

NYWBA

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the end of January I detest the list and avoid it, all crunched up at the bottom of my purse. By February I've bought a new purse." Nia Vardalos, "The List"

The New Year is here and once again many of us are struggling with either making a New Year's resolution or avoiding the idea entirely, which frankly, has the same net effect: we can't help but wonder what we can do differently, better or not at all. Last year, after reading a late December editorial by the author Ann Beattie I was inspired to give up personal shopping and purchase only "need" items. She, like me, had been raised with the idea of deprivation: Lent! Several years ago I realized that depriving myself of my favorite foods, wine and the like was not in the spirit of Lent, so I, like Ms. Beattie, started giving up personal shopping for the 40 days of Lent. Now, Ms. Beattie was talking about an entire year. I rose to the challenge. I did not make a single purchase for over 6 months! And after that I made only "need" purchases, which admittedly became a bit loose as we headed into December with all of the sales. Nonetheless, I can admit it was satisfying, saved me lots of money, and ultimately gave me a deeper appreciation of the impact we as individuals can have as I complemented the shopping deprivation with an increased dedication to community, giving and sharing. With this anecdote, I leave you each to your "resolutions" and let's focus on the "New" in the New York Women's Bar Association as we begin 2019.

What's **New**? We have 126 **New members** which means we are reaching more women lawyers (and our allies) who are invested in advancing the status of women in the law. Our New members include newly admitted attorneys as well as experienced attorneys. This powerful combination enables us to provide opportunities to

JANUARY 2019



Virginia A. LoPreto

(Continued on Page 2)

SAVE THE DATES

The NYWBA Civil Courts & the Litigation Committees
present a CLE Program

*Preparing for Depositions and Dealing with
Uncivil Conduct During Depositions*

March 11, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

The NYWBA Criminal Law Committee and
the NY Criminal Bar Association present a CLE Program

"Under the Microscope: DNA and Criminal Trials"

March 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

The New York Women's Bar Association
invites you to join us in honoring
our special guests

*The Newly Elected, Newly Appointed,
and Re-Elected Judges of New York County*

at a **Cocktail Reception**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave., NYC
(at 44th St., across from Grand Central's west entrance)

**Cost: \$95 Members (paid in advance);
\$115 Non-Members (paid in advance);
\$130 for all, at the door (space permitting)**

Note: No charge for:

- Judges of the New York Court of Appeals
- Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- Justices of the Appellate Division, First Department
- Judges and Magistrates newly appointed in the Southern District of New York
- Judges and Justices who are *newly elected, newly appointed, or re-elected* in NY County

Sponsorship: Law firms, companies, and individuals are invited to make a donation to help support this event at the following sponsorship levels:

Platinum (\$1,000) Gold (\$750) Silver (\$500)

Sponsors will be acknowledged at the event, on our Website, and in the NYWBA Newsletter, and they will be entitled to free admissions (Platinum-3; Gold-2; and Silver-1) (*Contributions of \$100 or more are welcome and will be recognized at the "Friend" level.*)

(Send an email to JudgesReception@nywba.org for details on how to contribute at the Friend level.)

Info: For questions or information, call (212) 490-8202 or email JudgesReception@nywba.org.

Online RSVP form will be available shortly.

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

train, or be trained, to mentor or be mentored and to create a pipeline for and among women lawyers.

We have a **New Committee: Immigration**. Our website will be updated to reflect this committee and I encourage everyone who has an interest, not only in the practice of Immigration Law but in the immigration issues confronting our country to join. We are putting together a meeting wherein the speakers will give us first-hand reporting from a detention center in Texas. Check the website calendar as well as future e-blasts for specific information.

We have two **New Chairs** for our **Employment and Equal Opportunity for Women Committee: Megan S. Goddard**, principal of Goddard Law, PLLC, is an employment discrimination lawyer devoted to protecting equality in the workplace; and **Diana Sen**, Regional Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs Northeast Region, is entrusted with leading the agency's enforcement and outreach efforts. Their full bios will be included in our next newsletter. Having promised not to despair during this holiday season for now I can only say there is much work to be done and these two women are not only capable but eager to bring their resources to our association.

In December, we hosted two **New CLE programs. Women Lawyers at the Crossroads: What's Next?** (see page 6). I hope this will become an annual program devoted to bringing experienced women attorneys to the table to share their experiences and advice. We also hosted a real estate CLE, our first ever, **Nuts and Bolts of Real Estate Transactions** (see page 4). As you can see from the calendar in this issue, we are hosting several CLE programs in January alone. These programs address cutting-edge and New issues: our committees do not simply recycle prior programs. Our committee chairs work hard at identifying legal trends, needs and the speakers capable of informing us.

Congratulations to our **New nominees** for director positions on our board, **Judith E. White**, Co-Chair of the **Matrimonial and Family Law Committee**, **Vivian R. Drohan**, Chair of the **Federal Practice Committee**, **Lissett Ferreira**, Co-Chair of the **Elder Law and Disabilities Committee**, **Alexandra King**, Co-Chair of the **Newsletter Committee**, and **Tara Diamond**, Co-Chair of the **CLE and Children's Rights Committees**.

Congratulations also to **Dawn M. Cardi**, Co-Chair of the **LGBT Committee**, nominated as Recording Secretary, **Melissa G. Ephron-Mandel**, Co-Chair of the **Civil Courts Committee**, nominated as Corresponding Secretary, and **Sabrina E. Morrissey**, Co-Chair of the **Elder Law and Disabilities Committee**, nominated as Vice President. Many thanks to long-time board members, **Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy**, **Susan M. Moss** and **Catherine M. Foti** who will join our Advisory Council as of June 1 and be among many of our past presidents and devoted members who provide the current officers and directors, myself included, with their guidance, wisdom and support.

We will have the drawing for the Dean & DeLuca raffle at our board meeting on January 12, 2019. All lapsed members who renewed by **December 31, 2018** will be eligible. Three months of charcuterie will get you through Super Bowl Sunday, President's Day recess, the return of daylight savings time and Spring Break!

I look forward to this New Year and working together with our officers and directors, committee chairs, members, advisory council and executive director in making our organization the one that puts women lawyers first!

Virginia

NYWBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

At its December 17, 2018 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 in **April 2019**. (See meeting notice, page 3.)

OFFICERS (2019-2020)

President:	Virginia A. LoPreto
Vice Presidents:	Amanda B. Norejko Magnolia D. Levy Sabrina E. Morrissey
Treasurer:	Jocelyn L. Jacobson
Recording Secretary:	Dawn M. Cardi
Corresponding Secretary:	Melissa Ephron-Mandel
Immediate Past President:	Myra L. Freed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors to be Installed – Class of 2019-2022

Meaghan E. Carey	Morgan Mouchette
Vivian R. Drohan	Deborah G. Rosenthal
Hon. Judith J. Gische	Judith E. White
Amy B. Goldsmith	

Directors to be Installed (filling vacancies for unexpired terms)

Class of 2018-2021:	Lissett Ferreira & Alexandra King
Class of 2017-2020:	Tara Diamond

Directors Continuing in Office

Michael W. Appelbaum	Fran R. Hoffinger
Yacine Barry-Wun	Julie Hyman
Leona Beane	Kay Marmorek
Jennifer P. Brown	Francesca A. Sabbatino
Hon. Laura E. Drager	Nidhi Shetye
Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler	

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS* Class of 2019-2021

Jennifer P. Brown	Jo Ann Douglas
Elizabeth A. Bryson	Deborah G. Rosenthal

NYWBA DELEGATE NOMINEES TO WBASNY BOARD (2019-2020)

Yacine Barry-Wun	Magnolia D. Levy
Jennifer P. Brown	Marjorie A. Martin
Elizabeth A. Bryson	Amanda B. Norejko
Dawn M. Cardi	Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Hon. Betty Weinberg ELLERIN	Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff
Julie Hyman	

*Nominations members continuing in office are: Yacine Barry-Wun, Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy, Patricia Ann Grant, and Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS – ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

The NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting will be held at a date and location TBD, 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 2018-2019 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, 2019** 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** (details to be announced soon).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Olga Batsedis
Katelyn M. Brack
Sabienne Brutus
Amanda N. Chiarello
Mary Ellen Donnelly
Stephanie Kass

Valerie Karasz
Ronnie L. Silverberg
Hon. Linda Tally
Dr. Jillian T. Weiss
Edward C. Wipper
as of 12/19/2018

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.

Megan S. Goddard
Stephen D. Hoffman
Eileen S. King
Joseph Korff
Nancy M. Loudon
Edward C. Wipper

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.

COMMITTEE CALENDAR & FREE CLE PROGRAMS

CLE Committee together with the New York Bar Association's Corporate Counsel Section presents a **CLE: *Breaking Through Bias to Achieve Leadership Success in the Legal Profession*** on **Jan. 22** from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the American Arbitration Association, 150 East 42nd Street, Fl. 16, NYC. 2 Diversity and Inclusion credits. Free for members, \$50 for non-members. RSVP: http://bit.ly/NYWBA_Jan22_CLE. See notice p. 4.

Criminal Law Committee will meet **Jan. 14** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm PLLC, 150 East 58th Street, 16th Fl., NYC. RSVP CrimLawChairs@nywba.org.

Domestic Violence and Matrimonial & Family Law Committees present a **CLE: *Intimate Partner Online Harassment*** on **Jan. 23** at 6:00 p.m. at LoPreto & Levy, LLP, 565 Fifth Ave., 7th Fl., NYC. 1.5 Professional Practice credits. Free for members, \$50 for non-members. RSVP: nywba.org/events/cle-online-harassment/. For more info email MFChairs@nywba.org. See notice p. 5.

International Women's Rights Committee will meet **Jan. 9** at 6:30 p.m., location TBD. For more info and to RSVP email IntlChairs@nywba.org.

LGBT Committee will meet **Jan. 15** at 6:30 p.m. at Cardi & Edgar, LLP, 99 Madison Ave., 8th Fl., NYC. For more info and to RSVP email LGBT@nywba.org.

Litigation Committee meet **Jan. 24** and **Feb. 21** 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.

Matrimonial & Family Law Committee together with the Interdisciplinary Forum on Mental Health and the Law presents a **CLE: *Testing & Monitoring Substance Abusers/New Medical Developments*** on **Jan. 10** from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP, 99 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor, NYC. 2 Professional Practice credits. Free for members, \$50 for non-members. RSVP: nywba.org/events/cle-substance/. For more info email MFChairs@nywba.org. See notice p. 5.

Program & Events Committee will meet **Jan. 16** at 6:00 p.m. at Kirkland & Ellis, 601 Lexington Ave., NYC. RSVP and ID are required for admission into the building. To RSVP and more info email events@nywba.org.

Trust & Estates and Elder Law & Disabilities Committees will co-sponsor a **CLE: *SNTs - Advising the Family with a Special Needs Beneficiary: What All Attorneys Need to Know***, on **Jan. 23** at 6:15 p.m. at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, LLP, 1285 Avenue of Americans (51-52 Sts), NYC. 1.5 Professional Practice credits. Free for members, \$50 for non-members. RSVP: nywba.org/events/cle-snt/. Email TEChairs@nywba.org for info. See notice p. 5.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**NYWBA's 2019 Annual Awards
and Installation Dinner**

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Three Sixty°
Tribeca, New York

*A Tribute to the Force that is
Justice Eileen Bransten*



Thank you to the New York Women's Bar Association for joining in celebrating the judicial career of the *Honorable Eileen Bransten* on **January 15, 2019**. The celebration will be held at The Rotunda of the New York Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street, NYC with toasts and hors d'ourves beginning at 5:00 p.m. Judge Bransten is a long-standing member of the NYWBA, and her contribution to the law is well documented in the hundreds of published decisions that she authored. She has brought justice to thousands. That's just the beginning of her reach. By mentoring us, teaching us by example how to serve and by always pushing us to reach our potential and make a difference, Judge Bransten inspires us to be better judges and better people. As a tribute to Judge Bransten, we are committed to paying it forward - that is the ultimate lesson that we learned from her. Our challenge and yours is to make the same mark on others as the one that Judge Bransten has made and will continue to make in the years ahead. The bar has been set very high by the force that is Justice Eileen Bransten.

RSVP to the January 15 celebration to Jessica Ferrara at FerraraJ@sullcrom.com.

Hon. Saliann Scarpulla and Hon. Jennifer G. Schecter

**NYWBA's CLE Committee and the NYSBA's
Corporate Counsel Section
are proud to present a CLE Program**

presents a CLE Program:

***Breaking Through Bias to Achieve and
Leadership Success in the Legal Profession***

Speakers:

Andrea S. Kramer and Alton B. Harris

Date: *Tuesday, January 22, 2019*

Time: *6:00 – 8:30 p.m.*

Place: *American Arbitration Association
150 East 42nd Street, Floor 16, NYC*

CLE: *2 Diversity and Inclusion Credits**

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

Info: *If you have any questions, please email
cle@nywba.org.*

RSVP: *http://bit.ly/NYWBA_Jan22_CLE*

Beverages and Light Snacks Will Be Served

* CLE Credits: 2 Diversity and Inclusion Credits: 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.

** Free NYWBA and NYSBA Corporate Counsel 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 at cle@nywba.org or Amy at 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

SNTs – SUPPLEMENTAL NEEDS TRUSTS

By Leona Beane

Some of you may be wondering what is an SNT. A Supplemental Needs Trust or an SNT is a very valuable tool and document utilized by many attorneys, particularly those in the following fields: Trusts & Estates, Elder Law, Disability Law, Matrimonial and many other fields.

The New York Women's Bar Association is very proud to be presenting a SNT Program on **January 23, 2019**, being arranged by the Trusts & Estates and the Elder Law & Disabilities Committees. We have a top speaker, Robert M. Freedman, who is one of the leading SNT lawyers. There will be valuable information provided in addition to written materials. He has spoken on this topic to many different audiences, and we are very fortunate to have him speaking to the NYWBA on January 23, 2019.

The CLE Program will be held at **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, LLP**, at 1285 Avenue of the Americas (between 51 & 52nd Street), New York, N.Y. 10019 at 6:15 p.m. You must register in advance to be able to attend the program via their security system in the building. (See notice p. 5.)

I am sure that many of you will not want to miss this great opportunity.

Leona Beane is a Co-Chair of the Trusts & Estates Committee.

The Nuts and Bolts of Real Estate Transactions

On December 4, 2018, the NYWBA hosted its first ever Real Estate CLE "Nuts and Bolts of Real Estate Transactions." Since we do not yet have a real estate committee, I am especially thankful to Robyn Enes, co-chair of our Legislation Committee, and her husband, Robert Link, a partner in David A. Gallo & Associates, for putting this essential program together. The program was held at the offices of Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter, LLP and co-sponsored by Family First Funding, LLC, a mortgage banker offering a high level of expertise in mortgage related services.

The presenters were David A. Gallo, Esq. of David A. Gallo & Associates, and one of his associates, Jessica Kalra, Esq. who together provided a birds-eye view of the ubiquitous real estate closing, from the perspective of the buyer, seller and lender in the context of real property (homes and condominiums) and co-op units. There was no shortage of basic information, starting with documentation as to ownership such as deeds and proprietary leases, forms of ownership, joint tenants, tenants by the entirety and tenants in common, and the harrowing mortgage process including the role played by each of the people typically involved in such transactions.

Mr. Gallo, who is very experienced in handling real estate transactions, was deftly able to reduce the transactions to the bare essentials and facilitate a better understanding of the nuances of these transactions. Ms. Kalra, shared her familiarity and experience with "new" technology (as compared to Mr. Gallo who fondly recalled the "telex") and the intricacies of the actual "ins and outs" of the transactions. Mr. Gallo and Ms. Kalra complemented each other well particularly in discussing the contract of sale, the various standard provisions as well as those typically sought in an addendum by the buyer or seller, as the case may be.

The handouts were particularly useful to not only following the speakers but for the future. For example, a closing statement, which provides a summary of the real estate transaction can, to non-real estate practitioners, be incomprehensible. Thanks to our speakers, and the materials they provided, I, and am sure others who attended, can say the closing statement is no longer a daunting document but a document chock-full of important information. It tells a story, and as our speakers explained, it is the hallmark of the real estate closing.

Real estate transactions are part of many areas of substantive law and the program drew members practicing in matrimonial, trust and estates, commercial law areas and mediation. With the basic nuts and bolts in place, we are hoping to delve deeper into real estate transactions later this year.

JUDGES & LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT

presents

**“Conflicts of Interest in Research
and Treatment: What Breast
Cancer Patients Should Know”**

Date: *Thursday, January 10, 2019*
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Place: *Actors' Equity Building Auditorium*
165 West 46th Street, 14th Floor, NYC
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/conflictsofinterest2019>

**NYWBA's Matrimonial & Family Law and
Domestic Violence Committees,**
present a CLE Program:

Intimate Partner Online Harassment

Speakers:

Carrie Goldberg, Esq., of C.A. Goldberg, PLLC,
who specializes in representing victims of
online harassment and sexual privacy violations

Lindsey M. Song, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney
with the Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP)
at Sanctuary for Families

Nathaly Rodriguez, advocate and survivor
of intimate partner and cyber sexual abuse

Introduction by the **Honorable Tandra L. Dawson,**
Acting Supreme Court Justice,
NY County Integrated Domestic Violence Court

Date: *Wednesday, January 23, 2019*
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Place: *LoPreto & Levy, LLP*
565 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor, NYC
Cost: Free for NYWBA members
\$50 for non-members**
CLE: Credits: 1.5 Professional Practice*
Info: Email MFChairs@nywba.org
RSVP: www.nywba.org/events/cle-online-harassment/

*Space is limited to the first 50 people to sign up.
Beverages and Light Snacks Will Be Served*

*CLE Credits: (1.5 Professional Practice Credits): 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

** 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 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

NYWBA's Matrimonial & Family Law Committee,
*in coordination with the Interdisciplinary Forum
on Mental Health*

and the Law, present a CLE Program:

**Testing & Monitoring Substance
Abusers/New Medical Developments**

Presented By: Dr. Carol Weiss

Date: *Thursday, January 10, 2019*
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Place: *Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP*
99 Madison Avenue, 8th floor, NYC
Cost: Free for NYWBA members; \$50 for non-members**
CLE: Credits: 2 Professional Practice*
Info: Email MFChairs@nywba.org
RSVP: www.nywba.org/events/cle-substance/

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**The NYWBA Trusts & Estates and
Elder Law & Disabilities Committees**
are proud to co-sponsor a CLE Program

**SNTs – Advising the Family with a
Special Needs Beneficiary:
What All Attorneys Need to Know**

Speakers:

Robert M. Freedman, Esq., Partner at Schiff Hardin LLP
Alexis R. Gruttadauria, Esq., Associate at Schiff Hardin LLP

Moderator: Loretta Ippolito, Esq.

Date: *Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.*
Place: *Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, LLP*
1285 Avenue of Americas (51-52 Sts), NYC
CLE: Credits: 1.5 Professional Practice*
Cost: Free – NYWBA Members; \$50 – Non-members**
Info: Email TEChairs@nywba.org or
cdbenson@paulweiss.com
RSVP: www.nywba.org/events/cle-snt/

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Women at the Crossroads: What's Next?

By Jacqueline I. Meyer, Meaghan E. Carey and Virginia A. LoPreto

On November 29, 2018, the NYWBA's Advancing the Status of Women in the Profession Committee presented a first-time CLE program spotlighting women lawyers who leveraged their resources in shaping the trajectory of their careers. The program was co-sponsored by JAMS and its representative, **Caroline M. Antonacci**, a full-time mediator, arbitrator and special master hosting.

This program was inspired by the successful summer program called **What It's Really Like to Practice Law As a Woman** presented each year by NYWBA and The New York City Bar, a program designed to reach out, guide and encourage newly admitted attorneys, and law students, in the practice of law, by having experienced attorneys share their paths, the turns and weaves, and ups and down. It led us to thinking that there should be some guidance for more experienced attorneys who know how to practice law but wonder how to shape their careers, especially those in big and medium sized firms who are contemplating both the partner track and exploring other options. How does she build a book? What resources should she be developing and leveraging? Are there benefits to smaller firms? What exactly is the practice of law in-house? Is working for a non-profit organization a viable option?

Collectively, we had no answers, but with input from **Diana M. Boyar**, Co-Chair of our **Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession** we were able to pull together a panel of speakers and a moderator who each had unique personal experiences and could answer those questions. Hence, the birth of **Women at the Crossroads: What's Next?**

Our panelists were an amazing, eclectic group of women, each having been at the crossroads and having landed in a rewarding career: **Claudia Cantarella**, General Counsel, Broadway Technology, **Noreen Kelly**, Partner at McGuire Woods, **Lauri Novick**, President, International Council of Shopping Centers Foundation, **Jessica Shpall Rosen**, Partner at Greenwald Doherty and our Moderator, **Claire P. Gutekunst**, Executive Director, Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert ("JALBCA").

Ms. Gutekunst deftly set the tone for the evening's discussion, sharing with us her trajectory through several crossroads, starting as a partner at Proskauer Rose for 21 years, to being a special master, then a mediator, and on to President of the New York State Bar Association. Now Ms. Gutekunst is the executive director of JALBCA. She then seamlessly introduced Jessica Shpall Rosen whose course was different. Ms. Shpall Rosen, worked outside of law, traveled the world and then went to law school, and once she entered the practice she worked at a big law firm. Unhappy with the structure, limited opportunity to build client relations and the high fee structures, Ms. Rosen Shpall used her own personal value-based assessment list of priorities and found a home with Greenwald, LLP which enables her to leverage her interpersonal skills, hands-on involvement with clients and her holistic approach to legal issues. Ms. Gutekunst then turned toward Claudia Cantarella, General Counsel for Broadway Technology, a leader in the Fintech Industry.

Ms. Cantarella humorously told the story of following her mentor to various law firms for years and developing an expertise in Intellectual Property – ultimately breaking free from her mentor and becoming a partner and co-chair of the US Intellectual Property Group at Salens. The significant resource for Ms. Cantarella was being an expert in a particular field, in her case focusing on IP transactional work – an area with few women. Leveraging her resources ultimately let her to change her trajectory and go in-house with her client, Broadway Technology. Ms. Cantarella's experience provided a segue

to Ms. Kelly, the sole "survivor" in big law. Ms. Kelly had been an equity partner at Latham for 13 years and has mastered the art of internal marketing and networking. Ms. Kelly acknowledged that one way to build a book of business was to be an expert in a specific subject matter, like Ms. Cantarella. Another way was to be someone with whom people wanted to work. That is Ms. Kelly, and she did that by in her words, "being authentic". Of course, having the well-honed legal skills were required as well. Ms. Kelly's stated approach to navigating within her world of all male clients, without losing her femininity, was astute. Ms. Kelly, now a managing partner in the New York office of McGuire Woods is also a member of the Financial Services Litigation Department, with a practice focus on commercial litigation and regulatory enforcement matters in the securities and financial services space.

Enjoying the work and letting that show was an important theme of the night. Lauri Novick drove home that point particularly well, sharing her story of knowing that she wanted to be a lawyer since a child, only to then spend three years as an unfulfilled litigation associate in a big firm. Realizing that litigation was not for her, she thought that going in-house was the solution, as she raised her two children (all of the panelists juggled career and motherhood) with Barclays for nine years. Still unfulfilled, and after re-thinking her goals in bed with wine, she finally found her niche in the non-profit sector. Interestingly, though she has not practiced law since she made the shift to the non-profit sector, she has found that her legal experience is highly valued by her employers, and that her legal skills of listening, analyzing, and most importantly writing (she stressed that nonlawyers simply do not have the writing skills that we lawyers have) have been key to performing her job, along with her passion to building non-profit organizations.

Each of our panelists emphasized the importance of taking a step that may feel frightening to further one's career. One of the most important themes of the panel was that as lawyers we all have a set of skills that we have honed and those skills, although not always as obvious as we think they are, translate well into many different fields – both legal and non-legal. Stepping back, analyzing what we enjoy and do not enjoy about our practice, and taking some risk will also lead to surprising new experiences.

We ended the night with a lovely reception hosted by JAMS and we all



(Standing, l. to r.): NYWBA President Virginia A. LoPreto and Caroline M. Antonacci.
 (Seated, l. to r.): Claudia Cantarella, Lauri Novick, Claire P. Gutekunst, Jessica Shpall Rosen and Noreen Kelly.

MEET YOUR NYWBA COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Linda M. Capitti is Co-Chair of the Matrimonial Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors and the Program Committee for Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert. She currently works as the principal court attorney for Acting Supreme Court Justice Tandra L. Dawson in the New York County Integrated Domestic Violence Court. Ms. Capitti graduated from New York Law School, and Rutgers University.

Alexandra King is Co-Chair of the Newsletter Committee. She practices matrimonial and family law as an associate at Cohen Goldstein, LLP. Ms. King earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from New York Law School.



Meaghan E. Carey is Co-Chair of the Women's Health and Reproductive Rights Committee and Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. In addition, she sits on the Board of Directors of the NYWBA. Meaghan is an attorney at O'Reilly Stoutenburg Richards LLP where she focuses her practice on family law. Ms. Carey received her undergraduate degree at Hamilton College and her J.D. at New York Law School.

Antonia J. Martinez is Co-Chair of the Elder Law & Disabilities Committee and is principal of Antonia J. Martinez, LLC. Her practice focuses on Trusts & Estates and Elder Law. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School.



Sara Crasson is Co-Chair of the Litigation Committee and a Principal Law Clerk to the Hon. O. Peter Sherwood in the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court. Before practicing law, Sara created interactive, hands-on exhibits for science museums.

Ernestine J. Mings is Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee. She currently works at Blank Rome LLP and concentrates her practice on matrimonial and family law. She received her undergraduate degree at Cornell University and J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.



Gabriella Formosa is Co-Chair of the Newsletter Committee. She currently works as an associate at Greenblatt Law, LLC, a boutique matrimonial firm. She is a graduate of Binghamton University and St. John's University School of Law.

Amanda B. Norejko is a Vice President of the NYWBA. She is Co-Chair of the Domestic Violence Committee and a Family Court Support Magistrate in New York County Family Court. She was formerly the Director of the Matrimonial and Economic Justice Project and Victoria J. Mastrobuono Economic Justice Fellow at Sanctuary for Families.



Amy B. Goldsmith is a Vice President of the NYWBA and Co-Chair of the CLE Committee as well as participates in the Legislation and Judiciary Committees. She works as the Co-Chair of the Intellectual Property Group at Tarter Krinsky & Drogin where she partners with clients to provide practical legal advice and connections to grow their businesses.

Executive Director Karen Lu is a graduate of Pace University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, and she serves as the Office Manager of a midtown Manhattan law firm. She is quite familiar with NYWBA, as she has been the graphic designer for our Newsletter and our Annual Dinner Journal since 1999. Karen resides in New Jersey with her husband and their 2 daughters.



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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 King**, **Dana E. Heitz** and **Gabriella Formosa**) 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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