

**Rensselaer County Bar Association  
Executive Committee**

**Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, it has been proposed that the Executive Committee of the Rensselaer County Bar Association (i) amend Article VI, Section E (1) of its by-laws to add a sentence to such Article in order to clarify and delineate management of funds of the Association; and (ii) establish a policy with guidelines for the “The Henry J. Speck Memorial Fund” Trust, and

**WHEREAS**, a draft of a proposed amendment to the by-laws and a draft policy with guidelines has been circulated to the members of the Executive Committee in preparation for a meeting scheduled for **January 10, 2024**, for approval, and

Be it **Resolved** that at a meeting held on **January 10, 2024**, the Executive Committee authorized the following:

That the proposed policy and guidelines with respect to the “The Henry J. Speck Memorial Fund” Trust, a copy of which is annexed hereto, is hereby approved as an established policy of the Rensselaer County Bar Association, and

That Article VI, Section E (1) of the by-laws be amended as follows:

**Article VI**

**E. Treasurer:**

- (1) The Treasurer shall: (a) keep an accurate roll of the Members; (b) collect and under the direction of the Executive Committee, expend, deposit or invest the funds of the Association, including an operating account in a checking account and a savings account, which shall be maintained and/or invested with the approval of the Executive Committee; (c) keep regular accounts in the books of the Association, which accounts shall be open to inspection by an Member of the Executive Committee and shall at all times be subject to examination and audit as directed by the President; (d) report in writing, at each Stated Meeting, and to the Executive Committee, as and when required by them, the financial condition of the Association; and (e) promptly furnish the Secretary with the names of persons approved as members.

**Article VI**

That Article VI, Section E (1) of the by-laws be amended as follows:

**Article VI**

**E. Treasurer:**

The RCBA shall maintain and make payment from the Henry J. Speck Memorial fund in accordance with the provisions of The Henry J. Speck Memorial Fund - Policy and Guidelines (a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A").

The above proposed amendment(s) to the by-laws, upon the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee (See Article XIII), shall be adopted and notice to the membership shall be included in the *next RCBA mailing*.

**MOTION**

**Made By:** Jennifer Shatz, Esq.

**Seconded by:** Jaime Thomas, Esq.

**Resolution passed on January 10, 2024**

  
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Jennifer M. Yetto, Esq.  
Secretary

*Appendix "A" to RCBA Resolution dated January 10, 2024*

**The Henry J. Speck Memorial Fund - Policy and Guidelines**

In his Widow's will, the Rensselaer County Bar Association ("RCBA") was bequeathed the sum of \$10,000.00, as a Trust Fund in memory of Troy attorney and RCBA member Henry J. Speck (1867-1930). The fund has been memorialized and maintained by the RCBA in accordance with the will provision as "The Henry J. Speck Memorial Fund." The source of the subject bequest was the will of Helene Speck (the widow of Henry J. Speck). The bequest was made in Mr. Speck's memory upon the happening of Mrs. Speck's death in 1962. Mrs. Speck's will states that the "income from said trust fund to be used to provide legal assistance to those financially unable to procure it" and that the income be used "to assist in establishing a legal aid society or in helping to maintain such if already established in Troy." The 2013-2014 Executive Committee of the RCBA authorized a donation of the accumulated Speck Fund interest, accrued as of that point in 2014. The beneficiary of said 2014 donation was the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. The remaining balance, after said donation, was \$10,000.00.

**Henceforth, the assets of the trust fund shall be deposited in an account separate from all other RCBA assets/funds, shall not be commingled, but shall be included and reported in the monthly Treasurer's Report. This separate account for the trust fund may be deposited in the same bank as any other RCBA accounts.**

**HISTORY:** The are records of two expenditures from the Speck Fund. One expenditure dates to the early 1970's, when a Legal Aid office in Troy required new office furniture, and our Bar Association made a contribution. The 2013-2014 Executive Committee of the RCBA also authorized the above referenced donation of accumulated Speck Fund interest to the Legal Aid Society. As of the date of this policy and guideline, no Legal Aid office operates in Troy.

**PRESENT:** Legal aid services for people in Troy and Rensselaer County are now provided by the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc. through its Albany office. Other recipients who seem to satisfy the criteria of the Speck Will include Unity House of Troy which provide legal assistance to income-qualifying Troy residents,\* The Legal Project, located in Albany, which also provides services to Troy residents and The Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (TRIP) which assists needy homeowners to buy homes and helps prevent foreclosure and has served as a liaison between homeowners and lenders to negotiate reasonable work-out solutions.

**POLICY:** The Policy of the Rensselaer County Bar Association, as it pertains to the Speck Fund, shall hereafter be to actively seek opportunities to provide legal assistance to those financially unable to procure it, and to make every effort to provide such legal assistance by means of legal aid organizations (such as those described herein above) which are "established in Troy."

**Dated: January 10, 2024**

*\*Source, Unity House Law Project Web site: "Unity House's Law Project provides free legal consultation and representation to victims of domestic violence or any of our consumers who are in need of legal help. Our Law Project staff is experienced in resolving the often-complicated legal challenges faced by victims of domestic violence and others who are seeking legal relief."*

