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.

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-

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President’s Message (Continued from Page 1)

tation, effective communication skills and effective advocacy for lawyers, same

Several of our members were honored with distinguished awards this year. Among them are: NYWBA Past President Jo Ann Douglas, who received the

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

Finally, thank you to the officers of the NYWBA: Vice Presidents: Amy B. Goldsmith, Virginia A. LoPresto 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://nywbafoundation.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 (Rochester)
Vice Presidents: Leyla A. Kiosse (Capital District) Kelly A. Pressler (Orange-Sullivan)
Treasurer: Lourdes M. Ventura (Queens)
Recording Secretary: Jennifer P. Brown (New York)
Corresponding Secretary: Joy A. Thompson (Brooklyn)

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 listed. 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 212-256-1133. All requests are confidential.
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.)
“State of the Uterus” CLE Informs on Recent Trends in Reproductive Rights Legislation and Litigation
By Yasmean Tamoor


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.

Yasmean 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.

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
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.

NYWBA Membership Information

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