



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

The good thing about having a second term as President (yes, there is something good!) is that we not only hit the ground running immediately but we did so sharing a vision of the importance of our association taking positions, speaking up, and being heard on issues that matter to women.



Virginia A. LoPreto

On July 9, our **Reproductive Rights** and **Women's Health Committee** joined with NOW-NYC in presenting **"The State of the Uterus: Reproductive Rights Under Attack, Fighting Back From New York,"** a timely assessment of the widespread efforts to peel back women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* and the fight against those efforts. Special thanks to Committee Chairs, **Meaghan E. Carey, Lydia Devine and Alex King.**

The annual **Martha E. Gifford Summer Program, "What it's REALLY like to Practice Law as a Woman,"** was held on July 11 where over 200 law students (and some high school students) and young women attorneys gathered to hear a panel discussion with four remarkable women, each one bringing her unique experiences, pathways and focus on different areas of the law, in government, private practice and law firms. (See page 6.) Special thanks to the Committee Chairs, **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff and Victoria A. Turchetti.** The NYWBA Foundation joined our push to take positions, speak up, and be heard by hosting members to attend **"What the Constitution Means to Me,"** a "boundary-breaking" play that imagines how the Constitution will shape the next generation of women.

At our first Board meeting in September, the Board approved a position statement for submission to WBASNY voicing our objections to the deprivation of feminine hygiene products for young girls and women detained at the border. WBASNY accepted this statement and included it in its overall statement against the immigration policies in effect and their impact on women and children. Period poverty has long been an unavoidable problem but had largely been concentrated outside of the United States. It is now a real, urgent problem in this country, not only at the borders but for homeless young girls and women as well as those who are victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Our **Annual Membership Reception** was held on September 16 and was geared towards addressing this issue. Our members did not disappoint. Hundreds of feminine hygiene products and drug store gift cards were donated by our members and given to The Manhattan Family Justice

(Continued on Page 2)

Upcoming CLE Programs

For more information and to RSVP to any of these programs, please visit go to the NYWBA Calendar
<https://www.nywba.org/calendar/>

Oct 22, 1:00 p.m. - Civil Court Committee presents a CLE Program: **Recent Changes to RPAPL 745: Rent Deposit Law.**

Oct. 22, 6:00 p.m. - The Criminal Law and Domestic Violence Committees and New York Legal Assistance Group are proud to present a CLE Program **"Defending their Lives: DV Survivors Justice Act and Beyond."**

Oct. 29, 6:00 p.m. - CLE Committee presents the CLE Program **The Sexist Inside You: How We All Internalize Gender Bias.** (See Notice p. 8.)

Nov. 5, 12:30 p.m. - Federal Practice Committee presents a Live and Webinar CLE: **Serving and Responding to Federal Non-Party Subpoenas**

Nov. 6, 6:00 p.m. - Matrimonial & Family Practice Committee will be holding a CLE on matrimonial practice in the Appellate Division with justices from the First Department.

Nov. 20, 6:00 p.m. - CLE Committee presents the CLE Program **Legally LinkedIn: Ethical Best Practices.** (See Notice p. 10.)

Dec. 2, 2:00 p.m. - The ADR, Civil Court, Diversity, Domestic Violence, Litigation, Matrimonial & Family Law, and Trusts & Estates Committees are proud to present a CLE Program **"Presumptive ADR in the NYS Unified Court System"** (See Notice p. 10.)

Dec. 4, 6:00 p.m. - CLE Committee presents **"Individual Liability for Corporate Wrongdoing: How Thick is the Corporate Veil?"**

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

Center located in Manhattan. The Membership Reception provided not only an opportunity for new and would-be members to mingle, but we also invited a representative of the Safe Passage Project to meet with our members to coordinate volunteers representing unaccompanied immigrant children in New York City in the Immigration Court and Family Court. This organization has a seasoned group of attorneys to train and mentor the volunteers. This is a timely and critical opportunity to take a position, stand up, and be heard! Many thanks to NYWBA Past President **Jennifer P. Brown** and NYWBA Vice President **Magnolia D. Levy** for their work in bringing the Membership Reception together along with our Executive Director **Karen Lu**. In addition, the more than 100 people who attended loved our new venue at Blank Rome LLP and for that we thank NYWBA Director **Morgan F. Mouchette**.

Our Committee Chairs have been busy holding meetings, scheduling CLEs and meeting as a group with me in September. These meetings provide an essential opportunity for our Committee Chairs to meet with one another and brainstorm on joint programs. I also showed the short documentary, **Equal Means Equal**, Kamala Lopez's amazing film highlighting the continued efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Please keep an eye on our Calendar at nywba.org and read the weekly E-blasts. We have more than 12 meetings and CLEs this month alone, with more to come, from the Matrimonial and Family Law, Children's Rights, Litigation, Programs and Events, Domestic Violence, International Women's Rights, CLE, Civil Courts, Solo and Small Practice and Advancing the Status of Women Committees. These meetings are what membership with the NYWBA is about but that's not all. I keep going back to listen to **Megan Rapinoe's** speech at City Hall this past summer and cannot help but think of us: "We've got pink hair, purple hair, tattoos and dreadlocks. White girls, black girls and everything in between. Straight girls, Gay girls." We are a team, and we have battles to fight and win. Every member must be involved, aim to become a Committee Chair, Board Member and even President of our association and help us take important positions, stand up, and be heard.

Virginia

Save the Date

to Celebrate the Retirement of the
Honorable Laura E. Drager

The Helen Mills Event Space and Theater
137-139 West 26th Street, New York 10001

December 3, 2019, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

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.

**Establishing Effective Substance Abuse
Protocols in Custody Cases**

By Elena A. Tisnovsky

On **September 10, 2019**, the **NYWBA Matrimonial and Family Law Committee** organized a CLE program titled "**Establishing Effective Substance Abuse Protocols in Custody Cases**," at the offices of LoPreto+Levy, LLP. The panel was moderated by **Hon. Lori S. Sattler**, Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, and **Virginia A. LoPreto, Esq.**, managing partner at LoPreto+Levy, LLP. Panelists included **Steven Paymer**, from Paymer Associates, one of the leading experts in substance abuse evaluations, monitoring, and addiction treatment.

Judge Sattler started the presentation by stressing that child safety is paramount in every custody case, especially in matters involving parents with mental health and substance abuse and addiction disorders. Judge Sattler noted that, unlike in the Family Court, random, immediate drug and alcohol testing is not available in the Supreme Court. For this reason, in appropriate cases, litigants are required to undergo mandatory testing in specialized laboratories with the results reported directly to the court.

Ms. LoPreto highlighted the differences between monitoring and treatment of substance abuse and pointed out that illicit substances and alcohol and prescription drug addictions often go hand-in-hand with mental health disorders. Abuse of prescription drugs, such as Valium, Xanax or other benzodiazepines, Ms. LoPreto stated, has become an epidemic and an increasingly complicated issue to resolve in custody cases.

Mr. Paymer, who holds a Master's in Social Work from Fordham University, has spent the last two decades involved in the field of substance abuse prevention and treatment. He shared with the audience truly moving and poignant personal experiences dealing with substance abuse in the past and staying sober for 23 years. Paymer Associates offers substance abuse evaluations to determine whether a patient has a substance use disorder that qualifies them for addiction treatment. Once such a determination is made, a treatment plan is developed to assist the patient in recovery. In addition to a variety of drug testing, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, the company offers pre-employment, suspicion-based or random drug testing programs, referrals and case management, DNA testing, and post-treatment monitoring. Mr. Paymer described in detail a variety of monitoring options available to courts and law practitioners, such as SL2 Remote Breathalyzer Testing (also known as Soberlink), the continuous alcohol monitoring ankle bracelet SCRAM CAM, and drug testing sweat patches. The program attendees were given the opportunity to closely see and hold a SCRAM CAM bracelet and a Soberlink breathalyzer, which lead to an engaging discussion about how they work, and about creative ways in which wearers are trying to avoid detection.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. LoPreto shared several samples of monitoring agreements she uses in her practice as needed, including a non-abstinence alcohol monitoring agreement that requires a party with addiction problems to abstain from non-prescribed drugs and alcohol (with respect to alcohol, solely during parenting time with the children), and more restrictive agreements providing for monitoring for prescription drugs, alcohol and controlled substances with continuous Soberlink breathalyzer, and a variety of tests administered over several years.

Elena A. Tisnovsky focuses her practice on matrimonial law and family law.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bisola Arowolo	Laurel E. Hardy
Amanda Attenasio	Jenna Hough
Cassandra S. Basile	Grace Jamgochian
Shari Bernstein	Ankit Kapoor
Noelle Block Lubin	Bonnie G. Klein
Tamara L. Bock	Joan Levenson
Brooke A. Camhi	Jessica Mandel
Sara R. Cantos	Emily R. Margolin
Karla Del Pozo-Garcia	Morgan Mazor
Pascale Dommercant	Abigail S. Reid
Amanda J. Dunne	Kathleen M. Reilly
Kathryn K. Evans	Inna Ringh
Rachel R. Feingold	Cassandra Rohme
Margaret E. Fiori	Amy Rowland
Kristen M. Freda	Alexandra M. Santo
Emily M. Gaines	Felice Segura
Nicole L. Gentilella	Noelle E. Stone
Sarah Gersowitz	Erin N. Teske
Alyssa Nina Grzesh	Geeta Tewari
Veronica Guerrero	Briana Vargas
Caroline Hall	

as of 9/16/2019

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.

Elkan Abramowitz	Adam B. Gilbert
Marijo C. Adimey	Amy B. Goldsmith
Jason A. Advocate	Patricia Ann Grant
Michael W. Appelbaum	Julie Hyman
Gail I. Bader	Sophie Jacobi-Parisi
Susan L. Bender	Joanna C. Kahan
Laurie Berke-Weiss	Deborah B. Kahn
Jennifer P. Brown	Michele E. Kahn
Elizabeth A. Bryson	Elyssa S. Kates
Hon. Anthony Cannataro	Robert M. Kaufman
Dana Capone	Gary Roy Klein
Dawn M. Cardi	Denise Mortner Kranz
Maira E. Casey	Olivia S. Lee
Harriet Newman Cohen	Charlotte C. Lee
Janet I. Cord	Virginia A. LoPreto
Debra K. Doogan	Kay Marmorek
Jo Ann Douglas	Sheryl R. Menkes
Hon. Laura E. Drager	Karen Greve Milton
Vivian Rivera Drohan	Sabrina E. Morrissey
Chad L. Edgar	Susan M. Moss
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin	Bonnie E. Rabin
Robyn L. Enes	Deborah G. Rosenthal
Melissa G. Ephron-Mandel	Marvin E. Schecter
Myrna Felder	Hon. Carol A. Schrager
Lisett Ferreira	Barbara L. Seniawski
Diana J. Florence	Hon. Felice K. Shea
Catherine M. Foti	R. Ellen Sigal
Myra L. Freed	Hon. Jacqueline W. Silberman
Martha E. Gifford	Andrea Vacca

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

- **Advance the Status of Women in the Profession Committee** will meet on **October 23rd** at 6:30 p.m. at Harris St. Laurent, LLP, 40 Wall Street, 53rd Floor, NYC. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP advancestatus@nywba.org.
- **Diversity Committee** will hold its **Fall 2019 Welcome Mixer** at Blank Rome LLP on **October 3rd** at 6:00 p.m. RSVP DiversityChairs@nywba.org. (See Notice p. 7).
- **Events Committee** presents an **Evening of Networking, Shopping and Discussion with Friends and Colleagues** on **October 30th** at 6:00 p.m. at Eileen Fisher Soho. RSVP Events@nywba.org. (See Notice p. 7).
- **International Women's Rights Committee** will meet **October 8th** at 6:30 p.m. at a location TBD. RSVP IntlChairs@nywba.org.
- **Litigation Committee** meeting will be held on **October 10th** at 6:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Souren A. Israelyan, 39 Broadway, Suite 950, NYC. Topic **"A Discussion of Chief Judge DiFiore's Plan to Reorganize the Courts."** RSVP litigationchairs@nywba.org.
- **Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee** will meet on **October 17th** at 8:30 a.m. at a location TBA. The topic will be: **"Starting and Growing Your Own Practice."** RSVP SSFchairs@nywba.org.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

- Congratulations to NYWBA Past President **Elizabeth A. Bryson**, who was recently installed as VP of Finance for Treasurer for the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.
- Congratulations to NYWBA Past President **Yacine Barry-Wun** who was recently installed as First Vice President of Network of Bar Leaders.
- The NYWBA sends our sincere condolences to **Hon. Mary V. Rosado** whose mother passed away on September 16, 2019.
- The NYWBA sends our deepest condolences to the family and friends of **Sandra Katz**, who died on September 2. Sandy was a Past President of JALBCA and long-time Chair of its Dinner Committee, and was passionately devoted to its work. New York's legal community will sorely miss her.



Sandy Katz, together with the Hon. William C. Thompson, a founding member, long-time Treasurer, and Board member of JALBCA.

2019 NYWBA Annual Dinner



2019 NYWBA Annual Dinner



2019 NYWBA Annual Dinner



2019 NYWBA Annual Dinner



Young Attorneys Learn What It's Really Like to Practice Law as a Woman

By Alyssa Grzesh



(l. to r.): NYWBA Immediate Past President Myra L. Freed, Tracee E. Davis, Elizabeth Gorman, NYWBA Past President Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, Jessica Horani, Deborah Martin Owens, and NYCBA President Roger J. Maldonado.

On July 11, 2019 over 225 young aspiring and practicing lawyers filled the main hall at the New York City Bar Association. Among them were members of the Ronald H. Brown Program and students from virtually every law school in New York City. Notably, almost every one was female, except for a few brave progressive-minded men who deigned to understand the plight of women in the legal profession. They gathered, with anxious anticipation as to what they might hear and whom they might meet, for the annual **Martha E. Gifford Summer Program, "What It's Really Like to Practice Law as a Woman."** Welcoming remarks were delivered by City Bar President **Roger J. Maldonado**, NYWBA Past President **Myra L. Freed**, and program founder **Meg Gifford, Esq.**

Acting Supreme Court Justice **Lisa A. Sokoloff** moderated the program with candor, asking many of the important questions that young female lawyers undoubtedly want answered but may be too afraid to ask. Panelists included litigator and privacy attorney **Tracee E. Davis**, a partner at Seyfarth Shaw; **Elizabeth Gorman**, head of the employment practice section and partner at Milber Makris; senior trial attorney in the homicide and major case division of New York County Defenders, **Jessica A. Horani**; and Executive Director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at City Bar, **Deborah Martin Owens**. The panelists shared stories of how they overcame harassment (often of a sexual nature), micro-aggressions, and in some instances, very inauspicious starts, to build their careers and pursue their passions. They shared how dogged pursuit of their dream jobs included skill-building, finding mentors and sponsors in unlikely people, consistent thinking outside the box, and building and maintaining relationships.

One common thread amongst the four panelists was that none of their paths was linear; in the beginning of their careers, they felt pressure to have all the answers and to know exactly what they wanted, yet today, as they work their "dream" jobs, they have learned that the key to realizing their dreams was in the ability to trust their own instincts and, most importantly, to trust in themselves and their talents.

Just two months after the program, lives have already been changed. Young female lawyers have found mentors, internships, guidance, and inspiration. They know that they are not alone in the challenges they may face, and that any time they confront harassment or disparagement as women in the legal profession, they have a support network that will fight to ensure their safety and ability to pursue a fruitful future.

We hope you'll join us next summer for another exciting and diverse panel, and that you walk away further inspired to forge legal careers in the pursuit of equality and justice.

Reflections by Emily Sun, NYWBA Foundation Fellow at Her Justice

As the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation fellow at Her Justice this past spring, I had the opportunity to work on cases, conduct legal research, and meet with clients, including several Mandarin-speaking clients with whom I was able to communicate in Mandarin. These experiences were rewarding beyond measure. The work introduced me to immigration law and the various forms of immigration assistance Her Justice offers its clients. It was also fascinating to get a glimpse of how that assistance translates to day-to-day client engagement.

As a fellow, I spent a large part of my time providing assistance on an application to adjust the immigration status of a client's two sons. The client, a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioner, recently had her self-petition approved. In fact, one of the first things I did as a fellow was participate in a call between the client and the supervising attorney so that we could share the good news with her. A large hurdle was that one son's passport had recently expired (a current, unexpired passport is needed for the adjustment application). I helped the client renew her son's passport—a process that required an extensive application through the Chinese embassy's website, which was written entirely in Chinese. During the last week of my fellowship, the embassy approved the client's application and she successfully obtained a renewed passport at the embassy's offices, a wonderful way to cap off my fellowship experience.

Another matter I worked on was responding to a request for further evidence for that same client regarding her adjustment of status application. USCIS had asked for more information about why she couldn't provide a copy of her birth certificate. As it turned out, no one in her generation in China was issued a physical birth certificate; instead, births were recorded in a family registration document. After meeting with the client, I helped draft an affidavit explaining the situation and also helped draft an affidavit for the client's mother that attested to her daughter's birth.

In addition, I assisted with several client intakes and consultations, mostly for Mandarin-speaking clients. Many were survivors of sex and labor trafficking, and their stories were harrowing. I greatly admired these women for having the courage and perseverance to seek legal assistance. It was especially rewarding to speak to Mandarin-speaking clients. By being able to communicate in a familiar language, they immediately felt more comfortable, which in turn helped the attorneys gather the information necessary to provide legal relief.

I also assisted my supervising attorneys by conducting legal research on various immigration and family law matters. My research projects ranged from ascertaining the Congressional intent of a piece of legislation to the statutory elements of a particular law, as well as more complex matters and their treatment in various immigration courts. Finally, I also worked on smaller efforts, such as providing legal translation and community interpretation services.

Her Justice provided me with an invaluable learning experience about the substantive and day-to-day practice of immigration law, as well as the critical work that Her Justice does in helping to empower survivors of violence so that they live lives of freedom, safety, and self-determination.

I would like to thank the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation for this opportunity.

Emily Sun is a rising 3L at New York University School of Law.

Reflections by Robyn Luzon, NYWBA Foundation Fellow at Sanctuary for Families

After only a few days at Sanctuary for Families, I realized the lawyers there do so much more for their clients than just legal work. When clients come in, they are always asked if they need food, clothes, MetroCards, and how they and their children are doing. In fact, the organization has various departments that offer economic services and social work. They even have a food pantry. The attorneys support their clients through every phase of their cases. For the clients, the legal case is only a small aspect of what they are going through. Many clients are single parents for the first time, some are afraid of facing repercussions because of their immigration status, and many have unpredictable living situations. In every client meeting, I saw a weight lifted off the client's shoulders as soon as she walked in. Sanctuary is truly a safe haven for victims of domestic violence and trafficking.

The clients at Sanctuary for Families are from diverse backgrounds, speak different languages, and each heart-wrenching story is unique, but they all share one thing in common: Their undeniable strength. The clients at Sanctuary are some of the strongest women I have ever met. The stories of abuse, of forced separation from their children, and of fear for their lives are horrendous. But despite their hardships, they are determined to provide a better life for themselves and their children by continuing their education or working towards a new job.

A large portion of my work was for various advocacy campaigns. I realized that Sanctuary's advocacy work is as critical as its legal work. The goal of these campaigns is to enact and implement important laws and policies that will help not only the clients but women and girls in New York and around the country as well. The advocacy campaigns also seek to oppose laws that would directly hurt the clients' interests and would hinder women's and human rights. I worked on memos addressing the elimination of the statute of limitations on rape in the second and third degree and the effect of legalizing sex buying and pimping on survivors of human trafficking. I also worked on a presentation in support of adoption of a gender equality bill in New York City. In addition to helping clients with their current legal issues, it is essential to evaluate the effects that current and potential new laws and policies will have on the clients and women in similar positions. Much of the advocacy work is about educating people in the legislature and government about domestic violence and human trafficking. This work gives a voice to women who are often ignored in government decision-making.

The most rewarding aspect of my time at Sanctuary for Families was being involved in the reunion of a mother and her child after being forced apart for years. It was incredibly humbling to have this client thank me for the work I was doing on her custody and divorce case, especially since I felt as though I did very little in comparison to all she has done. All I could do was thank her for sharing her story with me and allowing me to get to know her, her son and her family. Every time I met with her she seemed stronger and stronger. She had fought long and hard to get her son back and they were finally together and thriving.

I would like to thank the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation for this opportunity.

Robyn Luzon is a 3L at Fordham University School of Law.

On June 12, 2019, several NYWBA officers and members attended the *Network of Bar Leaders Annual Presidents' Dinner*, held at the Golden Unicorn restaurant and co-sponsored by the NYWBA. Our own President received an award for her service over the past year. **AG Letitia A. James** spoke about the need for vigorous advocacy at all levels and gave some examples of the work currently being undertaken by her office.



NYWBA's CLE Committee presents a CLE Program:

The Sexist Inside You: How We All Internalize Gender Bias

Speakers:

*Hon. Ariel Chesler
Ester Cajuste, Esq.
Asha Smith, Esq.*

Date: October 29, 2019

Time: 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. networking
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. program

Place: Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP
1350 Broadway, NYC

CLE: 1.5 Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias

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

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2kSLXkl>

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

Beverages and Light Snacks Will Be Served

*CLE Credits: 1.5 Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias: 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, Tara Diamond or Elizabeth Shampnoi at cle@nywba.org or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

Friends and Board Members of the NYWBA Foundation raised funds for the Foundation and enjoyed a private tour of the exhibit 'She Persists: A Century of Women Artists in New York' at Gracie Mansion on July 8.



NYWBA's ADR, Civil Court, Diversity, Domestic Violence, Litigation, Matrimonial & Family Law, and Trusts & Estates Committees are proud to present a CLE Program:

"Presumptive ADR in the NYS Unified Court System"

This program will enable participants to learn from judicial leaders and court administrators about presumptive ADR programs in the Civil, Surrogates, and Supreme Courts, and what practitioners need to know.

Panelists:

Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Administrative Judge,
Supreme Civil, NY County

Hon. Anthony Cannataro, Administrative Judge,
Civil Court of the City of New York

Hon. Rita Mella, Surrogate, NY County

Lisa M. Denig, Esq., Special Counsel for ADR Initiatives,
Office of Deputy Chief Administrative Judge George Silver

Joan G. Levenson, Esq., Principal Law Clerk
to Hon. Deborah Kaplan

Moderator:

Lisa M. Courtney, Esq., Statewide ADR Coordinator,
NYS Unified Court System

Date: December 2, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Supreme Court, New York County
60 Centre Street, Room 300, NYC

CLE: Credits 2.0*

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

Info: Email Litigation@nywba.org

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/35tKymz>

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

On July 11, 2019, the NYWBA and NYCBA co-sponsored a program entitled **"Understanding the Judicial Screening Process in NY."**



From left: NYWBA Committee Chair Sara J. Crasson, Hon. Keith L.T. Wright, Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, Lauren A. Jones, NYWBA Director & Committee Chair Fran R. Hoffinger, Juan A. Arteaga, Hon. James G. Clynes, and Terence W. McCormick.

Events Committee presents

An Evening of Networking, Shopping and Discussion with Friends and Colleagues at Eileen Fisher Soho

Please join us to browse Eileen Fisher fashions, network & enjoy light refreshments from 6 – 7 pm, followed at 7 pm by Eileen Fisher's Women Interactive Workshop - "Together, let's create conversations that inspire, surprise, and change us..."

Date: October 30, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Eileen Fisher Soho, 395 West Broadway, NYC

Cost: No fee for attendance / advance registration required

RSVP: Email Events@nywba.org

No purchase necessary, but should you choose to do so event participants will receive a \$25 discount with a purchase of \$50 or more.

NYWBA's CLE Committee presents a CLE Program:

Legally LinkedIn: Ethical Best Practices

Speakers:

Carol Schiro Greenwald, Ph.D., Marc W. Halpert
and Amy B. Goldsmith, Esq.

Date: November 20, 2019

Time: 5:30-6:00 p.m. networking
6:00-7:30 pm program

Place: Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP
1350 Broadway, NYC

CLE: 1 hour of ethics, .5 of professional practice

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

Info: Email cle@nywba.org

RSVP: www.nywba.org/events/3516/1574271000

Beverages and Light Snacks Will Be Served

* CLE Credits: 1 hour of Ethics, .5 of 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

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Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

By Amanda B. Norejko



Ovarian cancer typically occurs in women in their fifties and sixties with the median age being 63. Many women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a genetic history that may include carrying the BRCA mutation gene and having a family history of ovarian cancer.

Having no family history of gynecological cancers, I never expected to be diagnosed with this disease at the age of 42. However, only a small fraction of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer have inherited a risk for this disease. Ovarian cancer is a threat to women—and even girls—of all ages, regardless of their genetic profiles. The statistics did not protect me.

Ovarian cancer is often referred to as a silent killer. Many women do not realize they are in danger because the late stage symptoms can be mistaken for conditions that are not life-threatening. They include bloating, weight loss or gain, nausea, feeling full too quickly, discomfort in the pelvis, and changes in bathroom habits. In almost 80% of cases, ovarian cancer is not diagnosed until it reaches a late stage and is therefore more difficult to treat and more likely to be fatal.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, although ovarian cancer accounts for only 3% of cancers experienced by women, it accounts for more deaths each year than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. Over 14,000 women in the United States die of this type of cancer each year. In New York County, for every 100,000 women, 12 women per year are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and seven women die of the disease.

Ovarian cancer may cause the following signs and symptoms—

- Vaginal bleeding (particularly if you are past menopause), or discharge from your vagina that is not normal for you.
- Pain or pressure in the pelvic area.
- Abdominal or back pain.
- Bloating.
- Feeling full too quickly, or difficulty eating.
- A change in your bathroom habits, such as more frequent or urgent need to urinate and/or constipation.

For me, the journey to diagnosis began in August 2018. I was thrilled to begin my new job as a Family Court Support Magistrate, but I began to feel ill almost immediately upon taking the bench. It was easy to dismiss my symptoms as the result of a career shift and lifestyle changes. When months went by and my symptoms intensified rather than abating, I sought medical help. Unfortunately, after seeing a gastroenterologist and two gynecologists, all the regular exams came up normal. For example, Pap tests do not detect ovarian cancer. In fact, there is currently no adequate screening test for this type of cancer. Even though I pointed out to the doctors what I later learned to be a malignant tumor, none of them suggested a CT scan.

Two days after seeing the second gynecologist, my stomach became severely and painfully bloated. Upon the advice of my mother, a retired Registered Nurse, I requested a referral for a CT Scan at an outpatient radiology clinic that had evening appointments.

On February 6, 2019, I received the call that would change my life. My CT scan showed tumors on my left ovary. Later review of the CT scan and physical examination by a surgeon who specializes in gynecological oncology at Memorial Sloane Kettering showed extensive spread of the cancer in my abdomen and lymph nodes.

I was diagnosed with the most common type of ovarian cancer (making up about 90 percent of ovarian cancers), which is also the most deadly. I immediately began receiving chemotherapy treatments to reduce the tumors. I had surgery to remove the remaining cancerous tissue, including a complete hysterectomy, twelve days before my 43rd birthday. Since then, I have continued to receive chemotherapy treatments. As much as possible, I have continued to pursue professional and personal fulfillment, but I recognize that my life is forever changed.

The long-term prognosis for women like me who are diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer is poor. That is why early detection is critically important.

Here is what you can do—

- Pay attention to your body, and know what is normal for you.
- If you notice any changes in your body that are not normal for you and could be a sign of ovarian cancer, talk to your doctor about them.

Ask your doctor if you should have a diagnostic test, like a recto-vaginal pelvic exam, a transvaginal ultrasound, or a CA-125 blood test if you have any unexplained signs or symptoms of ovarian cancer. These tests sometimes help find or rule out ovarian cancer.

Also, please support research and development efforts to find new diagnostic tests and treatments for ovarian cancer.

For more information on ovarian cancer, please go to:
<https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/types/ovarian>
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/ovarian-cancer.html>
<http://ovarian.org/>

Amanda B. Norejko is Vice President of the New York Women's Bar Association. She is a Family Court Support Magistrate in New York County. She is grateful to her colleagues in the New York Women's Bar Association for their support throughout her cancer treatment, and especially to her husband Ryan Candee, family, friends, court staff, and supervising judge.

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