



From Brooklyn Heights to Madison Square
The New York Women's Bar Association
and
The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association
will co-host a
Women's History Month Reception
In honor of the women
of our Appellate Divisions
on
March 7, 2006
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
at
Commerce Bank, Wall Street Branch
 (no attendance fee)

RSVP by March 1 to Sulay Vishnupad at
 (718) 709-3968 or Sulay.vishnupad@yesbank.com

*We thank Commerce Bank
 for its generous sponsorship of this event.*

The New York Women's Bar Association
 will co-host a conference with the
 NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY:
Violence Against Women:
From Critical Concerns to Collective Action

Saturday, March 4, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

New York County Lawyers' Association
 14 Vesey Street (betw Broadway and Church)
 \$100 fee

For more information, contact Denise Scotto
 at deescotto@aol.com or 917-348-5483.

**For the latest news and information on programs and
 events, check NYWBA online at www.nywba.org.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2006

In late January the distressing headlines in the NY Post focused for several days on the lurid allegations that a highly placed, well-compensated male executive had sexually harassed a highly placed, well-compensated female executive who worked in the same organization, and that he had encouraged other males in the organization to do the same.



Christina Kallas

Photo: Daryl-Ann Saunders

I'm not sure that sexual harrassment is news to us. What I find so repulsive about this story is the way in which it was reported, as if it were intended to elicit a prurient response from the public. We pay so much attention to what is vile in our society that we have no room left to focus on what we do that is noble. There was an anniversary in late January that I'd like to bring to your attention, as it barely made a ripple in the press.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 26, the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation presented medals to several of the Christian citizens of Greece who had helped to save the lives of their Jewish compatriots during the Nazi occupation of Greece. The event was co-sponsored by the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, the American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece, and the American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House. The ceremony took place at the Center for Jewish History at 15 West 16th Street, in the midst of an exhibit entitled "Hidden Children in Occupied Greece" which is making its first trip to the United States. Two of the "hidden children" were present at the ceremony: Dr. Laura Molho Sard, and Mrs. Rosina Asser Pardo, who has published a book about her experiences. They spoke movingly of the generosity of their fellow countrymen and women who hid them from the occupiers, knowing that the penalty for discovery was death. As I listened to their brief presentations, I felt that I could easily be listening to Harriet Tubman speaking of her experiences along the Underground Railroad. But they were speaking of events that occurred only 63 years ago.

Certainly not all Greek citizens were heroes during the Occupation; estimates are that 87% of the Jewish citizens of Greece were exterminated at that time. However, the focus this night was on those citizens who stood up to evil, many of whom remain unnamed, even today. Of particular interest to me were the stories of Eastern Orthodox clergymen who spoke out against this obvious injustice. I especially enjoyed hearing about

Continued on page 2

National Conference of Women's Bar Associations

will host a Summit

on March 2-3, 2006 in Washington, DC.

We are pleased to announce that
NYWBA Advisory Council Member
Martha E. Gifford

will moderate a panel on ideas for advancing women.

For more information, contact info@nywba.org.



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President's Message continued from page 1

events on the island of Zakynthos. The mayor of the island, Loukas Karrer, initially refused to give the Nazis a list of the Jews living on the island. When pressed, the mayor went to the local bishop for advice. When the bishop and the mayor could no longer hold off the Nazis, they submitted the list -- containing only their own two names. In the meantime, they had managed to warn their Jewish neighbors. Not one Jew was deported from the island or killed by the Nazis.

I watched the face of my 11-year-old niece sitting next to me as these stories were told by the survivors. And I thought that this story was the one that was worthy of headlines in our newspapers. So I now have told it to you. Let's all remember it, the next time we see an obvious injustice. "Hidden Children in Occupied Greece" will be on display at the Consulate General of Greece from February 1 through 28, at 69 East 79th Street, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Speaking of those who take a stand, as we were going to press, we learned that the NYWBA Foundation has been awarded the Service Award by the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. Among other projects, our Foundation's fundraising efforts provide fellowships for law students at local pro bono agencies for the support of domestic violence victims, immigrants, and other individuals for whom legal services would otherwise not be available. We believe that the Foundation's programs exemplify the best kind of service that women's bar associations provide to the community, and we are delighted to have our belief validated by the NCWBA.

The Foundation raises funds for its programs in three ways: through dues "check-offs" from NYWBA members, through an annual giving campaign, and through a series of breakfast seminars that feature speakers on subjects of interest to women lawyers and friends of the Foundation. To date the speakers have been prominent women authors -- lawyers, historians, and journalists such as Linda Greenhouse of *The New York Times* -- of recently published books. The Foundation sells tickets to the breakfasts at a price that includes a tax-deductible contribution, and obtains book donations from the speakers' publishers. The books are autographed and sold at the breakfasts to further benefit the fellowship program. The Board asks guests to buy an extra ticket so that a female high school student can attend. Through this initiative, young women have an opportunity to meet women lawyers, to hear a remarkable speaker on a subject to which they otherwise might not be exposed in high school, and to observe the satisfaction that pro bono work and giving bring to one's life.

So if you haven't already given to our Foundation, or even if you have, please feel free to make a donation by sending a check to the NY Women's Bar Foundation, c/o NYWBA, 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3025, New York, NY 10176. That's the best way I know to tell the hardworking members of our Foundation Board that we are proud of the good work that they do, and to take a stand against injustice.

Christina

Networking Skills Workshop: How To Work A Room

On December 12, 2005, Celia Paul Associates gave a dynamic presentation on "How To Work a Room" and inspired members of the NYWBA to make networking a weekly goal. The event was held at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP.

Before you begin networking, Celia Paul suggested assessing your personal skills and attributes. This includes determining your comfort level for "contact activities," such as writing to professional contacts, calling a primary contact, asking someone if you may mention their name as a reference or for assistance, etc. Also, you need to determine what your needs are, where you can grow, and what you can offer to someone else. Celia Paul emphasized that networking involves an even exchange of information between two or more people, although the information may not be exchanged simultaneously.

Celia Paul revealed one of the secrets to great networking: sincerely taking an interest in the other person. To do this, Ms. Paul asserted that you have to actively listen, which you can do by paraphrasing what the person says, and asking open-ended questions to ascertain her interests. She suggested speaking with as many people as possible and to refrain from speaking with the same person all night. One way to tactfully exit a conversation, she suggested, is to say, "I would like to continue this conversation at a later time. May I have your business card?"

Once you have established a potential contact, Celia Paul stated that it is imperative to periodically follow up with the person: schedule a lunch meeting, send an invitation to a charitable event or another event of interest to the person (hopefully you will be in attendance too), or even a holiday card. Be creative!

Celia Paul underscored that structured networking events are not the only places to meet potential contacts. You can speak at events (a great way to increase visibility), co-author articles (a great way to establish credibility in a field), or -- even better -- obtain referrals from professional and primary contacts.

The most important point emphasized during the workshop was that if you make people feel comfortable with you and respect their time and personal space, you will get more out of your networking experience.

Immediately following the workshop, the attendees honed their networking skills at a cocktail reception.

The NYWBA would like to thank Celia Paul for making such a wonderful presentation, and Fulbright & Jaworski, for hosting and sponsoring the event and cocktail reception. The attendees found the workshop very helpful and are looking forward to future networking opportunities.

Cassandra Aquart

NOTES ON MEMBERS

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

Congratulations to NYWBA Member and WBASNJ Continuing Legal Education Delegate **Laura M. Twomey** on joining the partnership of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP.

Condolences to NYWBA Member **Denise Coleman** on the death of her mother, who passed away on December 30, 2005, after a long illness.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Marjorie Aaron
Lisa Axelrod
Angela Barker
Carole Bass
Valeria Calafiore
Tali R. Harel
Allison M. Harlow
Kim Jean
Julie Ko
Maryana Kodner*

*Susanna B. Konner
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Kara Morrow
Michelle A. Offsey
Cho P. Sarra
Marisa Sasitorn
Tina Woo*

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

With their generous contributions, our 2005-06 sustaining members make it possible for us to accomplish so much more. We honor and thank them for their support.

*Aurora Cassirer
Eileen S. King
Nancy M. Loudon
Laurie J. McPherson*

*Tania M. Pagan
Hon. Leslie Crocker Snyder
Ellen Werther*

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

The **International Law and Practice Committee** will meet on Monday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway. Please RSVP to Co-Chair Brigitte Rajacic at rajacic@hotmail.com or (917) 402-0353.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Rutgers University of New Jersey is seeking an Associate General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel. To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and an e-mail address by April 1, 2006 to counsel@oldqueens.rutgers.edu.

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Finding Free Patent Data Online

Donna Praiss, a NYWBA Board Member and Technology and Internet for Lawyers Committee Member, submitted the following article:

I am sure that every lawyer has met the glazed stare or the barrage of questions seeking free advice when family and friends ask what you do for a living. For patent attorneys, someone at every social function has a great idea for you to patent. You find yourself politely describing what a patent is over coffee and wedding cake. Luckily for us patent attorneys, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has made it easier for the average non-lawyer with Internet access to learn the basics about our American patent system, using the website <http://www.uspto.gov>. The USPTO website is also a valuable tool for finding patents or published patent applications describing a particular compound, machine, or process, and for determining the status of patents and applications, e.g., whether they are expired, withdrawn, or abandoned, or whether ownership has changed. Here are a few suggestions for navigating this phenomenal library of information.

The homepage for the USPTO is set up so that patent attorneys and agents can dive right into patent searches and status inquiries by clicking on the pertinent phrase under the word "Patents" that appears on the left side of the screen. For browsing the scope of information that the site offers, click on the word "Patents" itself for three columns of different links, ranging from very general information such as "Basic Facts About Patents" to very specific "Forms" for filing papers with the USPTO. Clicking on "Basic Facts About Patents" results in a list of frequent questions such as "What is a patent?" and "What can be patented." Answers to these questions may be found by clicking on the questions.

Clicking on "Search Patents" results in the same page that would appear by selecting "Search" under the word "Patents" on the homepage. The page is divided down the middle, with "Issued Patents" on the left and "Published Applications" on the right. The "Advanced Search" option allows full-text searches of patents that have issued since 1976 and patent applications that have been published since March 15, 2001. (Patents issued between 1790-that's right, 1790-and 1975 are searchable only by patent number and current classification code. Patent applications are generally published, with some exceptions, 18 months after their utility patent application filing date or any earlier priority foreign filing date.)

The "Quick Search" option permits searching using two terms and two field restrictors (using a drop-down menu for the various field restrictions), while the "Advanced Search" option allows a number of terms and field restriction codes to be strung together. The "Advanced Search" screen conveniently displays the codes for the various field restrictors, such as IN for inventor, AN for assignee, and TTL for title. The list of results produced by these searches links to a text version or image of the patent or published application. A "Patent Number Search" lets you insert a patent number to pull it up directly. The "Publication Number Search" link works similarly.

At the bottom of the page obtained by selecting "Search Patents" or "Search" is a link to assignment records recorded with the USPTO called "Patent Assignment Database." It permits searching for the current recorded owner of a patent, as a patent may be assigned to another entity after issuance.

The website also allows the public to view the correspondence between a patent applicant and the USPTO if the patent application has been published or a patent has issued. Correspondence can be found by clicking "Status & IFW" under "Patents" on the homepage. This area is also known as the "Public PAIR" system. The format of the webpage for a particular published application or patent resembles tabs on an accordion folder. The headings of the tabs are "Application Data" (basic information about the file, such as its filing date and publication number), "Transaction History" (a chronology of the correspondence with the USPTO), "Image File Wrapper" (which links to PDF files of the correspondence papers listed), "Continuity Data" (which includes claims of priority based on U.S. patent applications), "Foreign Priority" (which lists claims of priority of foreign applications), "Published Documents" (which includes the issued patent or published application), "Publication Dates" (which provides the publication number and its publication date), "Fees" (which lists fees due and future due-dates), and "Address & Attorney/Agent" (which lists the name and registration number of the attorneys of record who prosecute the patent application).

For issued patents, you can check the next due date for maintenance fees, and determine whether they have been paid, directly from the homepage. Click on "Patents," and then "Look-up & Pay Patent Maintenance Fees."

Clicking on "Forms" results in a large table of forms, some fillable and some in PDF format, including utility patent application transmittal form, patent application fee determination record, and declaration. At this point the process for obtaining a patent may seem daunting, and the inexperienced user may want to go back to the "Patents" page and click on "Registered patent attorneys & agents" to locate an attorney or agent registered to practice before the USPTO.

Please note that the above description of the USPTO website is meant to be an introduction to this rich library of information. It is not necessarily accurate or complete, nor does it constitute legal advice. That said, when Uncle Bernie or Little Susie starts diagramming an "invention" on a cocktail napkin, you may want to flip it over, write "<http://www.uspto.gov>," and hand it back.

SAVE THE DATE!

LOBBYING DAY in ALBANY

April 25, 2006

Please contact Jane Bevans
at (212) 699-4597
or email her at szokie@aol.com.

Judges Reception --- Wednesday, January 18



Lisa Sokoloff, Liz Gorman, Gillian Thomas



Franc Perry, Jo Ann Douglas



Wendy Parmet, Adria S. Hillman, Sara Weiss, Ph.D.



David Gresen, Helene Blank, Hon. Richard Lee Price, Susan Y. Kunstler



Victoria Sloan, Meagan Maxon, Olga Nikkiluk, Erica Sattler



Hon. Lottie E. Wilkins, Christina Kallas, Tanya Kennedy



Andrew Tulloch, Christina Kallas, Robert Reed



Jane Doe, Lauren Bairne, Sue Moss, Diane Blank



Susan Bender, Aimee L. Richter, Nancy M. Chemtob



Lisa Bauer, Ira Pollock, Liz Gorman

Newsletter Deadline and Contact Information

Submissions must be sent to the Newsletter Committee by the **10th** of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please email articles, notes on members, committee calendars, and any other announcements to **Teresa Schiller, Esq.**, tel. no. 212-878-3003, email newsletter@nywba.org.

NYWBA List Serve

The NYWBA List Serve provides up-to-the-moment information concerning events, programs, and job announcements through email. Please email us at info@nywba.org if you have an announcement you would like to post on the list serve or if you would like to be added to the list serve.

Have you changed your address, firm, phone number or other information? Please call 212-490-8202 or send an email to "info@nywba.org" with the updated information. This will help us keep you informed and our records up-to-date.

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