

New Fellowship Established by NYWBA Foundation, Inc.

In furtherance of its commitment to promoting the social and economic equality, safety and well-being of women and children, the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, in conjunction with the Fordham University School of Law, has established a fellowship grant to sponsor a student internship with Fordham's Domestic Violence Advocacy Center and The Center for Battered Women's Legal Services. The grant is the third of its kind, following the Foundation's annual grants to support internships at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights at Columbia University School of Law and at in Motion (formerly the Network for Women's Services) at NYU's School of Law.

Fordham's Domestic Violence Advocacy Center was selected because of its dedication to fulfilling abused women's unmet legal needs. To that end, the Center offers legal assistance to domestic abuse victims in all five boroughs, not only on domestic violence issues, but also on criminal, matrimonial and immigration matters. Two notable programs are the Courtroom Advocacy Project, which trains law students to advocate for domestic violence victims seeking Orders of Protection against their abusers, and the Uncontested Divorce Program, which trains law students to prepare uncontested divorce for domestic violence victims. The fellow selected will be a law student who will work during the academic year to provide much-needed assistance in administering the programs. The student will work closely with experienced attorneys in both programs and will have the additional opportunity of being involved in key legislative and policy initiatives aimed at improving the justice system's response to victims of domestic abuse as well as high level litigation.

Sites of Interest

A February 28, 2002 USA Today online article reports that "Radioactive fallout from Cold War nuclear weapons tests across the globe probably caused at least 15,000 cancer deaths in U.S. residents born after 1951, according to data from an unreleased federal study." Read the article at www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2002/02/28/usat-nuke.htm. Read similar articles at MSNBC.com at www.msnbc.com/news/717299.asp and at CNN.com at www.cnn.com/2002/US/03/01/nuclear.fallout/index.html

Visit the web site of the New York Unified Court System at www.courts.state.ny.us/CourtRestructuringMain.html to learn about the state's proposal to restructure the trial court system. Stating that "No state has a more complicated or convoluted court structure than New York. We have nine trial-level courts, not including the Town and Village Justice Courts. It's time to change this archaic system and simplify the court structure once and for all for the benefit of all New Yorkers," the site offers details of the anticipated restructuring.

The 2002 State of the Judiciary Address can be found at www.courts.state.ny.us/soj2002.html.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli was presented with The Harlan Fiske Stone Memorial Award at the New York City Trial Lawyers Association 67th Annual Banquet on March 6, 2002. . . . Elizabeth Bryson has been selected by the Honorable Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York, to serve on the newly formed Commission on Public Access to Court Records. The Commission, which will be chaired by prominent First Amendment attorney Floyd Abrams, was mentioned by the Chief Judge in her 2002 State of the Courts address. . . . Susan Y. Kunstler and her husband, Howard B. Friedland, will be reading from their fiction, poetry and other writings on Wednesday, May 1, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. at the New York County Lawyers' Association, 14 Vesey Street in Manhattan on the second floor. The reading by them and other members of The Leap Year Creative Writing Group, a subcommittee of the NYCLA Art Committee, is from the second edition of "First Folio". Advance copies of First Folio can be reserved and additional copies will be available that evening prior to the reading. For additional information, contact Susan Kunstler at (212) 791-7555 or the Chair of the Art Committee and the Leap Year Group, Monique Mulcare, at (212) 506-2181.

Florence P. Shientag Essay Competition

Thanks to the generosity of the Hon. Florence P. Shientag, the New York Women's Bar Association will once again conduct an essay competition for the \$5000 Florence P. Shientag Award. The competition is open to students attending law schools in the New York City area. The author of the winning essay will be NYWBA's guest at our annual dinner on May 22, 2002, at which time the Award will be presented. The essay must address a current legal issue concerning constitutional law or a constitutional question. Notices regarding the competition have been sent to law schools in the metropolitan area but if any of our readers knows a law student who may be interested in submitting an essay, please ask Jennifer Fiorentino to e-mail or fax you a copy of the announcement. She can be reached at 212-360-7055.

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