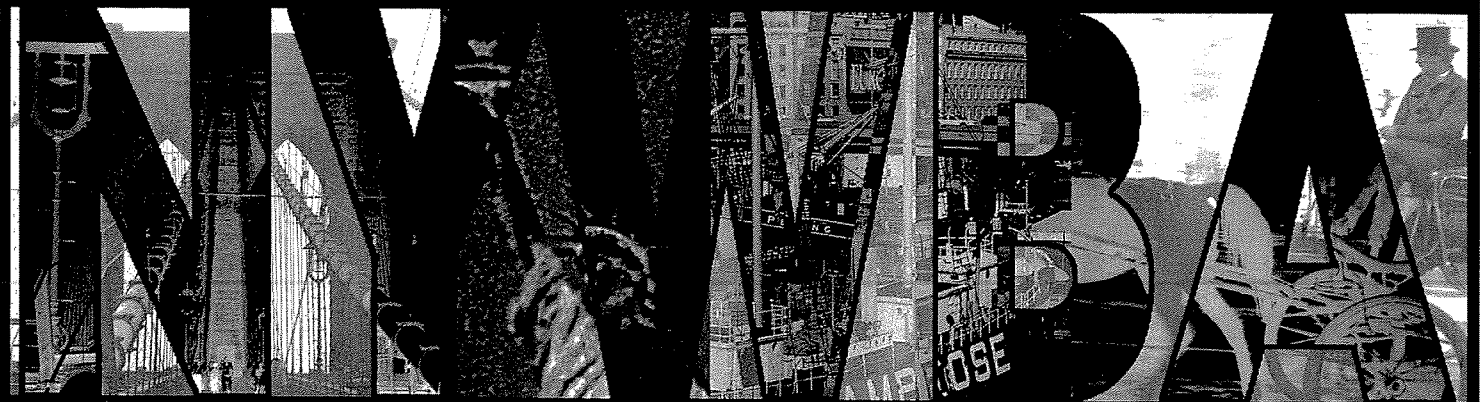


# NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



*An affiliate of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York*

## NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

*cordially invites you to celebrate the inauguration of its*

### **Litigation Committee**

with a

### **Networking Reception**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2007**

**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

at

### **Commerce Bank**

258 Broadway, New York, New York

(corner of Broadway and Warren)

RSVP to

ldbarbieri@schoeman.com

please include

"Commerce Reception"

in subject line

or call (212) 661-5030 x 287

Refreshments and hor  
d'oeuvres shall be served

Space is limited

This event is free of charge to current NYWBA members  
and members of the judiciary

**Kathy M. Lynch**  
Co-Chair

**Sylvia E. Di Pietro**  
Co-Chair

**Laura D. Barbieri**  
Co-Chair

*The NYWBA and the Litigation Committee gratefully  
acknowledge Commerce Bank for its support  
of the Association and for its generosity in sponsoring this event*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**    *SEPTEMBER 2007* **GENERATIVITY**



*Lisa A. Sokoloff*

Over the summer, I attended WBASNY Leadership Training in upstate New York. During one of the sessions I learned a new word: generativity, a noun that means a concern for future generations and people besides one's own family. Etymologically, generativity is derived from the words generate and creativity. It is a term coined by famed psychologist Erik Erickson, and pertains to his seventh stage of psychosexual development. For those of you who have studied psychology, Erickson (unlike Freud) felt that personality continued to develop beyond the early years. Erickson followers believe that simply having or wanting children does not achieve generativity, but performing socially-valued work does.

Bar associations, by their very nature, must promote generativity in order to establish and guide the next generation of lawyers. Our Association, from its inception, has always been concerned not only with improving the current status of women in the law but that of future generations. Without our pioneering sisters, it is likely that many of us would not have had the opportunities we currently enjoy. Likewise, without our assistance, future generations of female lawyers may be thwarted.

*Continued on page 2*

## **MEET THE COMMITTEES**

NYWBA has a number of committees specializing in various practice areas and topics. Whether you wish to network or learn a new area of law, there is a group for you. See page 3.

## **BAR ASSOCIATION EVENTS**

This fall is full of events. From improving your resume to building a better portfolio, there is a seminar for you. Details inside.

**For the latest news and information on programs and events, check NYWBA online at [www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org).**

Jonathan Massey, Financial Advisor with AXA Advisors  
and John Cunicella,  
President of Platinum Financial Partners, LLC

*Present*

### **Preparing for the 21st Century: Tips for Financial Health and Well Being!**

October 18th, 6-8pm\*

380 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1920

*Space is limited at this free seminar*

RSVP to

April Minetti, at [aminetti@pfpnj.com](mailto:aminetti@pfpnj.com) or 866.596.0909

\* Dinner provided by Platinum Financial Partners, LLC

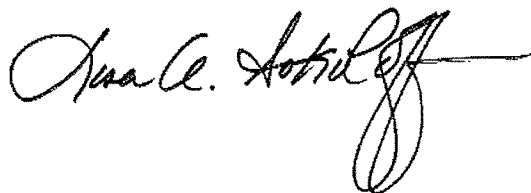
*President's Message continued from page 1*

Mentoring is one of the most powerful expressions of generativity. If you are interested, contact our committee and commit to guiding a young lawyer. However, mentoring need not be so formal. Take a young colleague at work to lunch and share some of your wisdom. Make an introduction. Suggest that a younger lawyer attend a seminar or program to improve her skills. Tell a colleague about the fantastic seminar you attended. Even sharing the name of a store where you found an unbelievable suit is an expression of generativity.

It does not take great personal sacrifices to affect the next generation of female lawyers. You need only get involved. If you have the time, become active on a committee, where you can share your skills and knowledge on a wider basis. Consider putting together a CLE seminar or helping us organize a networking event. NYWBA welcomes all those who wish to become involved.

You do not even need to be senior to make a difference in someone else's life. When I first started working in the field of personal injury, Rhonda DeMeo, one of the least senior attorneys in my unit, helped me to navigate the first few treacherous months on the job. She taught me about reporting to clients, how to handle discovery and compliance conferences, and she gave me transcripts from some of her depositions to help me defend and take my own, all of which was invaluable to me.

Inspired by Rhonda DeMeo, I have made it a point to teach others at every job I have ever had. I have always kept an open door, given those learning the ropes the opportunity to work with or shadow me and have gone out of my way to explain to younger lawyers why certain approaches are better. I hope that you will be inspired by the Rhonda DeMeos in your life to pass on what you have learned, so that future generations of female lawyers will have more opportunities than we ever thought possible.



New York Women's Agenda  
and

New York University and the NYU Women's Initiative

*Invite you to attend a conference and panel discussion entitled*

"Her Seat at the Leadership Table,  
Changing the Game"

Thursday, September 27th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Woolworth Building  
(15 Barclay Street, 4th Floor) at Broadway

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

Greetings and Welcome Back!

Before I begin introducing this month's edition, my sincere thanks goes to the previous newsletter editor, Diana Ceccacci. Diana left "big shoes to fill" and I am grateful for her excellent tutelage and assistance as I attempt to fill her place.

When Lisa Sokoloff asked me to be this year's editor, I hesitated. I, like every other Association member, am busy. I am newly wed, a new law clerk and about to start work on a new degree. These combined with my typical fall agenda of new projects leave little time for anything else.

But, after speaking with Lisa, I recalled why I joined and remained a member of our Association. At the ripe old age of 30, I began my second career: attorney at law. Attending law school at night, working full time, and finding my first position was very tough. Frankly, if not for the advice and encouragement of many of our members, I would not be where I am today. My experience is not unique among our members. Association members have dedicated themselves to mentoring and developing new attorneys, from taking on formal mentoring roles to helping with programs to just listening and offering advice on an ad hoc basis. In my opinion, the value of our Association is clearly derived from the dedication and contributions of its members as a whole.

This issue is full of ways for members to contribute to the Association. Whether by joining a committee or attending a seminar, your time and presence are important. A list the Association's committees are on page 3. I encourage everyone to contact the chairs. A number of seminars scheduled, and the ever-popular Annual Reception for current and prospective members will be taking place on November 5, 2007.

This edition of the newsletter is also beginning two new features: Open Forum and Eye on the Board. The Open Forum is an opportunity for members to contribute articles on topics that interest them. In this issue, members Cathy Foti and Carol Schragger discuss food allergies. The Eye on the Board feature is a chance for members to learn about directors of the Association. This month Bonnie Cohen-Gallet is featured.

With Best Wishes,

Cassandra Porter

## Why Committee Work is Important ... Getting Involved

Committees are a significant part of the Association's success. They serve to advise the directors, contribute to the Association's policies, and act as forums for members to meet, network, and socialize. Please contact the committee chair or check the Association's calendar for the committee's meeting times.

## MEET THE COMMITTEES

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

Chairs: Christina Kallas and Annie Ugurlayan

#### Message from Co-Chairs:

The mission of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) committee, formed in 2006, is to educate its members and NYWBA members generally about various forms of alternative dispute resolution in different areas of law and contexts. The need for such a committee is evidenced by the fact that attorneys and their clients are increasingly availing themselves of ADR mechanisms, due to the costly and often time-consuming disadvantages of litigation. With over 24 members and counting, the ADR committee expects an active 2007-08 year. Past programs addressed the topics of special education mediation, a relatively underutilized mechanism to resolve disputes between parents of special needs children and schools, and advertising self-regulation as a means of resolving disputes about the truth and accuracy of national advertising disputes.

The co-chairs of the ADR committee are Christina Kallas and Annie Ugurlayan.

Christina Kallas is a past president of NYWBA and currently its Executive Director. She is currently a co-chair of the WBASNY International Law Committee. Her practice focuses on ADR, real estate, business law, contracts, and trusts and estates.

Annie Ugurlayan is a Senior Staff Attorney at the National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, specializing in advertising law. Annie is also a staff writer for the NYWBA newsletter and a member of the Consumer Affairs Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

### Children's Rights Committee

Chair: Denise Scotto

#### Message from Chair:

The Children's Rights Committee examines all issues regarding children's rights, from education and health to abuse and neglect, etc., through local, national, and international lenses. During 2006-2007 the committee held three programs, which included youth participation from NYC high schools. The program concerning trafficking of girls and boys was held at the United Nations Church Center during the UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 2007.

Denise Scotto advises clients on international and domestic law and policy, develops advocacy strategy, conducts continuing legal education courses and training workshops, organizes conferences and seminars, and represents law firms, not-for-

profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and individual clients.

Ms. Scotto is a former trial attorney representing the City of New York, its agencies and employees. Her legal skills and management background served the United Nations in the Division for the Advancement of Women for many years. She has also held officer positions on several boards locally, nationally, and internationally. For more information, please contact Denise Scotto at (917) 348-5483.

### Committee on Employment and Equal Opportunity for Women

Chairs: Paula K. Colbath and Lewis Pechman

#### Message from Co-Chairs:

The Committee on Employment and Equal Opportunity for Women focuses its efforts on employment and discrimination issues, with an emphasis on issues affecting women. In the upcoming year, the Committee hopes to hold (or co-sponsor) several free workshops and seminars on employment-related issues, including retaliation and whistle-blowing, part-time work issues, class actions, and defending employers against wage and hour claims. The Committee also plans to co-sponsor a social event so Committee members can meet each other, as well as members of another Committee.

The Co-Chairs of the Committee are Paula K. Colbath, a prominent employment litigator and partner at Loeb & Loeb LLP, a full-service national law firm with more than 250 attorneys; and Louis Pechman, a name partner in the employment boutique of Berke-Weiss & Pechman LLP.

The Co-Chairs welcome your participation in the Committee and encourage you to share your ideas and thoughts on relevant topics of interest.

### International Law & Practice Committee

Chairs: Brigitte Rajacic and Rebecca Adams

#### Message from Co-Chairs:

The International Law and Practice Committee (ILPC) is a committee that strives to educate NYWBA members about the issues, actions and initiatives embraced by the international legal community, in both the private and public sectors. The Committee's objectives are to bring awareness to our members regarding the legal issues faced by women throughout the world. The Committee seeks to meet these goals by hosting a series of discussions and related lectures and events throughout the year featuring experts in the international community.

Brigitte Rajacic and Rebecca Adams co-chair ILPC and will host the first planning meeting on September 18, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the Marriott Marquis Times Square in the Atrium Lounge located on the 8th Floor at 1535 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. Please e-mail rajacic@hotmail.com to RSVP by September 17, 2007. All NYWBA members interested in joining are invited to attend.

### Judiciary Committee

Chairs: Felice Ekelman and Bernard Dworkin

#### Message from Co-Chairs:

Each year, the Judiciary Committee, co-chaired by Felice Ekelman and Bernard Dworkin, interviews and investigates the credentials of candidates for the bench. The committee's ratings for the candidates are submitted for publication in the New York Law Journal prior to the election.

Continued on page 4

## MEET THE COMMITTEES (continued)

Given the uncertainty created by the issues presented by the Lopez Torres litigation (*New York State Board of Elections v. Lopez Torres*, 411 F. Supp. 2d 212, E.D.N.Y. 2006, Gleeson, J.), the Judiciary Committee will take a hiatus from its practice of investigating and rating candidates to review its guidelines and procedures and improve the process by which it evaluates candidates.

Felice Ekelman is a member of the firm of Jackson Lewis Schnitzler & Krupman and practices in the field of labor law. Bernard Dworkin is a sole practitioner, concentrating in matrimonial and family law. If you would like to volunteer to serve on this very important committee, please submit your resume to the committee.

### Litigation Committee

Chairs: Kathy Lynch and Laura Barbieri

*Message from Co-Chairs:*

*The Litigation Committee of NYWBA seeks to promote and advance the opportunities and abilities of women litigators practicing before state courts, federal courts, and administrative agencies. The Committee's mission is to serve as a resource for both new and experienced litigators, and to empower and support our members as they become and remain the best in the profession. As NYWBA's newest committee, we seek to build our membership and welcome all litigators, judges, and court personnel to join our ranks.*

Committee Co-Chair Laura D. Barbieri, the mother of four teenagers, is a partner at Schoeman, Updike & Kaufman, LLP and has over twenty years' experience as a trial lawyer. Her practice areas include complex litigation and employment law.

Committee Co-Chair Kathy Lynch, the mother of triplet toddlers, is a named partner in Lynch & Hammer, with over ten years' experience as a litigator. Her practice is limited to civil and criminal litigation.

### Matrimonial Law Committee

Chairs: Randi Isaacs and Judy White

*Message from Co-Chairs:*

*The Matrimonial Law Committee generally hosts guest speakers for its meetings with the goal of keeping members current on interesting and relevant topics in matrimonial law and also to discuss new or pending legislation as well as case law which impacts our practice.*

*This past June our committee successfully launched a pro bono program for contested matrimonial matters. More than 60 attorneys have already signed on to providing twenty-five hours per year to a matter referred by the court. The program was spearheaded by Patricia Fersch and is being administered by Helen Pundur. We hope to increase the rotation of attorneys to 100 by the end of this year.*

Randi S. Isaacs has practiced matrimonial law exclusively since 1992 and is a partner in Isaacs & Richter LLP, a firm with a concentration in matrimonial and family law. She has co-chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee since September 2002.

Judy White has been Of Counsel to Ira E. Garr, PC for the past two years. Prior to that she was Principal Court Attorney to the Hon. Laura E. Drager, one of the sitting matrimonial Judges in New York County. This is Judy's third year as co-chair of this Committee.

### Membership Committee

Chairs: Bonnie Cohen-Gallet and Heather Kim Leifer

*Message from Co-Chairs:*

*The membership committee of the New York Women's Bar Association has the privilege of meeting attorneys and inviting them to join our organization. Our committee has the enviable job of bragging about all of the work and accomplishments of every member and every committee of our association. There are two chairs of our committee, Bonnie Cohen-Gallet and Heather Kim Leifer, and hundreds of committee members because our committee chairs consider every member of NYWBA to be a member of our committee. Your presence as an active member of NYWBA reminds every practitioner in the city of the important work that is carried on by our committee and the other committees of our association.*

Bonnie Cohen-Gallet is now entering her second year as co-chair of the membership committee. Heather is the newest addition to the committee. She was admitted to the profession in 2005. In addition to being a member of NYWBA, she is a member of the Election Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and President of the Lexington Democratic Club. Heather is a graduate of New York Law School and a NYLS Alumni Association director. Currently she practices intellectual property law, focusing on software licensing and development for a government agency.

In the past few months, our committee has hosted several receptions to invite new members to join our association. As either a luncheon "meet and greet" or an after-work "chat," we can travel to offices and law firms (armed with refreshments) to explain the benefits of joining our organization. If you know an office that would like to hear our presentation, send e-mail to [bgallet@aol.com](mailto:bgallet@aol.com) or [hleifer@nyc.rr.com](mailto:hleifer@nyc.rr.com).

In November we will host our annual new members' reception at Skadden Arps. Please contact us if you know a practitioner or law firm that would be interested in receiving notice of the event.

### Mentoring Committee

Chair: Jaclyn Feffer

*Message from Chair:*

*"Mentor: Someone whose hindsight can become your foresight." -- Anon.*

Mentoring is the one thing that women need greater access to and is proven to help them succeed. WBASNY established the LINK program at the end of 2002.

The WBASNY mentoring program is designed to provide a link to resources in the legal community for law students and new graduates transitioning into legal careers. The goals are to (1) orient mentored students and new lawyers to law firm or institutional culture; (2) introduce professional expectations; (3) assist less advantaged female professionals; and (4) help students and new lawyers pave the way to a more satisfying and productive career. WBASNY's mentoring program is not a replacement for a headhunter or career services organization, a fast-track, or a replacement for on-the-job training. Third-year law students and first-year practicing attorneys are eligible for the mentoring program. Your mentoring *Continued on page 9*

## NYWBA Foundation NYU Fellow Reports on Great Learning Experience at inMotion

By *Rebecca Bers*

inMotion is a legal services provider for women in New York, serving women who seek aid in divorce, custody, support, and immigration matters. (Their website address is <http://www.inmotiononline.org>.) I worked mainly for inMotion's Immigration Program, but also assisted with discrete tasks in family law cases. The Immigration Program assists immigrant women and their children who are victims of domestic violence in connection with seeking adjustment to legal permanent resident status. Although in-house attorneys work in the various areas in which inMotion offers services, only two specialize in immigration law. The two immigration attorneys periodically provide training for law firms that take cases on a pro bono basis, referred after initial screening by inMotion. inMotion has two offices, one in midtown Manhattan, another in the Bronx. The two offices serve women in the five boroughs, providing full representation, advice and counsel, and briefing services. The entire staff at inMotion is hard-working and treats clients with dignity and respect. I learned much substantive law from my internship but, more important, I learned from the staff's great examples how to provide effective and compassionate legal aid to a wide range of clients.

### The Work

During my 2007 spring fellowship with inMotion, I worked with Nadia Gareeb, Senior Staff Attorney, and Libby Vasquez, Staff Attorney, on immigration matters, alternating between the Manhattan and Bronx offices. I performed legal research and client interviews as well as intake calls in English and Spanish for immigration and other cases.

More than half of my work involved drafting legal memoranda. I researched underlying legal issues for criminal and illegal presence waivers when applying for adjustment of status, and the applicability of certain aging-out provisions. I evaluated cases for the immigration practitioners, and handled discrete brief services matters, such as applications for work permission. I also wrote memoranda on how changes in trial court rules and procedures in New York might affect certain family court cases.

For a good portion of my time at inMotion, I was able to work directly with clients, be it through telephone contact, or in-person interviews. I participated in client interviews with my supervising attorney, and conducted intake and preliminary interviews, ensuring that each person's documentation was complete. I also was able to attend a child-support proceeding in Kings County Family Court.

I felt that I was able to make a difference in women's lives even in the short period of my fellowship at inMotion, and enjoyed the assignments I received from my supervising attorneys. I particularly appreciated the feedback they willingly gave. Client contact was an important reason I wanted to work at inMotion, and I was largely satisfied with my ability to have contact with clients. When I left inMotion, it was with regret that the time had flown so quickly. inMotion provided a great learning experience, and a pleasant working atmosphere; I would recommend the placement to any future student who has an interest in immigration or family law.

## Meet the NY Women's Bar Association Foundation

NYWBA is the sole member of the Foundation under New York's Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. The Foundation was established by NYWBA in 1995, and active members of NYWBA comprise most but not all of its Board. Thus, the interests of the Foundation and NYWBA are generally aligned; the Foundation's mission is consistent with the mission and activities of NYWBA, and the Foundation looks to NYWBA members for a large portion of its financial support. The Foundation Board is proud to claim as members NYWBA Past Presidents Meg Gifford, Laurie Berke-Weiss, and Christina Kallas. Other current Board members are Kathy Posner (President), Christine Harman (Co-Secretary), Tamara Stephen (Co-Secretary), Marilyn Kunstler (Treasurer), Diana Browne, Marian Burnbaum, Denise Coleman, and Karen Mitchell. Current NYWBA President (Lisa A. Sokoloff) also serves as an ex officio member of the Board under the Foundation by-laws.

The Foundation has sponsored a number of important programs since its inception, beginning with the publication of a well-known handbook, *The Lawyer's Guide to Mentoring*, and a city-wide conference on mentoring for managing partners and other leaders of the legal profession. In 2006 the Foundation received the National Conference of Women's Bar Association's Public Service Award for its work on behalf of women and children and, in particular, for its successful program of fund-raising to provide fellowships for law students at local pro bono agencies for the support of domestic violence victims, immigrants and other individuals for whom legal services would otherwise not be available. Please contact the Foundation, through the website, if you are interested in helping it achieve its mission.

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## The 39th CEDAW Committee Session: A Special Meeting

by Denise Scotto, Esq.  
Children's Rights Committee, Chair

The 39th session of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee was held from 23 July to 10 August at United Nations headquarters in New York. This session is particularly noteworthy for two reasons. The CEDAW Committee held a special observance marking its 25th Anniversary, and it was the last meeting before its relocation to Geneva, beginning with its January 2008 session.

CEDAW has been recognized as the international bill of human rights for women and girls. It aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls in every sphere and to guarantee them their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. The Convention and General Recommendations also protect women and girls from various forms of violence, including harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and cutting and early marriage.

Pursuant to its mandate, the CEDAW Committee examined reports submitted by the following States parties: Cook Islands, Belize, Brazil, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, and Singapore.

In addition, a special observance to mark the passing of its 25th Anniversary was held. This commemoration was a high-level event, as General Assembly President Sheikha Haya Rashid Al Khalifa (an attorney from Bahrain), U.N. Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women Rachel Mayanja, and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour (an attorney and jurist from Canada) all spoke about CEDAW as a normative framework and blueprint for national action, and about resulting positive achievements. At the same time, CEDAW Chair Dubravka Simonovic discussed obstacles to implementation and outlined steps to ensure further compliance and the advancement of women and girls in all societies everywhere.

As part of reform policies, it was determined that the CEDAW Committee would move to Geneva and be located with the other U.N. treaty-monitoring bodies. The Committee will begin its work with its upcoming session, January 2008, in Geneva and it will be serviced by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as opposed to the Division for the Advancement of Women. While there has been some discussion about the possibility of the Committee meeting in New York during its summer session (estimated June 2008), the feasibility of an alternate meeting schedule needs to be determined, as there are budgetary, staff, and other implications. Additionally, the CEDAW Committee drafted a formal request to extend the Committee's meeting time, which will be considered by the General Assembly. Here again, extra costs involve money, staff, location, and room allocation.

New York Women's Bar Association And  
The Women's Committee of the Asian American Bar  
Association of New York

Present

### Improving Your Employment Opportunities

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

New York Life Building, Conference Room 1  
51 Madison Avenue (between 26th & 27th Streets)  
New York City

RSVP to Redette McCray  
McCrayr@fcllp.com – 212-644-4420

This informative seminar features a host of outstanding professionals in the fields of human resources, recruitment and professional consulting services.

Topics include:

- Professional Development Issues –
- Creating Marketable Skills –
- Career Direction – Networking –
- Career Advancement –
- Resume Do's and Don'ts and Cover Letters –
- Interviewing Skills – Dress and Presentation Skills –
- Follow-up After the Interview –
- Expanding your Professional Search –
- Asking those Sticky Questions and More! –

Moderator:

Sylvia E. Di Pietro, Esq.

Speakers:

Stuart D. Smith,

Director of Legal Recruitment and Development  
NYC Law Department

Kathy Brady, Founder  
Brady & Associates Careerplanners, LLC

Noreen A. Kelly-Najah, Esq., Partner  
Latham & Watkins LLP

Diane McIlree, President  
Elaine P. Dine-a U.S. Legal Support Company

Dominic P. Morandi, Esq., Principal  
Morandi, Taub & Sarnoff LLC Legal Search Consultants

In light of the move to Switzerland, the NGO Committee on UNIFEM held a farewell reception in order for NGO representatives to personally say goodbye to the CEDAW Committee experts and to thank them for their work throughout these past years. Some concerns that were discussed included maintaining the high standards of Concluding Comments and General Recommendations as well as its gender specificity. No matter where the CEDAW Committee conducts its work, all agreed that it is important for NGOs to continue to support the work of CEDAW and the CEDAW experts, and to continue to advance the status of women and girls worldwide.

JUDGES AND LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT  
(JALBCA)

Cordially Invites You to  
a Cocktail Reception  
To Kick-Off Our

**ANNUAL COURTHOUSE ALERT**

Wednesday, September 19, 2007  
5 pm to 7 pm

Appellate Division  
Second Department Courthouse  
45 Monroe Place  
Brooklyn, New York

**Hon. Gail A. Prudenti, Presiding Justice,**  
**Appellate Division, Second Department**  
*Honorary Event Chair*

**Hon. Ellen Spodek**  
**Hon. William C. Thompson**  
*Event Co-chairs, Judge's Division*

**Hon. Eileen Bransten**  
**Judith Lmngston, Esq.**  
*Co-Presidents, JALBCA*

R.S.V.P. 212-289-9720

**Annual Presentation to  
Summer Associates  
a Success!**

On July 25, 2007, the Women's Bar co-hosted a panel presentation for summer associates entitled, "What It's Really Like to Practice Law in NYC as a Woman." More than 300 summer associates attended the event, which was held at the New York City Bar's headquarters. NYWBA Vice President Lisa Bauer led the coordination for this event.

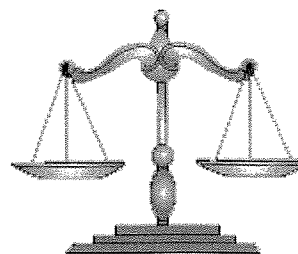
Lisa Sokoloff, as NYWBA president, gave an introductory speech that included examples from her own life which demonstrated the importance of building a network of women lawyers.

The panelists - women lawyers from private practice, government, and public interest organizations - spoke about a range of issues, including career plans, mentoring, networking, gender and the legal profession, and work-life balance. The panel was moderated by Lisa Bauer, Proskauer Rose LLP, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Associate; Panelists: Marnie Berk, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Director of Pro Bono Programs; Caren Khoo, WilmerHale, Counsel; Laurie Nicole Robinson, CBS Broadcasting Inc. Assistant General Counsel and Director of Training and Development; Lisa Sirkin, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Supervisory Trial Attorney.

The panel presentation was followed by a cocktail reception, which was attended by NYWBA board members and other practicing attorneys in the association who were on hand to mingle with the summer associates.

Many thanks to Lisa Bauer and her team of attorneys for organizing the successful event!

The Association also wishes to extend its gratitude to the following for helping to make this program possible: Condon & Forsyth LLP, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, Hunton & Williams LLP, Kaye Scholer LLP, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, Proskauer Rose LLP, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, Sidley Austin LLP, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP.



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## Open Forum

The New York Women's Bar Association's June 2007 Newsletter published an entertaining article captioned "Convention Confidential" which incidentally referred to an airline passenger who had a severe allergic reaction to a food he ingested that apparently caused seizures, vomiting, and loss of consciousness. That article inadvertently underscores the importance of educating the general public and especially the parents of young children about food allergies. Food allergies are literally deadly serious. They can and indeed frequently do cause sudden and extremely severe systemic reactions (anaphylaxis) and can even be fatal.

More and more children are diagnosed with life-threatening food allergies every year. While a person can be allergic to virtually any food, eight major allergens account for 90 percent of all reactions. Those are peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shell fish, egg, wheat, dairy, and soy. Sufferers of peanut allergies are often especially sensitive, making travel on airlines, which frequently serve peanuts, potentially very hazardous.

Within the last two months, both New York State and New Jersey have passed laws requiring the creation of food allergy management guidelines for school districts and clarifying procedures regarding emergency medical treatment for anaphylaxis. In addition, on April 26, 2007, Representative Nita Lowey, from New York, and Senator Christopher Dodd, from Connecticut, both respectively introduced bills in the House (H.R. 2163) and the Senate (S. 1232) to require the federal government to develop similar guidelines which would be made available to local educational entities to adopt. The legislation proposed in these House and Senate bills would provide funding to local agencies which choose to adopt the federal guidelines.

An example of the type of school guidelines called for by these new laws can be found at <http://www.foodallergy.org/school/schoolguidelines.pdf>. Although too lengthy to copy in their entirety here, these guidelines include directives such as designating school personnel who are properly trained to administer medication, ensuring that these properly trained staff members are available during the school day regardless of time or location, coordinating with the school nurse to be sure medications are available, appropriately stored, and accompanied by a physician's standing order for epinephrine, and working with the local school district transportation administrator to assure that bus drivers receive training which includes identifying the symptoms of and appropriate response to an allergic reaction.

Several NYWBA members have children with severe food allergies and would be available to talk to any parent of a recently diagnosed child or anyone else who has any questions about management of this most serious condition. If you would like to discuss these issues with a NYWBA member, please feel free to contact Carol A. Schragger at 212-213-0657 ([caschrager@aol.com](mailto:caschrager@aol.com)) or Catherine M. Foti at 212-856-9600 ([cfoti@maglaw.com](mailto:cfoti@maglaw.com)). For general information,

### New York Women's Bar Association A Chapter of WBASNY Presents

## TOURS OF THE COURTHOUSES

These programs are intended to benefit attorneys new to the practice or just new to New York, who will be litigating in New York County. They will provide a comprehensive overview of the structure of both the Civil and Supreme Courts and the organization of the various clerks' offices, as well as practical information on filing papers and answering calendar calls.

### TOUR OF THE SUPREME COURT

Date: September 19, 2007 (Wednesday)  
Place: 60 Center Street, New York, NY  
Time: Registration, 9:00 a.m.  
Program, 9:30 a.m., to 1:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$30 NYWBA members, \$60 all others  
RSVP: [McCrayr@fcllp.com](mailto:McCrayr@fcllp.com) or 212-644-4420 x271.  
CLE: 3.5 Skills CLE Credits\*

### TOUR OF THE CIVIL COURT

Date: September 24, 2007 (Monday)  
Place: 111 Center Street, New York, NY  
(enter through side entrance at 109-113 White Street)  
Time: Registration, 9:00 a.m. in twelfth floor  
boardroom  
Program, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Cost: NONE--- FREE  
RSVP: [McCrayr@fcllp.com](mailto:McCrayr@fcllp.com) or 212-644-4420 x271.  
CLE: 3.5 Skills CLE Credits\*

\* Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 3.5 credit hours of Skills acceptable for transitional credit for established and newly admitted attorneys. NYWBA is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, which is an accredited provider of CLE credits.

visit the websites of The Food Allergy Initiative (<http://www.FoodAllergyInitiative.org>) and The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (<http://www.foodallergy.org>).

Thank you.

Best Regards,  
Cathy Foti and Carol Schragger



## MEET THE COMMITTEES (continued)

relationship, if begun in the student's third year, will continue into her first year of practice.

Our chapter has had many applications from students needing mentors this past year. In this upcoming year, we hope to continue the success of prior years and increase our number of mentors.

If you are interested in participating as a mentor, please contact our chapter's Mentoring Program Liaison Jaclyn Feffer at [jfeffer@fulbright.com](mailto:jfeffer@fulbright.com) or (212) 318-3119. A mentor application form can also be found at <http://www.wbasny.org>. We all have something valuable to give to those who are new to the profession, and it is a rewarding experience for both the protégé and the mentor. Sign up today!

### Publicity Committee

Chair: Julie Hyman

#### Message from Chair:

*This is your chance to learn the skill of promoting events. We're looking for great writers who want to assist NYWBA in preparing press releases for events, attending functions, and writing articles for the newsletter. If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail [juliehymanesq@hotmail.com](mailto:juliehymanesq@hotmail.com). Also, to learn more about the Chair of the Committee, Julie Hyman, Esq., check out her website, <http://www.juliehyman.com>.*

### Real Estate Committee

Chair: Christina Kallas

#### Message from Chair:

*The Real Estate Committee seeks to keep members informed of new developments in the law and to help explain their ramifications. We co-sponsor CLE programs and events, such as the NYCLA program "How to Dissect a Title Report" and last year's Mortgage Refinancing Seminar hosted by American Home Mortgage for NYWBA, which focused on financing in connection with a divorce. This year, we will sponsor a CLE program on closings that will address clearing bankruptcy liens. We welcome new members!*

Committee Chair Christina Kallas is the author of the NYSBA Desk Book chapter on commercial property. She practices law and is a mediator and arbitrator in Manhattan. She is also a former president of NYWBA, and its current Executive Director.

### Solo and Small Firm Committee

Chair: Andrea Vacca

#### Message from Chair:

*Are you feeling overwhelmed by your solo or small practice?*

*Do you wish you had access to programs and a network of other attorneys to answer your questions about time management, client relationships, marketing, administrative costs, or other issues that come up in your practice?*

*Come to the next meeting of the Solo and Small Firm Committee and help us begin to create that resource for you. We want to hear what issues are most important to you and introduce you to other members who have similar concerns and needs.*

**When:** Thursday, September 27 at 6:00 P.M.

**Where:** Law Office of Andrea Vacca, 245 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1900

**RSVP:** Andrea Vacca at 212-768-1115 or [avacca@vaccalaw.com](mailto:avacca@vaccalaw.com).

Please join us and help this committee work for you and your firm!

### Technology and Internet for Lawyers

Chairs: Kay Marmorek and Cassandra Porter

The Technology and Internet for Lawyers Committee (TIL) focuses on the technology used by lawyers and its interaction with the law. We have co-sponsored CLE programs on data privacy and electronic discovery. We revamped the NYWBA website, and originated the "Web Cites" column in this newsletter. To join the committee, or to attend a monthly meeting, contact Kay Marmorek at (646) 386-4661 or by e-mail to [til@nywba.org](mailto:til@nywba.org).

### Trust & Estates Committee

Chairs: Leona Beane, Loretta Ippolito

The Trusts & Estates Committee is co-chaired by Leona Beane and Loretta A. Ippolito. Leona is a sole practitioner concentrating her practice in all aspects of wills, trusts, probate, and estates, consulting with and serving as of counsel to attorneys in complicated guardianships. Her practice also includes service as a mediator and arbitrator in several different forums. Loretta, a graduate of Harvard Law School, is a partner in the Private Clients Group of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP in New York. Her practice involves all aspects of estate planning and administration, providing comprehensive estate, gift and income tax advice to high-net-worth families. She also advises clients on international estate planning, including tax and foreign trust planning for non-U.S. persons with U.S. contacts. Both have written several articles in their fields. The committee will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring several events this year, including a CLE program on special needs trusts and a tour of the Surrogate's Court, New York County. Dates are being confirmed. Please check the Association website calendar for information.

The Committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 6:15 P.M. It will be hosted at Willkie Farr & Gallagher, 787 Seventh Avenue (51-52 Streets), NYC; light refreshments will be provided. All interested members are invited to attend. We are suggesting some topics for the Committee to work on during the coming year, such as provisions in powers of attorney, health care proxy and living will, wills for non-traditional couples, guardianships for minor children, revocable living trusts as a will substitute mechanism for successor trustees to be in place, providing for sufficient number of successor executors and trustees in wills and codicils, ancillary guardianship in order to qualify as a petitioner in administration proceedings, and testamentary trustees. Please attend so that we can learn your interest and discuss topics to be covered. It's also a good way of networking among other practitioners in the field. To RSVP for the next planning meeting, e-mail Annette Piazza (Loretta's assistant) at [apiazza@willkie.com](mailto:apiazza@willkie.com).



## Eye on the Board: Bonnie Cohen-Gallet

The newest member of our Board of Directors, Bonnie Cohen-Gallet, has years of experience with the women's bar. She has been a member of our chapter for more than ten years. Previously, she served as President of the Queens County Women's Bar Association.

Bonnie currently holds two diverse positions. She is working on a part-time basis as the Bronx Family Court coordinator of the Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) program (formerly known as the P.E.A.C.E. program). In that capacity she contacts litigants, coordinates presenters, and runs the monthly meetings at Bronx Family Court for parents who are involved in custody and visitation disputes.

Bonnie also is a real estate broker with Prudential Douglas Elliman, working in the residential real estate sales and leasing department. Having lived and worked in New York for almost 30 years, she understands the variety that Manhattan real estate offers. Having purchased and lived in several co-ops and having served on one co-op board, Bonnie knows Manhattan co-ops and condominiums. She views her primary role as making the real estate experience easy and informative for buyers and sellers. Be it for you, your clients, a family member or friend, her knowledge of Manhattan neighborhoods will assist everyone to make informed real estate decisions.

Originally from Great Neck, Long Island, Bonnie earned her undergraduate degree from Boston University and her law degree from Albany Law School. She worked for more than four years as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, maintained her own law practice for ten years, and clerked for several New York State Supreme Court judges while raising two children. For the past eight years she has written a booklet on New York State felony sentencing guidelines, which is published by Looseleaf Law. In addition, she has published numerous articles on various topics in several publications, including the New York Law Journal and the New York State Bar Journal. In her capacity as a referee in New York City Family Court, she wrote the first decision in New York State (*Calvin C. v. Arlene B.*, NYLJ, 7/7/00), which explored the United States Supreme Court decision (*Troxel v. Granville*) that established the guidelines for cases involving grandparents seeking visitation. Like many in our association, she understands the meaning of the phrase "multi-tasking" and finds her new roles as a real estate broker and board member very fulfilling.



**THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION'S NEW YORK AFFILIATE  
(NELA/NY)\* & ASIAN AMERICAN BAR  
ASSOCIATION OF NY (AABANY)  
PRESENT**

Joint CLE:

### **"THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES IN NEW YORK"**

Learn the nuts and bolts of employee representation under federal, state and city employment laws. Designed for any attorneys interested in representing employees, including general practitioners, new attorneys, veterans, solo, and government practitioners.

This CLE will provide extremely practical advice from two practicing plaintiff-side employment lawyers (and NELA/NY members).

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2007

Location: TBA

CLE\*: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Reception: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Cost: FREE!

\*2 Practical Skills CLE Credits

Covered Topics Will Include:

Practical Advice on How to Do the Following:

Pleading an employment complaint

Filing an EEOC charge

Mediating before the EEOC and private mediators

Bringing or defending against a motion for summary judgment

Representing employees before administrative agencies,  
including EEOC & NLRB

Representing employees under the following statutes:

Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

Title VII of 1964 Civil Rights Act

Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA)

New York State Human Rights Law

New York Labor Law

New York City Human Rights Law

Retaliation claims under various employment laws

NELA/NY helps provide assistance and support to lawyers in protecting the rights of employees against the greater resources of their employers and the defense bar. NELA is comprised exclusively of lawyers who represent individual employees in cases involving employment discrimination, wrongful termination, employee benefits, and other employment-related matters.



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*We look forward to meeting with you soon!*

## 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 **Cassandra Porter, Esq.**, tel. no. 845-452-4200 ext. 4503, email [newsletter@nywba.org](mailto:newsletter@nywba.org).

## NYWBA List Server

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 server or if you would like to be added to the list server.

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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### NYWBA ANNUAL RECEPTION

Free for current, new and prospective members  
November 5, 2007 at Skadden Arps

For more information: check calendar at  
[www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org)

## Volunteers Needed!

### New York University Mock Trial Team

During the weekend of November 17-18, 2007, the New York University Mock Trial Team will be hosting its second annual tournament, the Downtown Invitational Classic. The team is looking for attorneys to act as judges, and those who participate will receive CLE credit. Down below is a link to the Judges Page on the NYU Mock Trial Team's website which provides all information regarding the Downtown Invitational Classic.

<http://www.nyumocktrial.com/judges.htm>

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