

60 SECONDS WITH... New York State Trial Lawyers Association
president Evan Goldberg

*On July 1, Chief Judge **Jonathan Lippman** swore in Evan Goldberg as the 48th president of the NYSTLA. "Evan is what trial lawyers are all about, helping people and serving others," Lippman said. Goldberg, who's with **Trolman Glaser & Lichtman**, has also served on the executive committee of the **New York State Bar Association**. This interview was edited for length and clarity.*

CAPITAL: What went into your decision to become the head of NYSTLA?

GOLDBERG: This is an incredibly important time for consumer and victim advocates. The civil justice system is under unprecedented attack from business groups who don't want corporations and hospitals to be held accountable for their actions. Whether it's trying to gut the Scaffold Safety Law or block the malpractice reform "Lavern's Law," the forces trying to bar access to the courtroom have never been more organized or more aggressive, so we have to fight back with equal or greater measure. From its inception, NYSTLA has always led the battle to protect victims of negligence and, in deciding to make a difference, my decision to head the organization was clear.

CAPITAL: What are the goals you're looking to focus on in your time as president?

GOLDBERG: Certainly, we will continue to defend attacks against those seeking access to justice, whether they are hospital patients, construction workers, consumers, drivers, or anyone else victimized by another's negligence. We also want to close loopholes in our laws that effectively take away the right of some victims to present their case to a jury of their peers, by supporting the enactment of Lavern's Law. But we also want to make sure New Yorkers understand the importance of the civil justice system. From

safer cars to toys to construction sites, the legal system has made life much safer for all of us, by incentivizing and prioritizing safety. It is the ultimate equalizer for conflict resolution, and we will do everything in our power to protect it.

CAPITAL: More broadly, from the bar's side, what do you see as the biggest issues facing the legal community in New York today?

GOLDBERG: I think there is an incredible amount of talent and energy in the New York legal community, but we have to harness it. We have to come together to ask, is the law being applied fairly and equally for all? I think we have had some very important and productive conversations about the criminal justice system, but what about the civil justice system? Do we really want to be one of only a handful of states where the statute of limitations for medical malpractice can expire before the victim even knows the malpractice has occurred? These are the types of questions we need to consider now.

CAPITAL: Considering your family's deep roots in the New York legal community, did you ever entertain any other possibility in life other than becoming a lawyer?

GOLDBERG: As a third generation attorney, my grandfather having practiced during the Great Depression and my father being a Supreme Court Justice, many assume that I was steered towards the law by my family. However, that is not the case. As a teenager, my passion for the courtroom was stirred by classic movies such as "To Kill a Mockingbird," and by historical accounts of leaders who fought for equality and justice. The societal value of the trial lawyer became evident to me, and I never considered doing anything else. Of course, my father approved.

SOURCE:

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/albany/2015/07/8571822/capital-public-law-report-schneiderman%E2%80%99s-special-role-federal-monitor>