

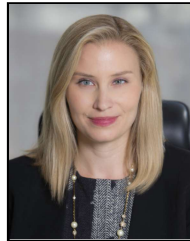


NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2022

On June 16, 2022, I was honored to be sworn in as NYWBA President at the **NYWBA's Annual Awards Dinner** by the incomparable **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin**. That evening also celebrated our award recipients, **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy**, **Hon. Saliann Scarpulla**, **Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler**, and **Hon. Judith J. Gische**. Colleagues and friends gathered and reconnected for our first in-person dinner since 2019.



Magnolia D. Levy

Yet as we mingled and talked, it was in the shadow of the imminent Supreme Court decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* which, eight days later, overturned the long-standing precedent of *Roe v. Wade*. In the Post-Roe world that we now live in, the essential right of women to make their own reproductive health care decisions is being eradicated in many of our States, and access to affordable birth control, LGBTQ+ rights such as same sex marriage, gender affirming health care for transgender and nonbinary people, and assisted reproduction for families that have difficulty conceiving on their own are all endangered. Fortunately, New York State enacted the Reproductive Health Act in 2019 codifying the protections of *Roe* into New York law and insuring access to safe, legal abortion in New York State. In addition, Governor Hochul signed into law an additional six laws to further protect the right to reproductive health care, as well as patients and their medical providers. NYWBA will do everything we can to help make New York City a haven for those who seek to make their own decisions about their bodies. If you are looking for ways to help and to get involved or want to share your ideas we welcome your input.

As we seek to find ways to get involved, **NYWBA's Reproductive Rights Committee**, led by **Meaghan E. Carey**, **Alexandra King**, and **Lydia Devine**, held an emergency panel discussion **State of the Uterus: If Roe Falls, What is Next for New York** on May 19, 2022 on how the *Dobbs* decision could affect New Yorkers' right to abortion and to explore what we can do in New York to help all women have access to safe reproductive care.

On July 19, 2022, NYWBA partnered with the New York City Bar Association to put on one of our most popular NYWBA events, **The Martha E. Gifford Summer Program**, "What It's REALLY Like to Practice Law as a Woman," named after former NYWBA (and WBAS-

(Continued on Page 2)

The NYWBA Invites You to the 2022 NYWBA Membership Reception

Meet the NYWBA Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, members and prospective members at this complimentary cocktail reception.

Join colleagues and friends, network, and discover the many benefits of NYWBA membership, including:

- Free NYWBA CLE courses
- Committees to enhance your knowledge of substantive areas of the law and help address important legal and social issues
- Legislative and legal efforts to promote the fair and equal administration of justice and to help fight against attempts to compromise the rights of women and for equality for all persons under the law
- Fun social and networking events

► **PERIOD POVERTY DRIVE:** Help eliminate period poverty: please bring feminine hygiene products or drug store gift cards. Donations will be given to the Manhattan Family Justice Center which works with victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Date: Thursday, October 6, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Blank Rome LLP

1271 Avenue of the Americas, NYC

ID is REQUIRED for admission into the building.

Cost: Free

RSVP: Before Oct. 4 <https://bit.ly/3PeY7w9>

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

NY) President, leader and mentor, **Martha E. ("Meg") Gifford** who spoke at the program, along with a panel of diverse and engaging speakers from all areas of the law, from private and government practice. Over 100 young people attended. Following the panel discussion NYWBA members met with attendees and discussed with them their interests in the law. They were bright, thoughtful, engaged, idealistic and hopeful to make an impact with their law degrees. Thank you to Committee Co-Chairs, **Meg Gifford**, **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff**, **Melissa F. Glassman**, **Ernestine J. Mings**, and **Crystal R. Villaseñor** for their tremendous work in organizing an engaging program.

The NYWBA has also continued to sponsor free CLEs and informative programs for our members. On June 20, 2022, **NYWBA's Animal Law** and **WBASNY's Environmental Law Committees** joined forces to present a CLE program **The Elephant in the Zoo(m): Should Non-Humans and Natural Resources be Considered "Persons" Under the Law?** to discuss whether animals and natural resources can be considered "persons" under the law, along with the potential repercussions of climate change on future generations should those efforts fail. On June 21, 2022, the **Elder Law & Disabilities Committee & Guardianship Diversity Initiative** presented a CLE on **Best Practices for Attorneys for the Alleged Incapacitated Person** moderated by **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff**. And coming up on September 20, 2022 is a CLE Program hosted by the **NYWBA Criminal Law and Domestic Violence Committees** on **Domestic Violence law During the Pandemic**.

The **Elder Law & Disabilities Committee Lunch & Learn Series** also continued with a June 28, 2022 program **Practice of Guardianship Law: Dialogue on Compassion Fatigue**, and their July 12, 2022 program **Practice Tips for a Successful Fair Hearing**. Similarly, the **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee** held its **Equity In Action Speaker Series** featuring **Hon. Kathleen Waterman-Marshall** on June 23, 2022.

On July 26, 2022, we held our annual **Committee Chairs Meeting**, where we shared ideas for making our committees stronger and better. Kudos to the outgoing Committee Chairs for all their hard work and dedication as well as to incoming Committee Chairs for volunteering to serve. I know our Chairs have already been busy over the summer planning their upcoming meetings, programs and CLEs. To really feel a part of our organization, meet colleagues, potential mentors, become better in your chosen area of law and work for improvements in practice, please join one or more of our terrific committees. These are trying times, but we have so many colleagues working hard to make change, protect our rights and carry on NYWBA's mission for all. Please join us in our work.

Be sure to mark your calendars for NYWBA events in October! On October 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. join us to kick off the start of our 2022-2023 calendar at our **Annual Membership Reception at Blank Rome, LLP** who so graciously hosts this reception in their beautiful office. This cocktail reception is free to all, but you must RSVP via our website www.nywba.org to attend. We are looking to increase our membership and hope to sign up new members that evening, so, please bring along your colleagues who may benefit from becoming members of our Association. We will be continuing our Period Poverty drive to help provide sanitary products to people in need.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Abdelmassih
Louise S. Albenda
Danielle Bernstein
Altea Di Stefano
Keitha Duhany
Arielle H. Edelheit
Olivia M. Faljean
Eta M. Gershen
Michelle Grant
Megan Henley
Ashley R. Kaminski

Kenneth M. Moltner
Kerianna Morrissey
Annie Motto
Luana G. Pereira
Natalie A. Picon
Daniel X. Robinson
Enjole Rutherford
Annabel Stanley
Julie M. Stoil Fernandez
Michelle D. Thompson
Dani A. Wachtel

as of Aug 16, 2022

Your Opinion Matters

NYWBA is seeking monthly opinions on legal matters.
Please send your op-ed piece to
opinions@nywba.org.

Additionally, on October 20, 2022, join the **NYWBA Legacy Project: Our Stories, Our Voices** at 6:00 p.m. at a reception and special screening of the first set legacy project films about NYWBA's founders and history. This event will be generously hosted by **Tarter Krinsky & Drogin**. Kudos to the Legacy Project Chairs **Fran Hoffinger** and **Julie Hyman** for their hard work as this tremendous project comes to fruition.

Being a member in the NYWBA grants you the benefit of membership in our statewide organization, the **Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY)**. We are proud to be the largest chapter in that organization, which is the second largest statewide bar association in New York. Being a member in our organization gives you an important voice in statewide legislation and other statewide matters. Following a vote of all WBASNY chapters, on July 21, 2022 WBASNY agreed to participate in two amicus briefs sponsored by the **National Women's Law Center** in the matters of *Fellowship of Christian Athletes, et al v. San Jose Unified School District Board of Education* before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals; and *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina* before the United States Supreme Court; and on August 9, 2022, WBASNY also agreed to participate in the National Women's Law Center amicus brief in the matter of *303 Creative v. Elenis* which is also coming before the United States Supreme Court.

Our opinions and our voice are sought in many important matters. Help us maintain our influence at the WBASNY and statewide level by helping to increase our membership. Together we can do great things. Please check our calendar and e-blasts regularly for upcoming events and important information. Join in and participate; your voice is more important now than ever before.

Magnolia

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

ADR Committee meeting on **Sept. 19**, 5:30 p.m. by Zoom. RSVP ADR@nywba.org.

Animal Rights Committee meeting on **Sept. 19**, 6:00 p.m. by Zoom. RSVP AnimalLaw@nywba.org.

Programs & Events Committee meeting on **Sept. 7**, 6:00 p.m., in person at the offices of Kirkland & Ellis, 601 Lexington Ave. (btwn. 53rd/54th Sts). RSVP events@nywba.org. Light refreshments will be served. Photo ID required for entry.

The NYWBA Criminal Law and Domestic Violence Committees present a CLE Program:

Domestic Violence Law During the Pandemic

Speakers:

Stephanie Connors, Esq.
(Integrated Domestic Violence Part,
NYCDS defense attorney)

Lawrence (Larry) Newman
(Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit at DANY)

and more speakers to be announced

Moderator: TBD

Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom Webinar
CLE: 1.5 credits*
Cost: Free – NYWBA and WBASNY Members**
\$25 – Non-members
RSVP: Before Sept. 16, 2022
<https://bit.ly/3SJrVUz>
Info: If you have any questions, please contact cle@nywba.org.

*CLE Credits: 1.5 credits, TBA. 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 New York State CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for experienced attorneys (those admitted to the New York Bar for more than 2 years) and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys. Please be advised that, in accordance with the New York State CLE Board Regulations and Guidance, while newly admitted attorneys are encouraged to participate in diversity programs, only experienced attorneys may earn credit in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category of CLE credit.

** Free NYWBA and WBASNY members, \$25, non-member: Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For info on the guidelines and to apply, contact CLE Co- Chairs Amy B. Goldsmith or Stacey Better Phillips at cle@nywba.org or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

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.

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Amy B. Goldsmith	Carolyn Reinach Wolf
Julie Hyman	

THE NYWBA Legacy Project: OUR STORIES, OUR VOICES

Invites you to a

Reception and Special Screening of the First Set of Legacy Project Films About NYWBA's Founders and History

Date: October 20, 2022
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP
1350 Broadway, Floor 11, NYC
Tickets: Free - Limit: 70 people
Info: If you have any questions, please contact Legacy Project Chairs **Fran Hoffinger** or **Julie Hyman** at legacychairs@nywba.org. The NYWBA Legacy Project preserves the history of our NYWBA founders and members and inspires a new generation to contribute positively to the legal profession and our community. For more information, please visit www.nywba.org.
RSVP: RSVP BY OCTOBER 6, 2022 to Legacychairs@nywba.org.

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.

2022 Annual Awards and Installation Dinner June 16, 2022 at Three Sixty°







The NYWBA Thanks the Sponsors of the 2022 Annual Dinner



Hon. Laura E. Drager
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The NYWBA Thanks Our Generous Auction and Raffle Donors to Benefit the NYWBA Foundation and its Grant Programs (including the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin Fund)

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Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!

If you haven't, it's time to RENEW your membership for **2022-2023**.

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, our award-winning Mentoring Circles, networking events and Committee meetings, access to our Newsletters online, and other benefits.

Renew online using our secure online membership form at **www.nywba.org/membership**. You can also email Executive Director Karen Lu (**ED@nywba.org**) to confirm your member status or request a paper membership form by email.

May 5, 2022 CLE on Computer Skills All Attorneys Need By Isiris Isaac

On May 5, 2022, the **Solo and Small Firm Practice, Student and New Lawyers**, and **Civil Courts Committees** sponsored an insightful and valuable CLE program on Zoom titled **"Computer Skills Every Lawyer Needs to Know."** The presenters included Stamatia Panuccio, a Network Systems Tech from the Civil Term of the Supreme Court in the First Judicial District; **Gail I. Bader, Esq.**; **Melissa Glassman, Esq.**; and the moderator, the **Hon. James Clynes**, an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court.

Ms. Panuccio talked about the court's modernization initiatives and how the pandemic has expedited these efforts. She described the new technical features in the courtrooms. Some of these new features include infrared hearing aids, WiFi, and podiums with USB and CD-ROM outlets. The new features provide outlets for use of smartphones, iPads, tablets, and laptops using HDMI cables to display your screen to everyone to share, for example, MRI images or other evidence. Attorneys are encouraged to bring laptops instead of CD-ROM or USB devices and to test their sound and video before starting their meeting or presentation. Ms. Panuccio also recommended that you troubleshoot audio and video issues with the Teams application prior to using it to ensure an effective online meeting with the court.

Melissa Glassman, an Associate at Advocate LLP, spoke on how to use Adobe Pro to redact a document and how to protect a document with a password. Gail Bader, a solo practitioner, instructed us on how to Bates stamp a PDF document and identified on the screen the icon image used to stamp. There are four different stamp options, and you can pick any color, font, size, and location for your Bates stamp. The presentation was practical and relatively easy to follow.

There were about thirty-five participants, and some shared on the chat that they found the session informative and thanked the presenters. With this training, we were all better positioned to avoid incidents such as that of last year's viral video, where an attorney averred on Zoom that he was not a cat. Make sure to turn off those filters prior to any meeting.

The presenting NYWBA sincerely thanks the Hon. James Clynes, Stamatia Panuccio, Gail I. Bader, Esq. and Melissa Glassman, Esq. for presenting this program!

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>.

The Constitution, a Secular Oratorio – Concert Review by Bridget Brennan



Can the text of the United States Constitution be set to music and performed in a way that is both engaging and entertaining?

Judging by the response of the audience who stood and cheered for The Constitution, a Secular Oratorio, performed by the Grace Chorale of Brooklyn in partnership with the Vertical Player Repertory, the answer is a resounding "yes."

Dr. Benjamin Yarmolinsky composed the piece, performed by the 75 person Grace Chorale of Brooklyn, 8 soloists and a 26-piece chamber orchestra on May 14 and 15, 2022 at St. Ann & The Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn Heights. In the program notes, the composer asks "Why sing the Constitution? The idea of singing a code of law, although uncommon today, is an ancient one... If traditional laws can be sung, why not secular?"

In keeping with the Constitution's reflection of 18th century values and language, composer Yarmolinsky chose an 18th century musical style, the oratorio, as the model for his setting of The Constitution. The piece employs classical choruses, arias, and recitatives, but is also unmistakably American, with jazz rhythms, blues, folk, and gospel as well.

Part I sets significant Articles of the Constitution to music, capturing the lofty goals of our nation's foundational document through the verbatim musical recitation of selected Articles, sometimes staccato and sometimes lyrical, by the chorus and impressive soloists. At intermission, one member of the audience was heard to say "I was planning to leave at intermission, but the Articles were so much fun, I am going to stick around for the Bill of Rights."

The Bill of Rights did not disappoint. In Part II, the ensemble performed musical pieces presenting not only the Bill of Rights but also other significant Amendments including Voting Rights and Prohibition.

The Vertical Player Repertory Artistic Director Judith Barnes was primarily responsible for the thoughtful choreography throughout the performance. She made good use of the space in the stately church, with soloists and choristers coming off their pedestals and risers in front of the altar and

(Continued on Page 9)

What It's REALLY Like to Practice Law as a Woman



As you walked up the stairs to the main room, you heard powerful voices all around you. To whom did these voices belong? Women!

For the first time in nearly three years, The Martha E. Gifford Summer Program, which boasts a distinguished panel of Women Warriors, was held in person, hosted at the New York City Bar Association.

Magnolia D. Levy, President of the New York Women's Bar Association, and Shelia S. Boston, President of the New York City Bar Association gave opening statements. Both welcomed everyone and expressed great joy to be able to host this program, especially in an in-person format. President Levy shared with gratitude that Martha E. Gifford, the person for whom the program is named, was one of her mentors. As she retold experiences and instances when Ms. Gifford supported and guided her, President Levy took the opportunity to share her key to success: having mentors to learn from and look up to.

As the evening progressed, each panelist was afforded the opportunity to share their own individual experiences and lessons learned with the audience.

Meredith R. Miller, a professor at Touro University Law Center, founding partner at Miller Law, PLLC, and former President of LeGaL, discussed with the audience the stereotypes that still exist in the legal profession and the importance of challenging them.

Kellisia Hazelwood, partner at Hazelwood Lawrence PLLC, presented her career path as an attorney for the Administration for Children's Services, prior to starting her own firm that operates in Virginia, Michigan and New York. Although there are the many lessons that Ms. Hazelwood said could be learned from her career changes, her key message is: never be afraid to take a leap of faith.

Stacy D'Cunha-Rubin, an attorney with the New York City Law Department, shared with the audience the challenges that she has faced as an attorney. One of the worst experiences was a "dreadful" deposition, during which opposing counsel objected to every single one of her questions. She later learned that a male colleague who asked similar deposition questions faced no objections. Ms. D'Cunha-Rubin told everyone in the audience to never back down and to have the courage to seek a change.

Danica L. Brown, a senior attorney at Sidley Austin LLP, revealed that she has her own "board of directors": trusted individuals whom she can call upon in her time of need. These members of her "board" never tell her

Meet and Eat for Diversity

On June 7, 2022, guardianship practitioners and attorneys interested in learning more about Article 81 guardianship work gathered for a lively dinner at MoCA Asian Bistro in Forest Hills, Queens. The dinner was an opportunity for attorneys of diverse backgrounds to learn more about Part 36 appointments and the **Guardianship Diversity Initiative ("GDI")**, which aims to increase and promote diversity in the practice of Article 81 guardianships of incapacitated persons. The event was sponsored by the NYWBA, Network of Bar Leaders and Law Office of Edmond W. Wong, PLLC.

Justices **Bernice Siegel** and **Lisa A. Sokoloff** spoke to the group and answered questions about the status of guardianship matters in the Courts and the importance of finding diverse candidates to fill various roles in such proceedings, including that of guardian, attorney for the allegedly incapacitated person, counsel to the guardian and court evaluator. Seasoned practitioners shared their experiences in the field and echoed the need for attorneys from varied practice areas and cultural backgrounds to put their legal and language skills to use in the guardianship arena.

Attendees enjoyed great food and conversation and were offered valuable information on Article 81 certification trainings and the Part 36 appointment process. The dinner was a success, providing support, training, and mentorship resources for those who wish to do this important work.

The Constitution (Continued from Page 8)

using the center aisle between rows of pews as a stage. For Amendment 14, granting equal rights to African Americans in the wake of the Civil War, members of the chorale – including NYWBA member **Olivia Sohmer** – danced joyfully in celebration of the text.

The outstanding cast of soloists included Soprano Liz Lang, who had a clear, full, resonant voice that never tripped over complex language, and incorporated comedic mincing steps while singing and exaggerated emphasis in her performance. The sly humor was both unexpected and engaging.

For those who didn't make it to the live performance, a video of the May 15, 2022 performance and a highlight reel can be viewed on the Grace Chorale website: www.gracechorale.org.

In sum, The Constitution. A Secular Oratorio was educational and inspirational.

exactly what to do, but they help her to explore what the next step in her career might be. Ms. Brown also endorsed Ms. Miller's views with regard to challenging stereotypes. Ms. Brown told the audience that when you feel like something is "off", you should speak up and ask an outsider to observe to help you gain perspective.

A lively networking reception followed the panel discussion, during which many attendees stressed the importance of always carrying business cards.

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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.

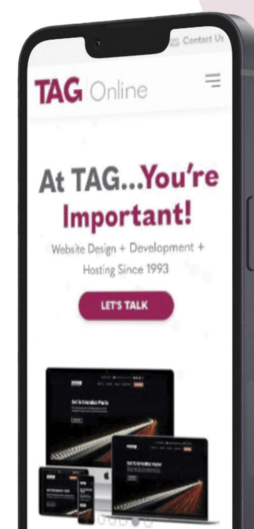
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