



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Annual Mentoring Circles Reception: An Evening with S.D.N.Y. Chief Judge Loretta A. Preska

**February 10, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Covington & Burling LLP**

New York Times Bldg., 620 Eighth Ave., NYC (41st/42nd Sts.)

This year's reception will include a cocktail reception, followed by a discussion with a distinguished guest speaker:

Honorable Loretta A. Preska

Chief Judge for the Southern District of New York

The Mentoring Circles Reception is open to all current members. Register at www.nywba.org/MentoringCircles.

New Mentoring Circles are being formed now. New applicants should email MentoringCircles@nywba.org and include your name, mailing address and contact info; bar admission year (or anticipated year); and area(s) of practice. For more details, see the article about the Mentoring Circles Program and the Annual Reception on page 5.

Annual Cocktail Reception Honoring Newly Elected, Re-Elected & Newly Appointed Judges

February 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

RSVP Today! (For details, see notice on p. 5.)

Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events (see also "Committee News" on p. 3)

- 1/6 – Legislation Comm. Conference Call – p. 3
- 1/6 – Federal Practice Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 1/6 – Reproductive Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 1/7 – M&F, Children's Rights Comm. – *Anatomy of a Family Court Case, Part 1* – p. 5
- 1/12 – International Human Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 1/12 – Tech Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 1/15 – Solo & Small Firm Comm. – *How Women Lawyers Lead* – p. 3
- 1/15 – Repro. Rights CLE – *State of the Uterus* – p. 6
 - 1/15 – Program & Events Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 1/21 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 1/23 – NYWBA Dinner for WBASNY & Chapters – p. 8
 - 1/26 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 2/3 – Reproductive Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 2/4 – Matrimonial & Family Law Program – p. 3
 - 2/10 – Mentoring Circles Reception – p. 1, 5
- 2/10 – International Human Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 2/26 – Annual Judge's Reception – p. 5

Check www.nywba.org for more Meetings, Programs & Events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Outreach, Mentoring & Leadership

JANUARY 2015



Yacine Barry-Wun

What an exciting year so far! Among other accomplishments, we expanded our social media presence by launching our **NYWBA Twitter account (@nywba)**, and we are already nearing the 200 followers mark! Be sure to check it out. You can also find out about our events and programs by visiting the NYWBA **Facebook page**, and joining the **NYWBA LinkedIn Group**. We also started a project to enhance our website to provide new functionality for members, and we are planning CLE programs on the use and ethical standards for lawyers who utilize social media. Many thanks to the **Committee on Technology and the Internet for Lawyers**, and to the **Social Media Working Group** for their efforts. If you would like to get involved, send an email to TechChairs@nywba.org.

Our **Mentoring Committee** is planning its annual **Mentoring Circles Reception** on **February 10**, featuring **Hon. Loretta A. Preska, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York**, as our guest speaker (see notice at left). Please be sure to sign up today! NYWBA's **Mentoring Circles Program** is a cutting-edge initiative that has been utilized by hundreds of members over the years to provide direct mentoring by sharing challenges and ideas among a core group of members. The Reception is open to all members, but you **must** pre-register, **and** if you want to participate in a Mentoring Circle you must provide some details about your area of practice in order to be matched into an appropriate group. (For program details, see article on p. 5.)

We have recently taken steps to further engage our members who concentrate their practices in areas of federal law. We had a great meeting with federal practitioners on December 2, and we look forward to our next Federal Practice Committee meeting on **January 6**. On **March 4**, the Committee will also co-sponsor a program honoring the Chief Judges of every federal court in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. We are co-sponsoring this event with WBASNY and the SDNY Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. The Committee is planning two other exciting events this year, including a reception honoring the female Magistrate Judges of the SDNY and EDNY, and a CLE on practicing before the NYS Supreme Court's Commercial Division. If you wish to join the Federal Practice Committee, send an email to FederalPractice@nywba.org.

On **March 12**, join the **Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee** and the **Litigation Committee** as they hold a CLE program on Mediation in the SDNY and the NYS Supreme Court's Commercial Division.

During the fall, I was thrilled to coordinate the planning of two programs in recognition of **Domestic Violence Awareness** (Continued on Page 2)

NYWBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

At its November 4, 2014 meeting, the *NYWBA Committee on Nominations* nominated the following candidates to serve for the positions and terms stated below. The elections will be held at the Association's Annual Membership Meeting on **April 22, 2015**. (See meeting notice, page 3.)

OFFICERS (2014-2015)

President:	Jennifer P. Brown
Vice Presidents:	Amy B. Goldsmith Julie Hyman Andrea Vacca
Treasurer:	Deborah G. Rosenthal
Recording Secretary:	Virginia A. LoPreto
Corresponding Secretary:	Myra L. Freed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors to be Installed – Class of 2015-2018

Yacine Barry-Wun	Kay Marmorek
Leona Beane	Amanda B. Norejko
Jo Ann Douglas	Amy Saltzman
Catherine M. Foti	

Directors to be Installed

(to fill vacancies for unexpired terms)

Jean J. Han (2013-2016)	Jocelyn L. Jacobson (2014-2017)
-------------------------	---------------------------------

Directors – Continuing in Office

Michael W. Appelbaum	Hon. Judith J. Gische
Elizabeth A. Bryson	Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler
Dawn M. Cardi	Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy
Hon. Laura E. Drager	Susan M. Moss
Felice B. Ekelman	Francesca A. Sabbatino
Morgan M. Fraser	Victoria A. Turchetti

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Class of 2015-2017

Elizabeth A. Bryson	Francesca A. Sabbatino
Jo Ann Douglas	Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann

Class of 2014-2016

(to fill vacancy for unexpired term)

Yacine Barry-Wun

NYWBA MEMBERS OF WBASNY BOARD (2015-2016)

Yacine Barry-Wun	Marjorie Martin
Elizabeth A. Bryson	Deborah G. Rosenthal
Dawn M. Cardi	Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Jo Ann Douglas	Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin	Farah Zaman
Julie Hyman	

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

Month. I learned so much from our speakers in October at a community seminar we organized at the New York County Civil Court, where they discussed the legal rights of victims and survivors, including information on where to file orders of protection, accommodations employers can make to protect victims' safety, and where to find support, resources, and safety advice (see my article on pp. 7-8). In November, we offered a CLE program to provide tools to court employees on how to address cases that involve issues arising out of domestic violence, and how to better serve victims and survivors who visit the Civil Court. We will continue to address these important issues, including during the **19th Annual Fordham Forum on Domestic Violence** in March, proudly co-sponsored by our **NYWBA Domestic Violence Committee**. (Details will be provided in future Newsletters and on our website.)

WBASNY will be holding its winter **Board and Committee meetings** on **January 24**. We are delighted to continue our tradition of hosting an informal pre-meeting reception dinner for WBASNY Board, Delegates and Committee members and Chapter representatives on Friday, **January 23** (see notice, p. 8), the evening before the WBASNY meetings. We hope you will join us Friday evening to welcome our colleagues from across the state!

I am also very proud that NYWBA actively participated in WBASNY's Judiciary Committee in connection with the extensive review and screening of the qualifications of potential candidates to fill two vacancies on the New York State Court of Appeals. Holding two sets of candidate screenings in less than six months was quite a feat, and what a testament to the important role our Association plays at the state level!

Speaking of our judiciary, mark your calendars, and join us on **February 26** as we honor the newly appointed, elected, and re-elected judges serving in New York County at our annual **Judiciary Reception** at the Yale Club! (See notice, p. 5).

The Association has many other programs and events planned (see list on p. 1, Committee News on p. 3, and postings on our website). Be sure as well to "save the date" for our **80th Anniversary Dinner**, which will be held at the Marriot Marquis on **June 10, 2015**.

As always, we welcome member participation, so let us know if you would like to become more active. Many members find that once they get involved they are able to rise to leadership positions on programs, on Committees, and even on the NYWBA Board and at the statewide WBASNY level.

Finally, the NYWBA Nominations Committee has completed its annual review and nominated candidates for Officer, Director, and WBASNY Delegate positions (see notices, pp. 2 & 3). Our **Annual Meeting and Elections** will be held on **April 22**, followed immediately by our **Annual Ethics Program** (mark your calendars!). I am delighted that Vice President **Jennifer P. Brown** has been nominated to serve as President for 2015-2016. Ms. Brown has been a dedicated and effective leader on the Board and has overseen many of our major events. I know she will be a great President.

Happy New Year to All!

Yacine

SAVE THE DATE!
June 10, 2015
NYWBA 80th Anniversary Dinner
at the Marriot Marquis NYC

COMMITTEE NEWS

- The **Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee** is co-hosting a CLE with the **Litigation Committee** entitled “*Mediation in the Commercial Division and in the Southern District of New York*,” on **Mar. 12**, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at 111 Centre Street, Rm. 107. RSVP to ADR@nywba.org. (See notice p. 5.)
- The **Children’s Rights & Issues Committee** is co-hosting a program with the **Matrimonial & Family Law Committee** entitled “*Anatomy of a Family Court Case, Part 1: Representing Adults and Children in ACS and Article 10 Matters*” on **Jan. 7** at 6:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Virginia LoPreto, 565 5th Ave. (enter on 46th St. btw Madison/5th Ave). RSVP to MFrsvp@nywba.org. (See notice p. 5.) Part 2 will be on **Feb. 3** (same location & RSVP).
- The **Civil Courts Committee** will hold its monthly express lunch series meeting on **Jan. 21** from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Civil Court, 111 Centre Street, 12th Fl. boardroom (White Street entrance). The meeting is open for members and all who are interested. Please RSVP to CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org.
- The **Criminal Law Committee** will meet on **Jan. 26** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th St., 16th Fl. Send RSVP to CrimLawChairs@nywba.org.
- The **Federal Practice Committee** is looking for members interested in joining this committee. Email FederalPractice@nywba.org for more information.
- The **International Human Rights Committee** will hold monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. These meetings will take place on **Jan. 12, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, and May 12** at *Le Pain Quotidien*, 81 W. Broadway at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to IntlChairs@nywba.org.
- The **Legislation Committee** has scheduled a conference call for **Jan. 6** at 6:00 p.m. Email Legislation@nywba.org for phone and access numbers.
- The **Litigation Committee** is co-hosting a CLE with the **Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee** entitled “*Mediation in the Commercial Division and in the Southern District of New York*,” on **Mar. 12**, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at 111 Centre Street, Rm. 107. RSVP to ADR@nywba.org. (See notice p. 5.)
- The **Matrimonial & Family Law Committee** is co-hosting a program with the **Children’s Rights & Issues Committee** entitled “*Anatomy of a Family Court Case, Part 1: Representing Adults and Children in ACS and Article 10 Matters*” on **Jan. 7** at 6:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Virginia LoPreto, 565 5th Ave. (enter on 46th St. btw Madison/5th Ave). RSVP to MFrsvp@nywba.org. (See notice p. 5.) Part 2 will be on **Feb. 3** (same location & RSVP).
- The **Mentoring Committee** will host its **Annual Mentoring Circles Reception: An Evening with S.D.N.Y. Chief Judge Loretta A. Preska**, on **Feb. 10** at 6:00 p.m. at Covington & Burling LLP, New York Times Bldg., 620 Eighth Ave., (btw 40th/41st Sts.) RSVP at www.nywba.org/MentoringCircles. (See notice p. 1.)
- The **Program & Events Committee** is meeting **Jan. 15** at 6:00 p.m. at the Law Offices of Jennifer Brown and Andrea Vacca P.C., at 570 Lexington Ave., Suite 1600 (at 51st St.). RSVP to events@nywba.org.
- The **Reproductive Rights & Women’s Health Committee** will sponsor a CLE *The State of the Uterus: An Update on Roe v. Wade* on **Jan. 15** from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Blank Rome, LLP, 405 Lexington Ave. ADVANCE RSVP REQUIRED for building security. RSVP to ReproductiveRights@nywba.org. (See notice p. 6.) The Committee will meet on the first Tuesday of each month: **Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Apr. 7 and May 5** at 6:30 p.m. at Rottenstreich & Ettinger, 222 East 41st St. (btw 2nd/3rd Ave), 22 Fl. RSVP to ReproductiveRights@nywba.org. ADVANCE RSVP REQUIRED for building security.
- The **Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee** will hold a meeting entitled *How Women Lawyers Lead* on **Jan. 15**, beginning at 8:30 AM at the Law Offices of Phillips & Paolicelli, LLP, 747 Third Ave., 6th Fl. RSVP to SSFChairs@nywba.org.
- The **Technology & Internet for Lawyers Committee** will meet by phone on **Jan. 12**, and on the second Monday of future months. To RSVP and for dial-in details email TechChairs@nywba.org.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS – ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

The **NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting** will be held on **April 22, 2015**, when the President & Treasurer will present reports on the state of the NYWBA and its finances, and the Association will hold elections for Officer, Director and Delegate positions. (See p. 2 for the NYWBA Nominations Committee Report, which includes a list of all open positions, terms of office and nominees, as well as a list of Directors continuing in office.)

Article XIV, Section 1 of the By-Laws provides that only members who are in good standing and whose membership dues were received by **January 31st** may vote at the Annual Meeting.

Article XVII, Section 10 of the By-Laws provides that any fifty members eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting may, by a writing delivered to the Corresponding Secretary not less than *forty days* prior to the Annual Meeting, propose candidates for officer or director positions to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Such petition must be *received* by no later than **March 20, 2015** and must be addressed to Corresponding Secretary Myra L. Freed, New York Women’s Bar Association, The Chrysler Building, 132 East 43rd Street, # 716, New York, New York 10017-4019.

The Annual Meeting and Elections will be held at **Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC**, 488 Madison Avenue, 10th Fl., NYC (btw 51st/52nd Sts). Immediately after the elections, NYWBA will present an **Ethics CLE Program** (details to be announced soon).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer A. Battle	Iana J. Marcus
Amanda Coleman	Melanie L. Miller
Hon. Fern A. Fisher	Katerina Milonas
Rachel Gallant	Madelyn A. Morris
Gabrielle A. Giombetti	Audrey Ogurchak
Lauren F. Gizzi	Devi Patel
Melissa F. Glassman	Martha Perez-Pedemonti
Matthew Goodwin	Ruth Ragan
Maya S. Graham	Kimberly D. Reilly
Andrea Hirshman	Alexa J. Risssoff
Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman	Charlene Roderman
Jevet T. Johnson	E. Annie Rutenber
Shawndra G. Jones	Elina Saperstein
Jacqueline S. Kahman	Leah F. Satlin
Marianne Kurlandski	Christina Simanca-Proctor
Garima Malhotra	Rae Ellen Vitiello

as of 12/18/14

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

With their generous contributions, Sustaining Members make it possible for us to accomplish so much more. We honor and thank them for their support.

Elkan Abramowitz	Loretta A. Ippolito
Jennifer A. Battle	Marcy H. Katz
Mary A. Donovan	Robin LoGuidice
Myma Felder	Harold A. Mayerson
Anthony H. Gair	Diane Meyers
Christine M. Harman	Betsey Nathan
Adria S. Hillman	Heather J. O’Neill
Brigitte Homrig-Renaud	Alexis M. Wolf

NYWBA Foundation Hosts a Successful Special Event with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

By Annie M. Ugurlayan

On October 23, 2014, the NYWBA Foundation had the honor of presenting a discussion with **Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator** from New York. Senator Gillibrand remarked on her recent book, [Off the Sidelines: Raise Your Voice. Change the World.](#)

Senator Gillibrand was first sworn in as a United States Senator in January 2009. She was then elected in 2012 by an overwhelming majority to hold a full six year term. Senator Gillibrand has been a tireless advocate for open and honest government and became the first Senator to post her tax returns on her website. She led the fight to pass the STOCK Act, which makes it illegal for members of Congress to engage in insider trading, and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which had banned gays from serving openly in the military. She also ensured that 9/11 first responders and community survivors who are sick from diseases contracted at Ground Zero would receive health care and compensation. Last year, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Personnel, Senator Gillibrand held the first Senate hearing on the issue of sexual assault in the military in almost a decade and has been leading the fight to reform the military's treatment of sexual assault cases. Senator Gillibrand was named one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People In The World" in April 2014.

NYWBA Foundation President **Karen Mitchell** welcomed the more than 100 guests, and introduced **Marilyn Kunstler**, a NYWBAF Board Member who was instrumental in organizing the event. Ms. Kunstler introduced Senator Gillibrand and was joined by **Katherine Posner**, a NYWBAF Past President, to pose questions to the Senator. The questions centered on her experiences before and during her service in the Senate.

Senator Gillibrand remarked that her book was inspired by her conversations with women and their common struggles. She wrote it as a call to action for women to be heard on important issues and to advance women into leadership positions. An example described in the book occurred during congressional hearings in 2006 on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which were largely focused on military readiness. At the time she was sitting in Congress, and along with then-Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, she worked to give recognition to the alarming increases in post traumatic stress disorder, suicide and domestic violence among members of the armed services. Their leadership, and efforts to raise public awareness of the domestic impact of the wars, caused Congress to have a more complete discussion about the needs of the military.

Senator Gillibrand also touched on how she defines "having it all." She explained that the key question to ask is: what is being done to ensure that men and women can balance work and family? This means ensuring that families have adequate structural support, such as access to universal prekindergarten and paid sick leave. This is particularly true for low wage earners who simply cannot afford to take time off when they become ill.

Senator Gillibrand also discussed the pivotal roles her mother and grandmother played in her life. Both were trailblazers; her mother was one of only three women in her law school class and was also a "hands-on" mother. Her grandmother, who began as a secretary in the New York State Legislature, became a valued adviser to party leaders, and encouraged women to get involved in politics and public service and join her in grassroots advocacy.

Senator Gillibrand remarked that the reason there are still so few women in politics is because most women do not aspire to hold a political office. She pointed out that many women engage in organized sports because they have learned to be unafraid of failure. She believes that a way to get more women involved in politics is to increase involvement in sports. She also suggested

that women who are considering becoming involved in the political sphere direct their focus on what they are passionate about, because their thinking will shift from themselves to their causes. Senator Gillibrand also noted that she has an excellent working relationship with her fellow female senators, often crossing party lines to reach consensus on a wide variety of issues.

Among the many attendees were students from Stuyvesant High School, one of whom asked how to change the perception of women not being equal to men. Senator Gillibrand responded by referring to the recent scandals regarding domestic violence among professional football players, where no facts are in dispute, however the NFL deplorably declined to fire any players. She urged for a national conversation to begin about violence against women on college campuses, in the military and in other arenas. Senator Gillibrand also referred to a lack of women heroines in US culture, and she asked the audience to consider Rosie the Riveter, the cultural icon who flexed her bicep and said, "We Can Do It!" to inspire millions of women to work in factories during WWII, adding that the same impetus can spur women today to positions of leadership.

The Foundation thanks the following for their sponsorship of the event: Baker & Hostetler LLP, Berke-Weiss & Pechman, LLP, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, Condon & Forsyth LLP, H5, Latham & Watkins LLP, Martha E. Gifford, Esq., Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Proskauer Rose LLP and Sidley Austin LLP.

Annie M. Ugurlayan is a member of the NYWBA Foundation Board of Directors. She is a Senior Staff Attorney at the National Advertising Division of the Better Business Bureau.

The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that funds charitable, philanthropic and educational programs to aid women and children. Its mission is to eliminate gender bias and other forms of discrimination from the legal system and legal profession; to promote the social and economic equality, safety and well being of women and children; and to address the unmet legal needs of women and children. For more info, visit the Foundation website at www.nywbaf.org.



NYWBA Foundation Past President & Board member Katherine B. Posner, NYWBAF Board Member Marilyn C. Kunstler, and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (l.-r.).

**Annual Enrollment Now Open for
 NYWBA's Innovative Mentoring Circles
 Program; Reception Planned for
 February 10, 2015
 By Allison M. Surcouf**

The NYWBA Mentoring Circles program began in 1995 and was the first program of its kind in the country. While mentoring as a concept was well-known at the time, the NYWBA was the first organization to create a "mentoring circles" program for women attorneys. The program began under the tutelage of Ida Abbott, who went on to write *The Lawyers' Guide to Mentoring*. Publication of Ms. Abbott's groundbreaking work and an associated conference sponsored by the NYWBA Foundation were the first public expressions of the concept of mentoring circles.

The NYWBA Mentoring Circles program joins interested members in a group of their peers to meet throughout the year and share their personal and professional experiences. The goal of the program is to foster a supportive and encouraging environment for women lawyers to discuss the challenges of our profession. Once a

year, we open the roster for mentoring circles membership and hold a reception where existing and new mentoring circle members come together and network with members of other circles. The featured speaker at this year's Mentoring Circles Reception on **February 10, 2015** is **Honorable Loretta A. Preska**, Chief Judge of the Southern District of New York (see p. 1).

Whether you are a long-standing member or are new to the program, **you must be a current member of the Association to participate in the Mentoring Circles Program.** To join or renew your NYWBA membership, go to our secure online membership form at www.nywba.org/membership. (If you have a question about your membership status or would prefer a paper membership form, contact NYWBA Executive Director Karen Lu as soon as possible at ed@nywba.org.)

Allison M. Surcouf is Co-Chair of the Mentoring Committee, together with Co-Chairs Randy L. Shapiro and Ellie Ackerman. Ms. Surcouf is an associate at Condon & Forsyth LLP and her practice focuses on litigation involving aviation, product liability and employment issues, as well as general commercial and civil matters.

**The NYWBA Matrimonial & Family Law
 Committee & the Children's Rights Committee**

present

***Anatomy of a Family Court Case, Part 1:
 Representing Adults and Children in
 ACS and Article 10 Matters***

The program will be moderated by **Hon. Lori S. Sattler, Virginia A. LoPreto** and **Callie Kramer**, and presented by **Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman**, Supervising Judge for the New York County Family Court, and **Hon. Clark V. Richardson**, Judge of the New York County Family Court.

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Law Offices of Virginia A. LoPreto, 565 Fifth Ave.
 (entrance on 46th St. btw. 5th & Madison Aves.)
 (NOTE NEW LOCATION!)
RSVP: Email MFrsvp@nywba.org.

**If you are not a current member, join or renew using our secure online membership form at www.nywba.org/Membership.*

The New York Women's Bar Association
 invites you to join us in honoring our special guests

***The Newly Elected, Re-Elected,
 and Newly Appointed Judges of
 New York County***

at a **Cocktail Reception**

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave., NYC
 (at 44th St., across from Grand Central's west entrance)

Cost: \$75 Members (NYWBA & WBASNY) and
 \$90 Non-Members (paid in advance);
 \$100 for all if paid at door (space permitting)

Note: **No charge** for NY County Judges who are newly elected, newly re-elected, or newly appointed; for Justices of the Appellate Division, First Dep't; or for New York Court of Appeals Judges

RSVP: Space is limited, so RSVP promptly at
www.nywba.org/JudgesReception

We ask that all judges RSVP, even if they are honorees, so we can account for all attendees.

Sponsorship: Law firms, companies, and individuals are invited to make a donation to help support this event at the following sponsorship levels:
Platinum (\$1,000) Gold (\$750) Silver (\$500)

Sponsors will be acknowledged at the event, on our website, and in the NYWBA Newsletter, and they will be entitled to: Platinum - three admissions to the event, Gold - two admissions, Silver / Friend - one admission. (Contributions of \$100 or more are welcome and will be recognized at the "Friend" level.)

SAVE THE DATE!

The Alternate Dispute Resolution & Litigation Committees are proud to co-sponsor a CLE Program
***"Mediation in the Commercial Division
 and in the Southern District of New York"***

This program will include speakers **Leona Beane** and **Marni Robin**, moderated by **Lisa Courtney**.

Date: Thursday, Mar. 12, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Place: NYS Civil Court, 111 Centre Street, Rm. 107
CLE: TBD
Cost: TBD
RSVP: Go to www.nywba.org/ADRACLE to register
Info: Email ADR@nywba.org

NYWBA Foundation Breakfast featuring Ida O. Abbott and her latest book - *Sponsoring Women: What Men Need to Know*

In September, author **Ida O. Abbott** spoke at the *NYWBA Foundation* breakfast event at the Cornell Club about her latest book, *Sponsoring Women: What Men Need to Know*. Ida's background and experience give her a unique voice in the areas of mentoring, sponsorship and leadership issues for women in the legal profession. After working as a trial lawyer for twenty years, she turned her attention to the development and retention of professional talent. Ida is a Co-Founder of the highly-regarded Hastings Leadership Academy for Women and the author of many books, including *The Lawyer's Guide to Mentoring*, the publication of which was underwritten by the NYWBAF through an anonymous grant and which was the subject of a NYWBAF-sponsored conference on mentoring at the New York City Bar Association in 2000.

Ida revealed that while mentoring is an important element in the advancement of women in the profession, sponsorship is absolutely critical for career advancement into the higher levels in companies and organizations. Why is sponsorship so important and exactly what is it? As Ida explains in her book, "sponsors are powerful backers who identify high performers and actively champion their advancement." These sponsors – who are more often than not men, can give their protégées opportunities and can influence decisions about promotions, clients and compensation. While one can (and should) have mentors both inside and outside of one's workplace, a sponsor is generally someone within your organization who has both the interest in helping you advance in your career as well as the power to do so. This new focus and discussion among women on the need for sponsors in the area of career development is a natural progression in the area of women's leadership. Historically we have focused on the important need for mentors, diversity, and other initiatives in the workplace. Ida points out that we now need to recognize and focus our attention of the critical importance of sponsors.

In Ida's talk and in her book, she especially calls upon men to understand and embrace their important roles in sponsoring women. Ida explains in her book, "women need the sponsorship of men, and men owe it to women, not because men are to blame, but because they are in control. With a near monopoly on power and executive decision making, men are obligated to ensure that their companies retain and optimize all of the best available talent." Gender diversity programs and initiatives designed to help women are important, but they are not enough to produce gender-balanced leadership. This can only be accomplished when both men and women in leadership roles actively sponsor women.

NYWBA wishes to acknowledge the generous gift from
FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT
HON. FLORENCE PERLOW SHIENTAG (1908-2009)
 Her financial bequest has helped to underwrite the cost of this Newsletter and many of our CLE programs.

The Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Committee is proud to sponsor a CLE Program

***"The State of the Uterus:
 An Update on Roe v. Wade"***

featuring

Maya Manian

Professor, University of San Francisco School of Law
 Visiting Scholar, Columbia Law School Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, 2014 - 2015

Kelly Baden

Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Center for Reproductive Rights

David Brown, Esq.

Litigation Attorney, Center for Reproductive Rights

Brynn Weinstein

Associate Director, Health Center Regulatory Strategy,
 Planned Parenthood

Julie Krumwiede

NYAAF Board Member

Join us at the annual reprisal of this dynamic and exciting program, where the speakers will discuss the current state of *Roe v. Wade*, and the need to forcefully and effectively respond to the ongoing assault against reproductive freedom.

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Place: Blank Rome LLP, The Chrysler Building
 405 Lexington Avenue, (btwn 42nd & 43rd sts.)

CLE: 2.5 Professional Practice CLE Credits*

Cost: Free - Members**

\$50 - Non-members***

RSVP: Go to www.nywba.org/ReproductiveRights for details and to register.

Info: Email RepRtsRSVP@nywba.org.

***CLE:** New York Women's Bar Association is a founding chapter of the Women's Bar Assn of the State of New York, an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.

****Membership:** Members attend CLE programs for free. If you are not a member, go to www.nywba.org/Membership to join or renew using our secure online membership form.

*****Financial Hardship Scholarships:** Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For info on the guidelines and to apply, contact CLE Chair Amy. B. Goldsmith at CLE@nywba.org or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

Valuable Lessons from A Seminar on Domestic Violence – What You Should Know If You or a Client is Facing These Issues by Yacine Barry-Wun

On October 29, 2014, the **New York State Courts Access to Justice Community Outreach Program** hosted an hour-long community seminar on domestic violence in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month. The program was held at the New York County Civil Court, in collaboration with the New York Women's Bar Association's Employment & Equal Opportunity for Women Committee and the New York Women's Agenda's (NYWA) Domestic Violence Committee.

Nancy Salamone, owner of The Business of Me, opened the program by sharing staggering statistics and facts about domestic violence. According to Safe Horizon, an organization that helps victims of domestic violence, one in three homicide victims are murdered by a current or former partner every year.¹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that more than one in three women and more than one in four men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.²

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and/or psychological.³ There are many signs of an abusive relationship, including a partner's exercise of varying degrees of control, force, monitoring, blame, humiliation, insult, and/or threat.

Ms. Salamone shared her compelling personal story of becoming a survivor of domestic violence at the hands of her husband, and ultimately breaking away from the abuse. She shed light on many of the reasons why victims don't leave, which include fear, children, the abuser's promises of reform, their own lack of self-esteem, economic dependence, societal and/or religious beliefs, and cultural or ethnic background.

(See: <http://www.domesticabuseshelter.org/InfoDomesticViolence.htm#why> and http://www.ncdsv.org/images/50_Reasons_Women_Dont_Leave.pdf.)

Speaking on the topic of developing a safety plan, **Raegan Johnston**, a Staff Attorney with Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Law Project, addressed the important issue of filing for an Order of Protection, and she highlighted the difference between proceedings in the Criminal Court and those in Family Court.

In the Criminal Court scenario, the process is initiated by the victim (also known as the "complainant") at a police station, where a domestic incident report is completed based on the victim's disclosures to the police officer, who summarizes the incident(s) and the victim's account becomes the starting point for the proceedings. Typically, once the report has been submitted, the decision on whether to prosecute the abuser lies with the District Attorney's Office. If the prosecutor files criminal charges in Criminal Court, the District

Attorney's Office – rather than the victim – maintains control over the entire proceeding and all decision making.

In the Family Court scenario, the victim must prepare a Petition that alleges the specific incidents that constitute the abuser's offenses. The filing of the Petition starts the case in Family Court. Note, however, that under the Family Court Act, only persons who are "members of the same family or household," or are in an "intimate relationship," have standing to seek an Order of Protection in that forum. By contrast with Criminal Court proceedings, in the Family Court abuse victims (also known as "petitioners") retain some level of control over the process, in that they may withdraw or amend the complaint, and they often may weigh in to influence the Court on the decisions concerning the nature and length of Orders of Protection.

While Orders of Protection issued by either the Criminal Court or the Family Court carry an equal amount of force, Ms. Johnston noted there are often other advantages of filing in Family Court, such as having a lower burden of proof to show that the abuse occurred and that the victim should be entitled to relief, and there are more options and ways to tailor a final Order to the circumstances, including options to include child support, custody, restitution, participation in a court-ordered batterer's program, or supervised visitation. On the other hand, there are also disadvantages, including that there is no requirement in Family Court for a "speedy trial," and victims must attend all court proceedings (whereas in Criminal Court they would attend only when they appear as a witness at a hearing or at the trial).

Having discussed the legal avenues victims can pursue to seek protection from further abuse, the discussion turned to the issues victims of domestic abuse may face in the workplace, and some of their rights and protections available in the employment arena. **Serena Scott-Ram**, Deputy Director with the NYC Administration for Children's Services' Office of the Commissioner's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, recited the incredible statistic that an estimated *eight million* paid days of work are lost each year due to domestic violence. She added that keeping a job and maintaining a source of income are essential for victims, as it affects their ability to leave their abusive situation (and in many instances to protect their children from abuse).

Domestic violence victims in New York City are protected by local, state, and federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws, which govern workplace rights and protections and bar discrimination against current employees (and applicants for employment)

based on their status as victims of domestic violence.⁴

Ms. Scott-Ram also explained that due to past or ongoing abuse, victims may need to take time off to deal with issues connected to domestic violence, including moving to a safe location, or dealing with disabilities and injuries. Whether they need to take time off to seek medical care, go to court, or consult with the District Attorney about their domestic violence case, victims are protected by local, state, and federal laws.⁵ Victims may not be discriminated against if they have an arrest and/or conviction criminal record or are being harassed while on the job in connection with a domestic violence situation, and they may also request reasonable accommodations from their employers to stay safe at work.

She also recommended that victims should become familiar with and/or consult an attorney about the New York State Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance rules, which do not necessarily bar them from receiving unemployment insurance benefits where they had to leave a job or were fired for poor work performance due to, in connection with, domestic violence issues.

When victims feel that their rights are being violated, they may utilize internal grievance processes at the workplace (if available) to report allegations of discrimination or request reasonable accommodations. An administrative complaint against an employer may also be filed with various agencies, such as the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the New York State Division of Human Rights, or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. If the outcome of the internal and/or external process is not satisfactory, victims may consider filing a lawsuit against their employer for violating applicable laws and regulations requiring non-discrimination and accommodation of victims of domestic violence.

All of the speakers agreed that the key to breaking the cycle is for the victim to have a **safety plan**. When one is approached by a person who is the victim of domestic violence, the best assistance one can provide is to offer support and help develop a safety plan – whether the victim is staying in the relationship, preparing to leave, or has already left. **The National Domestic Violence Hotline** (800-799-7233) is a great place to turn to get help, as are **Safe Horizon** and **Sanctuary for Families** in New York City.

NYWBA expresses its thanks to the extraordinary speakers and to the NYS Courts Access to Justice Community Outreach Program for presenting this excellent and informative seminar.

(Continued on Page 8)

NOTES ON MEMBERS

NYWBA expresses its deepest sympathy to NYWBA Past President **Laurie Berke-Weiss**, husband Brian Berke, daughter Alexandra, sister **Dr. Sara Weiss** and **Barbara Finerty**, and the entire family on the passing of Laurie's beloved mother, **Naomi Weiss**, in mid-December. Condolences may be sent c/o Laurie Berke-Weiss, Esq., Berke-Weiss & Pechman LLP, 488 Madison Ave., Suite 1120, New York, NY 10022. Memorial donations may be made to WNET Public Television or the charity of your choice.

Congratulations to **Jean J. Han**, who has been elected to the NYWBA Board of Directors, replacing **Kathryn E. Salensky**. Ms. Han, who is both an attorney and a CPA, is a Director at ParenteBeard LLP, where she concentrates her practice on matrimonial, family, tax, estate planning, and related matters. Best wishes as well to Ms. Salensky, who is a Court Attorney in the Bronx Criminal Court.

The Association recently learned that long-time member **Rebecca S. Levine** passed away May 2014. Ms. Levine was admitted in New York in 1983 and attended Brooklyn Law School. For thirty years, she had a solo practice in the areas of matrimonial, real estate, and trusts & estates law. Ms. Levine was active in NYWBA Committees and was a regular presence at our events. She was also a long-time Director for Metropolitan Maltese Rescue. We offer heartfelt sympathies to Ms. Levine's family and friends. Condolences may be sent c/o Michele White, Law Office of Rebecca S. Levine, 200 East 27th Street, New York, NY 10016-9202.

Has something noteworthy happened to you or another member? Send your news to Newsletter@nywba.org.

Domestic Violence Seminar (Continued from Page 7)

¹ See: <http://www.safehorizon.org/page/domestic-violence-statistics--facts-52.html>.
² See: [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summary_reports.html) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summary_reports.html.
³ The United States Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone." See: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence>.
⁴ In New York City, equal employment laws include the New York City Human Rights Law, the New York State Human Rights Law, and the federal Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
⁵ These laws include the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, and the newly-enacted New York City Paid Sick Leave Law. Other resources, such as an employee's company's policy regarding time-off rules, short-term disability benefits, and workers compensation should be also be considered.

NYWBA President **Yacine Barry-Wun** is Special Counsel for Housing Court Initiatives to the **Honorable Fern A. Fisher**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, and Director of the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program.

NYWBA is proud to host a
Reception Dinner for WBASNY Officers and Women's Bar Delegates to the WBASNY Board and Committees from across NYS

NYWBA members are invited to join us at an informal dinner to welcome to Manhattan WBASNY's Officers and the other Chapters' Presidents, Delegates & Committee representatives. This is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with Women's Bar members from across the state. *(This event is on the evening before WBASNY's Board & Committee Meetings on January 24, 2015.)*

Date: Friday, January 23, 2015
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Antalia, 17 West 45th St. (btw 5th Ave. & Avenue of the Americas), NYC
Menu: Enjoy a variety of Turkish appetizers and main dishes, including vegetarian options, plus one soft beverage and dessert. *(Cash bar for beer or wine purchases.)*
Cost: \$50 per person
RSVP: To ensure reservation, RSVP in advance at: www.nywba.org/WBASNYManhattanDinner.
Info: For questions or additional info, email: WBASNYManhattanDinner@nywba.org.

SAVE THE DATE!
May 14-17, 2015
WBASNY 2015 CONVENTION
 The Sagamore Resort, Bolton Landing, New York



President Yacine Barry-Wun and Board Member Leona Beane attend the Network of Bar Leaders' Courthouse Tour and Reception held at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on December 8, 2014.

PRESIDENT
Yacine Barry-Wun
VICE PRESIDENTS
Jennifer P. Brown
Julie Hyman
Amy B. Goldsmith
TREASURER
Deborah G. Rosenthal
RECORDING SECRETARY
Virginia A. LoPresto
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Myra L. Freed
NYWBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Michael W. Appelbaum
Leona Beane
Elizabeth A. Bryson
Dawn M. Cardi
Jo Ann Douglas
Hon. Laura E. Drager
Felice B. Ekelman
Catherine M. Foti
Morgan M. Fraser
Hon. Judith J. Gische
Patricia Ann Grant
Jean J. Han
Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler
Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy
Kay Marmorek
Monique McClure
Susan M. Moss
Francesca A. Sabbatino
Amy Saltzman
Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Victoria A. Turchetti

Executive Director
Karen Lu

Established 1934
A Founding Chapter of the
WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

WBASNY President
Irene V. Villacci
WBASNY Vice President
Amy Saltzman (NYWBA)
**NYWBA Directors on
the WBASNY Board**
Jennifer P. Brown
Elizabeth A. Bryson
Dawn M. Cardi
Jo Ann Douglas
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin
Patricia Ann Grant
Julie Hyman
Marjorie A. Martin
Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff
Farah Y. Zaman

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

A Founding Chapter of THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

132 East 43rd Street, #716, New York, New York 10017-4019

(212) 490-8202 • Fax (877) 282-1462 • info@nywba.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
TERMINAL PRINTING
COMPANY
07102

NYWBA Membership Information

We thank our current members for their continued support and involvement, and we look forward to welcoming new and renewing members. Take advantage of our many membership benefits - join committees, network, participate in mentoring circles, attend our signature events, and get CLE credits at our innovative and compelling programs at a significantly reduced cost. It's easy to join or renew - go to www.nywba.org/Membership to access our secure online membership form.

Current members should send updated address and contact information to ED@nywba.org. This will help us keep you informed about our programs, events, and other benefits of membership.

Newsletter and Advertising Information

Submissions must be sent to the Newsletter Committee (Chairs Alexandra Campbell and Jessica Cygler), by the 10th of the month for publication in the following month's Newsletter. Please submit articles, announcements, upcoming event programming, photos, committee news, member news, and ads to newsletter@nywba.org. Submissions should be proofed and cite-checked, and NYWBA retains the usual editorial discretion to omit or edit all contributions. Send an email to newsletter@nywba.org if you have questions or are interested in joining the Newsletter Committee.

Has your web company forgotten you?

Come to *TAG Online* - We are here for you!

TAG online

- ✓ Website Design
- ✓ Redesign and Updates
- ✓ Reliable Hosting
- ✓ LinkedIn, Facebook & Twitter
- ✓ Email Newsletter
- ✓ Blog

Contact Amy at 973.783.5583

sales@tagonline.com • www.tagonline.com

We are the Official Website Provider for the
NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Visit our website at www.nywba.org

and check out NYWBA on

[facebook](#) and [Linked in](#)