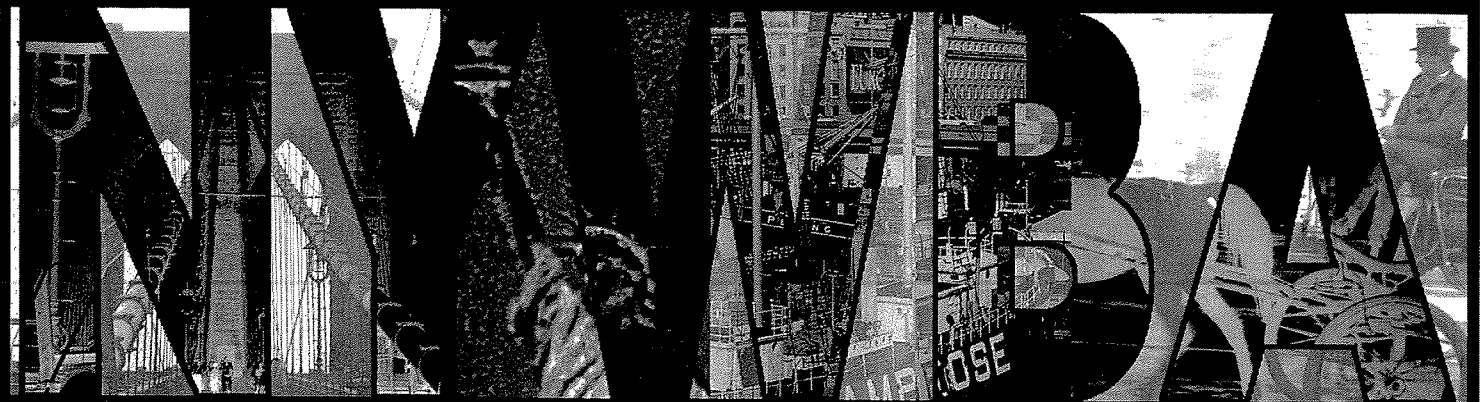


NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



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.

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 or 866.596.0909

* Dinner provided by Platinum Financial Partners, LLC

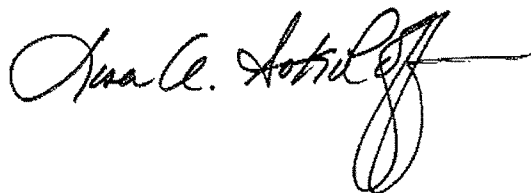
President's Message continued from page 1

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 or 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.

