



**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION**
and Election of NYWBA Officers and Directors

and

**"DEALING WITH
DIFFICULT CLIENTS"**

Seminar
(CLE Credit Expected)

Thursday, April 27, 2006
6:00 p.m. (Annual Meeting);
6:30 p.m. (Seminar)
Clifford Chance US LLP
31 West 52nd Street
(betw 5th and 6th Avenues)

LOBBYING DAY in ALBANY

April 25, 2006

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

WBASNY Convention 2006

Blazing New Trails

May 19-21

The Sagamore, Bolton Landing, New York

Go to www.wbasny.org for more information.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

***Women's History Month -
Aren't we there yet?***

March 2006



Christina Kallas

Photo: Daryl-Ann Saunders

At my law school graduation, if you had asked me what the practice of law would look like in 2006, I would have assumed that we would have females as Secretary of State, US Supreme Court Justices, Chief Judge of NYS, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, as presidents and general counsel at Fortune 500 companies, as managing partners at Wall Street Law firms. And we have all of these. But why so few? And why no U.S. President or Chief Justice of the Supreme Court? Is there something about women that keeps us from being leaders?

I think we all know that whatever the problem is, it isn't that women aren't capable leaders by virtue of their chromosomes. We have ample evidence of female leaders who do outstanding jobs, and then go home to raise children, care for sick relatives, and provide goodies at school bake sales.

But not all of us have that energy. Many women I speak with despair that they are always shortchanging some aspect of their lives. If they spend time with children, they don't see friends. They keep up with their work, but don't see the exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Interestingly, men are beginning to express this same feeling of wanting their lives to consist of more than just work.

NYWBA is in the process of surveying major law firms to see if we can quantify the cost to society of our failure to promote women as well as men. But you don't have to wait for the results of the survey to see the results in our culture. Just read the opinion of Judge Gleeson in the *Lopez Torres* case. If we consistently reserve the highest levels of power to a subset of people, those who are capable and who are denied their chance to advance will eventually become irate. And in our system, they sue. Lawsuits sometimes result in justice for individual plaintiffs, but they do not change the hearts of people. In fact, people often will seek to sabotage a change they feel deprives them of power, and they will harden their hearts against those who caused the change. I suspect Judge Lopez Torres could testify to that.

We are a city, a state, a country teeming with talent. It doesn't come packaged only in white males. As President of the NYWBA, I am surrounded by it every day. How terribly wasteful it is to have capable people kept from the highest levels of service, due to their

Continued on page 2

Report of the NYWBA 2005-06 Committee on Nominations

The NYWBA Committee on Nominations proposes the following slate of candidates to serve during the 2006-07 year and for other terms as stated. The proposed slate will be voted upon by members in good standing at the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at the offices of Clifford Chance US LLP, 31 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019.

Officers

President: Teresa Schiller
 Vice Presidents: Lisa A. Sokoloff
 Jo Ann Douglas
 Lisa Bauer
 Treasurer: Gretchen Schumann
 Recording Secretary: Sylvia Di Pietro
 Corresponding Secretary: Kay Marmorek

NYWBA Directors

Class of 2006-09

Jane Bevans Kelly O'Neill Levy
 Robin Eichen Marjorie Martin
 Christina Kallas Hon. Jacqueline Silbermann

Class of 2004-07

Cassandra Porter

NYWBA Delegates to serve as Directors of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

Lisa Bauer Christine Harman
 Jane Bevans Christina Kallas
 Jo Ann Douglas Marjorie Martin
 Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin Amy Saltzman
 Amy E. Halpert

Nominations Committee

Class of 2006-08

Catherine M. Foti
 Christina Kallas
 Phyllis Koffman
 Laurie Berke-Weiss

WBASNY

Under the By-laws of WBASNY, President-elect Elaine Avery will automatically be installed as President at the Installation Dinner on Saturday, May 20, 2006. The WBASNY Committee on Nominations proposes the following slate of candidates to serve during the 2006-07 year:

Officers

President-elect Maria Cortese
 Vice Presidents: Linda Morrone
 Cynthia L. Schrock
 Deborah Weisman-Estis
 Treasurer: Gail Marie Boggio
 Secretary: Elizabeth A. Bryson

The following is a proposed amendment to the NYWBA By-Laws ARTICLE XIV, ELECTIONS, SECTION 1 changing the date as of which members in good standing are entitled to vote, from December 31st to January 31st:

President's Message continued from page 1

anatomy, or their ethnic or racial background. Reading Judge Gleeson's opinion, I thought it described a system of selecting judges in 1806 rather than 2006.

We have to change our culture. There are people in other countries trying to kill us. We cannot afford to ignore talent, just because the person who has it is wearing a skirt, or is not a white male. If the Appellate Division in the First Department doesn't look like the people whose fate it decides every day, is it any wonder that people lack confidence in our justice system of justice?

Recently I attended a Women's Bar Leadership Summit, hosted by the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. Its theme was: Effective Techniques to Advance Women Lawyers to the Top. Part of me was dismayed; I could have attended a conference with that theme thirty years ago. In fact, I probably did. But some of what I heard made sense to me.

Our profession is a dinosaur. Our template is the Wall Street law firm. It's an outdated model based upon 18th century assumptions. It is dying out; the question is, what will replace it? "Casual Fridays" isn't a reform; it's a band-aid. We need a model for practicing law that allows human beings to be human. What's the point of technological advances if they don't free us up? Women are going to law school in greater numbers, yet few of them stay at mega-firms to put in ridiculous hours. So who will be left to work there in 50 years? As women succeed to the highest levels in companies that hire law firms, will they continue to hire white male lawyers because their companies always have? Don't misunderstand me; some of my best friends are white male lawyers. But I must say, most of them have lives; they do something besides sit in the office and bill hours. They travel. They read literature. They paint. My brother has even "taken time off" to - gulp! - raise his children. They experience life in its abundance and variety. And they are better lawyers for it. And better humans.

As we celebrate Women's History this month, as we celebrated African-American History last month, I keep wondering: what will our legacy be? Who will be the next Sandra Day O'Connor, Judith Kaye, Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Constance Baker Motley? Let's be sure we are nurturing and promoting those lawyers. Our failure to do so will have dire consequences for all of us.

Peace,



Except as otherwise provided by Article X of these By-Laws, every member of the Association in good standing shall be entitled to vote at any election of the Association, provided that said member's dues for the current fiscal year have been received by the Association, no later than midnight of January 31st preceding the election at which such member will vote. Dues remitted by mail will be deemed timely received if postmarked January 31st or earlier. The written notice advising the membership of the date of the stated meeting in January shall also include the provisions of this Section, prominently featured.

U.S. State Department Taps NYWBA To Meet Malaysian Senator

By Laurie Berke-Weiss, Past President

On February 2, 2006, NYWBA representatives met with Malaysian Senator Rhina Bhar, at the invitation of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Program. Senator Bhar, a British-trained lawyer, is a women's rights activist involved in Malaysian politics at the grassroots level. NYWBA President Christina Kallas, Laurie Berke-Weiss, a past president, Amy Halpert, a member of NYWBA's Board, and Carole Aciman, a long-time member and the President of the National Council of Women's Bar Associations, participated in a lively cross-cultural discussion about women's rights, the law of sexual harassment, protections for mail order brides, securing protection for low-wage women workers, and other issues of interest to women.

The catalyst for Senator Bhar's activism was her successful defense of an accused rapist when, as a young lawyer, she conducted a devastating cross-examination of the victim. Rather than celebrate this "victory," Senator Bhar became a women's rights activist, seeking to change a system which allowed her to impugn the victim's character to win an acquittal in a rape trial. She joined Malaysia's only multi-ethnic political party as a platform from which to advance her cause, and has worked tirelessly since, to accomplish reform. She continues to face new challenges in her work, such as achieving fairness for women who appear before recently created Sharia courts which are the mandatory forum for adjudicating family disputes for Malaysia's Muslim citizens.

As a Senator - a two-year appointed position - she has a new tool for advancing her agenda. Senator Bhar uses her allotment of Parliamentary questions to publicly raise women's rights issues. Senator Bhar's questions and the government's answers must be reported in the press, providing an opportunity to publicize the legal inequities in women's marital, family, and financial rights which would otherwise be silenced by Malaysia's press restrictions.

At Senator Bhar's request, we shared information about the law of sexual harassment in the United States, the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (contained within the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, recently reauthorized by Congress), as well as our experience as a women's bar. We identified differences in the legal protections for women in the United States and Malaysia. We also noted many similarities between us, in particular, the continued need for work to advance the status of women in society. We look forward to continuing the conversation with Senator Bhar in the months and years ahead.

STAY IN THE NYWBA LOOP!

If you have not yet renewed your NYWBA membership for 2005/2006, this will be your last newsletter issue.

Please renew at www.nywba.org.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

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

Congratulations to **Catherine J. Douglass**, who received the NYSBA's 2006 Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award on January 27, 2006. The Schapiro Award was established in 1992 to honor a NYSBA member who has made a noteworthy contribution to the concerns of women through pro bono work, service to bar associations or other community organizations, writing, or other related activities.

Congratulations to **Stephen D. Hoffman** on the birth of his granddaughter, Sara Doris (8 pounds, 11 ounces).

Condolences to **Marjorie Lesch**, whose mother-in-law Sally Lesch recently passed away. Condolences may be sent to 60 East End Avenue, Apartment 27C, New York, NY 10028.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<i>Michelle Albrecht</i>	<i>Alicia O'Connell</i>
<i>Allen Wynter</i>	<i>Lauren K. Popper</i>
<i>Kim Bridges</i>	<i>Sunitha Ramamurthy</i>
<i>Arianna Frankl</i>	<i>Leah Schmidt</i>
<i>Ruth Carole Larsen</i>	<i>Andrew R. Tulloch</i>
<i>Katharine E. Marshall</i>	<i>Judith White</i>

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.

Karin Segall

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

Visit the
New York Women's Bar Association
Table
at the

Supreme Court Anti-Bias Committee
Cultural Diversity Program

June 9, 2006

60 Centre Street Rotunda, Manhattan
12:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Welcoming remarks to be delivered by our board member, **Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann**, Administrative Judge, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch.

Program will feature musical performance, photo display, and appetizers and desserts at tables staffed by various bar associations and court organizations.

For further information or to assist in staffing the table for the NYWBA, please contact Lisa A. Sokoloff at antibias@nywba.org.

SAVE THE DATE

for a cutting-edge NYWBA CLE program on
Fundamental Issues of Electronic Discovery
Presented by Renew Data Corp.

Tuesday, April 25, 2006
6 p.m. registration and dinner, 6:30 to 8 p.m. program

Dinner and CLE program are FREE

Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue
(betw 55th and 56th Streets)
19th Floor

This 1.5-hour course is designed to educate attorneys, litigation support specialists, and document managers on the technical and legal aspects of electronic discovery. The course will cover the basic and practical matters of electronic discovery along with emerging case law and Rules of Civil Procedure. Upon completion of this course, attendees will be better prepared to handle all aspects of electronic discovery.

Space limited to 30 people; advance registration required.
For reservation or more information, contact Cassandra Porter
at cporter@kayescholer.com or (212) 836-7499

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

The **Matrimonial and Family Law Committee** and the **Children's Rights and Issues Committee** will co-host a meeting on **Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 6:15 p.m.** at Blank Rome LLP, 405 Lexington Avenue at 42nd Street. The committees will welcome Justice Sondra Miller and Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin to speak about the work and report of the Matrimonial Commission. Please RSVP to Jo Ann Douglas at K9Kastle@aol.com. **Limited Attendance - Members Only Please!**

The **Real Estate Law Committee** will co-sponsor with the NYCLA Real Property Committee a meeting on **Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at 6:15 p.m.** at NYCLA Home of Law, The Boardroom, 14 Vesey Street. The topic will be "How to Dissect a Title Report." Please RSVP to Sylvia DiPietro at femalelitigator@yahoo.com.



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SAVE THE DATE! NYWBA ANNUAL DINNER

May 24, 2006
6:00 p.m.

Grand Hyatt Hotel
42nd Street and Lexington Avenue

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL AWARD
will be presented to
Honorable Fern Fisher

THE JOAN L. ELLENBOGEN AWARD
will be presented to
Michelle Coleman Mayes

THE DORIS HOFFMAN AWARD
will be presented to
Katherine Posner

Please join us as these extraordinary women are recognized for their remarkable achievements, and enjoy our first Annual Silent Auction as well as an evening of collegial camaraderie, fine conversation, and the musical accompaniment of the Hot Flashes.

For more information, please contact
dinner@nywba.org

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WBASNY BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

On Saturday, March 18, 2006, the WBASNY Board of Directors voted to adopt two amendments to the WBASNY By-Laws. The first amendment creates a "Fundraising Committee" as a Standing Committee of WBASNY. The second amendment establishes an additional officer position and divides the duties of the current officer position of "Secretary" into two positions -- "Recording Secretary" and "Corresponding Secretary." For the amendments to become effective, two-thirds (2/3) of the chapters must ratify the By-Law amendments at a duly noticed general membership meeting, and the results of the vote must be reported back to the WBASNY Secretary within ninety (90) days.

The following proposed WBASNY By-law amendments will be voted upon by the New York chapter on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at the offices of Clifford Chance US LLP, 31 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019.

Pursuant to Article XXII Section 1 of the By-Laws of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York ("WBASNY"), the Board of Directors has voted to amend the WBASNY By-Laws as follows:

1. Article XIV, Section 1 is hereby amended to add a "Fundraising Committee" as one of the Standing Committees of this Association.

2. To effectuate this change, the following text shall be inserted into the By-Laws as new Article XXII.

ARTICLE XXII

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1

The Fundraising Committee (FRC) serves at the pleasure of the Executive Committee in the identification, development and implementation of fundraising events and opportunities.

SECTION 2

The FRC shall work with the Chapters and Membership Committee, Convention Committee, Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, and other committees as directed by the President.

SECTION 3

The FRC shall recruit and train volunteers with an interest in fundraising.

SECTION 4

The FRC shall also keep records of fundraising procedures and information that can be used in the future.

3. The current Articles XXII, XXIII, XXIV, and XXV shall be renumbered XXIII, XXIV, XXV and XXVI.

4. Article II, Section 1 shall be amended to rename the officer position of "Secretary" to "Recording Secretary" and to add the officer position of "Corresponding Secretary."

5. The following articles shall be amended to change each use of the word "Secretary" to "Recording Secretary": Article

III, Section 3; Article V(A), Sections 1, 2 and 3; Article VII, Sections 5(b) and 11(b); Article XIII, Section 6; Article XV, Section 10; and Article XXII, Section 1.

6. The title of Article V shall be renamed "THE SECRETARIES"

7. To effectuate this change, the following text shall be revised in Article V:

ARTICLE V

~~SECRETARY~~THE SECRETARIES

A. RECORDING SECRETARY

SECTION 1

The Recording Secretary of the Association shall also be Secretary of the Board of Directors. She shall give written notice of meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws. No later than five (5) days after the Committee on Nominations has rendered its report to the President pursuant to Article XV, Section 5, the Recording Secretary shall give written notice to all members of the Association of the provisions of Article XV, Section 10 of these By-Laws, together with the names of the candidates nominated by the Committee on Nominations, and any further notice required under said Section.

SECTION 2

The Recording Secretary shall keep the records of the Association, be the custodian of its seal, keep the minutes of the meetings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3

The term of the Recording Secretary shall be one (1) year. No person may serve as Recording Secretary for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

B. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

SECTION 1

The Corresponding Secretary of the Association shall be responsible for internal communications of the Association as directed by the President, except as otherwise provided in Article III, Section 3; Article V(A); Article VII Sections 5(b) and 11(b); Article XIII, Section 6; Article XV, Section 10; (renumbered) Article XXIII, Section 1; and for the external communications of the Association. "Communications" shall include all forms of communication, including but not limited to correspondence, electronic communications, press releases, web site content and others as directed by the President.

SECTION 2

The term of the Corresponding Secretary shall be one (1) year. No person may serve as Corresponding Secretary for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

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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