



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
and  
THE JUDICIAL TITLE INSURANCE AGENCY LLC

Present

## *Planning for Unmarried Couples*

Speakers:

**Professor William LaPiana &  
Lisa Ayn Padilla, Esq.**

**Tuesday, September 21, 2004**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
(Sign-in at 5:30 p.m.)

New York Marriott East Side  
575 Lexington Avenue, New York City  
(between 48th and 49th Streets)

**CLE:** 2 Hours Professional Practice Credits\*  
There is *no charge* for this program\*\*  
Refreshments will be served

**RSVP:** Amy Carlson at Judicial Title  
914-381-6700, ext. 213 or [acarlson@judicialtitle.com](mailto:acarlson@judicialtitle.com)  
*Seating is limited.*

**Information:** NYWBA Executive Director Marta Toro  
[info@nywba.org](mailto:info@nywba.org) or 212-360-7055

\* CLE: Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board. NYWBA is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, which is an accredited CLE provider. (This program will not qualify for transitional credit for newly admitted attorneys.)

\*\* *The New York Women's Bar Association expresses its appreciation to the Judicial Title Insurance Agency LLC for graciously underwriting the costs of this program to benefit our members.*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE A NEW YEAR**

September 2004



Photo: Daryl-Ann Saunders

Elizabeth A. Bryson

I am thrilled to serve a second term as President of the Association in this, our 70th anniversary year. It has been more than forty years since we had a president who served two terms. I am honored, but I know that our accomplishments are far from mine alone. We have wonderful officers, directors and committee chairs, who perform miracles every day.

I am pleased to report that we will hold numerous events this year to celebrate our 70th anniversary and WBASNY's 25th anniversary. On June 31st, we had a special trip to a New York Liberty game. As most of you know, the Liberty are New York's elite professional women's basketball team. The event was on Breast Health Awareness Night, and every member who attended got a special Liberty shirt. Even better, the Liberty won!

Our very popular annual program for summer associates and interns entitled "What It's <Really> Like to Practice Law in NYC as a Woman" was held on July 14th. We co-sponsor this program with the City Bar, and as always it was a huge success, with more than 350 in attendance. We were also thrilled that we received quite a few membership applications from women whose first contact with the Association was when they attended this program. I want to thank Board member Lisa Bauer and the entire team for their work on this program.

I am especially pleased to report that our Annual Dinner on May 26th was a huge success. We had nearly 450 attendees, and we congratulate the remarkable honorees and the new officers and directors, who were installed by the incomparable Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin.

Linda Greenhouse, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and The New York Times' reporter covering the U.S. Supreme Court, received The President's Special Award. She is extraordinarily well versed with respect to the issues that come before the Court, and in her remarks she demonstrated her warmth, intelligence and keen ability to place those issues in a larger context.

Justice Jacqueline W. Silbermann received the inaugural Joan L. Ellenbogen Award. A past President of the Association and the first President of WBASNY, we are grateful for Joan's legacy. An extraordinary woman in her

*Continued on page 2*

## NYWBA MENTORING CIRCLES SUCCESS STORY

*The NYWBA Success Stories column is a forum for members to share stories and successes in their lives that occurred because of their membership or participation. The fourth in our series is a NYWBA Mentoring Circles Success Story contributed by NYWBA Member Brigitte Rajacic:*

Throughout my school career, there was always someone available to offer me guidance, be it a teacher, professor, or mentor. After graduation from law school, I found myself adrift. I searched for guidance from different sources in my firm and among my peers. However, I could not find one individual to act as a mentor. Then, I discovered NYWBA's Mentoring Circles program. Through this program, I found what I was looking for: not one individual to act as a mentor, but a group of mentors. The NYWBA Mentoring Circles program fits my needs by offering the support of several individuals with various points of view.

NYWBA offers a program that brings together groups of women attorneys from diverse backgrounds. The groups' main objectives are to provide support for each other; develop key positive relationships, increase knowledge of the legal profession and available opportunities, assist in career and personal development, provide insight for career moves, provide a forum for discussions of common interest, and develop communication skills.

My particular mentoring circle, with which I have been involved for more than a year, has met and exceeded those objectives. My group includes a retired judge, a partner in a firm, associates at different levels in firms, and government attorneys. Each individual's work environment and background are different, but each person has a similar interest in striving to balance her career with her personal life. The group's diversity, thanks to NYWBA organizers who made group assignments, has been the key to its success. I feel privileged to be part of an accomplished and caring group of women who offer thoughtful guidance and insight.

At our bimonthly circle meetings, the host usually selects a topic for discussion, and each member contributes her opinion based on her experience dealing with similar issues. All conversations are relaxed and confidential. The discussions develop organically and ideally conclude with some kind of resolution. During these discussions, members provide support for each other and develop relationships that increase each others' knowledge of the legal profession and provide insight to career development.

The success -- or failure -- of a meeting rests on the shoulders of each member. The right mix of members and the attendance of each member are important to the program's success. The glue that holds together each mentoring circle is the level of commitment members make to each other. As with anything else in life, members walk away from the experience with as much as they have put into it.

From the very first orientation to the last meeting I attended, I walked away from each meeting having learned something new. My mentoring circle has been a wonderful sounding board, providing me with needed guidance and support. For more information about the program, I urge you to contact NYWBA Mentoring and Mentoring Circles Committee Co-Chairs Elise Yablonski (212-969-3976 or eyablonski@proskauer.com) or Lisa Bauer (212-969-3221 or lbauer@proskauer.com).

~ Brigitte

*President's Message continued from page 1*

own right, Justice Silbermann is the Administrative Judge for matrimonial courts statewide and for the Supreme Court in New York County. She has had a powerful impact on these courts and the lives of the litigants and attorneys who come before them. She is also a distinguished member of our Board. We are so grateful to past President Sheila Birnbaum for sponsoring this award, which included a \$5,000 donation to a charity. Justice Silbermann chose InMotion, which provides legal assistance and support for victims of domestic violence. InMotion founder Catherine Douglass accepted the donation. We also thank Sheila and Chief Judge Kaye for their gracious remarks honoring Joan and Justice Silbermann.

Congratulations as well to our Award of Merit recipients - Davis Polk & Wardwell and Blank Rome LLP - which were honored for their pro bono efforts and support of women's equality. We also salute them for their support of the Association over the years.

The Annual Dinner is our major fundraiser, and it would not be possible without the hard work of many people, especially Co-Chairs Myra Freed and Jo Ann Douglas. The Dinner Journal was also an extraordinary accomplishment. Our largest Journal ever, at 72 pages, it is filled with heartfelt tributes to our honorees, officers and directors, as well as terrific ads from our sponsors. If you would like a copy of the Dinner Journal, just let us know. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Karen Chu, who designed our Journal, and John Bado and his team, who printed it. They do a great job, and dealing with them is a pleasure. Of course, we also owe a huge debt to Executive Director Marta Toro for all her assistance.

By any measure, 2003-04 was an extraordinary year. Membership increased more than 50% from only two years ago, and there is a wonderful enthusiasm within the organization that I am certain will continue through 2004-05 and beyond.

Speaking of membership, it is time to renew! Renewal notices were mailed in mid-August. If you have not returned your renewal, please do so soon. Our first membership certification is due to WBASNY by September 30th, and we really need your support. If you can't find your renewal form, or have a friend or colleague who would like to join, you can download a membership form at our terrific website ([www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org)). We can also send membership forms to you.

I am also very excited about the CLE programs that are being planned for this year, and I want to thank our Programs and Events Co-Chairs, Amy Saltzman and Laura Twomey for all their work. On September 21st, the Association will sponsor a wonderful CLE program on the legal rights of unmarried couples. We are grateful to Judicial Title Insurance for their underwriting and sponsorship of this program.

As I reflect on the past year and plan for the next, I cannot express enough how awed I am by what is accomplished on a daily basis by this Association. It has been a pleasure to serve as President this year, and I look forward to an equally productive and fun 2004-05.



## WBASNY Comments on State Pro Bono Report

*Former Pro Bono Committee Chair Teresa Schiller and current Co-Chair Leyla Marrouk submitted the following report about WBASNY's commentary on a statewide pro bono report:*

In January, the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) issued a two-volume report entitled "The Future of Pro Bono in New York." The full text of the report can be found at <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/reports/probono>. In April, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York issued a comment letter on the report.

In its response, WBASNY commended OCA for seeking to address the important issue of pro bono initiatives on a statewide basis. The letter described WBASNY members' commitment to pro bono, including the legal clinics run by some chapters and WBASNY's procurement of a malpractice insurance policy for clinical programs. WBASNY supported the report's recommendations regarding the education of law students and newly-admitted attorneys about pro bono, indicating that members participating in WBASNY's LINK mentoring program are encouraged to discuss pro bono involvement with their protégés. WBASNY clarified that its members wanted pro bono involvement to remain voluntary in New York State, and it voiced support for a voluntary reporting system through the biannual state bar attorney registration process. WBASNY volunteered to assist in the development of pilot projects to explore the use of discrete task representation in litigated matters. WBASNY also requested that it be named to the Statewide Standing Committee on Pro Bono, and that the local women's bar association chapters be represented on the ten local Pro Bono Action Committees proposed by the report.

In the report, OCA indicated that there was a need for 10 million pro bono hours in New York State, and only 2 million hours were supplied. Under the current system in New York State, pro bono service is voluntary (not mandatory) and there is neither a voluntary nor mandatory pro bono reporting requirement. The report recommended examination of the issue of individual attorney reporting.

Volume 1 of the report covered the results of a survey conducted in 2002, as compared with the results of a 1997 survey. The 2002 survey was conducted after adoption of the Administrative Board of the Courts' April 1997 Pro Bono Resolution, which urged attorneys to contribute at least 20 hours per year. (A copy of this voluntary pro bono resolution is included in biannual bar registration materials.) Adoption of the resolution apparently had no impact on the number of hours of pro bono service by attorneys. In 1997, 47% of attorneys did pro bono work; the percentage dropped to 46% in 2002. The average number of hours spent by attorneys also declined (41.9 in 1997; 41.3 in 2002). Despite the resolution, the percentage of attorneys providing 20 hours per year remained unchanged - 27% in both 1997 and 2002. The 2002 survey revealed that 66% of attorneys were willing to voluntarily report their hours. The 2002 survey also revealed that only about 24% of attorneys received pro bono cases through organized pro bono or volunteer lawyer programs.

## NOTES ON MEMBERS

Congratulations to NYWBA past President **Sandra Jacobson** on her retirement and recent move to North Carolina. The Board and the Association send their best wishes and appreciation for her extraordinary service to the NYWBA, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, and the American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys, among other associations.

NYWBA congratulates member **Milagros Matos**, who has been endorsed by the Democratic Party County Committee for the position of Civil Court Judge in New York County and will be on the ballot in November. Ms. Matos has served as an NYWBA director since 2000.

We are saddened to report that **Susan Solomon**, long-time member of the NYWBA and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, passed away in August. She was a dedicated public servant, having served in the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the City Council President, the New York City Office of Economic Development, and as court attorney to Justices Robert Lippman and William C. Thompson. A devoted advocate for breast cancer issues, she served as an officer of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA), as WBASNY's liaison to JALBCA, and as the heart and soul of the "October Courthouse Alert," which places mammography vans at courthouses to provide free mammograms and breast cancer information. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ms. Solomon's family and her many friends and colleagues. Donations in her memory may be made to the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert, 1369 Madison Avenue, PMB 424, New York, NY 10128.

Yet, about 77% of attorneys believed that training and resources of organized pro bono programs were essential to doing pro bono work in areas in which they lacked expertise.

Volume 2 of the report covered findings and recommendations resulting from four convocations held around New York State in 2002. Judges, bar leaders, practicing attorneys, and legal educators from New York State and elsewhere participated in the convocations. Using the findings of the convocation, OCA noted both the need for increased pro bono service and the importance of having a statewide initiative. OCA also found that pro bono service should be voluntary, as opposed to mandatory. The report's recommendations were as follows: (1) local committees and a statewide committee should be set up within one year; (2) the judiciary should play a leadership role; (3) court-based initiatives should be developed to help litigants; (4) pilot projects should test "unbundled" discrete task representation; (5) materials for law students and new attorneys should emphasize pro bono; and (6) data collection methodology should be developed.

OCA indicated that "a more intensive phase lies ahead" to give "tangible expression" to the ideas and potential solutions generated through its investigation. We look forward to opportunities for collaboration with OCA in this next phase of pro bono development in New York State.

~ Leyla and Teresa

## NYWBA Annual Ethics Forum and Annual Meeting Cap Successful Year

NYWBA Director Robin E. Eichen provided the following report about this year's Annual Meeting and Ethics Forum:

On April 28, the NYWBA held its Annual Meeting and our Annual Ethics Forum at the offices of New York Life Insurance Company. At the Annual Meeting, President Elizabeth Bryson presented a report on NYWBA activities, and new leaders for 2004-05 were elected. The Ethics Forum, which followed immediately after the Annual Meeting, was attended by approximately 70 attorneys and received excellent reviews.

The topic of the **Ethics Forum** was "Ethics and Professionalism for Judges and Lawyers: Perspectives from the Bench, Bar & Grievance Committee," and attendees received two Ethics CLE credits. Deborah Scalise, Vice President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY), developed the program, in concert with the NYWBA Professional Ethics and Discipline Committee. Deborah, who served as a panelist, is WBASNY's Professional Ethics Chair and a former Deputy Chief Counsel to the Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Department. The Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, a Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department, also served as a panelist. Justice Ellerin was the first woman appointed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department, and she was the first woman to serve as Presiding Justice. Her observations on ethical issues were valuable because of her extensive judicial experience and eminent reputation. Andral Bratton, Deputy Chief Counsel to the Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Department, was a panelist as well. His insights on ethical issues were timely. All the panelists' opinions were clearly well-reasoned and well-researched. The panel was moderated by Robin E. Eichen, Senior Attorney at the Federal Trade Commission for the Northeast Region and Co-Chair of the NYWBA Professional Ethics and Discipline Committee. Robin skillfully guided the discussion at the event.

The program discussion focused on two hypothetical problems, each raising numerous ethical issues. The first hypothetical included issues of lawyer supervision, the duty to report another lawyer for matters involving dishonesty, and questions of privilege.

The second hypothetical involved an attorney who was disrespectful to the court and a question regarding perceived judicial bias.

The panelists' advice included the following: 1) when you suspect that an ethical issue is involved, do not act until you have researched the issue or consulted an ethics expert; 2) an attorney's disrespect for the court could have severe repercussions for the attorney and her client; and 3) an attorney can be disciplined for failure to report another attorney's dishonesty.

The following are telephone and e-mail references for attorneys dealing with ethical issues: (1) WBASNY hotline - 914-472-9517 (after 6:00 p.m. only); (2) New York County Lawyers' Association hotline - 212-267-6646 (ask for hotline number, which changes); (3) Association of the Bar of the City of New York hotline - 212-382-6624 (ask for hotline number, which changes); (4) New York State Bar Association hotline - 800-342-3661; and (5) American Bar Association hotline - 312-988-5323 or e-mail [ethicsearch@staff.abanet.org](mailto:ethicsearch@staff.abanet.org). The following websites also provide information on ethical issues: [www.abanet.org/cpr/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/cpr/home.html); [www.bna.com/products/lit/mopc.htm](http://www.bna.com/products/lit/mopc.htm); [www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/](http://www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/); [www.ajs.org](http://www.ajs.org); [www.aprl.net](http://www.aprl.net); and [www.nobc.org](http://www.nobc.org).

The Ethics Forum followed the **Annual Meeting**. During the Annual Meeting, Beth Bryson was re-elected as NYWBA President for a second term, and other officers, directors, and WBASNY delegates were elected for 2004/2005. (For a list of the new leaders, please go to [www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org).) Beth reported on the successes of the past year and the highlights of the upcoming year. She stated that membership had increased 35% since the previous year, and more than 50% from two years ago. She listed many CLE programs and other events that the NYWBA had hosted, and described the organization's efforts to screen New York State judicial candidates. Beth announced that the upcoming year marked the NYWBA's 70th anniversary and WBASNY's 25th anniversary. She also stated that the NYWBA would co-host the 2005 WBASNY Convention in New York City.

~ Robin

NYWBA President Elizabeth A. Bryson



(l to r) WBASNY Vice President Deborah Scalise; Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin; Andral Bratton, Deputy Chief Counsel to the Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Department; NYWBA Board Member Robin E. Eichen

Moderator Robin E. Eichen



## WEB CITES

Welcome to our sixth Internet column, sponsored by the Technology and Internet for Lawyers Committee. The topic this month is medical information.

The websites of government agencies have very reliable medical information, among them the following:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a wealth of publications, articles, and general information on all kinds of medical topics, literally from A to Z: <http://www.nih.gov/>.
- MEDLINEplus provides information on prescription and over-the-counter drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, and a dictionary of medical terminology: <http://www.medlineplus.gov>. It can also be reached through a link on the NIH website: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus>.
- Healthfinder provides information on doctors, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and similar information: <http://www.healthfinder.gov> (also linked to the NIH website).
- The National Center for Biotechnology Information and the U.S. National Library of Medicine sponsor PubMed, which has an archive of journals on life sciences: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>  
<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>
- The New York State Department of Health is also an excellent resource. Here you can check whether a physician licensed in New York State has been subjected to disciplinary action (since 1990): <http://www.health.state.ny.us>  
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/opmc/main.htm>

If you want full histories on particular physicians or other licensed healthcare professionals, and you are willing to pay for a report, see these sites: <http://www.healthgrades.com/>  
<http://www.choicetrust.com/>

News on health topics of popular interest can be found at <http://www.WebMD.com>.

Remember that you can enter particular words (including names of healthcare professionals) in search-engines such as <http://www.google.com/>, <http://www.altavista.com>, <http://www.yahoo.com>, and <http://www.askjeeves.com>.

Please send your comments and suggested websites to Eleanor Vale at [techcolumn@nywba.org](mailto:techcolumn@nywba.org). We look forward to your contributions.

~ Eleanor Vale

*We intend this as a service to our members. As with all research tools, you should use your judgment in assessing the accuracy and completeness of the information you find on the Internet.*

Visit our website at [www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org)

## Clifford Chance Supports and Salutes the Firm's Attorneys Who Are Active in NYWBA

*The New York Women's Bar Association was recently featured in an extensive article in "Americas Today," which is the internal newsletter of the international law firm Clifford Chance. The Association is thrilled that Clifford Chance underwrites the women's bar memberships of its attorneys and that it chose to highlight the activities and accomplishments of the firm's attorneys who are members of the Association in its internal publication. NYWBA Vice President and Newsletter Editor Teresa Schiller, who directs pro bono services throughout the United States for Clifford Chance, kindly shared this article with us, and an excerpt from the article appears below.*

At the Women's Bar's Annual Dinner on May 26, Teresa Schiller will be installed as vice-president of the New York Women's Bar Association. Additionally, Amy Halpert and Teresa will be sworn in as directors of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

The Annual Dinner will cap a year in which many Clifford Chance attorneys were involved with Women's Bar activities. More than 80 attorneys joined the Women's Bar, with the Firm's financial support. Clifford Chance developed and co-hosted a city-wide seminar on fact interviewing techniques in February. Blair Soyster served on the panel of the seminar, which was attended by more than 65 attorneys and received excellent reviews. Teresa Schiller, Angelique Shingler, Mia Korot, Zoe Langsten, Elizabeth Lynch, and Yelena Maltser developed the seminar. Teresa served on the board of the Women's Bar, as well as judicial screening committees for New York Court of Appeals candidates and New York Supreme Court judicial candidates. She is currently editing the monthly Women's Bar newsletter, along with Mia Korot, Maryana Kodner, and Stephanie Chmiel. Teresa served as Pro Bono Committee Chair. She and Eva Riesenhuber participated in the Women's Bar's Mentoring Circles program. Amy served on the WBASNY International Women's Rights Committee and provided reports on human rights issues to the Women's Bar and Clifford Chance membership. Kimberly Wolf Price and Caroline Giusio worked with Women's Bar representatives to prepare for a Legislation Day initiative in Albany in March. Katharine Larsen was involved in organizing a January reception to honor New York judges.

Clifford Chance involvement in the Women's Bar will continue in 2004-2005 with some new leadership. Madlyn Primoff has become co-chair of the Business Law, Taxation, and Bankruptcy Committee, and Leyla Marrouk recently stepped in as co-chair of the Pro Bono Committee.

~ Teresa



## NYWBA MENTOR GROUP PROGRAM ACCEPTING NEW PARTICIPANTS

In the Fall of 1994, the NYWBA launched a unique program designed to develop and encourage mentoring relationships among our members. The Association perceived, correctly, that mentoring is important to professional success and development, and that traditional mentoring relationships -- mentor and protégé in a one-on-one relationship -- were increasingly unavailable to young lawyers, particularly women. Experienced practitioners facing a changing economy had less time to devote to mentoring, and when they did, they tended to select younger versions of themselves, typically not women or persons of color, as their protégés.

This Association counts among its members some of the most prominent and accomplished women lawyers in the City, whose commitment to mentoring has spanned more than half a century. However, the traditional mentor-protégé structure was not readily adaptable to a bar association, whose members practice throughout the City. Accordingly, in 1994 the Association's Committee to Advance Women in the Profession developed "mentoring circles" to utilize the Association's mentoring resources to meet the needs of the membership.

Each mentoring circle consists of eight to ten members of different practice areas and employers, and varying levels of seniority. The group is expected to meet six times during the year to discuss any topics of interest to the group. New groups are encouraged to begin with formal discussion topics, such as "how

to deal with difficult clients and adversaries," or "how to delegate effectively." As members get to know each other better, formal topics are no longer necessary. Members must agree to attend all group meetings during the year.

Over time, successful groups develop trust and cohesiveness and foster the honest exchange of practical advice, perspective, wisdom and friendship that is the goal of traditional mentoring relationships. Because of the emphasis on variety within groups, every member of the group is potentially a mentor to the others.

When a mentor group works the way it should, participant satisfaction is high. Participants have said that their groups have supported them through job searches, career changes and the balance of work and family. The women in my own mentor group, whom I have now known for nearly nine years, have become an important part of my professional life.

There will be openings this fall for new participants. Because regular attendance is essential to the cohesiveness of your group, you must be willing to commit to attending the meetings of your group. This newsletter contains a sign up form. If you are interested in joining a Mentor Group, please fill it out and send it in by October 15, 2004.

### THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION GROUP MENTORING PROGRAM

The program organizes groups of members at different career levels and positions into "mentoring circles" that meet six times during the year to discuss career issues. If you would like to participate in one of these circles, please answer the questions below and return to the NYWBA by fax or regular mail by October 15, 2004.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**New York Women's Bar Association**  
**303 Park Avenue South, #1190**  
**New York, NY 10010-3601**  
**Tel (212) 360-7055**  
**Fax (212) 937-2371**

This form is only for new participants or those who want to be in a new group. Do not return this form if you are continuing to participate in an existing group.

How would you characterize your practice area?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Law School Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Are you committed to attend all group meetings? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

What topics are you interested in discussing?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### SENIOR MENTORS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED Objectives of Mentoring Circles

- assist in career and personal development
- provide insight for career moves
- develop positive relationships with other female attorneys
- develop communication and networking skills

*If you have any questions, please contact Elise A. Yablonski, Chair, Mentor Program at 212-969-3976 or eyablonski@proskauer.com.*

## GAIL COLLINS SPEAKS AT THIRD SUCCESSFUL NYWBA FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

by Jennifer Aurora

Gail Collins was the keynote speaker at the NYWBA Foundation Breakfast on May 4, 2004, at the Harvard Club. The breakfast was the third event in a fundraising series featuring leading women authors. Ms. Collins, who is the first woman to serve as Editorial Page Editor for *The New York Times*, spoke about her latest book, *America's Women, 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines*. She has also written two other books: *Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity, and American Politics*; and *The Millennium Book* (with husband Dan Collins).

Ms. Collins' publisher, Scribner Collins, generously donated copies of her latest book, which she graciously signed at the breakfast. All profits from the sale of the books went to the Foundation.

Ms. Collins presented an illuminating, lively, and good-humored account of the cultural history of American women. She chronicled lives of both celebrated and average women from the seventeenth century through modern times. Ms. Collins explained how norms for everyday issues, such as hygiene, dress fashions, and cooking, largely dictated women's roles. She elucidated the central tension that has plagued women for over four hundred years: "the yearning to create a home and the urge to get out of it."

She was at her best when she spoke about her favorite heroines: Margaret Brent, Clara Barton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Elizabeth Blackwell. Margaret Brent was an active business-woman who specialized in lending money to newly arrived settlers. When debtors failed to meet their obligations, she found herself drawn to the law, tenaciously representing herself in court to collect what was due. Besides being regarded as the nation's first female lawyer, Margaret was the first colonial woman to demand (unsuccessfully) the right to vote. Clara Barton was a restless nineteenth-century New Englander who took it upon herself to organize health care on Civil War battlefields and became known for her courage under fire: "Her face [had] turned blue from the gunpowder, and her skirts were so heavy with blood that she had to wring them out before she could walk under their weight." Harriet

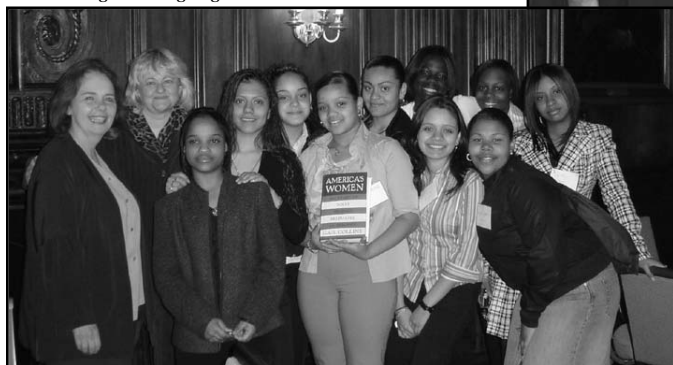
Beecher Stowe authored the anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Yet, when opportunities arose to lecture about the book, her husband took the podium while she sat by listening demurely. In later years, she began to present her own lectures nationwide, demonstrating her ability to handle what she had deferred to her husband. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to graduate from an American medical school, was inspired to apply when she realized that male physicians refused to look at their female patients' bodies during examinations. After dozens of medical schools turned her down, she was accepted by Geneva College, and she went on to graduate first in her class.

Ms. Collins urged attendees to focus their activist efforts on women's rights abroad and, in particular, on the deficiencies of healthcare for women in Third World countries. She left attendees to ponder the question, "Who are the women writing the next chapter?"

Attendee Danielle L. Sullivan summed up the audience's response to Collins: "Gail Collins did more than give a speech, she was a master storyteller with an exceptional ability to engage an audience and keep it entertained. She truly breathed life into the history of the struggles and successes of women throughout the past couple of centuries -- and not just famous women, but lesser known, behind-the-scenes women, who deserve recognition as well. My favorite part was when she described her own job as Editor-in-Chief of *The New York Times* editorial page -- an editorial page that once steered against suffrage for women -- and how now she can look up at the portraits of past Editors-in-Chief, all-male, and smile because she has their job."

Special guests at the event included a group of young women from Washington Irving High School. The students have been in the high school's Law and Public Service Program, which promotes career and leadership development for those who are interested in the law. At the conclusion of the event, NYWBA President Beth Bryson presented the students with a copy of Ms. Collins' new book, a purchase that simultaneously benefited both the Foundation and the Washington Irving High School Library.

Gail Collins,  
NYWBA Foundation Director Marian C. Burnbaum,  
and Washington Irving High School students



Gail Collins

NYWBA Foundation President Katherine P. Posner,  
Gail Collins, and NYWBA President Elizabeth A. Bryson  
(l to r)



## 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 e-mail articles, notes on members, committee calendars, and any other announcements to **Teresa Schiller, Esq.**, tel. no. 212-878-3003, email [newsletter@nywba.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 212-360-7055 or send an e-mail 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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