



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections on the Past Year and Looking to the Future

It is hard to believe that a year has flown by and I am at the end of my term as NYWBA President. This has been one of the most exciting years of my life, and it is truly an honor to serve this Association. In this final message to you I would like to highlight some of our many accomplishments this year.

In addition to the wide range of programs that our 30 plus committees have been busy hosting this year, I am proud to report that in its inaugural year our *LGBT Committee* got off to a fantastic start, under the dynamic leadership of **Hon. Lynn R. Kotler** and **Margaret M. ("Peggy") Brady**. The Committee co-presented several programs with other NYWBA committees, including the *Criminal Law Committee* and the *Matrimonial & Family Law Committee*. One of these was a timely two-part CLE at the Criminal Courthouse on legal issues facing transgender people.

I am also very pleased by the revitalization of our *Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession*, under the leadership of **Ilana J. Marcus** and **Kathleen C. Waterman**. For Women's (Continued on Page 2)

MAY 2016



Jennifer P. Brown

New York Women's Bar Association's 2016 Annual Awards and Installation Dinner

Monday, May 2, 2016

Three Sixty°, 10 Desbrosses Street, Tribeca, NYC

The *President's Special Award* will be presented to

Cecile Richards

President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Deborah G. Rosenthal

will be installed as 2016-2017 NYWBA President

To RSVP go to http://archive.nywba.org/Annual_Dinner2016

For more information, email DinnerChairs@nywba.org

NYWBA HEALTHY WOMAN/HEALTHY LAWYER FITNESS WORKSHOP

*Summer is just around the corner...
Don't be afraid of your swimsuit...
Spring into shape with the NYWBA!*

Learn about physical fitness and the important components of work out routines for women of all ages.

No time for the gym? No problem. We'll be giving tips on how to work on getting fit at your desk!

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m. – Registration and Refreshments

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Program

7:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Q&A and Networking

Place: Morgan Stanley, Location TBD, NYC

Cost: \$20 for Members*

\$30 for Non-Members

Info: Email events@nywba.org

RSVP: <http://archive.nywba.org/WorkshopRSVP/>

* To become a member, go to <http://membership.nywba.org/>.

Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 5/2 – Annual Awards and Installation Dinner – p. 1
- 5/3 – Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 5/4 – Comm. to Adv. Status of Women Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/10 – Carlisle Shoppint Event – p. 4
- 5/5 – The Art of Talking to Children in Custody Cases, Part I – p. 2, 3
 - 5/6 – CLE: Starting a Solo Practice in NY – p. 3
 - 5/9 – Int'l Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/9- 5/10 – CLE: Forum on Domestic Violence – p. 6
 - 5/11 – Children's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 5/12 – The Art of Talking to Children in Custody Cases, Part II – p. 2, 3
 - 5/12 – LGBT Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/17 - Crim. Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/19- Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 5/19 – The Art of Talking to Children in Custody Cases, Part III – p. 2, 3
 - 5/19 – Healthy Woman/Healthy Lawyer Fitness Workshop – p. 1
 - 5/23- Legislation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/26- Screening of *Trapped* – p. 6
 - 5/31 – Litigation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 6/1 - Mat. & Family Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 6/2-6/5 – WBASNY Convention – 5
 - 6/9 – Int'l Women's Leadership Forum – p. 6
 - 6/16 – CLE: Practicing in the Appellate Term – p. 3, 7

Check www.nywba.org for more Meetings, Programs & Events.

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

History Month, they presented a program featuring a panel of women judges discussing their divergent paths to the bench. The Committee is also diligently working to update our survey on the status of women in NYC firms, just in time for the 10th anniversary of our first survey.

NYWBA's prominence was further demonstrated in March, when, as the conference of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations was ongoing, I was contacted by a delegation from the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, who wanted to meet to discuss issues of gender discrimination in the practice of law. Within days, I was able to gather an amazing panel, including **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin** (past President of both NYWBA and the National Association of Women Judges, and formerly the first female Presiding Justice of the Appellate Div., First Dept.). At our meeting, we exchanged ideas on how delegation members could better promote gender parity in Japan and educate those in power on the importance of supporting talented women attorneys. I walked away from this meeting so proud of the work we do, and with a renewed faith in the NYWBA.

I am also excited about an initiative proposed by Past President **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff** to further preserve NYWBA's history and accomplishments by establishing a video library of interviews with its most prominent senior members. We are honored that the NYWBA Board of Directors, the NYWBA Foundation, and individual donors are supporting this multi-year effort, and we hope you will join us. Many thanks to the project leaders, to our esteemed members who have been interviewed thus far, and to Past President **Elizabeth A. Bryson** for her pledge to match individual donations of \$500 or more (initially up to \$5,000). (For more information, email History@nywba.org.)

I look forward to seeing many of you at our *Annual Installation and Awards Dinner* at our new Tribeca venue, Three Sixty°, on May 2nd where our 2016-17 Officers and Directors will be installed into office and I will have the honor of presenting *The President's Special Award* to **Cecile Richards** of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. I thank her and the women and men who work with her – tirelessly, creatively, and with fervor – to preserve and expand each woman's right to control her own body and receive essential and appropriate health care. They exemplify our mission to promote equality and the fair administration of justice.

In July, we will hold our 22nd annual Summer Program on *"What it's REALLY like to Practice Law as a Woman"* at the NYC Bar Association. I am thrilled to announce that the Board of Directors unanimously voted to rename this event in honor of the program's founder, **Martha E. ("Meg") Gifford**, who is a Past President of NYWBA and WBASNY, has been a pioneer many times over, and continues to be a mentor to us all. Meg will also be receiving the *Joan L. Ellenbogen Founders Award* at the *WBASNY Convention* in June, as her long standing and continued contributions to the NYWBA and WBASNY membership are appreciated far and wide. These kudos are long overdue and well deserved.

Please join us at the Convention to celebrate Past WBASNY President **Sandra C. Katz** who will be receiving the *Doris S. Hoffman Medal* and to congratulate **Jacqueline P. Flug** on her installation as WBASNY President and the other 2016-17 WBASNY Officers and Directors.

I would like to warmly congratulate **Deborah G. Rosenthal** on her installation as my successor. She has been an exemplary NYWBA Treasurer for several years, and she has served in other officer positions, as a Committee Chair, and as our representative on critical WBASNY Committees. I cannot think of a better person to take the reins of the Association this coming year. Congratulations as well to the incoming Officers, Directors, and Delegates. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

NYWBA's Matrimonial and Family Law and Children's Rights Committees together with the *Association of Family and Conciliation Courts* and the *Assigned Counsel Plan of the First Department* present

The Art of Talking to Children in Custody Cases

Please join us for this free three-part lunchtime program addressing children's development in the context of *Lincoln Hearings* and attorney representation of children.

May 5, 2016 -- Part I: For Judges, Court Attorneys, AFC's and Other Attorneys: An overview of interviewing children in the context of children's developmental levels.

Speakers: *Hon. Lori S. Sattler, Hon. Jane Pearl and William H. Kaplan, M.D.*

May 12, 2016 -- Part II: Getting it Right: How to Talk and Listen to Children: An interactive program designed to educate AFCs on interview techniques.

Speakers: *Monica Shulman, Court Referee, Virginia A. LoPreto, Esq. and William H. Kaplan, M.D.*

May 19, 2016 -- Part III: Getting it Right: The Lincoln Hearing: An interactive program for judges and court attorneys on the nuts and bolts of in cameras with children.

Moderators: *Hon. Jane Pearl and Hon. Jacqueline Silberman*

Speaker: *William H. Kaplan, M.D.*

All Three Events will be held as follows:

Time: *1:15 - 2:15 p.m.*

Place: *New York County Family Court
60 Lafayette Street, 10th Fl., NYC*

CLE: *1 Credit* (Credit provided by the App. Div., First Dept., an accredited CLE provider.)

RSVP: *Reception@brmatlaw.com*
Advanced registration is required.

Thank you to everyone who supported me throughout this year, including our extraordinary Executive Director **Karen Lu**; our font of Women's Bar knowledge, Past Presidents **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Hon. Jacqueline W. Silberman, Hon. Lisa Sokoloff, and Elizabeth A. Bryson**; our Newsletter Co-Chairs **Alexandra Campbell** and **Jessica Cygler Wagner**; all of the Officers, Directors, Delegates, and Committee Chairs who served during my term; and our Advisory Council members. Your invaluable guidance and support made my leadership of this Association possible.



COMMITTEE NEWS

- **Children's Rights Committee** will meet on **May 11** at 1:00 pm at New York Family Court, 60 Lafayette St., 10th Fl. Library, NYC. RSVP ChildrensRights@nywba.org.
- **Civil Courts Committee** will meet on **May 19** at 1:00 pm at the Civil Courthouse, 111 Centre St., Room TBD, NYC. RSVP CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org. The Committee will also co sponsor a CLE program with the **Litigation and the Criminal Law Committees** entitled, "**Practicing in the Appellate Term: Practical Tips from Judges and Practitioners**" on **June 16** at the Civil Courthouse, 111 Centre St., Room TBD, NYC. RSVP aostrau@nycourts.gov. (See notice p. 7.)
- **Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession** will host a telephone conference meeting on **May 4** at 6:00 pm. Email AdvanceStatus@nywba.org for call-in info.
- **Criminal Law Committee** will meet on **May 17** at 6:15 pm at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th St., 16th Fl., NYC. RSVP CrimLawChairs@nywba.org.
- **International Women's Right Committee** will meet on **May 9** at 6:30 pm at Le Pain Quotiden, 81 West Broadway, NYC. The Committee is also proud to sponsor **A Screening of the Documentary Trapped**, on **May 26** from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. (See notice p. 6.). RSVP IntlChairs@nywba.org.
- **Legislation Committee** will host a conference call on **May 23** at 6:30 pm. For dial in info email Legislation@nywba.org.
- **Litigation Committee** will meet on **May 31**. Time and location TBD. For more info email LitigationChairs@nywba.org.
- **LGBT Committee** will meet on **May 12** at 5:30 pm at the Offices of Brady, Klein and Weissman LLP, 506 Fifth Ave., 19th Fl., NYC. RSVP LGBTChairs@nywba.org.
- **Matrimonial & Family Law Committee** and the **Children's Rights Committee**, together with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the Assigned Counsel Plan of the First Department present a three part CLE series: "**The Art of Talking to Children in Custody Cases**" on **May 5, May 12, and May 19**, from 1:15 – 2:15 pm at the New York County Family Court, 60 Lafayette St., NYC. RSVP Reception@brmatlaw.com. (See notice p. 2.)
- **Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Committee** will meet **May 3** at 6:30 pm at Rottenstreich & Ettinger, LLP, 222 E. 41st St., NYC. RSVP reproductiverights@nywba.org.
- **Program & Events Committee** will host a Private Shopping Event at The Carlisle Showroom, 16 E. 52nd St., 16th, Fl., NYC on **May 10** at 5:30 pm. RSVP required to events@nywba.org. (See notice p. 4.)

NYWBA wishes to acknowledge the generous gift from
**FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT HON. FLORENCE
PERLOW SHIENTAG (1908-2009)**

Her financial bequest has helped to underwrite the cost
of this Newsletter and many of our CLE programs.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

Our heartfelt condolences to Past NYWBA President **Toby Pilsner** on the passing of her mother, Joyce Pilsner.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anne Donnelly Bush
Tara Davis
Vanessa K. Kaster
Gillian Kotlen
Nicole Miraglia
Jenna C. Newmark

Kathleen Farrell Parsons
Laura Rosenblum
Barry Washor
Carrie L. Windland

as of 4/20/2016

**NYWBA is proud to co-sponsor with the
New York State Bar Association**
a CLE program

Starting a Solo Practice in New York

Are you considering opening your own firm? Are you a recent law school graduate just starting out? Are you considering leaving your place of employment and starting your own practice?

This program provides an overview of what it takes to own your own practice. From choosing a business entity to selecting office space and attracting new clients, get practical and useful tips for starting a practice in New York.

Date: *Friday, May 6, 2016, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

Place: *Executive Conference Center
1601 Broadway (btwn 48/49 Sts.), NYC*

CLE: *7.5 MCLE (including 3.5 ethics credits)*

Cost: *\$195 Special NYSBA Member Pricing
(includes lunch)*

RSVP: *Go to <http://bit.ly/1pMasg9>
To register by phone, please call 1-800-582-2452*

Info: *If you have questions, please email
ksuchocki@nysba.org or ssmith@nysba.org.*

SUPPORT THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC.

The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation's goals are: (1) to eliminate gender bias and other forms of discrimination from the legal system and legal profession, (2) to promote the social and economic equality, safety and well being of women and children, and (3) to address the unmet legal needs of women and children. It is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization which supports and funds charitable and philanthropic programs to aid women and children throughout Manhattan and beyond.

NYWBAF initiatives are made possible through the financial contributions of members of the New York Women's Bar Association, colleagues and friends. Donations are tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

Help us advance our mission to aid women and children in New York and beyond by giving to the Foundation. To make a contribution please go to <http://nywbaf.org/donate>.

Inaugural Meeting of the Newly Revived Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession By Hon. Melissa Crane and Emily Ponder

"Is this the 21st Century?" The words came from the lone male member of the newly reconstituted **Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession** at its first meeting on March 15 at Le Pain Quotidien in Tribeca. He was responding to personal experiences of adversity, shared by many members of the group as their motivation for joining the committee.

The stories were all too familiar to many woman attorneys: being cut off from relationships necessary to succeed, lack of mentoring, poor work/life balance, and overt gender based comments from adversaries in court.

Members of the committee convened from various backgrounds including commercial litigation, small general practice, women-led firms, public interest law, and the judiciary. Though their backgrounds differed, their stories highlighted a common reality: despite advances over the decades, women are still fighting for stature in the legal community from the courtroom to the boardroom.

The committee intends to address this disappointing reality and focus on ways to empower women in the profession as a means to move forward. In this regard, as its first project, the committee will distribute a large-scale survey to assess the status of women in mid- to large-size Manhattan law firms. In 2007, the committee conducted its first in-depth survey investigating the status of women attorneys in Manhattan law firms and published the results. Among the findings were: (1) a huge discrepancy between the number of female associates and the number of female equity partners, pointing to the conclusion that a male associate has a substantially better chance of becoming an equity partner than a female associate; (2) a huge discrepancy between the number of female partners involved in management and the number of women who rise to managing partner; (3) male equity partners were more likely to be parents than female equity partners; (4) for women attorneys, medium or larger offices appeared to be more conducive to being a parent; and (5) although women have constituted nearly 50% of all law students, they are only 35% of full-time attorneys at Manhattan law firms.

These survey results were deeply thought provoking. The report suggested reasons for the state of affairs and suggested methods to change the status quo. The committee believes it is time to check in again on women attorneys at Manhattan law firms. Based on evidence recently published in law journals, it is possible that the state of affairs for women attorneys has not changed, and in many instances may be worse.

Over the next year, the committee will distribute the survey to Manhattan law firms with the goal of publishing the results in 2017. The committee also intends to formulate, based upon the data collected, "best practices" for the training, retention and advancement of women attorneys.

In addition to the survey, the committee members discussed other ways to actively empower women lawyers, such as through nominations for awards, hosting networking events, and providing forums for meaningful discussions about issues that impact the advancement of women in the legal profession.

Ilana Marcus, Co-Chair of the committee, explained at the meeting, "I was attracted to this committee because it is the essence of the NYWBA--to assist women attorneys in professional development and advancement. Promoting women attorneys will result in better service and justice for our entire legal community."

As the Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor eloquently stated nearly three decades ago, "[f]or both men and women the first step in getting power is to become visible to others, and then to put on an impressive show. . . . As women achieve power,

the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it." (Sandra Day O'Connor, Address to the 1990 Sixteenth Annual Olin Conference: Women in Power [Nov. 14, 1990]).

Hon. Melissa Crane is an acting Criminal Court judge in New York County. Emily Ponder is a Civil Defense Staff Attorney at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem.



CARLISLE
PRIVATE SHOPPING EVENT
HOSTED BY VIVA BHOGAITA - CARLISLE WARDROBE STYLIST

CARLISLE SHOWROOM
16 E. 52ND STREET
16TH FLOOR
MAY 10TH - 5:30-7:30PM

SPONSORED BY NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

RSVP REQUIRED
events@nywba.org

Recent Changes to the Commercial Division Rules By Marcy Einhorn

"The Commercial Division is mindful of the need to conserve client resources, encourage proportionality in discovery, promote efficient resolution of matters, and increase respect for the integrity of the judicial process." Preamble to the Rules of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court, 22 NYCRR 202.70 (g).

With this as the stated mission of the recently revised Commercial Division Rules, on March 29, the **Litigation Committee** had the privilege of hearing the **Hon. O. Peter Sherwood** and **Hon. Saliann Scarpulla**, a long-time member of the NYWBA, opine on current issues facing the several Commercial Divisions across the State.

Litigation Committee Co-Chair **Louisa Kaye** hosted the meeting at her firm's offices, Wrobel Markham Schatz Kaye & Fox LLP. Justice Sherwood's Principal Law Clerk, and Litigation Committee Co-Chair, **Sara J. Crasson**, moderated the discussion.

The Justices discussed the history of the Commercial Division as an experiment that was designed to respond to the needs of commercial institutions in New York, and observed that it currently enjoys a reputation as a nationally respected forum for resolving commercial disputes.

Ultimately, it is the body of law that is being developed in the Commercial Division that sets it apart as a preeminent forum for resolving disputes, offered Justice Scarpulla. That, along with the specialized training that the Justices receive in areas such as derivatives, forum selection clauses, long-arm jurisdiction, CPLR updates and constitutionality issues, make the Commercial Division a preferred forum for commercial disputes.

Justices Sherwood and Scarpulla also discussed how the recent changes to the Rules signal a departure from standard practices, in order to promote the efficient resolution of disputes.

For example, Rule 202.70(d), Assignment to the Commercial Division, now requires that parties desiring to have a case treated as a Commercial Division case must file an RJJ within 90 days of service of the Complaint, or be deemed to have waived that request, a break from the more traditional practice found in Rule 202.6, which permits the filing of an RJJ at any time after service of process.

Another distinctive practice in the Commercial Division is the requirement that all cases are required to be e-filed. It is important to check each individual judge's rules, however, since some judges, such as Justice Sherwood, permit the filing of courtesy copies, while other judges, including Justice Scarpulla, prohibit any paper filings.

However, it is in the area of expert disclosure that the Commercial Division Rules diverge most from the standard practice under the CPLR. While CPLR § 3101(d) continues to apply in all other civil litigation, Commercial Division Rule 13(c) encourages transparency in identifying and deposing experts prior to trial in order to reduce costs, eliminate surprise, and promote proportionality in the discovery of expert testimony.

These and other practical changes, such as rules governing the discovery of electronically stored information, limitations on depositions, and the preference for categorical privilege logs, are all designed to keep the State's Commercial Divisions a favored forum for the resolution of business disputes, and a leader in the fair and prompt resolution of commercial cases.

Marcy Einhorn is a former Court Attorney with the New York County Supreme Court Law Department, and practices as a commercial litigator on an Of Counsel basis.

History-Making Moments in Celebration of Women's History Month

On March 29, 2016, in honor of, and apropos to, Women's History Month, six highly regarded and well-respected women jurists from the New York State Supreme Court and Appellate Division, First Department, shared their stories, their paths to the bench, and most memorable career experiences, during a panel discussion held at the New York County Lawyers Association. The panel consisted of **Hon. Rosalyn Richter**, **Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler**, **Hon. Joan Lobis**, **Hon. Margaret Chan**, **Hon. Lori Sattler**, and **Hon. Lynn R. Kotler**, each of whom candidly, and with humor and grace, described how they became judges, the cases that had the biggest impact on their careers and personal lives, and their view of what we can do to support each other in the practice of law and as women jurists.



The well attended event, entitled "History-Making Moments in Celebration of Women's History Month," was co-sponsored by the New York Women's Bar Association, New York County Lawyers Association, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, Dominican Bar Association, and Hispanic National Bar Association. On behalf of the NYWBA, we would like to thank all of our co-sponsors, without whom the event would not have been possible. We are especially grateful to **Yetta Kurland, Esq.** and **George Santana, Esq.**, the co-chairs of NYCLA's LGBT Issues Committee who moderated the event with us, Bari Chase of NYLCA, who ensured that the event ran smoothly, and NYWBA President **Jennifer P. Brown**, whose opening remarks set the tone for a terrific discussion.

June 2-5, 2016 WBASNY CONVENTION

Loews Don Cesar Hotel, St. Pete Beach, Florida

The WBASNY Convention is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with Women's Bar members from across the state, attend first class CLEs (including Ethics!), and celebrate as WBASNY presents its prestigious awards and installs its officers for the coming year.

Long-time NYWBA member **Amy Saltzman** has been nominated as WBASNY Corresponding Secretary for 2016-2017.

WBASNY will present the **2016 Joan L. Ellenbogen Founders Award** to NYWBA's beloved **Martha E. ("Meg") Gifford**. Meg's contributions to advancing the status of women in the profession and in society are legion. She was instrumental in founding our award-winning Mentoring Circles Program and Summer Program for law students and new attorneys.

For Convention info and RSVP details, go to www.wbasny.org.

Reflections by Rachel Orbach, NYWBAF Fellow at Sanctuary for Families

During the fall semester of my second year at Fordham University School of Law, I served as a New York Women's Bar Association Foundation fellow at Sanctuary for Families ("Sanctuary"). Sanctuary is New York's leading advocate and service provider for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking and related forms of gender violence.

I was given significant responsibility from the beginning, which made my experience at Sanctuary especially rewarding. On my first day, I went to the Bronx Family Courthouse, where I assisted in representing a victim after her ex-husband filed a petition for a Downward Modification of Child Support. I also drafted a petition seeking a temporary order of protection for a victim of abuse and talked the client through the process before the case went before the judge.

I also participated in the intake process by interviewing clients. Through extensive client interaction, I learned the ins and outs of a domestic violence case. I also researched topics such as the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs and whether statements made by certain witnesses would be subject to the hearsay exception rule.

Although I primarily worked in the domestic violence unit, Sanctuary provides a wide variety of services for their clients. I was fortunate to gain exposure to some of these programs, including the Adopt a Family and Economic Empowerment Programs. Specifically, I attended one of Sanctuary's Legal Advisory Council's ("LAC") monthly meetings, during which a group of prominent legal administrators and lawyers meet to develop special programs and find ways to promote Sanctuary's legal center. I was particularly struck by the way in which Sanctuary and the LAC assist victims reintegrate into society by providing computer training, résumé support and efforts to pair clients with career opportunities through networking.

I was privileged to work directly with Dorchen Leidholdt, Sanctuary's Legal Center Director and a renowned activist who has dedicated herself to the movement to combat violence against women for the past forty years. In addition to her managerial role, she is also responsible for her own clients. She once told me that she couldn't envision it any other way, and anyone who knows Ms. Leidholdt can tell you how tirelessly she works for her clients, but most of all, how much she cares.

My experience at Sanctuary elucidated the impact of the law in our personal lives. The law can determine whether a child will be given adequate protection from an abusive parent and whether full custody will be taken away from a parent. It can put a victim in a precarious situation, causing absences or firing from work and financial harm, and could detrimentally impact one's mental health and well-being. Victims may even be put on the defensive, forced to prove they are sufficiently "fit" to be parents for their children. I also learned that domestic violence is a universal problem from which both men and women suffer.

I am honored to be a recipient of a NYWBAF Fellowship and grateful for the time I spent at Sanctuary as well as the opportunity to be involved in their efforts to promote gender equality, among other initiatives. I am confident that the valuable skills I have gained will serve me well and impact my decisions in my legal career.

Rachel Orbach is a 2L at Fordham University School of Law.

New York Women's Bar Association

is proud to co-sponsor the
Twentieth Annual Fordham
Forum On Domestic Violence,
a CLE Program entitled

“Milestones, Roadblocks, and the Journey Forward”

This two-day program will include topics such as child welfare, collaborating with mental health professionals, specialized courts, criminal justice system, and intimate partner violence in New York's transgender and gender non-conforming communities. Lunch will be provided to participants.

Dates: *Monday and Tuesday, May 9-10, 2016*

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Place: *Fordham Law School*, 150 West 62nd Street
(btwn Amsterdam & Columbus), NYC

MCLE: *12 CLE Credits**

Registration information is available at
<http://bit.ly/1UKZYKk>

*CLE: Fordham Law School is an accredited CLE provider (send any questions or hardship requests directly to Fordham Law School).

NYWBA International Women's Rights Committee

is proud to sponsor

A Screening of the Documentary

TRAPPED

featuring

Stephanie Toti, Esq., Center for Reproductive Rights
Katharine Bodde, Esq., NYCLU Reproductive Rights
Priscilla (Cilla) Smith, Esq., Program for the Study of
Reproductive Justice, Yale Law School

What Remains of a Woman's Right to Choose? Join us at this dynamic and exciting program, which will include a screening of the 2016 award winning documentary "TRAPPED" that reviews the TRAP laws ("Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers") and how U.S. reproductive health clinics are fighting to remain open. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion regarding TRAP laws, including a discussion of the pending Supreme Court case *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*, in which Ms. Toti was lead counsel for petitioners.

Date: *Thursday, May 26, 2015*

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: *TBD*

Cost: *Free* - Members; \$20 - Non-members

RSVP: Email IntlChairs@nywba.org

*Membership: Members attend programs for free. If you are not a member, go to www.nywba.org/Membership to join or renew using our secure online membership form.

Challenging Issues in the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts By Paul A. Molina

On April 6, 2016, the **NYWBA Matrimonial and Family Law Committee** was honored to host the **Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan**, the **Hon. Tandra L. Dawson**, and Justice Dawson's Principal Court Attorney, **Linda M. Capitti**, to discuss "**Challenging Issues in the Integrated Domestic Violence ("IDV") Courts.**"

Prior to their presentation, the **Honorable Michael L. Katz**, and his Principal Court Attorney, **Jessica Cygler Wagner**, were introduced by Justice Kaplan as the newest additions to the New York County Matrimonial Division and presented their part rules.

Justice Kaplan, the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence Cases, began the discussion by calling the IDV Court "the underappreciated jewel of the Court System." Justice Kaplan then provided an overview and history of the IDV Courts in New York State, noting that the purpose of creating the IDV Courts was to provide consistency and familiarity to families affected by domestic violence who were forced to navigate a complex court structure. Justice Kaplan further clarified that, where a single judge presides over multiple cases involving a family, that judge is in a better position to respond to their unique needs. Finally, Justice Kaplan detailed the extensive specialized training that is offered to IDV judges and their staff. Attendees were referred to the Office of the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence Cases homepage (nycourts.gov/courts/family-violence) which offers a trove of resources including forms and petitions, publications of interest, and links to various family violence stakeholders and policy initiatives.

Next, Justice Dawson provided members with a history and overview of the New York County IDV Court where she currently presides. Justice Dawson provided a guide on how to flag a case for consideration for assignment to the IDV Court, what clients and attorneys can expect when they appear before Justice Dawson, the timing of Justice Dawson's various calendar calls, which cases receive priority in her courtroom, whether an action can get removed from the IDV Court, as well as practical tips to consider when representing clients on either side of an action before the IDV Court. Justice Dawson concluded her presentation with a discussion of the monthly stakeholder meetings hosted by the IDV Court, and presented some revealing statistics, noting that in just three years, the number of families appearing before her in the IDV Court has more than doubled.

Finally, Ms. Capitti provided members with a helpful guide to family offense petitions and relevant case law. Ms. Capitti emphasized that family offenses are specific offenses as defined in the Penal Law, that must be adequately pled and proven before an Order of Protection will be granted. Ms. Capitti also reminded members that, as the IDV Court is a hybrid civil and criminal court, practicing attorneys must remember the differing legal thresholds that must be met to prevail in the different components of their cases. To close, Ms. Capitti reminded members that clients who appear in IDV Courts are dealing with domestic abuse, both as victims and as perpetrators facing prosecution, and therefore may be less open to dialog than the average client seeking a divorce. To close out the program, the panel took questions, ranging from how to get involved in stakeholder meetings to how to make appropriate referrals for therapeutic intervention programs throughout New York City, and presented the various options that practitioners face when appearing in court on a family offense petition signed by the client before they were retained.

Paul A. Molina is an associate at Virginia A. LoPreto, LLC, and is co-chair of the Matrimonial and Family Law Committee for the NYWBA. His practice focuses on matrimonial and family law.

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