



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2022

As we reach the mid-winter point in early February, I hope that you are staying as safe as possible during the current surge of the omicron variant. Our court system, where our staff are working in person full-time has been hit especially hard by this wave of the virus, but most have recovered quickly and come back to work after the recommended five-day quarantine. I know that many of you have seen similar effects on your offices with many colleagues testing positive around the same time. This pandemic has truly been a test of endurance as we suffer through the challenge of continuing to survive and thrive, professionally and personally, with an invisible threat all around us.



Amanda B. Norejko

We have had to adapt our work and our lives to this new reality and learn new modes of communication and trial advocacy skills in an increasingly virtual legal practice environment. The NYWBA Civil Courts Committee presented a CLE program on January 11th on "The Requirements of Proper Courtroom Decorum: In Person or Remote," featuring **Hon. Anne Katz**, **Hon. Judy H. Kim**, **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff**, and moderated by **Hon. James G. Clynes**. Practical advice on how attorneys can present themselves in the most professional manner whether appearing in the new socially-distanced courtroom or via Microsoft Teams is critically important to ensure that the strengths of your legal arguments are not overshadowed by deficits in your presentation. Most of us learned how to perform our jobs in a traditional courtroom setting before the pandemic changed the way we must conduct business. In order to succeed in today's courts, we must not only learn the law but also the technology skills to most effectively navigate the legal system.

As more New Yorkers are getting fully vaccinated, we are beginning to offer some opportunities for in-person networking. On January 22, 2022, members attended a private tour of the New York Historical Society's exhibit "Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg." The tour was followed by a lunch. NYWBA Foundation Board Member **Tamara Stephen**, who is stepping off the Foundation Board, was honored at the event for her years of devoted service to the Foundation.

In February, the NYWBA will continue to offer a wide range of events for members. On February 3, 2022, the Students and New Lawyers Committee is presenting a CLE on student loans. On February 16th, the Elder and Disability Committee will present a program on "Medicaid for Adults with Disabilities."

(Continued on Page 2)

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**

Thursday, March 3, 2022

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: **\$100 Members** (paid in advance);
\$130 Non-Members (paid in advance);
\$135 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.

RSVP: <https://www.nywba.org/events/nywba-judicial-reception-2022/1646348400/>

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

If your work life has left you hungry for something a little different, on February 9th, the WBASNY Wellness Committee is presenting a cooking class with our own NYWBA Past President **Jennifer P. Brown** teaching participants how to make her "House Special Chicken" in a virtual, interactive event. Sign up in advance to receive an ingredient list and suggested wine pairings. Jennifer is the author of a cookbook, *An Attorney's Journey Through Quarantine As An At Home Chef*.

February is Black History Month, which was established to honor and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to United States history. As someone who loves law and history, I use this month as an occasion to learn about some of the incredible stories of Black women who have shaped our legal system in the past and present, particularly those with a connection to New York.

One trailblazer in our legal system was Jane Bolin, who was born in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1908. Although she was strongly discouraged from applying to law school due to her sex and race, she was admitted and graduated from Yale Law School in 1931 as the first black woman to receive a law degree from Yale. In 1939, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia appointed Bolin as a judge of the New York City Domestic Relations Court, making her the first Black woman to serve as a judge in the United States. She was the only Black female judge in the country for the next twenty years. She served as a judge for 40 years until her retirement. Her contributions to our NYC Family Courts include encouraging racially integrated child services, ensuring that publicly-funded child-care agencies accepted children without regard to ethnic background.

A Black woman still making an impact today is Loretta Lynch, who began her legal career as a litigation association in New York City and eventually was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. In 2011, she left the U.S. Attorney's Office to become a partner at Hogan & Hartson. In 2010, President Barack Obama nominated her to once again serve as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and then in 2014, as U.S. Attorney General. She was the first Black woman to (and second Black person) to hold this office. She is now a partner at Paul, Weiss and has been named one of Benchmark Litigation's "Top 250 Women in Litigation." In January 2022, she was part of litigation team from Paul, Weiss that filed an amicus brief on behalf of 86 businesses spanning every sector of the U.S. economy in support of the effort by the attorneys general of Virginia, Nevada, and Illinois to compel the National Archivist to certify and incorporate the Equal Rights Amendment into the U.S. Constitution. The amici argue that "eliminating systemic barriers that impede women's economic and social advancement will result in a more just, vibrant and productive America. Ratification of the ERA sends a powerful message about the nation's commitment to sex equality—a message amici believe would be transformational for the American economy." They also argue that the D.C. district court's dismissal in March 2021 on grounds that the three states ratified the ERA years too late "effectively turns back progress made over many decades in the struggle for women's Constitutional equality and closes the doors of the courthouse to Appellant States who seek a remedy for the Archivist's unlawful refusal to recognize their ratifications."

I encourage our members to consider participating in a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge©. The 21-Day Challenge concept was

NOTES ON MEMBERS

The NYWBA extends our sincerest condolences to our Board Member **Julie Hyman** on the loss of her beloved dog, Rocky, who passed away on January 5, 2022.

*Students & New Lawyers Committee
presents a CLE Program:*

**STUDENT LOANS:
WHAT LAWYERS NEED TO KNOW**

Speakers:

KAT WELBECK

Director of Advocacy, Student Borrower Protection Center

CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ

Director of the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program, The Community Service Society of New York

Date: February 3, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom

CLE: 1 Diversity, 1 Prof. Practice*

Cost: Free

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/xx3KfhFH5VUz9WBF9>

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

*CLE Credits: 1 Diversity, Inclusion, and the Elimination of Bias, 1 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.

conceived several years ago by diversity expert Eddie Moore, Jr. to advance deeper understandings of the intersections of race, power, privilege, supremacy and oppression. The goal of the Challenge is to become more aware, compassionate, constructive, engaged people in the quest for racial equity. The Challenge invites participants to complete a syllabus of 21 short assignments (typically taking 15-30 minutes), over 21 consecutive days, that include readings, videos or podcasts. For suggestions on materials to read, listen to, or watch, you can visit <https://www.eddiemoorejnr.com/21daychallenge>.

Finally, please mark your calendars for March 3, 2022, when we will hold our **Annual Judicial Reception** to honor New York County's newly-elected and newly-appointed judges. Many thanks for **Magnolia D. Levy** and **Virginia A. LoPreto**, our Executive Director **Karen Lu**, and our Yale Club sponsor and Judiciary Committee Co-Chair **Tuozy Lorna Zhen** for making this event possible.

Amanda

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee." - Marian Wright Edelman

NOTICE TO MEMBERS – ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

The NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **April 26, 2022**, when the President & Treasurer will present reports on the state of the NYWBA and its finances, and the Association will hold elections. (See to the right 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 those 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 paid your dues for the 2021-2022 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 NYWBA offices or directorships to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Such petition must be received by no later than March 11, 2022 and must be addressed to Corresponding Secretary Morgan Mouchette, c/o New York Women's Bar Association, P. O. Box 1207, New York, New York 10150.

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Criminal Law Committee will be meeting on **March 21** at 6:15 p.m. RSVP crimlawchairs@nywba.org.

Litigation Committee presents a *Persuasive Speaking Workshop* by Zoom, featuring Speaking Coach **Marion Claire** on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. RSVP: Litigationchairs@nywba.org.

NYWBA FOUNDATION

THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC. IS THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

The NYWBA created the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc. (NYWBAF) in 1995. Its goals are: (1) to eliminate gender bias and other forms of discrimination from the legal system and legal profession, (2) to promote the social and economic equality, safety and well-being of women and children, and (3) to address the unmet legal needs of women and children. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization which supports and funds charitable and philanthropic programs to aid women and children throughout Manhattan and beyond.

Fellowships funded by the NYWBAF provide law students with the opportunity to gain valuable training, experience, and professional connections while assisting in the important work of organizations that provide free legal services. To support fellowships like this, you can donate to the Foundation by contacting info@nywbaf.org or visiting <https://nywbaf.org>.

NYWBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The **NYWBA Committee on Nominations** has nominated the following candidates to serve for the positions and terms stated below. Elections will be held during the NYWBA Annual Meeting on **April 26, 2022**, with all new terms commencing as of June 1, 2022.

NOTE: You must be a **current** member as of January 31 to vote! If you haven't yet renewed for 2021-22, please do so ASAP at www.nywba.org.

OFFICERS (2022-2023)

President:	Magnolia D. Levy
Vice Presidents:	Jocelyn L. Jacobson Melissa Ephron-Mandel Sabrina E. Morrissey
Treasurer:	Lisett Ferreira
Recording Secretary:	Vivian Rivera Drohan
Corresponding Secretary:	Morgan Fraser Mouchette
Immediate Past President:	Amanda B. Norejko

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors to be Installed – Class of 2022-2025 (Seven)

2021-24 & 2020-23 Classes (Filling three vacancies for unexpired terms)

Jennifer P. Brown	Meaghan E. Carey
Yasmin Dwedar	Hon. Judith J. Gische
Amy B. Goldsmith	Virginia A. LoPreto
Antonia J. Martinez	Ernestine J. Mings
Olivia Sohmer	Judith E. White

Directors Continuing in Office – 2021-24 & 2020-23 Classes

Leona Beane	Dawn M. Cardi
Tara Diamond	Hon. Laura E. Drager
Fran R. Hoffinger	Julie Hyman
Alexandra Campbell King	Kay Marmorek
Nidhi Shetye	S. Yan Sin
Crystal Villaseñor	

New Members of NYWBA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler and Past President Yacine Barry-Wun

NYWBA DELEGATES TO SERVE ON WBASNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022-23)

Elizabeth A. Bryson	Dawn M. Cardi
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin	Melissa Ephron-Mandel
Julie Hyman	Jocelyn L. Jacobson
Virginia A. LoPreto	Marjorie A. Martin
Sabrina E. Morrissey	Amanda B. Norejko
Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann	Lisett Costa Ferreira (Alt.)

NYWBA COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (Class of 2022-24)

Yacine Barry-Wun	Myra L. Freed
Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy	Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff

Continuing in Office (Class of 2021-23)

Jennifer P. Brown, Elizabeth A. Bryson,
Hon. Laura E. Drager, Virginia A. LoPreto

WHY I RIDE

By Melissa F. Glassman



Over the past few years, my mom and I have participated in the Cycle for Survival which raises millions of dollars each year for Sloan Kettering Hospital rare cancer research. Cycle for Survival accelerates progress in rare cancer research, bringing new and better treatment options to people around the world. 100% of every dollar supports pioneering research and lifesaving clinical trials led by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), the world's oldest and largest private institution dedicated to revolutionizing our understanding and treatment of cancer. Within six months after the close of fundraising each year, the money raised by Cycle for Survival riders and donors goes directly to MSK doctors and scientists, fueling bold ideas and breakthroughs.

In the past, my team has been dedicated to the memory of my Aunt Tehru and Cousin Bonnie who, unfortunately, both lost their battles to rare cancers. The event is four hours of cycling lead by motivational fitness instructors from Equinox, accompanied by a DJ and Inspiring Speakers to get you through the ride. It is extremely emotional, but also inspiring to see so many people come together to find a cure for rare cancers that kill thousands of individuals each year.

This year the NYWBA will be participating in Cycle for Survival, which will be held outdoors at Wollman Rink, NYC Central Park on **May 21, 2022** from 1pm -5pm, during which people can ride for as long or as little time as they would like. All attendees must be Vaccinated. There is also no requirement that all team members must ride – you can come out and cheer the NYWBA team on. The most important thing is to have fun while raising money for a very important cause which unfortunately touches many of our lives.

This year, I ask each of you to considering joining the NYWBA Cycle for Survival team so that we can work together to find a cure.

If you have any questions or wish to RSVP for the event you can e-mail me at mfglassman@gmail.com.

We look forward to riding with each of you to #BEAT-RARECANCERS.

Melissa Glassman is Co-Chair of the NYWBA Students and New Lawyers Committee.

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Join Our Ride

100% of Every Dollar Goes to Beat Rare Cancers

When: May 21, 2022, 1pm - 5pm

Where: Wollman Rink, NYC Central Park

RSVP to join the NYWBA team by Feb. 15, 2022:

mfglassman@gmail.com



FOR SURVIVAL
MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING | EQUINOX

*WBASNY Wellness Committee cordially invites
you to cook with us!*

February 9, 2022

6:00 – 8:00 pm

WBASNY member, NYWBA Past President and cookbook author, **Jennifer P. Brown**, will be teaching us to make her version of Chicken Milanese, "House Special Chicken".

This is a virtual, interactive event. During the virtual cooking class, you will learn how to prepare this delicious dish in your own home.

An ingredient list and list of necessary supplies, as well as suggested wine pairings, will be forwarded in advance to all registered attendees.

Once the meal is prepared, please feel free to continue to socialize virtually with fellow WBASNY attendees while enjoying your healthy meal!

To register, go to:
<https://bit.ly/3rDUkP0>

Jennifer's cookbook:
***When Life Hands You Lemons
An Attorney's Journey Through
Quarantine As An At Home Chef***

Available in hard cover and e-cookbook format
<https://downtownjbrown-cooking.myshopify.com/>
\$5.00 discount on hard cover copies with code WBASNY

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.

Estate Planning Practice Tip: Beneficiary Designations

© 2022 by **Antonia J. Martinez**

Few clients understand that proper beneficiary designations can be as important as a well drafted Last Will and Testament. Without the help of a lawyer, many clients overlook their non-probate assets and assume everything they own will pass through their Will. When clients seek to update a Will, set them straight on this confusing aspect of estate planning and remind them about the distinction between probate and non-probate assets.

Probate assets are titled in one's individual name and upon death pass through the client's estate pursuant to a Will. These assets require that the fiduciary, usually a relative of the deceased, petition the Surrogate's Court in the county of the decedent's residence and seek authority for access to the estate assets. This takes time, during which the assets are unavailable to pay bills and depending on the court's backlog, can take months to process. At the height of the pandemic in the spring of 2020, decedent's daughter, discovered that she could not hire a realtor to sell her mother/father's house because the court had not officially named her executor. Without the appointment by the court, the daughter could not legally enter into a contract on the estate's behalf.

Non-probate assets do NOT undergo the probate process and pass automatically by operation of law upon presentation of a death certificate. Non-probate assets can include IRAs, life insurance policies, annuities, brokerage accounts with a Transfer on Death designation, bank accounts with a Payable on Death designation, certificates of deposit, jointly owned real estate and/or jointly held accounts.

Practice Tip:

In preparing an estate plan, review each individual non-probate asset owned by your client. Obtain a copy of the current beneficiary designation on file at the financial institution where funds are held and make sure the beneficiary designation is consistent with your client's current wishes. When making changes to a beneficiary designation form, follow up with the financial institution and request written confirmation of the change. Additionally, if accounts are held jointly, obtain a copy of how each asset is currently titled. Regarding title to real estate, review the deed and if your client owns a cooperative apartment, obtain a copy of the Certificate of Shares to distinguish between a tenancy in common and joint tenancy with rights of survivorship. Where property is owned as a tenancy in common, each joint owner can pass the interest through the estate whereas a joint tenancy with rights of survivorship passes by operation of law to the surviving joint owner.

Clients typically believe if they have a Will, their estate planning is complete. It's up to estate planning attorneys to make things easier by thoroughly reviewing and assessing non-probate assets to ensure it is consistent with the client's overall goals.



Antonia J. Martinez, Esq., devotes substantially all her professional time to Trusts & Estates and Elder Law matters. She is principal of Antonia J. Martinez, LLC. Ms. Martinez is Co-Chair of the Elder Law & Disabilities Committee of the New York Women's Bar Association, a member of the Executive Committee of the NYSBA Elder Law & Special Needs Section serving as Co-Chair of its Elder Abuse Committee. Ms. Martinez is a speaker at Continuing Legal Education and community programs. Her articles in *The Elder Law Times*, *Professional Planning for Wealth & Lifestyle Preservation* are distributed to the general public. Her articles on a variety of topics concerning Elder Law have appeared in publications of the NYSBA and NYWBA.

Elder Law and Disability Committee presents:

Medicaid for Adults with Disabilities: Practice Tips for Obtaining or Keeping Medicaid

*Speaker: Valerie A. Bogart, Director
Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program*

Date: February 16, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom – invitation to follow upon RSVP

Cost: Free – NYWBA and WBASNY Members
\$25 – Non-members

RSVP: RSVP before February 15, 2022 to
elderlawchairs@nywba.org

Guardianship Mentoring Program

The NYWBA Elder Law and Disabilities Committee and the Guardianship Diversity Initiative have created a mentoring program for anyone who is interested in being appointed as Court Evaluator, Guardian or Counsel to Guardian. If you are new to the field or have interest in this area of law and would like to have an experienced attorney to help you with any one of these roles, or if you have questions about Mental Hygiene Law Article 81, please send an email to elderlawchairs@nywba.org.

NYWBA MEMBERSHIP

The NYWBA fiscal year is June 1 to May 31. 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.

Mark Your Calendar

**NYWBA Annual Meeting,
Elections & Ethics CLE Program
April 26, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

Meet the Committee Chairs

Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee



Lisa M. Courtney is the Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") Coordinator for the NYS Unified Court System, where she works to promote the growth of alternative dispute resolution programs. Lisa oversees the Statewide ADR office within the Office of Court Administration. She assists courts in developing local ADR programs, and teaches mediation, neutral evaluation, and settlement skills workshops to attorneys and court staff. She is an advisor to Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks's Statewide ADR Advisory Committee, and cochair of the New York Women's Bar Association's ADR Committee. In 2019, she won the NY Peace Institute's Peace Raiser Award.

Lisa first joined the Statewide ADR office as Special Projects Counsel, where she set up the nation's first Collaborative Family Law Center. Previously, she coordinated the NYC Civil Court's Mediation Program, the NYC Housing Court's Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Community Seminar Series, and Help Centers. Lisa has worked as a Court Attorney, a legal writing instructor, a litigation associate, and as a volunteer mediator. She received her J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and graduated cum laude from Columbia College. She speaks Spanish and Hebrew.



Michele Kern-Rappy is the senior mediator and senior settlement coordinator of a MEDNJ Supreme Court mediation program in New York county Supreme Court with over 31 years of experience. Ms. Kern-Rappy is responsible for helping to establish a very successful Med NJ Part - facilitating the settlement of numerous complex and varied matters from 2014 to 2018. Additionally, she creates, coordinates, and conducts ADR-related trainings with the Administrative Judge, Supreme Court Justices, the Bar, court personnel, the public, and is currently a member serving on the Chief Judge's ADR Task Force. Ms. Kern-Rappy has researched and analyzed complex legal questions and issues, leading to settlements in areas of the law which include: Business and Commercial Law, Insurance Law, Construction and Labor Law, Real Property/Co-Op Condo Law, Family and Divorce Law, Employment Law, Premises Liability, Landlord Tenant, Personal Injury and Torts, Article 81 Guardianship Matters.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Yasmin Dwedar, a Muslim-American Attorney of Egyptian and Filipino descent, currently serves as the Supervising Attorney of the Crime Victim Treatment Center's Legal Services Program. Prior to this, Yasmin was the Senior Supervising Attorney at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission and clerked in both state and federal court before serving as the first Muslim Assistant District Attorney appointed to serve Kings county under District Attorney Ken Thompson. Yasmin serves on the New York Women's Bar Association's board of directors and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She also serves on the board of the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program (SCSJIP). Yasmin was recognized for her work in Crain's New York Business Top 100 Women Lawyers in New York City for 2018. Her personal story of being barred from participating in student government as a Muslim-American high school student inspired her legal career and was featured in Moustafa Bayoumi's classic book, "How Does It Feel to Be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America (Penguin 2008)." She was also featured in Vice Media's "Next-Gen Women Lawyers Explain How They're Creating Change in a Complex System" (June 2021). Yasmin is admitted to practice law in NY, SDNY, EDNY, and NJ. She is also a Licensed Marriage Officiant, Real Estate Broker, and Notary Public.



Ernestine J. Mings is a Senior Matrimonial Associate at Blank Rome, LLP. Although she currently concentrates her practice on matrimonial and family law, she also has prior experience in civil rights litigation. Ernestine is the Vice-Chair of the Family Law Section of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and a member of the Matrimonial Committee of the New York City Bar Association. She also serves as a co-chair of the Diversity Committee of the New York Women's Bar Association, which encourages mentorship of attorneys of color and increased diversity within the practice of law. Ms. Mings was recently recognized as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" family law practitioners by the National Black Lawyers Association.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Beth Polner Abrahams
Cynthia Y. Allen
Diana Choy-Shan
Esther T. Fernando
Aileen G. Glennon
Anahita Khorsand

Jaime Lathrop
Shannon Lucey
Claire M. Midili
Isabella Oppedisano
Alessandra Pineiro

as of Jan. 21, 2022

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.

Jason A. Advocate
Felice B. Ekelman
Patricia Ann Fersch
Jaime Lathrop

Morghan L. Richardson
Hon. Mary V. Rosado
Tamara L. Stack
Victoria A. Turchetti



10% discount for NYWBA members

JAVON ZOW
Store Manager
T. 212.421.4444
50th@SuperRunnersShop.com
JAVON.ZOW@SRS.COM

“Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg” at the New York Historical Society on January 22, 2022

By Virginia A. LoPreto

A group of 26 attended a tour of the RBG Exhibition at the New York Historical Society Museum on Saturday, January 22, 2022. Of course, anything involving “RBG” is noteworthy but this event marked only the second “in person” event for the NYWBA Foundation since the pandemic started in March 2020.

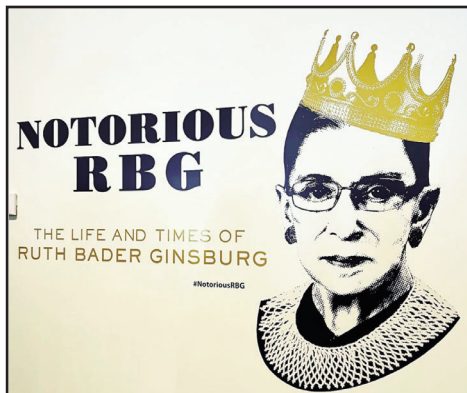
The exhibition entitled “The Notorious RBG in New York City: A Traveling Exhibition in Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Hometown” was presented in a small space broken up by dividers and media stations giving the exhibition a real “homey” feel to match the very personal exhibits—photographs, handwritten notes, robes, an opera costume, and other artifacts that focused on RBG’s many roles, as student, wife, mother, lawyer and Supreme Court Justice. Being reminded that RBG, although the #1 student in her law school class, did not receive an offer of employment from a single law firm upon graduation, did not fail to draw the collective gasp. Photographs of her with her beloved husband Marty and their children were juxtaposed with several of her early prominent cases as a litigator and her noteworthy Supreme Court opinions, reminding us all that she was a pioneer not only for women’s rights but for all

people’s rights where there were inequities based on gender. One could not help but marvel at Marty’s description of moving to Washington D.C. because his wife had gotten a “good job.”

Last, but certainly not least, was the opportunity to see video footage of RBG acknowledging her moniker and how she came to be “Notorious,” showing the humorous side of this remarkable woman.

After the tour, about thirteen of the group enjoyed the almost forgotten delights of meeting new people and socializing over a delicious lunch at Papardella Ristorante. Many thanks to Diana Browne and the Events Committee for organizing this event!

Virginia A. LoPreto, NYWBA Past President is a partner at LoPreto + Levy, LLP, a boutique law firm in Manhattan with an emphasis on matrimonial and family law.



PRESIDENT

Amanda B. Norejko

VICE PRESIDENTS

Magnolia D. Levy

Jocelyn L. Jacobson

Melissa Ephron-Mandel

TREASURER

Sabrina E. Morrissey

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lissett Ferreira

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Morgan Mouchette

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Virginia A. LoPreto

NYWBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Yacine Barry-Wun

Leona Beane

Jennifer P. Brown

Dawn M. Cardi

Meaghan E. Carey

Tara Diamond

Hon. Laura E. Drager

Vivian R. Drohan

Yasmin Dwedar

Hon. Judith J. Gische

Amy B. Goldsmith

Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler

Fran R. Hoffinger

Nicole I. Hyland

Julie Hyman

Alexandra King

Kay Marmorek

Nidhi Shetye

S. Yan Sin

Crystal Villaseñor

Judith E. White

Executive Director

Karen Lu

Established 1934

A Founding Chapter of the

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

WBASNY President

Dawn Reid-Green

WBASNY President-Elect

Deborah G. Rosenthal (NYWBA)

NYWBA Directors on

the WBASNY Board

Elizabeth A. Bryson

Dawn M. Cardi

Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin

Lissett Ferreira

Jocelyn L. Jacobson

Magnolia D. Levy

Virginia A. LoPreto

Marjorie A. Martin

Sabrina E. Morrissey

Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

A Founding Chapter of THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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

(212) 490-8202 • Fax (646) 851-0616 • info@nywba.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
TERMINAL PRINTING
COMPANY
07102

NYWBA Membership Information

We thank our current members for their continued support and involvement, and we look forward to welcoming new and renewing members. Take advantage of our many membership benefits: join committees, network, participate in mentoring circles, attend our signature events, and get CLE credits at our innovative and compelling programs at a significantly reduced cost. It's easy to join or renew - go to www.nywba.org/Membership to access our secure online membership form.

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

Newsletter and Advertising Information

Submissions must be sent to the Newsletter Committee (Chairs **Jennifer Branca**, **Katelyn M. Brack**, **Elizabeth Friedrich** & **Olivia Sohmer**) 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.

Has your web company forgotten you?

Come to **TAG Online** - We are here for you!

TAG Online

- ✓ Website Design
- ✓ Redesign and Updates
- ✓ Reliable Hosting
- ✓ LinkedIn, Facebook & Twitter
- ✓ Email Newsletter
- ✓ Blog

Contact Amy at 973.783.5583

[sales@tagonline.com](mailto:sales>tagonline.com) • www.tagonline.com

We are the Official Website Provider for the
NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Visit our website at www.nywba.org
and follow NYWBA on

facebook

twitter

LinkedIn