



Celebrating Our 75th Year

**THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S
BAR ASSOCIATION**

Annual Membership Reception

**Monday, September 14, 2009
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

at

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
4 Times Square, NYC
(42nd Street between Sixth Ave & Broadway)

**The Annual Membership Reception
is free and is open to all
members and prospective members**

RSVP by September 10th to
info@nywba.org

***Celebrating 75 years of making a
difference for our members,
for women in the profession
and for women in society***

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2009

NYWBA's 75TH ANNIVERSARY: ARE WE THERE YET?



Donna M. Praiss

Gender parity in compensation, leadership positions, retention and advancement of qualified women within legal workplaces is an overarching goal of the New York Women's Bar Association in New York County and beyond. That the mission remains the same some seventy-five years after NYWBA was founded may seem surprising to some. For decades, law schools have achieved parity in conferring law degrees on women. Those who look beyond entry levels of attorneys in assessing progress, however, see that the composition of law firm partnerships, the bench, and corporate general counsel continues to be about 20% or fewer women. We are definitely not there yet.

Moving the needle from about 20% to 30% in the next five years seems attainable. It's not parity, but continued progress. The recent confirmation of NYWBA member Justice Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court alone is an enormous step in public recognition that simply being a woman is immaterial in the dialog about capability and advancement, but it lends incredible value to the judicial system in terms of diverse perspectives and critical viewpoints. Thirty percent women in leadership positions in the legal profession is the current target of the recently issued "Austin Manifesto on Women in Law" by the Women's Power Summit on Law and Leadership sponsored by the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas Law School. The Manifesto articulates principles concerning the value of all women attorneys to legal employers and the need to remove barriers to equality. It also enumerates specific actions for legal employers and professional organizations. Most, if not all, of these actions have been the hallmark of the NYWBA, a vehicle for achieving parity in the legal profession.

Adopt and Implement Measurable Goals. NYWBA now conducts an online biannual survey of Manhattan law offices to monitor the progress of women in the legal profession among Manhattan law firms. The survey, published in 2008 is based on 2006 data regarding attorneys, as well as programs implemented to advance women attorneys in particular. The NYWBA will collect from Manhattan law firms data from 2008 for comparison to benchmark progress in

Continued on page 2

Food From the Women's Bar by Catherine M. Foti and Kay Marmorek

Over the summer, the NYWBA joined a national effort to help end hunger in our cities by organizing "Food from the Women's Bar," a local food drive benefitting the Food Bank of New York City. From June 11 through June 30, 2009, the NYWBA coordinated the collection of non-perishable food at 13 locations throughout New York City and sponsored the collection of financial contributions through a Virtual Food Drive, which allowed for Internet-based donations. The drive was a great success, collecting approximately 1,700 pounds of food, enough to provide over 1,250 meals, and raising, to date, enough money for an additional 6,345 meals.

The NYWBA is grateful to the following firms and court-houses, which permitted it to use their facilities as sites for the physical food collection:

New York County Lawyers Association --
Women's Rights Committee

Kenyon & Kenyon

Mayer Brown LLP

Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C.

Stillman, Friedman & Shechtman P.C.

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw & Pittman LLP

The New York Unified Court System:

60 Centre Street

80 Centre Street

100 Centre Street

111 Centre Street

60 Lafayette Street

71 Thomas Street

The NYWBA also thanks all the individuals who donated food and to those who made financial contributions to its Virtual Drive. For anyone else who still is interested in contributing, the NYWBA has agreed to keep its Virtual Food Drive open for an indefinite period of time. Contributions can be made through the NYWBA website (www.nywba.org) or to the NYWBA page on the Food Bank For New York City website (http://help.foodbanknyc.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=2370&pg=team&fr_id=1200).

(Special thanks go to Cathy and Kay who were both primarily responsible for organizing the Food Drive for the NYWBA.)

Catherine M. Foti is a partner in the firm of Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C., where her practice concentrates on complex civil and white-collar criminal matters and conducting internal investigations for corporations. She is also a Vice President of the NYWBA.

Kay Marmorek is a Senior Court Attorney with the Criminal Court of the City of New York. She is currently serving on the NYWBA Board of Directors and is a Co-Chair of the NYWBA Elder Law Committee.

President's Message continued from Page 1

the New York County legal community. All firms listed with Martindale.com will be solicited for survey responses. Please contact Survey@nywba.org to ensure that the NYWBA survey reaches the appropriate person at your firm.

Be a Public Voice. In addition to the NYWBA newsletter on subjects such as the survey and other legal issues impacting women, its judiciary committee participates in the process of screening judicial candidates. NYWBA also participates in lobbying on legislative matters on a state level as well as participating on matters impacting women as an amicus party through the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY), of which NYWBA is a founding chapter.

Identify, Recruit and Engage Leaders. NYWBA does not restrict participation on its substantive law committees through a selection process like many bar associations. Rather, participation on our committees is open to all NYWBA members. Committee leadership is encouraged not only for established committees, but also in the creation of new committees in which there is a need for practicing attorneys to associate, collaborate, educate, network and mentor.

Encourage the Collection of Specific, Relevant Data. Only the NYWBA and our sister women's bar associations have committees dedicated to "Reproductive Rights" - interesting fact. No other bar associations survey the advancement of women with children - another interesting fact. While many firms were stumped when our survey asked questions focused on the advancement of attorneys who are parents (further broken down by the gender of the parent), those questions collected specific, relevant data concerning the status and advancement of women, and the impact of legal hiring and retention practices on female attorneys who are parents.

Develop Leadership and Business Skills and Offer Guidance on ... Career Paths. For the past fourteen years, NYWBA has provided a forum for law students to hear about the careers of actual women in the New York City legal community from private practice to corporate practice, to non-profit practice, to government practice. NYWBA also offers "mentoring circles" for further guidance to women attorneys. Leadership and business skills are also developed through involvement with NYWBA on the committee, chair, director, and officer levels.

The NYWBA encourages all legal employers to adopt the principles and pledges of the Manifesto and recognize the current economic climate as an opportunity to reexamine compensation systems, corporate structures, and client representation paradigms. As stated by Cynthia Schrock Seeley, President of WBASNY, "[a]chievement of the Austin Manifesto goals inures benefits not only to women lawyers, but also the bottom lines of their organizations, as well as the clients they serve."

A full copy of the Manifesto is available online at http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/cwl/summit/austin_manifesto.pdf.

Karen Mitchell Elected as the New President of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation's Board of Directors
by Annie M. Ugurlayan



At its monthly meeting on July 14, 2009, the Board of Directors of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation (NYWBAF) unanimously elected Karen M. Mitchell as its new president succeeding Katherine B. Posner, who served as president for seven years. Ms. Mitchell is a Director and Counsel at Credit Suisse, which she joined in 2001, and is head

of Employment Law for the Americas, based in New York. She is responsible for coordinating the Credit Suisse employment law efforts in the Americas, including the management of affirmative and defensive litigations, mediations and arbitrations. Ms. Mitchell's responsibilities also include day-to-day advice and counsel on employment issues, management of employment disputes, the Credit Suisse Employment Dispute Resolution Program, and counseling on the hiring and termination of employees. Prior to joining Credit Suisse, Ms. Mitchell was an employment litigator with Epstein Becker & Green and a Vice President of Human Resources at Citibank. Ms. Mitchell received her law degree from Fordham Law School and a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

"Karen has been an extremely active Board member, chairing our Advisory Board Committee, which led to the Foundation's recently reconstituted Advisory Board. I am so pleased that she has agreed to take on the role of President of the Foundation. With her leadership and organizational skills, I can think of no one better to lead the Foundation at this important time," remarked Ms. Posner. The Board also unanimously approved a resolution congratulating Ms. Posner on her many years of service and outstanding leadership as President of the NYWBAF, where she assiduously promoted the mission of the Foundation by, among other things, successfully planning and championing the Foundation's Breakfast series while remaining a preeminent attorney in her field of practice.

Many thanks to Ms. Posner for her leadership and best wishes to Ms. Mitchell on her new position!

Annie Ugurlayan is a Senior Staff Attorney at the National Advertising Division. She joined the NYWBA as a student member and now serves as Co-Chair of the Newsletter Committee.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

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

Congratulations to the **Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin** (NYWBA Past President and retired Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department) and **Sylvia Di Pietro** (past Officer, Director and Committee Chair) on their election to the Board of Directors of the New York County Lawyers' Association.

On June 22, 2009, the **Honorable Sheri Roman**, a member of the NYWBA Advisory Counsel and past First Vice-President, was selected by Governor Paterson to fill a vacancy on the Appellate Division, Second Department. She was also re-elected to her second 14-year term as a Supreme Court Justice in Queens County, New York.

Annie M. Ugurlayan was appointed Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee of the NYC Bar Association. She is also running in the Hamptons Marathon on September 26, 2009 to raise money for Women's World Banking. Check out her website <http://www.swwb.org/support-anahid>.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Matrimonial & Family Law Committee - The Matrimonial & Family Law Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. at the offices of Blank Rome LLP, 405 Lexington Ave., NYC. The topic for the September meeting will be an update on recent statutory and case law. To RSVP, send an email to Co-Chairs Briana Denney, Sophie Jacobi & Hon. Andrea Masley at M&F@nywba.org, or call Ms. Denney at 212-684-1000.

Other NYWBA Committees - Other committees also host programs and hold substantive meetings throughout the year, and many are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining a Committee or attending a meeting, contact the appropriate Committee Chair (names and contact information are posted at www.nywba.org/committees), or send a note to info@nywba.org.

If you are interested in chairing or forming a Committee, send a note to President@nywba.org to express your interest and provide information about your background and experience in the subject area(s) covered by the Committee.

Celebrating 75 Years!

At our Annual Dinner, to be held next Spring 2010, we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary.

If you have any archival material such as photos, announcements or other memorabilia that you would like to share, please contact us at info@nywba.org

International Women's Day Event

by Denise Scotto

On March 5, 2009, the New York City Bar Association hosted a reception celebrating International Women's Day and honoring international judges attending the United Nations 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The reception was sponsored by the Council on Judicial Administration and The Cyrus Vance Center and co-sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges, the New York State Bar Association's Judicial Section, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers Association's Women's Rights Committee, the New York Association of Lesbian and Gay Judges and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

This collaborative event was kicked off by its Chair, Hon. Marcy L. Kahn, New York Supreme Court, with an introduction and acknowledgment of the sponsoring organizations. Justice Kahn also recognized the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and its role in promoting gender equality and combating violence against women. The theme of the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women is "The equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS."

Justice Kahn introduced the Hon. Leslie Alden, who was recently elected President of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). Judge Alden has served as a trial judge in Fairfax County, Virginia since 1995. She also served as the International Director of U.S. National Association of Women Judges and is developing a judicial education program to educate U.S. judges on international law and principles. She is a member of the Editorial Review Board for the *Advanced Management Journal*, the publication of the Society for the Advancement of Management, and serves on the Judicial Council of Virginia. Judge Alden spoke about the numerous programs in which the IAWJ has recently been involved, including the Global Women's Forum, programs aimed at addressing violence against women, the Asia-Pacific regional meeting and the inaugural meeting of the Hungarian Association of Women Judges.

Justice Kahn then introduced Joan D. Winship, the Executive Director of the IAWJ. Ms. Winship has vast experience in

international issues, including international organizations, human rights, gender, and global higher education and has worked as an international consultant in these fields through her own firm, Winship Consulting. Ms. Winship explained how she has been inspired by the work of women judges around the world, particularly given that they are involved in making decisions affecting the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Ms. Winship also acknowledged the contributions of judges present in the room.

The Hon. Helen Freedman was recognized for her contributions as a distinguished jurist. Justice Freedman was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York in 1978, appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice in 1984, and elected to the Supreme Court in 1988. She served in the Medical Malpractice Part as a Trial Assignment Part Justice and in the Appellate Term. Justice Freedman was appointed to the Commercial Division in September 1999, and she managed New York City's personal injury asbestos cases and New York State's breast implant Fenphen, and latex glove litigation. She also teaches Mass Torts at New York Law School. (Subsequent to the conference, Justice Freedman was appointed to the Appellate Division, First Dept.)

Justice Kahn also acknowledged and introduced several distinguished international women jurists, including judges from the High Court of Kenya, Cameroon and Tanzania, who spoke about issues concerning the rule of law, gender-based violence, property and equal rights for women under the law, shifts in the political and economical environment in the context of HIV/AIDS and the need for community education and job training programs to combat gender-based inequalities. Justice Kahn praised the work of Meryl Frank, the U.S. Representative to the UN Commission of the Status of Women, and the U.S. Representative to the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa.

For a discussion on the United Nations 53rd Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, see page 7.

Denise Scotto is the Co-Chair of the NYWBA Children's Rights Committee and serves as the International Federation of Women Lawyers' representative to the United Nations. She was formerly the Social Affairs Officer for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.



NYWBA Members Rebecca Adams Hollis, Brigette Rajacic and Denise Scotto join Hon. Meryl Frank (U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women & Mayor of Highland Park, NJ) and US/UN Mission staff at the reception celebrating International Women's Day at the United Nations

Congratulations to

Hon. Sonia Sotomayor

on her appointment to the
United States Supreme Court

We are proud that Justice Sotomayor, a distinguished member of the federal bench at both the trial and appellate levels for more than 16 years, is a long-standing member of the New York Women's Bar Association

Save the Date

MENTORING CIRCLES

The NYWBA's Mentoring Circles Program allows members at all stages of their careers to join with their peers to foster their personal and professional development. Participating members benefit from direct mentoring as they share ideas for meeting challenges in their careers and personal lives in a supportive and encouraging environment.

The kick-off meeting for the Mentoring Circles Program for 2009-2010, which is *open to all members*, will be held on

**Thursday, October 1, 2009
6 PM to 8 PM**

If you already belong to a mentoring circle, this will be a great time to get together. If you are not yet part of a mentoring circle or would like more information about them, this kick-off meeting is the perfect place to start.

Check our website (www.nywba.org) or look for our upcoming announcement for the location.

RSVP to Mentoring@nywba.org.

**Compliance with FTC's "Red
Flags Rule" Extended to
November 1, 2009**

On July 29, 2009, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced that it would delay the enforcement of its Red Flags Rule to November 1, 2009. The Red Flags Rule requires many businesses and organizations to implement a written Identity Theft Prevention Program designed to detect the warning signs - or "red flags" - of identity theft in their day-to-day operations. Despite many objections, **the FTC announced that the rule applies to lawyers and law firms** and that it would offer resources to help entities determine if they are covered and, if they are, how to comply with the rule.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/07/redflag.shtm>; <http://ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/redflagsrule/faqs.shtm>; and http://www.nycla.org/siteFiles/News/News103_0.pdf (*The New York County Lawyers' Association's report in opposition to the application of the rule to lawyers and law firms.*)

**Cara Krueger, New York Women's
Bar Association Foundation's
Spring 2009 Fellow For InMotion,
Shares Her Insights**

In the Spring of 2009, I worked as a fellow for inMotion, a non-profit organization that provides assistance in divorce, custody, support and immigration matters for low-income women in New York. My work consisted mainly of conducting client intake and follow-up interviews, but I also performed legal research in various areas.

I had a significant amount of client contact at inMotion. While conducting client intake interviews, I heard about many of the difficult problems these women were facing, from domestic violence to pending housing evictions. Our high call volume was indicative of the important services provided by inMotion. Many women had been on the phone all day trying to find someone that could help. The most difficult calls were those where I had to refer a frustrated individual to another service. These experiences reaffirmed my desire to pursue public interest law.

I also conducted a great deal of legal research and honed my research and writing skills. My research included such topics as qualified domestic relations orders, child support, attorney fees, and service of process for individuals in mental health facilities. I also updated training manuals and materials for volunteer attorneys.

Despite the short duration of my fellowship, I believe I was able to contribute to the inMotion's work in a meaningful way. My fellowship was a valuable learning experience and I thank NYWBAF for providing me with this opportunity.

Gender & Justice: An International Inquiry Conference (June 14-16, 2009)

by Yacine Barry

"Gender & Justice: An International Inquiry Conference," a two-day conference, was organized and held in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of American University's Washington College of Law (WCL) Women and International Law Program and the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress (AJC). WCL, the first law school in the world founded by women, and the first one with a female dean, hosted the event, which brought together more than 20 women judges from various countries to explore a range of issues relating to gender and justice.

The program featured a lot of firsts, including the following distinguished panelists: the first woman appointed as a judge in Bahrain - the Hon. Mona Jasim Al Kawari; the first Jewish woman (and only the second woman) to sit on the Supreme Court of Florida - the Hon. Barbara Pariente; the first and only woman to serve on the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit - the Hon. Diana Murphy; the first and only woman to serve on the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and since June 2008, the first female Chief Judge in that Circuit - the Hon. Sandra Lea Lynch.

The Hon. Leslie M. Alden, President of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) noted that the Conference marked 30 years since the National Association of Women Judges was founded in the United States and the 20th anniversary of the first meeting of international women judges, which led to the foundation of the IAWJ in 1991. Judges from Bhutan, Brazil, Bahrain, the Netherlands, Australia and federal courts in the United States weighed in, leading listeners through their countries' respective milestones. The moderators and panelists agreed that the inclusion of women in the judiciary has significantly impacted the deliberative process and shaped jurisprudence.

The luncheon speaker, the Hon. Patricia Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit (Ret.), argued that instead of asking whether judges decide differently based on gender, we should ask what we expect from female judges: something more or something different. She also stated that we need to have more women in the other branches of government to promote women on the bench.

In the panel entitled "The Impact of Religion, Tradition & Culture on Judging," the Hon. Gita Mittal of the Dehli High Court in India illustrated through certain cases how, despite cultural and religious diversity, judges in India put emphasis on individual rights and adopt modern and pragmatic approaches towards issues impacting women. According to Judge Mittal, in the Shah Bano case, the Supreme Court of India held there is no conflict between the Muslim Personal Law and the Criminal Code of Procedure on the question of whether a Muslim husband is obligated to provide maintenance to his divorced indigent wife. This secular judgment, however, was subsequently nullified at the instigation of religious groups, restricting maintenance only to the period after divorce during which a woman may not marry another man.

In the panel entitled "Religious Law and Women's Equality: a New Era," the panelists addressed the question of the impact of

religious laws on family and women. One speaker, Professor Susannah Heschel of Dartmouth College, observed that while at time state law protects women from religious law, religious law can also protect women from state law. The dinner speaker, Linda Greenhouse, the Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and former *New York Times* Supreme Court correspondent, remarked on the struggle of defining the role of women in the judiciary. She drew parallels between the nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court and the nomination of Judge Shirley Abrahamson to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1976, that state's first female judge. Ms. Greenhouse highlighted the difficulty in addressing the question of whether gender makes a difference without falling into gender stereotyping.

The second day began with the panel "Maintaining Judicial Independence in Times of Crisis," in which the Hon. Edna Arbel of the Supreme Court of Israel expressed concern over the media's ability to influence judges' discretion and the relationship between judicial independence and the unique security issues present in Israel. She argued that the prevention of security risks, promotion of human rights and broad access to the court system are recommended safeguards to ensure that justice is served. The Hon. Iris May Brown of the Court of Appeals of Ghana praised her country's system of checks and balances for ensuring the independence of the judiciary and opined that one of the biggest threats to judicial independence is trial by press and pressure from interest groups.

Professor Ann Schalleck of WCL moderated a panel on "The Role of Courts in Ending Violence Against Women," where the Hon. Beatrice Ntuba, Chief Judge of the District Court in Cameroon, indicated that the biggest obstacles to courts' role in ending violence against women are the lack of relevant laws, the reluctance ingrained in society's customs and traditions not to empower women against violence perpetrated by men, and the attitudes of male judges and officers that discourage women from going to court.

In the last panel, "Prosecuting Gender-Based and Sexual Crimes Against Women: The Role of International Courts and Criminal Tribunals," the Hon. Teresa Doherty of the Special Court for Sierra Leone focused the discussion on her dissenting opinion in the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council case where she was the first to distinguish between the phenomenon of forced marriage as a crime against humanity (within the context of the Sierra Leone civil war) and the crime of sexual slavery. Her opinion, which highlighted the suffering and social stigma associated with the status of "bush wife," was subsequently upheld by the Appeals Chamber. The Hon. Carolyn Engel Temin of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Court of BiH) addressed the extensive measures undertaken to protect witnesses and the special rights afforded to them by the Court of BiH and called for more training for judges who serve on international courts and better case management techniques.

Continued on page 15

**LEARN ABOUT
COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AND
THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF
COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONALS**

*Come Learn How You and
Your Clients Can Benefit From
This Interdisciplinary Practice!*

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Long Island

September 14, 2009

1400 Old Country Road
Conference Room, Lower Level
Westbury, NY

Westchester

September 15, 2009

445 Hamilton Avenue
Conference Room, 2nd Fl.
White Plains, NY

New York City

September 16, 2009

60 E. 42nd St. Lincoln Bldg.
Conference Room, 1st Fl.
New York, NY

*For more information call
New York Association of Collaborative Professionals
914-242-7200
lisa@daylinnehanlaw.com*

Mark Your Calendar!

A wine tasting with
"Women of the Vine" author

Deborah Brenner

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

6:00 to 8:00 PM

The event will be held in the offices of
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
1221 Avenue of the Americas
Tribeca Conference Room, 24th floor

\$20 for NYWBA members
and \$25 for non-members

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

by Denise Scotto

The 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held at the UN's New York Headquarters from March 2-13, 2009. The CSW considered the equal sharing of responsibility between men and women, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS as its thematic issue and women in positions of power and decision-making as the review topic. An emerging issue that it discussed was the impact of the global economic crisis upon women.

The CSW held a general debate for member states to share information and also convened several high-level expert panels. Additionally, UN agencies, governments and NGOs organized various events that addressed issues such as climate change, the launch of the rural women's toolkit, fiscal responsibility, and the economic crisis and violence against women.

US Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice participated on a panel, regarding the situation of Afghan women organized by the US Mission and the Afghanistan Mission to the UN. The US Mission also held briefings for NGOs and introduced Meryl Frank, US Ambassador to the CSW.

One of the parallel activities held during the CSW session was a reception organized by the New York and Queens County Women's Bar chapters, the International Association of Women Judges and the Metro NY UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) chapter, which was hosted at the offices of the New York City Bar Association. Many WBASNY members participated including: Justices Deborah Kaplan, Laura Drager, Arlene Hahn, Judith Kaye, Betty W. Ellerin, Helen Freedman, and members Fay Parris, Brigitte Rajacic, Rebecca Hollis, Christa Bosch, and Denise Scotto. Also in attendance was Meryl Frank, U.S. Representative to the CSW and Mayor of Highland Park, New Jersey.

Another parallel activity, organized by Denise Scotto, concerned the Human Rights Machinery relating to women. Dr. Yakin Erturk, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, were two of the speakers. This was Dr. Erturk's final statement in her capacity of Special Rapporteur, as her term ended this past June. Many people came to thank her for her efforts and to say goodbye. Ms. Ezeilo, who recently succeeded Ms. Sigma Huda, discussed her first report to the Human Rights Council, issued in February 2009.

After long negotiation by member states, conclusions on the UN CSW's thematic issue were adopted and several Resolutions were passed. A new Bureau for the upcoming CSW 54th session was elected which will be chaired by the Armenian Ambassador to the UN.

For a corresponding article on the reception, see page 4.

NYWBA ANNUAL DINNER -- JUNE 9, 2009

On June 9, 2009, the New York Women's Bar Association held its 74th annual installation dinner at Capitale, which is located in the historic Bowery Savings Bank building in downtown New York City. This year we were most fortunate to have as our special honoree and recipient of the President's Special Award, Judge Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York. Introductory remarks were made by Dinner Chair Bonnie Cohen-Gallet who thanked everyone in attendance, including, but not limited to Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman; Court of Appeals Judge Robert S. Smith; Presiding Justice of the First Department, Justice Luis A. Gonzalez; Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York, Judge Ann Pfau; Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts Fern A. Fisher; retired Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye; and the two newest members of the Appellate Division, Justice Sheila Abdus-Salaam and Justice Rosalyn Richter. Also at the dinner were many illustrious members of the bench, including but not limited to Appellate Division Justices Angela M. Mazzarelli and Karla Moskowitz, Appellate Term Justices Sherry Klein Heitler and Martin Shulman, the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, the Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, and newly appointed Supervising Judge of Manhattan Civil Court Jeffrey Oing.

At the dinner, Donna M. Praiss, a partner in the intellectual property group at Hunton & Williams, LLP, was sworn in as President of our Association. In addition, Gretchen Beall Schumann, who is a partner at Cohen Hennessey Bienstock & Rabin P.C, a law firm specializing in complex matrimonial and family law matters, and Catherine M. Foti, principal in the law firm at Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C., who handles complex civil litigations and defends white-collar criminal cases, were sworn in as Vice Presidents of the Association. Other officers sworn in included: Treasurer - Julie Hyman, founder of Julie Hyman, P.C., a law firm dedicated to matrimonial and entertainment law; Recording Secretary - Bonnie Cohen-Gallet, who works in New York City Family Court; and Corresponding Secretary - Kelly O'Neill Levy, who is Principal Law Clerk to Justice Sherry Klein Heitler of the Appellate Term, Supreme Court, First Department.

After swearing in the officers, the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin installed the incoming members of the NYWBA Board of Directors and the NYWBA's 2009-2010 delegates to the WBASNY Board of Directors.

After thanking her family, friends and colleagues, Ms. Praiss stated that she was honored to serve the NYWBA as president through its 75th year. She noted that NYWBA's fiscal year began on June 1, 2009 and she invited everyone to join or renew their membership in the Association. She mentioned that the goals of the Association, established in 1934 when New York's women attorneys were denied membership in other bar associations, continues to be to improve the status of women and support their professional development and advancement.

Commenting on the contraction of law firms and corporations this past year, she declared that the value of strong relationships

has never been more important for career development and personal well-being. Ms. Praiss mentioned several programs the NYWBA conducts on an annual basis, including CLE, mentoring programs and the 14th annual summer program that will focus on career options for law students and young attorneys.

After Ms. Praiss concluded her remarks, Myra L. Freed presented Lisa A. Bauer, who has served as both an officer and director of the NYWBA and is now practicing law at Hodgson Russ LLP in Buffalo, New York, with the Doris S. Hoffman Service Award for her years of service and commitment to our organization and enhancing the status of women in society and the law.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the President's Special Award to Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman. Introductory remarks were made by recently retired Chief Judge Judith Kaye, who spoke of Judge Lippman's contributions to the law. During his address, Judge Lippman acknowledged the important inroads women have made in the profession. He mentioned his firm commitment to supporting the continued professional development and advancement for women who are pursuing careers in the law. Outgoing President Jo Ann Douglas presented Judge Lippman, a lifelong Yankees fan, with gifts from the association which included memorabilia from the original Yankee Stadium.

The annual dinner would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of several members, including Dinner Chair Bonnie Cohen-Gallet, Co-Chair Diana Browne, of counsel at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, who was instrumental in securing Capitale as the venue, Co-Chair Stephanie DeGiacomo, an associate at Fulbright & Jaworski, who oversaw the collection of items that were distributed in gift bags to each of the attendees at the dinner. The New York Women's Bar Association thanks the many companies that donated goods for the gift bag such as Iris Data Services, Borghese, Tea Forté, Bridgestone Cleaners (a dry cleaning company that provides free pick up and delivery services), Rosie Pope Maternity Fashions, Zakkerz (manufacturer of a magnetic device that affixes to the bottom of slacks as a temporary roll-up wrap to save hems from wear and tear), Adobe Systems, Avon Cosmetics and Coldwater Creek.

In conjunction with the dinner, Patricia Ann Grant and Michael Appelbaum, Co-Chairs of the Auction Committee, raised funds that were donated to the New York Women's Bar Foundation to benefit the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin Fellowship. Printinghouse Press graciously donated the printing services for the auction booklets that detailed the many goods and services that were available. Donations received for the auction included dinner for four with wine pairings at La Grenouille; dinner for two with wine pairings at Destino; a week at a home in East Hampton donated by Lynn and Stuart Epstein; a pair of JetBlue round-trip tickets for two; a consultation with Alfred Wen, a member of KSA Architects, an

Continued on page 9

NYWBA ANNUAL DINNER -- JUNE 9, 2009

architectural firm specializing in residential and commercial design; dinner for four at Amma; beauty products from Bliss; two Eames chairs donated by Highbrow Furniture; tickets to Yankees, Mets and New York Liberty games contributed by Diamond Reporting and Legal Video, Abstracts Inc., Jo Ann Douglas, Arthur Greenblatt and Andrea Vacca; pet grooming at Precious Pets; a certificate for veterinarian services donated by Rivergate Veterinary Clinic; gift certificates worth \$1,000 from Ellen Tracy and \$500 from Nina McLemore; vein treatment therapy at the Vein Treatment Center with Dr. Luis Navarro; three photo facials with cosmetic dermatologist Dr. Paul Franks; two bottles of wine donated by Women of the Vine; a book about wine donated by Deborah Brenner; an interior design consultation contributed by Regency Designs & Interiors; two

nature photos donated by Fabiani, Cohen & Hall, LLP; a two-hour fashion consultation donated by stylist Lani Rosenstock; a consultation to better organize your life contributed by The Pixie's Did It; and two personalized portraits contributed by Bradford Renaissance Portrait Studio. Once again, Justice Ellerin contributed jewelry and accessories from her private collection and twenty-six pieces of 14 karat gold and sterling silver jewelry were contributed by Judith Ripka.

At the conclusion of the evening, Ms. Gallet thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and continued support of the NYWBA.



(l. to r.): Director Yacine Barry, President Donna M. Praiss, Past President Lisa A. Sokoloff, and Director Kay Marmorek



Director Myra L. Freed and Hon. Laura E. Drager, Justice of the New York Supreme Court



Outgoing President Jo Ann Douglas, Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York and recipient of the President's Special Award, and incoming President Donna M. Praiss



Hon. Angela M. Mazzaelli, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department; and Dinner Chair Bonnie Cohen-Gallet

NYWBA ANNUAL DINNER (continued)



President Donna M. Praiss and Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, retired Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, and NYWBA Installing Officer



Presentation of the Doris S. Hoffman Award to Vice President Lisa A. Bauer by Director Myra L. Freed



Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York; Hon. Robert S. Smith, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals; and Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department



Hon. Judith S. Kaye, retired Chief Judge of the State of New York; Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York; and Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department

ATTORNEYS NEEDED

The Office of Counsel for Children and Parents for the First Department is seeking attorneys to serve on the Panel of Attorneys who represent adults and children in Family Court proceedings. The Office of Counsel for Children and Parents is conducting a three-day program introducing attorneys to the Family Court practice.

The program is designed for attorneys who are interested in developing and expanding their current practice fields. Attorneys must be motivated and committed to representing poor people in Family and Supreme Courts. This program will provide a practical and substantive introduction to the practice.

The program is not intended for Family Court practitioners. After attending the three-day program, attorneys who qualify may be invited to be mentored by experienced family court practitioners. When attorneys have gained knowledge and experience, they may apply to the Panel of Counsel for Children and Parents by submitting an application for review and recommendation by the Family Court Advisory Committee for the First Department. The Committee recommends attorneys for certification who will then be eligible to be assigned to represent litigants in Family and Supreme Courts.

The program will be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, **October 21st, 22nd and 23rd** at the New York County Lawyers' Association located at 14 Vesey Street in lower Manhattan.

Attendees will be eligible to receive CLE credits. There will be a \$75 fee to cover the costs of materials. Checks are made payable to the Appellate Division, First Department and sent to the below address with your registration form (available at our website www.nybwa.org). The Appellate Division, First Department has a Financial Hardship Policy. For further information, email cdiaz@courts.state.ny.us.

Attorneys interested in attending must be admitted to the Bar for a minimum of two years. Attendance is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Office of Counsel for Children and Parents
Supreme Court Appellate Division
First Judicial Department
41 Madison Avenue - 39th Floor
New York, NY 10010



NYWBA Membership Information

It's Time to Renew!

The 2009-2010 membership year began on June 1st. Have you renewed your membership for the new year? Would your friends or colleagues benefit from NYWBA membership?

We thank our current members for their continued support and involvement, and we look forward to welcoming new and renewing members. Take advantage of our many member benefits - join committees, network and participate in mentoring circles, attend our signature events, and get CLE credits at our innovative and compelling programs at significantly reduced cost.

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



SAVE THE DATE

NYCLA's Law-Related Education Committee
together with the
NYWBA's Children's Rights Committee
ask you to join us on

Tuesday, October 6
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Social Evolution in the Age of Obama: From Gang Communities to Communities of Service

The conference will bring together members of the community and government to discuss youth at risk and gang prevention strategies with the keynote being delivered by Dr. Robert P. Moses, founder of the Algebra Project. Dr. Moses is a renowned civil rights leader, community organizer, educator and parent.

*The conference is free to attend
and all are welcome.*

For information or to RSVP,
contact Denise Scotto at
Denise.Scotto@gmail.com.

(Details on event location to be announced.)

What It's *Really* Like to Practice Law as a Woman - An Evening of Candor and Advice by *Stephanie M. Adduci*

On August 26, 1920, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Almost eighty-nine years after this incredible step toward gender equality in our country, our profession continues to perpetuate various stereotypes regarding female lawyers. Such stereotypes act to highlight the inequality that we, as females, must still combat. This was the sentiment shared by the panelists who spoke on July 22, 2009 at the annual summer program on "What It's *Really* Like to Practice Law as a Woman," which was co-sponsored by the New York Women's Bar Association and the New York City Bar Committees on Law Student Perspectives, Sex and the Law, and Women in the Profession.

Following an introduction by Cassandra Porter, Summer Program Chair, and comments and "association pitches" from both Patricia Hynes, President of the New York City Bar Association, and our own Donna Praiss, President of the New York Women's Bar Association, the panel was introduced. The speakers represented a broad spectrum of the legal practice, including the perspectives of a law firm partner/associate, the corporate world and that of public interest/not-for-profit organizations. The panelists included Robin Alperstein, a partner at Becker, Glynn, Melamed & Muffly LLP; Jessica Lipson, an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Carmen Rey, a staff attorney at Sanctuary for Families; and, Juhu Thukral, the Director of Law & Advocacy at the Opportunity Agenda. The panel moderator was Randy Shapiro, Deputy Chief Counsel of Newsweek.

More than 250 women, along with a few men, heard tales of gender inequality from the panelists and moderator, along with strategies for succeeding in what is often still a male-dominated profession. A common scenario shared by the panelists was that quintessential tale of the "passionate female lawyer" who is seen as an "emotional woman." As lawyers, it is our job to be passionate in the defense of our positions. However, in the eyes of male lawyers, this passion in female lawyers is often times misconstrued as a woman who is "upset." The panelists seemed to share the sentiment that in the face of "coded (and sometimes not so coded) gender messages" you must gauge the situation and determine whether you should "push back" or report it to a higher authority.

Of course, the current climate of gender inequality was not the only message of the event. The panelists provided sage advice on various topics ranging from the need to develop a "thick skin" in order to be able to hear constructive criticism to knowing your audience in terms of how to present yourself and your point of view. Another important message all the panelists stressed was that you must take "responsibility for your own career." Consequently, you must figure out how to make things happen for you.

Make your own opportunities

NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK was the main trumpeting call of the panelists. Mentors are a necessity, as well as "peer allies." Notably, such relationships should be cultivated not only within our own profession. As the panelists made clear, we do not practice law in a vacuum, and the formation of relationships across different professions will only serve to help enrich our own.

A wine and cheese reception followed the panel discussion. Attendees mingled with the panelists and moderator, as well as with experienced attorneys (including members of the NYWBA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and past Presidents), and networked with each other. As I roamed the room in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Students & New Lawyers Committee, I conversed with a number of law students, summer associates, interns and junior attorneys who spoke in glowing terms about the panel discussion and our New York Women's Bar Association.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this reflection: In 1879, Belva A. Lockwood became the first woman to practice before the United States Supreme Court following the passage of a bill signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes. I believe that Belva would have whole-heartedly agreed with our panelists ... "Where you start is not likely where you will end," "You must have a hunger to succeed and a drive to be a success," "You must make your own opportunities," and you MUST "give a damn."

Kudos to Cassandra Porter and the entire Summer Program Committee; our panelists Robin, Jessica, Carmen, and Juhu and our moderator, Randy; NYWBA President Donna Praiss; Past President Elizabeth Bryson; and Corresponding Secretary Bonnie Cohen-Gallet. We also express our thanks to the following firms, whose sponsorship made the program possible: Greenberg Traurig LLP; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP; and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.

Stephanie M. Adduci is Co-Chair of the Students & New Lawyers Committee.



(l. to r.) Panelists Carmen Maria Rey, Jessica L. Lipson, Robin L. Alperstein and Juhu Thukral; Moderator Randy Shapiro; Patricia Hynes, President of the New York City Bar; and NYWBA President Donna M. Praiss

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NYWBA BY-LAWS

The following proposed amendments will be presented for a vote at the Association's next general membership meeting, which will be held on September 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, 4 Times Square, (42nd Street between Sixth Ave & Broadway), New York City. (Meeting will be held just prior to the Annual Membership Reception.)

To vote on the amendment, individuals must be members in good standing for the 2009-2010 membership year (which commenced on June 1, 2009). If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, please go to the NYWBA website (www.nywba.org) and click on "Membership," or send an email to "info@nywba.org" to have a renewal form sent to you.

BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

I. NYWBA's Succession Rules and Procedures

- The By-Laws currently do **not** address situations where an NYWBA officer, director or delegate to the WBASNY Board becomes unable to serve after being elected at the Annual Meeting in April, but before the person's new term begins on June 1. The proposed amendments ensure that the same succession rules and procedures apply during this period as apply during the officers, directors and delegates' terms in office under Articles II, VII & XVII of the By-Laws.
- The amendment also confirms that the Board is empowered to appoint a Vice President, member of the Board or other appropriate person to perform the duties of President during any period when the elected President is temporarily unable to serve, even if the President's unavailability is due to a reason other than President's own disability.
- The amendment clarifies the timing for the first meeting of the Committee on Nominations (within 60 days after taking office). It also confirms the long-standing practice of having the Committee on Nominations (i) confer on all director, officer and delegate vacancies and (ii) present potential candidate(s) to the NYWBA Board of Directors for its consideration.

II. Shorthand References to the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York ("WBASNY")

- The amendment also addresses a grammatical issue by removing the word "the" from all shorthand references to the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (i.e., "WBASNY," instead of "the WBASNY") in the following sections of the By-Laws: Article VI, Sections 5, 6 & 7; Article IX, Sections 2 & 3; Article X, Section 1 & 4; Article XIII, Section 2; Article XVII, Section 3, 4 & 8; Article XXI, Section 1; Article XXII, Section 1; and Article XXVIII. (Given the number of By-Laws that refer to WBASNY and the purely

semantic nature of this change, these Sections are not reprinted here. A copy of the amended By-Laws showing these changes are posted on the NYWBA website at www.nywba.org/By-Laws.)

III. Required Vote by the NYWBA Board of Directors; Voting Procedure at General Membership Meeting

- As mandated by Article XVIII of the By-Laws, the Committee on By-Laws and Amendments submitted the proposed By-Laws amendments to the Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 16, 2009. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the proposed By-Laws and authorized them to be submitted to the general membership for a vote
- Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 2 of the By-Laws, at the meeting when an amendment is presented, the "affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Association present and voting upon a proposed amendment to the By-Laws shall be required for the adoption of such amendment."

TEXT OF PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

* * *

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

SECTION 1

* * * The officers of the Association shall be elected annually at the annual meeting ... to be held in May of each year for a one year term commencing June 1st.

SECTION 2

~~If, by reason of resignation or otherwise, a vacancy occurs in the event of the death or resignation of an officer position after the annual meeting and/or before the expiration of her term of office,~~ the Board of Directors shall elect a successor who shall hold office until the next annual meeting. If the vacancy is in the office of President, a successor shall be chosen from (a) the Vice Presidents in the order named in Section 1 of this Article, or (b) the other officers or directors, unless all are unwilling or unable to serve as President, in which event the Board of Directors shall elect another member of the Association to so act.

SECTION 3

In the event the President shall become disabled or otherwise be temporarily unable to serve, the Board of Directors shall appoint one of the Vice Presidents in the order named in Section 1 of this Article to act in the place of the President with all of her power while such disability continues, unless all are unwilling to serve, in which event the Board of Directors shall appoint another member of the Association to so act.

* * *

Continued on page 15

THE 'NEW' POWER OF ATTORNEY STATUTE

by Leona Beane

The amended Power of Attorney statute goes into effect on September 1, 2009. A power of attorney is a useful, simple and flexible document whereby someone (principal) can designate an agent (attorney-in-fact) to act for him or her relating to specific transactions. It is used a great deal in trusts and estates, elder law and real estate matters as well as in many other areas of law. The statute was last amended in 1996.¹

Despite the simplicity and flexibility of the power of attorney, many incidents of financial abuse have arisen based on improper actions of the agent. The Law Revision Commission has been studying proposed amendments to the Power of Attorney law to provide more safeguards to protect the principal. While there were numerous debates and discussions several years ago, the new statute was suddenly introduced and caught all practitioners off guard.²

I will briefly summarize the changes to the statute. There are several mandatory notices to the principal. On or after September 1, 2009, in order to qualify as a "Statutory short form power of attorney," the instrument must meet certain requirements³ such as being signed by both the principal and agent and both signatures must be acknowledged. A power of attorney executed prior to September 1, 2009 will continue to be valid. Under the new statute, the power of attorney is now automatically "durable" - it is not affected by the principal's later incapacity. Moreover, the agent can not automatically be granted the authority to make major gifts or changes to interests in property. In order to make major gifts or changes to interests in property, the principal must also execute an additional document called the Statutory Major Gifts Rider ("SMGR").³ The principal must initial the form and concomitantly execute a SMGR. The principal is clearly informed that an attorney should supervise the preparation of the SMGR, which the principal must sign and have notarized. In addition, there are execution requirements similar to that of a Last Will and Testament, which requires two witnesses.

The principal can designate a "monitor"⁵ who will keep track of the agent's actions; the agent must provide the monitor with a record of all transactions performed on behalf of the principal. There is also an optional provision providing compensation for agents⁶ as heretofore compensation had to be specifically included in the Power of Attorney.

The statute also explains how a principal may revoke the Power of Attorney.⁷ A power of attorney under the new law now revokes all prior powers of attorney.

As for the agent, he/she must sign the Power of Attorney indicating that the agent has read the Power of Attorney document and the agent's signature must also be acknowledged.⁸ The Power of Attorney form must inform the agent that he/she is a fiduciary⁹, to keep records of all receipts, payments and transactions, as well as other important information relating to a fiduciary's responsibilities. There is also a Notice to the Agent that informs the agent that he/she will be held liable for violating the law or any acts conducted outside the

authority granted.¹⁰ The statute also includes a provision for a special proceeding that can be commenced whereby the agent must provide records of receipts and disbursements.¹¹ This proceeding can be very useful, as there was previously no way for a relative to investigate an agent's actions.

I believe that the new statute will make it much more complicated for the principal and agent to execute and use the power of attorney as well as more expensive. The current power of attorney has been a very simple document available in many stationery stores. Despite the many advantages to its simplicity, the potential for abuse has been great. Under the new law, I believe that it is highly likely that agents will be unwilling to serve given the additional responsibilities imposed on them.

The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) has included the new Power of Attorney form on its website, which can be downloaded for free at www.nysba.org/poaform.

1. General Obligations Law ¶ 5-1501, *et al.*
2. Originally, the effective date was March 1, 2009. However, the New York State Bar Association (primarily the Elder Law and Trusts & Estates Sections) asked the Legislature for more time to review the new statute, and the Legislature agreed to a further amendment extending the effective date until September 1, 2009. 2008 N.Y. Laws, ch. 644, ¶ 19, 5-1513.
3. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1513.
4. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1514.
5. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1509.
6. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1506.
7. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1511.
8. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1513.
9. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1505.
10. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1505.
11. G.O.L. ¶ 5-1510.

Leona Beane is an attorney specializing in Wills, Trusts, Estates & Guardianship. She also serves as a Mediator and Arbitrator. Leona is currently Co-Chair of the Trusts & Estates Committee and is a new member of the NYWBA Board of Directors. All members of the New York Women's Bar Association are encouraged to participate and attend the meetings of the Trusts & Estates Committee to be up to date on all trusts & estate issues.

Place Your Ad Now!

The **NYWBA NEWSLETTER**, with a monthly circulation of more than 1,000 in the NYC metro area, is a great place to advertise.

For information about placing an ad in the NYWBA Newsletter, please contact Newsletter Co-Chair Carla P. Vogel (newsletter@nywba.org or 201-679-6739)

Notice to Members continued from Page 13

ARTICLE VII - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* * *

SECTION 2

The twenty-one (21) elected members of the Board of Directors shall be divided into three (3) classes of equal numbers. Seven (7) members shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of three (3) years. If, by reason of resignation or otherwise, a vacancy occurs after the annual meeting and/or during a director's term of office, the unexpired term thereof shall be filled by a successor director to be elected by the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting by a majority of the members present.

* * *

ARTICLE IX - WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

* * *

SECTION 3

The Association's members to serve on the Board of Directors of the WBASNY shall be elected at the annual meeting by ballot by a plurality of vote of the primary members present and voting in person or by proxy. If, by reason of resignation or otherwise, a vacancy occurs after the annual meeting and/or during a director's term of office, the unexpired term thereof shall be filled by a successor director to be elected by the Association's Board of Directors at its next regular meeting by a majority of the members present.

* * *

ARTICLE XVII - COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

* * *

SECTION 1

In the event that a vacancy is created in the slate of nominees prior to the vote of the membership at the annual meeting, the Nominations Committee shall confer within twenty (20) days of the creation of the vacancy, and nominate an alternate nominee for the vacancy.

* * *

SECTION 5

The Committee on Nominations shall meet within ~~30-60~~ days after ~~taking office~~ the election of its members, and shall meet as often thereafter as the Committee deems necessary, for the purpose of determining its nominations.

* * *

SECTION 13

In the event that a vacancy occurs in an NYWBA officer or director position, or in a WBASNY director position, after the annual meeting and/or before the expiration of the individual's term of office, the Nominations Committee shall confer within twenty (20) days of the notice of the vacancy, and shall nominate a successor to serve for the unexpired term. The Nominations Committee shall present such nominee to the Board of Directors for election pursuant to Article II, Sections 2 and 3; Article VII, Section 2; and Article IX, Section 3.

* * *

Pictures from the NYWBA Summer Program - "What It's Really Like to Practice Law as a Woman"



President Donna M. Praiss and Cassandra M. Porter, Director and Chair of the 2009 Summer Program



Panelists Carmen Rey and Juhu Thukral



Moderator Randy Shapiro and panelists Jessica Lipson and Robin Alperson

Gender & Justice continued from Page 6

There was a convergence of views among conference panelists and attendees about the critical role women play in advancing gender justice. While a majority acknowledged that progress has been made in gender equality, many urged for a wider representation of women on the bench and heightened awareness of subtle forms of gender discrimination.

Yacine Barry is a Senior Court Attorney with the Civil Court of the City of New York. She is currently serving on the NYWBA Board of Directors. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this article are entirely those of the author. They do not necessarily express the views of the New York State Unified Court System and should not be attributed to it.

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 submit articles, announcements, save the dates, upcoming event programming, photos and committee or member news to newsletter@nywba.org. If you have any questions regarding content submissions, please call Carla Vogel at 201-679-6739 or Annie Ugurlayan at 212-705-0105.

Do You Need to Update Your Membership Information?

Have you changed your address, firm, phone number, or other information? Send your updated information to "info@nywba.org" with the updated information. This will help us keep you informed about our programs, events and other benefits of membership.

TAG[®] online

Official Website Provider
for the NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Specializes in creating websites for attorneys and law firms, businesses and not-for-profit organizations

- * Web Hosting *
- * Web Design *
- * Web Development *
- * Web Anything! *

Contact Judy or Amy at 973-783-5583 or
sales@tagonline.com
www.tagonline.com

TAG Online is a women-owned business, certified by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

Visit our website at www.nywba.org

President

Donna M. Praiss

Vice Presidents

Gretchen Beall Schumann
Catherine M. Foti

Treasurer

Julie Hyman

Recording Secretary

Bonnie R. Cohen-Gallet

Corresponding Secretary

Kelly O'Neill Levy

Board of Directors

Yacine Barry
Leona Beane
Jane Bevans
Elizabeth A. Bryson
Dawn M. Cardi
Jo Ann Douglas
Myra L. Freed
Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob
Patricia Ann Grant
Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler
Randi S. Isaacs
Kay Marmorek
Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli
Susan M. Moss
Cassandra M. Porter
Amy Saltzman
Teresa Schiller
Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Lisa A. Sokoloff
Andrea Vacca
Carla P. Vogel

NYWBA Delegates to

WBASNY Board

Jane Bevans
Elizabeth A. Bryson
Dawn M. Cardi
Jo Ann Douglas
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin
Marjorie A. Martin
Amy Saltzman
Gretchen Beall Schumann
Lisa A. Sokoloff

WBASNY Vice President

Teresa Schiller

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

132 East 43rd Street, #716, New York, New York 10017-4019
(212) 490-8202 • Fax (877) 282-1462 • info@nywba.org

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
TERMINAL PRINTING
COMPANY
07030