NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Celebrating Our 75th Year

New York Women's Bar Association 75th Anniversary Gala Awards and Installation Dinner

The President's Special Award will be presented to HON. SHERRY KLEIN HEITLER

Justice of the Supreme Court and Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, New York County

We will honor Founder. Past President and Benefactor HON. FLORENCE PERLOW SHIENTAG (1908 - 2009)

We will install GRETCHEN BEALL SCHUMANN

as President of our Association and all other Officers and Directors for the upcoming year.

Thursday, June 10, 2010 **Capitale** 130 Bowery at Grand Street

6:00 p.m. - Cocktails and silent auction to benefit the

Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin

Fellowship

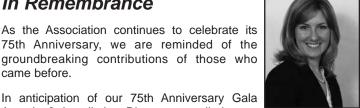
7:30 p.m. - Dinner and Program

RSVP: To register, please check our website at www.nywba.org/Annual Dinner

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE In Remembrance

As the Association continues to celebrate its 75th Anniversary, we are reminded of the groundbreaking contributions of those who came before.



JUNE 2010

Awards & Installation Dinner, we called upon Gretchen Beall Schumann

friends, family members, partners, and colleagues to add to our archives, to share photographs, writings and memories documenting the history of the NYWBA. We express our gratitude to all whose material, valuable and moving, now rests in the Association's archives for posterity.

Among the collections received by the Association were writings from Founder, Past President and Benefactor, the late Honorable Florence Perlow Shientag. In October 2009, we mourned the passing of Judge Shientag. Yet in her writings, in particular her observations regarding the importance of honoring history, her message lives on. In connection with the 51st Anniversary of the Association, Judge Shientag expressed "As we gather together 51 years after the founding of the Association, it is a cause for joy and wonder. We do not lay a wreath. We raise our glasses and hail our predecessors and keep their memories fresh as a bulwark for the future."

On June 10th, 2010, as we gather together 75 years after the founding of the Association, we honor Judge Shientag, Justice Sherry Klein Heitler, our Past Presidents, Advisory Council and other members who formulated the Association's objectives and struggled and fought to accomplish its articulated goals of "improving the status of women in society, educating women lawyers and assisting them in professional development and advancement, and promoting the fair and equal administration of justice." While our hope is to do justice with our archival materials as part of a special presentation on June 10th, it is the message conveyed by the materials which reveals the importance of educating about the Association's history. Just as Judge Shientag observed about the past, this history is the foundation of the Association's future.

I am honored to serve as the incoming President of the NYWBA and to continue striving to meet the Association's objectives, among them to educate. As we kick off our new membership year June 1st, and as we gather together on June 10th, I invite you to join me.

Trethen

Congratulations to NYWBA's New Officers, Directors and Delegates

At the Association's Annual Membership Meeting on **April 28, 2010**, the following nominees were elected to the offices indicated. They will be installed at the Annual Dinner on June 10, 2010.

OFFICERS (2010-2011)

President: Gretchen Beall Schumann

Vice Presidents: Carla P. Vogel

Catherine M. Foti Patricia Ann Grant

Treasurer: Julie Hyman Recording Secretary: Yacine Barry

Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie R. Cohen-Gallet

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Class of 2010-2013

Dawn M. Cardi E Myra L. Freed Kelly O'Neill Levy Cassandra Porter

Donna M. Praiss Amy Saltzman Andrea Vacca

Class of 2009-2012 (to fill unexpired terms)

Stephanie M. Adduci Jennifer P. Brown

Directors Continuing in Office

Leona Beane
Jane Bevans
Elizabeth A. Bryson
Jo Ann Douglas
Hon. Laura E. Drager
Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob

Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler Kay Marmorek Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli Susan M. Moss Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann Lisa A. Sokoloff

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS Class of 2010-2012

Phyllis S. Koffman Lisa A. Sokoloff Donna M. Praiss Andrea Vacca

NYWBA MEMBERS OF WBASNY BOARD (2010-2011)

Jane Bevans Marjorie Martin
Elizabeth A. Bryson Donna M. Praiss
Dawn M. Cardi Amy Saltzman
Jo Ann Douglas Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin Lisa A. Sokoloff

Congratulations to WBASNY's New Officers

The following WBASNY Officers were installed at the WBASNY Annual Convention on May 22, 2010:

President: Debra Weisman Estes (Orange/Sullivan)
President-Elect: Teresa Schiller (NYWBA)
Vice Presidents: Linda Kevins (Suffolk)

Maureen E. Maney (Central New York) Karen Richardson (Western New York)

Treasurer: Donna Frosco (Westchester)
Corresponding Secretary: Irene Villaci (Nassau)
Recording Secretary: Andrea Composto (Brooklyn)

Meet our new NYWBA President Gretchen Beall Schumann

Congratulations to Gretchen Beall Schuman who will be installed as NYWBA's new President, for 2010-2011, at the NYWBA Annual Dinner on June 10, 2010.

Ms. Beall Schumann is a partner at Cohen Hennessey Bienstock & Rabin P.C., a law firm specializing in complex matrimonial and family law matters, where she has practiced since 2001.

She was a Vice President of the NYWBA during 2009-2010 and was formerly the Association's Treasurer, from 2006 until 2009. For two years, she served as the Association's delegate to the WBASNY's Domestic Violence Committee, and since 2009, has been an NYWBA Delegate to the WBASNY Board of Directors. From 2005 until 2008, she served as Secretary of the New York City Bar Committee on Children and the Law, and from 2004 until 2007, as Secretary of the New York County Lawyers' Association Matrimonial Law Section.

In 2005, Ms. Beall Schumann, a former member of the Sanctuary for Families Associates Committee, co-chaired the Committee's Fall Benefit to raise funds to meet the legal needs of victims of domestic violence. She has also lectured for the New York State Bar Association on both procedural and substantive aspects of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act and for the E. David Woycik Intensive Trial Advocacy Program at Hofstra Law School.

Ms. Beall Schumann graduated from Cornell Law School in 2001, where she was awarded the Robert S. Pasley Memorial Prize for scholarship in the law and the arts, classics and humanities. She received her undergraduate degree from Columbia University (Columbia College, A.B. English) in 1998. She is admitted in New York and New Jersey.



2009-2010 President Donna M. Praiss presents the Lillian M. Kooperstein gavel to President-Elect Gretchen Beall Schumann. Ms. Beall Schumann will be officially installed as 2010-2011 President at the 75th Anniversary Gala on June 10, 2010.



SAVE THE DATE!

The NYWBA and the WNBA once again celebrate
Breast Health Awareness on
Friday, August 6, 2010 at 7:30 PM
The New York Liberty v. Washington Mystics
Great seats, meal voucher,
pre-game on-the-court activity,
t-shirts and an evening full of fun

\$40 per person.

Arrive by 6 PM to participate in pre-game activity RSVP: NYLiberty@nywba.org



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Megan Carpenter LaTasha Crutcher Delaine Duncan Jillian L. Goorevitch Sherry L. Holland Gail M. Kempler Gary Roy Klein Sandra L. Laumann Tanya Lynne Leach Windy Branch McCracken Katherine Keely Rankin Mignon Maria Rosales Kathryn Salensky Carolyn Sha Elaine Rudnick Sheps Amanda Karlen Stein Lianne Wheeler

NOTES ON MEMBERS

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

Heartfelt condolences to NYWBA and WBASNY Past President **Martha E. Gifford** on the passing of her beloved father Fred Blomster Gifford. Donations in memory of Meg's father may be made to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as a volunteer for more than 30 years. (Checks may be mailed to CVFD, P.O. Box 26, Columbia, CT. 06237.)

WBASNY Urges President Obama to Nominate Qualified Woman to U.S. Supreme Court

On May 5, 2010, WBASNY sent a letter to President Barack Obama urging the nomination of a qualified woman to the United States Supreme Court upon the retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens. WBASNY applauded President Obama's past nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a WBASNY and NYWBA member, to the Court. WBASNY further noted the dearth of qualified women on the federal bench in general and in particular on the Supreme Court, also stating:

Careful consideration of qualified women candidates is consistent with our societal commitment to the fair and equal administration of justice. Just as our society values diverse juries "of our peers," it is important to apply the same principle in the selection of jurists. Judicial diversity enhances public confidence in the fairness of our judicial system and expands judicial perspectives on critical legal issues.

WBASNY cited a recent analysis conducted by the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society by the State University of New York - University at Albany in its "Report on Women in Federal and State-Level Judgeships." WBASNY President Cynthia Schrock Seeley noted the small percentage of federal judgeships held by women, notwithstanding that women comprise more than 50% of the population of the United States and have represented more than 45% of graduating law students during the past 20 years.

Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges Donna M. Praiss, President, NYWBA

The article was originally published in the <u>New York Law Journal</u> Special Law Day Section on May 3, 2010. It is reprinted with permission.

As President of the New York Women's Bar Association, founded seventy-five years ago, I am pleased to report that NYWBA continues the enduring tradition of providing mentoring, networking, leadership and continuing legal education opportunities to advance the status of women in the legal profession. NYWBA also addresses the unmet legal needs of women and children in Manhattan and beyond through the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The traditional role of bar associations, including NYWBA, is particularly important to our community during this difficult economic period and will continue to play an important role as we strive to recover.

As an intellectual property attorney, I personally see the ability of our federal government "to promote the progress of science and useful arts" through our patent system as an emerging challenge, particularly in the area of therapeutics and health care. In the context of the current emphasis on consumer access to therapeutics and health care in the near term through insurance initiatives such as the Health Care Reform Act, the importance of the "progress of science" sometimes seems to take a back seat to the cost of prescription drugs that embody some of today's important scientific discoveries. The social need for patient access must be balanced with society's need for continuing research and development - a balancing act that involves many different laws and regulations. The framers of our Constitution determined that the means by which the "progress of science" would be promoted would be "by securing for limited times to ... inventors, the exclusive right to their respective ... discoveries." U.S. Const. Art. I, § 8. Our U.S. patent system does this by granting patent protection for "any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof."

So as not to discourage innovation in the medical field specifically, it is important to be mindful that neither the cost of, nor access to and insurance coverage to pay for, a commercial embodiment of a discovery is relevant to the question whether the discovery itself is appropriately subject to patent protection. Nevertheless, these factors play prominently in discussions about a recent decision from the Southern District of New York. The patents that are the subject of the recent decision claim isolated DNA containing all or portions of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene sequences and methods to identify the presence of mutations correlating to a predisposition to breast or ovarian cancer. Ass'n for Molecular Pathology v. United States Patent and Trademark Office, C.A. No. 09 Civ 4515 (S.D.N.Y. March 29, 2010). The district court determined that isolated DNA and analyses of DNA sequences are subject matter that cannot be patented per se. The case is being studied intently by patent attorneys and policymakers concerned about the question whether novel and useful gene-based discoveries -- such as diagnostics, gene therapies and personalized medicines - can be appropriately incentivized by our patent system and still brought to market at prices that patients, and society, can afford.

Student & New Lawyers Committee Host Legal Speed Networking Event By Jane CoCo Cowles and Stephanie Adduci

On April 27th, NYWBA's Student & New Lawyers Committee (SNL) co-sponsored a Legal Speed Networking Event with New York Law School (NYLS), which provided the setting. The new face of NYLS's Tribeca campus was a great location to test SNL's innovative networking scheme. Twenty 1L through 3L students and lawyers (both new and experienced) attended. While awaiting the arrival of participants, those in attendance enjoyed a brief, casual atmosphere of mingling while partaking of wine and cheese. Then, it was time for some serious speed networking. Experienced attorneys took a seat at a table in the room. Students were given 5 minutes to talk to each attorney before it was time to move on to the next table and a new attorney. As Ann Thomas, Managing Director of the Graduate Tax Program, said, "It makes you really think about what you want someone to remember about you when you have only a few minutes to speak with them."

As the event concluded, students and attorneys alike were full of praise for the event. "The format was a great idea ...; it is hard just walking up to a group of attorneys like at 'normal' networking functions," a group of students shared. Happily, many new connections were made.

Stephanie Adduci and Jane CoCo Cowles, the SNL Co-Chairs, were pleased with the turn out and marked this event down as a major success and the tip of the iceberg. With their innovative ideas in mind, Stephanie and Jane look forward to more successful events. The Legal Speed Networking event will be repeated in the Fall.

Stephanie M. Adduci and Jane CoCo Cowles are Co-Chairs of the NYWBA Students & New Lawyers Committee.



Legal speed networking in action.

Check out job postings on the NYWBA website: http://new.nywba.org/job_postings/.

To post a job opening, please contact info@nywba.org.



Jane On Tax An Onslaught of Ethical Taxes

Lately the tax code is starting to read like the 10 commandments. Thou shall not [fill in the blank] without paying a tax. The list goes on to include

purchase sugary beverages¹, improve subways², host bake sales³, fail to provide health coverage⁴ and create films that portray non-traditional family settings⁵.

In 2006, a San Francisco law obligated employers with more than 20 employees, including part-time workers, to provide health care for staff working more than 10 hours a week. Since the passage of this mandatory health care provision, patrons of San Francisco restaurants have noticed a 2-4% surcharge being tacked to their bill. Some restaurants charge a flat fee, and one in particular charges a \$1.25, cleverly titled a 'coperto' (a mandatory surcharge common in Italy - not a tip - intended to cover certain costs like tableware and linens.)

Not everyone is happy. Restauranteurs could simply raise the cost of a meal to cover the increased cost of mandatory health care and the average patron would not blink and eye. However, the 'health-care surcharge' implies the idea of wealth redistribution and that does not sit well with most. One blogger commented that she had worked in restaurants her entire life and never received health care coverage. Another tweeted that he found the surcharge irksome, and he would rather not know that he is paying for the restaurateur's health plan.

Opponents to the tax have sued the City stating that the surcharge violates federal law. Knowing that your dollars are automatically going to support those less fortunate than you feels like a governmental taking. Its one thing to donate money to a foundation, but a tax gives patrons an ultimatum; "Pay the tax, or do not come to my restaurant."

A recent twitter post included the following example:

A San Francisco restaurant charged my gift card a "SF Health Tax" of 62 cents, and this was calculated by using the subtotal of my food and beverage cost (pre-sales tax) and adding 3.5%. The sales tax was calculated using the food and beverage total (not including the health percentage charge) at 9.5%.

To the consumer, the additional SF Health Tax is the same as a 13% sales tax. If food and beverage costs were increased by 3.5% and the same 9.5% sales tax applied, paying the increased cost would not become an ethical and/or political debate.

Taxing for a cause may cause more harm than good. Consumers have to accept inflation. It is value-neutral. However, taxes relate to policy and ethics and people's spending decisions are influenced by their beliefs. This can be a double-edged sword.

Recently Long Island considered seceding from New York State in protest of the MTA's increased jpayroll tax to fund the New York City subway system. Long Island residents do not see how they will benefit by paying more payroll taxes. They are crying 'taxation without representation.' Even though secession isn't likely, perhaps the threat will bring about a change in tax policies.

- 1. New York State
- 2. New York Payroll Tax
- 3. New York City
- 4. San Francisco, California
- 5. Florida

Jane CoCo Cowles is Co-Chair of the NYWBA Students & New Lawyers Committee. She received her JD cum laude from Pace Law School and an LLM in taxation with honors from New York Law School. She worked at Ernst & Young and most recently at RSM McGladrey, dealing with a wide variety of tax issues, and was an Adjunct Professor of international business law at the European School of Economics from 2006-2007. Visit her tax blog at www.taxattorneyinthecity.com.

CEDAW's 30th ANNIVERSARY



Jennifer Wills, Denise Scotto, Andrei Abramov, Ruth Kaddari, Lee Waldorf and Janet Benshooof (l to r)

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Denise Scotto, Chair of the NYWBA Children's Rights and Issues Committee and member of the ABA International Law Section Spring Meeting Planning Committee, organized and moderated a high-level program held at the Spring Meeting in New York this past April. Speakers included Professor Ruth Kaddari, a Vice Chair of the CEDAW Committee, who discussed the proposed General Recommendation concerning dissolution of marriage by death or divorce and the implication for women and their children. Other speakers represented the United Nation's Secretariat, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Global Justice Center.

Save the Date!

NYWBA to Sponsor CLE Program on The Family Court, Tips from the Inside

Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Time: 9:00AM-9:30AM (Registration)

9:30AM-1:00PM (Program)

Location: New York County Family Court

60 Lafayette Street (Library), NYC

CLE credits: 3.5 transitional credits in Skills (approval pending)

Cost: \$10

RSVP: Go to www.nywba.org for details and registration

information.

The Fourth Annual Appellate CLE: The Clerk's View By Lori Sapir and Lauren Siber

The NYWBA's fourth annual Appellate CLE was held on April 28, 2010, immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Panel consisted of two representatives each from the First and Second Departments. Hon. David Spokony, the recently elected Clerk of the First Department, and Lauren Holmes, the Assistant Deputy Chief Court Attorney, discussed procedures in the First Department. As many know, Ms. Holmes is the face of the First Department for those seeking stays and other interim relief. Hon. James E. Pelzer, the Clerk of the Second Department for more than 11 years, and Associate Deputy Clerk Matthew Kiernan (Pelzer's designated successor upon his impending retirement), provided the Second Department's point of view. Myrna Felder moderated the discussion for the second year in a row.

The panel discussion focused on how the Departments handle CPLR § 5704 reviews as well as consequences of failing to timely withdraw pending appeals in each. Despite the rather dry subject matter, the discussion was lively, with wry comments like "the Second Department is second to none" tossed about.

CPLR § 5704 provides a vehicle for immediate appellate review of a lower court's ruling pertaining to *ex parte* relief applied for without notice. Recent changes in New York State Court Rules, which require that notice be given prior to seeking *ex parte* relief via Order to Show Cause, have called into question the applicability of § 5704 review. Indeed, Mr. Pelzer has proposed new language to address the effect of the new rules.

The First Department still allows for § 5704 review whether or not the adversary participated in the *ex parte* application in the lower court. It requires that the party seeking review contact its adversary prior to coming to court for a stay of the relief below.

In the Second Department, on the other hand, if the adversary participated in the application in the lower court, either by appearing in opposition or by submitting papers, it will not be considered *ex parte* relief "without notice" and § 5704 review is not available. Instead, the Second Department will permit a motion seeking leave to appeal the *ex parte* ruling, which will be granted or denied on grounds similar § 5704 relief. However, if the adversary did not participate in the lower court proceeding, the § 5704 procedures remains unchanged.

There is further difference in the First and Second Departments regarding the consequences of failing to perfect or withdraw a notice of appeal. The Second Department keeps track of all notices of appeal filed, while the First does not, which results in a difference in the way abandoned appeals are handled.

In the First Department, an appeal that is filed but not perfected sits until an adverse party makes a motion to dismiss. Essentially, unless the adversary moves to dismiss, it can be withdrawn at any time. However, in the Second Department, if an appeal is not perfected within the time frame provided (6 months), the Second Department will place the matter on a dismissal calendar and publish a decision dismissing the appeal as abandoned after the calendar is heard (which can sometimes take 6 or more months). In the Second Department, it is

necessary to withdraw the appeal prior to the dismissal calendar being heard.

Once a party's appeal is dismissed as abandoned, the issues raised in the original appeal are forever disposed of. For example, if a party abandons an appeal of an order in a summary judgment motion, which later arises at trial, that party will be precluded from raising that same issue in any appeal from the trial or judgment. As such, the best course of action is to withdraw any appeal that will not be perfected.

Do not despair if you missed this year's CLE. Due to popular demand, the Clerks will be asked back for a follow-up on other topics next year.

Lori Sapir and Lauren Siber are commercial litigators at Sills Cummis & Gross PC.



Lauren Holmes, Esq., Asst. Dep. Chief Court Atty, Appellate Div., First Dep't.; Hon. David Spokony, Clerk of the Appellate Div., First Dep't.; Past President Myrna Felder, Esq. (Moderator); Hon. James E. Pelzer, Clerk of the Appellate Div., Second Dep't.; and Matthew Kiernan, Esq., Associate Deputy Clerk, Appellate Div., Second Dep't (I to r)



Lauren Holmes, Hon. David Spokony and Myrna Felder (l to r)



Myrna Felder, Hon. James E. Pelzer and Matthew Kiernan, Esq. (l to r)

Elder Abuse Prosecution: Convictions in the Case of Brooke Astor Estate By Kay Marmorek & Miriam Davidson

On April 13, 2010, the Elder Law Committee hosted a program featuring Elizabeth Loewy, the Attorney in Charge of the Elder Abuse Unit of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Ms. Loewy was co-lead counsel in the recent trial involving the late socialite, Brooke Astor. Her office successfully prosecuted Anthony Marshall, the son of Brooke Astor, and his attorney, Francis Morrissey. The prosecution called 72 witnesses, and the trial lasted over six months. Among the charges proven was conspiracy to steal from Mrs. Astor's estate (including valuable paintings), larceny and a scheme to defraud. What makes the prosecution remarkable is that defendants operated under a Durable Power of Attorney, which granted Mr. Marshall, as attorney-in-fact of Mrs. Astor, gift giving powers.

Ms. Loewy provided an interesting, informative and entertaining presentation, and kept her listeners captivated with all the details of the intrigue and scheming within the Astor family against Brooke Astor. Her slide presentation gave the audience a little window into the everyday wealth of the family and a peek at some of the friends and conspirators. She welcomed questions from the audience and advised that any suspected cases of elder abuse should be reported to the DA's Elder Abuse Unit for investigation.

The Elder Law Committee thanks Past President Elizabeth Bryson and Monique McClure for all their work arranging for the program. We also thank New York Life, a long-time supporter of the NYWBA, which provided the conference room and Aramark, which provided the refreshments, and the NYWBA Board of Directors for underwriting the expense for this program.

Kay Marmorek and Miriam Davidson are Co-Chairs of the NYWBA Elder Law Committee.



Assistant District Attorney & Featured Speaker Elizabeth Loewy



NYWBA Past President Elizabeth Bryson, ADA Elizabeth Loewy, Director and Elder Law Committee Co-Chair Kay Marmorek, and Elder Law Committee Co-Chair Miriam Davidson (l-r)

MAT COMMITTEE TACKLES ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY ISSUES AND PREPARES FOR NEXT YEAR

The Matrimonial & Family Law Committee finished the year with a wonderfully informative meeting about electronic discovery. Presenters Amy L. Reiss and Lisa Zeiderman, authors of Snooping: What's Legal, What's Illegal (Family Law Review Summer/Fall 2009, Vol. 41, No. 2) and Peter J. Theobald, Forensic Computer Examiner with Klein, Liebman & Gresen, LLC, covered the important basics of what practitioners need to know about electronic discovery to prepare and protect clients from their spouses and themselves. Among other interesting and useful pointers, our well informed speakers taught us when to subpoena Google, Inc.; ways to prove that the sender of an email was really the owner of the email address; to think about accessing sensitive information kept in a printer's hard drive; and that a Blackberry can be remotely activated! It was a well attended meeting, full of interesting lessons and thoughtful advice. Thank you Amy, Lisa and Peter!

The Matrimonial & Family Committee Co-Chairs would like to thank all the speakers and the members who presented and attended our meetings this year. We would also like to thank Blank Rome, LLC for providing us with space in which to host our meetings each month. We had a rewarding year, and we are looking forward to having another year of entertaining and informative meetings starting in September 2010. Please let us know if you have a topic that you would like to see addressed next year, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Have a wonderful summer!

Co-Chairs Sophie Jacobi, Briana Denney and Judge Andrea Masley

It's Time to Renew!

The 2010-2011 membership year begins on June 1st.



It's time to renew your membership for the new year! Would your friends or colleagues benefit from NYWBA membership? 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 member benefits - join committees, network and participate in mentoring circles, attend our signature events, and get CLE credits at our innovative and compelling programs at significantly reduced cost.

It's easy to join or renew - go to www.nywba.org/Membership to access our secure online membership form.

Ethics Experts Examine Gender Bias in the Profession and New Rules Governing Attorney Responsibilities When Clients Lie or Commit Fraud on the Court

By Hon. Barbara Jaffe and Elizabeth A. Bryson

Our panel of experts was unanimous: Handling client fraud under the new ethical rules is one of the most challenging ethical dilemmas facing lawyers today.

On May 11, 2010, the Committee on Professional Ethics and Discipline and the Committee on Matrimonial and Family Law presented a continuing legal education program entitled "Litigating Under the New Ethics Rules: A Close Look at Rule 3.3 and Gender Bias in the Courthouse." The event was held in a majestic courtroom at the New York Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street.

In the first portion of the program, co-moderator Sarah Diane McShea led a discussion with panelists Hon. George Marlow, Prof. Ellen Yaroshefsky, and attorney Jeremy Feinberg on new Disciplinary Rule 3.3, which took effect April 1, 2009. See 22 NYCRR § 1200.25 (Rule 3.3). This Rule governs situations where an attorney learns that her client "intends to engage, is engaging or has engaged in criminal or fraudulent conduct related to [a] proceeding." Such conduct includes lying or threatening to lie in the proceeding, refusing to disclose responsive documents in response to a document request, etc.

While the former rule (Rule 7-102(B)(1)) also required attorneys to disclose client fraud if they were unable to persuade the client not to engage in the fraudulent conduct, there was a huge exception - there was no duty to reveal the fraud if the "information is protected as a confidence or secret." Thus, there were few circumstances where attorneys had to report client misconduct.

By contrast, the new Rule *requires* attorneys "to take remedial measures, including, if necessary, *disclosure to the tribunal*," if she has *actual knowledge* of the client's conduct or intentions. See Rule 3.3(a)(3) (emphasis added). The new rule requires disclosure even if the lawyer's information about the client's fraud is protected by the rule on client confidentiality (Rule 1.6).

No court has yet addressed Rule 3.3, but the panelists provided guidance on potential ethical dilemmas under the new Rule. Using hypotheticals and a keen review of language in earlier drafts of the new Rule that does not appear in the final Rule, the panel provided helpful hints on how courts may interpret the Rule.

Mr. Feinberg strongly recommended that attorneys review the new Rule, and he observed that fully informing the client of the potential consequences of perpetrating a fraud on the court can constitute an effective remedial measure. Justice Marlow suggested that attorneys document their discussions with recalcitrant clients, to the point calling in a stenographer to record the attorney's advice to the client in extreme situations.

Ms. McShea noted that the Rule does not have a provision governing how long the attorney's obligation lasts, and thus could apply whenever an attorney learns of a client's fraud, even years after the conclusion of the litigation or transaction at issue. She and Prof. Yaroshefky believe the better interpretation would be for courts to conclude that the obligation should end, at the latest, when disclosure could no longer affect the outcome of the matter.

Justice Marlow and the panel also discussed ethical challenges for judges when an attorney notifies the court that a client has committed fraud. For example, typically such disclosures are made ex parte, but ex parte communications generally must be revealed to the opposing party at some point.

The panel also discussed additional challenges that may arise in criminal cases. What if a defense attorney discovers after trial that a client who was acquitted had lied on the stand? What are the disclosure obligations under the new Rule, and how do we square those obligations with attorney-client privilege and the fact that the trial is over and double jeopardy bars a retrial?

The panel recommended that attorneys review all of the new Rules, including Rule 1.0, which provides definitions for key terms and may influence the interpretation of whether an attorney "knows" that a "fraud" has been committed against a "tribunal." 22 NYCRR § 1200.1 (Rule 1.0). The panelists were also unanimous in counseling lawyers and judges to seek advice from ethics professionals if confronted with the thorny issues raised by Rule 3.3.

In the second part of the program, Hon. Barbara Jaffe, Hon. Andrea Masley, Justice Marlow, and Prof. Yaroshefsky addressed gender-based bias in the courthouse and the profession. From extreme examples related by Judges Marlow and Masley to more subtle examples of biased treatment of female attorneys in the courtroom, the experts agreed that gender bias still exists, even if perhaps driven just a bit further underground. Judge Masley called for greater reporting of such instances to sitting judges, so that they may comply with their own duty to address the remnants of bias that still exist in the courthouse.

The panel also discussed the NYWBA's recent survey of gender-based incivility in the profession. The survey was sent to more than 700 attorneys and judges, and more than 10% reported that they had experienced or observed gender-based bias or incivility conduct in court or in their law practices within the past five years. Clearly, this is a huge concern for the bench and bar.

The NYWBA is fortunate to have had such an extraordinary panel of experts for this program.

- Moderators Sarah Diane McShea and Hon. Barbara Jaffe are Co-Chairs of the NYWBA Committee on Professional Ethics and Discipline. Ms. McShea's solo practice is devoted to professional responsibility. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the ABA/BNA Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct. Judge Jaffe is an Acting Justice of the NY Supreme Court and has held many positions with the NYWBA and other bar associations.
- Hon. Andrea Masley, a Judge of the New York Civil Court who sits in the Bronx Family Court, is Co-Chair of the NYWBA Matrimonial and Family Law Committee. She has an MBA in finance and was a Trade Practice Specialist at the Better Business Bureau.

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NYWBA President's State of the Association Address

As presented by 2009-2010 NYWBA President Donna M. Praiss at the Annual Membership Meeting held on April 28, 2010



This past year has been a turning point in the history of the NYWBA in many ways. While 2009 presented the worst economic downturn in our national economy in nearly three decades, NYWBA membership increased to its highest level yet. Many factors contributed to our growth, including our investment in updating our online presence and our technical capabilities to accept electronic payments, process RSVPs, process renewals, and communicate with our membership in a professional format. As any lawyer can appreciate, introducing new processes and new software in your organization is a necessary but painful process. Introducing this all within the space of months in a volunteer organization transitioning to a new Executive Director and a new Treasurer was downright risky business. I and the Association are indebted to Director and Past President Elizabeth A. Bryson for not only accepting the challenge of leading our technology transition on these many fronts, but staying with it throughout the process of learning new systems, identifying problems with the new systems, and customizing and fixing the new systems, while explaining and helping us all conduct Association business, because frankly, we still don't understand how things work like Beth does.

We started the year without an Executive Director and by the fall, located the perfect person to fill the many administrative needs of our Association. Vice President Gretchen Beall Schumann led our Search Committee that resulted in Karen Lu taking on the role. Karen has been the helpful and professional face, voice, and email messenger for our Association and I am grateful for her dependable assistance to us through this year of growth and growing pains. Karen is also our capable production assistant for our monthly newsletter and annual dinner journal.

As an intellectual property attorney taking on the role of CEO of this organization, I believed it necessary for the organization's visibility and identity to adopt a trademark logo and am thankful that the Board agreed. Andrea Vacca headed our Logo Search Committee and worked with our designer to arrive at the logo you now see on all of our correspondence and notices to distinguish ourselves from other bar associations and New York organizations. Selecting our logo may have been one of the more difficult decisions that the Committee and our Board had to make, and I appreciate everyone's effort to come to an agreement on this. It was very helpful to have a mediator in charge.

Last June, the NYWBA held its Annual Dinner at Capitale, honoring Chief Judge of the State of New York Jonathan Lippman, who was warmly introduced by retired Chief Judge Judith Kaye. We also awarded NYWBA Vice President Lisa Bauer with the Doris S. Hoffman Award for her legendary contributions to the NYWBA. Following the dinner, a generous \$100,000 gift was made to the NYWBA Foundation. Also in June, through the efforts of Vice President Cathy Foti and Director Kay Marmorek, NYWBA held a food drive to benefit Food Bank for New York City with the kind participation and support of numerous courthouses and law firms in Manhattan. A "Virtual Food Drive" was held contemporaneously for monetary donations. The food drive surpassed all goals set.

In July, NYWBA held its 14th annual program for summer associates titled "What It's Really Like to Practice Law as a Woman," cosponsored by the New York City Bar. The program was organized by Director Cassandra Porter and included Randy Shapiro, Deputy General Counsel of Newsweek. Cassandra Porter is organizing our 15th annual program, to be held on June 23, 2010 at the City Bar.

In August, NYWBA teamed up again with New York Women's Basketball Association (as well as families and friends) for Breast Health Awareness Night at Madison Square Garden, when the New York Liberty took on the Connecticut Sun. The program was organized by Director and Past President Jo Ann Douglas, an avid NY Liberty fan, whose passion for women's basketball and a stadium filled with women, brings NYWBA members, family and friends together with our sister chapters in Brooklyn, Westchester, and the Bronx.

Over the summer, our new Treasurer, Julie Hyman, and I attended a leadership training retreat organized by WBASNY to prepare us for a productive year in our chapter. Vice President Cathy Foti assisted me in the selection of leaders for the many committees of our Association, including two new committees established during my term: Intellectual Property, led primarily by Maria Palmese, and Privacy & Cyberspace, led by Patrice Ettinger. Having VP Carla Vogel and Annie Ugurlayan chair our Newsletter Committee may possibly have been the best executive decision made this year. Together with their team, comprising Allison Surcouf, Beth Bryson, and Karen Lu, Carla and Annie have produced informative monthly newsletters with a regularity beyond compare. Actually, it might be as frequent as the Matrimonial & Family Law Committee organizes topics for its monthly meetings, thanks to the efforts of Co-Chairs Briana Denny, Sophie Jacobi, and Judge Andrea Masley.

Corresponding Secretary Kelly O'Neill Levy has been keeping our contact lists current, as we continue to add and change contact information for the many leaders in NYWBA and coordinate with so many other bar associations and women's organizations in Manhattan and with our sister organizations in WBASNY.

In September, NYWBA Membership Committee Co-Chairs Jessica Ventarola and Heather Leifer organized our annual Membership Reception at Skadden Arps, where we were graced with remarks from the always inspiring former New York Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye and a special presentation by Family Court Director Jane

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NYWBA President's State of the Association Address

(continued)

Schrieber about the fall program to assist attorneys with the certification process to represent individuals in family court. Recording Secretary Bonnie Gallet introduced colorful gift bags for new members who joined that evening, further stimulating a successful membership drive. Also in September, our chapter was invited and represented at the special ceremony for Justice Sotomayor at New York Supreme Court with Chief Judge Lippman and Governor Patterson. A momentous occasion.

In October, NYWBA kicked off its highly praised Mentoring Circles program at Newsweek with the formation of 10 groups of attorneys and law students. Mentoring Circle Program Co-Chairs Andrea Vacca and Randy Shapiro rejuvenated the program established by NYWBA in the 1990s. Advisory Board member and Past President Meg Gifford provided a historical perspective on the program and its impact at the reception. NYWBA also sponsored the annual JALBCA Symposium on the subject of "Gene Patenting." Social events were also hosted with the inspiration and assistance of our Events Committee Chair Diana Browne. We enjoyed a fun and informative wine tasting at the Sonnenshein firm with "Women of the Vine" author Deborah Brenner and a wardrobe networking cocktail party sponsored by Carlyle Collection. We also said goodbye to one of our beloved founders, Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag, who shared her dynamic life and legal career with NYWBA for nearly 75 years. Advisory Board member and Past President Myrna Felder provided a heartfelt eulogy at the service for Judge Shientag. Beth Bryson prepared a written memorial that NYWBA published in the New York Times, and the New York Law Journal also noted the life and accomplishments of the indelible Judge Shientag.

In November, we were oversubscribed for our CLE program "Tour New York County Civil Court," organized by our CLE Chair Yacine Barry. We were pleased to introduce Judge Eileen Bransten in our "Lunch with a Judge" program organized by Lisa Sokoloff. NYWBA paid tribute to past president Edith Fisch, the first female law professor in New York State, who endowed Columbia Law School library collection. A plaque in her honor at Columbia acknowledges her history with NYWBA.

In December, NYWBA Foundation, led by Foundation President Karen Mitchell, hosted a breakfast with former Chief Judge Judith Kaye not only speaking but also demonstrating how to "Turn Crisis into Opportunity." Also in December, NYWBA was represented on the dais of New York Women's Agenda annual Star Breakfast, with Jane Fonda receiving the Eleanor Guggenheimer Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Gloria Steinem. The Students & New Lawyers Committee together with the Business Law, Tax & Bankruptcy Committee held a networking event before the holidays organized by Cassandra Porter.

January events included an interesting and insightful "Lunch with a Judge" program - this time with Judge Barbara Kapnick. Our "Lunch with a Judge" programs have been organized by Lisa Sokoloff with the assistance of Kathy Lynch, Co-chair of our Litigation Committee. NYWBA also hosted its annual Judges Reception, organized by Gretchen Beall Schumann, in recognition of the newly elected, re-elected and appointed judges of New York County, with special remarks by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman.

In February, ADR Co-Chairs Leona Beane and Andrea Vacca organized a CLE program titled "ADR in the Courts." The program was very well received, with new members joining NYWBA on the basis of the program's quality. The "Closet Full of Clothes and Nothing to Wear" event was generously sponsored by Carlisle Collection and organized by Events Committee Chair Diana Browne, who can be found wearing clothes from the Carlisle Collection on any given day. At the WBASNY 30th Anniversary held at the Water Club, NYWBA filled three tables to help celebrate.

In March, International Law & Practice Committee Co-Chairs Rebecca Hollis and Christa Bosch oversaw our sponsorship of the International Women's Day Reception and showing of the documentary "Courting Justice" held at the Court of International Trade when the UN Commission on the Status of Women was in session.

In April, Elder Law Committee Co-chairs Kay Marmorek and Miriam Davidson organized a program addressing elder care legal issues with the Assitant District Attorney involved with the case against Anthony Marshall and his attorney over the Brooke Astore estate.

May events include the 13th Annual Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Program, once again sponsored by the NYWBA. Ethics Committee Co-Chairs Diana McShea and Honorable Barbara Jaffe, along with Matrimonial & Family Law Committee Co-chairs Briana Denny, Sophie Jacobi and Judge Andrea Masley put together an illustrious CLE panel program entitled "Litigating Under the New Ethics Rules: a Close Look at Rule 3.3 (Client Fraud) and Gender Bias in the Courthouse." In addition, Elder Law Committee Co-chairs Kay Marmorek and Miriam Davidson hosted Peter J. Strauss, one of the first attorneys in the country to focus on what is now known as "elder law."

In June, NYWBA will participate again in the Caren Aronowitz Memorial Diversity Program and Lunch held in the rotunda at 60 Centre Street. Membership Committee Co-Chairs Jessica Ventarola and Heather Leifer will organize our lunch contribution. We will also celebrate the 75th Anniversary of NYWBA at our Annual Awards Dinner to be held again at the elegant Capitale. Dinner Committee Co-Chairs Pat Grant and Jo Ann Douglas, along with Events Committee Chair Diana Browne, are planning another beautiful evening to share with old and new friends and colleagues. We will honor New York Supreme Court Justice Sherry Klein Heitler with the President's Special Award. NYWBA has had the privilege of Justice Heitler's active and productive participation on its Board for many years, and we commend Justice Heitler on her appointment this year as Administrative Judge for Civil Matters New York County. We will posthumously honor a dynamic woman who started it all for NYWBA and countless others, Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag, NYWBA Founder, Past President and Benefactor. Judge Sheintag was a strong woman admired for her intellect, resourcefulness, determination, and prescience that has enriched the Association and its mission and will for many more years to come.

At the WBASNY Convention in Ellenville, NY on May 21-23 we will be honoring:

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President's Address continued from Page 10

- NYWBA Director and incoming Delegate to WBASNY, Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, will be awarded the first annual Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award. Judge Silbermann, now in private practice, had a transformative impact across our state through her leadership in the court system as the former Administrative Judge for Matrimonial Matters throughout New York State. In all of her many roles, Judge Silbermann has demonstrated her professionalism, good will, and service to the State of New York. Like Judge Kaye, Justic Silbermann is one of those rare people to whom you would want to give any task that is too tough, too complicated, or too sensitive for others.
- NYWBA Past President **Teresa Schiller** will be installed as WBASNY President-Elect for 2010-2011. Teresa has a long history with and strong commitment to the Women's Bar. During her many years of involvement with WBASNY and NYWBA, Teresa consistently contributed her positive attitude, initiative, and fiscal responsibility to the success of these organizations and many programs to benefit young lawyers.

There is a quote tacked up by my computer that has become my mantra over this personally challenging year. I want to share it with you, because I am sure it reflects the attitudes and beliefs of the NYWBA Founders.

Success is not final.

Failure is not fatal.

It's the courage to continue that counts.

Let's continue the NYWBA tradition of providing mentoring, networking, leadership and continuing legal education opportunities to advance the status of women in the legal profession. Renew your membership in June and become active in a committee and in a Mentoring Circle. Thank you Gretchen for your assistance as Vice President of NYWBA this year, standing in for me at board meetings, organizing programs, setting up our electronic payment system, leading us through the process of finding the perfect Executive Director, transitioning over your treasurer duties and pleasantly providing support to make the numbers all add up, providing space for our Board for most of our meetings this year, and your consistent kind support and friendship over the years. I hope that your term as NYWBA President is similarly filled with active members, quality programs, and faithful friends.

Let's also continue to address the unmet legal needs of women and children in Manhattan and beyond through the NYWBA Foundation, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. Through the Ellerin Scholarship, the Foundation funds judicial internships. The Foundation also funds internships with non-profit organizations, such as In Motion and Sanctuary for Families. With the generous assistance of an angel sponsor, the Foundation was able to establish this year a \$100,000 grant over five years to the Feerick Center for Social Justice at Fordham Law School. The grant will fund NYWBA Foundation Fellows to assist with critical Feerick Center initiatives that impact women and children in New York. I thank Karen Mitchell for her leadership of the Foundation this year and wish her continued success in building the Foundation's resources and impacting our community in these important ways.

Ethics continued from Page 8

- Hon. George Marlow is a former Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. After 30 years on the bench, he was appointed the first Statewide Judicial Director of Ethics Education and Counsel, managing the NYS Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics and supervising ethics opinions. He is of counsel to Gellert & Klein, P.C.
- Jeremy R. Feinberg is the Statewide Special Counsel for Ethics for the NYS Office of Court Administration and Statewide Special Counsel for the NYS Commercial Division courts. He is staff counsel to the Advisory Committee on Ethics, a panel of judges that provides ethics advice and opinions for the NYS Judiciary.
- Prof. Ellen Yaroshefsky is Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Jacob Burns Ethics Center at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She is Co-Chair of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee of the ABA's Criminal Justice Section and serves on the Ethics Committees of several bar associations.

The sponsoring Committees thank CLE Chair Yacine Barry and past President Elizabeth Bryson for their extensive assistance in coordinating the logistics and CLE accreditation for this program.

Still need ethics credits? If you were unable to attend this worthwhile program, it was video recorded and the written materials are available. If you wish to view the recording for CLE credit, contact CLE@nywba.org.

Hon. Barbara Jaffe is an Acting Justice of the New York Supreme Court and Co-Chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics and Discipline. Past President Elizabeth A. Bryson is a litigator and appellate attorney in Manhattan who served on the Special Commission on the Future of the New York Courts.



Speakers Hon. Barbara Jaffe, Hon. Andrea Masley, Prof. Ellen Yaroshefsky, Hon. George D. Marlow, Jeremy Feinberg and Sarah Diane McShea (l-r)



Prof. Ellen Yaroshefsky, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; Hon. George D. Marlow, Statewide Judicial Director of Ethics Education and Counsel and retired Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department; Jeremy Feinberg, Statewide Special Counsel for Ethics, NYS Office of Court Administration (l-r)

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 member benefits - join committees, network and 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 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 by the **10th** of the month for publication in the following month's Newsletter. Please submit articles, announcements, upcoming event programming, photos and committee, 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. Please send an email to *newsletter@nywba.org* or call 201-679-6739 if you have questions or are interested in joining the Newsletter Committee.

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