



# NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Women's March Madness #TimesUp

MARCH 2018



Myra L. Freed

"I remain an advocate of the Equal Rights Amendment, I will tell you, for this reason: because I have a daughter and a granddaughter, and I would like the legislature of this country and of all the states to stand up and say, 'We know what that history was in the 19th century, and we want to make a clarion call that women and men are equal before the law, just as every modern human rights document in the world does since 1970.'" — **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** at her 1993 Senate confirmation hearings

As I write this message, we have just finished our annual membership drive, and I am very pleased to report that we have not just met, but exceeded our goal. Our Association membership is up over last year's. This is particularly rewarding as so many bar associations have reported a decline in their membership. I thank our dedicated Membership Committee Chairs, **Deborah G. Rosenthal** and **Michael W. Appelbaum**, for all their hard work and leadership; I thank our wonderful Executive Director, **Karen Lu**, and all our Membership Committee members and volunteers for their tireless work. And I thank all of you.

I would like to personally welcome all our new members to our Association. I hope you will find your membership in the NYWBA to be one of the most rewarding, enjoyable and meaningful parts of your legal career. To make the most of your membership, please join a committee, attend our events, share your knowledge, expertise and ideas, meet new friends or find a mentor. I also

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### Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events

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- 3/6 – **CLE: My Client Spoke with ACS. . . Now What?** – pp. 3, 7
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    - 4/12 – Meet & Mingle – pp. 3, 5
  - 4/17 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
  - 4/19 – **CLE: When A Civil Enforcement Action Turns Criminal** – pp. 3, 7
    - 4/23 – Legislation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 4/26 – **Annual Membership Meeting, Elections, CLE** – p. 1

Check [www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org) for more Meetings, Programs & Events.

## NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting, Elections and Ethics CLE Program

*Please join us at the Annual Meeting.*

Mingle with members, get updates on the Association and vote on the NYWBA and WBASNY Officers, Directors and Delegates for next year. This is one of the highlights of our year, and we hope that you will join in the festivities!

Following the Annual Meeting, a panel of distinguished ethics attorneys will present an ethics CLE program.

### *Lights! Camera! Ethics! Why your favorite movie lawyers may need an ethics lawyer!*

**Date:** Thursday, April 26, 2018

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – Registration & Networking  
6:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting & Elections  
6:30-8:00 p.m. – Ethics CLE Program

**Place:** **Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC**  
488 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor, NYC  
(btwn. 51/52nd Streets)

**Cost:** Meeting and/or CLE: Complimentary for members  
Meeting (only): Complimentary for non-members  
CLE Program\* – \$50 for non-members & Guests\*\*

**Info:** Email [EthicsRSVP@nywba.org](mailto:EthicsRSVP@nywba.org)

**RSVP:** To RSVP go to <http://bit.ly/2oFITEA>

*Light refreshments will be served.*

*NYWBA thanks Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC for hosting.*

\* CLE credit pending: The New York Women's Bar Association is an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.

\*\* Free NYWBA members; \$50 non-member: Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For info on the guidelines and to apply, contact CLE Co-Chairs Amy B. Goldsmith, Elizabeth Shampnoi or Ariel Chesler at [cle@nywba.org](mailto:cle@nywba.org) or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

*President's Message (Continued from Page 1)*

welcome back all our returning, renewing and former members. We appreciate your contributions, loyalty, and support. We now proudly remain the largest chapter in the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, a 19-chapter organization, which we help to make the second largest Bar Association in the state.

This status gives us a seat at the table. Our opinions and ideas are sought after by legislators, politicians, and numerous powerful people and organizations. We use our influence to continue our mission, and continue the fight for equality and justice for all.

By time you read this newsletter, we will have just celebrated one of my favorite NYWBA events, our **Annual Judicial Reception**, on February 27th, honoring the newly-appointed and -elected members of the Judiciary of New York County. I know this will be a proud and meaningful evening for all, particularly as we will be joined by one of the largest and most diverse group of honorees to date. I thank our Reception Chairs, **Jennifer P. Brown** and **Magnolia D. Levy** and our Executive Director, Karen Lu and her volunteers for all their hard work. And I thank all our event sponsors, who help make this such a special evening for all. I look forward to the honor of welcoming everyone as NYWBA President.

You can always count on Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a great quote to help kick off Women's History Month. In many ways, it feels like the best of times and the worst of times. We all just marched in the second Women's March. **#MeToo** is now **#TimesUp**, more and more women are seeking public office on every level, and women with money and power are joining forces to help support, protect and give a voice to those without one. All over, women are standing up to the unjust, the powerful, and the criminal. And yet, the rights we have fought for, expect and earned are never more threatened. As RBG said, it is the ERA we need at long last. Without it, how much will really change?

The NYWBA has long been part of this fight and we will always be part of this fight. That is why we continue to build a strong and vital organization. That is why we both treasure our long time members and continually seek out the next generation of members and leaders. We are proud of every accomplishment of our members, be it on our board or on the bench, in government or public service, to a partnership seat or to opening a solo office of their own. We need you all.

I recently had the privilege of attending a talk by **President Barack Obama**. He reminded us of a favorite quote of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, that, "the moral arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice." To paraphrase President Obama, "that 'bend towards justice' doesn't happen on its own or by accident, it is because of the hard work, sacrifice and effort of so many and it is the privilege, duty and joy of each of us to help make it happen". To me, that is our job as human beings, that is our job as citizens, and that is what we try to do in the NYWBA every day.

In thinking of Women's History Month, I think of all the women who have inspired me, from my very independent, immigrant grandmother **Esther Rose Freed**, to my childhood neighbor, **Judge Jane Bolin**, the first woman lawyer and judge I ever met and the first African American woman judge in this country, and **Prof. Mary Lea Meyerson**, my Women's Studies Professor at City College. I think of all the welcoming and engaging NYWBA Matrimonial Law Committee Chairs I met as a new committee member, including **Harriet Newman Cohen**, **Adria S. Hillman** and **Sandra W. Jacobson**. Sandy then mentored me to become a committee chair. I think of the brilliant and gracious role models like **Myrna Felder**, who was always available to answer the legal questions of young NYWBA colleagues no matter how busy she was. I also think of all the wonderful presidents I served under, and who continue to offer me advice and friendship. And I think of the **Hon. Judith S. Kaye**, the **Hon.**

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**NYWBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

At its December 6, 2017 meeting, the *NYWBA Committee on Nominations* nominated the following candidates to serve for the positions and terms stated below. The elections will be held at the Association's Annual Membership Meeting on April 26, 2018. *(See meeting notice, page 1.)*

**OFFICERS (2018-2019)**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| President:               | Virginia A. LoPreto                                       |
| Vice Presidents:         | Amanda B. Norejko<br>Amy B. Goldsmith<br>Magnolia D. Levy |
| Treasurer:               | Jocelyn L. Jacobson                                       |
| Recording Secretary:     | Sabrina E. Morrissey                                      |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Dawn M. Cardi   |
| Proposed: Immediate      |   |
| Past President:          | Myra L. Freed, Proposed                                   |

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Directors to be Installed – Class of 2018-2021**

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Yacine Barry-Wun      | Julie Hyman  |
| Leona Beane           | Kay Marmorek |
| Melissa Ephron-Mandel | Nidhi Shetye |
| Catherine M. Foti     |              |

**Directors to be Installed (filling vacancies for unexpired terms)**

**Class of 2016-2019:** Meaghan E. Carey

**Class of 2017-2020:** Jennifer P. Brown & Fran R. Hoffinger

**Directors Continuing in Office**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Michael W. Appelbaum      | Susan M. Moss           |
| Hon. Laura E. Drager      | Morgan Fraser Mouchette |
| Felice B. Ekelman         | Deborah G. Rosenthal    |
| Hon. Judith J. Gische     | Francesca A. Sabbatino  |
| Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler | Andrea Vacca            |
| Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy   |                         |

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS - Class of 2018-2020**

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Yacine Barry-Wun   | Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy |
| Patricia Ann Grant | Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff   |

**NYWBA DELEGATE NOMINEES TO WBASNY BOARD (2018-2019)**

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yacine Barry-Wun            | Myra L. Freed                 |
| Jennifer P. Brown           | Julie Hyman                   |
| Elizabeth A. Bryson         | Marjorie A. Martin            |
| Dawn M. Cardi               | Deborah G. Rosenthal          |
| Jo Ann Douglas              | Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann |
| Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin | Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff         |

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.

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS – ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

The NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting will be held on April 26, 2018 at Frankfurt Kurmit Klein & Selz PC, 488 Madison Avenue, NYC 10022, when the President & Treasurer will present reports on the state of the NYWBA and its finances, and the Association will hold elections for Officer, Director and Delegate positions. (See p. 2 for the NYWBA Nominations Committee Report, which includes a list of all open positions, terms of office and nominees, as well as a list of Directors continuing in office.)

Article XIV, Section 1 of the By-Laws provides that only members who are in good standing and whose membership dues were received by **January 31st** may vote at the Annual Meeting. If you have not yet renewed your dues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, please do so now!

Article XVII, Section 10 of the By-Laws provides that any fifty members eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting may, by a writing delivered to the Corresponding Secretary not less than *forty days* prior to the Annual Meeting, propose candidates for officer or director positions to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Such petition must be received by no later than **March 15, 2018** and must be addressed to Corresponding Secretary **Dawn M. Cardi**, New York Women's Bar Association, The Chrysler Building, 132 East 43rd Street, # 716, New York, New York 10017-4019.

Immediately after the elections, NYWBA will present an **Ethics CLE Program** (See notice, page 1).

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

With their generous contributions, our sustaining members make it possible for us to accomplish so much more. We honor and thank them for their support.

Casey Greenfield  
Corey M. Shapiro  
Julie B. Wlodinguer

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monique Allen     | Elizabeth Ragavanis            |
| Michelle Fox      | Francheska L. Reichard-Labault |
| Gloria Kim        | Sarah N. Rodman                |
| Lindsay Korn      | Brooke M. Martin               |
| Benjamin D. Moore | Genan Zilkha                   |
| Erika L. Muse     |                                |

as of 02/20/2018

## NOTES ON MEMBERS

Congratulations to our President, **Myra L. Freed**, on her receipt of the 2018 Outstanding Women in Law award, to be presented on April 24.

Congratulations to member **Alexis L. Cirel** on her partnership at Mayerson Abramowitz & Kahn.

Has something noteworthy happened to you or another member? Send your news to [Newsletter@nywba.org](mailto:Newsletter@nywba.org).

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

**Children's Rights Committee** will host a **CLE: Raise the Age!** on **March 14** from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the New York County Family Court, 10th Floor Library. For info and to RSVP, email [ChildrensRights@nywba.org](mailto:ChildrensRights@nywba.org). See notice p. 5.

**Civil Courts Committee** will host a **CLE** on **March 22** entitled: **"Bankruptcy and Your Civil Court Litigation – Part 2: The Automatic Stay: Common Issues and Recent Developments"** from 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. The Committee's *Express Lunch Series* will continue on **April 10** at 1:00 p.m. All meetings will take place at 111 Centre Street, 8th Floor boardroom (entrance at White Street only), NYC. Email [CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org](mailto:CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org) for more information or to RSVP. See notice p. 7.

**Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession** will host two **"Meet & Mingle"** Events from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on **March 21** and **April 21**. The March 21 event will take place at Crowell & Moring, 590 Madison Ave., 22nd Fl., and the April 12 event will take place at Greenspoon Marder, LLP, 590 Madison Ave, Suite 1800. The events are free for NYWBA Members. Email [AdvanceStatus@nywba.org](mailto:AdvanceStatus@nywba.org) for more information. See notice p. 5.

**Criminal Law Committee** will meet **March 13** at 6:15 p.m. at the offices of NY County Defender Services, 100 William Street, 20th Fl., NYC. Please note change of location for this meeting only. The Committee will also meet **April 17** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th Street, 16th Fl., NYC. For info and to RSVP email [CrimLawChairs@nywba.org](mailto:CrimLawChairs@nywba.org).

**Diversity Committee** will host a teleconference meeting on **March 6** at 6:15 p.m. To RSVP and for dial in information, email [DiversityChairs@nywba.org](mailto:DiversityChairs@nywba.org).

**Federal Practice** and **Criminal Law Committees** present a **CLE: "When A Civil Enforcement Action Turns Criminal"** on **April 19** at 6:00 p.m. at Crowell & Moring LLP, 590 Madison Avenue, 20th Fl., NYC. 1.5 CLE Credits. Free for Members, \$35 for Non-Members. Email [FederalPractice@nywba.org](mailto:FederalPractice@nywba.org) to RSVP or for more info. See notice p. 7.

**Legislation Committee** will host its monthly meetings on **March 19** and **April 23** at 6:15 p.m. at Cardi & Edgar LLP, 99 Madison Ave., 8th Fl., NYC. For conference call info or to RSVP contact Joseph Caputo by the 15th of the month at 212-481-7770 or [jcaputo@cardiedgarlaw.com](mailto:jcaputo@cardiedgarlaw.com).

**Matrimonial & Family Law Committee** presents a **CLE: "My Client Spoke with ACS...Now What Do I Do?"** on **March 6** at 6:00 p.m. at 99 Madison Ave., 8th Fl., NYC. Free for members, \$50 for non-members, 2 Professional Practice Credits. See notice p. 7.

**Program & Events Committee** will host a shopping event on **March 28** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at **AYSHA Studio**, 109 W 38th Street, Suite 301 (btwn Sixth and Broadway), NYC. Free for members and non-members. RSVP [events@nywba.org](mailto:events@nywba.org). See notice p. 7.

## Celebrating Women's History Month

I was elected to the one-year term as president of the NYWBA in 1985, and I served from 1985–1986. As a matrimonial lawyer, I had been intimately involved, at the end of the 1970s and into the early 1980s, with the negotiations for and the enactment of the reforms in matrimonial law, known as the "Equitable Distribution Law." The new law brought relief to women (and children). Under the old law, women were not recognized as the important partners to their husbands that they were. Rather, they were held down in an inferior position, not unlike children, with respect to the finances of the marriage. With the advent of the Equitable Distribution Law in 1980, title no longer controlled, and factors were listed which acknowledged that the unremunerated work on the home front was equally valuable to the breadwinner's work in the paid work force. In particular, women's "contributions" to their husband's, and women's sacrifices of their own careers to promote their husbands' careers and to tend to the household and the children became valued and warranted a price tag. In addition, women against whom fault grounds, such as adultery, had been alleged were no longer automatically disentitled from spousal support if there was a finding of fault, as they had been under the old law. We also fought for higher levels of child support, arguing that children should not be left with the "crumbs" after divorce.

I served on Governor Mario M. Cuomo's prestigious Child Support Guidelines Committee under the leaders of his Women's Division, including Ronnie M. Eldridge, Judith Avner and Carol H. Lefcourt. With their leadership, New York State became the best state for child support: Our guidelines were the highest, the best and lasted the longest (until age 21). Our very active Matrimonial Committee, which I chaired prior to being elected President of the NYWBA, prepared memos and sent our members to present scholarly and impassioned testimony at the public hearings which were being held on a regular basis as the laws were evolving. Our voice was heard and heeded. Our presenters were known as the defenders of women and children. The Governor, the Legislature and the Judges read our materials, listened to our testimony and incorporated our scholarship and conclusions into their executive orders, legislation and judicial decisions.

I particularly want to remember the strength, wisdom and support of **Carol H. Lefcourt**, a prominent New York City lawyer and women's rights advocate, who worked closely with me and was a strong supporter of my presidency. Carol drafted much of New York's landmark child-support legislation. Carol was the overall editor of the important treatise, "Women and the Law" (Clark-Boardman, 1984), which was cited by the Association of American Publishers as the best law book of that year. Tragically, in 1991 when she was 47, Carol was stricken by an aggressive and merciless medial breast cancer which took her life.

I also worked very closely with **Adria S. Hillman**, co-authoring numerous scholarly articles, starting in 1984 with our analysis of 70 select cases under the Equitable Distribution Law from 1981-1984, a work which was cited in the early years of the Equitable Distribution Law by all three branches of the government.

I was proud when 25 years later, my law partner, **Gretchen Beall Schumann**, was elected to the presidency of the NYWBA in 2010, carrying on the proud tradition of leadership of the NYWBA. In 2015, she became the president of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, a position she holds with distinction.

I continue to honor and respect the NYWBA and the work we do on behalf of the rights of women and children.

– **Harriet Newman Cohen**

I served as President for a brief time in 1982. Just after my induction, the Democratic Party selected me to be its candidate for Civil Court in Manhattan. Because I could not present NYWBA's positions on any political issues, I stepped down and president-elect **Martha E. Gifford** stepped up.

But that was just a small part of my participation in NYWBA and the then-newly-formed WBASNY.

We formed a legal referral service for women and a committee to expand child care opportunities, and helped expand our work with other bar associations on issues of importance to us such as a fairer divorce law with required interim support and more equality in distribution of assets. We noticed the paucity of women on the bench and organized a program to educate about the practicalities and to meet the decision makers.

As with all NYWBA projects, the "we" is inclusive and refers to the wonderful NYWBA members who worked together and became friends for life. Through those years I received more support from NYWBA than the time and effort I contributed to it.

– **Hon. Karla M. Moskowitz**

### *Greetings from Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, Past President 2006-2007.*

In honor of Women's History Month, honor our foremothers by helping the next generation. I want to thank Rhonda DeMeo Shilling, who taught me reporting skills on one of my first jobs. I could never repay her generosity but I can and I do emulate her. One of the Women's Bar's most important functions is mentoring. You don't have to be a member of one of our famous mentoring circles to be a mentor. I urge all of you to help another woman this year to learn a skill, avoid a pitfall, or make a better career choice.

**Christina Kallas** was President of NYWBA in 2005 - 2006, having served for many years before on the Board, as an Officer, and as a Co-Chair of the Technology and ADR Committees. She served WBAS-NY as Co-chair of the International Women's Rights Committee. She has served on the Board of our Foundation since 2005.

One woman who inspired me was my maternal grandmother. She came to the US in 1912 as a nineteen-year-old, from a small village in the Peloponnese, Greece, about an hour outside Sparta. Her father thought it was a waste of time to send a girl to school, so she was prevailed upon to enter into an arranged marriage with my grandfather, who was from the next village over. She met him for the first time on the day before their wedding, having just arrived in this country, and gave birth to her first child exactly nine months to the day after her wedding. She spoke no English when she arrived in the States, yet managed to raise five children here in NYC. She made all her sons' suits, gave a sumptuous repast each year in honor of her husband's Name Day, and stretched the food budget during the Great Depression so that no one in her family went hungry. She went to school at the age of 65, and learned to read and write English. She survived long enough to see me graduate from the 6th grade as valedictorian. Knowing how precious an education was to her, it was a very special day. The education that she was unable to obtain is a cherished gift for me. I am proud that I have been able to help to provide education to women, in part through our NYWBA continuing education programs and our NYWBA Foundation grants.

## Scandalous Secrets of the Metropolitan Museum By Christine Carballo

On a brisk November Saturday morning, NYWBA members and their guests met in the lobby of the Metropolitan Museum, excited to begin the “**Scandalous Secrets of the Metropolitan Museum**” tour sponsored by the **NYWBA Events Committee**. Our tour guide was the charming **Professor Andrew Lear**, founder of **Shady Ladies Tours**. He led us on a journey through works of art having a scandalous backstory that often is unknown by the general public. Professor Lear’s tour was filled with humor and insight. One of the highlights of the tour was the infamous portrait of **Madame X** by John Singer Sargent. The portrait of the beautiful, and somewhat notorious, American born wife of French banker Pierre Gautreau is now considered an iconic work. However, it scandalized viewers when it was exhibited in the Paris Salon of 1884, causing considerable damage in the short-term to Sargent’s reputation, as well as to the reputation of Mme. Gautreau, whose identity was apparent to all despite the “Madame X” title. The group discussed how a simple slipped strap (in the original version of the work) or a woman’s bare shoulder scandalized society at the time. Professor Lear skillfully led the group, a nice mix of art connoisseurs and first time museum visitors, and everyone had a great time. At the conclusion of the tour, some members of the group headed off for lunch, to continue the discussion while enjoying a delicious Italian meal. The Events Committee is planning to sponsor another such tour in the near future!

*Christine Carballo is a member of the Events Committee. Christine is an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the New York City Law Department, Workers' Compensation Division. She is a 2014 New York Law School alumna.*

### Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession "Meet & Mingle"

Speakers:

**Kathleen C. Waterman,**

*Principal Law Clerk, NY Supreme Court*

**Sarah Gilbert,**

*Partner, Crowell & Moring*

**Date:** **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

**Time:** 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** **Crowell & Moring**

590 Madison Ave., 22nd Floor, NYC

**Cost:** **FREE**

**Info:** Email [AdvanceStatus@nywba.org](mailto:AdvanceStatus@nywba.org)

**RSVP:** Go to <http://bit.ly/2FcekSw>

*Space is limited to the first 30 people who sign up.  
Beverages and light snacks will be served.*

## The NYWBA thanks the following Sponsors of the 2018 Annual Judicial Reception

### Platinum

*Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
Bender & Rosenthal LLP  
Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubowitz, Bloom,  
Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf  
Julie Hyman, Esq.  
Mayerson Abramowitz & Kahn LLP*

### Gold

*Berke-Weiss Law PLLC  
Denise Kranz, Esq.*

### Silver

*Ackerman LLP  
Ephron-Mandel & Howard LLP  
Myra L. Freed, Esq.*

### Friend

*Hon. James G. Clynes  
Martha E. Gifford, Esq.*

## NYWBA Children's Rights Committee presents a CLE Program:

### Raise the Age!

Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

NY County Family Court  
10th Floor Library

For more info, email [ChildrensRights@nywba.org](mailto:ChildrensRights@nywba.org).

**WBASNY 2018  
Convention**

**MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2018**  
THE OTESAGA RESORT HOTEL  
60 Lake St, Cooperstown, New York 13326

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

*President's Message (Continued from Page 2)*

**Sheila Abdus-Salaam** and the **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin**, each of whom is a role model and graced so many of our events. Judge Ellerin remains a vital and active advocate for equality and a beloved mentor to so many colleagues.

The NYWBA has a wonderful history of extraordinary founders and leaders who contributed so much to our Association, to the practice of law and to our City. As such, I have asked our Advisory Council members, who include past presidents and longtime board members, to share what and who have inspired them for Women's History Month. I am delighted to share some of their messages in this issue.

It should not be taken lightly that Women's History Month follows Black History Month. After all, many early Women's Rights activists got their experience, voice and inspiration as Abolitionists or Civil Rights Activists. We would also be remiss to ignore the intrinsic relationship between the fight for equal treatment based on gender, the plurality of gender expression, and the fight against racism. We have a long way to go in making sure our fight for women's rights is intersectional, and by that I mean, leaving no voice behind in acquiring our place in legal power. As **Audre Lorde** once said, "What woman here is so enamored of her own oppression that she cannot see the heel print upon another woman's face?" I urge you all to think about the influence we have as lawyers and to be fearless in the face of injustice, and make sure that we are uplifting all those around us. We should not stand for women (or anyone for that matter) who receive accolades in their professional career and don't truly use that platform to help those in need.

With this in mind, more and more it is our young members and friends who inspire me, with their energy, passion for the law, their impatience for change, who remind us that we need to lift each other up so we can all rise together.

There is one more person I think of and thank on this Women's History Month: my daughter, **Emma**, for always inspiring me, challenging me, always asking the right questions, sharing important words, and always refusing to accept injustice.

So let's all get woke and fight on, together.

*Myra*

There are two women, both of whom have been active in the Women's Bar for more years than I can remember, who have inspired me. The first was Joan Ellenbogen, a founder of WBASNY and a truly great lawyer. She inspired me to be a judge in a matrimonial part and her continued enthusiasm for the law as it developed kept renewing my interest and still-abiding love for the field. The second woman is Myrna Felder. Myrna's abilities as both an appellate lawyer and a practicing lawyer continue to give me pride in her accomplishments and were always a pleasure to behold when I sat as a Justice. Despite being physically challenged Myrna continues to practice law and continues to attend many bar associations' functions. Her resilience is an inspiration to me and should be to all of us.

– **Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, Past President 2012-2014**

**Reflections by Kathleen Wahl,  
New York Women's Bar Association  
Foundation Fellow at Safe Horizon**

Last summer, I served as the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation Fellow with **Safe Horizon's** Domestic Violence Law Project. Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of domestic crime and abuse, along with their families and communities. The Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project provides legal assistance in custody, visitation, divorce, child support, and family offense proceedings in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, and Staten Island family courts. Before law school, I worked in a client-centered organization, and I missed that type of work. My goal at Safe Horizon was to resume my focus on individual clients, specifically to learn how to engage meaningfully and empathetically with women and children who had survived trauma and were navigating the New York City Family Court system.

Through my fellowship, I represented clients on the record in the family courts of all five New York City boroughs. I regularly conducted client interviews, participated in safety planning, and explained court processes. I provided legal information and conducted intake interviews through Safe Horizon's legal assistance help line. I also had the opportunity to prepare uncontested divorce documents, research and draft petitions, motions, memoranda of law, direct and cross examinations, closing statements and settlements, and engage in trial preparation including preparing witnesses for testimony and in custody, child support, divorce, and family offense proceedings. I learned about the intersection between family and immigration law and the legal processes for divorce, child support, custody, and family offense cases. I also had many opportunities to help strategize for particular cases and to observe appearances and trials in family courts. In all of these activities, the training and supervision that staff attorneys provided me were invaluable.

While advocating for clients at Safe Horizon, I learned about the unique burden that a family court process places on parents and families. Clients told me about feeling re-traumatized when having to speak about their personal and familial relationships in court and in having family court judges and the Administration for Children's Services case workers analyze and opine on the most intimate parts of their lives. It was a privilege to help domestic violence survivors navigate the deeply challenging legal issues in their lives and achieve some degree of empowerment.

I would like to thank the NYWBA Foundation for the opportunity to work with the Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project. What I learned about the special challenges that families face in family court proceedings has inspired me to delve deeper into family law by defending parents through The Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice for my upcoming summer internship.

*Kathleen Wahl is a 2L at The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.*



*NYWBA's Matrimonial & Family Law Committee  
present a CLE Program:*

***My Client Spoke with ACS... Now What Do I Do?***

*Speakers:*

**Barry Abbott, Esq.**, Mayerson Abramowitz & Kahn LLP  
**Cynthia Lopez, Esq.**, Supervising Attorney for  
Manhattan Family Court Legal Services NYC ACS

**Date:** *Tuesday, March 6, 2018*, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** 99 Madison Avenue, 8th Fl., NYC

**CLE:** 2.0 Professional Practice\*

**Cost:** Free – NYWBA Members\*\*  
\$50 - Non-members

**Info:** Email [MFChairs@nywba.org](mailto:MFChairs@nywba.org)

**RSVP:** <http://bit.ly/2olmQEF>

*Space is limited to the first 40 people to sign up.*

*Beverages and light snacks will be served.*

*\*CLE Credits 2.0 Professional Practice: NYWBA is an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.*

*\*\* Free NYWBA members, \$50, non-member: Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For info on the guidelines and to apply, contact CLE Co- Chairs Amy B. Goldsmith or Ariel Chesler at [cle@nywba.org](mailto:cle@nywba.org) or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.*

*NYWBA Criminal Law and Federal Practice Committees  
Present a CLE Program:*

***When A Civil Enforcement Action  
Turns Criminal***

*Speakers:*

**Rebecca Monck Ricigliano** and **Arlen Pyenson**  
*Crowell & Moring LLP*

**Staci Yablon** and **Cristina Isabel Calvar**,  
*Winston & Strawn LLP*

**Date:** *Thursday, April 19, 2018*, 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** **Crowell & Moring LLP**  
590 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor, NYC

**CLE:** *Credits 1.5\**

**Cost:** Free – NYWBA Members\*\*  
\$35 - Non-members

**RSVP:** Email [FederalPractice@nywba.org](mailto:FederalPractice@nywba.org)

**Info:** Email [FederalPractice@nywba.org](mailto:FederalPractice@nywba.org)

*\* 1.5 CLE credits (Professional Practice Pending): The NYWBA is an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.*

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***How to Build a Wardrobe that Suits Your  
Figure And Your Lifestyle***

Join the NYWBA Events Committee for a presentation with two fashion industry experts, **Aysha Saeed & Tania Sterl**. Combined they have over 30 years of experience in dressing some of the most prominent women in business.

You will learn:

- Which silhouette works best for your shape
- Colors that give a slenderizing look and feel
- Fabrics that allow you to move comfortably as you go about your day
- Selecting styles that hide your problem areas
- Easy ways to alter garments to fit your shape and give you a customized look

*Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited.*

**Date:** *Wednesday, March 28, 2018*, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Place:** **AYSHA Studio**, 109 W 38th St, Suite 301, NYC  
(between Sixth and Broadway)

**Cost:** *Free* for NYWBA members and non-members

**RSVP:** Email [events@nywba.org](mailto:events@nywba.org)

***NYWBA Civil Courts Committee***

*presents*

***A Civil Court Express Lunchtime Series Event***

***Bankruptcy and Your  
Civil Court Litigation – Part 2***

***The Automatic Stay: Common Issues  
and Recent Developments***

*Speakers:*

**Dana P. Kane, Esq. & Kristin S. Elliot, Esq.**

**Date:** *Thursday, March 22, 2018*, 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

**Place:** **NY County Civil Court**  
111 Centre Street, 8th floor boardroom  
(entrance at White Street only)

**CLE:** 1 Professional Practice Credit (Pending)\*

**Cost:** *No Charge* \*\*

**RSVP:** Email [civilcourtchairs@nywba.org](mailto:civilcourtchairs@nywba.org)

**Info:** *Space is limited & RSVP is required.*

*\* 1 CLE credit (Professional Practice Pending): The NYWBA is an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.*

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

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# NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

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