAW.COM STAFF

THE NEW YORK Bar Foundation honored Appellate Division, Second Department Presiding Justice Hector LaSalle and attorney Mark Zauderer at its Leadership Laureate Series reception held at the Brooklyn Appellate Division courthouse on Wednesday. They were each awarded the New York Bar Foundation's Force for Justice Award for their distinguished leadership and contributions to the legal profession and people of New York.

LaSalle was heralded as a tireless and steady leader by Associate Justice Cheryl Chambers, who called him "a true force for justice."

Chambers called Zauderer, a partner at Dorf Nelson & Zauderer, one of New York's "finest trial and appellate attorneys," who has dedicated the last 50 years of his life to improving the court system.

LaSalle devoted his brief remarks to criticizing the rising costs of law school tuition and the danger it posed to the future of the profession.

"The escalating cost of attending law school poses a real threat to the diversity and strength of our future bar and is a challenge we can no longer afford to discuss quietly or address peacefully," he told the room.

He explained that the average price of private law school tuition was $7,526 in 1985. Adjusted for inflation, that same tuition would cost $23,510, he said. Instead, the actual 2025 average was actually $59,700.

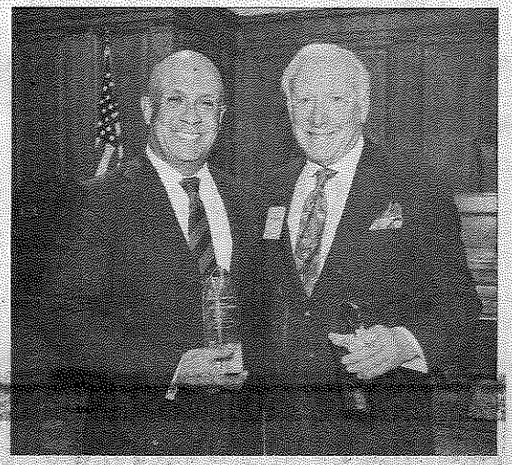
"Given these realities, I believe it is time for law school administrations and their faculties to take a more public and proactive role in addressing the cost structures that have brought us to this moment," LaSalle said. "Students, the profession, and the public deserve a clear, forthright explanation for why tuition has risen so sharply for so many years. The reasons may be complex, but complexity cannot justify our collective silence."

The New York Bar Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the New York State Bar Association, which raises and distributes funds to programs devoted to access to justice and advancing the rule of law.

Photos by Curtis Means/OCA



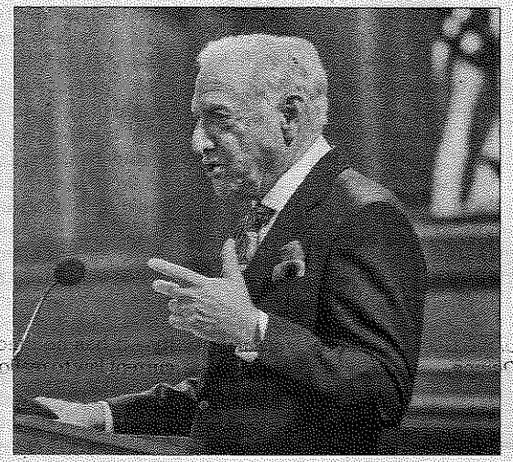
Hon. Hector D. LaSalle speaking to attendees of The New York Bar Foundation Leadership Laureate Series reception at the Appellate Division, Second Department in Brooklyn.



Hon. Hector D LaSalle and **Mark C. Zauderer**



Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers speaks to attendees.



Mark C. Zauderer