

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

*Local Gender Bias and  
Gender Fairness Committees*

**2004-2005**

April 6, 2005

## LOCAL GENDER BIAS AND GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES

### Courts Outside NYC

*Third Judicial District Gender Fairness  
Committee*

**Hon. Leslie Stein**  
Albany City Court  
40 Steuben Street, Suite 601  
Albany, NY 12207  
518-434-2145

*Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness  
Committee*

**Hon. Polly A. Hoyer**  
Fulton County Office Building  
223 West Main Street  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
518-736-5691

**Karen Partyka**  
5 Hibbard Street  
Amsterdam, NY 1201  
518-842-5640

*Fifth Judicial District Committee*

**Hon. Deborah Karalunas**  
Supreme Court Justice  
Hughes State Office Building  
333 East Washington Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315-428-3244

*Sixth Judicial District Committee*

**Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann**  
Binghamton City Court  
Governmental Plaza  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
607-772-7006

**Hon. Christopher Esworthy**  
Commissioner of Jurors  
P.O. Box 1706  
Courthouse  
Binghamton, NY 13902  
607-778-2159

*Seventh Judicial District Committee*

**Hon. Marilyn O'Connor**  
Monroe County Family Court  
Hall of Justice  
99 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614-2187  
585-428-1904

*Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial  
Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Amy J. Fricano**  
Supreme Court Justice  
175 Hawley Street  
Lockport, NY 14094  
716-439-7055

*Ninth Judicial District Committee to  
Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts*

**Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman**  
Judge, Court of Claims  
140 Grand Street, 5th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601  
914-289-2310

*Nassau County Judicial Committee on  
Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Margaret Reilly**  
District Court Judge  
99 Main Street  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
516-572-2107

**Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.**  
Schlissel, Ostrow  
200 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300  
Garden City, NY 11530  
516-877-1800

*Suffolk County Women in the Courts  
Committee*

**Hon. Hertha C. Trotto**  
Suffolk District Court  
Central Islip  
400 Carleton Ave.  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
631-853-7418

## **Courts Within NYC**

*Gender Bias Committee of the Family  
Courts of the City of New York*

**Hon. Helen Sturm**  
Family Court  
60 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10013  
646-386-5119

*New York City Civil Court Committee*

**Hon. Maria Milin**  
Housing Court Judge  
111 Centre Street  
New York, New York 10013  
212-374-8469

*New York City Criminal Court Anti-Bias  
Committee*

**Hon. Deborah Kaplan**  
NYC Criminal Court  
111 Centre Street, Room 550  
New York, NY 10013  
212-374-8483

*Anti-Bias Committee, New York County,  
Supreme Court, Civil Term*

**Hon. John E. H. Stackhouse**  
Justice, Supreme Court  
80 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10013  
212-374-4581

Ross Upshaw  
Chief Court Reporter  
Supreme Court  
60 Centre Street, R.308  
New York, NY 10013

*Bronx County Supreme Court Committee*

**Hon. Richard Lee Price**  
Supreme Court Justice  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451  
718-590-3590

*Queens County Supreme Court Gender  
Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Sheri Roman**  
Justice, Supreme Court  
125-01 Queens Blvd.  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
718-520-4416

*Brooklyn Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Matthew J. D'Emic**  
Supreme Court  
360 Adams Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718-643-8762



*Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Leslie Stein, Chair**  
Albany City Court  
Albany City Hall, Room 209  
Albany, NY 12207

518-434-2145

## LOCAL COMMITTEES REPORTS 2004-2005

Name of the Committee Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

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**Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair**

Hon. Leslie E. Stein, 50 Chapel Street, First Floor, Albany, New York 12207

Phone: 518-434-2145; Fax: 518-434-5980; E-mail: lstein@courts.state.ny.us

No. Members 34 No. of Meetings 2 Average Attendance 15-20

Use of Video Conferencing? No

**Composition of the Committee** (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.):

Judges - 6, Court Personnel - 14, Advocates - 10, Other - 4

**Local Committee Activities For the Past Year:** Please include, if relevant and possible, names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

### Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004

Distribution of written materials in various courthouse locations

### Activities for Women's History Month 2004

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#### Other Activities in the Past Year

(1) March 11, 2004 Meeting - The Committee heard a presentation on sexual assault and treatment of sexual assault cases in the Courts, by an attorney with the Legal Project experienced in such matters (see sample materials, attached).

(2) September 28, 2004 Meeting - The Court heard a presentation from representatives of the state and local CASA (Court Appointed Special Assistants) organizations regarding the use of CASA volunteers in Family Court matters (see sample materials, attached).

(3) Membership - Several new members were invited to join the Committee, replacing inactive members.

(4) The Committee began work on a mission statement, revision of its complaint forms and a pamphlet on navigating the Family Court process. Two complaints were forwarded to the District Administrative Judge for response.

**Have you worked in partnership with other groups? Bar Associations? Law Schools?**

The Committee continues to collaborate with the Legal Project and with the Capital District Women's Bar Association on various projects and presentations. Consideration is also being given to working with Albany Law School.

**Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? Not that we are aware.**

**What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or district (or court) involved in?**

The Courts in the Third Judicial District work with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, County Bar Association pro bono programs, The Legal Project, the Albany Law School Clinical Program and Unity House.

**Plans for Next Year**

The Committee plans to continue to work on its mission statement, updating its complaint forms, a pamphlet for Family Court litigants and domestic violence training/materials for local criminal court judges.

**Difficulties your committee faces:**

The greatest challenge continues to be the large geographic area of the Judicial District and the different constituencies of each county.

**Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.**

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005** to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to **212-428-2793**.

**In its 1982 Final Report, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime presented a composite story of a 50-year old rape victim. Her story illustrates the problems experienced by too many sexual assault survivors even today. These problems make clear why the survivor can benefit from the support of a Legal Advocate. Here are some of the excerpts from that story:**

You are asleep one night when suddenly you awaken to find a man standing over you with a knife at your throat. As you start to scream, he beats and cuts you. He then rapes you. He breaks furniture and windows in a display of senseless violence. His rampage ended, he rips out the telephone line, threatens you again, and disappears into the night...

The police ask questions, take notes, dust for fingerprints, make photographs. When you tell them you were raped, they take you to the hospital. Bleeding from cuts, your front teeth knocked out, bruised and in pain, you are told your wounds are superficial, that rape itself is not considered an injury. Awaiting treatment, you sit alone for hours, suffering the stares of curious passers by. When your turn comes for examination, the intern seems irritated because he has been called out to treat you. While he treats you, he says that he hates to get involved in rape cases because he doesn't like going to court. He asks if you "knew the man you had sex with."

The nurse says she wouldn't be out alone at this time of night. It seems pointless to explain that the attacker broke into your house and had a knife. An officer says you must go through this process, then the hospital sends you a bill for the examination that the investigators insisted upon...

Finally you get home somehow, in a cab you paid for and wearing a hospital gown because they took your clothes as evidence. Everything the attacker touched seems soiled. You're afraid to be in your house alone...

You didn't realize when you gave the police your name and address that it would be given to the press and to the defendant through the police reports... You haven't yet absorbed what's happened to you when you get calls from insurance companies and firms that sell security devices. But these calls pale in comparison to the threats that come from the defendant and his friends.

You're astonished to discover that your attacker has been arrested, yet while in custody, he has free and unmonitored access to a phone. He can threaten you from jail. The judge orders him not to annoy you, but when the calls are brought to his attention, the judge does nothing.

At least, you can be assured that the man who attacked you is in custody, or so you think. No one tells you when he is released on his promise to come to court. No one ever asks you if you've been threatened. The judge is never told that the defendant said he'd kill you if you told or he'd get even if he went to jail. You learn, only by accident, that he's at large; this discovery comes when you turn a corner and confront him. He knows where you live. He's been there. Besides, your name and address were in the paper and in the reports he's seen. Now nowhere is safe...

You try to return to normal. You don't want to talk about what happened, so you decide not to tell your co-workers about the attack. A few days go by and the police unexpectedly come to your place of work. They show their badges to the receptionist and ask to see you. They want you to look at some photographs, but they don't explain that to your co-workers. You try to explain that you're the victim, not the accused.

The phone rings and the police want you to come to a line-up. It may be 1:00 A.M. or in the middle of your work day, but you have to go; the suspect and his lawyer are waiting. It will not be the last time you are forced to conform your life to their convenience. You appear at the police station and the line-up begins. The suspect's lawyer sits next to you, but he does not watch the stage; he stares at you....

You receive a subpoena for a preliminary hearing. No one tells you what it will involve, how long it will take, or how you should prepare. You assume that this will be the only time you will have to appear. But you are only beginning your initiation in a system that will grind away at you for months, disrupt your life, affect your emotional stability, and certainly cost you money; it may cost you your job, and, for the duration, will prevent you from putting the crime behind you and reconstructing your life...

It's the day of the hearing. You've never been to court before, never spoken in public. You're very nervous. You rush to arrive at 8:00 A.M. to talk with a prosecutor you've never met. You wait in a hallway with a number of other witnesses. It's now 8:45. Court starts at 9:00. No one has spoken to you. Finally, a man sticks his head out a door, calls your name and asks, "Are you the one who was raped?" You're aware of the stares as you stand and suddenly realize that this is the prosecutor, the person you expect will represent your interests.

The prosecutor tells you to sit on the bench outside the courtroom. Suddenly you see the man who raped you coming down the hall. No one has told you he would be here. He's with three friends. He points you out. They all laugh and jostle you a little as they pass. . .

You sit on the bench for an hour, then two. You don't see the prosecutor, he has disappeared into the courtroom. Finally, at noon he comes out and says, "Oh, you're still here? We continued that case to next month."

You repeat this process many times before you actually testify at the preliminary hearing...The preliminary hearing was an event for which you were totally unprepared...One of the first questions you are asked is where you live. You finally moved after your attack; you've seen the defendant and his friends, and you're terrified of having them know where you now live. When you explain that you'd be happy to give your old address, the judge says he'll dismiss the case or hold you in contempt of court if you don't answer the question. The prosecutor says nothing. During your testimony, you are also compelled to say where you work, how you get there, and what your schedule is. . .

Now the case is scheduled for trial. Again there are delays. . . You tell your story in detail to five different prosecutors before the case is tried. . . Continuances are granted because the courts are filled, one of the lawyers is on another case, the judge has a meeting to attend or an early tennis match. . . When you ask if the next date could be set a week later so you can attend a family gathering out of state, you are told that the defendant has a right to a speedy trial. You stay home from the reunion and the case is continued. . .

No one tells you anything about the progress of the case. You want to be involved, consulted, and informed, but prosecutors often plea bargain without consulting victims... At the trial, your character is an open subject of discussion and innuendo. The defense is allowed to question you on incidents going back to your childhood. The jury is never told that the defendant has two prior convictions for the same offense and has been in prison three times for other crimes. You sought help from a counselor to deal with the shattering effect of this crime on your life. You told him about your intimate fears and feelings. Now he has been called by the defense and his notes and records have been subpoenaed...

The verdict is guilty... You expect the sentence to reflect how terrible the crime was. You ask the prosecutor how this decision is reached, and you are told that the defendant is interviewed at length by a probation officer. He gives his side of the story, which may be blatantly false in light of the proven facts... The officer will often speak to the defendant's relatives and friends. Some judges will send the defendant to a facility where a complete psychiatric and sociological work-up is prepared. You're amazed that no one will ask you about the crime or the effect it had on you and your family... At sentencing, the judge hears from the defendant, his lawyer, his mother, his minister, his friends. You learn by chance what day the hearing was. When you do attend, the defense attorney says you're vengeful and it's apparent that you overreacted to being raped... because you chose to come and see the sentencing. You ask permission to address the judge and are told that you are not allowed to do so.

## Why Systems Advocacy Is Needed

*The Response to Rape: Detours on the Road to Equal Justice* was prepared by the majority staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1993. This report was a culmination of a six-month investigation of state rape prosecutions. These findings reveal a justice system that fails by any standard to meet its goals — apprehending, convicting, and incarcerating violent sex offenders.

Some of the statistics include:

- 98% of rape victims will never see their attacker apprehended, convicted, or incarcerated. Over half (54%) of all rape prosecutions result in either a dismissal or an acquittal.
- A rape prosecution is more than twice as likely as a murder prosecution to be dismissed and 30% more likely to be dismissed than a robbery prosecution.
- Approximately 1 in 10 rapes reported to the police results in time served in prison; 1 in 100 rapes (including those that go unreported) is sentenced to more than one year in prison.
- Almost one quarter of convicted rapists are not sentenced to prison, but instead are released on probation.
- Nearly one quarter of convicted rapists receive a sentence to a local jail — for only 11 months (according to national estimates).
- Adding together the convicted rapists sentenced to probation and those sentenced to local jails, almost half of all convicted rapists are sentenced to less than one year behind bars.

The disparity in how our system prosecutes rape, in contrast to other violent crime, mirrors the disparity in our society's attitude towards these acts. The American legal system has always treated cases of assault by a stranger on our streets as a serious crime. But violence that primarily targets women has too often been dismissed without response. Where the victim knows the perpetrator, there is a tendency to consider the crime a product of a private relationship, not a matter of public injustice. Even where the violence comes at the hands of a stranger, the victim may be seen not as an innocent target of intolerable criminal acts, but as a participant who somehow bears shame or even some responsibility for the violence.

# The Rape of Mr. Smith

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The law discriminates against rape victims in a manner that would not be tolerated by victims of any other crime. In the following example, a holdup victim is asked questions similar in form to those usually asked a victim of rape:

Officer: "Mr. Smith, you were held up at gunpoint on the corner of 16th and Locust?"  
Mr. Smith: "Yes."  
Officer: "Did you struggle with the robber?"  
Mr. Smith: "No."  
Officer: "Why not?"  
Mr. Smith: "He was armed."  
Officer: "Then you made a conscious decision to comply with his demands rather than to resist?"  
Mr. Smith: "Yes."  
Officer: "Did you scream? Cry out?"  
Mr. Smith: "No, I was afraid."  
Officer: "I see. Have you ever been held up before?"  
Mr. Smith: "No."  
Officer: "Have you ever given money away?"  
Mr. Smith: "Yes, of course..."  
Officer: "And you did so willingly?"  
Mr. Smith: "What are you getting at?"  
Officer: "Well, let's put it like this, Mr. Smith. You've given money away in the past...in fact, you have quite a reputation for philanthropy. How can we be sure that you weren't contriving to have your money taken from you by force?"  
Mr. Smith: "Listen, if I wanted..."  
Officer: "Never mind. What time did this holdup take place, Mr. Smith?"  
Mr. Smith: "About 11 P.M."  
Officer: "You were out on the street at 11 P.M.? Doing what?"  
Mr. Smith: "Just walking."  
Officer: "Just walking? You know that it's dangerous being out on the street that late at night. Weren't you aware that you could have been held up?"  
Mr. Smith: "I hadn't thought about it."  
Officer: "What were you wearing at the time, Mr. Smith?"  
Mr. Smith: "Let's see. A suit. Yes, a suit."  
Officer: "An expensive suit?"  
Mr. Smith: "Well...yes."  
Officer: "In other words, Mr. Smith, you were walking around the streets late at night in a suit that practically advertised the fact that you might be a good target for some easy money, isn't that so? I mean if we didn't know better, Mr. Smith, we might even think that you were asking for this to happen, mightn't we?"

Mr. Smith: "Look, can't we talk about the past history of the guy who *did* this to me?"  
Office: "I'm afraid not, Mr. Smith. I don't think you would want to violate his rights, now would you?"

Naturally, the line of questioning, the innuendo, is ludicrous--as well as inadmissible as any sort of cross-examination--unless we are talking parallel questions in a rape case. The time of night, the victim's previous history of "giving away" that which was taken by force, the clothing--all these are held against the victim. Society's posture on rape, and the manifestation of that posture in the courtroom, account for the fact that rapes are so underreported.

From: St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center, Rape Crisis Program.

**Court Appointed Special Assistants**  
are trained community volunteers who  
are appointed by judges to advocate the  
best interests of abused and neglected  
children. A CASA volunteer speaks up  
for each child in child welfare  
proceedings until they are placed in a  
safe, nurturing, permanent home.



## CASA makes the difference.

*Studies show that a child  
with a CASA volunteer:*

- is more likely to secure needed services in a timely manner
- is moved from placement to placement less frequently
- is more likely to have their case reviewed regularly by the court
- has a better chance of living in a safe, permanent home

**Capital District CASA**  
[www.capitaldistrictcasa.org](http://www.capitaldistrictcasa.org)  
*is a member of the*  
**National CASA Association**  
[www.nationalcasa.org](http://www.nationalcasa.org)  
*and the*  
**New York State CASA Association**  
[www.casany.org](http://www.casany.org)



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Assistants  
FOR CHILDREN

**CAPITAL DISTRICT CASA**

**Serving Albany and Rensselaer Counties**  
*A Program of Mediation Matters, Inc.*

30 Watervliet Avenue  
Albany, New York 12206  
(518) 446-0356 / Fax: 446-0379  
*and*

258 Broadway  
Troy, New York 12180  
(518) 687-0056 / Fax: 687-0059  
email: [info@capitaldistrictcasa.org](mailto:info@capitaldistrictcasa.org)

*We believe a safe, loving,  
permanent home is every  
child's birthright.*



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Assistants  
FOR CHILDREN

**CAPITAL DISTRICT CASA**

*You Can Volunteer: Be  
A Powerful Voice in  
A Child's Life*

## WHAT IS CASA?

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Assistants: people who care deeply about children in need. CASAs are everyday people from a variety of professional, educational and cultural backgrounds who are appointed by a Family Court Judge to speak up for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

Once assigned to a case, the CASA volunteer reviews court, social service, medical and educational records. The volunteer interviews anyone involved with the child, including parents, foster parents, attorneys, social workers, school personnel, health care providers and, most importantly, the child.

The CASA volunteer provides the judge with a detailed, factual, written report so that well-informed, timely decisions about that child's future may be made. The CASA volunteer's role is to represent the best interests of the child while remaining objective.

Over the time span of a case, the CASA volunteer must be willing to consistently and pro-actively communicate with family and service providers to monitor the child's progress and continually report to the Court. CASA volunteers may be the only constant the child knows as he/she moves through the labyrinth of the child welfare system.

Capital District CASA has served over 2100 children in Albany County since 1991 and began serving the most vulnerable children of Rensselaer County in 2004.

## BECOME A CASA

Applicants to CASA are carefully screened and receive in-depth training in courtroom procedures, social service systems, and the needs of children who have been abused or neglected. They must have flexible daytime schedules and strong communication skills. The volunteers swear an oath to observe confidentiality while advocating the children's best interests. Professional staff provides assistance, guidance and ongoing training.

Once involved in a case, a CASA volunteer invests an average of twelve to fifteen hours per month. Most of these hours are flexible, except for professional meetings and court appearances.

When a CASA volunteer takes on a case, they take on a child's future. CASA asks a commitment of at least one year.

## JOIN FRIENDS OF CASA

Friends of CASA can help in a number of ways, from serving as a volunteer advocate for a child, to donating financial or in-kind resources, assisting in public relations, or fundraising.

Capital District CASA, serving Albany and Rensselaer Counties, is supported through a combination of private and public funds as a program of Mediation Matters, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Contributions support CASA volunteers in guiding abused and neglected children through the overburdened legal and child welfare systems to safe, permanent homes where they can thrive.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Please make checks payable to Capital District CASA.

Your corporation may have a matching gifts program. Please inquire at your benefits office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

*Your tax-deductible gift can help turn a life of hurt into a life of hope.*

I would like more information on:

- Volunteering as a CASA
- Assisting in fundraising
- Assisting in public relations
- Serving on the Advisory Committee

Mail to: Capital District CASA  
30 Watervliet Avenue or 258 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12206 Troy, NY 12180

*You can help a child at a frightening and bewildering time. You can help that child understand the confusing court process, present that child's needs to the judge, and provide continuity for a child whose future is being determined by the Court.*

**YOU CAN SPEAK UP FOR A CHILD!**



## **Capital District CASA**

*A Program of Mediation Matters, Serving Albany and Rensselaer Counties*

30 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 ♥ v. 518-446-0356 f. 518-446-0379  
258 Broadway, Troy, NY 12180 ♥ v. 518-687-0056 f. 518-687-0059  
[www.capitaldistrictcasa.org](http://www.capitaldistrictcasa.org)

## **Advantages of CASA**

### **CASA: An Investment that Yields Huge Savings**

- ♥ *CASA volunteers insure no child stays in foster care longer than absolutely necessary, and the result is oftentimes a dramatically shorter stay in foster care. On a national scale, if the median stay in foster care were shortened by just one month, it would save taxpayers over \$1.2 million.*
- ♥ CASA has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice as a model juvenile delinquency prevention program. When CASA's involvement in a child's case prevents later juvenile delinquency and placement, the *investment in CASA* representation for that one child will have paid off 40 times over.
- ♥ At the end of 2002, the CASA Network consisted of over 900 local programs in all fifty states as well as Washington D.C. and the Virgin Islands, with over 65,000 volunteers.
- ♥ CASA volunteers contributed more than 12 million hours of volunteer service in 2002, equivalent to *\$571 million in taxpayer dollars* if compensated for their service.
- ♥ CASA excelled in a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services evaluation quantifying representation of child's best interests. Another government study found that the specific training, evaluation and monitoring of performance that CASA programs provide surpass other types of representation.
- ♥ The service CASA provides to our country's juvenile justice system has merited awards and recognition from the U. S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Congress and the White House.
- ♥ CASA volunteers handle only one or two cases, so they can take the time to interview everyone involved in the case and prepare thorough reports and recommendations to the court. *The CASA's only job is to speak for the child:* to assure his or her best interests don't get overlooked while in protective custody, and that the child is placed in a safe, nurturing permanent home as quickly as possible.
- ♥ CASA makes the difference. While CASA must work within the system, studies show that a child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to secure needed services in a timely manner; is moved from placement to placement less frequently; is more likely to have his/her case reviewed on a regular basis by the court; and has a better chance of living in a safe, loving, permanent home – sooner.
- ♥ Since 1991, CASA has served as "A Child's Voice in Court" for over 2100 children in Albany County and began serving the most vulnerable children of Rensselaer County in Spring 2004.

## ***Children Need Protection and Care More Than Ever***

Source: Suzette Fromm, © 2001 Prevent Child Abuse America

- ✓ In 1999, an estimated 3,244,000 children were reported to CPS agencies as alleged victims of child maltreatment. Overall, the total number of reports nationwide shows a slight upward trend with a 4% increase over the number in 1995 and a 33% increase over the numbers 10 years ago in 1989.
- ✓ 1,070,000 reports of child abuse were substantiated in 1999 by the child protection agency. This represents *15 out of every 1,000 children* in the US.
- ✓ *Every day approximately three children die* as a result of abuse and neglect. In 1999, 1,100 children died from abuse and neglect; 86.1% were younger than six years of age and 42.6% never reach their first birthday.
- ✓ As of September 30, 1999, *there were 581,000 children in foster care*. Children in care as of September 30, 1999 had spent a *median of 20 months in foster care*.
- ✓ The government spends over \$24 billion annually on direct costs of foster care:

### *Direct Costs of Child Abuse and Neglect including:*

Hospitalization  
Chronic Health Problems  
Mental Health Care System  
Child Welfare System  
Law Enforcement  
Judicial System

*Total Direct Costs: \$24,384,347,302*

### *Indirect Costs of Child Abuse and Neglect including:*

Special Education  
Mental Health and Health Care  
Juvenile Delinquency  
Lost Productivity to Society  
Adult Criminality

*Total Indirect Costs: \$69,692,535,227*

**Total Annual Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States:                    \$94,076,882,529**



## **Capital District CASA**

*A Program of Mediation Matters, Serving Albany and Rensselaer Counties*

30 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 ♥ v. 518-446-0356 f. 518-446-0379

258 Broadway, Troy, NY 12180 ♥ v. 518-687-0056 f. 518-687-0059

[www.capitaldistrictcasa.org](http://www.capitaldistrictcasa.org)

### **CHECKLIST FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**

1. Has the child received a comprehensive health assessment since entering foster care?
2. Are the child's immunizations up-to-date and complete for his or her age?
3. Has the child received hearing and vision screening?
4. Has the child received screening for lead exposure?
5. Has the child received regular dental services?
6. Has the child received screening for communicable diseases?
7. Has the child received developmental screening by a health care provider with experience in child development?
8. Has the child received a mental health assessment?
9. Is the child enrolled in an early childhood program?
10. Has the adolescent child received information about healthy development?

### **CHECKLIST FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. Is the child enrolled?
2. Is the child attending regularly?
3. Is the child properly transported, and on time?
4. Is the child displaying school phobic, truant, or school resistant behaviors?
5. Is the child held out of school as a disciplinary measure?
6. Is the child awaiting an available appropriate school placement?
7. Ascertain availability of birth certificate, immunization records, basic school records

*Developed by the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children*



## Why Volunteers?

### A Case Statement Supporting the Use of Volunteers As Court Appointed Special Advocates

Over the past twenty-five years, tens of thousands of CASA volunteers have served over one million abused and neglected children. Judge David Soukup's initial notion that volunteers are in the best position to most effectively and efficiently provide the advocacy so critical for our children in need has come to fruition. In 1990, with the inclusion of CASA in the Victims of Child Abuse Act, Congress affirmed the use of volunteers in our otherwise closed juvenile court systems and made provisions for the growth of our volunteer movement nationwide.

The volunteer nature of our work is the very foundation on which CASA is built and is certainly one of the greatest strengths of our national network. Volunteers are in fact the heart of what we do.

Why volunteers? By the very nature of their "volunteerism" they empower themselves through their commitment of time and energy. Volunteers generally work on only one or two cases at a time and their focus gives them the ability to see and do more on behalf of the child. They stay with the case from beginning to end and serve the program an average of 30 months.

Volunteers are also independent of bureaucratic constraints that often keep those employed by our local institutions playing by rules that may be outdated or often make less than common sense. Certainly CASA volunteers do not work in a vacuum. It takes the strong support and guidance of local program staff to facilitate their work. Careful screening, training, supervision, and retention are essential to assure high quality volunteer advocacy. Although paid staff play an integral role in the coordination and management of the program, the traditional role of staff does not include routinely working cases. One primary reason is cost-effectiveness. It is certainly more cost-effective to have one staff person coordinating 30 volunteers serving 75 children as opposed to one staff person carrying 25 cases with 60 children. Still, cost-effectiveness is only a small component of our commitment to the use of volunteers.

Volunteers bring a much-needed outside perspective to our court and child welfare systems. Their lack of past experience in the system not only brings a fresh perspective, it opens doors to the community and helps raise public awareness of the plight of our community's abused and neglected children.

To a child, having a volunteer working for them can make all the difference. Hundreds of children across the country have been moved when understanding the notion, "you don't get paid to do this?" It shows to them the level of concern and commitment being made by the volunteer. No, it's not part of their "job." Volunteers are ordinary citizens, doing extraordinary work for children, and along the way bringing such passion, dedication, and effort to their work.

In 1988, CSR, Inc., under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, published the results of a study entitled, National Evaluation of Guardians ad Litem in Child Abuse or Neglect Judicial Proceedings. After analyzing five types of GAL models the study found: "*CASA volunteers are excellent investigators and mediators, remain involved in the case and fight for what they think is right for the child.*" The study concluded, "*We give the CASA models our highest recommendation.*"

Since 1977, well-trained and supervised CASA volunteers have repeatedly demonstrated their competence in providing high quality advocacy for children. Volunteers are the very foundation on which our movement is built and remain the most effective and efficient mechanism to serve the greatest number of abused and children well.



## Success Stories from CASA around New York State

*Names have all been changed to ensure case confidentiality*

- ♥ A CASA volunteer was assigned to the case of a five-year-old boy named Raymond. The boy had been removed from his drug-addicted teenage mother, and placed with an adult cousin. Raymond was doing well at his cousin's house, but his father, who had left the country, applied for custody, as did an aunt. All of the parties were very defiant and angry at one another and at social services. The CASA worker met with all of the parties repeatedly, listened to them, and explained some of the misconceptions people had about Raymond's situation. Within six months, everyone agreed that Raymond should stay with his cousin for now until his father had gotten back on his feet.
- ♥ June was a four-year-old girl placed in foster care due to severe neglect by her mother. June had received medical care for acute illnesses since being placed in care, but had never had a comprehensive physical. CASA's insistence that this take place allowed physicians to identify a tumor behind her eye, which was promptly removed.
- ♥ Rafaella was a young teenager with a number of special needs who was placed in foster care when her mother died. The guardian designated by her mother was not able to care for her, and no other relatives were known. Because of her special needs, Rafaella was sent to a residential treatment facility where she was put on medication to control her emotional outbursts. When a CASA volunteer was assigned to the case, her investigation revealed that Rafaella had relatives in Santo Domingo who were very willing to care for Rafaella. CASA worked with all the parties in the case, and assisted in arranging a trial visit. The visit went well, and CASA assisted in removing the remaining barriers of finding a bilingual tutor and enabling access to her required medications. Rafaella has been living happily with her new family in Santo Domingo for more than a year.
- ♥ Four children were removed to foster care when their father was charged with sexual abuse, and their mother was charged with neglect. The CASA volunteer helped the mother to access Legal Services in order to obtain a divorce. When two of the four children were to be returned home, CASA learned the mother had not been complying with substance abuse treatment, and prevented the children's return to an unsafe situation.
- ♥ CASA assisted a birth mother with a psychiatric disability in obtaining a guardian ad litem as she was unable to understand the charges against her. Her child resided for eight years with an aunt who wanted to adopt him, but paperwork delays kept postponing the final adoption. CASA facilitated the process, and the child was adopted, telling the judge, "Everybody needs to be loved."
- ♥ Five of a mother's children were removed due to neglect, and she delivered her sixth child while in residential treatment for drug addiction. CASA observed all visits with the children, monitored service delivery and court orders, visited the foster homes, and made weekly visits to the mother and baby. CASA provided consistent support to the family throughout their case, which is slated to end with reunification of the mother and all of her children, giving the judge assurance that if reunification occurs, the children will remain safe.

# THE CASA VOLUNTEER SALUTE



Spring 2004

## Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye Commends CASA Programs

In her annual State of the Judiciary Address delivered in Albany on February 9th, Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye committed to forming a work group to explore the expansion of the CASA program across New York State. Commending the work of CASA volunteers, Judge Kaye stated, "we appreciate all the help we can get, chief among them the Court Appointed Special Advocates - CASA, a national program of trained volunteers who spend time with a child and just about anyone who has contact with that child, and then report their findings to the Family Court Judge who must decide whether the child can safely be returned home."

Judge Kaye commented that "CASA is a wonderful example of how ordinary citizens can contribute to the well-being of their communities by brightening the future, one child at a time." She also noted that, "just the other day, in a newspaper report, Monroe County Family Court Judge Anthony Sciolino summed up how our Family Court Judges feel about CASA: 'We couldn't do our jobs without people like you.'"

Recognizing that in 2003 there were more than 800,000 family case filings, showing a steady increase over previous years, and while acknowledging the good work CASA programs accomplish, she also noted the need for expanded services. "Terrific as they are, CASA programs serve barely one-third of New York's 62 counties," she

said. As a result, a group of current and former Family Court judges and administrators, including Sheryl Dicker, Executive Director of Judge Kaye's Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, has been convened to study the CASA program and make recommendations about the program's growth "so that no child waits a minute longer than absolutely necessary before being placed in, or returned to, a safe and loving home." CASANYS will work with the Permanent Judicial Commission and the Office of Court Administration to support the work group's efforts and help implement its recommendations.

Judge Kaye's address highlighted a number of other initiatives improving the lives of New York State's children, including other projects the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children is working on focusing on the health, education and developmental needs of children. She also noted efforts such as Adoption Now, Parent Education Advisory Boards, innovations in matrimonial litigation, the E-Petition Project, the NYC "Blueprint for Change," and Integrated Domestic Violence courts. Judge Kaye asserts that "nowhere is the challenge of societal change greater for us today than with respect to families."

**For the full text of the speech, visit <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ctapps/soj.htm>.**

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*CASANYS, a 501(c)(3) not for profit, is a member of the National CASA Association, and receives funding from a variety of sources, including private donations, fundraising activities, the Interest on Lawyer Account of the State of New York, the National CASA Association, Inc., the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, the NYS Office of Court Administration, VISTA, and the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. Information and opinions contained in this newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the New York State CASA Association or its supporters.*

## Recognizing Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities

By Darlene Ward, Executive Director, CASA: Advocates for Children of New York State

In the early 1990s, advocates for persons with mental illness had a formidable task: convincing the state that the population it thought it was serving had dramatically changed over the years. State and county mental health services for adults were originally designed, by and large, to assist single adult males, generally with diagnoses of a "serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI)." What had happened over the years, particularly after the deinstitutionalization movement, was that increasingly the individuals requesting services were parents, many of them single women with children under the age of six. It was finally the numbers that got the attention of policy makers: 24% of adults diagnosed as SPMI treated by the public mental health system alone had children under age 18; of that group, 45% of females under age 35 had young children. 16% of children in foster care had a parent with a psychiatric disability, as did 21% of children receiving prevention services.

Yet few programs offered support and treatment services that provided for both the needs of the parents and the children. At that time, the state's psychiatric centers intake form did not even include the question: "Do you have children?" Families with a parent diagnosed with a psychiatric disability were ending up in the social service system, the children being

removed to foster care. They were ending up in Family Court, with judges frustrated by a lack of good community-based resources to ensure the safety of the children and to provide support to parents. Parents were distraught that they were separated from their children and then expected to recover from symptoms of mental illness, often in programs that did not even acknowledge their role as a parent or the intense grief they were experiencing at the threatened loss of their family.

A joint Office of Mental Health and Department of Social Services Task Force was formed to address this issue, and hearings were held around the state. An advocacy project was funded at the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS), with an Advisory Group drawing together parents, service providers, governmental representatives, advocates and legal services providers. After years of meetings, trainings, hearings, letters and publications, the systems began to change. Model programs were funded, and success stories began to emerge.

The project identified as a priority the number of parents with psychiatric disabilities involved in the Family Court system. As CASA knows, on a good day, being involved in a court proceeding can be daunting. To a young, single

(continued on page 3)

### ONLINE RESOURCES

National Mental Health Association <a href="http://www.nmha.org">www.nmha.org</a>	Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.org">www.mentalhealth.org</a>	Juvenile Justice Home Page <a href="http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/home.html">www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/home.html</a>
Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS) <a href="http://www.mhanys.org">www.mhanys.org</a>	Salud mental - Acceso Hispano <a href="http://www.selfreliancefoundation.org/saludmental.htm">www.selfreliancefoundation.org/saludmental.htm</a>	New York State Council on Children and Families Homepage <a href="http://capital.net/com/council">http://capital.net/com/council</a>
Families Together in NYS, Inc. <a href="http://www.ftnys.org">www.ftnys.org</a>	Family Village <a href="http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/index.html">www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/index.html</a>	Parents Helping Parents <a href="http://www.php.com">www.php.com</a>
Internet Mental Health <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.com">www.mentalhealth.com</a>	CH.A.D.D.(Children and Adults With Attention Deficit Disorders) <a href="http://www.chadd.org">www.chadd.org</a>	New York State Office of Mental Health <a href="http://www.omh.state.ny.us">www.omh.state.ny.us</a>
VESID (Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities) <a href="http://www.vesid.nysed.gov">www.vesid.nysed.gov</a>	Parenting Well <a href="http://www.parenting-well.org/index.html">www.parenting-well.org/index.html</a>	Internet Mental Health <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.com">www.mentalhealth.com</a>

## Recognizing Parents .....(cont. from page 2)

mother who may have her own trauma history, a diagnosis of depression, experience with domestic violence, and no financial resources - by far the most common profile of the parent seen by the project - a court appearance that held the threat of losing her child was an insurmountable obstacle. Her love of her child, desire to take good care of that child, and interest in her own personal healing became buried under anxiety, confusion and grief, often manifesting itself as anger toward some of the same individuals attempting to help.

To assist these families and facilitate family stability and reunification where possible, a parent's guide to family court for parents with psychiatric disabilities was written and disseminated statewide. When a copy landed at Albany County Family Court, the MHANYS project received a call ordering a box of them. The publication is still available for download on MHANYS' website at [www.mhanys.org](http://www.mhanys.org).

Despite efforts of many dedicated individuals, successful model programs, and deep systemic change, many challenges remain. We still live in a culture that is ignorant about and fearful of mental illness. We still want to protect children and provide them with the most nurturing and stable home possible, and a parent's psychiatric disability can raise both realistic concerns in that area, as well as prejudice. Reactive service plans can, and have, made a bad situation worse. And not responding can, and has, put children at risk and led to parental decompensation.

As we move forward, it is important to remember that a parent with a psychiatric disability is first and foremost a parent. If you are a parent, you know that nothing in your life is unaffected by that role. Whatever help and support we offer families impacted by mental illness, we need to honor that priority. More research, more respectful and supportive programs, and most of all, more awareness of the issue will help us with that goal.

**"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."**

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Business Partners

***In each issue of The CASA Volunteer Salute, CASANYS spotlights members of the business community who recognize the important work of our volunteers.***

Something in the annual appeal letter from Genesee County CASA caught the eye of Alfred (Butch) Coglitore of LeRoy Motors. He decided to not only contribute financially, but use the visibility of his business to publicize the work of CASA in Genesee County. He sold Christmas trees in front of his dealership and donated \$50 for every car sold during the month of December. CASA received over \$3,000!

A LeRoy Motors customer learned of CASA at the dealership and brought the information she received to her church youth group. They not only raised another \$100, but awareness of the program as well. LeRoy Motors is convinced they can raise even more money in 2004. Thank you to LeRoy Motors! We appreciate your support and generosity!

The CASA Volunteer Salute  
is a publication of

**CASA: Advocates for Children  
of New York State**

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*Comments and suggestions  
are always welcome!*

## The Invisible Children's Project: A Family-Centered Intervention for Parents with Mental Illness

*Resource: The Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc*

In 1991, under the leadership of Lucinda Sloan Mallen, the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. embarked on a deliberate strategic effort to raise awareness of the issue of parents with a diagnosis of mental illness and their minor children. This passionate advocacy has influenced policy makers at the local, state, and national levels, resulting in systemic change and the development of the model program, the Invisible Children's Project.

The program's central focus is to empower parents and give them the necessary support to create a safe and nurturing environment for their children. Many of the parents seek assistance with prevention of foster care as well as seeking custody of children who have been lost to the foster care system. The primary objective of the Invisible Children's Project is to support parents with a diagnosis of a mental illness in their efforts to be the best parent they can be while keeping the family unit together.

Many families that work with the Invisible Children's Project are at risk for having their children placed in foster care. This often is a concern that supersedes all other issues in a parent's mind. In order to prevent placement it is important to understand the nature of risk children may be subjected to. A parental mental illness is a risk factor that may lead to foster care placement for a child. The role of the Invisible Children's Project is to provide the support and links to community resources to help reduce risk and therefore increase the chances for the parent and family's success.

Since 1993, the Invisible Children's Project has served over 500 men, women, and children. One parent in the program states "therapy and medication played a part in my recovery, but the Invisible Children's Project is a miraculous gift from God, which is directly responsible for giving me and my children our lives back."

**To learn more about the Invisible Children's Project, visit [www.mhaorangeny.com/icp-web.htm](http://www.mhaorangeny.com/icp-web.htm).**

### Regional Task Forces Addressing Parents With Psychiatric Disabilities

*Resource: [www.mhanys.org/pwpd/pwpd\\_taskreg.htm](http://www.mhanys.org/pwpd/pwpd_taskreg.htm)*

**North Central Region** (includes the Counties of: Clinton, Franklin, Essex, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Herkimer, and Hamilton). Contact Bonnie Newell, (518) 891-0504.

**South Central Region** (includes the Counties of: Oswego, Onieda, Cayuga, Cortland, Broome, Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego, Chenango, Madison, Onondaga, and Fulton/Montgomery).

**Northern Hudson Region** (includes the Counties of: Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany, Greene, and Columbia). Contact Jennifer Best, (518) 435-9931 ext. 264.

**Southern Hudson Region** (includes the Counties of: Ulster, Dutchess, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk). Contact Barbara Callahan, (845) 454-8692.

**North Western Region** (includes the Counties of: Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Genesee, Seneca and Niagara). Contact Renee Jacobs, (585) 325-3145 ext. 33, [rjacobs@mharochester.org](mailto:rjacobs@mharochester.org).

**South Western Region** (includes the Counties of: Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Yates, Chemung, and Tioga). Contact Beth Jenkins, (607) 273-9250.

*For more information, contact Helena Davis at MHANYS at (518)434-0439.*

**In New York State, 16 percent of the families involved in the foster care system include a parent with a mental illness.**

*- resource: <http://www.nmha.org/children/custody.pdf>*

## Challenges and Opportunities for Parents With Psychiatric Disabilities: How CASA Can Help

*By Lisa Easterly-Klaas, C.S.W., Project Director for the NYS Office of Mental Health, CASANYS Board Member, and Ph.D. candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Social Welfare*

**M**any young and middle-aged adults with serious mental illness are bearing children. Several studies show that American women with serious mental illness bear children at rates similar to that of the general population.

Researchers have shown that motherhood is a valued and motivating life role for women with serious mental illness. And, although there is agreement that parenting is a major adult role and that mental health services should provide opportunities and support for functioning in major adult roles, mental health systems have been slow to deliver services that support functioning in the parenting role. Most mental health service systems do not collect information on the parenting status of the service recipient. As a consequence, families and children suffer from the lack of support and preventive family services. This results in children of individuals with psychiatric disabilities being removed from their home and placed in protective services at a much higher rate than that of similar demographic populations. Children of individuals with psychiatric disabilities are removed from their families at rates up to 80%, according to some sources (Blanch and Purcell, 1993; Blanch et al., 1994). In fact, many individuals describe their serious mental illness as a litmus test during custody disputes in family court. Once an individual is labeled as mentally ill, their odds of retaining custody of their children are likely to be reduced.

Several studies cite mental health issues among the most complicating factors in reunifying children with their biological families (National Research Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1993). Mental health advocates fear that,

under the Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA), the increasingly stringent time lines for reunification of children with their biological parents, and the 18 month time frame to relinquish parental rights is especially threatening to parents with serious mental illness. Given the current service system gaps in their care and family support, it may not be possible to attain psychiatric and family stability within this time frame. These families face additional challenges because child and family services are ill-equipped to support the special needs of parents with serious mental illness, including the need for parenting support.

CASA volunteers can be especially helpful in supporting families in which a parent is diagnosed with serious mental illness. CASA volunteers can work with families and service providers to insure that the parent is receiving support with both their mental health and parenting needs. Many children of individuals with serious mental illness are taken into custody when the parent seeks inpatient hospitalization, because the parent doesn't have anyone to care for them. CASA volunteers may assist these families in preparing a directive plan designating someone to care for the children in case of such an emergency and, thus, help prevent foster placement. Also, CASA volunteers can educate judges and child welfare workers about individuals with serious mental illness, specifically that these individuals often have a great desire to be effective parents. Although it may take a little longer for someone with a psychiatric disability to receive all the services needed to learn the necessary skills, the desire to be a parent can be a motivating factor for engaging these parents in treatment and parenting classes so that they can parent effectively.

**Visit our newly re-designed web site at  
[www.casanys.org](http://www.casanys.org)!**

**In addition to a clear, easy-to-use format, you'll find a wide range of resources  
and a comprehensive list of helpful links.  
And, don't forget to sign up to receive our e-mail updates!**

Visit us at [www.casanys.org](http://www.casanys.org)!

## Volunteer Spotlight...Marjorie Mellor

Several years ago, Marjorie Mellor's children suggested that instead of holiday gifts, they make a donation to a charity. That generous family contribution to Onondaga County CASA turned into something much more when Marjorie became a volunteer.

As a retired elementary school art teacher in the Syracuse City Public Schools, Marjorie finds being with the children the most enjoyable part of her CASA role. Given that, it would seem that her first and only assignment was a perfect fit: eight brothers and sisters ranging in age from a newborn to a 16 year old. She visits with each child at least once a month and works closely with the foster parents and relatives who care for them. When you speak with her, it is clear that she sees the unique needs of each child and that she is very motivated to ensure that each finds a permanent and loving home. For three of the children, this means being placed with relatives; for two, long-term foster care; and for the others, a process of reunification with their father.

Like so many volunteers, Marjorie has found a way to blend her other interests into her CASA work. As a longtime docent and Board Member of the Everson Museum of Art, Marjorie forged a partnership between the museum and the Department of Social Services (DSS). Through her advocacy, many families are now enjoying visitations at the museum, where there is an interactive children's gallery. She is intent on expanding DSS' use of this space, which she feels is comfortable for families because it is "not a scene where there is hardship; it is safe and there are beautiful things to look at." This partnership is free to both the museum and to DSS, so she is hopeful it will endure. In addition to providing a beautiful and family-friendly place for children in foster care to gather with their relatives, this partnership also "raises the profile of CASA so that people in the community know about it and understand it better."

Thank you to Marjorie and all CASA volunteers who put their creative talents to such good use on behalf of children and families.



ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN  
OF NEW YORK STATE

99 Pine Street, C102  
Albany, NY 12207

# The State *of the* Judiciary 2004

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JUDITH S. KAYE

CHIEF JUDGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

### 3. Expansion of CASA Programs

Third, we appreciate all the help we can get, chief among them the Court Appointed Special Advocates—CASA's—a national program of trained volunteers who spend time with a child and just about anyone who has contact with that child, and then report their findings to the Family Court Judge who must decide whether the child can safely be returned home. CASA is a wonderful example of how ordinary citizens can contribute to the well-being of their communities by brightening the future, one child at a time. Just the other day, in a newspaper report, Monroe County Family Court Judge Anthony Sciolino summed up how our Family Court Judges feel about CASA: "We couldn't do our jobs without people like you."

Terrific as they are, CASA programs serve barely one-third of New York's 62 counties. I have asked a small group of current and former Family Court judges and administrators to study these programs and by mid-year recommend how we can help expand CASA so that no child waits a minute longer than absolutely necessary before being placed in, or returned to, a safe and loving home.

*Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Polly A. Hoye**  
Fulton County Office Building  
223 West Main Street  
Johnstown, NY 12095

518-736-5691

**Karen Partyka**  
5 Hibbard Street  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORT

**Name of the Committee :** Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

**Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Co-Chairs:**

Polly A. Hoye, Fulton County Judge & Surrogate  
223 W. Main St., Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 736-5691 [phone]; (518)762-6372 [fax]; email: phoye@courts.state.ny.us

Karen Partyka, Esq.  
5 Hibbard St., Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 842-5640 [phone & fax]

**Number of Members: 21      Number of Meetings: 0      Average Attendance: N/A**

**Use of Video Conferencing:** We have not used videoconferencing yet, but systems were recently installed in ten of our district's eleven counties, and training has now occurred to allow us to take advantage of this resource. It should be noted that there was a period of time of approximately 7-8 months during this past year, when there was no leadership of this committee, due to the resignation of the prior co-chairs and a vacancy in the position of Administrative Judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, resulting in no new appointment of co-chairs until November of 2004. As a consequence, there were no formal meetings. We intend to meet in the future by videoconference, as our district is too large for personal meetings to be possible. Our next meeting has been scheduled for April 28, 2005.

**Composition of the Committee:** 14 Judges, 1 Court Attorney, 6 Attorneys at large

### **Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004**

**Montgomery County, October 1, 2004:** Proclamation Ceremony for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors showed their support for the efforts of the Montgomery County Task Force on Domestic Violence by a solemn ceremony at which they formally acknowledged their commitment to combat domestic violence. [flyer attached]

**Fulton County, October 7, 2004:** "In Her Shoes", a training where community providers put themselves in the shoes of domestic violence survivors. This event was held at the YWCA in Gloversville and was sponsored by the Family Counseling Center of Fulton County.

**Montgomery County, October 13, 2004:** Luncheon and Award Ceremony sponsored by Domestic Violence Services of Catholic Charities of Montgomery County. This luncheon featured a guest speaker and presentation of awards to those in the community who made a difference in the fight against domestic violence [flyer attached].

**Schenectady County, October 21, 2004:** Forum on Domestic Violence Prevention, sponsored by the 4th Judicial District, held at the Schenectady County Courthouse on October 21, 2004. Participants included the judiciary, prosecution, advocates, police and a representative of the State's Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence. The forum was also broadcast several times during the month on public access television. A videotape of the broadcast is available on loan from the Schenectady County Law Library.

**Fulton County, October 27, 2004:** "Take Back the Night", a gathering in honor of victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence [flyer attached]. This event was sponsored by the Family Counseling Center of Fulton County.

**Montgomery County, October 27, 2004:** "Take Back the Night", Rally and Community Speak Out Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse [flyer attached]. Sponsored by Catholic Charities of Montgomery County.

**Fulton County, October 28-29, 2004:** "The Law Enforcement Response to Stalking and Coercion in the Context of Domestic Violence". Training for law enforcement, sponsored by the Family Counseling Center of Fulton County [flyer attached].

#### **Activities for Women's History Month 2004**

**St. Lawrence County, March 2004:** Hon. Kathleen Rogers, St. Lawrence County Surrogate, met with approximately 125 middle school students and spoke with them about her place in history, as the first female judge elected at the county level in our district. She also discussed changes in women's rights over the years, and how much things have changed in the legal profession for women over the course of her career and tenure on the bench.

**Fulton County, March 3, 2004:** Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Fulton County Judge and Surrogate, spoke to the Gloversville Lions Club about changes in the court system, including the introduction of Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, and reflected on the changing landscape in law in this area over the last 20+ years with dramatic increases in the number of women attorneys and judges.

#### **Other Activities in the Past Year:**

**Saratoga County, April 2004:** The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 18-24, 2004, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Saratoga County [copy of proclamation attached].

**Entire District, May 14, 2004:** “Children in the Courtroom”, Family Violence Task Force Judicial Seminar, for all judges in the Third Department, held in Saratoga Springs. This day long seminar focused on children as witnesses or subjects, and included mock interviews and critiques [flyer attached].

**Fulton County, May 21, 2004:** “Vine Training, Victim Information & Notification Everyday”. Training for law enforcement, social services, medical, educational, mental health, substance abuse and other social service agencies. The purpose of this training was to educate those interacting regularly with domestic violence victims on victims’ rights to information related to their offender so they can plan for their safety [flyer attached].

**Fulton County, April 29 & June 1, 2004:** Fulton County Judge & Surrogate, Polly Hoyer met with elementary school students from Johnstown and spoke with them about her role as a judge (and the first woman judge in a 3 county area) and how the legal profession has changed from when she started practicing law as only the 2<sup>nd</sup> woman attorney in the Fulton County. She presented the school’s library with books about the law and legal careers, and gave the children a tour of Fulton County’s historic courthouse, where Elizabeth Cady Stanton spent time as a young girl, watching her father preside over cases in Fulton County Supreme Court..

**Various counties, September 20-23, 2004 and November 15, 2004:** Integrated Domestic Violence Court Legal Training. These programs (for judges and court attorneys) were held at the New York State Judicial Institute. For jurisdictions with new and prospective Integrated Domestic Violence Courts. Judges and staff from Clinton, Schenectady and Montgomery Counties attended.

**Albany & other Capital District Area Counties, December 2, 2004:** “Selected Issues in Domestic Violence and Child Welfare: The Nicholson Case”, held at Albany Law School and sponsored by the Domestic Violence Legal Training Coalition, a division of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. This training was primarily geared toward attorneys and was promoted by various county bar associations in our district. [flyer and letter attached].

**Warren County, December 9-10, 2004:** “Ending Violence Against Women, a Call to Men: Becoming Part of the Solution”. This prevention-focused event featured a nationally known speaker on male accountability toward ending violence against women. It also contained a full day interactive community conference. Our district was involved in promoting this event by featuring it in our monthly district area-wide newsletter for those in the court system. [flyer and newsletter page attached hereto].

**Fulton County, January 13, 2005:** Letter of Support for grant application for domestic violence services. Judge Hoyer, as current co-chair of this district’s local committee and as current President of the Fulton County Bar Association, sent a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of and at the request of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. This grant would provide funding for civil legal services for rural victims of domestic violence and stalking throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and would also support screening, referral, training and case collaborations between the Society and agencies providing domestic violence services.

**Various counties, February 15, 2004:** “Legislative Awareness Day”. Held in Albany, NY and sponsored by the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. A rally to lobby for economic justice for women who are abused and their children [flyer attached].

**Saratoga County, February 17, 2005:** Mock Rape Trial, sponsored by Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services and Skidmore College’s Center for Sex and Gender Relations. The purpose of this mock trial was to raise awareness of sexual assault issues in the community and on the Skidmore College campus. The trial was presided over by Saratoga Springs City Court Judge Douglas Mills. A members of the district attorney’s office and a local attorney acted as the advocates. Students acted as witnesses and jurors. [copy of news article attached].

**Fulton County, February 26, 2005:** Meeting of the Fulton-Hamilton Counties Magistrates’ Association. At this dinner meeting, which was attended by approximately 25 people, including 8 local & superior court judges, the featured speakers from the Family Counseling Center were Shannon Monnat, Domestic Violence Program Manager and David Rossetti, Clinical Director. They informed the judges and attorneys present about new “Domestic Violence Classes For Men”, which are being offered for batterers in Fulton County and which follow the state model. The judges were advised how to refer defendants to the program, and were instructed about the program’s components and compliance tracking [flyer about classes attached].

**Saratoga County, February - March, 2005:** “Dress For Success”. The Saratoga County Bar Association teamed up with the Adirondack Paralegal Association in collecting lightly worn professional clothing to be donated to the “Dress For Success” Program, a not-for-profit organization that helps low income women make tailored transitions into the workforce [copy of portion of newsletter attached].

**Have you worked in partnership with other groups?** We have worked to help promote attendance by attorneys and judges at workshops and seminars, as listed above. We have recently reached out to domestic violence prevention and service agencies to let them know we are interested in collaborating with them on projects in the future.

**Bar Associations?** We have promoted the events and seminars listed above by asking our bar association presidents to pass on information about them to their memberships. Our members will encourage their local bar associations to develop partnerships with pro bono agencies to provide services to indigent people in matrimonial cases.

**Law Schools?** We have not directly worked in partnership with any law schools, as there are none in our district, but we will discuss reaching out to Albany Law School about possible future collaborative efforts.

**Other:** We have been in touch with various counties' domestic violence task forces to offer our services in coordinating and promoting future projects and events.

**Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? If so, please include a copy.**

Pro Bono programs outside the courts which service our district are as follows:

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY, 55 Colvin Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 (also various other branch offices within the district)

The Legal Project of the Capital District Women's Bar Association, 6 Executive Park Drive, Albany, NY 12203

The Rural Law Center of New York, 56 Cornelia St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in?**

As mentioned above, the Schenectady County Bar Association works in conjunction with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY to provide legal services to indigent citizens in matrimonial actions and to advise pro se litigants in matrimonial and family court matters.

The Fulton and Montgomery Bar Associations are currently considering a proposal to work with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York in developing clinics for indigent pro se matrimonial litigants, similar to the one currently in effect in Schenectady County. No action has been taken yet.

We have spoken with and corresponded with the Legal Project of the Capital District Women's Bar Association about future partnerships related to pro bono and domestic violence . That organization's primary purpose if the furnish legal services to indigent persons. They also run clinics once a month to provide advice and offer attorney trainings where attorneys receive free CLE credits in exchange for agreeing to accept cases pro bono.

**Plans for Next Year:**

Judicial training: There is extensive training scheduled in the near future related to Domestic Violence, primarily due to the new and prospective Integrated Domestic Violence Courts in our district. Such training is scheduled at the Judicial Institute at the end of March, and further training will occur in the Fall. In addition, the Family Violence Task Force is presenting a seminar for judges in Saratoga Springs on May 6, 2005, entitled "Judges on the Front Line, Assessing Risks and Remedies in Domestic Violence Cases" [flyer attached].

Our committee needs to (and plans to) meet by videoconference quarterly, to assess our progress,

to confer with each other on the needs of the district and to promote partnerships with other organizations concerned with issues relating to women. We intend to use the court system's videoconferencing equipment for our meetings and to seek to use it for broadcasts of seminars to attorneys and judges throughout the district. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2005.

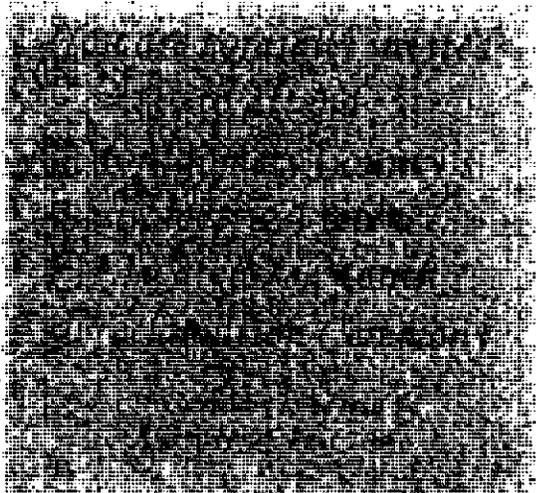
The co-chairs have discussed working with schools at career fairs to encourage careers in the field of law, and intend to propose this idea to the committee membership at our upcoming meeting.

**Difficulties your committee faces:**

We face multiple issues at present, which we hope to surmount over the next year. The first is new leadership by 2 co-chairs who have not recently been on the local committee at all. Secondly, our district, which includes 11 counties, is largely rural and is the largest district in the state geographically. Our size and remoteness makes meeting difficult, but hopefully the videoconferencing sites will be of great help in this regard. We have a wealth of concerns to deal with, being generally an economically depressed area with high incidence of domestic violence and other serious issues affecting women.



**Domestic Violence  
And  
Children**



**Friday October 1, 2004**

**9 o'clock a.m.**

**Supervisors' Chambers  
County Office Building  
Fonda, NY 12068**

*Local dignitaries and service providers will show their support of the efforts of The Montgomery County Task Force on Domestic Violence. The Task Force was created to educate and protect our community through awareness by taking a "Zero Tolerance" stand on Domestic Violence.*

**For further information, please contact:  
Peggy Carney, Task Force Coordinator  
842-3489**

Domestic Violence  
And  
Children



In recognition of an  
important month...

Domestic Violence Services of Catholic  
Charities of Montgomery County  
is having a luncheon in honor of  
Domestic Violence Awareness month.  
It is also our way of thanking our  
colleagues and other agencies for their  
support.

Buffet Lunch  
Award Ceremony  
Guest Speaker  
Undersheriff Jeffrey Smith  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Dept.

He's going to beat her up again.  
Sometimes we need to take the initiative.  
-Jed Conroy

**You are invited to join us and  
show your continuing  
support!**

Wednesday October 13, 2004

11:30 - 2:30

Crystal Ristorante  
72 Lyon Street  
Amsterdam, NY

**RSVP**  
Friday October 8, 2004  
Peggy Carney 842-8489

FEB-18-05 FRI 01:50 PM COMM DOM VIOLENCE

FAX NO. 518 627 0152

P. 5

3rd Annual Montgomery County

# Take Back the Night

## Rally and Speak Out

Wednesday October 27, 2004  
6:30 p.m.

Catholic Charities of Montgomery County  
Corner of Guy Park Ave. and Market St. in Amsterdam

### *Speakers:*

John N. Clo  
Assistant District Attorney  
Montgomery County

Shannon Monnat  
Program Director  
Fulton County Domestic Violence  
Family Counseling Center

*Community Speak Out against Sexual and Domestic Violence*

*Refreshments and Entertainment*

Domestic Violence and Children



Sponsored by  
Montgomery County Domestic Violence  
Sexual Assault Support Services

The Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, Inc.  
cordially invites you to attend...

# Take Back the Night

A gathering in honor of victims and survivors of  
sexual assault and domestic violence

*Theme: "Domestic Violence and Children"*

### *Speakers:*

John N. Clo  
Assistant District Attorney  
Montgomery County

Shannon M. Monnat  
Domestic Violence Program Manager  
Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, Inc.

**Refreshments and entertainment will be provided.**

**Date: Wednesday, October 27**  
**Time: Beginning at 6:30**

**Location:**  
**Catholic Charities of Mont. County**  
**1 Kimball Street**  
**Amsterdam, NY 12010**



*October is National Domestic Violence Awareness  
Month! Please help us honor victims and survivors of  
domestic violence and sexual assault by at-  
tending this community rally and speak out.*



3/16/04

RESOLUTION 77 - 04

Introduced by Supervisor Acunto

PROCLAIMING APRIL 18 - APRIL 24, 2004 - "VICTIMS' RIGHTS:  
AMERICA'S VALUES" AS "NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK"

WHEREAS, criminal acts have devastating and often permanent physical, psychological and financial effects on victims of crime and their families including loss of life, property and personal freedom, severe and ongoing emotional trauma, relocation trauma, and loss of home, employment and supportive means; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans are victims of crime each year and many of them are victims of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, victims of crime play an indispensable role in apprehending offenders and bringing them to justice; and

WHEREAS, victims of crime deserve to be treated with respect, to receive an allocation of resources to assist them, to be restored as nearly as possible to their status before the crime, and to have justice in their case; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga County, through the Victims' Crime Victim Unit Advocate Program of the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office, has demonstrated its commitment to giving victims of crime the respect, resources, restoration, rehabilitation and justice they deserve by making available two advocates who serve those victims of Domestic Violence, DWI, Sexual Assault, and other violent and non-violent crimes by providing supportive services, involving victim's rights advocacy, victim compensation aid and information, short term counseling, referrals, court room support; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga County is joining with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout New York State and the United States to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week; now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors hereby designates the week of April 18 to April 24, 2004, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Saratoga County, and it is further hereby

RESOLVED, that the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors reaffirm its commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year, and it is further hereby

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Capital District Coalition for Crime Victims' Rights, Inc., Domestic Violence Services and Parents of Murdered Children.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

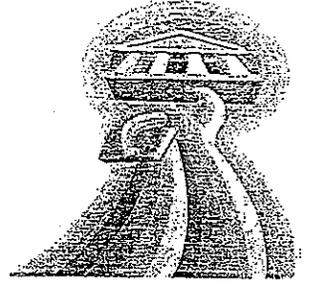
# Selected Issues in Domestic Violence And Child Welfare: The Nicholson Case

Thursday, December 2, 2004

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Albany Law School,  
Main Building/West Wing

80 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY



*Sponsored by:* THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL TRAINING COALITION

*Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, The Legal Project of the Capital District Women's Bar Association (a chapter of WBASNY), Albany Law School, Greater Upstate Law Project, Inc.*

A federal class action was brought in 2001 against the City of New York by battered mothers and their children, who were removed from their mothers' custody based on the theory that child witnessing of domestic violence constituted child neglect by the mother. The district court found that the systematic and repeated removal of children of battered mothers by the child welfare agency violated the plaintiffs' constitutional rights, and issued a preliminary injunction to halt the practice, which defendant appealed. The Second Circuit certified three questions to the NYS Court of Appeals, concerning the definition of a "neglected child" and grounds for removal under state law. Join us for a collegial examination of the history, facts, and issues in this seminal case, and of the implications of the anticipated Court of Appeals decision upon practice and policy in New York.

## **Presentations and panel discussion by:**

Jill Zuccardy, Esq., Sanctuary for Families, Counsel for Plaintiff Class in Nicholson  
Jo M. Katz, Esq., private practice  
Jamie Greenberg, MSW, NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
Jim Green, Esq., Albany County Department of Social Services  
Stacey Gorman, Esq., Saratoga County Department of Social Services  
Sherry Frohman, CSW, NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Charles Carson, Esq., NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
Geri Pomerantz, Esq., Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, facilitator

**3.00 HOURS OF TRANSITIONAL CLE CREDIT**

## **REGISTRATION & CLE\* FEES (includes materials & light supper)**

- \_\_\_ Free: Active Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Volunteer of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York OR Domestic Violence Legal Connection Panel Member of The Legal Project.
- \_\_\_ \$75: Attorney not wishing to provide *pro bono* representation
- \_\_\_ \$60: Law Guardians/18-B Assigned Counsel
- \_\_\_ \$50: Paralegal or Legal Assistant      \_\_\_ \$25: Domestic Violence Advocate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Registration & Fee to: Elena Rich, Legal Aid Society of NENY, 55 Colvin Ave., Albany, NY 12206 Or Fax

Completed Registration to: 427-8352 if no payment is required. Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

For more information, call Elena Rich at 689-6322 or email her at [erich@lasnny.org](mailto:erich@lasnny.org). Financial Hardship Scholarships: Full & partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For information on the guidelines and procedures for applying



The DELTA Project  
of the Warren & Washington Counties'  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY COORDINATION COUNCIL  
(DVCCC)

*... Warmly invites all men and women in the community to join us for  
a groundbreaking, prevention-focused event.*

## **Ending Violence Against Women, A Call to Men: Becoming Part of the Solution**

With Guest Presenter:  
**Anthony Porter**

"A Call to Men" features two events, a reception with Mr. Porter Thursday evening, and a full day conference led by Mr. Porter Friday. We hope you will join us for the conference! The community also has an opportunity to meet Mr. Porter and briefly hear him speak at the reception.

---

**Thursday December 9, 2004**

**7 – 9 p.m.**

**Reception & Lecture**

Meet and listen to Tony Porter!

**Adirondack Community College**

**Student Center**

640 Bay Road, Queensbury, NY

*Proudly sponsored by:*

\* Men's Brotherhood of

Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church

\* ACC Counseling Department

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**Friday December 10, 2004**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Full-day Conference**

Interactive community conference

led by Mr. Porter

**Queensbury Hotel**

Maple & Ridge, Glens Falls, NY

*Sponsored by the DVCCC DELTA Workgroup:*

\* List of sponsor agencies inside

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These events were made possible by the DELTA Project.  
The DELTA Project is a collaboration between our local communities and:  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# SAVE THE DATE

NEW YORK STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS DAY 2005**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15**

**Join the voices calling for  
ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

**for women who are abused and their children**

**We will be working for**

- **protection against housing and employment discrimination**
- **unpaid employment leave to deal with ongoing effects of domestic violence**
- **expanded access to Family Court to obtain a civil Order of Protection**
- **necessary funding for domestic violence programs and other funding issues.**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2005**

Registration and other materials will arrive shortly  
Sponsored by The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
350 New Scotland Avenue  
Albany, New York 12208  
(518) 482-5465

# SARATOGIAN.com

02/18/2005

## Mock rape trial raises real questions

ALICIA RUDDY, The Saratogian

### SARATOGA SPRINGS ~ Skidmore students witnessed the complexity of a rape trial Thursday.

More than 100 students watched while City Court Judge Douglas Mills, Saratoga County Assistant District Attorney Lyn Murphy, attorney Van Zwisohn and students Jodi Rabinowitz, Joshua Cristaniello and Alex Solomon acted out the event, called 'No Witness,' in the Gannett Auditorium at Skidmore College. Twelve members of the audience were selected to serve on the jury.

The defendant, Joseph Marks, was charged with the fictional rape of Jaelyn Willis.

The guilty verdict didn't come easy even though Murphy worked to hammer it home that 'he wouldn't stop even though Miss Willis said no.'

According to the background story, Marks and Willis had been dating a month before the night of the incident. They went to a party on campus, where they danced, drank, hung out with friends and even 'made out.' Both became intoxicated.

Willis said she felt sick so she went with Marks back to his dorm room. When they arrived, she sat on his bed.

'He started kissing me,' she said. 'I tried to push him away. He got on top of me. He started kissing my lips. He's stronger and bigger than me.'

'But you did not willingly have sex with him?' Murphy asked.

'Correct,' Willis answered.

Immediately following the non-consensual intercourse, Willis went back to her dorm room. Soon after that, her roommate, Paula Myers, saw her crying.

'When I got home, Jaelyn was crying, she was shaking,' Myers said. 'She told me Joe forced himself on her.'

Myers suggested they contact campus security.

'She was upset,' Myers said. 'She thought no one would believe her.'

The jury also heard from Marks, who admitted to the same set of facts.

'She may have said 'don't,' he said.

After the jury met behind closed doors, they decided on a guilty verdict and sentencing of five to 25 years in state prison. But when Judge Mills polled the jury, they weren't unanimous.

Four people out of 12 said they were unsure whether he really was guilty.

But that was part of the learning experience. Many jurors face that same challenge, Mills said, adding that Thursday night's participants were working within a certain timeframe and the real proceedings would have been longer.

Beyond entertainment, the purpose of the presentation was to raise awareness at Skidmore College and in the community, said Maggie Fronk, executive director for the Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services.

'It's one of those hidden crimes,' Fronk said of date rape. 'Part of being safe is to just realize.'

'No Witness' was sponsored by the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services and Skidmore's Center for Sex and Gender Relations.

Forty-seven percent of rapes can be defined as date rapes, Fronk said. The average age for rape is 18. A woman is raped every two minutes in the United States, but it's estimated that only one in every 10 rapes is reported, Fronk said.

Rape victims can seek services and get a forensic exam at Saratoga Hospital without reporting the incident to police, she said.

---

*The Center for Sex and Gender Relations at Skidmore College is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 4 p.m. Friday on*

# The Family Counseling Center, Inc. of Fulton County

## Domestic Violence Classes for Men

### Serving Fulton County Family and Criminal Courts

David Rossetti, Clinical Director • Shannon Monnat, Domestic Violence Program Manager  
Linda Horan, Domestic Violence Operations Manager • Robert Hart, Instructor

#### Compliance Requirements

When the Family Counseling Center receives a referral to the Domestic Violence Classes for Men, the referred person is sent a letter within two business days. He is informed that he is required to make a registration appointment within three weeks of our receipt of referral, and if he does not, his file will be closed (considered a dismissal) and the court will be notified.

#### **One Year Orders- 52 Classes**

1. Participant may miss up to 6 classes. Missed classes must be made up. If he misses a 7<sup>th</sup> class, he will be dismissed from the Domestic Violence Classes for Men. The court will be informed of his non-compliance.

2. Absences may be taken at anytime with the following exceptions:

- ◆ Missing 2 of the first 4 classes held, or
- ◆ Taking more than 2 consecutive absences without prior approval from Domestic Violence Classes for Men staff.

These actions will result in dismissal and the court will be informed of non-compliance.

3. Following dismissal, *upon request of the referral source*, a participant may register and begin again. If this occurs, the participant must start over with payment, including paying the registration fee again.

#### **Six Month Orders- 26 Classes**

1. Participant may miss up to 3 classes. Missed classes must be made up. If he misses a 4<sup>th</sup> class, he will be dismissed from the Domestic Violence Classes for Men. The court will be informed of his non-compliance.

2. Absences must be taken at anytime with the following exceptions:

- ◆ Missing 2 of the first 4 classes held, or
- ◆ Taking more than 2 consecutive absences, without prior approval from Domestic Violence Classes for Men staff.

These actions will result in dismissal and the court will be informed of non-compliance.

3. Following dismissal, *upon request of the referral source*, a participant may register and begin again. If this occurs, the participant must start over with payment, including paying the registration fee again.

#### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ◆ The Domestic Violence Classes for Men are available to the court as an additional disposition for men who have been abusive to their partners.
- ◆ The Domestic Violence Classes for Men provides opportunity to assess an offender's seriousness about following the conditions of a court order.
- ◆ An order to the Domestic Violence Classes for Men is constructive only when there will be a consequence to the defendant who does not comply with the court's order to attend. Therefore, "voluntary" participants are not accepted in the Domestic Violence Classes for Men.
- ◆ While attending the Domestic Violence Classes for Men participants are taught about all aspects of domestic abuse and how to end it, including the history of sexism in the United States.

# **The Family Counseling Center, Inc. of Fulton County**

## **Domestic Violence Classes for Men**

### **Serving Fulton County Family and Criminal Courts**

---

*David Rossetti, Clinical Director • Shannon Monnat, Domestic Violence Program Manager  
Linda Horan, Domestic Violence Operations Manager • Robert Hart, Instructor*

*The Family Counseling Center, Inc.'s Domestic Violence Classes for Men was adopted from the New York State Model Batterer Programs developed by the Volunteer Counseling Service of Rockland County, Inc.*

#### ***Overview***

The purpose of the Domestic Violence Classes for Men is to provide an additional disposition to the court (or agent of the court) for men who appear as a result of their acts of domestic violence. As a service to the courts, Domestic Violence Classes for Men are used as a mechanism for accountability. It is crucial that:

- ◆ Domestic Violence Classes for Men never be used as a diversion from a more serious consequence.
- ◆ Orders to attend Domestic Violence Classes for Men are made only when the court is able and willing to issue a consequence to the offender who does not comply.
- ◆ Voluntary participants not be accepted to attend Domestic Violence Classes for Men.

The Domestic Violence Classes for Men provides the court an opportunity to assess an offender's seriousness about following the conditions of a court order. From point of referrals, Family Counseling Center Domestic Violence Classes for Men monitors adherence to our registration guidelines and to policies and procedures. Compliance reports are sent to the court in a reliable and meticulous manner, tailored to the request of each court.

The role of the Domestic Violence Classes for Men as a mechanism for accountability outweighs the importance of material taught. Nonetheless, thorough attention is paid to content.

#### ***Content***

In the classes, professionally trained instructors offer participants a fully developed curriculum about men's violence against women in our society, and violence against other family members and intimate others and how to end it. This information exposes participants to the same fundamental domestic violence material provided to professional and lay audiences and in the nationally recognized domestic violence training institute entitled: The NYS Model for Batterer Programs: Balancing Social Change and Offender Accountability.

Topic Include:

- ◆ Understanding the concepts of oppression

- ◆ History of domestic violence in the United States
- ◆ History of the “battered woman’s movement” in the United States
  - The historical progression of legal acts of men’s abuse of their wives (intimate partners) to become legal
  - Coordinated criminal justice response to domestic violence: Police, Family and Justice Courts, Probation, District Attorney’s Office, etc.
  - Comprehensive community coordination, outside the criminal justice system, in response to domestic violence: Healthcare, Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, Faith Based Communities, Workplace, Social Services, Child Welfare, Education, etc.
- ◆ Currency of domestic violence, including legal and illegal abuse by intimate partners
- ◆ History of batterer programs, moving from treatment to offender accountability
- ◆ Role of the NYS Model for Batterer Programs

All of the above examples of material included in the curriculum are based on the collective knowledge of the battered women’s and other social justice movement, gathered over the last thirty years.

### *Process*

Instructors are required to attend weekly trainings/supervisions. All aspects of being an instructor are covered during these meetings, including curriculum content, teaching skills, training strategies and the importance of believing in the ethic we teach regarding accountability to the oppressed group and the range of other tenets aimed at ending oppression and violence.

Instructors arrive a minimum of 30 minutes before class starts to prepare for the classes’ instruction. Topics chosen often relate to something covered in supervision- but may just as well be a news article. The decision is left to the individual instructor.

To understand the process in the Domestic Violence Classes for Men, it is important to note:

- ◆ There is an open enrollment in the Domestic Violence Classes for Men. Participants may join the classes at the beginning of each month. Therefore, in every class, it is possible that there are participants near the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of their court order to attend.
- ◆ As our understanding of domestic violence broadens and our community response improves, material relating to many of the subjects taught becomes outdated and must be discarded and replaced with the best current thinking and practice.
- ◆ Current events relating to domestic violence are often in headlines or getting much media attention. Instructors may focus a class on such an issue. If participants raise such material, instructors may choose to table their present agenda in favor of dealing with that topic.
- ◆ Videos appropriate for use in Domestic Violence Classes for Men are occasionally available.

- ◆ The depth of material taught in the Domestic Violence Classes for Men is not yet taught in most public, private, undergraduate and graduate programs. Preparing those who will be instructors is time intensive- and requires on-going continuing education, support, and supervision.

### ***Conclusion***

Domestic abuse will stop when the entire community recognizes domestic violence as a human right violation and a social justice issue that requires comprehensive social change. That is a slow process that will happen only when communities, institutions, agencies and individuals demonstrate zero tolerance for domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Classes for Men were developed to create a batterer program that would contribute to the social change efforts of the battered women's movement to end domestic violence.

# THE SARATOGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

- Serving the Interests of Justice -

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MARK M. RIDER \*  
HON. HARRY W. SEIBERT, JR.  
PETER C. SIPPERLY  
KARL J. SLEIGHT  
NEIL S. WEINER  
RICHARD J. ZAHNLEUTER

**State Bar Delegates**

PAUL PELAGALLI \*  
MATTHEW J. DORSEY  
MARK M. RIDER (Alt) \*

**Past President of the Bar**

P.O. Box 994  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12868  
Telephone & Fax:  
518-587-5829  
e-mail scba@spa.net  
Executive Coordinator  
PATRICIA L. CLUTE

February 21, 2005

**Announcements:**

Karen E. S. D'Andrea, Esq. is pleased to announce the formation of her new law practice at 112 South Broadway, P.O. Box 5196, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Telephone: 727-3567, Fax: 581-9200, E-Mail: [kesdandrea@aol.com](mailto:kesdandrea@aol.com). In addition to general practice, she specializes in real property matters and criminal defense.

The Criminal Justice Act Committee of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit is accepting applications for service on the Court's Criminal Justice Act Panel. CJA Panel Members represent indigent criminal defendants and petitioners for habeas corpus. Application forms for membership on the Criminal Justice Act Panel are available at the Court's website: [www.ca2.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca2.uscourts.gov) or by calling 212-857-8702.

The Saratoga County Bar Association is teaming up with the Adirondack Paralegal Association in collecting lightly worn professional attire that will be donated to the *Dress for Success* program. *Dress for Success* is a not-for-profit organization that helps low-income women make tailored transitions into the workforce. Each *Dress for Success* client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a second suit when she is hired. The *Dress for Success* program also provides ongoing support to help the client build a successful career. Web link for more information on the program is: [www.Dressforsuccess.org](http://www.Dressforsuccess.org). Clothing (e.g., suits, blouses, dress slacks), shoes and/or accessories (e.g. belts, costume jewelry) should be in good condition. If you would like to donate, please contact any of the following three contact locations before March 10<sup>th</sup> to arrange dropping them off by that date: Hon. Stephen A. Ferradino, Chambers, P.O. Box 2380, Malta, NY, tele: 581-1006; Gillian Hirsch, Esq., 3 Thames Way, Saratoga Springs, NY; tele: 583-0430 (Note: Please arrange drop-off at Gillian's on or before March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Paul Pelagalli, Esq., Pelagalli, Weiner & Rench L.L.P., 646 Plank Road, Clifton Park, NY, tele: 373-8400. Members may also contact Maureen Provost of the Adirondack Paralegal Association for further information at 373-0333.

**The mission of the Essex County Task Force Against Domestic Violence is to: promote the education and awareness of all community members, including members of the criminal justice system and other service providers; coordinate a community response to domestic violence that will consistently hold offenders accountable; promote victims safety; and reduce violence in the home.**

Essex County Task Force Against  
Domestic Violence Meeting  
December 8, 2004  
Hand House, Elizabethtown

In Attendance:

Susan Kelley, STOP Domestic Violence/BHSN  
Molly Nichols, New York State Police Crime Victim Specialist  
Kellie Martin, STOP Domestic Violence/BHSN  
Devann Nolan, STOP Domestic Violence/BHSN  
Cecile McVicker, Essex County Department of Social Services, CCU/APS  
Jim Butzer, New York State Police  
Tracy Sherman, Essex County Probation Department  
Rosemarie Koop-Angelicola, Essex County Public Health  
Julie Karpp, Comlinks/West Valley Housing  
Nicole Sudduth, STOP Domestic Violence/BHSN

Excused:

Carol Hayes, Lake Placid Police Department  
Cathy Davenport, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Essex County

Molly Nichols shared with the group that she is working with a person from another county that is a victim of stalking. The perpetrator was arrested and sent to jail. He has been bailed out and is now suing the victim in small claims court for the bail, towing bill and the gas money that was used to come and pick him up from jail. Molly stated that the Legal Aid Project in Albany and Legal Aid in Clinton County have been contacted to assist the victim. The group discussed the fact that this may be a precedent setting case as there has been no other case like this in the state. [update – The small claims suit has been withdrawn.]

The Essex County Magistrates meeting scheduled for December has been cancelled. Judge Lawliss had been asked to attend this meeting to explain the Integrated Domestic Violence Court to the town justices.

Susan Kelley offered to contact Todd Kuntz and ask him to either attend the next Task

Force Meeting or attend a staff meeting at Probation to thoroughly explain the services that the Adirondack Samaritan Counseling Center offers for perpetrators of domestic violence. Susan will update the members of the Task Force at our next meeting. Pat Harford expressed some concern if the programs that are offered are not tied into other agencies such as Probation.

Nicky reported some of the recent educational programs that she has provided. Of particular interest was

Susan Kelley suggested that the Task Force may want to start thinking about an event for Crime Victim's Rights week which is in April. Susan also suggested a community wide training. Jim Butzer suggested a training explaining VIP for the town justices. The group also suggested training for EMT's and law guardians. The law guardian training might be more effective at a County Bar Association meeting. EMTs had asked for more training. More people may want to help plan this by joining the Education Committee.

Molly Nichols announced there would be training on December 14, 2004 at the Desmond in Albany regarding Play Therapy. The cost of the training is \$139. Molly has all of the information and is willing to share it. She can be reached at 897-2000.

Siena College in Loudonville (near Albany) is hosting a *Battered Mothers Custody Conference* on January 8-9, 2005. registration can be done on-line at [www.batteredmotherscustodyconference.org](http://www.batteredmotherscustodyconference.org)

Legislative Awareness Day is February 15, 2005. Anyone interested in attending, and would like more details, can call the STOP Domestic Violence/BHSN office at 1-888-563-6904.

**THE NEXT  
TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEETING  
WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2005 at 2 PM  
AT THE HAND HOUSE IN ELIZABETH TOWN.**

February 18, 2005

**The Family Counseling Center Domestic Violence Program has hosted the following activities during the year of 2004:**

- May 21, 2004-VINE Training      Victim Information & Notification Everyday
- August 31-September 6, 2004      Fonda Fair Information Booth
- October 7, 2004-"In Her Shoes"      A training where community providers put themselves in the shoes of domestic violence survivors.
- October 25, 2004-Employee And Volunteer Recognition Dinner      Honoring our On-Call and Hotline Volunteers
- October 27, 2004-Take Back The Night      A gathering in honor of victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence
- October 28 or 29, 2004      The Law Enforcement Response to Stalking and Coercion in the Context of Domestic Violence Training
- October 30, 2004-Fall Festival      Family event for the community to raise awareness Of Domestic Violence services-free refreshments, entertainment, activities, parade, prizes, etc.
- Organization and supervision of the Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force sub-committed meetings and quarterly full Task Force meetings.
- On-going recreational activities for shelter residents and their families-such as a day at the Great Escape, picnics, days at the beach, museums, movie theaters, craft shows, plays, etc.
- Domestic Violence staff provide on-going education in local schools, service agencies, community groups, hospitals, etc.

*Fifth Judicial District Committee*

**Hon. Deborah Karalunas**  
Supreme Court Justice  
Hughes State Office Building  
333 East Washington Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202

315-428-3256

*Sixth Judicial District Committee*

**Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann**  
Binghamton City Court  
Governmental Plaza  
Binghamton, New York 13901

607-772-7006



Have you worked in partnership with other groups? No

Bar Associations? yes/Broome County Bar Law Schools? No

Other The Bar Association is co-sponsoring our essay contest (see attached)  
by providing the dinner on Law Day and prize money.

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? No  
If so, please include a copy.

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Aide

Public Defenders Office

Assigned Counsel Panel (18-B)

Plans for Next Year: More progress in all areas. Family Court in Broome  
County is launching an Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

Difficulties your committee faces: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.**

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to **212-428-2793**.

## **COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

## Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees Hold Annual Meetings at White Plains

On April 21, 2004 the Chairs of the Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees held their annual meeting at the Judicial Institute in White Plains. The meeting was hosted by the exuberant Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Chair of the New York State Judicial committee on Women in the Courts. The day began with an introduction of all present which included the Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann Chair of the Sixth District Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committee (Binghamton City Court Judge) and Christopher J. Esworthy, Deputy Chair (Broome Commissioner of Jurors). We were honored to have a special guest present, the Hon. Judith S. Kaye, who received an award recognizing "Twenty Years of Firsts". The award was presented by Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin. Also, in attendance was the Hon. Jonathan Lippman who said many kind words on behalf of Judge Kaye. The award was followed by a discussion of local committee activities for the past year and reflections of local committees on twenty years of firsts. Note was made of how women in the courts have made significant advances. In Broome County twenty years ago women accounted for only 10% of the Broome County Bar with no woman as judges except in T&V Courts. Today there are 4 full-time and 2 part-time female City Court Judges, 1 female Family Court Judge, 1 female Multi-Hat Judge, and 1 female Supreme Court Judge, who is also the Administrative Judge for the District. We also have 3 female Family Court Support Magistrates. This represents 18% of our judicial population versus none twenty years ago.

The second part of the program was a very interesting panel discussion about problems with Forensic Evaluators in Child Custody and Visitation Cases. The Presenters were Jeffery Wittmann, Ph.D. and Timothy M. Tippins, Esq. The program is a must see for all Judges handling matrimonial cases. I am sure more will follow on this topic. *Submitted by Chris Esworthy, Broome County Commissioner of Jurors*



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

The Gender Fairness Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the committee and help in some worthwhile projects. The Gender Fairness Committee's primary mission is to provide access for resolution of gender biased complaints from litigants, court employees and members of the legal community. The committee members are empowered to receive and review complaints and to forward those complaints to the appropriate forum for resolution, either to the Administrative Judge or to the Office of Special Inspector General for Bias Matters. All referrals are monitored to assure that some action is taken. Complaints must be limited to matters involving individuals who are part of the legal system i.e. lawyers, Unified Court System Judges and nonjudicial employees. The committee is also planning to launch a project in conjunction with the local high schools to raise awareness and promote discussion about gender related issues. This will include an essay contest capped off by an awards breakfast. The committee is welcoming volunteers, whose names will be submitted to Administrative Judge Judith F. O'Shea, for appointment. The Committee at large meets only twice a year, the subcommittee for the Schools Projects will meet as needed. For further information you may contact the committee's Chair, Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann at Binghamton City Court, 5th floor City Hall, Hawley Street, Binghamton, New York 13901, (607) 772-7006 or the Deputy Chair, Christopher J. Esworthy, Commissioner of Jurors, P. O. Box 1766, Binghamton, New York 13902, (607) 778-2159.

**From:** Susan Leonardos  
**To:** 6TH DISTRICT WAN USERS  
**Date:** 5/6/2004 4:31:29 PM  
**Subject:** Gender Fairness Committee

The Gender Fairness Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the committee and help in some worthwhile projects. The Gender Fairness Committee's primary mission is to provide access for resolution of gender biased complaints from litigants, court employees and members of the legal community. The committee members are empowered to receive and review complaints and to forward those complaints to the appropriate forum for resolution, either to the Administrative Judge or to the Office of Special Inspector General for Bias Matters. All referrals are monitored to assure that some action is taken. Complaints must be limited to matters involving individuals who are part of the legal system i.e. lawyers, Unified Court System Judges and nonjudicial employees. The committee is also planning to launch a project in conjunction with the local high schools to raise awareness and promote discussion about gender related issues. This will include an essay contest capped off by an awards breakfast. The committee is welcoming volunteers, whose names will be submitted to Administrative Judge Judith F. O'Shea, for appointment. The Committee at large meets only twice a year, the subcommittee for the Schools Projects will meet as needed. For further information you may contact the committee's Chair, Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann at Binghamton City Court, 5th floor City Hall, Hawley Street, Binghamton, New York 13901, (607) 772-7006 or the Deputy Chair, Christopher J. Esworthy, Commissioner of Jurors, P. O. Box 1766, Binghamton, New York 13902, (607) 778-2159.



**BINGHAMTON CITY COURT**  
GOVERNMENTAL PLAZA  
38 HAWLEY STREET  
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK, 13901  
TELEPHONE (607)772-7006  
FAX (607)772-7041

JOHN T. HILLIS  
MARY ANNE LEHMANN  
ROBERT C. MURPHY  
CITY COURT JUDGES

KAREN A. AMBROZIK  
CHIEF CLERK  
SHERRY L. BAKER  
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK

Hon. Judith F. O'Shea  
Administrative Judge  
Sixth Judicial District  
State Office Building  
44 Hawley St., Suite 1501  
Binghamton, New York 13901-4466

Re: Gender Fairness Committee  
Volunteers

August 11, 2004

Dear Judge O'Shea:

In response to our call for volunteers for the Gender Fairness Committee we received 29 e-mails or letters, twenty six of the respondents volunteered outright and three requested further information. This is a superb response and will allow us to diversify the Committee by including counties that have been previously unrepresented. I have enclosed the e-mails for your review. I was delighted with the enthusiasm I saw. I look forward to consulting with you on the impending appointments to this valuable committee, and I am confident that these additions will help us expand to do some very worthwhile projects in this District. I know that you share my pride in this committee's accomplishments, they are due, in no small part, to your help and support.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Anne Lehmann".

Mary Anne Lehmann, Chair  
Gender Fairness Committee

cc: Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin

E-Mails Received as Volunteers

17

Broome: Aaron Alweis, Ellis Bozzolo, Kristen Harding,  
Judge Hester

*Tompkins County?  
Chief Clerk  
attach a city court*

Chemung: Colleen Flanagan

Delaware: Allison Barnes, J. Neal Felber

Otsego: Judge Brian Burns, Karen Eldred, Lori Metzko

*Delaware County?  
Chief Clerk  
attach a city court  
Delhi, NY*

Madison: Judge McDermott

Tioga: Denise Marsili

Tompkins: Michael Costello, James Jecen, Desiree Rogers,  
Lisa Sokol, Nan Weldy

Listed by C. Esworthy (without e-mail)

7

Broome: Sandra Garufy, Debbi Singer, Julie Wist

✓ Cortland: Christina DeMass *-wants  
more info.  
Did not volunteer  
yet.*

Madison: Marianne Kincaid

Otsego: Linda VanDeusen

Tioga: JoAnn Peet

Listed by Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann (without e-mail)

2

Broome: Karen Ambrozik, Judge M. Rita Connerton

E-Mail or Letter Received Requesting More Information

(3)

Broome: Jane Sbarra, Elaine Stuart

Madison: Antoinette Maddison

Total Volunteers 26

(Req. More Info. 3)



**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM  
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
44 HAWLEY STREET, SUITE 1501  
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13901-4466  
Phone: (607) 721-8541  
Fax: (607) 721-8634**

**JONATHAN LIPPMAN**  
Chief Administrative Judge

**JAN H. PLUMADORE**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
Courts Outside New York City

**JUDITH F. O'SHEA**  
District Administrative Judge  
Sixth Judicial District

**G. RUSSELL OECHSLE**  
Executive Assistant

**DONNA J. SRNKA**  
Administrative Assistant

September 13, 2004

Hon. Dennis K. McDermott  
Madison County Courthouse  
North Court Street  
Wampsville, New York 13163

Re: Gender Fairness Committee

Dear Judge McDermott:

Thank you for volunteering to serve as a panel member on the Gender Fairness Committee for the Sixth Judicial District. It is a position of sensitivity and responsibility and I am certain you will be a valuable addition to the committee.

The Gender Fairness Committee's next meeting will be on October 15, 2004, at noon, in Community Room A, located off the cafeteria on the First Floor of the State Office Building in Binghamton.

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

Very truly yours,

  
Judith F. O'Shea  
District Administrative Judge

cc Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann  
G. Russell Oechsle  
Donna Srnka  
Susan Leonardos



**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM  
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
44 HAWLEY STREET, SUITE 1501  
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Phone: (607) 721-8541  
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Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
Courts Outside New York City

**JUDITH F. O'SHEA**  
District Administrative Judge  
Sixth Judicial District

**G. RUSSELL OECHSLE**  
Executive Assistant

**DONNA J. SRNKA**  
Administrative Assistant

September 10, 2004

Hon. Brian D. Burns  
County Court Chabers  
Otsego County Office Building  
197 Main Street  
Cooperstown, New York 13326

Re: Gender Fairness Committee

Dear Judge Burns:

Thank you for volunteering to serve as a panel member on the Gender Fairness Committee for the Sixth Judicial District. It is a position of sensitivity and responsibility and I am certain you will be a valuable addition to the committee.

The Gender Fairness Committee's next meeting will be on October 15, 2004, at noon, in Community Room A, located off the cafeteria on the First Floor of the State Office Building in Binghamton.

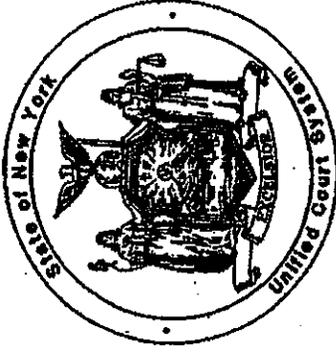
Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

Very truly yours,

  
Judith F. O'Shea  
District Administrative Judge

cc Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann  
G. Russell Oechsle  
Donna Srnka  
Susan Leonardos

**NEW YORK STATE  
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM**



**GENDER FAIRNESS  
COMMITTEE SIXTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT**

**HON. JUDITH F. O'SHEA**  
Administrative Judge

**HON. MARY ANNE LEHMANN**  
Chair

**CHRISTOPHER J. ESWORTHY**  
Deputy Chair

**PROVIDING ASSISTANCE  
TO THE  
COUNTIES OF**

**BROOME - CHEMUNG  
CHENANGO - CORTLAND  
DELAWARE - MADISON  
OTSEGO - SCHUYLER  
TIOGA - TOMPKINS**

**PROMOTING GENDER FAIRNESS  
IN THE COURTS AS IT  
RELATES TO:**

**ATTORNEYS**

**COURT PERSONNEL**

**JUDGES**

**FOR FORMAL DISCRIMINATORY  
COMPLAINTS CONTACT:**

Desiree Kim  
Special Inspector General for Bias Matters  
25 Beaver Street - 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
Phone: 212/428-2125

Gender fairness committees were created throughout New York State after the 1986 Report of a New York State Task Force on Women in the Courts found that gender bias in the Courts was a "pervasive problem".

The primary mission of the Sixth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee is to provide a forum for the informal resolution of gender bias complaints from litigants, court employees and members of the bar. The Committee is empowered to receive and review complaints and where necessary to refer complaints to the appropriate forum for resolution. The referrals are monitored to assure that some action is taken. The Committee is limited to accepting complaints involving individuals who are part of the legal system, that is, lawyers and New York Unified Court System Judges and nonjudicial employees.

The Gender Fairness Committee will process oral and written complaints, however, anonymous complaints will not be processed. Complaints may be submitted to any member of the Committee. All complaints received by the Gender Fairness Committee are considered to be confidential. However there may be disclosure to the Administrative Judge and or appropriate reviewing or disciplinary body.

Members of the Gender Fairness Committee also are available to provide information regarding the rights and obligations of attorneys, judges and court personnel. They may also provide training and educational materials as needed.

### MEMBERS OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE:

Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann, Chair  
Binghamton City Court  
City Hall, Governmental Plaza  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Binghamton, New York 13901  
Phone: 607/772-7006

Christopher J. Esworthy, Deputy Chair  
Commissioner of Jurors  
Broome County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 1766  
Binghamton, New York 13902-1766  
Phone: 607/778-2159

Hon. Judith F. O'Shea  
Sixth Judicial District Administrative Office  
State Office Building, Suite 1501  
44 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, New York 13901-4466  
Phone: 607/721-8541

Hon. Michael V. Coccoma  
Acting Supreme Justice  
County Court Chambers,  
Otsego County Office Building  
197 Main Street  
Cooperstown, New York 13326  
607/547-4212

Hon. Brian D. Burns  
County Court Chambers,  
Otsego County Office Building  
197 Main Street  
Cooperstown, New York 13326  
Phone: 607/547-4358

Hon. Dennis K. McDermott  
Madison County Courthouse  
North Court Street  
Wampsville, New York 13163  
Phone: 315/366-2360

Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq.  
Levene, Gouldin & Thompson  
P.O. Box F-1706  
Binghamton, New York 13902  
Phone: 607/763-9200

Emy L. Franz, Esq.  
Tioga Family Court Support Magistrate  
P.O. Box 10  
Owego, New York 13827  
Phone: 607/687-0467

Gloria Chandler  
Chief Clerk III/ Commissioner of Jurors  
Otsego Supreme & County  
197 Main Street  
Cooperstown, New York 13326  
Phone: 607/547-4364

Angela Jones  
Senior Court Office Assistant  
Norwich City Court  
45 South Broad Street  
Norwich, New York 13815  
Phone: 607/334-1224

Minutes of Gender Fairness Committee Meeting  
April 30, 2004  
Binghamton, New York

**Present:**

**On Behalf of Gender Fairness Committee:**

Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann, Chair *MAK*  
Christopher J. Esworthy, Deputy Chair  
Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq.  
Angela Jones, Senior Court Office Assistant

**On Behalf of District Office:**

Susan M. Leonardos, Human Resource Unit Supervisor

**Meeting Convened:**

The meeting convened at the State Office Building at  
12:00 p.m.

1. A welcome was extended.
2. A report on the annual meeting was given by the Chair, Judge Mary Anne Lehmann, and the Deputy Chair, Christopher J. Esworthy, recounting the meeting of April 21, 2004 at the Judicial Institute in White Plains.
  - (a) Judge Kaye was honored for "Twenty Years of Firsts" with a plaque by the state committee.
  - (b) A speech was given by Judge Ellerin and Judge Lippman praising her work.
  - (c) She then, after accepting the award, gave a talk on the "Twenty Years of Firsts for New York State."
  - (d) A handout was given to all of the participants for input on local "firsts." Information will be forwarded to the Chair to then forward on to the statewide committee.

**Old Business:**

The committee discussed old business.

1. No complaints were received during this period.
2. A project which had been discussed at the statewide meeting was again on the table for our discussion, i.e. an essay contest focused on gender related issues. The idea came from the presentation made by the Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Judge of the Court of Claims in White Plains and Chair of the Ninth Judicial District Committee to promote gender fairness in the courts. The Ninth District has, for several years, sponsored, in conjunction with the Bar Association and the local high schools, an essay contest soliciting essays from all of the local high schools, judging those and then awarding cash prizes to the winners. The very interesting topic this year was, "In 2004 a woman has been elected President of the United States. As her speech writer, draft that part of the Inaugural Address relating to gender issues and her status as the first female President." Judge Ruderman reported that the response to the essay call was overwhelming, that the breakfast awarding the cash prizes was extremely well attended and that it continues to be a very productive way to discuss these issues, especially with young people. Our committee felt this was a worthwhile project and decided to pilot that, starting with Broome County only. Judge Lehmann will canvass the schools to see which would be interested in participating. Kathryn Grant Madigan will follow up with the Bar Association to see if they would be willing to sponsor some prizes. A suggestion was made to include new members in a subcommittee to work on the project.

**New Business:**

1. A handout was given on "Immigration and Domestic Violence Issues." One hundred additional copies were requested and received and will be sent out to the Magistrates. Susan Leonardos and Kathleen Feczko of the District Office prepared a master list of all of the Magistrates in the Sixth Judicial District so that mailings from the state committee can be made available districtwide.

**New Business (Cont.):**

2. The committee discussed expanding its membership.
  - (a) We received, with regret, the written resignation of Steve Foulk who has served this community faithfully and well since its inception in this district. Steve's duties prevent him from attending the local meetings but he wished the committee well in its endeavor and we are grateful for his services.
  - (b) Following up on that news, it was decided that an article would be placed in the newsletter soliciting volunteers for the committee, especially in areas outside of Broome County so that all of the counties in the district would be represented.
  - (c) Again, a list of Magistrates was compiled, with the help of the District Office, for future mailings.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

1. The meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m.
2. Special thanks to Angela Jones who fought the traffic and construction to be with us for this meeting.

**Minutes of Gender Fairness Committee Meeting**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**Community Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, State Office Bldg.**

**Present:**

**On Behalf of Gender Fairness Committee:**

Hon. Judith F. O'Shea, Administrative Judge  
Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann, Chair *MAZ*  
Christopher J. Esworthy, Co-Chair  
Hon. Michael Cocco  
Hon. Emy Lou Franz  
Gloria Chandler  
Susan Leonardos, Human Resource Unit Supervisor

**Absent:**

Angela Jones  
Kathryn Grand Madigan, Esq.

**Meeting Convened:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

1. All members were welcomed back. A warm welcome was extended to Gloria Chandler, who returns to us.

New members were announced: Hon. Brian Burns, Otsego County and the Hon. Dennis McDermot, Madison County. Neither of the new judges appointed were able to clear their schedule, but will be present for the next meeting.

An update was given on the condition of Angela Jones, who is recuperating from serious surgery and is undergoing rehabilitation in a Norwich nursing home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she recovers and we look forward to having her back at our spring meeting.

2. The number of volunteers for the Gender Fairness Committee was discussed. It was agreed that an advisory committee would be set up to invite the remaining 25 volunteers to participate in Gender Fairness activities. Judge Lehmann will send out letters to all of those individuals congratulating them and inviting them to our spring meeting.

3. No complaints were received during this period.
4. The old business that was discussed was the essay contest. A meeting has been set up by Chris Esworthy, the Co-Chair, with the Bar Association for Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the project with the Bar and to coordinate those efforts. Letters on the project should go out to the high schools in Broome County in January; the deadline for the essays would be the first week in February; and the Law Day dinner, awarding the prizes, would be May 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. The essay topic was discussed; it was determined that the essay would revolve around the first woman elected President, "presuming that the student is a speech writer for the first female President, discuss gender related issues, and the agenda for the first term in office."
5. Judge Coccoma, brought up during the course of new business, the fact that immigration issues especially in the area of domestic violence are coming more and more to the forefront; issues involving interpreters and their interaction with litigants in the courtroom was discussed. Judge Coccoma indicated that testimony regarding these matters was taken before the Matrimonial Commission, on which he sits, and that it will continue to be a problem in areas such as ours where there is a large immigrant population, and a limited number of interpreters.
6. The Committee was reminded that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month; Susan Leonardos will email the Court Managers and/or put an article in the newsletter reminding people that if there are any programs involving domestic violence during the month that we should be notified so that they can be a part of our annual report.
7. The spring meeting was set for April 15, 2005 at 12 noon in Binghamton.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

1. The meeting was concluded at 1:00 p.m.



**COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann, Chair  
Christopher J. Esworthy, Deputy Chair**

# Essay Contest

---

The Sixth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness invites you to participate in our first essay contest.

Four cash prizes will be awarded: \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place, and \$50 for fourth place. The contest is open to all high school students in Broome County.

Essays should be approximately 500 words. The essay topic is as follows:

**In 2005, a woman has been elected President of the United States. As her speech writer, draft that part of her inaugural address relating to gender issues and to her status as the first female President.**

## **FORMAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Send three legible copies of your paper to the attention of Christopher Esworthy, Broome County Courthouse, PO Box 1766, Binghamton, NY 13902-1766.
- 2) Include a cover page with your name, address, telephone number, school and grade.
- 3) Do not put any identifying information on the essay itself.

All entries must be received no later than **April 1, 2005**. The winners will be invited to the annual Bar Association Law Day Dinner in May where the prizes will be awarded. By submitting an entry, you agree that we may publish your essay.

We hope you will share your thoughts and perceptions about this topic with us. Remember, there is no right answer. We just want you to think and we want you to make us think.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH  
ACTIVITIES**

MHC  
*You Are Invited to Be a Part of a Press Conference*

*October 8, 2004*

*at*

*11:00 a.m.*

*at Cornell Cooperation Extension Auditorium*

*to mark October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

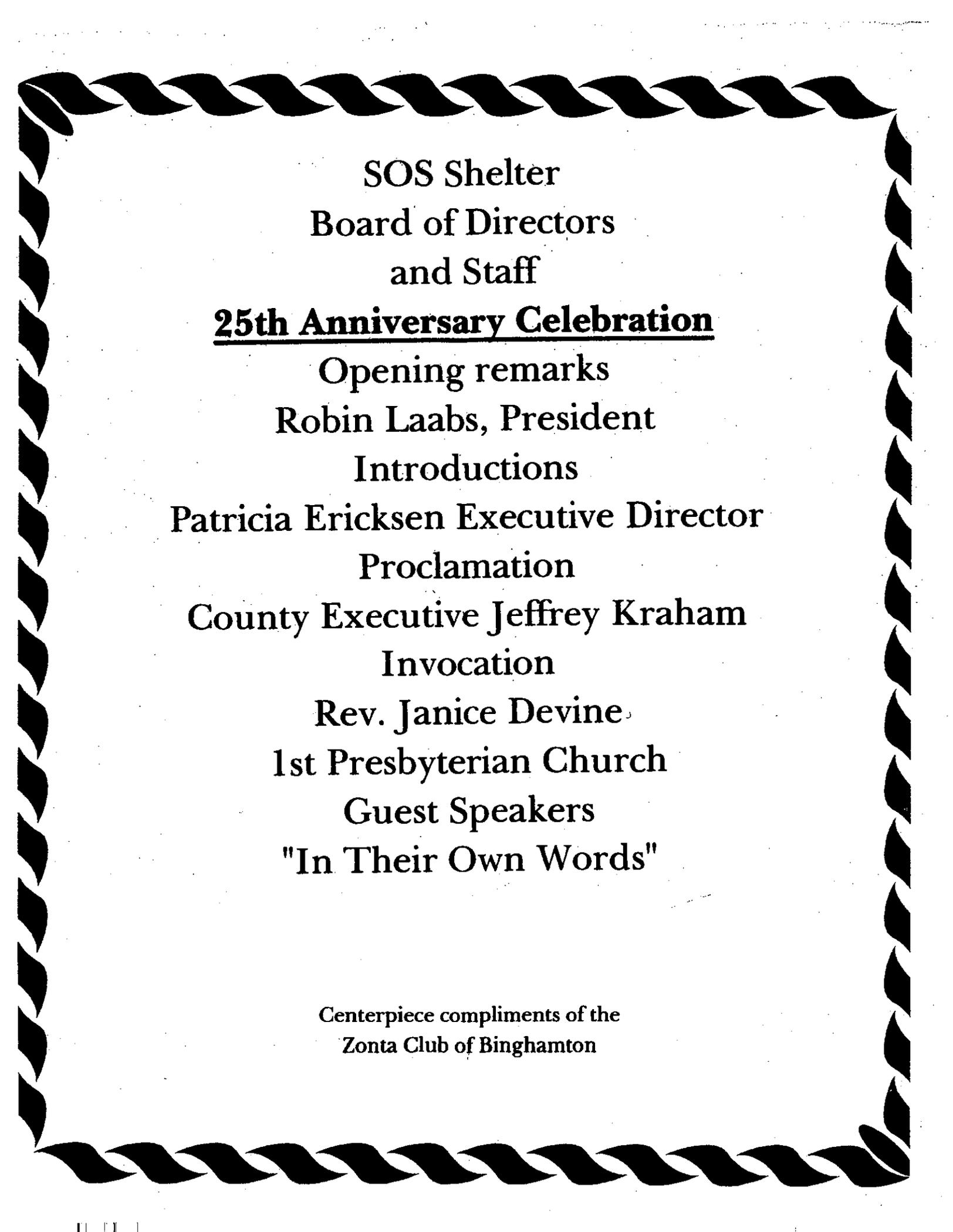
*The Family Violence Prevention Council*

*&*

*SOS Shelter, Inc.*

*will be announcing the procurement of funding for the*

*'Cameras for Broome County Police Agencies Project'*



SOS Shelter  
Board of Directors  
and Staff

**25th Anniversary Celebration**

Opening remarks

Robin Laabs, President

Introductions

Patricia Ericksen Executive Director

Proclamation

County Executive Jeffrey Kraham

Invocation

Rev. Janice Devine

1st Presbyterian Church

Guest Speakers

"In Their Own Words"

Centerpiece compliments of the  
Zonta Club of Binghamton

2004 WFLA

Annual Fundraising Dinner

Registration Form

2004 Week of Giving Dinner

Program and Teen Dating Violence

Speakers

Former Executive Director

Phone Center

October 20

11:00 a.m.

Location: CFB

Cost: \$15 per person

\$120 per table

City of New York

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TICKET BY OCTOBER 15. MAIL OR CALL 702-4348

Individual tickets	_____
Corporate tickets	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____
Zip	_____
Phone	_____
Fax	_____
E-mail	_____

Mail to: WFLA of Birmingham, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 89 Henry Street, Birmingham, AL 35201

• Daily (day): 6-8-4  
 • Win 4 (day): 9-1-6-9  
 • Daily (night): 7-6-1  
 • Win 4 (night): 5-1-4-9  
 • Take 5: 1-16-17-19-37  
 • Pick 10: 2-4-9-15-18-21-28-39-44-50-58-61-67-69-71-74-76-77



# LOTTERIES

■ N.Y. lottery: 518-388-3300  
 On the Web: [www.nylottery.org](http://www.nylottery.org)

■ Pa. lottery: 717-986-4699  
 On the Web: [www.palottery.com](http://www.palottery.com)



Pa. Daily (day): 1-3-1  
 Pa. Big 4 (day): 4-3-4-4  
 Pa. Daily (night): 5-4-7  
 Pa. Big 4 (night): 2-1-0-4  
 Pa. Cash 5: 5-7-13-15-22

■ Saturday's N.Y. Lotto jackpot is worth \$7 million ■ Saturday's Powerball jackpot is worth \$54 million

# Event lets community aid crime fight

## National Night Out mixes in fun

By JIM WRIGHT  
 Press & Sun-Bulletin

**BINGHAMTON** — City residents will take a stand against crime Tuesday — by playing games, enjoying free shows and getting to know their neighbors.

On Tuesday, Binghamton and other towns in the region will celebrate National Night Out, an annual program to fight drugs and crime and take back the community.

The theme is to bring a boarder and make a friend. We are

challenging people to share themselves with others. It's a small part of the neighborhood healing," said Rev. Henry Ausby, Coordinator of United Neighbors of Binghamton, which is helping sponsor the Binghamton programs.

Six hours of free shows and activities are planned at the Broome County Library. Recreation Park will be the site of a special tribute to Valerie Spears, 50, and her 14-year-old daughter, Devin, who were gunned down in their city home July 20, 2002.

"This is a time of celebration, a time of block parties, a time of backyard cookouts, and getting to know each other. It's a time of flight or fight and flight is not one of our options," Aubry said.

The theme is "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party," Aubry said. Last year, 5,000 people attended the neighborhood programs in Binghamton.

This year's Binghamton programs will be held at Saratoga Apartments from 3 to 6 p.m.; Carlisle Apartments from 4 to 7 p.m.; Columbus Park, Cheri Lindsey Park and Fairview Park, from

5 to 8 p.m.; and Recreation Park, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Programs also will be held in Endicott, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the municipal campus; in Johnson City, from 5 to 9 p.m. at CFJ Park; and in Vestal, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Town Square Mall; next to Barnes & Noble.

Police in all of the municipalities will aid volunteers in heightening crime and drug-prevention awareness, as well as generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit, said Binghamton Sgt. Terrence Reagan.

e-mail: [jwright@pressconnects.com](mailto:jwright@pressconnects.com)

**From:** Susan Leonardos  
**To:** Lehmann, Mary Anne  
**Date:** 11/15/2004 10:16:33 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: October training

Domestic Violence Awareness month info:

>>> Susan Robinson 11/15/2004 10:00:49 AM >>>

Hi Susan - I have attached the flyer for the domestic violence training held October 12 and 13 for law enforcement. A total of 31 officers attended the 2 trainings. Judge Rowley presented at the morning one on the 12th, and Judge Sherman presented at the evening one on the 13th. I presented at both. Evaluations of the training were very positive!

On October 23, from 9 - 11:00am, Judge Rowley and I did a training for the Town and Village Justices. We had a record turnout with 10 judges attending! We gave an overview of the past year in the IDV Court and discussed numerous issues related to domestic violence cases they see in their court. The judges had many questions and concerns, some of which had been voiced when I did the initial visits to their courts back in the spring. It was very beneficial to have Judge Rowley address their questions directly.

These were our Domestic Violence Awareness Month projects - please call me if there are gaps you'd like to fill in.

Susan Robinson  
Resource Coordinator  
Tompkins Integrated Domestic Violence Court  
Phone - 607-277-1517  
[sprobins@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:sprobins@courts.state.ny.us)

**Family Violence Prevention Council**  
**AGENDA**  
**October 8, 2004**

- I. **Welcome**
- II. **Approval of Minutes:**  
**Treasurers Report: Shelly Cordisco**
- III. **Coordinator's Report: Janette Cyganovich**
- IV. **Council Business:**  
**Nominations for Council Membership –2005**  
**Museum of Tolerance**
- V. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. **Sexually Aggressive Youth Intervention Team (SAYIT): Lori Wilmot**
  - B. **Agency & School Liaisons: Kathy Ford**
  - C. **Child Abuse Prevention Ad hoc: Janette Cyganovich**
  - D. **Community Education: Brenda Zeoli**
  - E. **Executive Committee Report: Dennis McCabe**
  - E. **Inter-Agency Planning (IAP): Kevin Wright**
  - F. **Medical Issues Ad hoc: Janette Cyganovich**
  - G. **Multi-Disciplinary Case Review Team (MDCR): Gayle Hujar**
  - H. **Professional Education: Janette Cyganovich**
- VI. **Other Business / Announcements:**
- VII **Presentation – CPS/SOS Shelter Collaborative Project**  
**Jon Peterson Supervisor Child Protective Services**  
**Nancy Macko –SOS Shelter Family Services Worker located at**  
**DSS/CPS**

**11:00**

**Press Conference- October National Domestic Violence**  
**Awareness Month**

**FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL**  
**October 8, 2004**

**Nominee to fill unexpired term for 2005:**

Rev. Larry Simpson	New Heights Ministries Church
Donna Rehak	BCC

**List of Nominations for Membership 2005 – 2007**

**Reappointments:**

Pat Ericksen	SOS Shelter, Inc.
Scott Gallagher	WBNG-TV
Gayle Hujar	Dept. of Social Services / Child Protective
Nancy Kumrow	Dept. of Social Services / Adult Protective

**New Appointments:**

Nancy Frank	United Health Services
Cheryl Sullivan	Br. County Law Department
Lucy Dirlam	Office for Aging
Undersheriff Gary O'Neil	Br. Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Kathy Wood	Harpurville Central Schools
Heidi Kowalchak	OFB Headstart

# SOMEONE I KNOW IS BEING ABUSED

## HOW CAN I HELP?

DON'T -	DO -
× Wait to be asked for help.	✓ Ask.
× Judge or blame.	✓ Express concern.
× Pressure.	✓ Listen and validate.
× Give advice.	✓ Offer help.
× Place conditions on support.	✓ Support decisions.

◆ **INITIATE A CONVERSATION** privately and when you have time to talk.

◆ **AVOID VICTIM-BLAMING** by telling them that the abuse is not their fault. Reinforce that the abuse is the partner's responsibility, yet refrain from "bad-mouthing".

◆ **TAKE FEARS SERIOUSLY.** If you are concerned about safety, express your concern without judgment by simply saying, "Your situation sounds dangerous and I'm concerned about your safety."

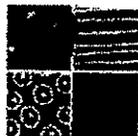
◆ **BELIEVE WHAT YOU HEAR** and make it known. If you know the abusive partner, remember that batterers most often behave differently in public than they do in private.

◆ **LISTEN ACTIVELY.** Ask clarifying questions and avoid making judgments and giving advice. Only then will you learn directly what is needed.

◆ **BUILD ON STRENGTHS.** Based on the information given to you and your own observations, identify developed coping strategies, solved problems, and exhibited courage and determination, *even if efforts have not been completely successful.*

◆ **BE AN ACTIVE, CREATIVE PARTNER IN SAFETY PLANNING.** The key to safety planning is taking a problem, considering the full range of options, assessing the risks and benefits of various options, and identifying ways to reduce the risks.

◆ **SUPPORT DECISIONS.** Risks are attached to every decision made by a victim of domestic violence. Be patient and respectful of decisions, *even if you don't agree with them.*



Family Violence Prevention Council  
36-42 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905  
(607) 778-2153, gobroomecounty.com

*Provided by the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence  
(Over for more information)*

◆ **VALIDATE FEELINGS.** It is common for victims to have conflicting feelings – love and fear, guilt and anger, hope and sadness. Acknowledge that these feelings are normal.

◆ **EDUCATE YOURSELF** about domestic violence. Read about interpersonal violence, talk to a domestic violence advocate and understand what services are available.

◆ **LET GO OF ANY EXPECTATIONS** you have that there is a “quick fix” to domestic violence or to the obstacles a victim faces. Understand that “inaction” may very well be the best safety strategy at any given time.

◆ **CHALLENGE AND CHANGE ANY INACCURATE ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS.** Victims become trapped in relationships by their partners’ use of violence and coercion. The better able you are to recognize and build on their resilience, courage, resourcefulness and decision-making abilities, the better able you will be to help them.

### Common Signs of Domestic Violence

**Signs of Physical Injury** include:

- ◆ Bruises, lacerations, burns, human bite marks, and fractures – especially of the face;
- ◆ Injuries during pregnancy, miscarriage, or premature births;
- ◆ Unexplained delay in seeking treatment for injuries; and
- ◆ Multiple injuries in different stages of healing.

**Illnesses** that may be related to being battered include:

- ◆ Stress-related illnesses such as headaches, backaches, chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, sleep disorders, eating disorders, and fatigue;
- ◆ Anxiety-related conditions such as heart palpitations and “panic attacks”;
- ◆ Depression, suicidal thoughts or attempts, and alcohol or other drug problems.

**In the workplace**, the effects of domestic violence can emerge as:

- ◆ Chronic absenteeism or lateness, or requests for excessive amounts of time off;
- ◆ On-the-job harassment by abuser, either in person or over the phone; and
- ◆ Lost productivity, poor employment history, or loss of employment.

# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS CHILDREN**

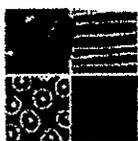
**If your relationship has become a constant fight for power and control, you and your child need some assistance. Children often hear, see or witness after-effects of domestic disputes.**

## ***HOW ARE CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ADULTS FIGHTING IN THEIR HOME?***

- **Inability to concentrate – problems in school**
- **Withdrawal**
- **Flattening of emotions**
- **Stomach problems, eating and sleeping disorders stemming from fear and anxiety**
- **Anxiety and preoccupations that they are to blame**
- **Demonstration of manipulative, disrespectful behavior**
- **Aggression toward women as they age**
- **Attempts to protect a parent by intervening in a dispute**

## ***BUT WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD?***

- **Help your child identify and discuss how he/she feels.**
- **Reinforce to your child that they didn't cause the fighting and that they are not to blame.**
- **Explain that the abuse is not normal or good behavior.**
- **Teach and demonstrate alternatives to violence.**
- **Develop a personal safety plan with/for your child.**
- **Get help.**
  - **SOS Shelter Help-line - 754-4340**
  - **Crime Victims Assistance Center Crisis-line – 722-4256**



**The Family Violence Prevention Council  
36-42 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905  
(607)778-2153, [www.gobroomecounty.com](http://www.gobroomecounty.com)**

*Reproducible Material—Please Share with Others*

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
ACTIVITIES**



**Business and Professional Women  
of the USA  
Mission Statement**

To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and research. To elevate the standards of women in business and in the professions. To promote the interest of business and professional women. To bring about the spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the U.S.A.

**Websites:**

[www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org)

or

[www.bpwyny.org](http://www.bpwyny.org)

**YWCA of  
Binghamton/Broome County  
Mission Statement**

To empower women and girls and to eliminate racism. To create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The association will use its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists.

**Website:**

[www.binghamtonywca.com](http://www.binghamtonywca.com)

Membership information on both organizations will be available at registration desk

Table available for other organization's materials  
After breakfast, please take leftover materials with you

**YWCA/BPW  
Third Annual  
"Women's History Month"  
Breakfast Program**

**Binghamton Regency**

**7:45 AM:**

**Breakfast served**

**8:00 AM:**

**Welcome and Overview**

**Elisa Serfass  
Triple Cities BPW  
Member**

**Carole Coppens  
YWCA Executive Director**

**8:15 AM:**

**Teresa Stockton**

**Triple Cities BPW member**

**Guest Speaker  
Introduction**

**Susan Inneo  
Attorney at Law  
Coughlin & Gerhart**

**"Local Women of the Past"  
Their leadership skills and  
their roles as leaders**

**YWCA/BPW  
Third Annual  
"Women's History Month"  
Breakfast**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Request for brief period  
to announce your organization's  
upcoming events:

Yes, announcement \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Tear off and return with  
enclosed check for \$15.00

by  
**March 4, 2004**  
payable to:  
**YWCA**

**ATT: ENCOREplus  
80 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901**

One reservation form per person  
Form may be duplicated



*Seventh Judicial District*

**Hon. Marilyn O'Connor**  
Monroe County Family Court  
Hall of Justice  
99 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614-2187

585-428-2597

**LOCAL COMMITTEES REPORTS 2004 - 2005****Name of the Committee:**

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

**Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Number and Email address of the Chair:**

Hon. Marilyn L. O'Connor, Monroe County Family Court, Rochester, NY 14614; (585) 429-1904, fax: (585) 428-2597. [MOCONNOR@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:MOCONNOR@courts.state.ny.us)

**Number of Members: 19**    **Number of Meetings: 5**    **Average Attendance: 15**

**Use of Video Conferencing: No**

**Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.):**

Four judges (1 City, 2 County & AJ), Director of local Alternatives for Battered Women, Office of Court Administration personnel, Community Worker, Labor Union representative, administrators, Bar Association presidents (MCBA and GRAWA), Coordinator of Domestic Violence Court, Attorneys, Court Security.

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004:****Gender Fairness Luncheon 10/21/04**

Speaker: Charlotte Watson, Director NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Location: Appellate Division

Topic: "Exploitation of Women & Children in America."

42 people attended from the area.

**Other Activities in the Past Year:****Adopting new Mission Statement:**

The committee held a luncheon, June 2004 in Ontario County. The guest speaker was Alice Chapman-Minutello, who provided the committee with an overview of her office which covers personnel, employee relations, job benefits and career services. Ms. Chapman-Minutello reviewed with the committee the complaint process, both formal and informal.

Review of Sheriff's Policy regarding workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy presented at three consecutive roll calls.

The committee designated two issues as significant to be addressed:

(1) Is it gender bias when men are deprived access to their residences and contact with their children via temporary orders of protection?

(2) Is it gender bias when women are being denied orders for temporary attorney fees and temporary child support in matrimonial actions.

The proposal is we review these issues both here and in other areas of the state to identify the problem and determine the extent of its impact, if any.

**Have you worked in partnership with other groups?**

Yes, Domestic Violence, Court Security, Supreme Court, County & City Court Personnel.

Every member of the committee received the materials that OCA provides every employee upon employment regarding Discrimination and Claims.

**Bar Associations?** No

**Law Schools?** No

**Other**

**Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? NO If so, please include a copy.**

**What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in?**

Alternatives for Battered Women  
Volunteer Legal Services Program

**Plans for Next Year:**

- (1) Annual luncheon with Guest speaker. ie. Kay Ann Porter, Inspector General.
- (2) Program regarding new "No Fault" divorce proposals and the impact on women.
- (3) Survey the procedures involving temporary Orders of Protection in domestic violence cases and temporary support and attorney fee orders in Supreme Court matrimonial.
- (4) Review the Collaborative Law process as an alternative for resolving family law matters and its impact on women.

**Difficulties your committee faces:**

- (1) Geographic difficulty to having representation from all counties present for meetings and activities.
- (2) Time constraints. ie Time available to participate in committee meetings and activities.

*You Are Cordially Invited As A Guest Of The*

*7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District*

*GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE*

*for a*

*LUNCHEON at BELHURST CASTLE*

*Guest Speaker:*

*Alice M. Chapman-Minutello*

*Administrator*

*Human Resources/Workforce Diversity Office*

*WHERE: BELHURST CASTLE  
Route 14 South  
Geneva, NY 14456  
(315) 781-0201*

*WHEN: TUESDAY - JUNE 22, 2004*

*TIME: 12:00 NOON*

*Kindly RSVP by June 15<sup>th</sup>, to Susan M. Shaw  
Secretary to Hon. Marilyn L. O'Connor, MCFCJ  
phone: (585) 428-1904 or email: SMSHAW@courts.state.ny.us*

# Gender Fairness Committee

Presents  
Charlotte Watson, Director  
NYS Office for the  
Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)  
SPEAKING ON THE  
Exploitation of  
Women & Children in America

Don't miss This Lunch Program!!

\*\*\*Lunch paid for by Gender Fairness Committee\*\*\*

Thursday, October 21, 2004

12:00 to 1:30pm

Appellate Courthouse

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Rm. 335, 50 East Ave.

October is  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Please, contact Carey Travis (R.S.V.P. 428-5773)  
for further information and to reserve your lunch.

**COUNTY OF MONROE  
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**

**BULLETIN: MULTI-BUREAU #17-04**

**DATE: September 7, 2004**

**INDEX AS: Workplace Discrimination  
and Harassment**

**BY: Sheriff Patrick M. O'Flynn**

It is the policy of the Monroe County Office of the Sheriff to provide a work environment free from any type of discrimination, including gender discrimination and all forms of sexual intimidation or exploitation, in accordance with all applicable laws. (MBGO 69-03)

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office recognizes the right of all employees to work in an environment free from discrimination and harassment, and prohibits any such actions/behavior that interferes with this right.

By the direction of the Sheriff, all sworn and non-sworn members of this Office will view the video on Sexual Harassment and sign the attendance sheet. This training will augment the prior training received at the time of hire.

Each member will also receive a handout entitled "Workplace Discrimination and Harassment". After viewing the video and receiving the handout, each member will sign a Certification of Training statement that will be placed in each member's personnel file and training file.

**PLEASE READ AT THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE ROLL CALLS**

## **WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office recognizes the right of all employees to work in an environment free from discrimination and harassment, and prohibits any such actions/behavior that interferes with this right.

### **POLICY (MBGO 69-03)**

It is the policy of the Monroe County Office of the Sheriff to provide a work environment free from any type of discrimination, including gender discrimination and all forms of sexual intimidation or exploitation, in accordance with all applicable laws.

### **DISCRIMINATION**

Source: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ([www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov))  
Discriminatory Practices

Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), it is illegal to discriminate in any aspect of employment. Discriminatory practices under these laws also include harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military membership or veteran status, age, marital status, political affiliation, etc.

Harassment takes many forms and all harassment is illegal. It can be:

- Verbal            things said, inappropriate sounds, jokes or comments
- Physical        hitting, pushing, blocking someone's way, inappropriate touching, pats, shoulder rubs, brushing up against someone on purpose
- Visual            calendars, pictures, any inappropriate objects that can be clearly seen, lewd gestures
- Written          memos, letters, notes, e-mails

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Source: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ([www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov))  
Facts About Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Title VII's broad prohibitions against sex discrimination specifically cover:

Sexual Harassment - This includes practices ranging from direct requests for sexual favors to workplace conditions that create a hostile environment for persons of either gender, including same sex harassment. (The "hostile environment" standard also applies to harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, and disability.)

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- The victim as well as the harasser may be a woman or a man. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.
- The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or a non-employee.
- The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.
- Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.
- The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.

Sexual harassment can occur in the form of:

- **Quid pro quo (something for something)**
  - unwelcome sexual advances (obvious or subtle)
  - requests for sexual favors as a condition for receiving a tangible benefit\*\* (does not have to be express demands, may be implied by the circumstances and actions; for example inviting someone out for drinks or offering sexually explicit magazines)
  - verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

\*\*Examples of tangible benefits include hiring, firing, promotion, demotion, undesirable reassignment, a decision causing a significant change in benefits, compensation decisions and/or work assignment.

- **Hostile work environment** - the work environment becomes so offensive as to adversely affect an employee's job performance; for example display of offensive materials, insulting remarks, derogatory name-calling, etc.)

#### **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

- Open discussion of a co-worker's personal life, even if based on fact, can lead to a charge of discrimination and harassment.
- Someone may agree to a demand for sexual conduct (such as going out for drinks), receive a tangible benefit and still have a claim of sexual harassment.
- Consent to a sexual activity doesn't mean that an employee can't file a sexual harassment claim.
- A supervisor has a duty to investigate and report harassing conduct whether or not anyone is complaining. If harassment is present and you know or should have known, you may personally be held liable for failing to take action on a harassment situation.

**Certification of Training**

I understand the information presented today \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)  
on **Harassment and Discrimination**. I know that this certificate will be  
included in my personnel file as a record.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Name (PRINT LEGIBLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee IBM #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presenter Name (PRINT LEGIBLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presenter Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presenter IBM #

*Eighth Judicial District Gender  
and Racial Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Amy J. Fricano**  
Supreme Court Justice  
175 Hawley Street  
Lockport, NY 14094

716-439-7055

**Amy Fricano - April 19th Meeting**

**From:** Jill Goodman  
**To:** Chairs of Local Gender Committees  
**Date:** 1/31/2005 12:13 PM  
**Subject:** April 19th Meeting

MEMORANDUM (Also being sent in hard copy)

TO: Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees  
 FROM: Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin  
 RE: April 19, 2005 Meeting and Requests for Annual Reports  
 DATE: February 1, 2005

We are deep into plans for our annual meeting with chairs of local gender bias committees, and we want to make sure you mark your calendars. This year the meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, 2005, from 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM at the House of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (42 West 44th Street, New York, NY). The formal part of our meeting will be followed by a luncheon, where we can continue to trade ideas and visit with each other.

Annual reports from local committees have been the cornerstones of our meetings. We rely on them, so please fill out the attached form thoughtfully and get it to us promptly. The forms should be returned to Jill Goodman at 25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, NY 10004, or faxed to 212-428-2793, by March 1, 2005.

I look forward to seeing you April 19th.

cc: Administrative Judges

## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005

Name of the Committee Women in the Courts/ Gender Bias + Fairness

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair

Hon. Amy J. Fricano; Niagara County Supreme Court,  
Niagara County Courthouse, Lockport NY 14094  
tel (716) 439-7055 fax 439-7039, e-mail ~~af~~ africano@courts.state.ny.  
 No. Members     No. of Meetings 4 Average Attendance     Use of Video Conferencing? not available

Composition of the Committee (Judges, administrators, advocates, etc.)    

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004 install names of 2002 award winners at 4<sup>th</sup> Dept AD, adding their names to the plaque of honorees, ceremony, lunch

Activities for Women's History Month 2004 award luncheon recognizing women contributing to the courts and judicial system

Other Activities in the Past Year planning to partner with local

① Sheriff's department for collection of old cell phones to be programmed directly & only to 911 for use by domestic violence victims.

② Investigating/planning regarding <sup>recent</sup> loss of legal services for women (former Women's Law Center) to identify attorneys who ~~would accept cases~~ <sup>where litigant not qualified for legal aid</sup> but indigent  
Have you worked in partnership with other groups? see above  
Bar Associations? will involve them in <sup>award</sup> luncheon Schools? plan to involve in award luncheon  
Other & cell phone project

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? Not to our knowledge If so, please include a copy.

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in?

Plans for Next Year: expanding inclusion of interested groups stake holders like law school & bar assocs. Continue pursuit of issue of affordable atty services.

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Difficulties your committee faces: some attendance, but e-mail  
minutes and communication provide ~~great~~ good  
contact.

Really no difficulties. Our administrative judge  
has been tremendously supportive.

Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.

Please return this form by March 1, 2005, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to 212-428-2793.



*Ninth Judicial District Committee to  
Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts*

**Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman**  
Judge, Court of Claims  
140 Grand Street, 5th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601

9-14-428-2310

## LOCAL COMMITTEES 2004-2005

### **Name of the Committee:**

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

### **Name, Address and Telephone and Fax Numbers of Chair:**

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, New York State Court of Claims, 140 Grand Street, Suite 507, White Plains, NY 10601, [Telephone] (914) 289-2310, [Fax] (914) 289-2313, [truderma@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:truderma@courts.state.ny.us)

**No. of Members:** 40

**Composition of the Committee:** Judges, Attorneys, Director of the County Office for Women

### **Local Committee Activities for the Past Year**

#### **Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004:**

The committee organized seminars in Rockland and Westchester Counties entitled, "Domestic Violence and Responsible Mediation: A Critical Look at Screening and Safety." Several other organizations joined as co-sponsors. Susan L. Pollet, Esq., Executive Director of the Pace Women's Justice Center, Hon. Colleen Duffy, Hon. Daniel D. Angiolillo and Daniel M. Weitz, Esq., State ADR Coordinator were the speakers. Attorneys in attendance were able to earn CLE credit through Pace.

#### **Activities for Women's History Month 2005:**

The committee sponsored an essay contest open to all high school students in the Ninth Judicial District. The topic was, "The local school board has announced that it is considering adopting a policy that all high school sports must be co-educational or there will be no funds from the budget for the teams. A group of parents has organized to oppose this policy. Write a letter to the board explaining your reasons for opposing or supporting the policy." Local bar associations contributed to the cash prizes which will be awarded at a breakfast in the courthouse on April 15, 2005.

**Other Activities in the Past Year:**

The committee produced a pamphlet entitled, "How Decisions About Child Support are Made" which was published in English and Spanish. The target audience was litigants in the Family Court and Matrimonial Part of the Supreme Court. The pamphlets are being distributed in the courts.

On April 23, 2004 we held a breakfast in White Plains to award the student winners of our 2003 Essay Contest in recognition of Women's History Month. At the breakfast, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman and Hon. Francis Nicolai, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, presented the winners with their prizes. The students, their parents, school administrators, teachers, bar leaders, judges, attorneys and committee members joined in the celebration.

During the course of the year we had various meetings, including a presentation "Honoring the Victim's Voice: The Dutchess County Domestic Violence and Mediation Safety Project." This project, developed and implemented by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc. and Battered Women's Services, has developed a protocol for using mediation in cases that might involve domestic violence. Other speakers included Diane Yu, Chair of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession and Hon. Sondra Miller, Chair of the New York State Matrimonial Commission.

**Have you worked in partnership with other groups? Yes; Bar Associations? Yes; Law Schools? Yes**

**Plans for Next Year:**

We intend to present a CLE program in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and will again sponsor a high school essay contest in celebration of Women's History Month.

**Most Important Difficulty Confronting Your Committee:**

Since the geographic area of the Ninth Judicial District is very large, it is difficult for participants from all the counties to attend meetings.

**Q. What happens if a parent fails to make payment as required by the order of support?**

**A. THERE ARE MANY ACTIONS** that may be taken if a parent does not pay Court-ordered support. Without any Court action, SCU may direct the payment of additional amounts to be applied to any arrears owed. State and Federal income tax refunds may be obtained directly from the government and paid to the custodial parent. Driver's, business, professional and other licenses of the paying parent may be suspended. Upon proper application, if the Court finds that a parent's failure to pay support is willful, the Court may send the paying parent to jail for up to six months. The Court may not send a parent to jail if he or she is unable to make the payment through no fault of his/her own. For example, a parent may become disabled or lose his/her job because of layoffs. A parent sent to jail must be released upon payment of the amount due and owing. During the time that a parent is in jail, he or she is not excused from paying child support. If payments are not made when a parent is in jail, he/she will owe this support to the other parent. To make sure that child support payments are made on time, the Court may order the paying parent to deposit money into a special account. If a payment is missed, the amount due will be taken from this account.

**Q. What happens if the paying parent is not seeing the children?**

**A. SUPPORT MUST BE PAID** even if he/she is not seeing the children or there is a dispute about seeing the children.

**Q. May the Court change the amount of support ordered to be paid?**

**A. YES. THE PARENT RECEIVING SUPPORT** may apply to the Court for an increase in support and the parent paying support may apply to the Court for a decrease in support. The parent asking the Court to change the amount of support ordered must show the Court that there is a good reason to order an adjustment. For example, the parent receiving support may show that the paying parent received a large pay increase and that the children require additional money to support their needs. Likewise, the paying parent may show that he/she has been laid off and has been forced to accept a lower paying job.

**Q. What happens if the parties were never married?**

**A. IF THE MOTHER HAS CUSTODY** of the child, the Court must first determine whether the person from whom she requests support from is the father. There is no problem if the person admits that he is the father. If he denies that he is the father, the mother may have to file a petition asking the Court to rule that he is the father. The Court must then hold a hearing to decide if he is the father of the child. The Court may direct that blood tests be done to help in deciding this issue.

If the father has custody of the child, he may obtain support from the mother without a Court ruling that he is the father. However, the mother may ask the Court to decide whether he is in fact the father.

**Q. What happens if the parent who has custody lives in New York and the other parent lives in another State?**

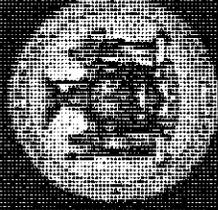
**A. THE APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT** may be made in the Family Court in the county where the child resides the same way as if both parents lived in New York. However, the party residing outside New York may not have to come to Court in New York. He/she may be allowed to testify by telephone.

If the application is made in the Supreme Court after the parties are divorced, the Court generally requires that both parents come to Court.

**Q. May a person who is not the parent of a child ask the Court to order that child support be paid to him/her?**

**A. YES. SOMETIMES WHERE NEITHER PARENT** can take proper care of a child, the Court gives custody to another person, such as a grandparent or other relative. The Court may then order the parents to pay child support to this person.

# HOW DECISIONS ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT ARE MADE



1981 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1982 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1983 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1984 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1985 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1986 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1987 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1988 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1989 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

1990 HONORS A. J. ESCOFF

**Q. To whom is child support paid?**

**A. AS A GENERAL RULE**, child support is paid to the parent with whom the children live (the custodial parent) by the other parent. The obligation to pay child support continues, with certain exceptions, until a child is twenty-one (21) years old.

**Q. How does a parent get child support?**

**A. UNLESS THE PARENTS HAVE AN AGREEMENT** as to the payment of child support, the custodial parent must apply to the Court for an order determining the amount of child support. The application may be made to the Family Court in the county where the children live. While a lawyer may represent a parent, most parents do not hire a lawyer. In Family Court, county employees help parents complete the paperwork to begin the proceeding. Both parents must bring all information and documents to the Court. Such papers may include: pay stubs; W-2 forms; tax returns for the past 3 to 5 years; bank and brokerage account statements; canceled checks; credit applications for a mortgage; credit card, car loan or personal loan; apartment lease and rent receipts. In addition, whenever an application for child support is made, both parents must complete sworn statements setting listing all of their income and all of their expenses. If the parents are involved in a divorce proceeding, the Supreme Court will make an award of child support. Any applications concerning child support made in Supreme Court are made by either an attorney for a party or the party him/herself without any help from county employees.

**Q. How much child support is paid?**

**A. A LAW IN NEW YORK STATE** (the Child Support Standards Act) sets forth guidelines for the amount of child support to be paid. The amount is based on the number of children and the income of the parents. After certain amounts provided by law are deducted from the income of the parents, the parent with whom the children do not reside pays 17% of his/her income for one child, 25% for two children, 29% for three children, 31% for four children and 35% for five or more children. If the income together of both parents is more than \$80,000, the Court does not have to follow the guidelines with respect to the income that is greater than \$80,000. The Court may apply the guidelines to all of the parties' income or may apply the guidelines up to an amount that the Court believes is reasonable to meet the needs of the children. In addition, the Court may apply a smaller percentage to the income over \$80,000 than the guidelines would call for.

**Q. Must the Court set child support at the amount provided for in the guidelines?**

**A. GENERALLY, YES.** However, if there is a good reason, the Court may order either more or less than the guideline amount. Each case is decided on its own facts and the Court must consider the financial circumstances of the parents and, what is most important, the needs of the children.

**Q. May the Court order that money be paid in addition to the child support payments?**

**A. YES. THE COURT MAY ORDER** the paying parent to provide medical insurance or pay part of its cost. In addition, the paying parent may be ordered to contribute to the payment of other expenses such as medical expenses not paid by insurance, child care, activity fees for the children, religious instruction fees, summer camp, etc. Usually, the parent who earns more income will pay more of these expenses than the other parent.

**Q. What if the paying parent is self-employed, is paid "off-the-books" or quits working?**

**A. THE PAYING PARENT** must submit documents to the Court showing the income earned. However, where it appears to the Court that the information provided is not accurate, the Court has the right to make a decision as to what the correct income is and set the child support based on this amount. Also, the Court may base the amount of support on the needs of the children. The parent asking for support should give the Court information as to the household expenses so that the Court can decide the amount needed to support the children. If a parent quits working without a good reason, the Court may set the child support based on the salary the parent was earning before quitting or in an amount that the Court finds the parent is capable of earning.

**Q. How is support paid?**

**A. SUPPORT MAY BE PAID** directly by one parent to the other. The Court may also order that payments be made through the Support Collection Unit (SCU) in the county where the Court is located. When the Court order of support is sent to SCU, an account is set up. If the paying parent is employed, a notice is sent to that parent's employer. The employer deducts the support from each paycheck and sends it to SCU. Payment is then sent to the custodial parent by SCU. If the paying parent is self-employed or unemployed, the Court may order that payments be made to SCU. SCU keeps payment records and if there is ever a dispute as to whether all payments have been made, SCU's records will be brought to Court. Finally, the Court may issue an order directing the employer to send the support deducted from the paying parent's wages directly to the custodial parent.

**P. ¿Qué sucede si el padre/madre deja de hacer los pagos de pensión cómo es requerido?**

**R.** Existen muchas acciones que se pueden tomar si el padre no paga la pensión ordenada por el Tribunal. Sin la necesidad de una acción judicial SCU, puede ordenar que se hagan pagos adicionales para cubrir pagos atrasados. Los reembolsos de las contribuciones federales y del estado se pueden obtener directamente del gobierno y ser usados para pagar las cuotas de pensión alimenticia al padre/madre que tenga la custodia de los menores. Licencias de conducir, de negocios, o profesionales pertenecientes al padre/madre que hace los pagos de la pensión, pueden ser suspendidas. Después de una apropiada solicitud, si el Tribunal determina que la falta de pago por el padre/madre no es razonable, el Tribunal puede enviar al padre que paga la pensión, a la cárcel por hasta seis meses. El Tribunal no enviará a un padre/madre a la cárcel si por alguna justa razón no pueda pagar la pensión. Por ejemplo, si el padre/madre queda incapacitado, o si pierde su empleo por haber quedado cesante por paro involuntario de producción. Un padre/madre enviado a la cárcel será puesto en libertad si hace el pago que debe. Durante el tiempo en cárcel el o ella no estarán excusado/a de no hacer los pagos de pensión alimenticia. Si no se hacen los pagos mientras el padre/madre esta en la cárcel, el/ella le debiera hacer pagos de pensión alimenticia al otro padre. Para asegurarse de que los pagos de pensión alimenticia son pagados a tiempo, el Tribunal puede ordenar al padre/madre que hace el pago que deposite el dinero en una cuenta especial. Si omite un pago, la cantidad será sacada de esta cuenta.

**P. ¿Qué sucede cuando el padre/madre que paga la pensión no ve a los niños?**

**R.** La pensión tiene que ser pagada aún cuando el/lo ella no vean a los niños, si hay disputa entre ellos en cuanto a la visita de ver los niños.

**P. ¿Puede el Tribunal cambiar la cantidad de la pensión previamente ordenada?**

**R.** Si el padre/madre que recibe la pensión puede solicitar al Tribunal un aumento en la pensión y el padre/madre que paga la pensión puede solicitar una reducción. El padre/madre que solicite los para cambios en la cantidad de la pensión alimenticia ordenada por el Tribunal, debe probar ante el Tribunal que existe una razón justificada para que el Tribunal ordene un cambio. Por ejemplo, si el padre/madre que recibe la pensión puede demostrar al Tribunal que el padre/madre que paga la pensión a recibido un gran aumento en su salario y que los niños necesitarán dinero adicional para sus gastos. De la misma manera, el padre que paga la pensión puede demostrar al Tribunal que el/ella ha sido dejado/a cesante en su presente empleo y se ha visto en la necesidad de aceptar un empleo que pague menos que el anterior.

**P. ¿Qué sucede si los padres nunca se casaron?**

**R.** Si la madre tiene la custodia de los niños, el Tribunal tiene que determinar si la persona a la cual ella pide la pensión alimenticia es el padre de los niños. No habrá problema si la persona admite que él es el padre. Si niega ser el padre, la madre tendrá que someter una petición ante el Tribunal, pidiendole que determine que él es el padre. El Tribunal,

entonces llevará a cabo una audiencia para determinar si él es, el padre. El Tribunal podrá ordenar que se hagan pruebas de sangre para determinar la paternidad y tomar una decisión en el asunto.

Si el padre tiene la custodia del niño, el podrá obtener pensión alimenticia de la madre, sin alguna determinación del Tribunal de que él es el padre. Sin embargo la madre podrá pedirle al Tribunal que determine si él, es en verdad el padre.

**P. ¿Que sucede si el padre/madre que tiene la custodia reside en New York, y el otro vive en otro estado?**

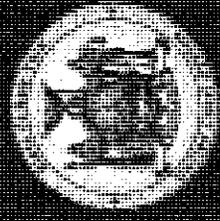
**R.** La solicitud para pensión alimenticia debe hacerse en el Tribunal de familia en el condado donde el niño/a reside de la misma forma que si ambos vivieran en New York. Sin embargo el que reside fuera de New York no tendrá que comparecer ante Tribunal de New York, el/ella podrá testificar por la vía telefonica.

Si la aplicación es hecha ante el Tribunal Supremo, después que la pareja se haya divorciado, el Tribunal generalmente require que ambos padres comparezcan.

**P. ¿Puede una persona que no es el padre/madre del niño/a pedirte al Tribunal que ordene pensión alimenticia y sea pagada a el/ella?**

**R.** Si, En algunas ocasiones cuando ni el padre o la madre pueden cuidar al niño/a, el Tribunal le asigna la custodia a otras personas, tales como los abuelos u otros familiares. El Tribunal puede entonces la ordenar que el padre/ o madre pague la pensión alimenticia al niño/a.

# CÓMO SE HACEN LAS DECISIONES SOBRE PENSION ALIMENTICIA



THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COURT OF APPEALS

1991

1991

1991

1991

1991

1991

**P. ¿A quién se le paga pensión alimenticia?**

**R. POR LO GENERAL LA PENSIÓN** alimenticia es pagada al padre/madre, el cual tenga la custodia legal, por el otro conyugue. Esta obligación de pagar pensión alimenticia continúa hasta que el niño/niña tenga 21 años de edad.

**R. ¿Como un padre/madre puede recibir pensión alimenticia?**

**R. A MENOS QUE LOS PADRES** hayan llegado a un acuerdo en cuanto al pago de esta pensión, el padre/madre que tenga la custodia debe solicitar al Tribunal que determine la cantidad que debe pagarse como pensión alimenticia. Esta solicitud puede hacerse en el Tribunal de Familia en el condado donde viven los niños. A pesar de que los padres tienen el derecho a la representación de un abogado, muchos padres no lo utilizan. En el Tribunal de Familia los empleados del condado ayudan a los padres a completar todos los trámites necesarios para comenzar los procedimientos. Ambos padres deberán traer toda la información y documentos al Tribunal. Dichos documentos incluyen: las planillas de W-2; las declaraciones sobre ingresos de los últimos 3 a 5 años, estado de cuentas bancarias o rentas internas, cuentas de préstamos personales, cuentas de tarjetas de crédito, copias de solicitud de para hipotecas, préstamo para automóvil, recibos de pagos de alquiler, copias de cheques cancelados. Además de estos documentos, siempre que se solicite una pensión alimenticia, ambos padres deberán de una presentar declaraciones juradas indicando todos sus ingresos y gastos.

Si los padres están envueltos en un procedimiento de divorcio, el Tribunal Supremo asignará la cantidad de pensión que ha de pagarse. Cualquiera solicitud relacionada con

pensión alimenticia ante el Tribunal Supremo debe de ser hecha por un abogado o por la misma persona que está solicitando, sin ayuda alguna de los empleados del condado.

**P. ¿Cuánto se paga de pensión?**

**R. UNA LEY ESTATAL (LLAMADA EL ACTA SOBRE PENSIÓN ALIMENTICIA)** establece las reglas en cuanto a la cantidad de pensión alimenticia que debe pagarse. La cantidad está basada en la cantidad de niños y el ingreso de los padres. Después que ciertas cantidades provistas por la ley son deducidas de los ingresos de los padres, el padre o la madre con quien los niños no residen deberán, pagar el 17% de su ingreso por un hijo, 25% por dos hijos, 29% por tres hijos, 31% por cuatro hijos; y 35% por cinco o más hijos.

Si el ingreso de ambos padres es más de \$80,000, el Tribunal no tiene que ajustarse a las reglas en relación a un ingreso que es más de \$80,000. El Tribunal entonces puede aplicar las reglas al ingreso de todas las partes, o aplicar las reglas e incrementar la cantidad que el tribunal considere una suma razonable y satisfactoria para la necesidad de los niños. También el Tribunal puede aplicar un porcentaje menor sobre el ingreso de más de \$80,000 de lo que las reglas establecen.

**P. ¿Esta el Tribunal obligado a asignar la cantidad establecida por las reglas?**

**R. POR LO GENERAL, SÍ.** Sin embargo, si existe una buena razón, el Tribunal puede ordenar una cantidad más alta o baja de lo establecido en las reglas. Cada caso es considerado en los méritos de sus hechos y pruebas y el Tribunal tiene que considerar las circunstancias financieras de los padres y lo más importante, la necesidad de los niños.

**P. ¿Puede el Tribunal ordenar que se pague una cantidad de dinero además de de la cantidad de los pagos de pensión?**

**R. SÍ. EL TRIBUNAL PUEDE ORDENAR** al padre/madre que paga la pensión alimenticia, que provea seguro médico, o que pague parte del costo de dicho seguro. Además se le puede ordenar al padre/madre que paga la pensión, a que contribuya con los pagos de otros gastos tales como gastos médicos que el seguro no cubra, cuidado de niños, pagos para actividades de los niños, pagos para instrucción religiosa, campo de veran, etc. Por lo general el padre/madre que recibe el mayor ingreso pagará más por estos gastos que el otro.

**P. ¿Qué sucede cuando el padre/madre que paga la pensión, trabaja para sí-mismo, o "fuera de los libros", o renuncia a su empleo?**

**R. EL PADRE/MADRE QUE PAGA** tiene que someter documentos al Tribunal que muestren su ingreso. Sin embargo, si el Tribunal cree que la información sometida es falsa, el Tribunal tiene el derecho de tomar una decisión en cuanto cual sería la cantidad correcta de ingreso y asignar la pensión basada en dicha cantidad. También el Tribunal puede usar como base la necesidad de los niños para determinar la cantidad de pensión alimenticia. El padre/madre que este solicitando la pensión debe suplir al Tribunal información sobre todos los gastos domésticos, para que el Tribunal decida cual es la cantidad necesaria para la pensión alimenticia de los niños. Si el padre/madre que paga la pensión, renuncia a su empleo sin razón justificada, el Tribunal podría establecer la cantidad de pensión a pagar

basado en la cantidad de ingreso que el padre/madre recibía antes de renunciar su empleo; o la cantidad que el Tribunal crea que la persona que paga la pensión pueda pagar.

**P. ¿Cómo se paga la pensión alimenticia?**

**R. LA PENSIÓN ALIMENTICIA** puede ser pagada directamente de un padre al otro. El Tribunal también puede ordenar que los pagos se hagan a través de "Unidad de Colección de Pensión" (SCU) en el condado donde el Tribunal esté ubicado. Cuando la orden de pensión es enviada por el Tribunal al SCU, una cuenta es establecida. Si la persona que paga la pensión tiene empleo, una notificación es enviada al lugar de trabajo y el empleador deduce el pago de pensión directamente de su salario y lo envía directamente al SCU. Luego, el pago de la pensión es enviado por el Tribunal al padre/madre que tenga la custodia de los niños. Si el padre que paga la pensión esta empleado por si mismo, o esta desempleado, el Tribunal puede ordenar que los pagos se hagan al SCU. El SCU mantiene el registro de pagos en caso de alguna disputa si se hicieron o no los pagos; los archivos del SCU serán traídos al Tribunal. Finalmente, el Tribunal puede también ordenar al empleador de empleo del padre/madre que paga la pensión, a que retenga la cantidad del salario o cheque y lo envíe directamente al padre/madre que tenga la custodia de los niños.

The Pace Women's Justice Center  
The Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the 9<sup>th</sup> J.D.  
The Westchester Women's Bar Association

*present*

Domestic Violence and Responsible Mediation:  
A Critical Look at Screening and Safety

Wednesday, October 27, 2004  
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

New York State Judicial Institute  
Pace University School of Law  
Omni Room

Welcome and Introduction by  
Susan L. Pollet, Esq.  
Executive Director, Pace Women's Justice Center

Hon. Joan O. Cooney  
Supervising Judge of the Family Court, Ninth Judicial District

Hon. Daniel D. Angiolillo  
Justice of the Supreme Court, Associate Justice of the Appellate Term

Daniel M. Weitz, Esq.  
State ADR Coordinator

Cost - \$85  
(Includes Dinner and 2 CLE Credits)

RSVP: Pace Women's Justice Center, Attn: James Bavero, (914) 422-4069

Space is limited

This Program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 2 credit hours. The course is sponsored for CLE accreditation by The Pace Women's Justice Center. Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For information on the guidelines, and to apply, please contact James Bavero at (914) 422-4069. All requests are confidential. This program is suitable for transitional (i.e., newly admitted) and non-transitional attorneys.



- ◆ Real Estate Financing & Terrorism .... 5
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- ◆ The *Brown* Decision Turns 50 ..... 7
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INSIDE



# Westchester

# Women's Bar Association

A Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

## Ninth Judicial District Announces Winners of Essay Contest to Promote Gender Fairness

The Ninth Judicial District to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts held a breakfast on April 23, 2004 to recognize the winners of its Annual Essay Contest in celebration of Women's History Month. Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, Hon. Francis Nicolai and Court of Claims Judge, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman presented the awards.

Students were asked to write on the topic, "In 2004, a woman has been elected President of the United States. As her speech writer, draft that part of her inaugural address relating to gender issues and to her status as the first female President." In the freshman/sophomore category, Dan



Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman (3rd from left) with first and second place winners of the essay contest

Esposito, from Iona Preparatory School, won First Prize and Adam Gimignano, from Poughkeepsie High School, was the Runner-up. In the junior/senior category, Brette

Levitan, from Horace Greeley High School, won First Prize and India S. Diaz, from Peekskill High School, was the Runner-up.

The generosity of the various professional organizations and bar associations enabled the committee to award cash prizes. The students read their essays to the 50 assembled guests. Committee Chair, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, was pleased to note that this year the committee received more entries from a greater number of high schools than it had in previous years. The committee anticipates that this contest and awards breakfast will be held again next year and is hoping for even greater participation in the district. ◆

First Place Winner in the Freshman/Sophomore Category

Essay by

**JOHN ESPOSITO**

Iona Preparatory School

My fellow Americans, it would be naive of me to assume that my gender isn't an issue, it is probably an issue most of you feel quite adamantly about, whether positively or not. It is sad, however, that the most celebrated, the most controversial and dare I say the most significant thing about me is the fact that I am a woman. Yet, my vision is of a day when the gender gap will finally be bridged and women can enjoy the same benefits, appreciation and respect that men do. Moreover, I believe it is important that we as a nation realize that the fact that I am a woman makes me no better, or no worse, than Presidents past. What does distinguish me from these brilliant men is the fact that I will work night and day to bring an end to the gender discrimination that is so common in our great nation.

Now is a momentous time for our country; it is a time to ask ourselves, if a woman can hold the highest office in the country then why can't a woman be paid the same amount of money for doing the same job as a man? This nation has seen many attempts to end this problem, starting with the "Equal Pay Act" of 1963 and the most recent being the "Fair Pay Act" passed in 2000. These bills may have had good intentions, but the fact is that the last 40 years the pay gap between men and women has narrowed by only 17 cents with women making only 76 cents to every dollar made by men. In a time when many women are the sole providers for their families, shouldn't they be able to support them just as well as their male counterparts?

\* \* \*

Over the course of the next four years I will strive to make gender discrimination a thing of the past. I also hope that a woman is not only capable of being President of the greatest country in the world but that a woman can lead this country into an era of peace, justice and prosperity, for we are not a country of men and women, blacks and whites, Christians and Jews, Muslims or others, we are a country of Americans and today as Americans we will stand undivided.

First Place Winner in the Junior/Senior Category

Essay by

**BRETTE LEVITAN**

Horace Greeley High School

I stand here before you, as the first female President of the United States, but it is not what I am. I am your President, chosen by you, the people. Being female does not make me a better or worse candidate.

\* \* \*

I will not pretend that the next four years will be easy. There are those who do not wish to see women in power, in this country and outside it. ... If I am too lenient, I will be called a 'mothering' type who nurtures too much. If I am too strict, my actions will be explained by many as the side-effects of PMS. I will be accused of spending too much time with my family, or perhaps too little. My husband will be ridiculed; if I were not married, I would be called a scheming man-hater who would choose power over love. Much of the world is against me, and has been from the moment I announced my desire to run for president. For all this, I know that things could be much worse.

Our country is more advanced than most when it comes to dealing with gender issues, but we still have a long way to go. ... We must battle gender discrimination and reverse gender discrimination, bigotry and blind hatred, and even accidental inequalities. I am not talking about improved rights for women, especially not to the point of anti-male discrimination, as can be seen too often in our society today; I am talking about equal rights for everyone, be you male, female, trans-sexed, or transgendered.

I know that we are strong enough to overcome all of these issues, because we are a great nation that is destined to become even greater. At the moment, we are still, unfortunately, a country where things like gender, religion, and ethnicity matter at times when they shouldn't. I believe, however, that we can break past these barriers, and I look forward to a new future, where the fact that a woman is the President won't be anything special at all.



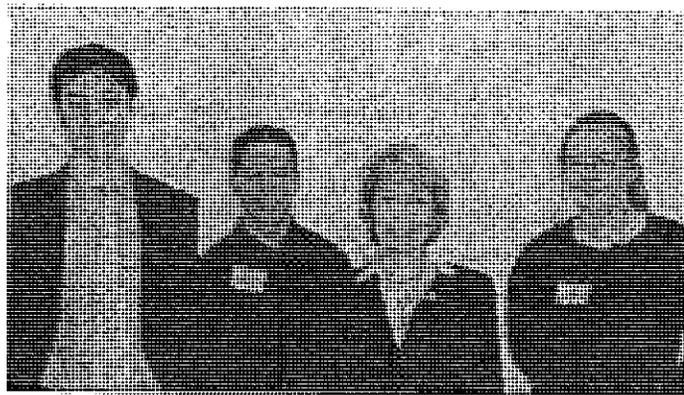
# WESTCHESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2004

## Gender Fairness Essay Contest

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Above L to R: Dan Esposito, Adam Ciminello, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Brette Levitan.



# Ninthline

Volume 11 Number 1 Spring 2004

August/September 2004

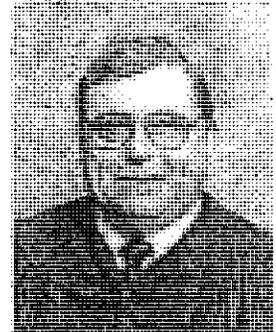
## Greetings from Judge Nicolai

**To:** All Judicial and Non-Judicial Personnel

**From:** Honorable Francis A. Nicolai  
Administrative Judge  
Ninth Judicial District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Nicolai".

**Date:** August/September 2004



I would like to thank everyone for your hard work and dedication.

In this issue of *Ninthline* there are articles about the Gender Fairness Essay Contest, the Gagliardi Award Ceremony, the Quality Service Award Ceremony, and the swearing in Ceremony for the newly promoted Lieutenants.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients and to the Lieutenants.

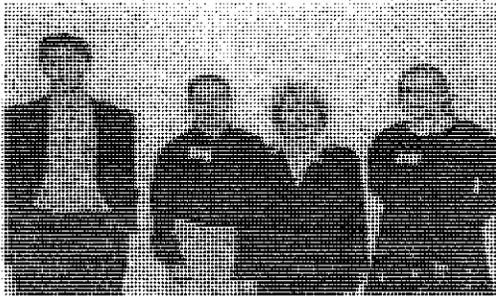
I wish everyone in the district a very safe and happy Fall season!

## Gender Fairness Essay Contest

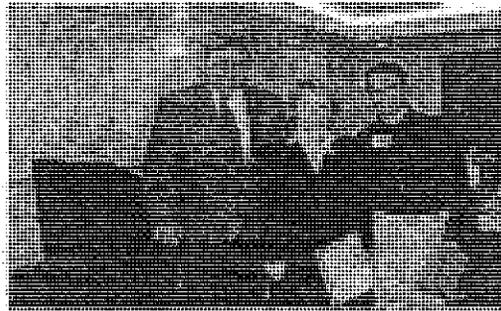
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From left to right: Dan Esposito of Iona Prep. High School; Adam Ciminello of Poughkeepsie High School; Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman; Brette Levitan of Horace Greeley High School.



From left to right: Hon. Francis A. Nicolai, Administrative Judge; Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman; Adam Ciminello of Poughkeepsie High School.

## Way TO Gol



Leonard Pace, Chief Clerk of the Putnam Supreme & County Courts, recently competed in the 2004 Empire State Senior Games held in Cortland, New York, June 8-12. The Empire State Senior Games is held annually and is open to residents of New York State age 50 and older.

Len won a Silver medal in Men's Singles Racquetball, ages 50-54 and a Silver Medal in Men's Doubles Racquetball, ages 50-54.

# OFF THE RECORD

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF CLAIMS  
P.O. BOX 7344, ALBANY, NY 12224  
www.nyscourtofclaims.state.ny.us  
May 2004 - Vol. 12, No. 3



## GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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L-R: Dan Esposito of Iona Preparatory High School, Adam Ciminello of Poughkeepsie High School, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman and Brette Levitan of Horace Greeley High School.

# PRIDE

Poughkeepsie City School District  
Providing Public Education Since 1843

Vol. 24 No. 3 / June 2004

## Essay Wins Prize for Adam Ciminello

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The counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester make up the Ninth Judicial District.



*Courtesy Photo*  
Adam Ciminello (r.) received his award from Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, Hon. Francis Nicolai (l.) and Court of Claims Judge, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman (c.). The presentation took place in White Plains on April 23, 2004.

*Nassau County Judicial Committee on  
Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Margaret Reilly**  
District Court Judge  
99 Main Street  
Hempstead, NY 11550

516-572-2107

**Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.**  
Schlissel, Ostrow  
200 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300  
Garden City, NY 11530

516-877-1800

**LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005**

Name of the Committee: Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women In The Courts

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair:

<u>Honorable Margaret C. Reilly</u>	<u>Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.</u>
<u>99 Main Street, Hempstead, NY 11550</u>	<u>200 Garden City Plaza, Suite 301</u>
<u>(516) 572-2107 (phone)</u>	<u>Garden City, New York 11530</u>
<u>(516) 572-2368 (fax)</u>	<u>(516) 877-8000 (phone)</u>
<u>reilly@courts.state.ny.us</u>	<u>(516) 294-3188 (fax)</u>
	<u>profsws@aol.com</u>

No. Members 30 No. of Meetings Approx. 3-4/yr. Average Attendance Approx. 25-30

Use of Video Conferencing No

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) Judges, lawyers, Court Administrators, advocates

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004 See attached

Activities for Women's History Month 2004 Educational program

Other Activities in the Past Year \_\_\_\_\_

Have you worked in partnership with other groups? No

Bar Associations? Yes - NCBA Law Schools? Yes - One committee Member is Administrator at Hofstra Law School

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs?  
If so, please include a copy.

Not aware

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in? 1. Committee works with Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and has one member from the Coalition.  
2. One committee member is director of Nassau County Family Resource Center.

Plans for Next Year: 1. Expand pro bono programs; 2. Expand educational programs for court personnel and others; 3. Expand domestic violence awareness programs for attorneys.

Difficulties your committee faces: None

Please attached copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005**, to: \_\_\_\_\_

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to **212-428-2793**.



## **Courting Change**

**Nassau County Administrative Judge Anthony Marano has appointed Garden City matrimonial lawyer Stephen W. Schlissel and county District Court Judge Margaret C. Reilly to co-chair the Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, replacing County Court Judge Claire I. Weinberg who has led the committee since 2001. Pictured, left to right, are Mr. Schlissel, of Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos Poepplein & Fisher, and judges Reilly, Weinberg and Marano.**



# Nassau Lawyer



The Journal of the Nassau County Bar Association

November 2004

www.nassaubar.org

Vol. 54, No. 3

## OF NOTE

### Champions for Charity

Help support WE CARE by doing your holiday shopping at participating Americana, Manhasset, and Wheatley Plaza stores from Wed. Dec. 1 to Sun., Dec. 5 during regular shopping center hours.

Champions for Charity is a holiday shopping benefit where 25 percent of your pre-tax purchase will be donated to the charity you select. Your purchases are not automatically eligible. Your CHAMPION CARD is required to allocate your donation and MUST be presented at the time of each purchase. All 2004 Champions for Charity shoppers will be eligible to win a \$2,000 Americana Manhasset GiftCard. (See GO SHOPPING, page 4, to learn how to obtain your card.)

### ProBonothon

NCBA's telephone fund raiser for the Volunteer Lawyers Project  
 Mon., Nov. 29 - Fri., Dec. 3  
 from Noon to 5 p.m. at Domus

## EVENTS

### WE CARE Italian Feast

Sat., Nov. 20, 2004 at 7 p.m.  
 at Domus - See page 18

### Champions for Charity

Cocktail Party  
 Fri., Dec. 3, 2004  
 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
 Brooks Brothers, Manhasset

### WE CARE

### Singerbread University

Sun., Dec. 4, 2004 at Domus  
 10 a.m. - noon & 2-4 p.m.

### Wassail Celebration

Thurs., Dec. 16, 2004  
 6 p.m. at Domus

### Mardi Gras

Sat., Feb. 5, 2005  
 7 p.m. at Domus

### Nassau Lawyer

### Publication Meeting

Join the publications committee for lunch. Earn CLE credits for your scholarly articles.

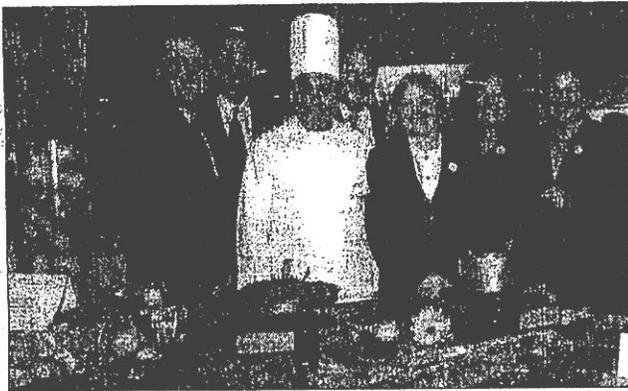
### MEETING DATE HAS CHANGED

Thurs., Nov. 18, 2004  
 12:00 at Domus

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## Sumptuous Sampling: Gourmet's Delight



ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS! Peter Levy, Peter Mancuso, Ronald Beckoff, Hon. Susan Kluewer, Elena Greenberg and Hon. Denise Sher enjoy the culinary delights of a Sumptuous Sampling chef and raise money for the WE CARE Fund.

Where to start? Steak? Salmon? Steak AND salmon? Will I have room for that chocolate moussé cake AND a cannoli? Does a white wine go with coconut custard pie? Red wine with raspberry swirl

cheesecake? Isn't this pastrami the best I've ever tasted? Pasta IS an art form, isn't it? Those were some of the questions facing the guests of the 2nd Annual WE CARE Fund "Sumptuous Sampling" on October 18  
 See DELIGHT Page 6

### FOCUS ON BANKRUPTCY LAW - begins on page 5

## Nassau Courts present Domestic Violence Awareness program

By DAN BAGNUOLA  
 Director of Community Relations  
 Nassau County Court System

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Nassau County Courts, in conjunction with The Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, recently hosted their annual program designed to educate the legal and public communities about issues relating to domestic violence.

The courts' ceremony was presided over by Nassau County Administrative Judge Anthony Marano and focused on the implementation of Nassau's new Integrated Domestic Violence Court. It featured Judge Meryl J. Berkowitz, the IDV Court's Presiding Judge, as its keynote speaker and Lawrence Schaffer, Esq., the court's Project Director. Other speakers included Stephen

W. Schlissel, Esq., a founding member of the matrimonial law firm of Schlissel, Ostrow, Karabatos, Poepplein & Fisher, and Lois Schwaebler, Esq., the Director of Legal Services for the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Boy Scout Kristofer Seibt led the Pledge of Allegiance and donated a mobile phone, one of many he collected in a project to provide phones for domestic violence victims, to the Coalition.

As part of the ceremony, Judge Marano formally introduced District Court Judge Margaret C. Reilly and Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq. as the newly installed co-chairs of the Women in the Courts Committee. "Judge Reilly and Mr. Schlissel bring a wealth of experience and legal knowledge to this committee," said Judge

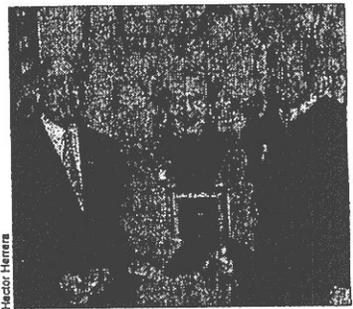
See AWARENESS, Page 9

**Join in Wassail!**  
 The Nassau County Bar Association  
 presents  
 The 72nd  
 Annual Wassail  
 Celebration  
 Thurs. Dec. 16, 2004  
 6 p.m. at Domus  
 Bring the  
 whole family!

## New Task Force to review Office of the County Clerk

NCBA has created a Task Force chaired by Secretary Peter Levy, to review procedures of the Nassau County Clerk's office. To that end we are soliciting comments from our members about your experiences with that office, citing examples of those procedures which affect your practice. Please be as explicit as possible. Your comments can be delivered to Mr. Levy, NCBA by e-mail, fax or mail by mid-November.

E-mail: info@nassaubar.org  
 Fax: (516) 747-4147  
 Mail: Nassau County Bar Association  
 5th & West Streets  
 Mineola, NY 11501



Hon. Claire I. Weinberg, out-going chair of the Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts is presented with an award for her outstanding leadership by Nassau County Administrative Judge Anthony Marano (r.) and newly appointed Co-Chair Stephen Schlissel, Esq. (l.)

about bankruptcy that every professional should be aware of. I will attempt to dismiss the most blatant misconceptions.

## AWARENESS ...

Continued From Page 1

knowledge to this committee," said Judge Marano. "Both have hands-on experience in dealing with matters of concern to this committee and I have no doubt that they will build upon Judge Weinberg's accomplishments and continue to move the committee forward, addressing issues of gender bias and diversity."

A special tribute was made to Judge Claire I. Weinberg who is the past chair of the committee. A video presentation of random photos of the judge with staff members and attorneys was played for the more than two-hundred guests who attended the program. Judge Weinberg received a standing ovation as Judge Marano and Stephen Schlissel presented her with a plaque for her outstanding leadership and tireless work as chair of the committee. "Judge Weinberg is a leader, a model and an inspiration," said Judge Marano.

IDV Courts are specialized Supreme Court Parts developed to better serve families in crisis. Currently, a case involving several aspects of family law often requires domestic violence victims and their families to appear in multiple courts to address their criminal, family, matrimonial and other legal concerns. IDV Courts are dedicated to the concept of "one family, one judge," providing for a single judge to hear all related cases involving domestic violence. In an effort to better serve families in crisis, the goal of the court is to modify the method in which justice system deals with families and children in crisis.

IDV Courts are currently operating in eleven locations around the State and Nassau County is one of five additional courts.

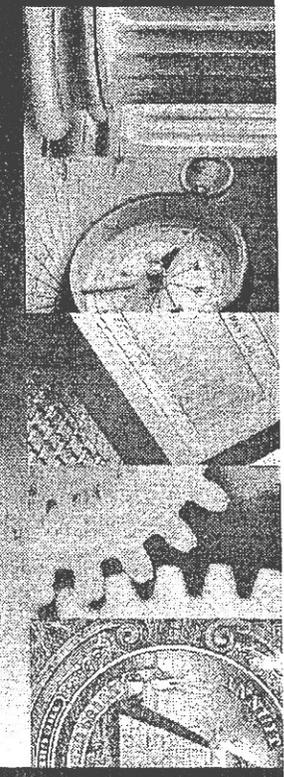
unnecessary delay, precludes options available to them which may help them reorganize their finances and permit them to keep part or all of their property.

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**JONATHAN LIPPMAN**  
Chief Administrative Judge

**JAN H. PLUMADORE**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
Courts Outside New York City

**HON. ANTHONY MARANO**  
Administrative Judge  
Nassau County

**NASSAU COUNTY INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT**

Nassau County has been selected as a site for the opening of an Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court by the end of 2004. In an effort to better serve families in crisis, New York State Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye announced in her 2003 State of the Judiciary a three-year comprehensive plan to expand Integrated Domestic Violence Courts (IDV Courts) across the state and appointed the Hon. Judy Harris Kluger as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge to spearhead that effort. IDV Courts are currently operating in eleven locations around the state and Nassau County is one of five additional courts currently in the planning phase.

***What is an Integrated Domestic Violence Court?***

IDV Courts are specialized Supreme Court Parts developed to better serve families in crisis. Our current court structure often requires domestic violence victims and their families to appear in multiple courts (in front of multiple judges) to address their criminal, family, matrimonial and other legal problems. IDV Courts, by contrast, are dedicated to the idea of "One family One judge," allowing a single judge to hear related cases involving domestic violence victims and their families. The goal of the court is to change the way the justice system treats families and children by promoting more informed judicial decision-making, creating consistency in orders of protection, and reducing court appearances, as well as providing enhanced services to victims and ensuring defendant accountability.

***Who will preside over the IDV Court?***

At this point in the planning process, Acting Supreme Court Justice Meryl Berkowitz has been designated as IDV Judge and will preside over the IDV Court. Because the model involves criminal (including violations), family and matrimonial cases from throughout the county, the Judge sitting in this Court must be a Justice of the Supreme Court.

***What cases will be included in the IDV Court?***

Related criminal, matrimonial and family court cases involving a single family may be eligible for the IDV Court. Allegations of domestic violence form the threshold requirement for entry into the part, with related cases in at least two of the three areas of law. Family Court cases may include custody/visitation disputes, J.D./PINS cases, as well as abuse and neglect cases. At this point, the threshold requirement for entry into IDV Court will be a pending criminal case involving allegations of domestic violence or a violation of an order of protection and a pending family offense matter in the Family Court. Since the Nassau IDV Court will be implemented in phases, case eligibility will gradually increase in the later phases.

For example, consider a family offense matter pending in Nassau County Family Court. If prior to or during the pendency of that action, a criminal complaint is filed in the District Court alleging violence between the parties, that criminal case along with the pending Family Court case would be eligible for the IDV Court. If a matrimonial action is commenced while the above mentioned cases are pending they would all be heard in the IDV Court. All court appearances would be coordinated and held in the same location, on the same day, before the same judge. Although the cases would be heard in the IDV Supreme Court part, each case will retain its individual integrity and not be consolidated with each other.

#### ***Do IDV Courts operate like Drug Courts?***

In general, IDV Courts have little in common with Drug Courts. There are no teams working together for a shared goal. There is no set program with sanctions. Individual cases are not consolidated but retain their individual identities. The goal of the IDV Court is centered around the coordination of related domestic violence cases, victim safety, defendant accountability and addressing the needs of families affected by domestic violence.

There are two components that bear some resemblance to the Drug Court. The first is the manner in which IDV Courts assist families in accessing community services and resources in a coordinated manner. Secondly, judicial monitoring of offenders is a cornerstone of the IDV Court.

#### ***When will the Nassau County IDV Court parts operate?***

It is anticipated that the IDV Court parts will operate daily.

#### ***How will the adjournment of cases into the IDV Court part occur?***

An order from the IDV Justice will be issued identifying eligible cases that will be transferred to the IDV Court part. However, it is anticipated that the IDV Court judge will have the discretion to decline to hear certain cases. For example, if a criminal complaint is filed on the eve of a custody trial scheduled in Family Court, the assigned IDV Court judge would likely decline to take over either case.

#### ***How will cases be identified? \_\_\_\_\_***

Case identification will be challenging and require the cooperation of law enforcement as well as the contributing courts. The process will include searching the Domestic Violence Registry and each court's databases at the earliest stages during the commencement of a case as well as identification by the prosecutor of relationships that qualify as domestic violence.

#### ***What's next?***

A planning group has been formed and regular meetings are being held with the goal of developing a detailed planning document that will serve as a guide for implementing the court by the end of 2004. The IDV Court will initially focus on criminal domestic violence cases that overlap with family court offense cases and gradually expand to include other related cases.

*For additional information, please contact Court Referee Lawrence M. Schaffer at 516-571-5876 or [lschaffe@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lschaffe@courts.state.ny.us).*

# What Every Man Can Do

To End Violence Against Women.



Wear A White Ribbon...

SPEAK OUT  
AGAINST VIOLENCE

**County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi Declares  
Third Week of October as White Ribbon Campaign Week.**

The White Ribbon Campaign will be held the third week of October. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Wearing a white ribbon will show that you are aware of the tragic consequences of all forms of violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign focuses on the action men can take in ending the abuse of women, since medical and police statistics show that 95% of abuse victims are women. Wearing a white ribbon represents a commitment to search for solutions to combat violence against women.

**If you are abused and want help, call  
Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence.  
Hotline # (516) 542-0404**

**What every man can do to eliminate violence  
against women:**

- Examine your own attitudes about women.
- Challenge men who use sexist jokes that degrade women.
- Speak out and oppose sexual harassment and abuse in society.
- Eliminate abusive behavior, such as controlling attitudes and actions, unwarranted criticism, derogatory remarks threats and physical force.

**IF YOU'RE HURTING THE ONES YOU LOVE, GET HELP.**

**Men Against Violence Against Women  
250 Fulton Ave., Mezz. West, Hempstead, NY 11550  
(516) 572-0700**



**Men Against Violence Against Women seeks  
to eradicate violence wherever it may occur.**

White ribbons are being distributed to encourage all men to publicly address and discuss the issue. Men Against Violence Against Women encourages all men to wear white ribbons and use every opportunity to speak out against violence and **be another man against violence against women.**

In the United States four million individuals are victims of Domestic Violence, and 95% are women. Many children in households where violence occurs are abused and neglected. Violence is a pattern of behavior, and is handed down from generation to generation. We can alter these statistics and end the abuse. Show the world what kind of man you are.

**Wear your white ribbon and speak out.**

**In an emergency dial 911**

# Domestic Violence Awareness Month Ceremony 10/27/04

## Sequence of Events

Deputy Chief Clerk **William Harkins** - Opening Proclamation

**Hon. Marano** - From Bench - Introduce **Kristofer Seibt** for the Pledge of Allegiance

**Hon. Marano** - From Podium - Welcome - Remarks  
Introduce **Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.**, Co- Chair NCJCWC

**Stephen Schlissel, Esq.** - From Podium - Welcome - Remarks Committee/Dom. Violence  
Introduce **Hon. Meryl J. Berkowitz**

**Hon. Berkowitz** - From Podium - Remarks IDV

**Stephen Schlissel, Esq.** - From Podium - Introduce **Lawrence M. Schaffer, Esq.**  
IDV Project Director

**Lawrence Schaffer Esq.** - From Podium - Remarks IDV

**Stephen Schlissel, Esq.** - From Podium - Introduce **Lois Schwaeber, Esq.** Director of Legal  
Services, NCCADV

**Lois Schwaeber, Esq.** - From Podium - Remarks

**Stephen Schlissel, Esq.** - From Podium - Remarks Re: **Hon. Weinberg**  
Announce 3 minute video (wait at podium),  
After video asks **Hon. Marano** to join him at podium,  
Ask **Hon. Claire I. Weinberg** to podium to receive plaque

**Hon. Weinberg** - From Podium - Remarks

**Stephen Schlissel, Esq.** - From Podium - Introduces **Kristofer Seibt**

**Kristofer Seibt** - From Podium - Remarks Re: Boy Scouts program to collect phones for  
Coalition Against Domestic Violence - Presents phone to **Lois Schwaeber, Esq.**

**Hon. Marano** - From Bench - Closing Remarks

Deputy Chief Clerk **William Harkins** - Closing Proclamation

*Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee*

**Hon. Hertha C. Trotto**  
Suffolk District Court  
400 Carleton Ave.  
Central Islip, NY 11722

631-853-7418



SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN in the COURTS

March 1, 2005

Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Chair  
New York State Judicial Committee  
On Women In The Courts  
25 Beaver Street  
Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

Re: Annual Report

Dear Justice Ellerin,

I am pleased to enclose, herewith, the Annual Report of the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee for 2004-2005.

As the report reflects, our Committee had a very active and successful year, due in large part to the support of our District Administrative Judge, Hon. H. Patrick Leis, III.

I look forward to our upcoming meeting and the opportunity to exchange ideas with Committees around New York State.

Very truly yours,

Hon. Hertha C. Trotto  
Acting County Court Judge  
Committee Chairperson

cc: Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Presiding Justice  
Supreme Court - Appellate Division, Second Dept.

Hon. H. Patrick Leis, III  
District Administrative Judge  
Suffolk County

## SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN in the COURTS

### 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Name & Address of Chair:

**Hon. Hertha C. Trotto**

Acting County Court Judge  
Suffolk County District Court  
400 Carleton Avenue  
Central, Islip, N.Y. 11722

E-mail: [HTROTTO@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:HTROTTO@courts.state.ny.us)

Tel. no.: 631-853-7418

Fax no.: 631-853-5401

**No. of Members:** 40      **No. of Meetings:** 9      **Average Attendance:** 25

**Use of Video Conferencing:** No. Last year we used telephone conferencing but found it was better to meet in person at one location.

**Composition of Committee:** Includes a diverse group of Judges, a Support Magistrate, Social Services Commissioner, Court personnel from various departments, individuals from local law schools, attorneys in private practice, women's services representatives, Domestic Violence Courts, County Family Violence Task Force, members of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, the Suffolk County Bar and the Amistad Suffolk County Black Bar Association, and members of the community.

#### **Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004 (October 2004)**

The Committee presented a program: *The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children*. After playing the compelling "Lisa 911 Audio Tape", opening remarks were made by Hon. H. Patrick Leis III, Suffolk District Administrative Judge and Hon. David Freundlich, Supervising Judge of the Family Court. A distinguished panel focused on education and improving results for children who witness or are affected by domestic violence. Presenters included a forensic psychologist, representatives of the local domestic violence coalition, a law guardian and the Presiding Judge of the Suffolk County Integrated Domestic Violence Court. Audience comment and questions followed the presentations. Participants included judges, attorneys, domestic violence agency workers, treatment agencies, the Police Commissioner, Probation Department, Social Services Department, Deputy Sheriffs, court employees from the Family Court, Supreme Court, IDV and Domestic Violence Courts and others interested in this very important issue. After the formal program, the committee provided coffee and cake during an informal networking session. Feedback was very positive.

### **Activities for Women's History Month 2004 (March 2004)**

The Committee offered a Celebration of *Women Employees in Research and Technology*, with a keynote address by Justice A. Gail Prudenti, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. The Hon. H. Patrick Leis III, Suffolk County Administrative Judge also addressed the standing room only crowd which consisted of court personnel, many bar association representatives and friends of the court. The program included an innovative slide show depicting the recognized women at work and a delightful medley of patriotic songs performed by the Hamptones, a group of young girls from Our Lady of the Hamptons. The focus of the program was to recognize the work of women in computer technology, library services, and court attorneys and law assistants. The most senior woman in each area gave a presentation recognizing women in their department and highlighted the advancement of women in each specialty as it developed in the court system. After the presentation of plaques, attendees enjoyed a reception sponsored by the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association. On display were the photos and historical time lines of women judges and support magistrates. Colorful pamphlets highlighting the women recognized at the event will become part of the permanent Women's History Collection.

### **Other activities in the Past Year:**

*Bagels and Books Breakfasts* (May and October 2004): Committee members participated in programs with the Children's Center Advisory Committee. Books were donated by local school children, local service organizations and the Suffolk County District Court Judges Association.

*Update on Matrimonial Parts* (May 2004) Hon. Marion T. McNulty, Supervising Matrimonial Judge addressed the Committee about operations in the Matrimonial Parts of the Court.

*Address by Judge Leis* (May 2004) Judge Leis, Suffolk Administrative Judge met with the Committee to share his views and discuss issues of Domestic Violence, families and children, as well as gender, cultural and racial diversity.

*Discussion of WIC Annual Committee Reports* (September 2004)

*October Breast Cancer Alert* (October 2004): Week long distribution of literature at Riverhead and Central Islip Courts in cooperation with the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association and "JALBCA".

*Prison Families Anonymous* (October 2004): Presentation from volunteer group that assists families and children of locally incarcerated individuals.

*Family Treatment Court* (November 2004) Hon. Joan Genchi, Family Court, updated the Committee on the successful progress of the Suffolk Family Treatment Court

*Thanksgiving Food Drive, Holiday Toy Drive, Mittens Tree* (October-December 2004)

*Holiday Luncheon* (December 2004)

*Special Guest Jill Goodman, Esq.* (January 2005): Counsel to N.Y.S WIC Committee addressed our local committee on two very interesting topics: Domestic Violence viewed as a Public Health Issue and Prostitution and Trafficking of Women and Girls. At the end of her presentation a sub-committee was formed to look into Prostitution issues and to contact the OCA appointed Committee also reviewing this area.

*Healthy Heart Alert* (February 2005): A new initiative was undertaken at the suggestion of one of our committee members. Volunteers from our committee distributed literature (bi-lingual) obtained from the Heart Association and Health Department. Nurses from the local University Hospital provided free blood pressure screening to court employees, litigants and attorneys. Red ribbons donated by a committee member were distributed to all participants. As a result of the screening two individuals were referred for immediate medical attention.

*"Project Assist"*: This is an ongoing information service providing brochures about all types of non-profit, non-legal services to litigants and others who come to the court. Many of the materials are bi-lingual or in foreign languages. Pamphlet kiosks are located in Central Islip and Riverhead courts.

**Partnerships with other groups:** The Committee has worked with the Suffolk County Bar Association, Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, Amistad Suffolk County Black Bar Association, Columbian Lawyers Association of Suffolk County and Suffolk County Matrimonial Bar Association. We have also worked with Touro Law School and various Domestic Violence agencies, the Children's Center Advisory Committee, the Department of Social Services, the Heart Association, the NYS and Suffolk County Health Departments and our local University Hospital.

**Pro Bono:** Pro-Bono services in Suffolk County are provided through the Pro-Bono Project which is sponsored jointly by Nassau Suffolk Law Services and the Suffolk County Bar Association. Most cases are matrimonial (both plaintiff and defendant) and bankruptcy. In past years our committee has collaborated with Nassau-Suffolk Law Services in pro-bono training.

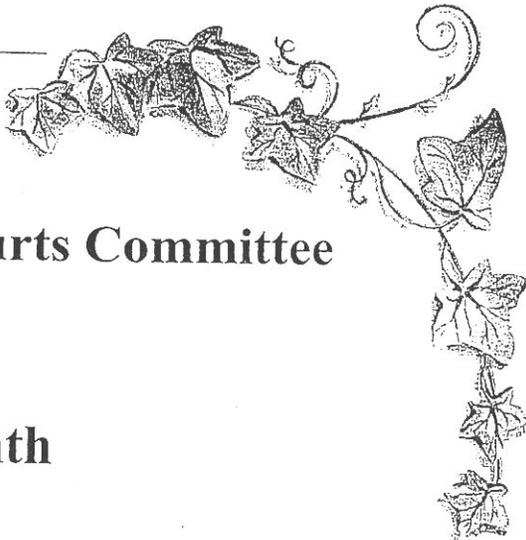
**Plans for next year:** In May 2005 we will host a Child Support Roundtable. In March 2005, we are presenting a new program for Women's History month. It is an essay contest for high school students with prize money donated by Touro Law School and local bar association. The theme is *Women Change America* and we look forward to reporting about this event next year.

**Difficulties your committee faces:** Although individual committee members and the Administrative Judge's Office have generously assisted the committee with operational expenses, it would be wonderful if each committee had a small budget from OCA to use in presenting free programs which we believe benefit many people.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Hon. Hertha C. Trotto, Chair*

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**Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee**

invites you to celebrate

**Women's History Month**

recognizing

**WOMEN COURT EMPLOYEES AT WORK IN  
LEGAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Supreme Court Law Library  
Management Information Systems Department  
Court Attorneys**

*Keynote Speaker*

*Hon. A. Gail Prudenti*

*Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department*

**March 1, 2004**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Central Jury Room  
Second Floor, Cohalan Court Complex**

Refreshments will be served

RSVP Kathy Logiudice at 853-7418 or  
[klogiudi@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:klogiudi@courts.state.ny.us) by February 25, 2004



# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 1, 2004

## Program

- Presentation of the Colors - **Honor Guard**
- Pledge of Allegiance - lead by **Captain Larry Mitchell**
- "American Tribute/ National Anthem" - **The Hamptones**, Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School, Southhampton, NY
- Welcome - **Hon. Hertha C. Trotto**, Chairperson, Women in the Courts Committee
- Opening remarks - **Hon. H. Patrick Leis III**, District Administrative Judge
- Keynote Speaker - **Hon. A. Gail Prudenti**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division Second Department
- Lynn C. Fullshire**, Principal Law Librarian, Supreme Court Law Library
- Barbara Kenny, Esq.**, Principal Law Clerk, Supreme Court Law Department
- Bonnie Schmitt**, Principal LAN Administrator, Management Information Systems
- Closing remarks - **Hon. H. Patrick Leis III**, District Administrative Judge
- "You'll Never Walk Alone," **The Hamptones**
- Adjournment - **Hon. Hertha C. Trotto**

Refreshments to follow  
Compliments of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association

SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE  
Hon. Hertha C. Trotto, Chairperson  
Women's History Month Committee: Susan C. Fox, Kathy Leppla, Co-chairs;  
Lynn Fullshire, Cheryl Zimmer, Kathy Logiuidice, Martha Rogers,  
Carol Stewart, Barbara Mehrman, Hon. Isabel Buse



# The Full Court Press

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
**Suffolk County Courts / 10th Judicial District**

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTS CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By: WARREN G. CLARK, Court Attorney-Referee

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On March 1, 2004 the Suffolk County courts and the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee celebrated National Women's History Month in a special ceremony held at the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip. The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Hertha C. Trotto, Chair of the Women in the Courts Committee and included opening remarks by the Honorable H. Patrick Leis III, District Administrative Judge and featured the Honorable A. Gail Prudenti, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, who delivered the keynote address.

This year, special recognition was given to women court employees who work in the legal research and technology areas of the court, such as in the law departments, in the law libraries, as law clerks to judges, as court attorney-referees and in the management information systems department. Chosen to represent the women working in these areas were: Barbara Kenny, Supreme Court Law Department; Lynn C. Fullshire, Supreme Court Law Library and Bonnie A. Schmitt, Management Information Systems Department.

In his opening remarks to those in attendance, Justice Leis praised the many accomplishments of women in the courts who have brought an infusion of new ideas and concepts to our court system. These include the creation of problem solving courts like drug treatment courts and integrated domestic violence courts which have been created by the Chief Judge of the State of New York, the Honorable Judith S. Kaye. He thanked the women in the court's committee for its role in improving the courthouse community and for bringing a different perspective to solving the problems faced by the courts; a caring, gentle approach with special emphasis on family and children's issues.

Justice Leis observed, "All of the women working in the courts in the areas of legal research and technology deserve our highest praise and recognition on this very special day. Their commitment to excellence each and every day serves to inspire us all. They truly symbolize what Women's History Month is all about." Justice Leis also made special mention of the

*(Continued on page 2)*



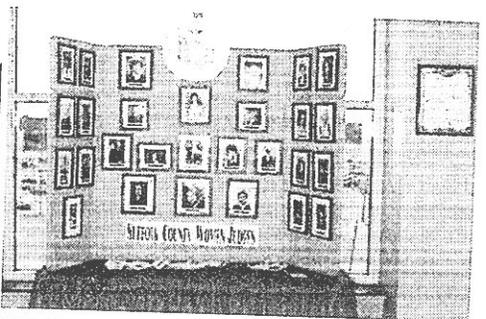
Pictured left to right:  
 Hon. H. Patrick Leis III,  
 Hon. A. Gail Prudenti,  
 Barbara Kenny,  
 Lynn C. Fullshire and  
 Bonnie A. Schmitt

(Continued from page 1)

tone of professionalism and caring which was imparted upon the Suffolk County courts by its former Administrative Judge and keynote speaker, Presiding Justice A. Gail Prudenti.

In her keynote address, Justice Prudenti touched upon the many accomplishments of women in the Suffolk County courts over the past thirty years. She pointed out that the women who are being honored work mostly in anonymity as far as the public is concerned but, as the judges know, without whom the system would grind to a halt. Justice Prudenti further remarked, "The women court employees who work in our legal research and technology departments are where they are because of their outstanding abilities, their incredible competence and their awesome knowledge in their areas of expertise. Thank you for all that you bring to the court system and the people of Suffolk County, day in, day out; year in, year out. From the bottom of my heart you have my personal thanks and appreciation."

In commemoration of Women's History Month, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee also sponsored a pictorial display of the honorees as well as current and former women judges and justices and support magistrates who have served on the bench in Suffolk County. The exhibit was on display during the month of March on the second floor mezzanine of the Cohalan Court Complex. ❧

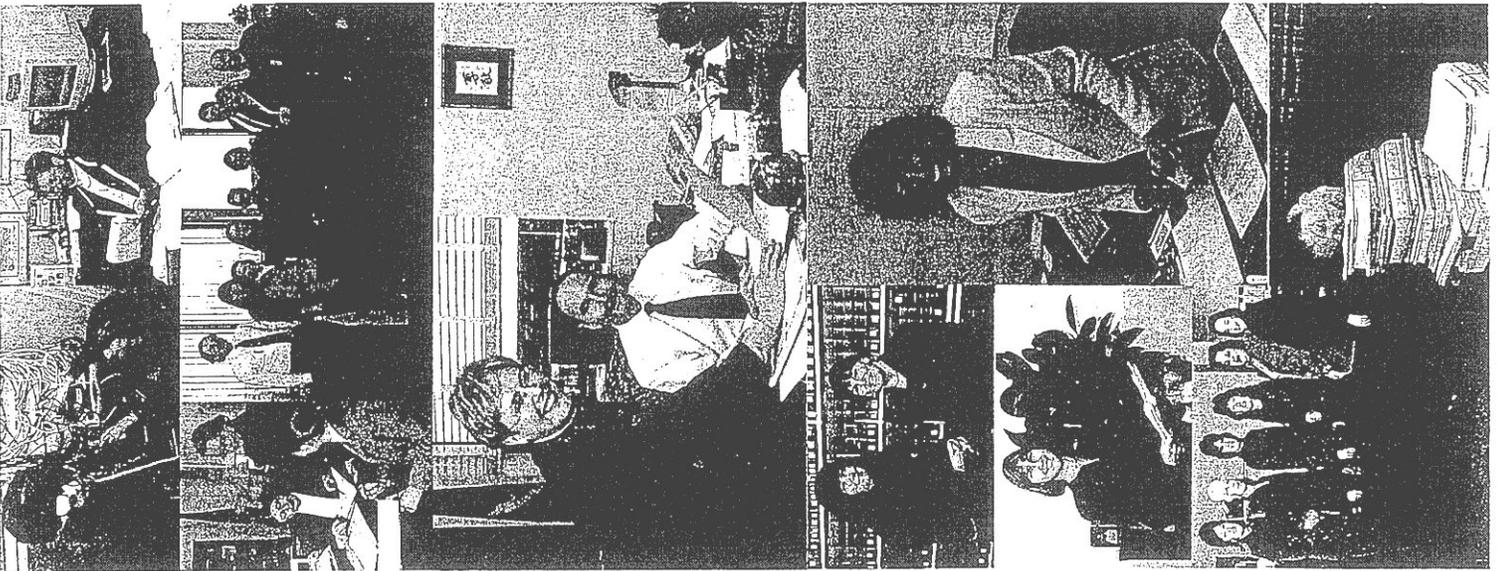
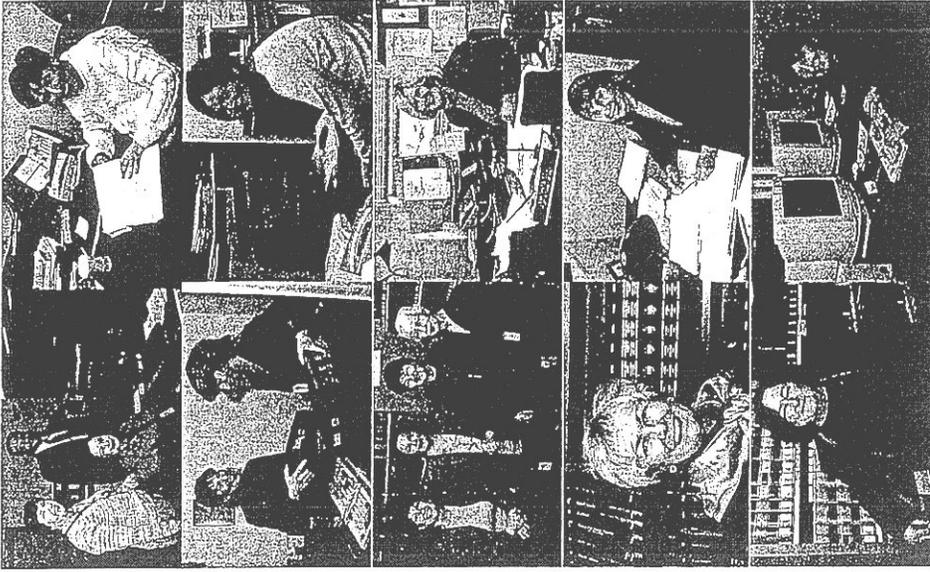


Celebrating  
Women  
in  
Research  
and  
Technology



March 2004

Women's  
History Month  
Celebration





## Management Information Systems

Management Information Systems (MIS) is responsible for providing the Suffolk County Courts with cutting edge technology. Over the past ten years the MIS staff has grown to a team of 9 whose goal is to enhance and expedite court operations through the use of technology. The MIS staff provides phone and onsite technical support and instruction to judicial and non-judicial court personnel on a daily basis. In addition, they are responsible for implementing policies and standards set by the Division of Technology to safeguard the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data accessed by over 900 computers within Suffolk County.

The duties of this department continue to expand as new technology evolves to expedite case resolution both in the back office and in the courtroom. Increased reliance by court personnel upon case management programs, online legal research, video conferencing, e-mail and other technical innovations, mandates that the MIS staff work closely with the Chief Clerks and department managers to assess the needs of the court. The MIS department works under the direct supervision and guidance of the District Administrative Judge and Executive Assistant in planning and implementing automation projects throughout the Suffolk County Courts.

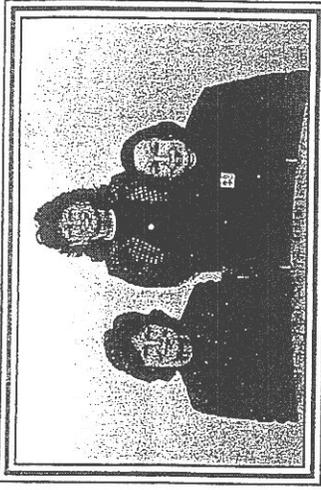


## Court Attorneys

More than 40 female attorneys work as Law Clerks, Court Attorney-Referees or Law Department Attorneys in the Suffolk County Courts. These attorneys provide the highest level of legal services as they research and analyze the complex issues arising in court cases. Their work involves civil and criminal cases, motions, guardianship matters, commercial and matrimonial cases.

Law Clerks provide confidential assistance to individual Judges, researching and drafting opinions and jury charges, providing procedural assistance, and conducting conferences with litigants. Court Attorneys staff the Law Departments of the Supreme and County, Family, Surrogate's, and District Courts. Court Attorney-Referees may conduct hearings, take testimony, and report finding of facts to a Judge.

Technology has dramatically impacted the research capabilities of these attorneys, providing extensive automated legal research options, including internet access to treatises, case law, statutes and local municipal codes. Computers also provide instant access to legal forms, information on pending cases, and daily tracking of specific assignments.



## Supreme Court Law Library

Suffolk's Supreme Court Law Library is responsible for providing legal research and reference services to the courts, bar and public. There are three libraries, two in Riverhead and one in Central Islip, housing a collection of approximately 150,000 volumes, as well as on-line access to legal research services and 60 Cd-Rom legal databases.

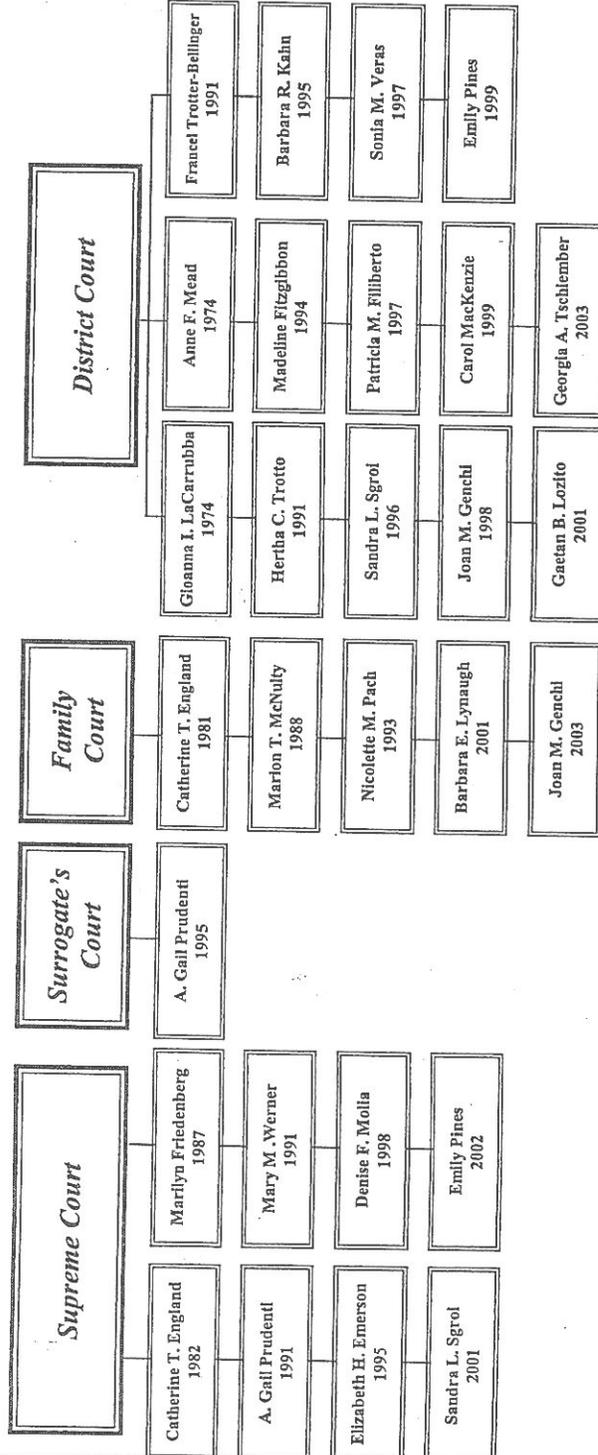
In addition to the three Law Libraries, staff coordinate 90 chambers collections as well as reference plans for the law departments of each Court. The Law Library has kept pace with technological innovations, with a centralized, fully automated technical services department handling all aspects of purchasing, vouchers, ledgers and serial control. Library holdings are searchable in an online catalog, LION, which is available both in the libraries and over the Internet. The Law Library provides legal reference services and instruction on both online services and Cd-Rom databases at each library location, and offers Lexis, Westlaw and LoisLaw to the public.

The Suffolk library staff has been chosen to participate in a new Virtual Reference Desk project, which will provide real time online reference help, application sharing, and web browser sharing to the Courts and the public.

# WOMEN JUDGES AND JUSTICES OF SHERK COUNTY

## Appellate Division - Second Department

A. Gail Prudenti  
2001



*Town & Village  
Women  
Justices*

**East Hampton Town**

Catherine A. Cahill (1994)  
Lisa R. Rana (2004)

**Riverhead Town**

Syrena Stackpole (1931)

**Town of Shelter Island**

Katherine Z. Pope (1997)  
Helen Rosenbloom (2004)

**Southampton Town**

Deborah E. Kooperstein (1993)  
Barbara L. Wilson (1998)

**Southold Town**

Louisa P. Evans (1994)

**Village of Amityville**

Debra Ann Urbano DiSalvo (2003)

**Village of Babylon**

Jennifer Henry (2002)

**Village of Bellport**

Lynn A. Green (1990)

**Village of the Branch**

Jacqueline Lupichuk Skubik (1988)

**Village of Head of the Harbor**

Anne Bowns Sayre (1989)  
Ellen Dee Fishkin (1995)

**Village of Huntington Bay**

Joan Geiler (1973)

**Village of Lake Grove**

Helen Thompson (1989)  
Theresa Whelan (2002)

**Village of Northport**

Deirdre M. Butterfield (1998)

**Village of Quogue**

Kittric D. Motz (1991)

**Village of Patchogue**

Barbara K. Howie (1999)

**Village of Poquott**

Gigi Spellman (2003)

**Village of Saltaire**

Rhonda Kirschner (2002)

*Suffolk County Family Court  
Support Magistrates*

**Family Court  
Hearing Examiners  
(1985-2003)**

Isabel E. Buse (1985)  
Carol Casher (1985)  
Lois Weinstein (1985)  
Cheryl Zimmer (1990)  
Madeline Fitzgibbon (1993)  
Barbara Lynaugh (1993)  
Elaine Crosson (1995)  
Aletha Fields-Ferarro (1997)  
Denise Livrieri (1999)  
Jill Plosky (2000)  
Valerie Sherman (2001)  
Jennifer Buetow (2002)

**Family Court  
Support Magistrates  
(Enacted 2003)**

Jennifer Buetow (2003)  
Isabel E. Buse (2003)  
Aletha Fields-Ferraro (2003)  
Denise Livrieri (2003)  
Jill Plosky (2003)  
Valerie Sherman (2003)



*The Cohalan Court Children's Center*

*Invites you to a*

# *Bagels and Books Breakfast*

*Bring a Book to Support Children's Literacy*

TUESDAY MAY 4TH, 2004

9:00 A.M.

AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER IN THE

COHALAN DISTRICT COURT BUILDING

Bring a new book and have a bagel with us.

Please join us even without a book!!

RSVP to Claudia by 4/30/04: 631-853-4509

# BAGEL FOR BOOKS - CHILDREN'S CENTER

By: VICTOR V. ROSSOMANO, Chief Clerk, County Court

On May 4, 2004, the Children's Center at the Cohalan Court Complex, in Central Islip, held a Bagel for Books event. The event is held to collect new hard covered books that are distributed to children who are cared for at the center. The collection and distribution of books is part of the New York State court's Children's Center Literacy Project. The Family and Children's Association graciously provided the bagels and coffee for all who attended.

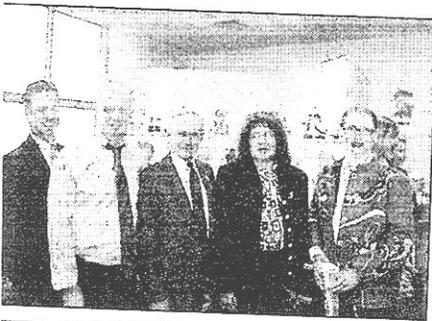
The East Islip High School Library donated several dozen books. Valerie Ware and Wendy R. Turkington, Library Media Specialists from the East Islip High School, coordinated the collection of books and delivered the books to the Children's Center. The District Court Judge's Association donated \$400 for the purchase of books for the Children's Center and the gift was presented to the center by the Honorable Hertha C. Trotto and the Honorable Gaetan B. Lozito. The Family and Children's Association accepted the books that were donated and will distribute the books to the children.

The Children's Center was established pursuant to an initiative of the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children and was spearheaded by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye. This center is one of many that exist within court facilities throughout the state. The purpose of the center is to provide a safe haven for children within our various court complexes.

The Children's Center offers drop-in child care for litigants in our courts. These children are left with trained staff who are sensitive to the needs of children and families in crisis. The children encounter a room full of toys and games and a caring staff away from the courtroom scene.

Parents who have court business in the District Court, Supreme Court or the Probation Department may leave their children at the center. Parents are able to attend to their court related business while their children play, sing and learn in a healthy environment.

Bagel and Books events are held twice each year. Our next event will be in November 2004. Watch for the flyers. All are invited to attend. Please bring in a new hard covered book for a child and have a bagel and coffee on us.☘



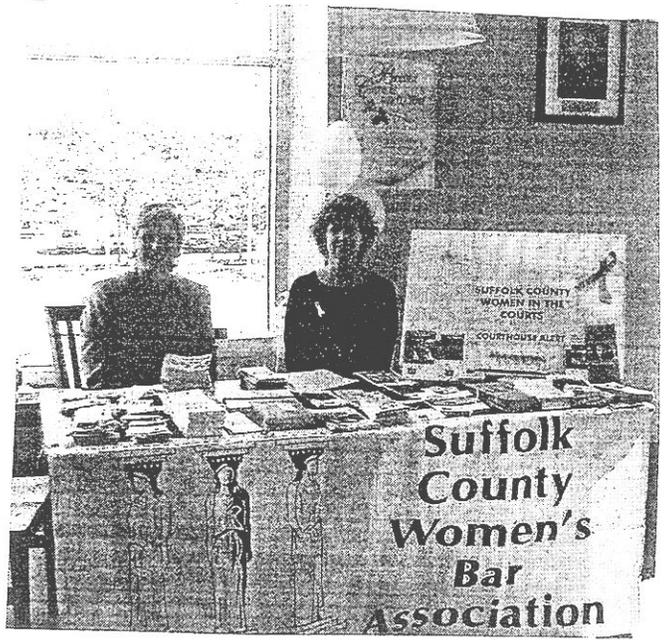


Sept. 04  
meeting



**SUFFOLK CO. WOMEN'S BAR ASSOC.  
JUDGES AND LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT  
SUFFOLK WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL COURTHOUSE ALERT!**



*In Recognition*  
*of*  
**National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Honorable H . Patrick Leis III  
District Administrative Judge, County of Suffolk  
and  
Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

*present*

***The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children***

**Tuesday, October 26, 2004**

**2:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Supreme Court**

**Ceremonial Courtroom**

**Cohalan Court Complex, Central Islip**

**Featured Speakers include:**

Honorable Joseph Farneti  
Presiding Justice, Integrated Domestic Violence Court

Professor Daniel O'Leary, Ph.D.  
State University of New York at Stony Brook

Barbara Walsh Clarke Esq.  
Legal Aid Society, Law Guardian Bureau

Cindy Agals MSW and Katie Holmes CSW  
Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

For further information and to reserve seats , please call Linda  
O'Donohoe at 854-9748 or email [Linda.Odonohoe@co.suffolk.ny.us](mailto:Linda.Odonohoe@co.suffolk.ny.us)  
Seats must be reserved by 10/19/04

Refreshments will be served



State of New York  
**Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

George E. Pataki  
Governor

Charlotte A. Watson  
Executive Director

### **The Lisa Tape: Background Information**

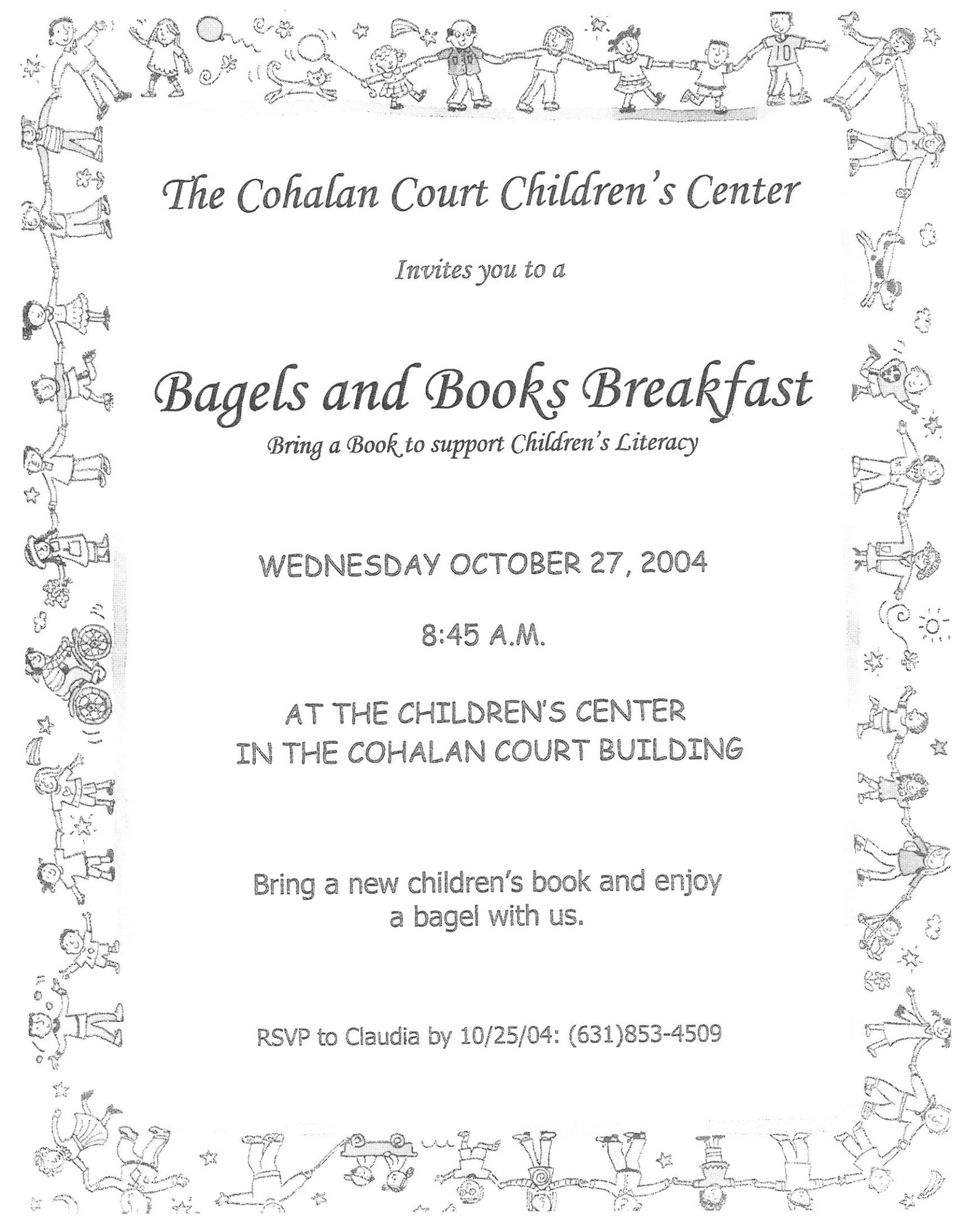
San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn, who provided us with this recording of a 1992 emergency call, urges its listeners to remember that "misdemeanors are where the battle is won or lost." Lisa, the six-year-old girl who made the call, has consented to its public release in the hopes that it will "help people understand what things are like for kids."

As is evident on the tape, Lisa believes that her stepfather, Pierre is drunk. He *had* in fact, been drinking over the course of the day, and although in legal terms, he was relatively sober, the alcohol had aggravated his speech impediment, which led Lisa to conclude that he was drunk.

During this incident, Lisa's mother Cindy was attempting to prevent Pierre from taking their newborn son from the home. In the course of the argument, Pierre tried to wrestle the baby away from Cindy, slapped her several times, and finally choked her until she released the child.

At one point, Lisa's four-year-old sister Drea attempted to intervene in the struggle, and was pushed to the floor by Pierre. The communication breaks off when Pierre, realizing that Lisa has called the police, tears the phone away from her.

Responding officers charged Pierre with assault and child endangerment, took photographs of the scene and of Cindy's visible injuries, and statements from Cindy and Lisa. Prosecutors subpoenaed the 911 tape and transcript, and Pierre pled to the charges. He served almost a year in jail.



*The Cohalan Court Children's Center*

*Invites you to a*

*Bagels and Books Breakfast*

*Bring a Book to support Children's Literacy*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27, 2004

8:45 A.M.

AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER  
IN THE COHALAN COURT BUILDING

Bring a new children's book and enjoy  
a bagel with us.

RSVP to Claudia by 10/25/04: (631)853-4509

# **PRISON FAMILIES ANONYMOUS**

## **A Project of F·E·G·S**

### **Support Information Connections**

***Strengthening families of loved ones in prison or jail***

**PFA provides:**

- **Vital information to help individuals and families understand and navigate the criminal justice system**
- **Support groups offering a safe, non-judgmental space where those in similar situations can connect**
- **Assistance to families in crisis**
- **Information to families on their loved one's civil rights**
- **Linkages to resources -- legal, health-related, employment, housing, etc.**

***PFA was formed in 1974 by two women whose loved ones were incarcerated. The founders sought to insure that those in this situation would not have to face their fears alone.***

**PFA is funded by the Long Island Community Foundation, and is a project of F·E·G·S.**

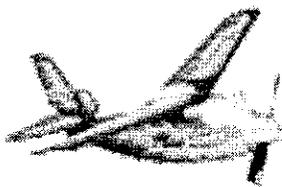
**For information, call  
(516) 496-7550**

# FAMILY COURT TOY DRIVE

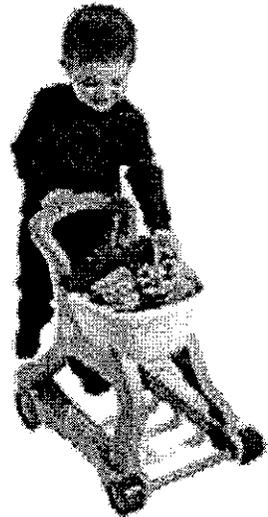
New Toys are needed for the children  
of Suffolk County who visit Family Court.

Each year approximately 500 children  
walk through the doors of Family Court.

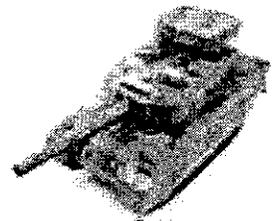
Many are frightened. A toy goes a long way  
to ease their pain.



Won't you join us in donating a  
New Toy?

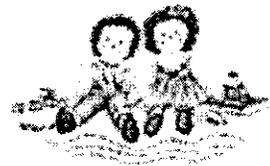


Please send your donations to:  
Suffolk County Family Court  
Cohalan Court Complex  
Attn: Kerri Lechtrecker



For more information, please contact:

Patricia Anton  
Deputy Outreach Coordinator  
853-7626



# *Women in the Courts*

## *Holiday Luncheon*

*Date:* December 2, 2004

*Time:* Noon

*Place:* Irish Coffee Pub  
Carleton Ave,  
Central Islip, N.Y.

*Cost:* \$30.00

R.S.V.P.  
VICTOR ROSSOMANO  
123 MOBREY LANE  
SMITHTOWN, N.Y. 11787

*Cash or Check Payable to Victor*

**NO LATER THAN 11/24/04**

**WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE**

*Hon. H. Patrick Leis  
Administrative Judge*

*Hon. Hertha C. Trotto  
Committee Chair*

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON MENU**

**APPETIZER**

*Penne a la Vodka*

**SALAD**

*Caesar Salad*

**ENTREE** (choose one)

*(all served with roasted potato and vegetable)*

*Sliced Steak Forestiere*

*Chicken Francaise*

*Grilled Salmon with Lobster Crust*

**DESSERT** (choose one)

*Warm Apple Crumb a la Mode*

*Raspberry Chocolate Mousse Coupe*

**SERVED WITH COFFEE, TEA, DECAFFEINATED**

**WISHING YOU AND YOURS A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Holiday Luncheon



Dec '04



Dec '04

# TO ALL SUFFOLK COUNTY COURT EMPLOYEES



HONORABLE H. PATRICK LEIS III

AND

SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE

♥ PRESENT ♥

# HEART HEALTH - 2005



MONDAY - FEBRUARY 14, 2005

9 AM to 3 PM

RIVERHEAD: ARTHUR M. CROMARTY CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING  
FIRST FLOOR • LOBBY

CENTRAL ISLIP: JOHN P. COHALAN COURT COMPLEX  
SECOND FLOOR • MEZZANINE

AVAILABLE TO ALL: *Free Heart Health Literature & Materials*

- and -

*Free Blood Pressure Screenings*

*10 am to 2 pm*

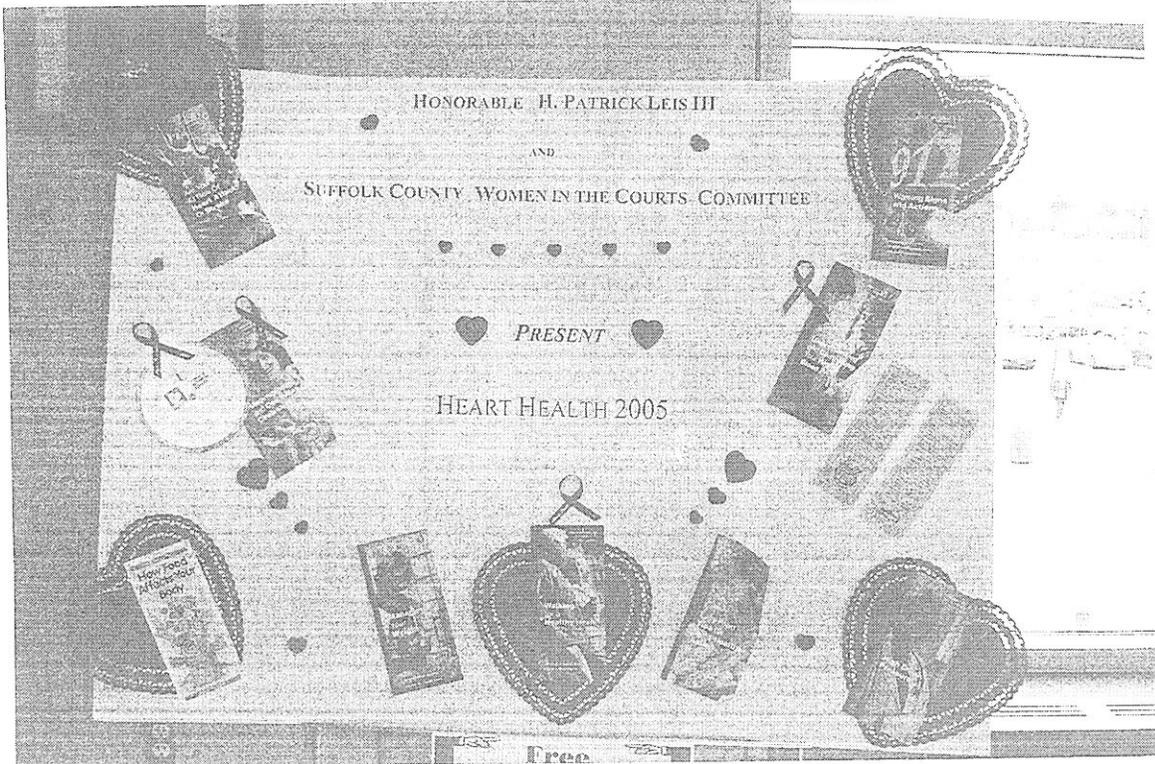
*Available on a 1<sup>st</sup> Come 1<sup>st</sup> Served Basis*

*Courtesy of Stony Brook University Hospital*

**On February 14<sup>th</sup> Stop By & Wear Red to show you "Have a Heart"**

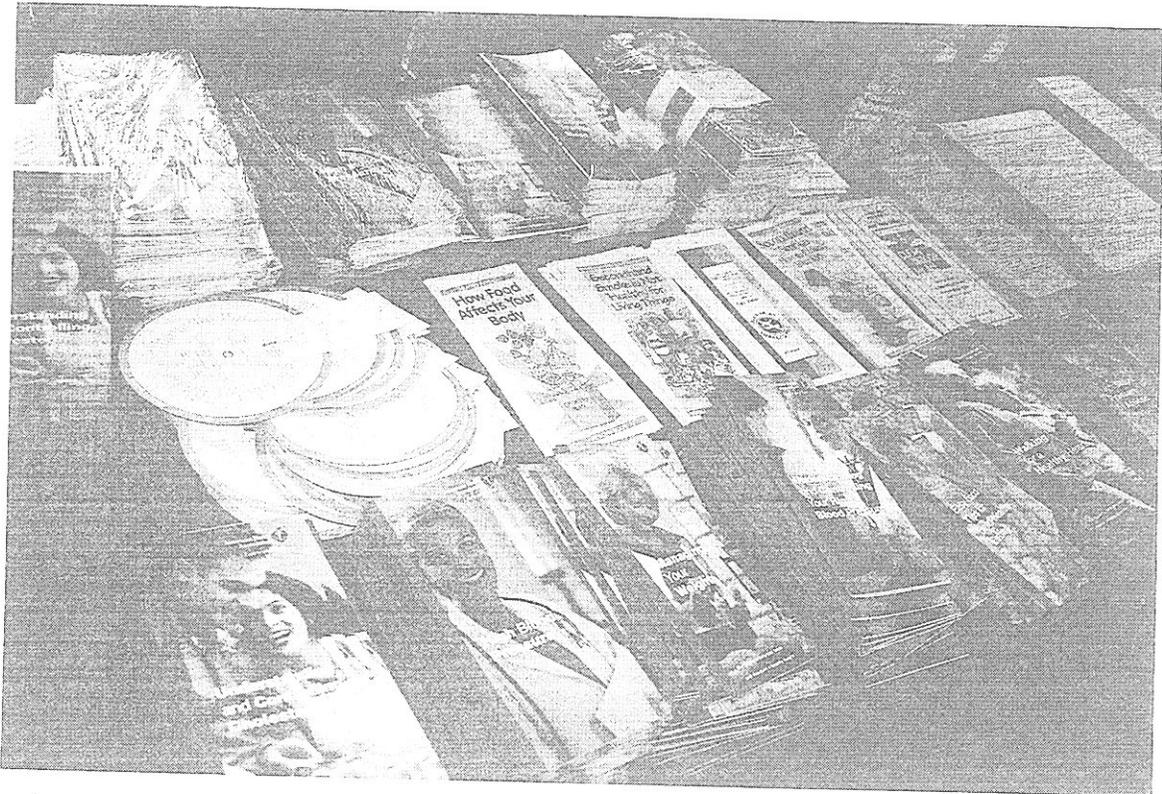


# Heart Health 2005



7/6/05









**Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee**  
invites you to celebrate

**Women's History Month**  
recognizing

**Suffolk County High School Students' Participation**  
in  
**"Women Change America"**

**Essay Competition and Art Exhibit**

Honored Speakers

**Hon. H. Patrick Leis III**  
**District Administrative Judge**

and

**Dean Lawrence Raful**  
**Touro Law Center**

**March 8, 2005 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom**  
**Cohalan Court Complex, Central Islip**

prizes sponsored by:

*Touro Law Center,  
Suffolk County Women's Bar Association  
Suffolk County Bar Association Women in the Law Committee  
Amistad Suffolk County Black Bar Association  
Columbian Lawyers Association of Suffolk County  
Suffolk County Matrimonial Bar Association*

**Refreshments will be served**

**RSVP by March 1, 2005**  
**Donna Murnane 853-4618 or [dmurnane@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:dmurnane@courts.state.ny.us)**



# ***SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE***

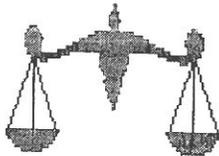
CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 🍷 MARCH 2005

BY INVITING

***ALL SUFFOLK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADES  
NINE THROUGH TWELVE***

TO PARTICIPATE IN AN

**\* ESSAY CONTEST \***



## ***WOMEN CHANGE AMERICA***

**500 WORDS OR LESS RECOGNIZING AMERICAN WOMEN WHO HAVE TRANSFORMED  
CULTURE, HISTORY AND POLITICS THROUGH THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELDS  
OF LAW, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT**

### **TOP PRIZE - \$350**

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE CATEGORY.....\$350  
JUNIOR/SENIOR CATEGORY.....\$350

### **SECOND PRIZE - \$200**

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE CATEGORY.....\$200  
JUNIOR/SENIOR CATEGORY.....\$200

**ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES FOR PARTICIPATING  
- AND -**

**SELECTED WINNERS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND A DAY  
SHADOWING A JUDGE OR LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR**

**PRIZES SPONSORED BY: TOURO LAW CENTER, SUFFOLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
WOMEN IN THE LAW COMMITTEE, SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION,  
AMISTAD SUFFOLK COUNTY BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, COLUMBIAN LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, SUFFOLK COUNTY MATRIMONIAL BAR  
ASSOCIATION**

PLEASE SUBMIT ENTRY WITHOUT IDENTIFYING MARKS ON ESSAY ITSELF. ALL ENTRIES SHOULD HAVE A  
COVER SHEET ATTACHED INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

**• STUDENT'S NAME • ADDRESS • PHONE NUMBER • SCHOOL • GRADE**

**MAIL ENTRIES TO:** SUSAN C. FOX, CHAIRPERSON  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH COMMITTEE  
C/O SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
400 CARLETON AVENUE  
CENTRAL ISLIP, NEW YORK 11722

**TO BE ELIGIBLE ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 10, 2005**

WOMEN CHANGE AMERICA **500 WORDS OR LESS** Recognizing American Women who have transformed culture, history and politics through their leadership in the fields of law, politics and government.

<b>Judging Criteria</b>			
	<b>Maximum Points Available</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1. Content (40)</b> a. Essay effectively conveys message on how women change America (see theme above) b. Research and historical content is accurate c. deduction for exceeding word limit	20  20  -10		
<b>2. Originality and Communication (40)</b> a. Do vocabulary and word usage enhance the thesis? b. Does the essay have a creative approach? c. Writing style is easy to read and follow d. Writing style is original and interesting	10  10  10  10		
<b>3. Grammar (20)</b> a. Words are spelled correctly b. Words are used correctly c. Sentences and paragraphs are constructed correctly. d. Essay includes an introduction, body, and conclusion	5 5 5 5		

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE # \_\_\_\_\_

Essay # \_\_\_\_\_



*Gender Bias Committee of the  
Family Courts of the City of New York*

**Hon. Helen Sturm**  
Family Court  
60 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10013

646-386-5119

New York City Family Court  
Gender Bias Report  
2004-2005

Hon. Helen Sturm, Chair

Over the last year I have represented the gender bias committee in numerous domestic violence lectures and seminars where judicial input was sought. The meetings have integrated the numerous disciplines involved in domestic violence issues and have been attended by judges, advocates, prosecutors, police officers, mental health personnel and community representatives.

The meetings have included lectures and demonstrations and have emphasized the need for all participants in domestic violence matters to understand the evidentiary requirements necessary to sustain a domestic violence finding, as well as the psychological/emotional aspect of domestic violence orders on children and families.

I have also been active in promoting student internships in the courts. Interns have been encouraged to observe domestic violence proceedings, read relevant data, conduct research if appropriate, and to participate in forums to discuss their experiences and impressions.

I had hoped to coordinate a mock domestic violence trial this past year with participants to include high school students, court personnel and attorney's who work in the domestic violence field. Unfortunately, due to ongoing construction problems at 60 Lafayette Street, I have been unable to do so, but am optimistic about the forthcoming year.



*New York City Civil Court Committee*

**Hon. Maria Milin**  
Housing Court Judge  
111 Centre Street  
New York, New York 10013

212- 374-8469

*New York City Criminal Court Anti-Bias Committee*

**Hon. Deborah Kaplan**  
NYC Criminal Court  
111 Centre Street, Room 550  
New York, NY 10013

212-374-8483

## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005

Name of the Committee:

Gender Fairness Committee of the Criminal Court of the City of New York

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair:

Hon. Deborah Kaplan  
Civil Court of the City of New York  
111 Centre Street  
New York, New York 10013  
tel: 646-386-5566  
fax: 212-374-6321  
[dkaplan@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:dkaplan@courts.state.ny.us)

No. Members: 9 No. of Meetings: 4 Average Attendance: varies  
Use of Video Conferencing? no

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.):

The Committee is currently comprised of judges, court attorneys, administrators, defense and prosecution attorneys. We are in the process of seeking advocates to add to our roster.

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness:

In June 2004, the Bronx Criminal Court and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV) held a lecture entitled *Verbal Harassment and other Domestic Violence Related Offenses*. Hon. John M. Leventhal from Brooklyn Supreme Court and Hon. Megan Tallmer from Bronx Supreme Court were the guest speakers. The lecture was designed to educate attorneys and domestic violence advocates on the types of offenses and issues currently being litigated in domestic violence parts. Continuing Legal Education credits were provided for the attorneys.

In October 2004, the Brooklyn Criminal Court Domestic Violence Awareness Committee held a program entitled *Domestic Violence Police Officers*. The program's purpose was to educate the audience on 1) who these officers are, 2) what they do and 3) what issues they face. The panel included Kathy Ryan, the NYPD Inspector for Domestic Violence, as well as NYPD Domestic Violence Officers for Kings County, and the Senior Director of Safe Horizons' Domestic Violence Police Programs. The target audience included judicial and non-judicial staff of Criminal Court, victim advocates, the district attorney's office, the defense bar, Safe Horizons, and the general public.

The Brooklyn Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court (YODVC) made four presentations this past year. In April 2004, Beth Havericak of Kings Criminal Court, Kristine Herman of the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and Ethelie Aruotur of the Kings District Attorney's office presented information on YODVC to the Domestic Violence and Youth Coalition. The presentation was intended to educate attorneys, victim advocates, member of the Board of Education and court staff on the Brooklyn Criminal Court's procedures for handling domestic violence cases where the defendant is between the ages of 16-19 years old.

In September of 2004, YODVC presented a program to the Brooklyn Domestic Violence Task Force, entitled *Innovation and Working with Teens*. The audience included victim advocates, police officers, attorneys and court staff.

In December of 2004 and January of 2005, Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik of Kings Criminal Court and Kristine Herman of the CCI made a presentation to the Brooklyn Defenders Services and Legal Aid Society, respectively, to inform the defense bar on YODVC.

#### Activities for Women's History:

In celebration of Women's History Month the Criminal Court has once again sponsored an essay contest, entitled *Gender Fairness in the Criminal Justice System: A Television Viewer's Point of View*. The annual contest, open to both junior high and high school students seeks to both raise awareness and educate young people on the roles of women in the criminal justice system. Contest winners will (1) have their essay published in the *Second Call*, the official newsletter of the Criminal Court; (2) sit on the bench with a Criminal Court Judge for a day; (3) receive a certificate of Award from the Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York. A copy of the essay memorandum is attached for the Committee's review.

The Criminal Court is pleased to host a lunchtime forum on the pervasive problem of human trafficking and prostitution. The forum, entitled *SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN: New York City and Beyond*, will be held at 100 Centre Street on March 31, 2005. The program features Courtney Jackson-Chase, Esq, who prior to becoming the Project Director at the Midtown Community Court prosecuted these types of cases for the Manhattan District Attorney's office. Also speaking will be Detective Kevin Mannion of the New York City Police Department. Detective Mannion is a member of the FBI's Organized Crime Task Force and specializes in the investigation of these types of matters. The Committee is pleased to be able to offer Continuing Legal Education Credit for this program. A copy of the flyer is attached for the Committee's review.

The Committee, in partnership with the five New York City chapters of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York is planning a children's book drive for each of the five boroughs. The books collected will be donated to a shelter for women and children who are victims of Domestic Violence in each county.

Other Activities in the Past Year : n/a

Plans for Next Year:

The Criminal Court in conjunction with the Unified Court System's Committee on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, chaired by Hon. Matthew D'Emic, Kings Supreme Court, will hold a one-day training for judges of the criminal court on Prostitution and Trafficking.

Additionally, our plans for the next year include an effort to expand committee membership, offer more programs and CLE seminars, and to continue with our annual essay contest.

The Committee also plans to examine and update the Report on the Condition of Women Detainees in the Criminal Court, authored by the Hon. Angela Mazzairelli, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department and this Committee approximately thirteen years ago.

Difficulties your committee faces:

To select among the many important and interesting issues facing women and the Criminal Court to study and offer programs on in the upcoming year.

**Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.**

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to **212-428-2793**.

In Recognition of Women's History Month

THE HON. JUANITA BING NEWTON  
Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York  
-and-  
THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF THE CRIMINAL COURT  
-present-

**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING  
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN:  
New York City and Beyond**

Speakers:

**COURTENAYE JACKSON-CHASE, ESQ.**  
Project Director, Midtown Community Court

**DETECTIVE KEVIN MANNION**  
New York City Police Department  
FBI Organized Crime Task Force

**Thursday, March 31, 2005  
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.  
Criminal Court Building  
100 Centre St. Room 130 (AR-1)  
NY, NY 10013**

CLE Credit: One (1) Credit Skills/Professional Practice

For further information, please call Nancy Bannon at 646.386.5567



STATE OF NEW YORK  
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM  
CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
100 CENTRE STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10013  
(212) 374-3200

JONATHAN LIPPMAN  
Chief Administrative Judge

JUANITA BING NEWTON  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
for Justice Initiatives  
Administrative Judge  
Criminal Court of the City of New York

MEMORANDUM

To: All Criminal Court Judicial and Non-judicial Staff

From: Hon. Juanita Bing Newton 

Date: March 3, 2005

Re: Women's History Month Essay Contest - "Gender Fairness in the Criminal Justice System: A Television Viewer's Point of View"

---

I am pleased to announce that, in recognition of Women's History Month, the Gender Fairness Committee of the Criminal Court is sponsoring its Annual School Essay Contest. This year's topic is "Gender Fairness in the Criminal Justice System: A Television Viewer's Point of View." Each contest winner will have his or her essay published in the official Criminal Court newsletter and will be invited to sit on the bench with a Criminal Court Judge to observe a real courtroom. I will present each winner with an Award Certificate at the special ceremony at the Criminal Court.

The contest is open to all junior high school and high school students. I encourage you to submit essays from your children, nieces, nephews or friends in those grades. You should provide all interested students with the following rules and instructions:

**TOPIC:** "Gender Fairness in the Criminal Justice System: A Television Viewer's Point of View." Television shows about lawyers, the police and the courts are now more popular than ever. We are all familiar with programs such as "Law and Order", "Judging Amy", "The People's Court", "CSI" and "The Practice", among others. These shows reflect the increasingly important role that women play in our criminal justice system.

Choose a female character you admire from one of your favorite television shows concerning lawyers, the police or the courts. Discuss the character's role in the show and the reasons you admire her - this can include an analysis of the image of women that she projects, why you believe she is a positive role model to young women, a particular problem she was presented with and how she resolved it, obstacles she has overcome in her career or life, suggestions for the television show's script writers for an episode that would better highlight the character's strengths, or even a proposal for an entirely new character or show.

Your essay should be 500 words or less.

**PRIZES:** The two best two essays will be selected - one from the 7th, 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> grade category, the other from the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade category. Each winner will:

- (1) Have their essay published in "Second Call" the official newsletter of the New York City Criminal Court;
- (2) Be invited to sit on the bench with a New York City Criminal Court Judge and observe a real courtroom; and
- (3) Be presented with an Award Certificate from the New York City Criminal Court.

**SEND TO:** Please submit your essay, no later than April 2, 2005, by mail to:

Chambers of Hon. Deborah Kaplan  
111 Centre St.  
Room 550  
N.Y., N.Y. 10013

or fax it to the attention of Nancy Bannon at (212) 374-6321.

With your essay, please provide your name, address, phone number and grade level.

For further information, please call Nancy Bannon at (646)386-5567.

*Anti-Bias Committee, New York County,  
Supreme Court, Civil Term*

**Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse**  
Justice, Supreme Court  
80 Centre Street, Room 308  
New York, New York 10007

212-374-3254

## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005

Name of the Committee The Anti Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Term  
New York County

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair

Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse, Part 14, Supreme Court, 80 Centre St., R308  
N.Y., N.Y. L00L3

Ross Upshaw, Chief Court Reporter, Supreme Court, N.Y. County, 60 Centre  
Street, N.Y., N.Y., L00L3

No. Members 53 No. of Meetings 10 Average Attendance 30 Use of Video Conferencing? No

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) Court Reporters, Court

Clerks, Judges, Law Clerks, Secretaries, Court Officers, Court Attorneys  
and Administrators.

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004 Domestic Violence in the work place,

legal and social issues. Thursday, Nov. 4, 2004, 12:45 PM, Central

Jury Room, 60 Centre Street, N.Y., N.Y. L00L3

Activities for Women's History Month 2004 Take our Children to Work Day (formerly

Take Our Daughters to Work, thursday, April 22, 2004, (-12:30 pm,

60 Centre Street, N.Y., N.Y., 10013

Other Activities in the Past Year Future Leaders Achievement Awards in honor of

Black History Month, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2004, 60 Centre Street, N.Y.,

N.Y. 10013. Celebration of Unity in Diversity, Friday, May 14, 2004,  
60 Centre Street, Rotunda, N.Y., N.Y., 10013

Have you worked in partnership with other groups? Yes

Bar Associations? Yes Law Schools? Yes

Other The Tribune Society, the Cervantes Society, The Brehon Society, LEGAL, Sanctuary for Families, Jewish Lawyers Columbian Lawyers, the Gay Straight Alliance

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, please include a copy.

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in? All

Plans for Next Year: Many

Difficulties your committee faces: Defining our Mission and Name.

Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to **212-428-2793**.

# *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

## *"Domestic Violence and the Workplace: Legal and Socials Issues"*

*Thursday, November 4, 2004  
Supreme Court, Civil Branch, 60 Centre Street - New York  
12:45 p.m. - Central Jury Room 452*

### *Welcoming Remarks*

*Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse*

### *Introduction of Speakers*

*Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse*

*Hon. Rosalyn Richter*

### *Guest Speakers*

*Hon. Louis B. York*

*Justice, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County*

*Laurel W. Eisner, JD, MSW*

*Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families*

### *Sponsored by:*

*The Anti-Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County*

*Domestic Violence Subcommittee*

*Caren Aronowitz*

*P.J. Garone*

*Jackie Glass*

*Irene Kallan*

*Louis Nock*

*Anna Rumberg*

*Hon. John E. H. Stackhouse*

*and*

*The New York County Clerk's Office*



# *Future Leaders Achievement Awards*

*in honor of*

## *Black History Month*

*Thursday, February 17, 2005 - 4:30 p.m.*  
**Supreme Court Civil Branch**  
*60 Centre Street - Room 300*

### *Master of Ceremonies*

*Fern A. Fisher*

*Administrative Judge of Civil Court of the City of New York*

*Role Models Presenting Awards To Students Of*  
*Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change*

### *Sports Award*

*Peter Westbrook*  
*Fencing National Champion & Olympic Medalist*

### *Law Award*

*Theodore M. Shaw*  
*Pres. & Dir. Counsel of the NAACP Legal Def. & Ed. Fund*

### *Political Science*

*C. Virginia Fields*  
*Manhattan Borough President*

### *Performing Arts Award*

*Anna Maria Horsford*  
*Director, Producer, Movie & TV Actress*

### *Journalism Award*

*Susan Sontag*  
*Reporter & Journalist, New York Times*

### *Literature Award*

*Grace F. Edwards*  
*Writer & Author of Mystery & Suspense Novels*

### *Science Award*

*Prof. Yolanda T. Moses*  
*Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Excellence & Diversity, University of California at Riverside*

### *Business Award*

*Edward Lewis*  
*Chairman & CEO for Essence Communications, Publisher of Essence Magazine*

*Light refreshments provided by Mos-Bay Restaurant*

**PLEASE JOIN US ... ALL ARE WELCOME!**

*Sponsored by:*

*The Anti-Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County*

*Hon. John E.H. Stockholme and Ross Upshaw, Chairs*

*Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam and Hon. Robert Lipmann, Co-Chairs*

*Gender Bias Committee, New York County,  
Supreme Court, Criminal Term*

*Bronx County Supreme Court Committee*

**Hon. Richard Lee Price**  
Acting Justice, Supreme Court  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451

718- 590-3590

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005

Name of the Committee GENDER FAIRNESS FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair

The GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE, TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, is chaired by the

Hon. Richard Lee Price, Bronx Supreme Court, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx

New York 10451, 718-590-3590, (fax) 718-590-4824, rprice@courts.state.ny.us

1) No. Members 50 No. of Meetings 10 Average Attendance 20 Use of Video Conferencing? None

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

See annexed #1

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

2) Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004 \_\_\_\_\_

See annexed #2

3) Activities for Women's History Month 2004 \_\_\_\_\_

See annexed #3 - i & ii

4) Other Activities in the Past Year \_\_\_\_\_

See annexed #4 - iii & iv

5) Have you worked in partnership with other groups? \_\_\_\_\_

Bar Associations? \_\_\_\_\_ Law Schools? \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? N/A  
If so, please include a copy.

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in? N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) Plans for Next Year: \_\_\_\_\_

See annexed #6

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) Difficulties your committee faces: \_\_\_\_\_

See annexed #7

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.

Please return this form by March 1, 2005, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to 212-428-2793.

## Attachments - LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2004-2005

1) No. Members: 50 No. of Meetings 10 Average Attendance 20  
Use of Video Conferencing None

### Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.)

The composition of the Committee includes: Judges, Court Attorneys, Court Clerks, Court Officers, Court Reporters, Stenographers, custodial employees, and other personnel from the various courts in the Bronx, as well as the County Clerk's Office, Borough President's Office, Bronx Bar Association, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, The Legal Aid Society, The Bronx Defenders, social services advocates, local shelters and The Inspector General's Office.

### 2) Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004:

a) *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - "Work Place Education Day" (October 26, 2004): "Domestic Violence Kills - Tell Tale Signs"*

More than 125 people attended this program, which was co-sponsored by: Association of Black Women Attorneys, Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Clerk, Bronx Women's Bar Association, Hispanic Court Officers Society, Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association, Metropolitan Women's Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Women's Rights Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association, Bronx Civil Court, Bronx Criminal Court, Bronx Family Court, Bronx Surrogate's Court, Tribune Society.

#### *Speakers:*

-Safiya Bandele, Director, Women's Center, Medger Evers College  
-Karen Staffeld, Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program, North Central Bronx Hospital

#### *Skit:*

-We put together an extremely effective skit, that included several committee members, which was designed to highlight the tell-tale signs of Domestic Violence

*See flyer annexed hereto*

### 3) Activities for Women's History Month 2004 and 2005:

i) *Women's History Month Program March 30, 2004*

#### Honourees:

-Gina Bolden-Rivera, President, New York Women's Agenda  
-Frances Barbaccia Fusco, Assistant to the Bronx Borough President

- Marjorie Lesch, Esq.
- Hannah M. Nelson, Chief of Staff, North Bronx Healthcare Network
- Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

“ComMENdable” Persons Awards:

- Dr. Harold P. Freeman, Medical Director, Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care & Prevention
- Adolfo Carrion, Bronx Borough President

-Women of Distinction certificates were given to approximately 10 court/building employees.

ii) *Women’s History Month Program April 7, 2005*

Honourees:

- Hon. Joan B. Carey, Chief Administrative Judge, New York City Courts
- Hon. Carol Robles-Roman, Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs, Counsel to Mayor Michael Bloomberg
- Rev. Michel White-Haynes, Greater Faith Temple Church

“ComMENdable,” Persons Awards:

- Andrew A. Wiznia, M.D., Director of Pediatric Allergy/Immunology, Director of HIV Services, Jacobi Medical Center/North BronxHealthcare Network & Frank Palombo of the Bronx Borough President’s Office.

-“Women of Distinction” certificates will be given to approximately 10 court/building employees.

**4) Other Activities in the Past Year and Plans for 2005:**

iii) *Food and Clothing Drives:\**

- *THERESA’S HAVEN*: June 14-18, 2004: This organization is a transitional housing facility, providing housing, education, and other needed assistance.

*See flyer annexed hereto*

- *CARDINAL MC CLOSKEY SERVICES*, January 18-24, 2005: This organization provides numerous services, such as food, clothing for those in need.

*See flyer annexed hereto*

\*Our next food and clothing drive is scheduled for some time in May - June 2005.

iv) *“Brown Bag Lunch Programs”*

-*GENDER FAIRNESS ON FILM SERIES*: Beginning March 23, 2005 we are opening up our Gender Fairness Meeting in order to present a gender

fairness film series. Each film will depict how women have been portrayed in society and at the workplace.

Our subcommittee has selected 4 documentaries and one feature film. Each film presentation will be lead by a moderator and in some cases include a guest speaker, followed by audience discussion.

-MEET THE AUTHOR: This new program will be kicked off with a talk and book signing by the acclaimed Bronxite author Mary Higgins-Clark on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Ms. Higgins-Clark will relate to us how it was to become a woman writer beginning in the '50's and also weave in information from her new book (due out in April or May).

**5) Have you worked in partnership with other groups?**

*Bar associations and other groups:* Association of Black Women Attorneys, Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Clerk, Bronx Women's Bar Association, Columbia Society, Hispanic Court Officers Society, Law-Related Education Committee, Law Related Education Committee NYCLA, One Hundred and Sixty-First Street Merchants Association, New York State Court Clerks Association, Metropolitan Women's Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Women's Rights Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Women's Rights Committee NYCLA, Bronx Civil Court, Bronx Criminal Court, Bronx Family Court, Bronx Surrogate's Court, Tribune Society.

**6) Plans for Next Year:**

Our *tentative plans for next year* will include: food & clothing drives, a Women's History Month Program, Domestic Violence Programs, Women in the Court Programs, a program on Elder Abuse; Exercise and Health for Women; Women's Financial Stability in the Face of Domestic Violence; Single Parents; a fashion show for those women who are in need of clothing from our clothing drives and are getting back into the workforce; a discussion on ethical issues raised in movies and on television shows; plus guest speakers on other appropriate topics.

**7) Most Important Difficulty Confronting your committee:**

There is a lack of dedicated space for the food and clothing drive. In addition, the envelope for those donating who wish to receive receipts for tax purposes has gone missing in the past and flyers for the various functions we hold have been torn down. The Chair has requested a box for these drives to secure the donation paperwork.

## **GENDER FAIRNESS PROJECTS AND EVENTS:**

**\*FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Theresa's Haven (May 27-29, 1997) -** Theresa's Haven is a transitional housing facility, providing, housing, education, and other needed assistance.

**\*NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY (October 1, 1997) -** Program participants were: Victoria L. Lutz, Esq., (*What are the signs?...Are you a victim?...Are You An Abuser?...Is It Effecting Your Work?*); Norma Torres-Pabon (*Employee's personal experiences with...*); Diana Cruz (*Domestic Violence*); Anonymous Account (*A Reading of a Survivors Thoughts*); SCO Richard Dineen (*Employee's Assistance Program Coordinator*).

**\*DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS OF MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER - Food and Clothing Drive (November 17-21, 1997)** DCP provides a van service which delivers good and services to shelters in the five boroughs.

**\*NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH: WORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (October 1, 1998) -** Program participants were: Virginia Berger, Principal PC Analyst, Surrogates Court (*A Survivor Speaks out*); SCO Sergeant Richard Dineen (*Bronx Employee Assistance Coordinator*).

**\*DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY program:** at Hostos Community College (December 1, 1998). Program participant: Family Court Judge Marjory D. Fields.

**\*FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Project Return Foundation - Aegis Battered Women's Shelter (May 17-21, 1999).** To benefit Aegis Battered Women's Shelter. Aegis Battered Women's program shelters and counsels victims of domestic violence.

**\*NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH: WORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DAY (Oct. 1, 1999).** Program participants were: Mayada Logue, Manager, Corporate Affairs Program, Phillip Morris Management Corp.; Peggy Grauwiller, C.S.W., Domestic Violence Coordinator, Bronx County Supreme; Hattie Hedgepeth, Branch Chief, Bronx Investigation, Department of Probation.

**\*FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Theresa's Haven (Oct. 25-29, 1999) -** To benefit Theresa's Haven is a transitional housing facility, providing, housing, education, and other needed assistance.

**\*WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION (March 9, 2000) -** This program was designed to bring awareness of a "Non-Bias" workplace to all. The program honored five gifted women: Dr. Dolores Fernandez, President of Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College; Hon. Aurelia Greene, Assemblywoman of the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District; Dr. Lorraine Hale, President/CEO hale House; Hon. Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York; Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, and was attended by approximately 275 to 300 guests.

**\*FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Theresa's Haven ( October 23-27, 2000) -** Teresa's Haven is a transitional housing facility, providing housing, education, and other needed assistance.

**\*NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH "WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY" (October 24, 2000) -** Program participants: Ms. Nancy Mangold, Director of Court Operations; Madeline Bigelow, Esq. Sanctuary for Families; Elisa Koenderman, Bureau Chief, Bronx District Attorney.

**\*DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WALK (October 29, 2000) -** 2<sup>nd</sup> annual walk to end Domestic Violence, the Promenade, Riverside Park, Manhattan.

**\*NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (October 30, 2000) -** A presentation of the Bronx Felony Domestic Violence Court presentation by: Peggy Grazuwiler, Project Director - *Development of the Domestic Violence Court*; Hon. Ira Globerman, Presiding Justice - *First Year Success, Plan for Year Two*; Alicia O'Hare, Resource Coordinator - *Role of the Resource Coordinator*.

**\*TOY DRIVE: The Richmond Home Need Services (December 19, 2000) -** The Gender Bias Committee in coordination with The Bronx Women's Bar Association donated toys to benefit The Richmond Home Need Services.

**\*WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (March 15, 2001) -** Honorees: Hon. Gloria Davis, Assemblywoman, 79<sup>th</sup> A.D.; Hon. Betty Ellerin, Associate Judge, Appellate Division, First Department; Lenore Kramer, Esq., Kramer & DeVries, LLP; Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez.

**\*WOMEN IN THE COURTS (March 28, 2001) -** We presented a Roundtable Discussion on "*Women in the Courts - "We've Come A Long Way."*" The panelists were: Hon. Alma Cordova, Family Court Judge; Hon. Sue Levy, Family Court Referee; Hon. La Tia Martin, Supreme Court Justice; Hon. Eugene Oliver, Supervising Judge, Criminal Court; Stephanie Smith, Associate Court Clerk.

**\*FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Thorpe Family Residence (May 21-25, 2001) -** Thorpe family residence provides transitional and permanent housing and assistance to the homeless, including victims of domestic abuse.

**\*NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY (October 23, 2001) -** Our keynote speaker was AJSC Ruth Levine Sussman who spoke about the new integrated Domestic Violence Court. Also, Ms. Lauren De Sole, Chief of Employee Relations, OCA presented pm Improving our Support EAP to Work Life.

**\*DREAM YARD PROJECT (The Committee donated \$100 Dec.'01) -** This project helps young people and parents to develop skills to express, write and perform their own stories and they certainly did at a program in our courthouse on November 9, 2001 called "Breaking the Cycle". A short play, written and performed by DREAMYARD a group of survivors. This was a very emotional presentation.

**\*FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Theresa's Haven (October 23-27, 2001) -**  
Seventy large bags donated to Theresa's Haven is a transitional housing facility, providing housing, education, and other needed assistance.

**\*Formerly Gender Bias Committee**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (March 15, 2002) -** The Honorees were: Hon. Maria Baez, NYC Council Member, 14<sup>th</sup> Council District; Sana Q. Nasser, Principal, Harry S. Truman HS; Hon. Ann T. Pfau, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support & Administrative Judge, Supreme Court Second Judicial District; Elinor Tatum, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, The Amsterdam News.

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - R.A.I.N. , Inc.\* (June 24- 28 2002) -**  
\*Rain Inc. provides home care services to the elderly and disabled, counseling and training for the unemployed and those with special needs, help to crime victims, etc.

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (Oct. 17, 2002) -**  
Work Place Education Day - Program participants: Anne Paulle, Jewish Board of Family and Children Services; Dorchen Leidholdt, Esq., the Director of Sanctuaries for Families.

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Theresa's Haven (November 4- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002) -**  
Theresa's Haven is a transitional housing facility, providing housing, education, and other needed assistance.

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (April 4, 2003) -** The Honorees were: Hon. Anita R. Florio, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department; Minerva Melendez, Principal, PS 69, Bronx, New York.

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - R.A.I.N. , Inc.\* (June 24- 28 2002):**  
\*Rain Inc. provides home care services to the elderly and disabled, counseling and training for the unemployed and those with special needs, help to crime victims, etc.

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (Oct. 22, 2003) -**  
Work Place Education Day - Program participants: Ruth Eichmiller, Resource Coordinator, Felony Domestic Violence Part; Karen Saab, Esq., Supervisor, Courtroom Advocates Project, Sanctuary for Families; Ted Bunch, Senior Program Director, Safe-Horizon.

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Love Gospel Assembly (October 27-31, 2003) -**  
Love Gospel Assembly provides daily meals and weekly clothing distribution for the needy, counseling and training for the unemployed and those with special needs, etc.

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (October 26, 2004 -**  
Work Place Education Day - Program participants: Safiya Bande, Director, Women's Center, Medgar Evers College; Karen Staffeld, Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program, North Central Bronx Hospital.

**WOMEN' HISTORY MONTH - (March 30, 2004)** The Honorees were: Gina Bolden-Rivera, President, New York Women's Agenda; Frances Barbaccia Fusco, Assistant to the Bronx Borough President; Marjorie Lesch, Esq.; Hannah M. Nelson, Chief of Staff, North Bronx Healthcare Network; Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge.

"ComMENDable" Persons Awards: Dr. Harold P. Freeman, Medical Director, Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care & Prevention; Adolfo Carrion, Bronx Borough President

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Theresa's Haven (June 14-18, 2004)** - This organization is a transitional housing facility, providing housing, education, and other needed assistance.

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE - Cardinal McCloskey Services (January 18-24, 2005)** - This organization provides numerous services, such as food, clothing for those in need.

**WOMEN' HISTORY MONTH - (April 7, 2005)** The Honourees are: Hon. Joan B. Carey, Deputy Administrative Judge, New York City Courts; Hon. Carol Robles-Roman, Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs, Counsel to Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Rev. Michel White-Haynes, Greater Faith Temple Church.

"ComMENDable," Persons Awards: Andrew A. Wiznia, M.D., Director of Pediatric Allergy/Immunology, Director of HIV Services, Jacobi Medical Center/North Bronx Healthcare Network and Frank Palombo of the Bronx Borough President's Office.

**GENDER FAIRNESS ON FILM SERIES - (March 23, 2005)** Presenting our first, in a series of "brown bag lunches." Our Gender Fairness Film series shall be presenting many films that deal with gender issues in the months to come.

**MEET THE AUTHOR - On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005** our committee in cooperation with the Bronx Borough Presidents Office will have a presentation and book signing by the acclaimed Bronxite author Mary Higgins-Clark

**THE BRONX COUNTY  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**HONORABLE JOHN P. COLLINS,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL TERM  
HONORABLE GERALD V. ESPOSITO,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CIVIL TERM  
HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE,  
CHAIR**



- presents the annual program for -

# Women's History Month

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2004  
12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.  
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT

## *Honorees*

**MS. GINA BOLDEN-RIVERA**  
Senior Vice-President and Chief Credit Officer, Community Credit Bank  
President, New York Women's Agenda

**MS. FRANCES BARBACCIA FUSCO**  
President, Enrico Fermi Cultural Committee, Belmont Library  
President, Italian Big Sisters  
Assistant to the Bronx Borough President

**MARJORIE A. LESCH, ESQ.**  
Past President, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York  
Past President, Bronx Women's Bar Association

**MS. HANNAH M. NELSON**  
Chief of Staff, North Bronx Healthcare Network

**HON. JUANITA BING NEWTON**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

## Com-MEN-dable Persons

**HON. ADOLFO CARRION, JR.**  
Bronx Borough President

**DR. HAROLD P. FREEMAN**  
Medical Director,  
Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care & Prevention

&

*"Women of Distinction" Certificates will be presented to 10 notable women*

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to  
Maria Rivero (718) 590-2258, Earnestine Glover (718) 590-3961, or Josephine M. Bastone (718) 590-3758

**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**- ANNOUNCES -**

**A FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT THERESA'S HAVEN**

**DATES: JUNE 14, 15, 16, 17, AND 18, 2004**

**DROP OFF SITES: SUPREME COURT - ('A' ELEVATOR) 6M DESK  
CRIMINAL COURT - ROOM 111  
FAMILY COURT - ROOM 8-10  
HOUSING COURT - 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR STAFF LOUNGE  
DA'S OFFICE, 198 E. 161 ST., RM 941(RECEPTION AREA)**

**WHAT: CANNED FOOD GOODS, INCLUDING BABY FOOD  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW ADULT CLOTHING  
(INCLUDING WOMEN'S BUSINESS ATTIRE)  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING  
CHILDREN'S TOYS, BOOKS, DISPOSABLE DIAPERS  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS, LINEN**

**WHO: THERESA'S HAVEN is a transitional housing facility, providing  
housing, education, and other needed assistance.**

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.  
FOR INFORMATION IN EACH BUILDING, CONTACT:**

<b>SUPREME COURT:</b>	<b>JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3758</b>
<b>CRIMINAL COURT:</b>	<b>SHERRY EVANS</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2858</b>
<b>FAMILY COURT:</b>	<b>TRACY PARDO</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3319</b>
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY BLDG.:</b>	<b>MARIA RIVERO, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2258</b>
<b>HOUSING COURT:</b>	<b>GLADYS MALDONADO</b>	<b>(718) 466 - 3003</b>



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.  
851 Grand Concourse - Room 221  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 590 - 3758**

**TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.   
CHAIR, FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**RE: JUNE 2004 DRIVE**

The June 2004 Food and Clothing Drive, held from June 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004, was for the benefit of Theresa's Haven.

We collected approximately 65 bags and boxes of items, at collection points set up in the Supreme Court, Criminal Court, Family Court, Housing Court, and Bronx District Attorney's Office buildings. The majority of items donated were clothing, although food and baby items were also given.

As always, the members of the Food and Clothing Drive Sub-Committee worked hard to ensure the success of the Drive. The Sub-Committee is composed of: Josephine M. Bastone, Chair; Earnestine Glover, Gladys Maldonado, Tracy Pardo, and Maria Rivero. Sherry Evans served as the contact person in Criminal Court. A great deal of help in dealing with the storage and pickup of items in the Supreme Court building, where the majority of the donations are stored, came from SCO Chris Barros, and court aides Mario Malave, Jason Philbert, and Ron Smith.

The Sub-Committee thanks Hon. Gerald V. Esposito, Hon. John P. Collins, and Steven B. Clark for their general assistance in the Supreme Court building, and for arranging for the use of a jury bus to transport the donations to Theresa's Haven.

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York

**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451**



*In recognition of*

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE**  
Chair

**HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. GERALD V. ESPOSITO**  
Administrative Judges

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
presents its annual program for**

**“Work Place Education Day”**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2004  
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.  
Courtroom 711**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Tania Antero
- Susan Avery
- Josephine M. Bastone
- Lucille M. Barbato
- Hon. Peggy Bernhelm
- Madeline Garcia Bigelow
- J. Mark Bodde
- Sherry Caltwood
- Phyllis Cherebin
- Steven B. Clark
- Hon. David B. Cohen
- Helen Corporan
- Maria Cortese
- Hon. Tandra Dawson
- Donna Dodds
- Hon. Marian Doherty
- Hon. Laura Douglas
- Darlene Dove
- Ruth Eichmiller
- Sheila Feinerman
- Hon. Anita Florio
- Raymond Franklin
- Earnestine Glover
- Diane Goulding
- Hon. Wilma Guzman
- Hon. Arlene H. Hahn
- Marilyn Israel
- Sandra Jefferson
- Esther Kelly
- Emma Ketteringham
- Hon. Sallie Manzanet
- Hon. La Tia W. Martin
- Theresa McDermott
- Susan McPartland
- Hon. Donna M. Mills
- Deldra Moore
- Nilsa Moreno
- John E. Murray
- Hon. Barbara Newman
- Bernadette O'Rourke
- Tracy Pardo
- Charlene Pulakos
- Barbara Remington
- Maria Rivero
- Hon. Gayle P. Roberts
- Anthony Robinson
- Hon. Norma Ruiz
- Kareq Saab
- Emily Sanchez
- Bonnie Schnapper
- Dorothy Tavolacci
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt
- Ann Wilson

Prayer ..... **JASON PHILBERT,**  
Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Anthem ..... **FRANK PALOMBO,**  
Office of the Bronx Borough President

Welcome & Opening Remarks ..... **HON. JOHN P. COLLINS,  
HON. GERALD V. ESPOSITO,**  
Administrative Judges

Remarks ..... **HON. ADOLFO CARRIÓN,**  
Bronx Borough President

Domestic Violence Kills: “Tell-Tale Signs”

Moderator ..... **DARLENE DOVE-MALAVÉ,**  
Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Speakers:  
**SAFIYA BANDELE, Director, Women’s Center, Medgar Evers College**  
**KAREN STAFFELD, Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program,**  
**North Central Bronx Hospital**

Closing Remarks ..... **HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, J.S.C.**

Program Co-Sponsors

Association of Black Women Attorneys \* Black Bar Association of Bronx County \* Bronx County Bar Association \* Bronx Borough President \* Bronx County Clerk \* Bronx Women’s Bar Association \* Hispanic Court Officers’ Society \* Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers’ Association \* Metropolitan Women’s Bar Association \* Puerto Rican Bar Association \* Women’s Right Committee, New York County Lawyers’ Association \* Bronx Civil Court \* Bronx Criminal Court \* Bronx Family Court \* Bronx Surrogate’s Court \* Tribune Society

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Earnestine Glover @ (718) 590-3961

**SURROGATE'S COURT  
BRONX COUNTY-STATE OF NEW YORK  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451**

**LEE L. HOLZMAN  
JUDGE**



**MICHAEL L. PRISCO  
CHIEF CLERK  
EARNESTINE GLOVER  
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK**

TO:----- HON. RICHARD L. PRICE  
CHAIR GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:----- EARNESTINE GLOVER  
CHAIR , DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
WORK PLACE EDUCATION DAY PROGRAM  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2004

The education of the employees and the community on the trials, tribulations and the plights of individuals involved in Domestic Violence is one of the most important missions of the Gender Fairness Committee. The program this year can take it's place among several great programs that was held in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The speakers were of the highest quality and they brought to the forum a new look at Domestic Violence. The speakers explained the complicated reasons a person would abuse and why a person would accept abuse from anyone. This program each year is always well attended, but this year we had over 100 individuals in attendance. Some from other agencies who heard about the program from friends and coworkers.

Our program began with an inspirational prayer by Jason Philbert of the Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Term. A resounding Anthem was sung by Frank Palombo, of the Bronx Borough President Office.

The welcome address was given by the Hon. Barry Salman of the Bronx Supreme Court who was representing the Administrative Judges.. Greetings from the Borough President Adolfo Carrion, who always bring additional news about the Borough commitment to helping persons who are affected by this malice. Barbara Remington gave a list and dates of women who had been murdered by Their partners in 2004, then we were ready for our first speaker.

The first speaker Safiya Bandele the Director of the Women's Center at Medgar Evers College gave an honest and open speech about the dark side of Domestic Violence and how families get together to keep this horrible family secret undercover .She also spoke on how many young men and women are involved in this evil force. She had some very good answers on what society must do to eliminate this abuse between men, women, the elderly and children.

The second speaker Karen Staffeld the Coordinator for Domestic Violence Programs at North Central Hospital spoke about treatments and what happens when a domestic violence victim comes into the hospital. She also gave verifiable statistics on the ages and genders of victims of Domestic Violence. We learned that this act crosses racial and culture lines all are affected.

We also put together a skit that was designed to highlight the signs of Domestic Violence. The title was " Domestic Violence kills: Tell-Tale signs. The members of the program committee participants deserve Oscar nominations for the quality of acting in their given parts. They were Tania Antero, Bonnie Schnapper, and Susan McPartland .They would read and act out the signs of Domestic Violence after each speaker. We all so had very large place boards with key words that would be the source of the tell- tale signs descriptions that each person would hold up for the audience. Theses large signs were also placed throughout the room so they could be seen by the public. Lunch was served and all declared our 2004 program a rousing success. Enclosed are copies of the flyers and the program. Thank you as always for your confidence in my abilities and your support.

**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**- ANNOUNCES -**

**A FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT  
CARDINAL McCLOSKEY SERVICES**

**DATES: JAN. 18, 19, 20, 21, AND 24, 2005**

**DROP OFF SITES: SUPREME COURT - ('A' ELEVATOR) 6M DESK  
CRIMINAL COURT - ROOM 111  
FAMILY COURT - ROOM 8-10  
HOUSING COURT - 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR STAFF LOUNGE  
DA'S OFFICE, 198 E. 161 ST., RM 941(RECEPTION AREA)**

**WHAT: CANNED FOOD GOODS, BABY FOOD  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW ADULT CLOTHING (INCLUDING  
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ATTIRE)  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING  
CHILDREN'S TOYS, BOOKS, DISPOSABLE DIAPERS  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS, LINENS**

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.  
FOR INFORMATION IN EACH BUILDING, CONTACT:**

<b>SUPREME COURT:</b>	<b>JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3758</b>
<b>CRIMINAL COURT:</b>	<b>SHERRY EVANS</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2858</b>
<b>FAMILY COURT:</b>	<b>RHONDA YOUNG</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3336</b>
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY BLDG.:</b>	<b>MARIA RIVERO, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2258</b>
<b>HOUSING COURT:</b>	<b>GLADYS MALDONADO</b>	<b>(718) 466 - 3022</b>



## GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.**  
851 Grand Concourse - Room 221  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 590 - 3758

To: Hon. Richard Lee Price  
Chair, Gender Fairness Committee

From: Josephine M. Bastone, Esq. *JMB*  
Chair, Food and Clothing Drive Sub-Committee

Re: January 2005 Drive

The January 2005 Food and Clothing Drive was for the benefit of Cardinal McCloskey Services, which maintains a facility on Southern Boulevard. This drive took the place of our usual October drive, which had to be postponed due to a variety of scheduling/room availability difficulties.

We collected approximately 85 - 90 bags and boxes of items, at collection points set up in the Supreme Court, Criminal Court, Family Court, Housing Court, and District Attorney's Office buildings. The majority of items donated were clothing, although food and baby items were also given.

As always, the members of the Food and Clothing Drive Sub-Committee worked hard to ensure the success of the Drive. The Sub-Committee is composed of: Josephine M. Bastone, Chair; Earnestine Glover, Gladys Maldonado, Tracy Pardo, and Maria Rivero. Sherry Evans and Rhonda Young served, respectively, as the contact persons in Criminal and Family Courts. Bonnie Schnapper and Dorothy Tavalacci assisted in posting flyers in the Supreme Court building. A great deal of help in dealing with the storage and pickup of items in the Supreme Court building, where the majority of the donations are stored, came from SCO Chris Barros, and especially, court aide Ron Smith.

The Sub-Committee thanks Hon. Gerald V. Esposito, Hon. John P. Collins, Steven B. Clark, and Tracy Pardo for their assistance in the Supreme Court building.

The Sub-Committee is in the process of planning the Spring drive, which will be held in May - June 2005.



## THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. GERALD V. ESPOSITO  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

PROUDLY PRESENTS

*Women's History Month*

*The Gender Fairness on Film Series*

*The CNN Presentation of*

**"BENEATH the VEIL"**

Life Inside the Taliban's Afghanistan

Following the screening there will be a discussion on the plight of Afghan Women, then & now.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Parvina Nadjibulla  
Board Member, Women For Afghan Women

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2005  
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

**(Bring your Lunch)**

Program is only available to court personnel



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**  
**For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
**851 Grand Concourse**  
**Bronx, New York 10451**

**MEMORANDUM**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

TO: GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
FROM: JSC RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
SUBJECT: MEETING NOTICE

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. GERALD V. ESPOSITO  
Administrative Judges

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Susan Avery  
Tania Antero  
Josephine M. Bastone  
Lucille M. Barbato  
Hon. Peggy Bernheim  
Madeline Garcia Bigelow  
J. Mark Bodde  
Sherry Callwood  
Phyllis Cherebin  
Steven B. Clark  
Hon. David B. Cohen  
Helen Corporan  
Maria Cortese  
Hon. Tandra Dawson  
Donna Dodds  
Hon. Marian Doherty  
Hon. Laura Douglas  
Darlene Dove  
Ruth Eichmiller  
Shella Felnerman  
Hon. Anita Florio  
Raymond Franklin  
Earnestine Glover  
Diane Goulding  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Marilyn Israel  
Saundra Jefferson  
Esther Kelly  
Emma Ketteringham  
Hon. Sallie Manzanet  
Hon. La Tia W. Martin  
Theresa McDermott  
Susan McPartland  
Hon. Donna M. Mills  
Deidra Moore  
Nilisa Moreno  
John E. Murray  
Hon. Barbara Newman  
Bernadette O'Rourke  
Tracy Pardo  
Charlene Pulakos  
Barbara Remington  
Maria Rivero  
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts  
Anthony Robinson  
Hon. Norma Ruiz  
Karen Saab  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Dorothy Tavolacci  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Hon. Allison Y. Tullt  
Ann Wilson

The next Gender Fairness Meeting will be September 13, 2004 at 12:45P.M.,  
in Courtroom 621 Part 16.

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - a) October Domestic Violence Program - Hon. Earnestine Glover
  - b) Food and Clothing Drive - Josephine Bastone, Esq.
  - c) CJA - Interview Report - Emma Ketteringham, Esq.
- IV. Topic Areas - Complaints
  - a) Judicial
    - i) Supreme Court
    - ii) Surrogates Court
    - iii) Family Court
    - iv) Criminal Court
    - v) Civil Court
    - vi) Housing Court
  - b) Chief Clerk
  - c) Court Clerks
  - d) Court Attorneys
  - e) Stenographers
  - f) Practicing Bar
    - i) District Attorney
    - ii) Legal Aid
    - iii) Bronx Defenders
    - iv) Bar Associations
  - g) Bronx Borough President
  - h) County Clerk
  - i) Court Reporters
  - j) Interpreters
  - k) Major's Report
  - l) Court Officers
  - m) Building Services
  - n) Community Outreach
- V. Other Business

**IF YOU WISH TO ADD ANYTHING TO THE AGENDA, PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHAIR.**  
**PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO (718) 590-3590**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING**

BRONX SUPREME COURT  
Gender Fairness Committee

*HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR*

Minutes of July 28, 2004

The meeting was called to order by the Hon. Earnestine Glover on behalf of Justice Richard Lee Price at 1:10 P.M.

*Attendance:* Josephine M. Bastone, Esq., Ms. Sherry Callwood, Liz Candreva, Esq. Hon. David B. Cohen, Raymond Franklin, Esq., Hon. Earnestine Glover, Emma Ketteringham, Esq., Ms. Susan McPartland, Barbara Remington, Maria Rivero, Esq. Ms. Emily Sanchez, Ms. Bonnie Schnapper, Ms. Dorothy Tivolacci.

*Excused:* Tanya Antero, Justice Barbara Newman, Justice Richard Price.

***I. & II. Welcome and Introduction***

Welcome and introduction by the Hon. Earnestine Glover.

***III. Subcommittee Reports***

*(a) October Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day Program:* There will be a planning meeting with the subcommittee the first part of August...the date to be determined. Please forward suggestions to Earnestine Glover.

It was brought to our attention that the Bronx Borough President's office sponsored a Health Expo in the Rotunda this past June. A representative who was staffing a Domestic Violence table noted that they had a speakers bureau. The committee will follow-up and contact the organization for our October event.

*(b) Food and Clothing Drive (June 14-18):* The sub-committee chair, Josephine M. Bastone noted that the Teresa's Haven Food and Clothing Drive went smoothly, but unfortunately, did not get as many contributors as in the past, despite the fact that Josephine sent an e-mail to the Bronx Court System. Receipts for tax purposes will go out soon.

Please note that Josephine visited Teresa's Haven, observed the site and noted that our contributions are being put to good use. The organization does nice things with their budget and contributions. They have a strong family support system, child-care training for mothers, a childcare facility, aid women who are trying to get back into the workforce, help people find apartments and have 39 apartments available for temporary housing, etc. Josephine observed wonderful things happening and is very happy that we are able to support this group.

(c) *CJA - Interview Report*: Subcommittee Chair, Emma Ketteringham recapped the Subcommittee meeting of June 24, 2004 that occurred between Jerome McElroy and Peter Kiers of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency, Justice Price and Emma. It was brought to the Agency's attention that stay-at-home caretakers were being penalized under the present pretrial release recommendation scheme.\* Mr. McElroy and Mr. Kiers were very responsive to our concerns and are working on a 9<sup>th</sup> question (to go along with the other 8 questions) in order to record a person's response on the CJA Interview Report. According to Emma and as per a followup conversation with Mr. McElroy on July 8<sup>th</sup> the wording has not yet been proposed or added to the report but is in the works.

Committee conversation ensued in support of the defendant getting points. It was generally felt that the defendant's lawyer should show responsibility and give support to this issue as well.

*\*Please note Emma Ketteringham's e-mail to Justice Price dated 7/8/04 is attached to the Gender Fairness minutes of July 28, 2004.*

#### ***V. Other Business***

- (a) Ray Franklin discussed a Domestic Violence program called "An Empty Place at the Table" in conjunction with the University of Scranton. The goal is to bring home Domestic Violence as a personal experience. The table has place settings/items that relate to people who have died as a result of Domestic Violence. Ray brought this program to our attention so that it could demonstrate the problems of the aggressor and the victim. There seems to be a 20 minute video available which he offered to the committee for screening. Also Ray suggested that perhaps we can have a demonstration at the courthouse during the time allotted for one of our Domestic Violence Programs. Ray said that he would do further research plus see if the program has a website.

Please note that Mary Alice Franklin (a graduate of University of Scranton), daughter of Ray Franklin will be the point person regarding this program.

- (b) Bonnie Schnapper suggested that we have a documentary/feature "brown bag lunch" film series during the year that would reflect Gender Fairness. The committee was responsive and we are open to further discussion.

No other business. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

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*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bonnie Schnapper*

June 14, 2004

**Gender Fairness Committee Subcommittees**

**CJA Interview Report-** Emma Ketteringham, Esq., Chair, Meredith McGowan, Esq., Deirdra Moore, Esq. To see if the point system used is discriminatory to *stay-at-home-mothers*.

**Drug Treatment Programs for Women Only-** Hon. Norma Ruiz- Chair, Dierdre Moore, Esq., Investigate why there are so few women-only drug treatment programs. Many female offenders have special needs which involve their children.

**Domestic Violence Program and Outreach Subcommittee-** Susan Avery, Esq. -Co-Chair, Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Co-Chair, Ms. Diana Dobbs, Ms. Darlene Dove, Sheila Feinerman, Esq., Hon. Earnestine Glover, Emma Ketteringham, Esq., Hon. Sallie Manzanet, Dierdre Moore, Esq., Ms. Barbara Remington, and Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. Committee prepares presentations for Court Personnel and does community outreach programming at various locations about issues of bias, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

**Women of Distinction-** Ms. Emily Sanchez - Chair, Major J. Mark Bodde, Hon. Steven B. Clark, Hon. Marian Doherty, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Maria Rivero, Esq., and Hon. Gayle P. Roberts.

**Food and Clothing Drive-** Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Chair, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Ms. Gladys Maldonado, Dierdre Moore, Esq., Hon. Tracy Pardo, Maria Rivero, Esq. and Ms. Karen Saab. Drives held to benefit women's shelters and programs. Among the types of donations are food, clothing, toys, books and money.

**Leave, Maternity and Child Care Policies-** Maria Rivero, Esq.- Chair, Esq., Liz Candreva, Esq. Maria Cortese, Esq. To compare the leave, maternity, and child care policies of employers.

**National Domestic Violence Awareness Day-** Hon. Earnestine Glover- Chair, Josephine M. Bastone, Esq., -Co-Chair, Maria Rivero, Esq., - Co-Chair, Ms. Tania Antero, Susan Avery, Esq., Madeline Bigelow, Esq., Hon. Helen Corporan, Ms. Darlene Dove, Hon. Wilma Guzman, SCO Sandra Jefferson, Hon. Barbara Newman, Hon. Tracy Pardo, Ms. Barbara Remington, Ms. Emily Sanchez, Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. Programs in October to educate employees and others regarding domestic violence and steps that can be taken to avoid it and where to go for assistance.

**National Women's History Month- March-** Hon. Earnestine Glover- Chair, Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Co-Chair, Maria Rivero, Esq., - Co-Chair, Hon. Helen Corporan, Hon. Laura Douglas, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Hon. Donna Mills, Ms. Barbara Remington, Hon. Gayle Roberts, and Ms. Emily Sanchez, Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. Recognition of women pioneers or leaders in our profession- Programs and publications.

**Women in The Courts-**Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Chair, Lucille M. Barbato, Hon. Helen Corporan, Hon. Tandra Dawson, Hon. Marian Doherty, Hon. Laura Douglas, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Dierdre Moore, Esq., Hon. Barbara Newman, Maria Rivero, Esq., Ms. Karen Saab. Review OCA Judicial Seminar materials and materials regarding Women in the Courts and make suggestions for changes or additions and new scenarios and put on Programs.

**Publications-** Hon. Helen Corporan, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. To create and update materials for the committee.

**From:** RICHARD PRICE  
**To:** McElroy, Jerome  
**Date:** Wed, Aug 11, 2004 1:23 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Dear Judge Price: I write to assure you that we have not forgotten our agreement to identify female

Thanks for  
your attention.  
RLP

>>> "Jerome McElroy" <JMcElroy@NYCJA.ORG> 08/11/04 11:04AM >>>  
Dear Judge Price: I write to assure you that we have not forgotten our agreement to identify female defendants who are "at-home mothers". When we met, I explained that we were in the last stages of implementing the use of hand-held computers to record our interviews, and that we would not be able to address changes in the interview content until that process was complete. We did complete it by the end of June. We are now working on some programming that will enable us to receive summary RAP sheets from DCJS at the same time that the full RAP is received by the police. Because of summer vacations and a disability leave, we have had some trouble in getting all the necessary staff members in place at the same time. When we do, changing the form to record the "at-home mother" status of female defendants will be a priority. I am reasonably certain that we will be able to put that into effect throughout the City in September. There are obvious advantages to computerization, but rapid change in programs is not one of them. I will call Ms. Ketteringham today to give her this update. If there is anything else you would like from us, please let me know.

**CC:** EmmaK@bronxdefenders.org



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**  
**For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451

**MEMORANDUM**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

TO: GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
FROM: JSC RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
SUBJECT: MEETING NOTICE

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. GERALD V. ESPOSITO  
Administrative Judges

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tania Antero  
Josephine M. Bastone  
Lucille M. Barbato  
Hon. Peggy Bernstein  
Madeline Garcia Bigelow  
J. Mark Bodde  
Sherry Callwood  
Phyllis Cherebin  
Steven B. Clark  
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Brett Figlewski  
Hon. Anita Florio  
Raymond Franklin  
Earnestine Glover  
Diane Goulding  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Saundra Jefferson  
Eather Kelly  
Emma Ketteringham  
Hon. Sallie Manzanet  
Hon. La Tia W. Martin  
Susan McPartland  
Hon. Donna M. Mills  
Deldra Moore  
Nilsa Moreno  
John E. Murray  
Hon. Barbara Newman  
Justine Olderman  
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Maria Rivero  
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts  
Anthony Robinson  
Hon. Norma Ruiz  
Karen Saub  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Michelle A.K. Smith  
Dorothy Tivolacci  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Hon. Allison Y. Tuit  
Ann Wilson

The next Gender Fairness Meeting will be February 8, 2005 at 12:45P.M., in  
Courtroom 621 Part 16.

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - a) Food and Clothing Drive - Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.
  - b) Women's History Month - Hon. Earnestine Glover
  - c) Lunch Programs - Bonnie Schnapper
  - d) October Domestic Violence Program - Hon. Earnestine Glover
  - e) CJA - Interview Report - Emma Ketteringham, Esq.
- IV. Topic Areas - Complaints
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  - j) Interpreters
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  - l) Court Officers - Female Prisoners
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  - n) Community Outreach
- V. Other Business

**IF YOU WISH TO ADD ANYTHING TO THE AGENDA, PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHAIR.**  
**PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO (718) 590-3590**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING**

BRONX SUPREME COURT  
Gender Fairness Committee

*HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR*

Minutes of January 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Justice Richard Lee Price at 1:10 P.M.

*Attendance:* Ms. Sherry Callwood, Hon. David Cohen, Mr. Brett Figlewski, Ms. Darlene Dove, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Ms. Gladys Maldonado, Ms. Susan McPartland, Hon. Tracy Pardo, Hon. Richard Lee Price, Ms. Barbara Remington, Ms. Emily Sanchez, Ms. Bonnie Schnapper, Ms. Dorothy Tivolacci.

*Excused:* Susan Avery, Esq., Josephine M. Bastone, Esq., Maria Rivero, Esq.,

*Guest:* Liz Candreva, Esq.,

***I. & II. Welcome and Introduction***

Welcome and introduction by the Chair. Justice Price had everyone re-introduce themselves to each other and welcomed Tracy Pardo, Chief Clerk - Supreme Court, Civil Side, back to active participation with the committee.

***III. Subcommittee Reports***

*(a) Food and Clothing Drive:* Josephine M. Bastone has set up the Drive for January 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, floor #6M. This time it took a little longer than anticipated to identify a recipient.

We are urged to bring in items for the food and clothing drive.

*(b) Women's History Month:* Earnestine Glover would like Senator Hillary Rodham-Clinton to receive the Women's History Month award. Earnestine has sent Senator Rodham-Clinton a letter, but has not heard a response yet. Justice Price hopes that he can hand-deliver the letter at the New York County Lawyers Association annual dinner where she is making the keynote address. The date of our event will revolve around her availability. Earnestine will have a planning meeting within the next few weeks.

(c) *Lunch Programs*: The committee held several planning meetings. The subcommittee is in the process of discussing the logistics and form of presentation. The working title is "Gender Issues on Film", as suggested by Darlene Dove-Malave. Since a program such as this has never been done before the Judge feels that we should take one film at a time followed by discussion. Once again Bonnie shared some of the films researched with the committee and will be going over the selections with a film curator for other suggestions/ideas.

*Meet the Author* series is progressing and we will fill the rest of the committee in when we have more concrete information.

(d) *October Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day Program (October 26, 2004 - 12:30 P.M.)*: Justice Price is so pleased that the subcommittee is still receiving favorable notices on the event even though it occurred several months ago. He believes that it was the best Domestic Violence program we have ever done. The unique involvement of our members impressed all.

(e) *CJA Interview Report*: We are still awaiting updates from Emma Ketteringham who has been communicating and following up with Mr. Jerome McElroy of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency.

#### ***IV. Topic Area - Complaints***

1) *Court Officers*: The handling of incarcerated women defendants is still not resolved (please note minutes excerpt of December 16, 2003 and February 10, 2004 attached).

#### ***V. Other Business***

-Lynn Hecht-Shaffran, who is in charge of Judicial Education for Legal Momentum (formerly known as N.O.W.) has lectured at the state level to Judges on Gender Fairness issues and has written about the same subject. She receives our meeting notices and occasionally calls Justice Price to respond to information she sees in our monthly meeting packets. She has sent us some information regarding treatment programs for women. Judge Price will distribute the information to the appropriate subcommittee.

-Justice Price would like the *Publications Subcommittee* to look into updating/revising the Gender Fairness flyer.

-The committee was reminded that if they have any pressing issues please keep the Judge informed.

No other business. The meeting was adjourned 1:50 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bonnie Schnapper*

January 26, 2005

## Gender Fairness Committee Subcommittees

**CJA Interview Report** - Emma Ketteringham, Esq., Chair, Meredith McGowan, Esq., Deidra Moore, Esq. and Michelle A.K. Smith, Esq. To see if the point system used is discriminatory to stay-at-home-mothers.

**Drug Treatment Programs for Women Only** - Hon. Norma Ruiz - Co-Chair, Deidra Moore, Esq. - Co-Chair, Brett Figlewski, Esq. and Justine Olderman, Esq. Investigate why there are so few women-only drug treatment programs. Many female offenders have special needs which involve their children.

**Domestic Violence Program and Outreach Subcommittee** - Susan Avery, Esq. -Co-Chair, Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Co-Chair, Ms. Diana Dobbs, Ms. Darlene Dove, Sheila Feinerman, Esq., Hon. Earnestine Glover, SCO Sandra Jefferson, Emma Ketteringham, Esq., Deidra Moore, Esq., Ms. Barbara Remington, and Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. Committee prepares presentations for Court Personnel and does community outreach programming at various locations about issues of bias, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

**Women of Distinction** - Ms. Emily Sanchez - Chair, Ms. Tania Antero, Major J. Mark Bodde, Hon. Steven B. Clark, Hon. Marian Doherty, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Ms. Esther Kelly, Maria Rivero, Esq., and Hon. Gayle P. Roberts.

**Food and Clothing Drive** - Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Chair, Hon. Earnestine Glover, SCO Sandra Jefferson, Ms. Gladys Maldonado, Deidra Moore, Esq., Justine Olderman, Esq., Hon. Tracy Pardo, Maria Rivero, Esq., Karen Saab, Esq. and Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt. Drives held to benefit women's shelters and programs. Among the types of donations are food, clothing, toys, books and money.

**Leave, Maternity and Child Care Policies** - Maria Rivero, Esq.- Chair, Esq., and Maria Cortese, Esq. To compare the leave, maternity, and child care policies of employers.

**Lunch Programs** - Ms. Bonnie Schnapper, Raymond Franklin, Esq., SCO Sandra Jefferson, Darlene Dove-Malavé, Ms. Susan McParland, Ms. Barbara Remington, Maria Rivero, Esq., and Ms. Emily Sanchez.

**National Domestic Violence Awareness Day** - Hon. Earnestine Glover - Chair, Josephine M. Bastone, Esq., - Co-Chair, Ms. Tania Antero, - Co-Chair, Madeline Bigelow, Esq., Hon. Helen Corporan, Ms. Darlene Dove, Hon. Wilma Guzman, SCO Sandra Jefferson, Ms. Susan McParland, Hon. Tracy Pardo, Ms. Barbara Remington, Maria Rivero, Esq., Ms. Emily Sanchez, and Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. Programs in October to educate employees and others regarding domestic violence and steps that can be taken to avoid it and where to go for assistance.

**National Women's History Month - March** - Hon. Earnestine Glover- Chair, Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Co-Chair, Barbara Remington - Co-Chair, Ms. Sherry Callwood, Hon. Helen Corporan, Hon. Laura Douglas, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Hon. Donna Mills, Maria Rivero, Esq., Hon. Gayle Roberts, Ms. Emily Sanchez, Michelle A.K. Smith, Esq. and Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. Recognition of women pioneers or leaders in our profession- Programs and publications.

**Women in The Courts** - Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.- Chair, Lucille M. Barbato, Hon. David B. Coken, Hon. Helen Corporan, Hon. Tandra Dawson, Hon. Marian Doherty, Hon. Laura Douglas, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Deidra Moore, Esq., Hon. Barbara Newman, Ms. Bernadette O'Rourke, Maria Rivero, Esq., and Karen Saab, Esq. Review OCA Judicial Seminar materials and materials regarding Women in the Courts and make suggestions for changes or additions and new scenarios and put on Programs.

**Publications** - Hon. Helen Corporan, Hon. Wilma Guzman, SCO Sandra Jefferson, and Ms. Dorothy Tavelacci. To create and update materials for the committee.

**BRONX SUPREME COURT  
Gender Fairness Committee**

*HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR*

**Minutes of December 16, 2003**

**(j) Court Officers**

There may still be an on-going issue re: escorting female inmates to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor holding pen in DOC. Justice Price will look into this problem first with Chief Clerk, Steven Clark and then with Administrative Judge on the Criminal Side, John P. Collins.

**BRONX SUPREME COURT  
Gender Fairness Committee**

**HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR**

**Minutes of February 10, 2004**

**j) *Court Officers* - According to SCO Sandra Jefferson, the issue re: escorting female inmates to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor holding pen in DOC apparently has been corrected by The Department of Corrections.**

TO  
68

**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**- ANNOUNCES -**

**A FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT  
CARDINAL McCLOSKEY SERVICES**

**DATES: JAN. 18, 19, 20, 21, AND 24, 2005**

**DROP OFF SITES: SUPREME COURT - ('A' ELEVATOR) 6M DESK  
CRIMINAL COURT - ROOM 111  
FAMILY COURT - ROOM 8-10  
HOUSING COURT - 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR STAFF LOUNGE  
DA'S OFFICE, 198 E. 161 ST., RM 941(RECEPTION AREA)**

**WHAT: CANNED FOOD GOODS, BABY FOOD  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW ADULT CLOTHING (INCLUDING  
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ATTIRE)  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING  
CHILDREN'S TOYS, BOOKS, DISPOSABLE DIAPERS  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS, LINENS**

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.  
FOR INFORMATION IN EACH BUILDING, CONTACT:**

<b>SUPREME COURT:</b>	<b>JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3758</b>
<b>CRIMINAL COURT:</b>	<b>SHERRY EVANS</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2858</b>
<b>FAMILY COURT:</b>	<b>RHONDA YOUNG</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3336</b>
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY BLDG.:</b>	<b>MARIA RIVERO, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2258</b>
<b>HOUSING COURT:</b>	<b>GLADYS MALDONADO</b>	<b>(718) 466 - 3022</b>

*Queens County Supreme Court  
Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Sheri Roman**  
Justice, Supreme Court  
125-01 Queens Blvd.  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

718-520-4416

**LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005**

Name of the Committee NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Comm.

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Numbers and E-mail Address of the Chair

Hon. Sheri S. Roman, NYS Supreme Court, 125-01 Queens Blvd.

Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Office # (718) 520-4416; Fax # (718) 520-7732  
e-mail: sroman@courts.state.ny.us

No. Members 17 No. of Meetings 2 Average Attendance 8 Use of Video Conferencing? no

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) Judges,

Law Secretaries, Court Officers, Secretaries, Clerks, Court Reporter,  
Private Attorney (SEE ATTACHMENT 1)

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004 (SEE ATTACHMENT 2)

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Activities for Women's History Month 2004 (See Attachment 3)

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Other Activities in the Past Year (See Attachment 3)

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Have you worked in partnership with other groups? \_\_\_\_\_

A Womens Clothing Drive with the

Bar Associations? Queens County Women's Bar Assn Law Schools? \_\_\_\_\_

was held Nov. 29, 2004- Dec. 1, 2004

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please include a copy.

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Plans for Next Year: \_\_\_\_\_ SEE ATTACHMENT 3

Difficulties your committee faces: \_\_\_\_\_ Galvanizing the court community to allocate time to permit more extensive participation.

Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

or fax the form to **212-428-2793**.

**Attachment 1**



**NYS Queens County Supreme Court  
Gender Fairness Committee  
Hon. Sheri S. Roman, Chairperson**

**2005 Committee Members**

SUSAN BEBERFALL, ESQ.	Associate Court Attorney
MAUREEN CRESCIMANNO	Secretary to Judge
SHARON DAVIDSON	Secretary to Judge
JAMES DOLLIN, ESQ.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
HON. PHYLLIS ORLIKOFF FLUG	Supreme Court Justice
LT. LYNNE FRANZONE	Lieutenant, Security Operations
DENNIS LEBWOHL, ESQ.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
LEONARD LIVOTE, ESQ.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
LT. THOMAS McELLIGOTT	Lieutenant, Security Operations
M .J. MEZZINA, ESQ.	Associate Court Attorney
SCO DENISE MIKAELIAN	Supreme Court Officer
LESLIE NIZIN, ESQ.	Attorney, Private Practice
HON. SHERI S. ROMAN	Supreme Court Justice, Committee Chair
O. RUSS RODRIGUEZ	Court Clerk Specialist
HON. PATRICIA SATTERFIELD	Supreme Court Justice
THERESA SILKIE	Principal Court Reporter
FRANCES TAYLOR	Court Clerk Specialist
THERESA WILSON	Secretary to Judge

**New York State Supreme Court  
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
Hon. Sheri S. Roman, Chairperson**

**Attachment 2**

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004.**

A reference table with resource materials was displayed in each of the three Queens Supreme Courthouses throughout the month of October. The pamphlets contained information and statistical data on domestic violence. We tried to collect a variety of pamphlets in different languages. Two complimentary luncheon programs were held in conjunction with October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 20, 2004 and October 27, 2004. We provided transportation to and from each of the other courthouses, making it available to all Queens employees. The first session, entitled, "The Effect of Recent Developments in the Law on Domestic Violence Cases" was held at the Kew Gardens Courthouse. The guest speaker for Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, Spiros A. Tsimbinos, Esq., past President of the Queens County Bar Association, addressed the effect on the law of recent domestic violence cases, including the United States Supreme Court ruling in Crawford v. Washington, 124 S.C. 1354, decided on March 8, 2004, and the impact of hearsay statements of domestic violence victims who do not appear in court. Mr. Tsimbinos also discussed the appealability of permanent orders of protection. Also included at this session was Police Officer Steve Mullenbrook of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Domestic Violence Unit, who discussed practical aspects of enforcing Orders of Protection from the perspective of the police department.

The second session, entitled "An Introduction To Domestic Violence and the Military Community" was held on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Jamaica Courthouse's conference room. The program featured Christine Hansen, Executive Director of the Miles Foundation, Inc. As we explored the issue of domestic violence and the military, we found "The Miles Foundation - a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive victim services to a special population, the military community; furnishing professional education and training to military personnel and civilian community-based advocates; conducting and supporting research; serving as a resource center for policymakers, advocates, journalists, scholars and students, conducting community education campaigns; and serving to ensure that public policy is well-informed and constructive."

Each program offered 1 Continuing Legal Education credit (Areas of Professional Practice) to attorneys in attendance, for a nominal fee of \$5.00. The program was free to all other attendees.

**New York State Supreme Court  
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
Hon. Sheri S. Roman, Chairperson**

**Attachment 3**

**Activities for Women's History Month 2004**

Professor Margaret Turano, Esq. of St. John's University School of Law, gave a luncheon address entitled "Women's Rights Through Literature" focused on voting rights, property rights, and access to universities for women, and discussed writings of Emily Dickinson, Edith Wharton, and Kate Chopin. CLE credit was provided (1 credit in the Area of Professional Practice) to attorneys for a \$5.00 fee. Also, as part of our Queens Courts Women's History Program, we honored a nonagenarian practitioner with a certificate of recognition. (Copy attached.)

**Other Activities in the Past Year:**

In April we coordinated the 2-day activity for "Take Your Daughters to Work /Take Your Sons to Work programs.

**Have you worked in partnership with other groups? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Bar Associations?** A Women's Clothing Drive with the Queens County Women's Bar Association was held November 29, 2004- December 1, 2004.

**What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in?** DRESS FOR SUCCESS

**Plans for Next Year:**

- 1 We are planning our Women's History Month programs.
- 2 We want to formulate new scripts for our mock trial presentations for the Take Your Daughters/Sons to Work programs.
- 3 We are considering linking a book drive to supply new books to graduates of the Queens Treatment Court with our children's day programs in April.
- 4 We are starting to plan for our October Programs for 2005 Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Difficulties your committee faces:**

Galvanizing the court community to allocate time to permit more extensive participation.

**Presents : PROFESSOR MARGARET V. TURANO, ESQ.**

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

**Topic: "Women's Rights Through Literature"**

**When: Friday, MARCH 19, 2004 from 1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.**

**Where: 125-01 Queens Blvd. Kew Gardens, NY 11415 - 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

- \* LUNCH: available for those who REGISTER BY MARCH 16<sup>th</sup>
- \* TRANSPORTATION: available from Jamaica & LIC Courthouses
- \* CLE CREDIT: 1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session.  
The cost of this program is \$5.00 for those who wish CLE credit.

**It is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit**

The NYS Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee has been certified by the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited CLE Provider.

\* **RSVP: REQUIRED** For info. and to REGISTER, CALL (718) 520-4416 (chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)

Reading material for this session will be available upon registration

**RSVP NECESSARY by TUESDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>**

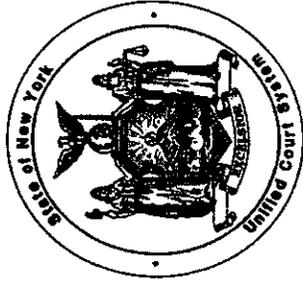
*All are welcome!!*

*New York State Supreme Court  
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee*

*Certificate of Recognition  
awarded to Queens County Legal Pioneer*

***Norma Z. Paige, Esq.***

*March 19, 2004*



*Sheri S. Roman, J.S.C.  
Chairperson*

**Topics: "The Impact Of Recent Court Decisions On Domestic Violence Cases"  
& "Enforcing Orders of Protection, A Police Perspective"**

**Presenters:**

**SPIROB A. TBIMBINO, ESQ. &  
POLICE OFFICER MARY LAWRENCE,  
POLICE OFFICER STEVE MULLENBROOK**

**When:**

**Wednesday October 20, 2004 from 1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.**

**Where:**

**125-01 Queens Blvd. Kew Gardens, NY 11415 - 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room (#832)**

- \* **LUNCH:** available for those who REGISTER BY OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>
- \* **TRANSPORTATION:** available from Jamaica & LIC Courthouses
- \* **CLE CREDIT:** 1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session.  
The cost of this program is \$5.00 for those who wish CLE credit.

**It is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit**

The NYS Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee has been certified by the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited CLE Provider.

**\* RSVP: REQUIRED For info. and to REGISTER, CALL (718) 520-4416 (chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)**

**RSVP NECESSARY by MONDAY OCT. 18<sup>TH</sup>**

*All are welcome!!!*

*NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month Program:*

***“An Introduction To Domestic Violence and  
the Military Community”***

***Wednesday October 27, 2004 1:00-2:00PM***

***Jamaica Courthouse 88-11 Sutphin Blvd. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room***

**PRESENTER:**

***CHRISTINE HANSEN,  
Executive Director, Miles Foundation, Inc.***

1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session.  
The cost of this program is \$5.00 for those who wish CLE credit.

It is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit

The NYS Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee  
has been certified by the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited CLE Provider.

**Transportation Available:** from Kew Grdns. & L.I.C. Courthouses

**LUNCH PROVIDED - ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

**RSVP : REQUIRED**

For information and  
**TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 520-4416**  
(chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman )

**RSVP NECESSARY BY OCT. 25<sup>th</sup>**

Queens County Supreme Court  
Gender Fairness Committee  
Chairperson: Hon. Sheri S. Roman (718) 520-4416  
ANNOUNCING:

**QUEENS COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION'S  
ANNUAL \*DRESS FOR SUCCESS\* SUIT DRIVE**  
\* \* \* \* \*

**NEEDED:**

**Suits\*\*  
Handbags  
Shoes  
Belts  
Jewelry**

\* \* \* \* \*

**DROP-OFF:**

**Annex- Clerk's Office Room E121**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEN:**

**Monday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

\* \* \* \* \*

\* *DRESS FOR SUCCESS* Provides Clothing for Women Making the Transition from  
Public Assistance to Self Sufficiency

\*\*  
On Hangers, Especially 0-4 and plus Sizes

*For further information, please call Linda Povman of the  
Queens County Women's Bar Association at (718) 899-6848*

*Brooklyn Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Matthew D'Emic**  
360 Adams Street, Room  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-643-8762

## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2004-2005

Name of the Committee: Gender Fairness Committee, Kings County

Chair:

Name: Honorable Matthew J. D'Emic  
Address: Brooklyn Supreme Court  
360 Adams Street, Room 460, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Phone #: 718-643-8762  
Fax #: 718-643-1144  
E-mail: mdemic@courts.state.ny.us

Nbr Members 26 Nbr Meetings 4 Avg Attendance 7

Composition of the Committee:

Judges	<u>8</u>
Administrators	<u>18</u>
Advocates	<u>0</u>

Please include names of co-sponsors, size of the attendance and copies of any press.

### Activities for Women's History Month

On March 23, 2004, we again bestowed the Honorable Ruth Moskowitz Award to four worthy recipients: Hon. Ann T. Pfau, Hon. Gloria Cohen Aronin, Hon. Anne Feldman and Donna Farrell.

This year's program is on April 7, 2005, and the honorees, recognizing "Women in Leadership" are Hon. Carolyn Demarest, Hon. Yvonne Lewis, Lucille Jackson, MSU, and SCO Kevin Carroll. The ceremony and reception are expected to be well attended.

### Other Activities in the Past Year:

#### Bring Your Child To Work Day

April 8, 2004 was the date chosen to coincide with schools spring recess. This caused attendance to be higher than usual. Committee enlisted the assistance of court personal to play pivotal roles in the annual mock trial. Parents were offered an opportunity to have their child photographed in a judge's robe. Program concluded at 1 PM.

Have you worked in partnership with other groups? No

Bar Associations? No Law Schools? No

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Pro Bono: Has any group (within or outside the courts) compiled a list of pro bono programs? No  
If yes, please include a copy.

What pro bono programs that serve women or families is your committee or your district (or court) involved in?

**NONE**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Plans for Next Year:**

Ruth Moskowitz Award, part of Women's History Month Program, scheduled for April 7.

Bring Your Child to Work Day scheduled for April 29.

Women's Health Month is May, date to be determined.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is October, date to be determined.

**Difficulties your committee faces:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach copies of flyers or programs from events or written materials about your committee.**

Please return this form by **March 1, 2005**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, NY 10004

or fax the form to #212-428-2793

*In Celebration Of*  
**Women's History Month**



The  
Gender Fairness Committee  
Proudly Presents  
The  
**Ruth E. Moskowitz Award**  
To  
**Justice Carolyn E. Demarest**  
**Justice yvonne lewis**  
**Lucille Jackson, LCSW**  
**SCO Kevin Carroll**

**Thursday, April 7, 2005.**  
**1:00 PM to 2:00PM**

**360 Adams Street, Room 224**  
**Brooklyn, NY**

**Everyone Welcome - Light Reception to Follow**

**Sponsored by:**

**Hon. Neil J. Firetog, Administrative Judge**

**Hon. Matthew J. D'Emic, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee**

# Court's Gender Fairness Committee Hands Out Annual 'Ruthie' Awards

Honorees at Lunchtime 'Women's History Month' Ceremony Recall Jurist Ruth E. Moskowitz



Brooklyn Supreme Court Chief Administrative Judge Neil Firetog presided over the awards ceremony honoring Women's History Month.



Supreme Court Justice Carolyn E. Demarest, above, received the Ruth Moskowitz award Thursday from the Gender Fairness Committee for outstanding contributions to the judiciary.



Supreme Court Justice Matthew D'Emic, presiding justice at Brooklyn Mental Health Court, a pioneering court addressing special-needs defendants.



Honorable Priscilla Hall, president of the New York State Women Judges Association, presented two "Ruthies" at the Thursday ceremony at Brooklyn Supreme Court.



Honorable Yvonne Lewis, Supreme Court Justice, a recipient of the Ruth Moskowitz Award.

By Charles Sweeney  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

ADAMS STREET — The memory of one of the court's most outspoken and pioneering justices was invoked time and again at the awards ceremony at Kings County Supreme Court Thursday afternoon as two women justices accepted the honor named for the late judge.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Carolyn Demarest, Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Lewis, and social worker and mental health advocate Lucille Jackson were among the honorees at the annual ceremony organized by the Gender Fairness Committee.

Chief Administrative Judge Neil Firetog, Justice Matthew D'Emic and



Lucille Jackson, Licensed Certified Social Worker and chief architect of the Mental Illness Court, was among this year's honorees at the Gender Fairness Committee's "Ruth Moskowitz Awards" at Brooklyn Supreme Court Thursday.

Justice Priscilla Hall presided over the ceremony honoring outstanding contributions to the judiciary.

Firetog's opening remarks to the assembled group of lawyers, justices and court personnel sketched the history of women's accomplishments within the judiciary, highlighting Moskowitz's tenure on the bench as a watershed period.

"Really, women are running a lot

of things," Firetog said. "I know they're running my life. And I must say it's for the better."

Firetog's remarks elicited a knowing laughter, but also highlighted the recent assimilation into the courts of influential women judges, not the least of which was Ruth Moskowitz herself.

"Ruth Moskowitz was a pioneer in civil rights and women's rights," D'Emic said. It was through her example that the court would "continue to make our society more just and equal."

Justice Hall opened the presentation portion of the ceremony. As the president of the New York State Women's Judges Association, Hall praised Demarest for her involvement in a program called the Women in Prison Committee.

As the chairperson for the committee, Demarest's efforts to reach out to inmates in the prison system have earned her the recognition and praise of jurists around the state. Hall detailed Demarest's efforts at advocating for the mentally ill, her visits to inmates at several jails around the state to ensure that conditions of incarceration were consistent with the principles of justice and a special program Demarest spearheaded that collects toys for children.

The toys are collected and given to inmates to give to their children. This is an effort by the committee to help restore and preserve the dignity of incarcerated mothers, as well as an acknowledgement of the importance of preserving and strengthening the familial bonds necessary to maintain healthy families.

Demarest briefly thanked the committee for the honor, taking the opportunity to call to attention Moskowitz's trailblazing career. He called her "a great friend" and a "woman of great

character, courage and commitment."

Hall then presented a "Ruthie" to Justice Yvonne Lewis, president of Judicial Friends. Hall called Lewis "a woman of personality and character" with "a talent for ideas."

Lewis, visibly emotional as she accepted the award, said "It brings Ruth Moskowitz back into my life in a way that hasn't happened in a lot of years."

Lucille Jackson received a "Ruthie" for her work in setting up Brooklyn Supreme Court's Mental Illness Court, a trailblazing court over which D'Emic presides. D'Emic introduced Jackson as a chief architect of the court, telling the audience how Jackson has "dedicated her life to making the lives of people with mental illness better."

For her part, Jackson said she was "overwhelmed" by the award and the company in which she found herself. "This is a huge privilege to me," she said.

In the time Moskowitz was on the bench, her chief court officer was a man named Kevin Carroll, who for 27 years saw to the safety and security of her courtroom. The two shared a close bond, as was evidenced by the presentation to Carroll by Moskowitz's surviving sons.

Robert Gershon and Joel Gershon both gave touching tributes to the human connection that their mother and Carroll shared in their years together in the court.

Carroll was not present to accept the award, so Moskowitz's sons accepted the honor in his name, joking to D'Emic, "You should have subpoenaed him (Carroll)."

With perfect timing amid knowing laughter, D'Emic replied "That would have been a good idea."

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2005

**BRING YOUR  
CHILD  
TO  
WORK DAY**

**Friday, APRIL 29, 2005**

**REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT :  
360 ADAMS ST., 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR COUNTER  
120 SCHERMERHORN ST., 11<sup>TH</sup> FL. OPERATIONS, RM 1107C**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED,  
call Jeanette(ext.2248) or Captain Luz Bryan(ext.7510)**

**\*Limited to Court Employees Only\***

