

A Women's History Month Celebration and a Landmark Case



From left to right: **Gregory Testa**, Associate Court Attorney, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, Co-Chair of the Gender Fairness Committee; **Keynote Speaker Roberta A. Kaplan, Esq.**, Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; **Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan**, Justice, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, Co-Chair of the Gender Fairness Committee

Roberta A. Kaplan, Esq. was the keynote speaker at this year's New York State Supreme Court's Women's History Month celebration, where she spoke about *United States v. Windsor*, the landmark case she argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in late March of this year. Ms. Kaplan represents Edith Windsor, a widow forced to pay \$363,000 in federal estate tax, in a case challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act ("DOMA"), the statute that defines marriage (for federal purposes) as only between a man and a woman.

"It is all too easy for people of our generation to think they know what it was like for people of Edie's generation to have to live their lives knowing that if they told the truth about who they were, their lives could be ruined," said Ms. Kaplan, who served as senior law clerk to former New York Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye. Ms. Kaplan is now a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, and was chosen by *The National Law Journal* as one of the top "40 under 40" lawyers in the U.S.