



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

will co-sponsor

Women in Law - Strategies for Success Series 2006-2007 Program 1 --Keys to Advancement and Retention: Balanced Hours and Other Strategies for Removing Barriers to Women's Success in the Law

Thursday, November 2, 2006

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

14 Vesey Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium

3 MCLE Credits: 1.5 Law Practice Management;
1.5 Skills; Transitional

Fee: \$75 (indicate that you are entitled to the
\$75 discount as a NYWBA member)

To RSVP, please call the NYCLA CLE Institute
at 212-267-6646, ext. 215.

The NYWBA Foundation's Breakfast Speaker Series

featuring
Lynn Sherr

ABC News Correspondent, 20/20 and
Author Of Newly Released "Outside the Box"

**Friday, November 3, 2006 at
The Cornell Club, New York**

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2006

Military Wives as Unsung Military Heroes



Teresa Schiller

As we read in the news about more and more deployments to the war in Iraq, I am reminded of the heroes who have gone off to war like my cousin, a U.S. Army major. Of course, I am also reminded of the unsung heroes who stay behind, like Karen, his wife. While she is not in the war zone, Karen is a spouse with four young children.

From 2002 to 2005 alone, the U.S. military deployed more than one million service members, many of whom were married. Karen is one of thousands of women in America who must raise her children while juggling most of the other demands of a household. To make matters even heavier, some women in this position also hold jobs, which means that child care responsibilities may be particularly stressful in the husband's absence.

Karen is relatively fortunate from a financial perspective since her husband earns an officer's income and they own their home. The wives of enlisted warriors may have a tougher time economically. Although they are less numerous, soldiers in the reserves as a rule must leave higher-paying jobs to fulfill their national duty and leave wives with lower incomes, mortgages, and young families.

In contrast, military wives who work outside the home - although they may have the same heightened child-care responsibilities - are less likely to earn as much as their non-military counterparts. Typically, military wives have lower earnings because they receive lower wages and work fewer hours than civilian wives. This may be because military families move more frequently, influencing military wives to take the available job, rather than hold out for a higher-paying job.

Some women are not used to handling the family finances, which they must do in their husbands' absence. It is necessary for many to be more knowledgeable about finances. They must plan before deployment by, for instance, arranging for accounts for credit cards and bills to be in both names. Military wives are advised to obtain a durable power of attorney so that they may take care of their husbands' financial and legal issues in the event of an emergency. They also need a will and health care directive.

Continued on page 2

Women's Bar Hosts Networking Seminar

On September 27, 2006, the Women's Bar hosted a free seminar entitled, "The Power of Self-Promotion: Networking and Other Techniques for Building Your Practice and Developing Options in Your Legal Career." The seminar was presented by Celia Paul Associates, a career management consulting firm with over twenty-five years of experience in helping lawyers manage their career. The event was hosted by Hogan & Hartson LLP, which provided conference space and refreshments.

NYWBA President Teresa Schiller welcomed the audience of about thirty people and then handed the program over to Celia Paul Associates, which was represented by Celia Paul, Carol Barlia, Allyson Radler, and Stephen Rosen. The speakers had the attendees fill out several useful worksheets to identify the following: (1) levels of comfort with "contact activities;" (2) the frequency with which attendees tend to use certain event networking skills; and (3) identification of skills and characteristics possessed by attendees which can be transferable to other careers. The group practiced "elevator speeches," designed to give a succinct summary of one's background or key message. During the roundtable discussion, attendees also shared their own best practices for networking, including ways of starting conversations with people at networking events. The event concluded with a networking social which provided attendees with the opportunity to practice what they had learned and to get to know each other.

The NYWBA is grateful to Celia Paul Associates for presenting the successful seminar and to NYWBA Member Allison Schoenthal and Hogan & Hartson LLP for hosting it.

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Of course, military wives may feel isolated and alone without their husbands, particularly if there are young children keeping them at home. The husbands who have been deployed have a support network through the military, but the military is less helpful to the good women behind the men in uniform.

Single parenting can be a strain, especially for wives who have a job outside of the home. Moreover, the children -- in addition to being "children" -- have stresses associated with the father being absent from the home.

Many women, in finding the resources offered by the military to be inadequate, have turned to unofficial sources of assistance - volunteers, basically. Not only can military wives communicate via chat rooms with others in similar situations, but they may call upon non-government organizations that provide support. One organization is called CinCHouse.com, which provides advice for coping with financial hardship, marital separation, and single parenting. CinCHouse.com has a charitable arm called Operation Homefront which has been flooded with requests for assistance. Some military wives clamor for basic child care needs like cribs. Others who work outside the home during the day and who are not free to seek help at military offices during normal work hours find counseling services that are available at almost any time.

If you know a military wife, you might consider offering to help, or just putting in a kind word. At the least, we should all keep in mind that fighting a war - popular or not -- takes a great deal of support, including the extraordinary support of the unsung women on the home front.

Teresa Schiller



New York Women's Bar Association

invites you to join us in honoring the

Newly-elected and Appointed Judges of New York County

at a Cocktail Reception at

Nicole's

Thursday, January 18th

RSVP to Executive Director Christina Kallas
(info@nywba.org or 212-490-8202)
and please put "Judges' Reception RSVP"
in the subject line.

GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE NYWBA!

We are looking for attorneys from all backgrounds
and all disciplines to get more involved
with projects such as the following:

helping to host CLE programs, working on committees,
helping to boost membership, and joining our board.

Please e-mail NYWBA President Teresa Schiller
at president@nywba.org
about your interests and availability.

We're always looking for new talent and ideas!

Report by New York Women's Bar Association Foundation Fellow on Columbia Law School Internship at Human Rights First *By Theodore Roethke*

Human Rights First has multiple programs involved in human rights work on both the domestic and international levels (see www.humanrightsfirst.org). I interned with the Asylum Legal Representation Program in New York. The Asylum Program runs the nation's largest pro bono legal representation program, representing clients in more than one thousand asylum cases each year. Human Rights First also has a D.C. office with a smaller Asylum Program and an aggressive advocacy team working for refugee policy reform.

The asylum team (including both the New York and D.C. offices) consists of its director, three staff attorneys, three program assistants, one part-time employee, and six interns. But the scope of the work is much larger than the staff alone could accomplish because much of the legwork is done by pro bono attorneys at large corporate law firms. The team screens the applicant, assigns the case to a pro bono attorney, and then oversees the case as it progresses. I was extremely impressed with the work of Human Rights First and with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff.

I worked from May to August 2006 and completed a variety of tasks over the summer for Anwen Hughes, the Staff Attorney and my direct supervisor at Human Rights First.

I participated in intake interviews of asylum seekers applying for representation through the Asylum Program, where I took notes, asked questions, prepared intake write-ups, and made credibility determinations.

I also spent a considerable amount of time updating two hundred open cases. For this project, I read each case history and contacted the assigned pro bono attorney with specific questions. My work proved to be very significant in that the pro bono attorneys are not asylum law experts (whereas the Asylum Program staff attorneys are). The updates I received from the pro bono attorneys alerted the Asylum Program to necessary intervention in the management of client matters.

Finally, much of my time was spent on legal research for two projects -- one, for a piece the Asylum Program hopes to publish for practitioners, and the other for an amicus brief to the Board of Immigration Appeals. I also did some other, smaller legal research projects.

The initial legal research project I worked on involved combing for data on stays of removal using Westlaw, PACER, and freely available online data compilations, and then assembling and analyzing that data. To do this project, I worked with Anwen Hughes to determine what kinds of data were needed, and then to overcome the practical hardships involved. The initial phase of the project has been completed.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

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

Congratulations to member **Liz Burrell** on her election as the first woman president of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and her appointment as counsel to the law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosel, LLP.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shari Ann Alexander
Amy Berlin
Emily Bushnell
Samantha Chung
Odaria Finemore
Caryn Hemsworth
Julie Hyman
Afiya M. Jordan
Sarah P. Kenney
Jocelyn Keynes
Dena Klein
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Carolyn B. Rincon
Karla P. Rosero
Meaghan Chmura
Sara Shikhman
Gillian Thomas
Erika Weinberg
Yuexi Yao

The New Orleans Public Library is asking for any and all hardcover and paperback books for people of all ages in an effort to restock the shelves after Katrina. The staff will assess which titles will be designated for its collections. The rest will be distributed to destitute families or sold for library fundraising.

Please send your books to:

Rica A. Trigs, Public Relations
New Orleans Public Library
219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

If you tell the post office that they are for the library in New Orleans, they will give you the library rate which is slightly less than the book rate.

The second legal research project I worked on was research for an amicus brief by Human Rights First with the Board of Immigration Appeals. The case involved an asylum applicant barred from asylum under the material support bar even though he had an indisputable duress claim. I researched the legislative history of the material support bar, as well as relevant case law to support the contention of a duress defense to the material support bar.

NOVEMBER 2006

NYWBA Honors Martha Gifford with Florence E. Allen Award

On September 21, 2006, the NYWBA presented the Florence E. Allen Award to Martha E. ("Meg") Gifford, Esq., in recognition of "exceptional attainments by a woman in the law." The award was presented by the Honorable Leslie Crocker Snyder at a reception hosted by Proskauer Rose LLP.

The Florence E. Allen Award was named in honor of Florence Ellinwood Allen, who in 1922 became the first woman to serve as a judge of a court of last resort anywhere in the world, and in 1934 became the first woman appointed to the federal bench. The award has been given only thirteen times previously since its inception in 1967 and was last presented to Judge Crocker Snyder in 2003.

Meg is a longstanding member of the NYWBA and served as its president from 1994 to 1995. She was a founder of the NYWBA Foundation, Inc. Meg also served as WBASNY president from 2001 to 2002. She is a senior counsel at Proskauer Rose LLP and co-chairs the firm's antitrust group.

Meg addressed the audience about how far women have come in the legal profession, and how far they have yet to go. She spoke about the importance of mentoring, referring to it as her "touchstone as a technique for allowing people to rise up." She pointed out that the "old rabbi system in law firms -- which seemed forever to remain an obstacle -- needed to be replaced with a system in which all senior lawyers would be role models." Meg observed that between 1994 and 2004, the percentage of women holding partnership positions in law firms rose from only 13% to 17%, a mere 4% increase in a decade. She also pointed out that lawyers of color at leading law firms only comprise 5 to 6% of partnerships. Meg stated that these

statistics, and the decisions by major corporations such as Wal-Mart to shift their business to more diverse firms, demonstrate that mentoring is a vital tool for the advancement of the legal profession as a whole.

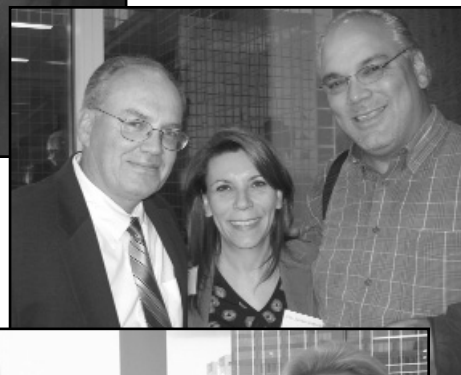
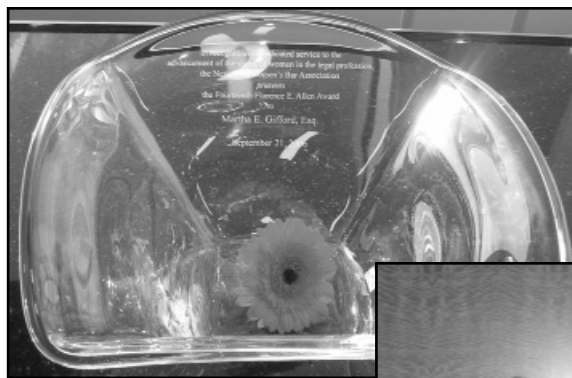
Judge Crocker Snyder spoke about Judge Allen and about Meg before presenting the award - a beautiful engraved crystal bowl. She explained that Judge Allen initially could not get a job at a law firm when she graduated from law school because she was a woman. Later, as a judge, Florence Allen presided over 892 cases in just a few years and was reversed only three times. Harkening back to the many talents of Judge Allen, Judge Crocker Snyder said that "Meg has been endowed with an excellent mind and great capabilities."

Christina Kallas, Immediate Past President of the NYWBA, addressed the audience. She praised Meg for her intelligence and commitment to justice. Observing that she often asked herself "What would Meg do?" in difficult situations, Christina said that "Meg is mentoring when she isn't even there."

Allen I. Fagin, Chairman of Proskauer, welcomed the large crowd to the event. He said that Proskauer was proud to support Meg because her achievements have "inured to the benefit of the profession as a whole."

The NYWBA is grateful to Proskauer Rose for providing the conference room space and refreshments and underwriting the cost of the invitations and programs. Thank you to Lisa Bauer, Myra Freed, and Christina Kallas for their efforts in coordinating the event.





NYWBA Honors Martha Gifford with Florence E. Allen Award (continued)



Interesting Links

New York State Unified Court System
www.courts.state.ny.us/home.htm

New York State Court Slip Opinions
www.courts.state.ny.us/REPORTER/Decisions.htm

Article: Not So Much A Glass Ceiling As A Glass Cliff
http://www.management-issues.com/display_page.asp?section=research&id=1501

A Timeline of Women's Rights –
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline1.html>

No fault divorce- an idea whose time has come? Visit
<http://www.nywba.org/pdfs/nofault.pdf>

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May 31 - June 4, 2007

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Rio Grande, Puerto Rico*



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COMMITTEE CALENDAR

The **Children's Rights Committee** will hold a meeting on **Monday, November 6, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.** For more information and to RSVP, please contact Denise Scotto at 917-348-5483.

The **Working Mothers Committee** will be meeting **November 29, 2006 at 12:15 p.m.** and **December 20, 2006 at 12:15 p.m.** Consult the NYWBA website at NYWBA.org for more information.

Professional Ethics Committee

The WBASNY Professional Ethics Committee now has a hotline. If you are a WBASNY member you can call after 6:00 p.m. at 914-472-9517 if you have questions regarding ethical issues. Although legal advice cannot be offered, you can be guided in the right direction as to the applicable DRs, case law and ethics resources.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Attorney – Economic Development: The Economic Development Division of the New York City Law Department seeks an attorney to work on highly visible, exciting and complex real estate development and other public sector transactions. Division attorneys represent the City in structuring, negotiating, and drafting a wide range of transactions such as the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan, Far West Midtown, Lincoln Center, and Penn Station/Farley Post Office; the initiatives to support the Mayor's ambitious solid waste recycling plan; and projects for reshaping of the City's waterfront (e.g., Brooklyn Bridge Park, Cruise Ship Terminal, and Sherman Creek) and the proposed Manhattanville expansion of Columbia University.

Applicants should possess excellent academic credentials and substantial corporate, real estate, or other transactional experience. The ability to work independently or under supervision, as appropriate to the scale and complexity of the transaction, is essential. Admission to the New York State Bar is required.

To apply for this position, please send a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, and a list of three references to:

Director of Legal Recruitment
New York City Law Department
100 Church Street
New York, New York 10007

For more information about the Law Department and the Economic Development Division, please visit our website at www.nyc.gov/law.

Newsletter Deadline and Contact Information

Submissions must be sent to the Newsletter Committee by the **10th** of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please email articles, notes on members, committee calendars, and any other announcements to **Diana Ceccacci, Esq.**, tel. no. 718-229-4932, email newsletter@nywba.org.

NYWBA List Serve

The NYWBA List Serve provides up-to-the-moment information concerning events, programs, and job announcements through email. Please email us at info@nywba.org if you have an announcement you would like to post on the list serve or if you would like to be added to the list serve.

Have you changed your address, firm, phone number, or other information? Please call 917-748-5039 or send an email to "info@nywba.org" with the updated information. This will help us keep you informed and our records up-to-date.

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