

## NYWBA HISTORY - FOUNDERS, PAST PRESIDENTS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

*The New York Women's Bar Association's Founders, Presidents and Advisory Council members are an illustrious group. We are honored to present brief highlights of their careers and work with the Association. Due to the passage of time, we do not have complete histories for some of them. We invite the submission of information and photos to document and preserve our history and archives. Please send relevant material to [History@nywba.org](mailto:History@nywba.org).*

### FOUNDERS

*The New York Women's Bar Association was founded in 1934 by six attorneys who had been denied admission to other bar associations solely because they were women. NYWBA incorporated as a not-for-profit bar association in 1935, and the official Certificate of Incorporation was signed by eleven women (in this order):*



**Hon. Hilda G. Schwartz** was a Founder, President (1939-1949), Vice President and the first Secretary of the NYWBA. A high school valedictorian, she attended NYU for undergraduate and law school. When she signed the Certificate of Incorporation, she was an attorney with offices at 165 Broadway and lived in the Bronx. At a time when there was crushing discrimination against women, she was the first female Director of Finance for New York City, served as Secretary of the Board of Estimate, and was a judge for 24 years. She was also active with the New York County Lawyers' Association, serving on the Professional Ethics Committee in the 1960's. She retired as a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1983, at 76. She was married to lawyer Herman Schwartz, and they had a practice together in Manhattan and lived in Greenwich Village. They also helped found the Village Temple. Judge Schwartz passed away in 1998.

**Estelle Ruth Grollman Kane** was admitted to the New York bar in 1933. At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, her offices were located at 51 Chambers Street in Manhattan, and she lived in Brooklyn. She passed away in 1998.

**Lauretta Rose** was admitted to the bar in 1932. At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, she was an attorney with offices at 1450 Broadway, and she lived in the Bronx. Starting in the mid-1930's, she served as a referee in the determination of real estate property rights and transfers.



**Rose Lehman Stein** graduated from NYU Law School in 1922 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1923. She received an LL.M. from NYU Law School in 1925. She became the first female president of the New York University Club in 1922, served for three terms as NYWBA's first President (1934-1938), and she became the first female president of the NYU Law Alumni Association in 1955. At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, she lived and worked in Manhattan, with offices at 277 Broadway. She was also active with the New York County Lawyers' Association, serving on the Legal Education and Admission to the Bar Committee and chairing the Revision of the NYS Constitution Committee in the early 1960's. In the 1970's, she moved to North Miami Beach, Florida. She passed away in 1985.

**Margaret Fuller Karlin** was born in 1903. She graduated from NYU Law School in 1925 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1926. She was married to Ralph Kerbs, also a graduate of NYU Law, Class of 1920. When the NYWBA was incorporated, she lived in Brooklyn and had an office at 76

William Street in Manhattan. She was later an attorney for, and an officer of, the Tenants Association of New York, which in 1960 (when she was a Vice President) had a membership of 4,000. She was President of the NYU Law Alumni Association during the 1950's and 1960's. After she passed away in 1982, a scholarship was established in her name at NYU Law School.

**Doris Silver Freeman** was an attorney in Manhattan. At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, her offices were located in the Woolworth Building, and she lived in Brooklyn. While we have been unable to find much documentation about Ms. Freeman's legal career, Founder and past President Florence Perlow Shientag remembered her as "serious, hard working, and an excellent parent."

**Beatrice R. Fliegel** was a graduate of NYU Law School in 1922. At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, she lived and worked in Manhattan, and her offices were at 225 Broadway.

**Minnie Kelter (Goldberg)** was a graduate of Hunter College and NYU Law School. At the time of NYWBA's founding, she lived and worked in Manhattan, with offices at 11 West 42nd Street. She went on to become a Director of the Bronx Women's Bar Association, President of the Bronx Professional and Business Women's Group, and a member of the Ulster County Bar Association. Her husband Maurice Goldberg was an Assistant Attorney General for New York State. She moved from New York City to Woodstock in 1948, and she passed away in 1960.

**Freda Spinard (Kole Baileson)** was a 1922 graduate of NYU Law School (LLB). At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, she lived in Woodhaven (Queens) and worked at 39 Broadway in Manhattan. After serving as a Founder of NYWBA, Ms. Spinard was elected President of the Queens Women's Bar Association in January 1936. She passed away in 1947.

**Lillian B. Garrell** was admitted to the New York bar in 1933. At the time of NYWBA's incorporation, she lived in Brooklyn, and her offices were located at 551 Fifth Avenue. She passed away in 1986.

**Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag (Frankel)** received a Bachelor of Science from NYU (1929) and law degree from NYU School of Law (1931). She was Law Secretary to NYC Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and then clerked for Thomas Dewey, Special Prosecutor in NY County. In 1941, she became a Judge of the Domestic Relations Court (predecessor to Family Court). In 1943, she became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, the first woman prosecutor in the Criminal Division. In 1954, she established a private practice in domestic relations and the representation of artists. She was the first woman to successfully argue a First Amendment case before the U.S. Supreme Court (1954). She served as NYWBA President (1941-1942), Officer, Director, and Committee Chair, and was an active member for more than 60 years. She was also in the first class of women admitted as a member of the New York City Bar in 1937 and served as Chair of its



Committee on Law and the Arts. She became the first female elected to the NYCLA Board of Directors of the New York County Lawyers' Association (1942-1949) and chaired its Committee on the Domestic Relations Court. She was a member of the National Committee on Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance and served on the Boards of the United Nations Development Corporation and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. Prior to her passing in 1997 at the age of 102, she underwrote an annual \$10,000 NYWBA scholarship for law students, and thanks to her generous bequest NYWBA is able to provide CLE to current members for free.

### PAST PRESIDENTS

**1934-38 – Rose Lehman Stein** was a Founder and served for three terms as NYWBA's first President (see profile above under "Founders").

**1938-39 – Jenet Kaplan Brown** earned her law degree from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1929. During her Presidency, Ms. Brown and then-Secretary Jeannette Harris were featured in a New York Times article about NYWBA's resolution urging the nomination of women Supreme Court Justices in the First Judicial District and the appointment of Judge Florence E. Allen of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1942, during World War II, Ms. Brown was Chairman of American Women's Voluntary Services, which partnered with NYWBA to open and staff a clinic to provide urgent legal services to military personnel and their families who could not afford counsel.

**1939-40 – Hon. Hilda G. Schwartz**, Founder and Past President (see profile above under "Founders").



**1940-41 – Lillian M. Kooperstein**, born on the Lower East Side to an Orthodox Jewish family, was admitted to practice in 1925. Upon graduation from NYU Law School, she obtained a clerkship at a law office, which was then a prerequisite to sit for the bar. Upon passing the bar, she opened a law office with her brother, Moses, and practiced matrimonial law in the 1920's and 1930's. During World War II, and for 30 years thereafter, she was a sole practitioner. Married in 1949 to a law school classmate, Joseph Goldberg, she shared office space with her husband on Broadway. She also served as President of the Council of Jewish Women. Ms. Kooperstein had a well-deserved reputation for serious devotion to the rule of law, and during the late 1980's and early 1990's, long after she closed her practice, she sat as an Administrative Law Judge - well into her early 90's! She passed away in 1998.

**1941-42 – Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag**, Founder and Past President (see profile above under "Founders").

**1942-43 – Isabel Joffe** graduated from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the New York bar in 1928. In addition to her work with the NYWBA and on the war effort, she was an active member of the New York County Lawyers' Association, serving on the Military Jurisprudence Committee. She passed away in 1961.

**1943-44 – Marie C. Connolly** graduated from Fordham Law School in 1933 and was admitted in 1934. She held many positions on the Board before she was elected President. She lived in Queens, and early NYWBA Presidents and colleagues remembered her fondly.

**1944-45 – Adelaide Burkan Bodow** was born in 1912, and she graduated from NYU and NYU Law School, where she was the only woman in her

class. She was admitted to the bar in New York in 1940 and practiced law at Schwartz & Froelich with her uncle, Nathan Burkan, a founder of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). They represented such notables as Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Mae West, Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt, Arnold Rothstein, Samuel Goldwyn, and Al Jolson. Ms. Bodow's work with the firm is mentioned in a 2020 biography entitled, *Adventures of a Jazz Age Lawyer: Nathan Burkan and the Making of American Popular Culture*. Among other accomplishments during her Presidency, she persuaded the NYS Chief Judge to speak at a NYWBA event for the first time, which brought recognition in law publications and increased the stature of the NYWBA. She remained active in NYWBA for decades, chairing the Judiciary Committee in the 1960's. She married Edward L. Bodow in 1939, shortly before she was admitted, and they had three children. She later worked part-time at Schwartz & Froelich through the remainder of her career. Ms. Bodow passed away in Miami, Florida in March 2000.

**1945-47 – Jeannette H. Harris** served for 10 years on the staff of the New York Attorney General's Office, Labor Bureau, before she went into private practice in 1944. She held several positions in the NYWBA before becoming President, and she spoke out publicly on the importance of ensuring that women were able to continue to retain employment after the end of World War II. After the war and through the 1950's and 1960's, she testified numerous times before the U.S Congress, New York State Legislature, before bar associations, and in other forums on child labor laws and in favor of equal rights for women in employment. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, she was an officer of the Women's Trade Union League. During the mid- to late-1950's she was President of the New York Workmen's Compensation Bar Association.

**1947-49 – Esther Glantz** served as Secretary for three years and Vice President prior to her Presidency. She graduated from NYU in 1934 and NYU Law School in 1936. She and Joseph F. McCloy were partners in the law firm of McCloy & Glantz. She married Dr. Chester Kremer, a professor of chemistry at CUNY, in 1951, and they had two children. She was also active in New York County Lawyers' and the New York City Bar, chairing committees for both associations.

**1949-51 – Hon. Frieda Levin Lorber** graduated summa cum laude from NYU and received her law degree from NYU Law School in 1938. She received an LL.M. from Columbia Law School in Comparative and International Law in 1959. She worked for the Department of Investigations of the City of New York, served as a Judge for Small Claims Court, worked with Jewish philanthropies, and was a member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers and a representative to the United Nations Human Rights Community. She also chaired the Law Alumni Association at NYU Law School. She studied piano and voice at the Institute of Musical Art (now Juilliard), sang as a mezzo-soprano with the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera in the 1920's, and was a member of the New York Oratorio Society. She passed away in 1976.



**1951-53 – Julia Perles** graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1937. She is widely considered to have played the leading role as chair of the committee that brought about the passage of New York State's equitable distribution law, which went into effect in 1980. This law brought a revolutionary change in the practice of matrimonial law and in the rights of marital partners. Until her death in 1998, Ms. Perles was affiliated with Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim and Ballon, LLP, where she became a partner in 1970 and headed the firm's matrimonial practice. Before that, she was



an associate at Schwartz & Froehlich from 1942 to 1952, and then a partner at Greenbaum Wolff & Ernst. Ms. Perles was also a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a member of the "Dirty Thirty," an organization of American lawyers who were prominent in the field of matrimonial law.



**1953-55 – Norah K. Donovan** graduated from NYU Law School in 1945 and was admitted in 1946. She served for many years as the attorney in charge of copyright matters for the American Broadcasting Company. She was also an officer and Corporate Secretary of the Audio and Video Products Corporation during the 1950's. She held numerous leadership positions in the NYWBA, and past Presidents fondly remember her accomplishments, athletic prowess, and sense of fun. After her Presidency, she was appointed to chair several New York County Lawyers' Association committees, including the Municipal Court Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and the Committee on the Unlawful Practice of Law. She was also involved in charitable works.



**1955-57 – Mary Riepma Cowell Ross** graduated from Vassar in 1932 and received her law degree in 1938 from Memphis State University [now University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law]. In the early 1940's, she worked for the government in Washington, D.C., chiefly in the Office of Alien Property of the U.S. Justice Department, and was affiliated with Cromelin, Townsend and Kirkland. She moved to New York in 1946 to work for Royal, Koegel & Rogers [which became Rogers & Wells and is now Clifford Chance LLP], where she became an expert in wills, trusts and estates. She joined NYWBA in 1948, and before her Presidency she served as Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Director, and member of the Judiciary, By-Laws, Legislation, and Equal Opportunities for Women Committees. After her term, she served on the Advisory Council for more than 50 years. She was also active in the American Bar Association, the National Association of Women Lawyers, and the New York City Bar. In 1961, she opened a solo practice and became active in philanthropic work, serving on the Board of the Merce Cunningham Dance Foundation, the Central Park Community Fund, the University of Nebraska Foundation, and other organizations. In the 1970's and 1980's, she competed in amateur ballroom events, and in 1989 she donated \$3.5 million to establish the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theatre at the University of Nebraska. She passed away in 2013 at the age of 102.



**1957-58 – Anna Oberwager** received her bachelor's and master's degrees from NYU in 1909 and 1910. In later years, she studied at Fordham University. She was admitted to the bar in 1916. She and her husband, Hon. Charles A. Oberwager, a New York City magistrate, were law partners, and they had two children, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She also served as a court referee. Their son Edwin Oberwager served as an Assistant Attorney General for New York State and as a Justice of the New York Supreme Court. Ms. Oberwager passed away in 1987 at age 98.



**1958-59 – Norma Z. Paige** received her A.B. and J.D. degrees from NYU and was admitted to the bars of the New York State and the United States Supreme Court. She and her husband Samuel Paige wed in 1945, and they founded the Paige & Paige law firm in 1946; she continued her private practice until 2000. In 1959, she and her brother founded Astronautics Corporation of America, which designs and manufactures sophisticated avionics and navigation equipment. She held many

offices in that company over the years, including Executive Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, and after her retirement, she remained Chairman Emeritus. From 1988 to 2001, she also served Kearfott Corporation as Executive Vice President and a member of its Board of Directors. In addition to her service on our Board and as President, Ms. Paige contributed mightily to NYWBA's history, providing precious photos and archival materials documenting our story. She was also a mentor to many NYWBA Presidents. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of NYU Law School, she endowed NYU's Norma Z. Paige Professorship of Law, and she received several awards from NYU Law School. She received numerous other awards, including the Jabotinsky Award, presented by Menachem Begin, former Prime Minister of Israel. Ms. Paige passed away in 2017, and her husband of 60 years passed away in 2015. Their two daughters and sons-in-law all attorneys.

**1959-60 – Lucille M. Gannon** was associated with Sherman & Sterling for many years. She was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1960. She was active in the NYWBA for decades, serving as Treasurer, in other Officer positions, on the Board, and as the Chair of many committees. In the year after her Presidency, she chaired the Continuing Legal Education Committee. She passed away in 1978.



**1960-61 – Marie Mallot** was born in 1921. She worked as a legal secretary at Kurzman, Karelsen & Frank in the early 1940's. Noticing that she was extremely bright, several attorneys at the firm encouraged her to attend law school at night, which she did. She was the only woman in her class when she graduated from Fordham Law School in 1946, and she was admitted to the bar in 1947. In addition to serving as a NYWBA President, Officer, Director and Committee Chair, she was active with New York County Lawyers' Association, chairing several committees over the years. Ms. Mallot spent her entire legal career practicing estates law at Kurzman, Karelsen & Frank. She retired in 1976, but she continued doing work for the firm into her retirement.

**1961-62 – Hon. Florence Raider Zimmerman** graduated from Hunter College in 1937, with a degree in Economics and recipient of Hunter's Constitutional Law Prize. She received her law degree from New York Law School in 1941, one of only two women in her class. She was admitted to the bar in 1941. During college, she interned with NYC Deputy License Commissioner and feminist icon Dorothy Kenyon, and she later became an attorney for the New York City Rent and Housing Administration. An expert on rent control, she successfully argued before the NY Court of Appeals on a precedent-setting case involving the application of rent control to properties that were claimed to be "hotels." She was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954. Judge Zimmerman was also active in the New York County Lawyers' Association, where she served as a Committee Chair, and she was active in the American Bar Association. She was appointed a NYC Civil Court Judge in 1971. She also served as counsel for the Hunter College Alumnae Association after her retirement from the judiciary. In 2018, at age 103, Judge Zimmerman attended Hunter College's Alumni Celebrations as the school's oldest living graduate and as an esteemed member of Hunter's "Alumni Hall of Fame." She passed away in 2019.



**1962-63 – Ethel F. Beaver** graduated from NYU Law School in 1951 and was admitted to the bar the same year. She was a member of the firm Korkus & Korkus, where she practiced commercial, real estate and labor law. She was married to Dr. Kurt Berliner, a cardiologist. She served as a NYWBA President, Officer, Director and Committee Chair.





**1963-64 – Hon. Freda Silbowitz** was born in 1915, and she pumped gas at her father's service station in the Bronx when she was a girl. After graduating from Hunter College in 1935 (Phi Beta Kappa), she received her law degree from Columbia Law School in 1937 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1938. After many years in private practice, she was appointed a Judge of the New York County Family Court. During her tenure with the NYWBA, she was a Board member, Officer, and chaired several Committees, and as President she organized a United Nations Reception for members of the British Bar who traveled to the United States to exchange knowledge and insights about the two countries' respective legal systems. Later in life, she became a "snow bird," splitting time between homes in Halladale, Florida and New York City, and practicing law in both locations. She passed away on December 11, 2013 at the age of 98, having been predeceased by her beloved husband Murray Hertz.

**1964-65 – Shirley Perles Thau** was admitted to the bar in 1947, having graduated in 1946 from NYU Law School and Hunter College. Over the years, she practiced in many areas, including international law, trusts and estates, and litigation. She became a senior partner in the law firm of Wolf Popper. She then became a principal at Gruen, Muskin & Thau, which she left in 1986 when she moved her practice to Boca Raton, Florida. She was very active with NYWBA and also with other bar associations, and she chaired several NYCLA Committees. She passed away in Florida in 2014.

**1965-66 – Bessie D. (Wilensky) Goldberg** served as President of both the NYWBA and the Nassau/Suffolk County Women's Bar Association. She was an attorney for the Legal Aid Society and rose to the position of Attorney-in-Charge of its Rockaway Office. She and her husband, Hyman Goldberg, had four children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She passed away in 2007.



**1966-67 – Fannie J. Klein** was admitted to the bar in 1928. In addition to lecturing and authoring several legal works, she received numerous awards. An expert on court reform, Ms. Klein was most thrilled when she was named the first woman Professor of the NYU Law School in 1958. She was also the librarian, assistant director, and associate director of NYU School of Law's Institute of Judicial Administration, which was established in 1952 to promote greater efficiency in court administration throughout the nation. Ms. Klein was a member of the Judicial Selection Committee for the Supreme Court in New York City in 1968. After 1975, she practiced law in Surrogate's Court and Supreme Court, where she often served as a guardian, conservator and referee. In 1983, she was a recipient of the American Juridicature Society's Herbert Harley Award for her "efforts to promote the effective administration of justice." She passed away in 1984.

**1967-68 – (Mabel) Marie Whitesell Balboa** was active in the Association for many years. In the 1960's, she was a Committee Chair, Director and Officer. In 1967, she co-authored an article with Mary R. Cowell Ross in the Women's Law Journal (Vol. 53) concerning the United Nations. Among other roles, she represented the NYWBA in its relationships with other bar associations. Records indicate that she was an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. Founder and Past President Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag remembered her in later years as a lovely person. She passed away in 1997.

**1968-69 – Doris Sassower** graduated from Brooklyn College (Phi Beta Kappa) and NYU School of Law (1955). During her Presidency, she was a featured speaker at the National Conference of Bar Presidents on the

pervasive discrimination against female attorneys. She was active in many bar associations, including serving on NYSBA's Judiciary Committee. In 1970-71 she was President of the New York Phi Beta Kappa Alumnae Assn. After her retirement from law practice, Ms. Sassower was the co-founder and director of the Center for Judicial Accountability. She has three grown children. She passed away in 2019.

**1969-70 – Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin** was the first woman appointed to serve as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division for the First Department and the first female Presiding Justice of that Court. Elected to the bench in 1976, she was the first woman to serve as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of NYS for the New York City Courts. She is Chair of the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, Chair of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board, member of the NYS Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, and Vice Chair of the First Department Committee on Character and Fitness, among her many other activities. She is a Founder and Director of WBASNY and JALBCA and was President of the National Association of Women Judges. Among her innumerable awards are the NYWBA President's Special Award (twice); the WBASNY Betty Weinberg Ellerin Mentoring Award (established in her honor); the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession's Margaret Brent Women's of Achievement Award, the NYS Association of Women Judges Leadership Award, and the NYWBA Florence E. Allen Award. Upon retiring from the bench in 2005, she joined Alston & Bird LLP as Senior Counsel in the firm's Litigation and Trial Practice Group. She also joined JAMS, where she conducts mediations and arbitrations in complex matters. She has three children and three wonderful grandchildren. Justice Ellerin's late husband Milton was an active trial lawyer and was always very supportive of her aspirations and accomplishments.



**1970-71 – Dr. Edith Lond Fisch** was confined to a wheelchair due to childhood polio, but she did not let that limit her accomplishments. She earned a B.S. in chemistry from Brooklyn College, was the first person to earn all degrees awarded by Columbia Law School (LL.B., LL.M. and Jur.Sc.D.), and the first woman to earn a Jur.Sc.D. from Columbia. In private practice, she focused on trusts and estates. In 1959, she published *Fisch on New York Evidence*, widely used by bench and bar and as a law school text. In addition to nearly forty law review articles, she authored *The Cy Pres Doctrine in the United States* (1951) and *Charities and Charitable Foundations* (1974). Appointed an Assistant Professor at New York Law School in 1963, the school's first female law professor. She later returned to private practice and passed away in 2006. In 2009, Columbia unveiled a plaque honoring Dr. Fisch, who bequeathed \$1.8 million to endow the Law Library Collection in perpetuity.



**1971-72 – Mathilda Miller Cuneo** graduated from NYU Law School in 1926 and was admitted in 1928. She was the first woman member of the Bronx County Bar Association in 1945 and a Trustee and benefactor of the Bronx-Riverdale YM-YWHA. Ms. Cuneo chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee, and in 1966 undertook a special but unfulfilled project to enact legislation allowing for divorce if a spouse had an illegitimate child after living apart from his/her spouse five or more years. The New York Times noted that this "'very important ground for divorce' would remove the stigma of illegitimacy from thousands of children, many of whom are not aware that their parents are not married." In later years, she also practiced real estate law. In 1991, she was honored by NYU Law School when it celebrated the 100th anniversary of its admission of women. She passed away in 1997.



**1972-73 – Hon. Harriet E. Gair** graduated from NYU School of Law, receiving her LLB in 1940 and began the practice of law at the firm of her husband, Harry A. Gair. In 1945, she became Managing Partner at Gair & Gair. From 1976 to 1981, she served as an elected Town Justice in Putnam County. During Judge Gair's term on the bench, she was engaged in civil and criminal law. In addition, she was President of the Putnam Valley Free Library Board of Trustees, the Mid-Hudson Library System, and was a member of the Town Board of Putnam Valley. With Judge Gair's continuing interest in Judaism, she devoted herself to worthy Jewish causes and jurisprudence, and was honored by the Institute of Jewish Humanities. Judge Gair passed away in 2006 at the age of 100. Her son, Anthony Gair, was an active NYWBA member and sponsor, and partner in the successor firm of Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinowitz until his passing.



**1973-74 – Joan Ellenbogen** graduated from NYU Law School and was admitted to practice in 1965. With Marcia Goldstein, she formed Ellenbogen and Goldstein, P.C., with a practice limited to matrimonial and family law. She was a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a Diplomate in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, a member of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, a member of the Commission on Judicial Nominations to the Court of Appeals, and the first woman to chair the New York City Bar's Executive Committee. She was a member of the First Department Disciplinary Committee, served on the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society, and was listed in Best Lawyers in America. She was a Founder and the first President of WBASNY, and the WBASNY Founders Award has been renamed in her honor. She was also a founder of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. She passed away in 2001.



**1974-75 – Sheila L. Birnbaum**, Co-Chair of the Product Liability and Mass Torts Practice at Dechert, LLP, is one of the country's preeminent product liability defense lawyers. She has served as national or lead counsel for many Fortune 500 companies and was previously head or co-head of the products liability practices at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan and Skadden, Arps. She has argued many appeals, including before the U.S. Supreme Court, where she won three major cases. She has been named one of the leading products liability lawyers in the world by The International Who's Who of Product Liability, one of the ten most admired attorneys by Law 360, and one of the 25 most influential women by Crain's New York Business. As a court-appointed mediator, she achieved a \$500 million settlement for 92 families of 9/11 victims. In 2011, as Special Master of the September 11 Victims Compensation Fund, she distributed nearly \$2 billion to additional claimants. Ms. Birnbaum was the first woman to become a tenured professor at Fordham University Law School and was a Professor and Associate Dean at New York University Law School. In addition to serving as NYWBA President and in other bar leadership positions, she is a Founder and past Director of WBASNY, a founder of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, and the first Co-President of the Judges and Lawyers' Breast Cancer Alert. Her innumerable awards include the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession's Margaret Brent Women of Achievement Award, and the Milton S. Gould Award for Outstanding Appellate Advocacy. She is a member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame.

**1975-76 – Florence B. Donohue** was born in New York City in 1919. After becoming a widow, she moved with her five children to Louisville, Kentucky, where she attended the University of Louisville Law School, graduating magna cum laude. She returned to New York, and was admitted to the bar in 1960. She obtained a master's degree in taxation at NYU Law School and became the editor of Prentice Hall's Federal Tax Guide and a sought after tax expert on news programs. Among other accomplishments, Ms. Donohue participated in organizing the celebration of NYWBA's 40th Anniversary. She spent her later years living in her beloved Montauk, Long Island home. She passed away in 2009.



**1976-77 – Myrna Felder** is a graduate of NYU Law School and was admitted to the NYS bar in 1971. She has been a popular lecturer for all major bar associations. As chair of NYSBA's Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, she organized the State Bar's CLE program on Appellate Practice in 1989, which was presented bi-annually in each of the four judicial departments. She regularly taught at Summer Judicial Seminars, and throughout the year in training sessions for Matrimonial Judges and staff, newly elected Judges, Court Attorneys, and Special Referees. Since 1983, she has served on OCA's Advisory Committee on Civil Practice and has also long been a member of the Board of Directors of the Office of the Appellate Defender (OAD). A founding member of Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert, Ms. Felder served as its first Membership Chair and later as Co-President. She is a member of JALBCA's Advisory Board. For NYWBA, she served on our Board, as Secretary, and as Treasurer, before serving as President. The next few years were devoted to establishing WBASNY, of which she is a Founder and was President in 1986-87. She organized WBASNY's Matrimonial and Family Law Committee in 1983 – its first substantive committee, and she remains a resource at the state and local level. Ms. Felder is the recipient of numerous awards, including the NYWBA President's Special Award.



**1977-78 – Beverly Gross** is a labor lawyer who limited her practice to labor arbitration and mediation, including ERISA. During her career, she served as labor and benefits counsel to NY Telephone Company; General Counsel to District Council 37 (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers); General Counsel, New York State Division of Human Rights; Associate General Counsel, New York City Commission on Human Rights; and Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City. She has had extensive experience in arbitration and mediation, as well as with the NYS Public Employment Relations Board and Civilian Complaint Review Board. She graduated from NYU Law School in 1969 and joined NYWBA the same year. She also represented NYWBA on the Second Circuit Panel on Admissions and Grievances.

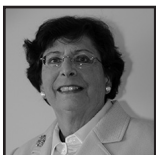


**1978-79 – Marcia C. Goldstein** was a graduate of NYU Law School and was admitted in 1967. While NYWBA President, she was Associate General Counsel at Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb. With Joan Ellenbogen, she formed Ellenbogen and Goldstein, P.C., practicing matrimonial and family law. She was a founding member and Director of WBASNY (1980-85). Ms. Goldstein chaired the New York City Bar Matrimonial & Family Law Committee; chaired the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar, Family Law Section; co-chaired the Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution; and was a member of the American Bar Association, Family Law Section. She was also appointed by then-Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye to serve as a member of the Matrimonial Commission of the State of New York. She passed away in 2018.





**1979-80 – Andrea Hyde** is Of Counsel to Bond Schoeneck & King in its trusts and estates department. She is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel; a Member of the EPTL-SCPA Legislative Advisory Committee; a member of the Surrogate's Court Advisory Committee to the Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of the State of New York; a Fellow of the New York State Bar Association Foundation; a former Member of the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association and former Chair of its Life Insurance and Employee Benefits Committee; and a Founding Director of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. She has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America from 1999 to present and in Super Lawyers in the New York Metropolitan Area from 2007 to present. She is married to Dave Harrington, and she has two children, Kate Cimini, an attorney in Massachusetts, and Laura Cimini, a pediatric psychologist in New York City. She also has two wonderful grandchildren.



**1980-81 – Diane S. Wilner** received her B.S. and M.A. from the City College of New York, and she graduated magna cum laude from Brooklyn Law School, where she was a Law Review editor. After being an associate of Skadden Arps, she and three colleagues formed its first spin-off. Later, she founded Wilner & Associates, P.C., which represented Fortune 500 corporations and institutions in diverse areas, including employment, products liability, insurance, and commercial litigation. Ms. Wilner is known for litigating complex cases at the cutting edge, including successfully trying the first case of a physician with AIDS, and handling major appeals. She has published and lectured widely. As NYWBA President and one of the first "Chapter Presidents" of WBASNY, she continued the smooth transition with then newly founded WBASNY and furthered NYWBA's tireless efforts to open doors for women attorneys. She served as a trail blazer and role model for women litigators by showing that women can "first chair" large cases in federal and state courts, and by helping women to succeed in the law and other professions.



**1981 – Hon. Karla Moskowitz** is an arbitrator and mediator with NAM. Until 2017, she was an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. She became a judge in 1982, presiding in numerous courts, including the Commercial Division and the Medical Malpractice Part of the Supreme Court. She co-chaired numerous NYWBA committees and was the founder and Chair of the Referral Service. A breast cancer survivor, she was a Founder and past Co-President of JALBCA and is a member of its Board of Directors. She also served as President of both the New York State Association of Women Judges and the National Association of Women Judges. She received her B.A. cum laude from Alfred University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. Among her many awards are the Edith I. Spivak Award from NYCLA's Women's Rights Committee, WBASNY's Joan L. Ellenbogen Founder's Award, NYWBA's Award of Special Recognition, and the Women of Valor Award from the Women's Medical Association of New York City. In 2018, Justice Moskowitz was appointed a Special Master of the First Department's pre-argument mediation program. She also is an active member of NYSBA's Commercial and Federal Litigation Section. She is a frequent panelist on commercial litigation, dispute resolution, and promotion of women in the law. Judge Moskowitz and her husband, retired attorney and longtime NYWBA member Marvin Moskowitz, who sadly passed away in January of this year, have two children and four grandchildren.

**1981-82 – Irene A. Sullivan** is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, NYU, and Fordham University School of Law. She began her legal career in 1976 at Skadden, Arps, where she handled a wide variety of commercial matters, with an emphasis on antitrust and securities litigation in federal courts and insurance coverage disputes. She was a partner from 1982 to 2003 and served for several years as Head of the New York office. Ms. Sullivan was President of both NYWBA and WBASNY. She also served on numerous bar committees, including the City Bar Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession, Task Force on Women and the Profession, City Bar Public Service Network, and the Advisory Committee on Civil Practice. She was a member of the National Advisory Board, the NALP Foundation for Research and Education, and the ABA Task Force on Insurance Coverage Litigation. She also served on the Committee on Character and Fitness for the First Judicial Department.



**1982-83 – Hon. Leslie Crocker Snyder** was the first woman to try both felony and homicide cases in the New York County District Attorney's Office, and she founded and led the Sex Crimes Prosecution Bureau, the first in the nation and a model for the country. She is a co-author of legislation, including NY's Rape Shield Law. She was appointed to the NYC Criminal Court in 1983 and thereafter to the NY Supreme Court and Court of Claims, presiding over many high-profile cases in her more than 20 years as a judge. After she left the bench, she was a partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP. She is currently a consultant and lecturer. She has served on many boards, adopted a public school, and volunteered in the New Orleans criminal justice system for six months after Hurricane Katrina. She is the author of 25 to Life. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including NYWBA's Hon. Florence Allen Award in 2003. She and her husband have two grown sons and five grandchildren.



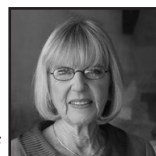
**1983-84 – Madeline C. Stoller** received her J.D. in 1976 from Fordham University School of Law. She was admitted to the New York Bar in 1977 and thereafter to the U.S. Supreme Court. She has been a member of the New York City Bar since 1980 and has served as Chair, Product Liability Committee; Chair, Lawyers in Transition Committee; Chair, Public Service Resource Center; Member, Executive Committee and Nominating Committee; Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates; and Director on the City Bar Fund. She worked at Wyeth, a multinational pharmaceutical company, for 27 years, rising to the level of Senior Corporate Counsel-Litigation, where she was responsible for personal injury, mass tort and commercial litigation for various divisions. She retired in 2007 and now enjoys spending her leisure time playing golf, kayaking, and cooking.



**1984-85 – Nancy M. Loudon** recently retired from The Estee Lauder Companies, as Senior Vice President, Global Public Affairs, after 25 years. She is the principal of NML Consulting, LLC. Nancy has served on a number of not-for-profit boards and is currently a director of The Burke Foundation. She lives in New York with her wife, Donna Dennis, and their son.



**1985-86 – Harriet Newman Cohen** graduated from Barnard College (BA Latin, with Music minor, 1952) and Bryn Mawr (MA Latin, 1953). After teaching mathematics while raising four daughters, she graduated from Brooklyn Law School (1974), where she was an editor of the Law Review. A matrimonial lawyer, she has been a champion of divorce reform and the rights of women and children. She helped negotiate and





draft the NYS Equitable Distribution Law in 1980, and she co-wrote an analysis of the first 80 cases under that law. Gov. Mario M. Cuomo appointed her to his Child Support Commission, which drafted the law that became the Child Support Standards Act in 1989. She is the author of *The Divorce Book for Men and Women*, *A Step-by-Step Guide to Gaining Your Freedom Without Losing Everything Else*. She has been voted a Super Lawyer in family law, writes an annual article on family law for the *NY Law Journal*, and has been designated as Super Lawyer and one of the Top 50 women attorneys and Top 100 attorneys in New York for many years. She remains in active practice in her firm, Cohen Stine Kapoor LLP. In 2020, she was honored as Brooklyn Law School's "Alumna of the Year." She is President of the Class of 1952 at Barnard and on the Board of Directors of the Lotos Club of New York City and the Stecher & Horowitz Foundation, which runs a biennial competition for gifted young pianists from around the world.



**1986-87 – Anne T. Schwab** graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1978. From 1980 to 1988, she was an associate in the litigation department at Emmet, Marvin & Martin. From 1989 to 1997, she was a Senior Counsel in the Legal Department of The Bank of New York, practicing in the litigation group and then in the commercial lending/private banking group. In 1997, she joined the legal department of Deutsche Bank, where she was a member of the Private Banking practice group. In 2004, she was made a Managing Director of the Bank. She is now retired and spends part of each year in Florida, and volunteers in as a docent in the Naples Children's Garden and as a program assistant in the Enabling Garden of the Naples Botanical Garden.



**1987-88 – Dianne Abeloff** graduated from Smith College in 1977 and Cardozo Law School in 1980. In addition to serving as President, she held many NYWBA positions over the years, and she was a mentor to numerous NYWBA Presidents and Board members. During her 30-year career as an attorney with the Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct at the New York State Department of Health, Ms. Abeloff was responsible for overseeing investigations and prosecuting physicians for professional misconduct, ranging from sex abuse to gross deviations from accepted medical standards. For her expertise, distinction, and leadership, Ms. Abeloff received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Commissioner of Health. She retired in April 2015 and passed away in 2016. She and her husband, who predeceased her, were parents of two adult sons, whom they adored.



**1988-89 – Doris S. Hoffman** graduated from Hunter College in 1964 and from NYU Law School in 1967. She concentrated her practice in copyright and trademark law, and she spent nearly her entire career in partnership with her father and brother in Stoll, Stoll & Hoffman and successor firms in New York City. She was a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness of the First Department, Chair of the NYCLA's Intellectual Property Committee, and for several years she was a dedicated volunteer for City Meals on Wheels and the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert. Ms. Hoffman was the mother of two children, Aaron and Judith, and the devoted wife of attorney and NYWBA member Stephen Hoffman for almost 29 years, until her untimely death in 1997. She served as President of WBASNY in 1994-95, and both NYWBA and WBASNY have named awards in her memory.

**1989-90 – Sandra W. Jacobson** earned her LLB from Yale and was admitted in 1955. She was a matrimonial and family law practitioner and litigator, and an early and zealous advocate for the passage of no-fault divorce in New York State. She served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Director, and WBASNY Delegate. She chaired the Matrimonial & Family Law, Ethics, and Judiciary Committees. She was also active in the Westchester County Women's Bar Association. At WBASNY, she chaired the Amicus, Judiciary, CLE, and By-Laws Committees, and co-chaired the Family & Matrimonial Law Committee. She wrote WBASNY's amicus application and appellate brief in the Hartog equitable distribution case (85 N.Y.2d 36 (1995)), raising unique and critical issues that only WBASNY addressed. She also led the effort to establish WBASNY as an accredited CLE provider. She organized and spoke at numerous NYWBA events, CLE programs and WBASNY Conventions. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a founder of the Interdisciplinary Forum of Mental Health & Family Law. She passed away in 2017, several years after retiring to North Carolina to be with family.



**1990-91 – Katharine S. J. Law** grew up in the segregated South, where she witnessed injustice on a daily basis. Fifteen years after graduating from Radcliffe College, she enrolled in Fordham University School of Law, and she was admitted at the age of 40. She joined the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, where she tried senior citizen robbery and homicide cases and met her mentor, Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin. In her memoir, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor refers to Ms. Law as one of her own mentors, describing her as "passionate about community service [and] infinitely patient with beginners." Ms. Law spent six years in private practice while her children were growing up, then returned to work full time – as an Assistant Attorney General for New York State, and as a Law Clerk and Law Guardian in the First Department. She was also a former director of the National Association of Childbearing Centers Foundation. She retired to San Diego, where she enjoyed a lifelong passion for sailing and volunteered as a U.S. Coast Guard vessel safety examiner, with frequent visits to her three daughters and grandchildren. She passed away in 2014.



**1991-92 – Martha L. Golar** received her B.A. in Economics at Cornell University and her J.D. from New York University Law School. She was an attorney at Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc. (1982-1992), rising to the position of Senior Corporate Counsel. She is presently supervising corporate counsel at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Law Department, handling transactional work at the region's airports, marine terminals, bus terminals and other facilities of the bi-state agency. She is a former Adjunct Professor with the Finance, Law and Tax Division of NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. She served three terms as JALBCA Co-President, and she remains both a Director of JALBCA and Editor of its Newsletter, having previously also co-chaired its signature Annual Symposium. Ms. Golar is a member and former chair of the NYC Bar Association's Animal Law Committee, and she currently serves as an advisor to animal welfare organizations. Previously, she chaired the NYC Bar's Health Law Committee and WBASNY's Gender Bias and Finance Committees.



**1992-93 – Bobbi C. Sternheim** litigates a broad range of complex criminal and civil matters in federal and state courts. She is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the first (and only) woman to receive New York Criminal Bar Association's Award for Professional Excellence. She holds two post-JD degrees: a Master's



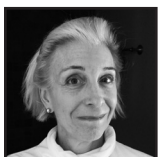
in Forensic Psychology and an LL.M. in Advocacy. Ms. Sternheim is Director of Cardozo Law School's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program, teaches trial advocacy at Pace Law School, and has been on the faculty of Stetson Law School and the Federal CJA Trial Skills Academy. She is the Criminal Justice Act Representative for the Southern District of New York; the Defender Services Advisory Group Representative for the First, Second and D.C. Circuits; and a member of SDNY's CJA Peer Review Committee and Mentor Programs. Ms. Sternheim fondly remembers the excitement of her induction as NYWBA President and the honoring of Anita Hill at our Annual Dinner during the "Year of the Women," which launched many remarkable political and professional achievements for women.



**1993-94 – Toby J. Pilsner** was named in 2016 as the first Deputy Chief Clerk for newly created Office of the Clerk of the Court for the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH), which adjudicates violations of NYC laws that protect public health, safety, and the environment. She previously served as the Managing Attorney for OATH's Bronx tribunal, a position she was appointed to in 2004. She was appointed an Administrative Law Judge at OATH/ECB in 1997. Before joining OATH, she had a 17-year career in the Bronx District Attorney's Office, rising to Chief of Litigation Training. She graduated from Vassar College in 1975 and received her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1978. Hon. Sheri Roman introduced her to NYWBA, and Ms. Pilsner served in many capacities at both NYWBA and WBASNY. During her Presidency, she spearheaded a major overhaul of the Judiciary Committee and its guidelines, and she presented the President's Special Award to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ms. Pilsner finds her greatest source of happiness in her friends and family, especially her two grown daughters, whom she has more time to see now that she has retired.



**1994-95 – Martha E. Gifford** is past President, Director, and Judiciary Committee Chair of NYWBA, and a founder, past Vice President, and current Director of the NYWBA Foundation, Inc. She is also past President, Vice President, Secretary, Director, and Committee Chair of WBASNY. Since April 2007, she has had a solo practice concentrating in antitrust counseling, following nearly 20 years at Proskauer Rose LLP, where she co-chaired the Antitrust Practice Group. She has been named a Super Lawyer in Antitrust Practice every year since the honor was established in 2006. She is past Chair and current Executive Committee member of the Antitrust Law Section of the NYS Bar Association, from which she received the Lifland Service Award; served on the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Committee of the New York City Bar; and is Chair of the Board of Governors of the NYS Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program, to which she was first appointed by then-Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye. She is also the recipient of NYWBA's prestigious Hon. Florence E. Allen Award and of WBASNY's Joan Ellenbogen Founders Award. Several years ago, NYWBA renamed its annual program for law students and new attorneys as the "Martha E. Gifford Summer Program on What It's (Really) Like to Practice Law as a Woman," in recognition of her founding of this event and her advocacy for mentoring and supporting women in the law.



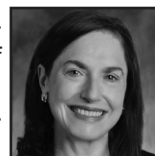
**1995-96 – Andrea J. Berger** graduated from Fordham Law School and NYU's Graduate School of Public Administration. She joined the NYWBA in law school and has served as an Officer, Committee Chair, WBASNY Delegate, and Annual Dinner Co-Chair. From 1987 until her retirement, she was an attorney with the NYC Law Department, where she is Senior Counsel, specializing in legislative drafting and counseling in ethics, criminal justice, occupational safety and health and labor and

employment law. She is a former Vice Chair of the Lawyers Alliance for New York and former board member of the Citizens Union. A long-time member of the City Bar, she chaired the Lawyers' Orchestra Committee for nine years, which she managed and played in its flute section. She is a founder, and the Administrative Director of, the New Conductors Orchestra, and is Vice Chair of the Board of the Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East.

**1996-97 – Bonnie S. Edwards** graduated from the University of Miami Law School and joined the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel in 1981. She served as a Senior Counsel, advising management on a wide variety of non-tax related areas, including complicated and sensitive EEO and labor matters for 34 years, retiring in 2014. She received several awards for her work on cases, and was a two-time recipient of the Office of Chief Counsel's National Litigation Award. She judged moot court and was active on NYWBA Committees and on its Advisory Council. Ms. Edwards also served on the Executive Council for the Network of Bar Leaders; as an officer of JALBCA; as a director of the boards of Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Elders; and on the National Council on Woman's Health. As a recent retiree, she is now pursuing a self-study program in all of the things she previously had insufficient time for and enjoying life thoroughly.



**1997-98 – Laurie Berke-Weiss** is the principal of Berke-Weiss Law PLLC, where she practices all aspects of workplace law. She negotiates employment contracts and severance agreements, handles partnership issues, provides advice on workplace policies and procedures, and conducts workplace investigations. She also litigates claims of sex harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination, Family Medical Leave Act issues including pregnancy, and non-competition agreements. Ms. Berke-Weiss is A-V rated and, since 2011, has been selected annually as one of the "Top 50 Women New York Super Lawyers in the New York Metro Area," and, since 2012, as a "Top 100 New York Super Lawyer." She has served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the New York City Bar Association and is a member of the Board of the NYWBA Foundation, Inc. She also is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She is a graduate of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and Fordham Law School, and she holds a graduate degree in Industrial Relations from Rutgers University.



**1998-99 – Karen Greve Milton** is senior consultant at Donsky & Associates, LLC, after having served at Executive Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Staff in the Office of the Inspector General of the MTA from 2019. Prior to that, she was the Circuit Executive for the federal Second Judicial Circuit and served as the chief administrative officer for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the other federal courts in New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. Prior to assuming that position, Ms. Milton was the first Director of the Center for CLE at the New York City Bar Association, a department she created in 1995. After graduating from law school, she served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of Robert M. Morgenthau, in both a trial bureau and the Rackets Bureau. Prior to her NYWBA Presidency, she served as a NYWBA Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Co-Chair of its Programs and Event Committee. Ms. Milton is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Case Western Reserve School of Law, where she was an Editor of its Law Review.







**1999-2000 – Barbara A. Ryan** is a partner at Aaronson Rappaport Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP, where her practice focuses on Health Care Law. She is a Past Co-President of JALBCA, and for many years served as Co-Chair of the JALBCA Annual Symposium with Hon. Shirley Kornreich and NYWBA Past President Mikki Golar. She also served two terms on the First Dept. Disciplinary Committee. In the early years of the NYWBA Foundation, Ms. Ryan was on the Board of Directors. Before practicing law, Ms. Ryan was a Nurse Manager at The New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center (now New York Presbyterian Hospital), where she practiced in the area of medicine and oncology. She is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law and Adelphi University School of Nursing. Ms. Ryan frequently lectures on regulatory and medical malpractice issues. She has also taught courses in Health Care Risk Management and Elder Law, as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies.



**2000-01 – Angela Tese-Milner** is a partner of Tese & Milner and practices law with her husband, Michael Milner, a former federal prosecutor. The firm's focus is on bankruptcy, insurance and commercial litigation. She is a member of the Panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Southern District of New York, which is under the supervision of the United States Department of Justice. She serves on the Advisory Board of JALBCA, is a past President of the National Organization of Italian American Women, is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, and has practiced bankruptcy law for more than 30 years.



**2001-02 – Phyllis S. Koffman** is a sole practitioner, concentrating in trust and estate law. Before she attended law school, she worked in city planning and crime control planning. Prior to her Presidency, she served as Co-Chair of the Legislation and Awards Committees, Chair of the Judges' Reception and Annual Dinner Committees, and as a Director and Vice President. She also represented NYWBA on the WBASNY Legislation Committee and Board of Directors, and twice served as the NYWBA representative on judicial screening panels for the Civil Court. She also served on the NYWBA Nominations Committee for many years. Ms. Koffman is a graduate of Smith College and Brooklyn Law School and holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Pittsburgh.



**2002-03 – Heather Martinez Zona** is a criminal defense attorney in the office of Guam Alternate Public Defender in Sinajana, Guam. She was previously a member of Northern Mariana Islands Superior Court Juvenile Justice Task Force in Saipan, and prior to that her practice focused on real estate and commercial litigation in California and in New York. She has done extensive pro bono and volunteer work, including serving as a member of the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission. Ms. Zona served NYWBA in a variety of capacities, including President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Director and Committee Chair. She organized and/or chaired a number of programs for the Association, including "Tips for New Lawyers," "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" at the Second Circuit, and our Martha E. Gifford Summer Program entitled "What It's (Really) Like to Practice Law as a Woman." Ms. Zona was the first Latina to serve as President of the Association. She is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Michigan Law School, where she was awarded the Jane L. Mixer Award for Social Justice.



**2003-05 – Elizabeth A. Bryson** is a litigator and appellate attorney with experience in private practice, as in-house counsel, in a corporate setting, and in government service. As Associate General Counsel and then Corporate Vice President of New York Life, she supervised and personally litigated complex matters and appeals in courts across the country, and then moved to the business side where she managed business continuity and crisis management programs and oversaw the implementation of new privacy laws and practices. She was previously in private practice on Wall Street and in midtown Manhattan; was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, and prior to law school served as an Intelligence Analyst with the U.S. Justice Department at the SDNY U.S. Attorney's Office and at DOJ Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Appointed by then-Chief Judge Judith Kaye, Ms. Bryson served on both the NYS Court's Special Commission on the Future of the NYS Courts and its Commission on Public Access to Court Records. In addition to her two terms as NYWBA President, she has been an Officer, Director and Committee Chair of both NYWBA and WBASNY. She is now Vice President of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. She is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle and Fordham University School of Law. Among other awards, she is a recipient of a NYWBA Special Recognition Award, WBASNY's Marilyn Menge Award, and a U.S. Department of Justice Distinguished Service Award.



**2005-06 – Christina Kallas** has served as a NYWBA Board Member, Executive Director, Committee Co-Chair (ADR, Technology, International Women's Rights) and on the Board of the NYWBA Foundation. An A/V rated attorney, her law practice emphasizes "preventive law" - assisting individuals and businesses with planning for legal matters affecting the family and its businesses (such as marriage and remarriage, estate planning, and real estate). She has been an advocate for the mentally ill for many years. In her mediation practice, she focuses on disputes involving families with a mentally ill member. As an arbitrator, frequently in securities disputes, she draws on her experience in the secondary mortgage market on Wall Street. She is also on the panel to arbitrate attorney client fee disputes. A frequent lecturer on practice management strategies, she is also the author of the NYSBA Deskbook on "Commercial Real Estate." She counts as her most important accomplishments her marriage of more than 30 years to her husband, Xen, and having helped to raise her stepdaughter, Sara.



**2006-07 – Teresa Schiller** is a graduate of Rice University and University of Chicago Law School. She is admitted to the New York, District of Columbia, and Texas Bars. After law school, she clerked for Judge Roth on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Delaware and Judge Leinenweber on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago. She practiced law at Clifford Chance US LLP and served as the manager of pro bono and community programs for the firm's U.S. Region. While at Clifford Chance, she became active in NYWBA and WBASNY, serving as an officer, director, and committee chair in both associations. She was then appointed to various positions at the New York State Bar Association in Albany. She has since returned to her home state of Texas, where she is Of Counsel to Lighthouse Legal Services.



**2007-08 – Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff** was elected to the NY County Civil Court in 2012 and the Supreme Court in 2022. She has served in numerous judicial positions since her election. She has co-chaired the Gender Fairness Committees of both the Criminal and Civil Court and is now a member of the Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee. Judge Sokoloff sat on the Judicial Hearing Officer Evaluation Committee for over a decade, which she joined while still in private practice. She is now a member of the Guardianship Advisory Committee. Judge Sokoloff earned an A.B. from Vassar College and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law, where she was an editor of the *International Law Journal*. She practiced law for 28 years prior to taking the bench. She serves on the NYWBA Nominations Committee and Elder Law Committee. In 2020 she conceived the Guardianship Diversity Initiative which brings bilingual attorneys, LGBTQ attorneys and attorneys of color onto the Part 36 list and trains and mentors them for work in Guardianship. Judge Sokoloff is a co-chair of the NYWBA annual Martha E. Gifford Summer Program entitled "What It's (Really) Like to Practice Law as a Woman." On behalf of the NYWBA, she has served as a liaison to the NAWJ, and for more than a decade as a Delegate to WBASNY, where she is active in the Women Judge's Committee. She is a past President of the Jewish Lawyers Guild, and a past officer of both JALBCA and the Network of Bar Leaders. Justice Sokoloff is the recipient of the NYSBA Kay Crawford Murray, the JLG Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the WBASNY Judith S. Kaye awards.



**2008-09 – Jo Ann Douglas** is a matrimonial and family law practitioner representing children and adults from all cultures and communities in various proceedings. She often appears in guardianship matters in all roles and conducts mediation in family law matters. She has been active in NYWBA since early in her legal career. In addition to serving as President, she held other Officer positions, served on the NYWBA Board and as a NYWBA Delegate to WBASNY, and as a Committee Chair. She has prepared and presented CLE programs for NYWBA, WBASNY, and the First and Second Departments, as well as written articles for the *New York Law Journal* and *Family Law Monthly*. Ms. Douglas has focused on parenting issues and the representation of children. In fact, her own accomplished daughter, Sara, deserves much of the credit for focusing her mother's career on parenting issues and the representation of children, for whom they are now both indefatigable advocates. With the tireless commitment of a wonderful group of volunteers, Ms. Douglas founded K9Kastle Corp., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of companion animals.



**2009-10 – Donna M. Praiss** graduated from Boston University School of Law after receiving a Bachelor in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware. She joined Kenyon & Kenyon upon receiving her law degree and subsequently became the first female associate elevated to the partnership. She was then a founder of the intellectual property group in the NY office of Hunton & Williams. Her legal practice was in the field of intellectual property law, with an emphasis on procuring, licensing, enforcing, and defending patent rights for major players in the chemical, pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device industries. In 2012, she was appointed as an Administrative Patent Judge in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Trial and Appeal Board, where handles patent cases, including both post-grant trials and ex parte appeals. As a participant in PTO's Telework Enhancement Pilot Program for several years, she was recently tapped to provide guidance for other judges on how to hold legal proceedings remotely during the 2020 pandemic crisis. In addition to serving in many other NYWBA roles, she served as Co-Chair

of the Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession, where she was a leader on our survey on the status of women attorneys at Manhattan law firms. She is the proud mother of four children.

**2010-11 – Gretchen Beall Schumann** is a founding partner of Rabin Schumann and Partners LLP, concentrating exclusively in the field of matrimonial and family law practice. She has extensive experience in the complex domestic and international aspects of family law in trial and appellate courts. She is a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and has served as an expert on issues of NY law for the Central Family Court in London. She frequently lectures on the procedural and substantive aspects of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, electronic privacy and family law, equitable distribution of New York businesses, trial advocacy, various aspects of marital agreements and the financial ramifications of divorce. She has been listed in *Metro Super Lawyers* as one of the Top 50 Women Attorneys and Top 100 Attorneys in New York; is listed in "Chambers & Partners - Family/Matrimonial: High Net Worth – NY," and has authored chapters on NY family law for international publications. Ms. Schumann is the current President of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc., and a past President of NYWBA. She is a past Secretary of the NY City Bar Committee on Children and the Law and Secretary of the NYCLA Matrimonial Law Section. She is also a member of the President's Council of Cornell Women. She graduated from Columbia College, Columbia University, and from Cornell Law School, where she received the Robert S. Pasley Memorial Prize.



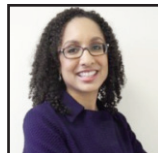
**2011-2012 – Patricia Ann Grant** graduated from Fordham University and received her J.D. from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. She is a partner at Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron, LLP, where her practice focuses on matrimonial and family law. She also mediates and sits as an arbitrator in the New York City Civil Court. In addition to serving as NYWBA President, she had been on the Board, co-chaired the Dinner and Judiciary Reception Committees, and represented NYWBA on the Judicial Screening Committee. Ms. Grant was for many years a volunteer for Dachshund Rescue of North America, and she has had several Dachshunds of her own, all of whom have distinguished themselves during their show careers. She now has one Dachshund – Oliver (BGCh. Dikerdachs Redheaded Prince), who is a Bronze Grand Champion. She was also one of the owners of Burns, the Dachshund who won the Hound Group at Westminster and went to Best in Show in 2019. Patricia previously shared her law practice with her husband, Michael W. Appelbaum, who is a past NYWBA Board member and Committee Chair, and 2020 recipient of NYWBA's Doris S. Hoffman Service Award, and a member of the NYSBA Advisory Council.



**2013-14 – Hon. Jacqueline Winter Silberman** is a cum laude graduate of both Bryn Mawr and Fordham University School of Law. She was an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP; Law Secretary to a Civil Court Judge; Principal Court Attorney to two Supreme Court Justices; and had a private practice. Elected to the bench in 1983, she was a NY Civil Court Judge; an Acting Supreme Court Justice; Supervising Judge of the Civil Court (1987); Administrative Judge of the NYC Civil Court (1989, the first woman in that position); Statewide Administrative Judge for Matrimonial Matters (1997); Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court, Civil Term, New York County (2001); and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Matrimonial Matters (2007). In each position, she also presided over a Matrimonial Part. In 2009, upon retiring from the bench, she moved to private practice, where her concentration was in



mediation, arbitration, and matrimonial law. Her numerous awards include NYSBA's Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award, the Harlan Fiske Stone Memorial Award, Benjamin N. Cardozo Award, Louis Capozzoli Gavel Award, NYWBA President's Special Award, NYWBA Joan L. Ellenbogen Award, WBASNY Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award, and WBASNY Doris S. Hoffman Memorial Medal. She is Vice President of the Fordham Law Alumni Association and received the law school's Medal of Achievement and Dean's Medal. Jackie has now retired after a long and fulfilling legal career. She has two children, three wonderful grandchildren and two delightful great grandchildren.



**2014-2015 – Yacine Barry-Wun** joined the Law Department of the NYS Supreme Court's Civil Branch as an Associate Court Attorney in January 2017. Prior to joining the Law Department, she was appointed as Special Counsel for Housing Court Initiatives with the NYS Courts Access to Justice Program, where she served as Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program, the Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program, the Assigned Counsel Project Internship Program, and the Court Navigator Program. Previously, she clerked for a Civil Court Judge as a Legal Fellow, before joining the NYC Civil Court as a Court Attorney focusing on civil and housing matters. Prior to her NYWBA Presidency, she was an Officer, Director, CLE Committee Chair, and President's Liaison to Committee Chairs. She was also NYWBA's representative on the Boards of the NY Women's Agenda and the NYWBA Foundation. She was a member of the Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Civil Court and the NY County Housing Court representative to the Citywide Association of Law Assistants. She is also a former member of the NYC Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. She is currently First Vice President of the Network of Bar Leaders, a coalition of more than 50 member bar associations in the Greater NY metropolitan area. She received a law degree from University Robert Schuman in Strasbourg, France, and an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University Law Center. Her native language is French, and she is proficient in German and Spanish.



**2015-16 – Jennifer Brown-DiBlasi** received her B.A. from NYU and her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She started her career at a small family law office and in 2010 opened a solo practice, where she resolves family and divorce matters through alternate dispute resolution, litigation, and trials. With the NYWBA, she has co-chaired the Matrimonial and Family Law Committee and currently co-chairs NYWBA's largest events, including the Annual Membership Reception; the Judiciary Reception honoring newly elected, re-elected, and newly appointed judges in Manhattan; and the Annual Awards and Installation Dinner. She was elected to the NYWBA Board in 2011. Prior to serving as President in 2015, she was a Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. Jennifer has also served on the NYWBA Nominations Committee since 2015. She was a NYWBA delegate to WBASNY's Board for many years, as well as having served as a Co-Chair of WBASNY's Legislation Committee, as Recording Secretary, and as a member of the Nominations Committee. She is active in her law school alma mater, speaking on panels, networking with students, and as a member of its Board of Family Law Advisors. She also serves as Pro Bono counsel for Badass Brooklyn Animal Rescue. Jennifer is also a proud pet-parent of her dog, Gigi, and cats, Mimi, Enzo and Henrik with her husband, Bryan.

**2016-17 – Deborah G. Rosenthal** is the owner of Rosenthal, Attorneys at Law, P.C., where her practice focuses on estate planning, probate, administration and estate litigation, guardianship, special needs planning, real estate, corporate, and contract law. A graduate of Wellesley College (A.B., economics, *cum laude*), she obtained her JD magna cum laude from Cornell Law School, where she was a member of Order of the Coif, and an L.L.M. in Taxation from NYU Law School. She frequently serves as a court-appointed Court Evaluator, Guardian ad Litem, Counsel to Guardian, Attorney for Alleged Incapacitated Persons, Trustee of Supplemental Needs Trusts, Temporary Guardian, and Guardian. She also volunteers as an arbitrator of attorney-client fee disputes. She is a Past President of the NYWBA and Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY). As President of WBASNY, she created three new committees, including the Social Action Committee and the Business Development Committee. During her term as WBASNY President, the WBASNY Social Action Committee created an award-winning program entitled "Buy a Gift for a Domestic Violence Victim." In addition, she established a listserv so that WBASNY members can communicate with each other throughout the State and provide business referrals. She also significantly increased membership even though all events during her presidency were virtual due to the Covid epidemic. Deborah served in numerous roles with the NYWBA prior to her Presidency, including as Treasurer for three years and as Chair or Co-Chair of several Committees, including the Finance Committee, Judiciary Committee, and Trusts and Estates Committee. As Co-Chair of the NYWBA Solo and Small Law Firm Committee, she instituted an annual program on "Starting and Growing your Law Practice." Currently, she serves on the NYWBA Board of Directors and on the Nominations Committee.



**2017-2018 – Myra L. Freed** has specialized in matrimonial law for more than 40 years. She has been the principal of her own law firm in Manhattan since 2002. She also practices Collaborative Law and serves as a private pay Attorney for the Child. Myra graduated Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the City College of New York and received her JD from the Cardozo School of Law. Myra now serves on our advisory council, having served on the NYWBA board of directors as an officer and director for more than 20 years. She has previously served as Chair and Co-Chair of the NYWBA's Matrimonial Law Committee. She also served on and Co-Chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee of WBASNY and as a NYWBA Delegate to the WBASNY Board of Directors. She is a member of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals. In 2007 she received the NYWBA's Doris S. Hoffman Service Award for her commitment to serving the Association and enhancing the status of women in society and the law.



**2018-2020 – Virginia A. LoPreto** is a partner in LoPreto + Levy, LLP, a boutique law firm with an emphasis on matrimonial and family law. Virginia's practice includes representing parents and children in high-conflict divorce matters. Since 2010, Virginia has been on the Law Guardian Panel for the First Department and is regularly appointed by the Courts, often upon the recommendations of her colleagues in the matrimonial bar representing the parents. The compassion, sensitivity and proactive representation of children is reflected in every one of Virginia's appointments. For this reason, in 2022, Family Kind honored Virginia with The Family Kind Service Award. Virginia's commitment to her law practice also encompasses her involvement in various organizations. Virginia served as President of the New York Women's Bar Association for two years. Previously, she served as co-chair of the Matrimonial and Family Law

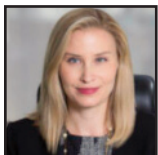




Committee for the NYWBA. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the NYWBA and is actively involved in coordinating the NYWBA's three signature events each year. Virginia is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and sits on its Board of Managers for the New York Chapter. Virginia is also an approved mediator to serve on the Court's roster in the First Judicial District in the New York State Court Unified Court System. Virginia is a member of the Board of Directors for the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert and was recently appointed Assistant Treasurer. Virginia is a frequent presenter on custody issues at Continuing Legal Education Programs, including those sponsored by the AAML and the NYWBA as well as at the New York State Bar Association and The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.



**2020-2022 – Amanda B. Norejko** served as a Support Magistrate in NY County Family Court from 2018 until her untimely passing in 2024. Her death followed a heroic battle with cancer during which she continued to maintain a full Magistrate's calendar and served two terms as NYWBA President. She was a member of the Family Court Paternity and Child Support Advisory Committee, organizing training programs for her fellow magistrates. Before joining the court system, she worked for nearly 16 years at Sanctuary for Families, where she served as Director of the Matrimonial and Economic Justice Project. Prior to her term as President, Amanda served in several important board positions, co-chaired the NYWBA Domestic Violence Committee as well as chaired WBASNY's Domestic Violence Committee. Amanda was a proud graduate of the NYU School of Law whose alumni association presented her with an award for her work on behalf of indigent victims of gender violence. In her honor of her life of advocacy for the needs of women and child victims of violence, the NYWBA established the Amanda B. Norejko Award. She was presented with the inaugural award at our 2023 Annual Awards Dinner.



**2022-2023 – Magnolia D. Levy** is a partner of LoPreto + Levy, LLP, a boutique law firm with an emphasis on matrimonial and family law. In an effort to bring dignity to the end of a relationship, Magnolia endeavors from the outset to effectively and efficiently achieve the best results for her clients without the need for court intervention. However, when a negotiated settlement is not possible, she is comfortable going to court, drawing on her commercial litigation background as a tenacious and passionate advocate for her clients. Magnolia's practice includes the handling of complex financial matters, child custody issues, support and post judgment matters, pre and post nuptial agreements, and other family law matters, both in and out of court. A trained mediator, Magnolia also regularly serves as a consulting attorney for clients involved in mediation with an outside mediator and serves on the New York Supreme Court roster as a court-appointed mediator with the Matrimonial Mediation Pilot Program. Magnolia has been actively involved in the NYWBA, serving as President from 2022-2023 and has served on the Board of Directors and as a co-chair of several NYWBA committees for more than 10 years. In addition to her work with the NYWBA, Magnolia serves as the Co-President of the Lawyers' Division of Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA) and helped to co-found, and serves as a co-chair of, JALBCA's monthly Support Group which hosts meetings for members of the legal community whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. Magnolia has served on the JALBCA Board of Directors in various capacities since 2016. Magnolia also serves as Treasurer for the New York Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. A graduate of The Dalton School in 1996, Ms. Levy received her B.A. from Colgate University in 2000 and her Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School in 2003.

**2023-2024 – Sabrina E. Morrissey** is a Past President of the New York Women's Bar Association and currently serves as a Board Member of the NYWBA Foundation and the Treasurer of the WBASNY Foundation. She is Co-Chair of the Solo and Small Law Firm Committees for NYWBA and WBASNY and Co-Chair of the Elder Law and Disabilities Committee for NYWBA. Sabrina is a member of the law firm of Morrissey & Morrissey, LLP. She focuses her practice on trusts and estates law, guardianships and small corporation matters. She is on the Part 36 List as a Special Referee, Guardian, Guardian ad Litem, Court Evaluator and Attorney for Alleged Incapacitated Persons. Sabrina particularly enjoys her work with the elderly, those with mental and physical impairments, and their families. She is AV-Rated by Martindale Hubbell by both peers and the judiciary for having the highest levels of integrity and skill. She is a regular speaker and writer on topics in her field. She received her M.A. from New York University and graduated from Brooklyn Law School. Throughout her career, not only has she represented clients in private practice, but she served as General Counsel to an international staffing company, Northeast Regional Manager for Kelly Legal Staffing, and was the founder of two national wellness companies. She resides in Manhattan with Speckle, a very active 3 year-old German Short Hair Pointer and Border Collie mix.



**2024-2025 – Jocelyn L. Jacobson** received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law, magna cum laude, winning the Chapin Prize for graduating first in her class. She joined Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson as a litigation associate after law school. In 1998 Ms. Jacobson joined the office of the Manhattan Borough President, C. Virginia Fields, eventually becoming the Director of Policy and Budget. Ms. Jacobson returned to a law firm in 2003 as a litigation associate at Reitler, Kailas & Rosenblatt LLP and was made a partner in 2009. Ms. Jacobson focuses on employment law – assisting small companies and individuals navigate hiring, restrictive covenants and terminations, as well as employment disputes - along with her civil litigation practice. She is finishing her term as President, having previously served four terms as Vice President and two terms as Treasurer. She has previously co-chaired the Solo and Small Law Firm Committee as well as the Mentoring Committee. She is looking forward to her term as Immediate Past President, now commencing her term as Immediate Past President. (See photo and full profile at the beginning of this Journal).



**2025-2026 – Lissett Costa Ferreira** is commencing her term as President. (See photo and full profile at the beginning of this Journal).

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Under NYWBA's By-Laws, the Advisory Council includes all members in good standing who served as NYWBA Presidents (profiled in the prior section), members who served on the Board of Directors for 15 or more years, and members who have been elected to the Advisory Council. We are pleased to honor the following distinguished Advisory Council members, who may not have held the title of President, but who have made extraordinary contributions to the Association, the legal community, and society at large:*

**Michael W. Appelbaum** joined NYWBA in 2008 when JoAnn Douglas was President. Having joined NYWBA and feeling very much at home, he never saw the need to join any other bar associations. Before joining the Advisory Council in 2020, Michael was the first man to be elected to the NYWBA Board of Directors, where he served with pride



for approximately 10 years. He also co-chaired our annual dinner for many years both with past Presidents Virginia LoPreto, JoAnn Douglas, Myra Freed and Jennifer Brown-DiBlasi. Michael has also co-chaired the Membership Committee with past Presidents Beth Bryson and later with Magnolia Levy, as well as our Judicial Screening Committee for several years. Michael has been a top matrimonial practitioner in New York City for many years and is currently of counsel to the firm Davidoff Hatcher & Citron LLP where he is editing for the matrimonial group.

**Leona Beane** has been a member of the NYWBA for over 30 years. She served on our Board of Directors from 2012 to 2023, when she was elected to our Advisory Counsel. She has also co-chaired the Trusts and Estates and ADR Committees for the NYWBA. Leona earned her B.B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from City College, M.S. from Columbia University, and J.D. from New York Law School. Leona started her career teaching law as a Professor at City University of NY, where she continues as Professor Emeritus. Leona has authored several books and other publications over the years. She formulated and organized some of the first training programs under Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law, and since that time has arranged Guardian training programs sponsored by NYWBA, WBASNY and several other organizations throughout the State. In 2023 she received the NYWBA Doris Hoffman Award. Leona is currently practicing law part time at in Manhattan, serves as a court examiner and reviews accountings of Guardians. She also serves as an Arbitrator for Finra Dispute Resolution, and handles arbitrations relating to disputes in the financial industry.



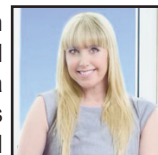
**Catherine M. Foti** is a partner at Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC and has more than thirty years of experience handling complex civil and white collar criminal matters, including frauds, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, and attorney disciplinary matters. She conducts internal investigations for corporations and counsels individuals. She has been recognized by Benchmark Litigation as a "Star" in labor and employment law and a "Future Star" in the area of white-collar crime and investigations. Best Lawyers in America recognized her for white-collar criminal defense. She has been listed in SuperLawyers since its inception and was named to its Top 50 Women Attorneys. In 2023, she was named to Crain's New York Business's "Notable Women in Law" list. Ms. Foti is a past-Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Committee of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers and has testified before the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Council, and the New York City Bar Association, where she sat on the Professional Discipline and Criminal Law Committees. After more than 15 years on the NYWBA Board as Vice President and Director, plus service as Co-Chair of the Judiciary and Professional Ethics Committees, Ms. Foti joined the NYWBA Advisory Council in 2019. She is an author and speaker on corporate investigations, evidence, ethics, attorney discipline, and employment law; a regular contributor to The Insider Blog on Forbes.com; and was a contributor and member of the Board of Editors of the Business Crimes Bulletin.



**Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob** is a graduate of Brooklyn College and NYU School of Law. After nearly twenty years in a private practice focused on commercial, real estate and matrimonial law, she was elected a NYC Civil Court Judge in 1985. In 1989, she was appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice, and in 1994 she was elected as a Supreme Court Justice. In 1999, she was appointed as a Justice of the Appellate Term for the First Department. Upon her retirement from the

bench in 2006, she began a long tenure as a NYS Supreme Court Judicial Hearing Officer. She is a charter member of WBASNY and worked tirelessly to support its formation, drafting its By-Laws, and working with then-separate women's bar associations across the state to achieve consensus over governance and WBASNY's relationship with its Chapters. She was on the NYWBA and WBASNY Boards of Directors for more than thirty years. She also served as a Director on the Board of the Justices of the Supreme Court, as a Director of the NYS Association of Women's Judges, and on the Board of the Institute for Community Living (a non-profit that provides housing and support to the mentally ill). She is a proud recipient of NYWBA's President's Special Award and WBASNY's Marilyn Menge Award. After turning 90 years-old, Justice Gangel-Jacob moved to Florida with her daughter Jamie Gangel, her son-in-law Daniel Silva, and her twin grandchildren Lily and Nicholas. She is so proud of the work of NYWBA and sends everyone her best wishes.

**Julie Hyman** is a Bronx based attorney with more than 25 years of experience in NY Family and Matrimonial Law, and practices in the New York Metropolitan area and beyond. Her firm also provides full legal services including basic will packages, with revocable trusts, and real estate closings for buyers and sellers at affordable prices, and more. She has litigated and tried many cases in Supreme and Family Court and argued several appeals in the local Appellate Divisions. Several of Julie's cases have been featured in the Riverdale Press, NY Post, NY Daily News, Habitat Magazine, NY Observer, and NYLJ. She has also appeared as an expert commentator on various television and print media. Julie received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College, and her law degree from Cardozo Law School. She has been an active member of the NYWBA and WBASNY Boards and is our newest electee to the Advisory Council. She is also a former National Board Member of SAG-AFTRA, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, Riverdale Main Street Alliance, and friend of Humane Society of NY. She is incredibly grateful to her mentors and friends at NYWBA who have given her "magic powers" like Elsa in Frozen to handle some of the toughest legal fights. Julie resides in Riverdale, New York with her two cats and her dog.



**Marjorie A. Martin** has been an active NYWBA member for many years. She has served as Recording Secretary, Director, and as a member of the International Law and Technology Committees. She has been a NYWBA Delegate to the WBASNY Board of Directors, and a representative on the WBASNY Awards and Nominations Committees. She has been a member of the NYWBA Advisory Council since 2009. Although a member of several bar associations, she appreciates the doors that have been opened to her through the NYWBA, including serving on the First Department's Character and Fitness Committee. She is also a recipient of the NYWBA Doris S. Hoffman Service Award. Ms. Martin is an Administrative Law Judge for the NYS Traffic Violations Bureau. She previously worked at a major international bank, had a solo practice, was of counsel to a small international firm, and was on the full-time faculty of Fordham Law School. She has volunteered at Women in Need, at the New York Lighthouse for the Blind, and at what was previously known as Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.





**Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli** graduated with honors from Brandeis University and received her J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, where she was a teaching fellow. She was a Legal Services lawyer in the South Bronx, became a Law Assistant and then Principal Law Clerk in the NYS Supreme Court, and spent several years in private practice as a civil litigator. In 1985, she was elected to the NYC Civil Court and sat in the Criminal Court, where she chaired the Citywide Anti-Bias Committee and became involved in addressing the conditions of female prisoners and developing childcare facilities for NYC courts. In 1988, she was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice, and in 1992 she was elected to the NYS Supreme Court. In 1994, Justice Mazzarelli was designated an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, the second woman to serve on that court. She previously Chaired the Board of Trustees of the Board of Trustees of the Practicing Law Institute; was President of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York (1997); is a long-time member of the National Organization of Italian American Women; and for ten years she served on the drafting committee of the New York Pattern Jury Instructions. She has served on the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science. Justice Mazzarelli served on the NYWBA Board for more than 20 years and is a recipient of NYWBA's Doris S. Hoffman Service Award.



**Susan M. Moss** practices in all areas of family and matrimonial law at Chemtob Moss Forman & Beyda, LLP. She is admitted in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and she is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She served as a Director on the NYWBA Board for many years and was elected to the Advisory Council in 2019. She also co-chaired WBASNY's Matrimonial Committee. She is a member of the New York City Bar, NYSBA and NYCLA, and she has served on and/or led many committees or subcommittees of these associations. Ms. Moss is a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of Sanctuary for Families, a non-profit organization devoted to helping survivors of domestic violence. Sue is also a member of the Executives Association of Greater New York. She is listed in Super Lawyers as one of the top 50 Women Attorneys in the Metropolitan Area. She has presented programs at NYSBA, NYWBA, and the Children's Rights Council. She received her law degree from the University of Chicago, where she was the managing editor of the University of Chicago Roundtable Law Journal and recipient of the Ann Barber Award. She also earned undergraduate degrees from the School of Business and the College of Arts & Sciences of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, where she was awarded the Ivan Berg Award and Brownlee Award.



**Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy** is an elected Justice of the NYS Supreme Court in New York County, where she sits in the Appellate Division, First Department since her appointment by Governor Hochul in 2023. She was previously an elected Judge of the Civil Court and served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice in the Civil Branch. She also served as the Administrative Judge of the Harlem Community Justice Center. She joined the bench as a Judge in the Family Court in New York County. She began her legal career as a Principal Law Clerk in New York County Supreme Court, initially for Hon. Rose Robin and then for Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler. Justice O'Neill Levy served with distinction on the NYWBA Board for more than 15 years and joined the Advisory Council in 2019. She also was a member of several Committees, including the prestigious Nominations Committee. She is a former member of the

Board of Trustees of the Community Service Society of New York; a former Vice President of the Network of Bar Leaders; and a Past President of the Brehon Irish-American Law Society. She received her B.A. from Boston College (1990) and her J.D. from Fordham Law School (1993).

**Hon. Sheri Roman** is an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department since 2009. Prior to her elevation, Justice Roman served as a Queens County Supreme Court Justice for 14 and a NYC Criminal Court Judge for 9 years. At the Bronx DA's Office, she was Chief of the Major Offense Bureau, Acting Chief of the Homicide Bureau, Chief of the Litigation Training Bureau, and in the Appeals Bureau. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of SUNY Buffalo, she received her LL.M. in Criminal Justice from NYU and J.D. from Georgetown. She served on the NYWBA Board as a Director and Vice President and chaired the Judiciary and Criminal Law Committees. She has been active in other organizations, including National Association of Women Judges (VP, Secretary); NYS Association of Women Judges (VP; Chair, Law School Outreach); Samuel Field YM-YWHA (Board); Queens County Women's Bar Association; NYC Supreme Court Justices Association (Director, Corresponding Secretary); Criminal Court Judges Association (VP); NYC Criminal Court Bias Committee; and Queens County Gender Fairness Committee (Chair).



**Amy Saltzman** began practicing family law in 1994 when she founded the legal services program of the Rockland Family Shelter (now called the Center for Safety and Change), a domestic violence social services agency in Rockland County. She then went on to practice as an associate in a boutique matrimonial firm in Manhattan and then founded her own firm in 2003. Ms. Saltzman has trained lawyers on representing domestic violence victims in divorce, on many financial and child related issues raised in divorce, and other family law matters. Ms. Saltzman served on the NYWBA Board as an Officer and Director for fifteen years and as a WBASNY Officer and co-chair of its Domestic Violence Committee. She is currently co-chair of WBASNY's Family & Matrimonial Law Committee, a member of the legal advisory council of Sanctuary for Families; a member of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association; and the New York City Bar Association. She received her J.D. from the City University of New York Law School at Queens College and also holds a Master's degree in Special Education from Hunter College. In 2023, Ms. Saltzman was awarded WBASNY's Hanna S. Cohen Pro Bono Award. Ms. Saltzman has two children and three wonderful grandchildren.

