



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MAY 2017

It is bittersweet that this is my final President's message. Being the President of this esteemed organization has been a wonderful experience that I will miss; yet, I know that the NYWBA is in good hands with my successor, **Myra L. Freed**. I am looking forward to her presidency.



Deborah G. Rosenthal

In my installation message, I highlighted two goals for this year: (1) to create an annual CLE highlighting human trafficking; and (2) to increase membership.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of our Recording Secretary, **Amanda B. Norejko**, we had a fabulous, well-attended CLE program on human trafficking in January. Myra has asked me to spearhead the effort next year to assure that my goal of an annual program on human trafficking can be realized. I look forward to working with Amanda on another program on human trafficking next year.

The final membership numbers are not yet in for the year, so I do not know if we achieved record membership. We retained our delegates to the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, where we continue to be the largest of the State's 19 Chapters. I have agreed to co-chair the Membership Committee next year, and I hope that the NYWBA will be able secure another WBASNY delegate at that time.

This year was the first full year that the NYWBA was an accredited continuing legal education provider. I am proud to report that the NYWBA sponsored 12 continuing legal education programs so far during my term and that we have provided over 750 hours of free CLE to our members. In addition to several programs that addressed reproductive rights, we sponsored CLE programs on cybersecurity, the ethics of political engagement, alternative dispute resolu-

(Continued on Page 2)

Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 5/2 – Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/8 – Int'l Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/10 – Comm. to Advance Status Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/16 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/16 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/17 – *The Book of Mormon* – p. 4
 - 5/18-21 – **WBASNY Convention 2017** – p. 2
 - 5/20 – Historical Walking Tour – p. 3
- 5/24 – CLE: Appellate Practice for Matrimonial Attorneys – pp. 2, 3
 - 5/24 – Litigation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 6/6 – Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 6/7 – **NYWBA Annual Awards and Installation Dinner** – p. 1
 - 6/28 – Litigation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3

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

*Please join us to celebrate the
New York Women's Bar Association's*

2017 Annual Awards and Installation Dinner

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

Honorable Janet DiFiore

*Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
and of the State of New York*

*NYWBA's Award of Special Recognition
will be presented to*

Honorable Joan B. Lobis

Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Three Sixty°

Tribeca, New York

Cocktails and Silent Auction at 6:00 p.m.
*Silent Auction to benefit the NYWBA Foundation
and its Grant Programs (including the
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin Fund)*

Dinner and Program at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, go to
<http://www.nywba.org/2017-annual-dinner/>

To place personal ads, tributes and best wishes in the 2017
NYWBA Annual Dinner Journal, go to
<http://www.nywba.org/journal/> **by May 5, 2017**

To Sponsor the 2017 NYWBA Annual Dinner, go to
http://archive.nywba.org/Dinner_Sponsorship/

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

tion, effective communication skills and effective advocacy for lawyers, same sex marriage, among many others. Thank you to Vice President and CLE Committee Co-Chair, **Amy B. Goldsmith**, Committee Co-Chair, **Ariel D. Chesler**, all of the other members of the CLE Committee and the co-chairs of the substantive law committees who made this effort possible.

Several of our members were honored with distinguished awards this year. Among them are: NYWBA Past President **Jo Ann Douglas**, who received the *Kathryn A. MacDonald Award for Excellence in Service to the Family Court*; **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick**, who received the *Ida B. Wells Barnett Justice Award* from the New York County Lawyers Association and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association; **Hon. Saliann Scarpulla**, who received the *Louis J. Capozzoli Gavel Award* from the New York County Lawyers Association; **Hon. Judith J. Gische**, who received the *Benjamin A. Cardozo Award* from the Jewish Lawyers Guild; **Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy**, who received an award from the Brehon Law Society; and **Hon. Fern A. Fisher**, who will be receiving the *Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award* from WBASNY at the Convention on May 19. There is no better testament to the value of this Association than when our members are honored. I hope that as many of you as possible can join us at the Convention so that we may personally congratulate Justice Fisher on receiving this prestigious award. At Convention, we can also thank member **Amy Saltzman** for her service as a WBASNY Officer for the past three years, and we will congratulate past President **Jennifer P. Brown** upon her installation as WBASNY Recording Secretary.

This newsletter would not be possible without the diligent work of **Karen Lu**, our Executive Director, and the Newsletter Co-Chairs, **Jessica Cygler Wagner** and **Alexandra Campbell**. Thank you.

Finally, thank you to the officers of the NYWBA: Vice Presidents: **Amy B. Goldsmith**, **Virginia A. LoPreto** and **Andrea Vacca**; Treasurer, **Jean J. Han**; Recording Secretary, **Amanda B. Norejko**; and Corresponding Secretary, **Magnolia D. Levy**. Your wisdom and dedication to the NYWBA helped to make this year a success. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors, who all contribute so much to the NYWBA.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention and at our Annual Awards and Installation Dinner on June 7 at "Three Sixty" in Tribeca. Those of you who attended the Annual Dinner last year know how special this venue is.

Deborah

SUPPORT THE NYWBA 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 NY and beyond by giving to the Foundation. Please go to <http://nywbaf.org/donate> to make a contribution.

WBASNY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Under WBASNY's By-Laws, President-Elect **Amy Baldwin Littman** (*Rockland Chapter*) will be automatically become WBASNY President for 2017-2018. At its meeting on **March 4, 2017**, **WBASNY's Nominations Committee** nominated the following for the other 2017-2018 WBASNY Officer positions (*Chapter name in parentheses*):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| President-Elect: | Greta K. Kolcon (<i>Rochester</i>) |
| Vice Presidents: | Leyla A. Kiosse (<i>Capital District</i>)
Kelly A. Pressler (<i>Orange-Sullivan</i>)
Lourdes M. Ventura (<i>Queens</i>) |
| Treasurer: | Dawn Reid-Green (<i>Staten Island</i>) |
| Recording Secretary: | Jennifer P. Brown (<i>New York</i>) |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Joy A. Thompson (<i>Brooklyn</i>) |

At the **NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting** on **April 26, 2017**, NYWBA's members voted to ratify the election of the above individuals to the positions lists. Other WBASNY Chapters also voted in April to ratify these candidates, so the election is final. All elected WBASNY Officers will be officially installed at the **WBASNY Convention** on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**.

WBASNY CONVENTION 2017

MAY 18-21, 2017

Water's Edge Resort & Spa

Westbrook, Connecticut

NYWBA Member **Hon. Fern A. Fisher**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, will be presented with the *Hon. Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award*.

NYWBA Past President **Jennifer P. Brown** has been nominated as an Officer for 2017-2018.

Join us in celebrating these honorees. *For more information, go to <https://www.wbasny.org/convention-2017/>*

**NYWBA Matrimonial & Family Law Committee
CLE Program:**

**What Matrimonial Attorneys Need to Know
for Appellate Practice**

featuring speakers:

Hon. Judith J. Gische, Appellate Division, 1st Department
Ariel D. Chesler, Esq., Court Attorney to Presiding Justice
Peter Tom of the Appellate Division, 1st Department

- Date:** *Wednesday, May 24, 2017*, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Place: 156 Fifth Ave., Suite 303, NYC
CLE: 2.0 Professional Practice*
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2oYZzd1>
Info: Email MFChairs@nywba.org

*CLE Credits: (2.0 Professional Practice): 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 or Ariel Chesler at cle@nywba.org or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Civil Courts Committee will host its *Express Lunch Series Program* on **May 16** from 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. at the New York County Civil Courthouse, 111 Centre Street, 12th Fl. Boardroom, NYC (entrance at White Street only). RSVP CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org.

Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession will meet on **May 10** at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD. RSVP AdvanceStatus@nywba.org.

Criminal Law Committee will meet **May 16** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th Street, 16th Floor, NYC. RSVP CrimLawChairs@nywba.org.

Events Committee is hosting a night out on Broadway to see *The Book of Mormon* on **May 17**. This event is sold out. The committee is also hosting a *Historical Walking Tour of the Immigrant, Radical, Notorious Women of Washington Square* on **May 20** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. \$30 for NYWBA members and non-members. For more info and to RSVP email Events@nywba.org. See notices pp. 3,4.

International Women's Rights Committee will meet **May 8** at 6:30 p.m. at Liberty Mutual, One Battery Park Plaza, 29th Fl., NYC. The committee will also meet **June 28** at 6:30 p.m. Location TBD. RSVP IntlChairs@nywba.org.

Litigation Committee will meet **May 24** and **June 28** at 6:30 p.m. Location TBD. RSVP Litigation@nywba.org.

Matrimonial & Family Law Committee present a *CLE: What Matrimonial Attorneys Need to Know for Appellate Practice* on **May 24** from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at 156 Fifth Ave., Suite 303, NYC. Free for members, \$50 for non-members. RSVP <http://bit.ly/2oMvWLP>. See notice p. 2.

Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Committee will meet **May 2** and **June 6** at 6:30 p.m. at Blank Rome, 405 Lexington Ave., NYC. RSVP Reproductiverights@nywba.org.

Paving your Path: Finding Success as a Female Commercial Litigator



Manisha M. Sheth, Esq., Executive Deputy Attorney General for Economic Justice, New York State Attorney General's Office, previously a Partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP; **Jocelyn Jacobson, Esq.**, Partner at Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt; **Lauren J. Wachtler, Esq.**, Partner at Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp LLP and Moderator; **Sarah Gilbert, Esq.**, Partner at Crowell & Moring (l. to r.)

NOTES ON MEMBERS

It is with great sadness that the New York Women's Bar Association mourns the loss of our dear friend, member and supporter, **Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam**. Judge Abdus-Salaam was selected as an Associate Justice of the New York Court of Appeals by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2013, where she was the first African American woman to serve on that Court. She dedicated her life to public service, and will greatly be missed. In 2013, she received the prestigious *Doris S. Hoffman Service Award* from the NYWBA.

Congratulations to **Marcy Einhorn** who was a panelist on the NYSBA Federal and Commercial Litigation Committee's program on "Legal Ethics in the Digital Age," held on March 30, 2017.

Our deepest condolences on the passing of NYWBA Past President **Sandra W. Jacobson**.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Beth Buchanan
Marie DeForest
Jennifer J. Foley
Lora Gleicher
Kristin Keehan

Ksenia Rudyuk
Ashley C. Sawyer
Elyse S. Silverman

as of 4/30/17

Historical Walking Tour of Washington Square

Please join the *NYWBA Events Committee* for a historical walking tour of The Immigrant, Radical, Notorious Women of Washington Square, led by the renowned historian and tour leader, **Joyce Gold**. After the tour, those who are interested will meet for lunch at a place to be determined. Invite a friend (or two) and spend a beautiful spring morning learning about and being inspired by the NYC women who helped make this city what it is!

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Place: Meet at Washington Square Arch
5th Avenue, 1 block south of 8th Street

Cost: \$30/person - Members and non-members

Info: E-mail events@nywba.org

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

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.

“State of the Uterus” CLE Informs on Recent Trends in Reproductive Rights Legislation and Litigation
By Yasmeean Tamoor

On March 28, 2017, *NYWBA’s Reproductive Rights and Women’s Health Committee* held its CLE “State of the Uterus: Reproductive Rights Policy and Activism in the Trump Era.” NYWBA members and others learned about national and local efforts and recent trends to boost—and curtail—reproductive rights.

The first speaker, **Bethany Van Kampen**, a Policy Analyst at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, spoke movingly of the hurdles undocumented women face when attempting to obtain reproductive healthcare and abortion services. Ms. Van Kampen shared a video with the audience highlighting several women in Texas working with the “Nuestro Texas” campaign, a grassroots effort to motivate women in immigrant communities to fight for their right to healthcare in Southern Texas. She also noted that recent abortion-restricting legislation has increasingly been justified by states as efforts to protect “fetal dignity” instead of protecting women’s health.

Next, **Jennifer Keighley**, a Staff Attorney at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, informed the group of efforts in the states and federally to “defund” Planned Parenthood. These efforts included brazen attempts to terminate Medicaid contracts for abortion providers and bar affiliates from receiving Title X funding for no legitimate reason. Ms. Keighley discussed the devastating impact these actions can have on women’s ability to access basic family planning services, and advocacy and litigation victories preventing many of these restrictions from going into effect.

Lastly, **Emily Kadar**, a Government Affairs and Advocacy Manager for the National Institute for Reproductive Health and **Stephanie Demmons**, the Director of Community Organizing for Planned Parenthood of New York City, presented an engaging discussion on the current affairs of New York State government. They covered two current bills of interest to committee members and reproductive rights advocates: *The Reproductive Health Act* and *The Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act*. Emily noted that advocates faced unique issues in getting these bills passed, due to, for example, Democrats in the New York State Senate that tend to caucus with the Republicans and thus prevent passage of some progressive legislation.

Both Ms. Kadar and Ms. Demmons discussed ways for members to get involved in advocating for these crucial reproductive health issues, including joining in on lobby days in Albany and Planned Parenthood’s “Pink Out Day of Activism.” The Reproductive Rights and Women’s Health Committee is thankful for the valuable information shared by these speakers on March 28 and looks forward to continue working with these leaders in the reproductive rights movement.

Yasmeean Tamoor is a member of the Reproductive Rights and Women’s Health Committee. She is currently an Assistant Corporation Counsel at the New York City Law Department, Workers’ Compensation Division.



Bethany Van Kampen



NYWBA members at the Brehon Law Society Dinner on March 22, with Honoree Hon. Kelly O’Neill Levy (third from right)



Book of Mormon – May 17, 2017

The NYWBA Events Committee is heading out for a night on Broadway at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre, to enjoy The Book of Mormon, an evening of Arts, Culture, and Entertainment!

Date: *May 17, 2017, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.*

Place: *Eugene O’Neill Theatre*
230 West 49th Street, NYC
(between Broadway & Eighth Avenue)

Cost: The event is currently sold out.

Info: Email Events@nywba.org

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NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

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NYWBA Membership Information

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 membership benefits - join committees, network, participate in mentoring circles, attend our signature events, and get CLE credits at our innovative and compelling programs at a significantly reduced cost. It's easy to join or renew - go to www.nywba.org/Membership to access our secure online membership form.

Current members should send updated address and contact information to ED@nywba.org. This will help us keep you informed about our programs, events, and other benefits of membership.

Newsletter and Advertising Information

Submissions must be sent to the Newsletter Committee (Chairs **Alexandra Campbell** and **Jessica Cygler Wagner**) by the 10th of the month for publication in the following month's Newsletter. Please submit articles, announcements, upcoming event programming, photos, committee news, member news, and ads to newsletternywba@gmail.com. Submissions should be proofed and cite-checked, and NYWBA retains the usual editorial discretion to omit or edit all contributions. Send an email to newsletternywba@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in joining the Newsletter Committee.

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