



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2018

"It is unnerving to think how far women have come, only to find ourselves dragged back to the same place." This is a quote from an editorial written by Maureen Dowd and published on September 22, 2018, drawing striking parallels between the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearings 27 years ago and the recent Blasey Ford-Kavanaugh hearings. For those of us who were haunted by the Hill-Thomas hearings back in 1991, 2018 is painfully dysphoric. Many thanks to the only New York bar associations who spoke out in urging an FBI investigation prior to the final Senate Judiciary Committee's initial vote: the **New York State Bar Association** and the **New York City Bar Association**, both of whom joined in the message of the **American Bar Association**. It is my hope that we can avoid being "dragged back to the same place" ever again. This means that our persistence in garnering our power as women lawyers is ever more important!



Virginia A. LoPreto

To that end, the NYWBA is making great strides in reaching out to all women lawyers, developing programs that mentor, coach, and empower us. Since the September newsletter we have 29 new members, once again coming from diverse practice areas. Our Membership Co-Chairs, **Jacqueline I. Meyer** and **Meaghan E. Carey**, have put together a first-time-ever program: **Women Lawyers at the Crossroads: What's Next?** This program, which will be sponsored by our **Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession**, will be held on **November 29, 2018**. It will feature a panel discussion with women lawyers who have successfully leveraged their resources in shaping the trajectory of their careers. (See page 7 for more information.) There are several other programs in the pipeline designed to equip us with the skills, tools, and encouragement essential to women lawyers.

Once again the newsletter features another 5 committee chairs—new leaders and experienced ones, from diverse backgrounds, each of whom has made a commitment to work with us and for us, tackling legal issues, identifying best practices, and furthering networking and perseverance in the white-male-dominated practice of law. We are having our second meeting on November 8, 2018, and I encourage you to reach out to your committee chairs with ideas, concerns and experiences so that we may work together to enhance your NYWBA membership.

On a more sobering note, the New York legal community recently lost two terrific women. **Katharine ("Katie") Law** was a past NYWBA President and long-time active member of NYWBA and WBASNY (see page 5 for more information).

(Continued on Page 2)

UPCOMING FREE CLE PROGRAMS

NYWBA's Elder Law & Disabilities Committee
and Matrimonial and Family Law Committee
presents a CLE Program:

Should I Say "I Do"? Second Marriages: Medicaid Planning and Guardianship Issues

Date: November 7, 2018, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP
1350 Broadway, 12th floor, NYC

CLE: 1.5 Professional Practice Credits

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

Info: E-mail ElderMatCLE@nywba.org

RSVP: <https://www.nywba.org/events/eldermatcle>

NYWBA's ADR and Litigation Committees
and NYSBA's Dispute Resolution and
Commercial-Federal Litigation Sections
present a CLE Program:

ADR Options in Supreme Court, New York County

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Place: 60 Centre Street, Room 300, NYC

CLE: 2 Professional Practice Credits

Cost: Free — NYWBA Members, Court Staff, Members of NYSBA Dispute Resolution Section, Members of NYSBA Commercial-Federal Litigation Section; \$50 - Non-members

RSVP: <https://www.nywba.org/events/3026>

Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 11/7 – **CLE:** *Should I Say "I Do"?* – pp. 1, 3
 - 11/8 – Committee Chair Meeting
- 11/8 – **CLE:** *ADR Options in Supreme Court* – pp. 1, 3
- 11/12 – Documentary Screening - *Matangi/Maya/M.I.A.* – pp. 3, 6
- 11/17 – "Nasty Women of the Metropolitan Museum" – pp. 2, 3
 - 11/22 – Litigation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 11/26 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 11/29 – **CLE:** *Women Lawyers at the Crossroads* – p. 7
 - 12/27 – Litigation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 1/22/19 – **CLE:** *Breaking Through Bias* – p. 2

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

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

Janet Weinberg, the spouse of **Justice Roslyn H. Richter**, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, was a fierce advocate for gay causes and the disabled. Both these trailblazers will be sorely missed.

"It is unnerving to think how far women have come, only to find ourselves dragged back to the same place." Let's work together to make sure that this does not have to be said again!

Virginia

Effective November 1, 2018
the NYWBA mailing address will be:

NYWBA
P. O. Box 1207
New York, New York 10150

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NYWBA's CLE Committee

presents a CLE Program:

***Breaking Through Bias to Achieve
Rainmaking and Leadership Success***

Speakers:

Andrea S. Kramer, Esq.
Alton B. Harris, Esq.

Date: ***Tuesday, January 22, 2019***

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Place: ***American Arbitration Association***
150 East 42nd Street, Floor 17, NYC

CLE: 2 Diversity and Inclusion Credits*

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

Info: If you have any questions, please contact
Amy Goldsmith, Tara Diamond or Elizabeth
Shampnoi at cle@nywba.org.

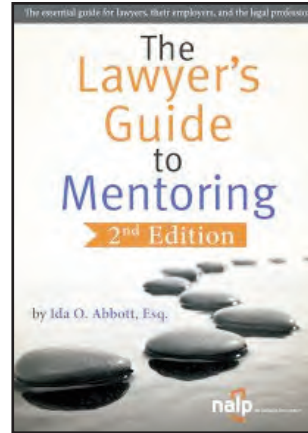
RSVP: *Form will be available online shortly.*

Beverages and Light Snacks Will Be Served

*CLE Credits: 2 Diversity and Inclusion Credits: 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 Tara Diamond at cle@nywba.org or Amy at 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

Ida Abbott's best-selling book, developed in collaboration with the NYWBA Foundation, Inc., is now available in an expanded and revised edition, **"The Lawyer's Guide To Mentoring, 2nd Edition."** This book is a timely update to a NALP bestseller, and a must-have for any law practice. New models of lawyer mentoring have emerged over the past few years, and mentoring today has become more strategic than in the past; this edition offers practical tools for establishing successful mentoring relationships in today's dynamic legal workplace.



The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation is a proud supporter of Ida and her work. To support its mission, the Foundation is making a limited number of copies available for purchase.

Get your book today! To order, please send a check for \$55 per copy, payable to **"The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation"** with **"Abbott Guide"** in the memo, to: NYWBAF, Inc., P.O. Box 2635, New York, NY 10108. Please also indicate where you would like the book(s) to be sent.

Please join the **NYWBA Events Committee**
for a private tour:

***Nasty Women of the
Metropolitan Museum***
November 10, 2018, 10:30 a.m.

A women's history tour led by tour guide Andrew Lear of Shady Ladies Tours, the tour company that "puts the fun back into history and art"

Go to <https://bit.ly/2yCtpri> for more info and to RSVP.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ashland J. Bernard	Olivia Kelly
Cassidy Carlen	Hasa A. Kingo
Cheryl I. Chan	Karin J. Lundell
Alexis C. Childs	Vara Lyons
Diana Diaz	Katherine E. Mayo
Marissa Beth Ellerin-Bossley	Antonia E. Miller
Pokuaa Enin	Valentina M. Morales
Elizabeth Erickson	Selvana Nilaj-Colon
Brittany Esser	Erika L. Omundson
Rosemary Garland-Scott	Erica Rosenbaum
Alexis R. Gruttadauria	Melissa Rutkoske
Anna Rose Hanke	Rodania Saint-Fleur
Marissa A. Hercules	Tamara Salzman
Laura-Michelle Horgan	Elizabeth R. Williams
Lucinda E. James	

as of 10/18/2018

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.

Susan L. Bender
 Laurie Berke-Weiss
 Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin
 Myrna Felder
 Anthony H. Gair
 Adam B. Gilbert
 Adria S. Hillman
 Gary Roy Klein
 Sabrina E. Morrissey
 Ellen R. Werther
 Julie B. Wlodinguer

NOTES ON MEMBERS



Congratulations to **Yacine Barry-Wun** upon her installation as First Vice President of the Network of Bar Leaders. Ms. Barry-Wun introduced the keynote speaker, Attorney General Barbara Underwood, at the Award and Installation Reception on October 11, 2018.

The Women's Bar Association extends its condolences to **Justice Rosalyn Richter**, on the recent passing of her wife, Janet Weinberg. Justice Richter married Ms. Weinberg in 2011, just months after same-sex marriage was legalized in New York State. Janet was a sweet kind woman whose avocation and whose heart was in helping others. She will be greatly missed.

NYWBA is sad to announce the death of Past President **Katie Law**. (See article, p. 5.)

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

COMMITTEE CALENDAR & FREE CLE PROGRAMS

Criminal Law Committee will meet **Nov. 26** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm PLLC, 150 East 58th St., 16th Fl., NYC. RSVP CrimLawChairs@nywba.org.

Alternative Dispute Resolution and **Litigation Committees** together with **NYWBA's Dispute Resolution and Commercial-Federal Litigation Sections** present a **CLE: ADR Options in Supreme Court, New York County** on **Nov. 8** from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at 60 Centre St., Room 300, NYC. 2 Professional Practice Credits. Free for members, \$50 for Non-members. RSVP <https://www.nywba.org/events/3026>. See notice p. 1.

Elder Law and Disabilities and **Matrimonial and Family Law Committees** present a **CLE: Should I Say "I Do?" Second Marriages: Medicaid Planning and Guardianship Issues** on **Nov. 7** from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, 1350 Broadway, 12th Fl., NYC. 1.5 Professional Practice Credits. Free for Members, \$50 for Non-members. RSVP <https://www.nywba.org/events/eldermtcle>. See notice p. 1.

International Women's Rights Committee presents a screening of a new documentary film: **MATANGI/MAYA/M.I.A.** on **Nov. 12** from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Cardozo School of Law, 55 Fifth Avenue, NYC.

Litigation Committee will meet on **Nov. 22** and **Dec. 27** at 6:00 p.m., location TBD. The Committee meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more info and to RSVP email LitigationChairs@nywba.org.

Program & Events Committee will host a private tour, **Nasty Women of the Metropolitan Museum**, on **Nov. 17** at 10:30 a.m. For more info and to RSVP go to <https://bit.ly/2yCtpri>. See notice p. 2.

NYWBA Tee Shirts

Support the NYWBA and look great doing it!



Hon. J. Machel Sweeting

To purchase yours, go to <https://bit.ly/2A60wEe>

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If you have already renewed, THANK YOU! If you haven't, it's time to RENEW your membership for 2018-2019.

Be sure to renew your membership and enjoy all NYWBA benefits, including FREE NYWBA CLE PROGRAMS, networking events and Committee meetings, access to the "Members Only" sections of our website, access to our Newsletters online, and other benefits.

Save paper & mailing costs and expedite your renewal by using our secure online membership form at <http://membership.nywba.org>. You can also email Executive Director Karen Lu (ED@nywba.org) to confirm your member status or request a paper membership form by email.

Pretty Woman is Pretty Fantastic



NYWBA members and guests—a group of smart, strong, funny, fierce, bold, and pretty women—see the hit new Broadway musical “Pretty Woman: The Musical”!

Missing *Pretty Woman* on Broadway Would Be a Big Mistake. On September 20, NYWBA members and their guests took in a performance of “*Pretty Woman*” at the Nederlander Theatre, sponsored by the **NYWBA Events Committee**. The musical is based on the late Garry Marshall’s 1990 film of the same name, which itself was a modern take on Cinderella. Directed by Jerry Mitchell, with a new, original score by Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance, “*Pretty Woman: The Musical*” stars Samantha Barks and Andy Karl, opposite Ezra Knight (VP of SAG-AFTRA and friend of NYWBA Board Member Julie Hyman) who sizzles in his lead role as James Morse.

After the show, the group met the cast in a charity Talk Back benefitting Broadway Care/Equity Fights Aids. Some of our group were even caught singing “I Can’t Go Back,” the show’s anthem of empowerment sung by the lead character, Vivian, who is the unlikely soul mate of the corporate raider Edward. This duo overcome all odds to find each other and themselves.

Another delightful theatre evening!

Litigation Committee Meeting

The **NYWBA Litigation Committee** met on September 27, 2018, and a good time was had by all. About fifteen members congregated at a friendly saloon on East 47th Street. The meeting was designed for fun and socializing. Committee Co-Chair **Sara Crasson** proposed a game of trivia. But being the stuffed-shirt litigators that many of us are (and harboring the fear of losing at the game), we opted for collegial chatting and sharing of experiences.

Under Sara’s skillful guidance, each one of us was pressed to divulge a more personal aspect of our lifestyles outside the practice of law – nothing that cannot be printed, of course. By the end of the session, I could sense a stronger camaraderie among us. Then we ate.

It was a great meeting. Thanks, Sara, and to the members attending.

Hon. Eileen N. Nadelson (Ret.) presided over both civil and criminal trials in NYC. She now teaches in the LL.M. program at Fordham, and is the founder of Judge For Yourself, a mentoring service which prepares attorneys for successful argument at court or negotiating at conference.

Reflections by Emily Ingall, NYWBA Fellow at Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to work as an intern for Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children. My experience was two-fold, as I worked with both the legal department and the compliance team. In the legal department, I was involved with every aspect of the adoption process from start to finish, preparing surrender documents for birth parents, placement documents for adoptive families, and investigation reports for the adoption finalization. I also made many trips to New York Family Court to file Post Adoption Contact Agreements for families in the post-placement phase.

One of the unique and innovative services that Spence-Chapin provides is its post adoption services through their Modern Family Center. These services are available to birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees of all ages. Some of the services include counseling, community events, birth country trips, and personal adoption history narratives. As part of my internship I worked with the Post Adoption Records team to draft personal adoption history narratives for both adoptees and birth families. This was a sizeable project for the legal department, propelled in part by the popularity of the acclaimed new documentary, *Three Identical Strangers*. While writing these narratives I became familiar with New York and New Jersey’s regulations surrounding non-identifying information. Working with the Post Adoption Records team was extremely rewarding, as I was able to provide our clients with previously unknown details of their background and personal history.

Besides my work with the Modern Family Center, I also worked closely with the legal team to prepare for an upcoming annual New York State audit. I organized files from all stages of the adoption process for review and updated the agency’s checklists for each adoption program to ensure that case workers have a complete list of the documentation required from prospective adoptive families and birth families.

My internship also involved compliance, and my tasks in this area centered around ensuring that the agency’s programs and departments adhered to state regulations in New York and New Jersey, while staying in line with our internal mission and goals. To do this, I reviewed and edited consent and release forms for the agency’s programs to ensure correct language and agency compliance. These forms included statements of understanding, waivers of liability, and program applications. I also worked with the international department, updating the application to reflect the agency’s current international adoption programs.

Lastly, I worked with the compliance team to update adoption guidelines for the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) for all 50 states. Shortly before the end of my internship I had the opportunity to prepare an ICPC packet to request state approval for an infant to travel over state lines to its new home.

My internship with Spence-Chapin has solidified my interest in the Adoption field. As a result of this overwhelmingly positive experience I look forward to devoting my professional life to bringing children into the lives of people who will love them. I am honored to have been recognized by the New York Women’s Bar Association Foundation and greatly appreciate their sponsorship.

Emily Ingall is a 2L at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

NYWBA Remembers Past President Katharine S. J. Law (1935-2018)

by Elizabeth A. Bryson



NYWBA Past President **Katharine Law** died peacefully and surrounded by family in California on August 14, 2018. Katie was an extraordinarily skilled attorney, an adventurous spirit, a legendary mentor, and a wonderful friend to so many of us.

After graduating from Radcliffe College, Katie moved to New York City and started her family. At age 40, she entered Fordham University School of Law, receiving her J.D. in 1974. She joined the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, where she tried senior citizen robbery and homicide cases and met **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin**, who quickly became Katie's mentor and friend. Over the years, Katie herself became a mentor to many. Indeed, Supreme Court Justice **Hon. Sonia Sotomayor** refers to Katie as one of her most treasured mentors at the DA's Office, describing her as "passionate about community service [and] infinitely patient with beginners."

After many years at the DA's Office, Katie spent six years in private practice, and then became an Assistant Attorney General for New York State. She concluded her legal career as a Law Clerk, Court Attorney, and Law Guardian in the First Department. Throughout this time, she was very active with bar and charitable groups. After serving as a Committee Chair, a member of the NYWBA Board of Directors, a member of the WBASNY Board, and a NYWBA Officer, Katie was installed as NYWBA President (1990-1991).

An active volunteer throughout her life, she also served as president of the Maternity Center Association, was a founding member of the American Association of Childbearing Centers, and a district commander of the Arizona and Southern California branches of US Power Squadrons, which is an association dedicated to sailing, boating, and water safety issues. As NYWBA Past President **Hon. Jacqueline Silberman** fondly recalled recently, "I met Katie in 1972 as a first-year associate at Skadden. She and her husband, who was a firm partner, invited us all to their club and took us sailing." Katie's command of the sailboat made a huge impression, and they "remained friends for the succeeding decades."

I got to know and be inspired by Katie in the 1990's. She had an extraordinary breadth of legal and practical knowledge and was dedicated to ensuring that all women are heard and play a major part in ensuring fairness, dignity, and justice for all. She was also funny and kind. The outpouring of love and recollections upon hearing of her death was immediate and moving. While we don't have room to include everyone's comments, here is a representative collection:

- Immediate Past President **Myra L. Freed**: "Those who knew Katie remember her with warmth, love, and with a smile. She was a wonderful person, a wonderful president to serve with, and a great mentor to new lawyers."

- Past President **Martha (Mikki) Golar**: "Katie exuded wisdom, and I often spoke with her not only as a loving friend but also to receive her advice, which was certain, clear, and highly valued. After she moved to California, I visited her and met some of her sailing club friends. She was skilled at

everything she pursued and was surrounded by meaningful friends and family. Truly, Katie was a treasure."

- NYWBA Board member **Dawn M. Card**: "I met Katie when she was in the DA's office and I was at Legal Aid. Of the many [ADA's] I dealt with, she was one of the kindest and most decent in regard to disposition of certain cases. I followed Katie to the NYS Attorney General's Office and was fortunate to be in the same unit, Investor Protection and Security Fraud. Katie was preparing a multi-defendant case [involving a] \$34 million security fraud, [and] we worked on it together for almost a year. Her love of sailing was well known. She sailed with a crew from California to Hawaii, and it was so difficult she had to tie herself to the boat. She was fearless! When I was 40 and pregnant with my third child, Katie directed me to the Maternity Center, which is where my mother, husband and two children delivered Kyle (or as the midwives say "caught" Kyle). Without Katie, I would never have known this experience. It was so life changing that I [joined] the Board and served for the next 20 years when it became Childbirth Connection. Katie was tough, funny, and spunky as hell!"

- Past NYWBA & WBASNY President **Martha E. Gifford**: "[A]mong all the women who have served as President, Katie stands out ... [as one] who wore ... [her] love for the Association and its members ... on her wonderfully expressive face." She "had near-perfect recall of decisions made, processes followed, and controversies resolved. She was always ready to ask and answer questions, but unless I was headed in the wrong direction, she didn't dictate a course of action. She respected each President's need to find her own solutions. Katie was an ideal listener because of her personal generosity and lack of self-centeredness. I hope every member will honor Katie, whether they knew her personally or not, and be reminded of the devotion to our purposes that she embodied. [She] made us better, more compassionate women and lawyers. Fair winds, Katie!"

Katie is survived by her daughters, **Eliza Garcia** of San Antonio, TX; **Anna Rast** (Alan) of Valencia, CA; and **Margaret Law** (Ritu) of San Francisco, CA; by four grandchildren; and by the father of her children, **Alfred J. Law**, of Tivoli, NY. Her companion of 25 years, **Barbara Goddard**, predeceased her.

Daughter Maggie recently sent a message on behalf of the family:

"In personal conversations, ... you've regaled us with amazing stories and lovely sentiments about our mother. Our sincere thanks for opening your hearts and memories. [She] chose her friends incredibly well [and] maintained so many loving connections throughout her lifetime. By her own account, [she] lived nothing short of a charmed life. ... You all are a big part of that."

Heartfelt condolences to all who loved and admired Katie. If you wish to make a donation in her memory, send a contribution to the **American Association of Birth Centers Foundation** (aabcfoundation.org) or to the charity of your choice.

Elizabeth A. Bryson is a litigator and appellate attorney in Manhattan. She is Past President of NYWBA; a Director and past Officer of WBASNY; and a current Officer of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.

YWLN Grant Report to the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation

YWLN is grateful to the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation for its generous support of the CollegeBound Initiative (CBI) at The Young Women's Leadership School (TYWLS) of the Bronx. The Foundation's \$5,000 grant directly supported 40 college trips for all 465 students at TYWLS of the Bronx. The deepest support went to TYWLS of the Bronx's 62 juniors, who will be applying to college this fall and have benefitted immensely from the Foundation's investment in their opportunity to see themselves on a college campus for the very first time.

Not only did the opportunity to visit multiple college campuses inform the students' college list choices, decisions, and plans, it empowered the students to make post-secondary choices that best fit their academic, financial, and social needs.

Our students made a total of 33 trips, to the following colleges: Boston College, University of Bridgeport, Bucknell University, Cornell University, Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY), Hostos Community College (CUNY), Hunter College (CUNY), Macaulay Honors College (CUNY), Lehman College (CUNY), Medgar Evers College (CUNY), Daemen College, Emerson College, Fashion Institute of Technology (CUNY), Long Island University – Brooklyn Campus, Manhattan College, Manhattanville University, Maryland Institute College of Art, The New School, New York University, Sage College, Sarah Lawrence University, Siena College, SUNY Albany, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Buffalo State, SUNY Cortland, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Purchase, SUNY University at Buffalo, Temple University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, and West Chester University.

While our high school juniors enjoyed many trips, the three most notable were those to the University of Chicago, SUNY New Paltz, and the University of Bridgeport. One of our students was particularly taken with the University of Chicago, as she is very interested in scientific research. She was excited to learn that students at the school are both allowed and encouraged to support and conduct research as early as their first semester. She is certainly applying to the University of Chicago this fall. Our juniors also enjoyed their visit to the University of Bridgeport. They were thrilled to learn of the school's proximity to their home in the Bronx, loved the campus, and were encouraged by the diverse student population. They could see themselves reflected in their tour guides. Finally, our juniors had a very special experience touring SUNY New Paltz. In addition to learning from knowledgeable tour guides, they had the unique experience of learning from the expertise of their own Director of College Counseling, Brittany McNeil. SUNY New Paltz is Brittany's alma mater and she was able to give her students an inside look into what it would be like to attend.

Not to be outdone, our middle school students also made a total of seven trips, to the following colleges: Baruch College (CUNY), The City College of New York (CUNY), Columbia University, Farmingdale State College, Lehman College (CUNY), Long Island University - CW Post Campus, and Queens College.

We look forward to updating the Foundation on our students' successful college applications and admissions processes. We can't wait to see where they enroll in 2019!

NYWBA Hosts a CLE and Dinner for WBASNY Colleagues *By Meaghan Carey*



On Friday September 21, 2018, the NYWBA chapter hosted a reception dinner for our WBASNY colleagues who were in town for the Board meeting to be held the next day at Columbia University. Instead of a traditional dinner at a restaurant, our chapter invited our colleagues to the office of NYWBA President, Virginia A. LoPreto, for an intimate dinner and CLE on diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias.

Virginia introduced the program and our speaker, Laura Quiros, an associate professor of social work at Adelphi University and an expert on diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism. Dr. Quiros works in the academic, corporate, and non-profit sectors to bring about more diverse and inclusive work spaces. She focuses on relationship building in her work, bringing in her personal story and the way in which intersectionality affects her as a mother, a Latina, and a Jewish woman of color (among many other labels).

Through her personal story, Dr. Quiros spoke to us about reevaluating the way in which we view diversity and inclusion, and encouraged us to evaluate our own biases and look at ways we can help build relationships to foster inclusion in our practices. Rather than focus on checking off "diversity" from a to-do list, Dr. Quiros stressed the importance of increasing consciousness of making our workplaces comfortable for everyone. Her talk helped us foster a lively and civil discussion and lead many participants to comment that we wished the presentation could be longer.

After the CLE we shared a lovely, catered dinner with our colleagues in a conference room transformed into a beautiful dining space, complete with fresh flowers, white table clothes, and candlelight. The dinner was a wonderful opportunity for WBASNY members from across New York State to get to know each other in an informal setting—a practical application of the importance of relationship building that we had discussed that very night.

Meaghan Carey is an Associate with O'Reilly Stoutenburg Richards LLP. She is a Board member of the NYWBA, and co-chair of the Membership and Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Committees.

November 12, 2018
International Women's Rights Committee
Screening of the documentary
Matangi/Maya/M.I.A.
RSVP at <http://bit.ly/Matangi-Maya>

MEET THE NYWBA COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Dana E. Heitz is Co-Chair of the **Newsletter Committee**, and is a solo appellate practitioner at Heitz Legal, P.C. Ms. Heitz earned her JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego and her BA from the University of Michigan. She also holds an MA in international affairs from The New School in NYC. Ms. Heitz is admitted in New York, the EDNY and SDNY, and the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Michele Kern-Rappy is a Co-Chair of the **Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee** of the New York Women's Bar Association. She is currently the Senior Settlement Coordinator and Mediator for the Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Division and is a seasoned ADR professional for the Unified Court System with over 30 years' experience.



Morgan Mouchette is a Co-Chair of the **Diversity Committee**. She concentrates her practice in matrimonial matters and has experience representing clients in all aspects of family matters. Morgan has been recognized as "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers in 2014, 2016 and 2017. She also received the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York's "Rising Star" Award in 2015.

Danielle M. Rodriguez is a Co-Chair of the **Children's Rights Committee**. Ms. Rodriguez is a Court-Attorney Referee sitting in Kings County Family Court hearing Custody, Visitation and Family Offense cases. Ms. Rodriguez received her undergraduate degree from Pace University and her J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law.



Nidhi Shetye is a Co-Chair of the **Litigation Committee**. She currently focuses her practice on litigation and represents clients in various suits including derivative actions, employment related suits, contract disputes, and bankruptcy matters in Federal Court. She has a passion for human rights and has worked in the Leitner Center's International Human Rights Clinic, where she co-authored a 100-page handbook to aid community-based paralegal programs working on sexual violence cases.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The New York Women's Bar Association is proud to present a CLE Program:

Women Lawyers at the Crossroads: What's Next?

The New York Women's Bar Association presents a panel discussion with women lawyers who have successfully leveraged their resources in shaping the trajectory of their careers. The panelists have each been at the "Crossroads" and made different choices. They will share their experiences and strategies.

The panel will discuss options to accelerate your career, including:

- Equity Partner: How to build and retain a book of business
- Going In-House: What do you need to know?
- Transitioning to a non-profit: Is it a realistic choice?
- Small firm: What should I consider?

Date: *Thursday, November 29, 2018*

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: JAMS, 620 Eighth Ave, 34th Floor
(New York Times Building)

CLE: *1.5 Credits **

Cost: Free for members; \$50 for non-members**

Info: Email AdvanceStatus@nywba.org

RSVP: *Link will be available shortly*

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